

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

23RD SEPTEMBER 2019

TROS GYNNAL PLANT (TGP) CYMRU UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an update of progress made by Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) Cymru.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the work undertaken by TGP Cymru, the content of which is attached at Appendix 1.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is important for Members to note the progress, themes and issues highlighted by the TGP Cymru, in order to work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes are reached for those in our care system.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the Board's Terms of reference, TGP Cymru are invited to attend meetings to enable both the TGP Cymru and Children Services to discuss issues that affect service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There is no consultation required for this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan priority – 'Rhondda Cynon Taf's Children will receive a great start in life...'

9.2 The work of TGP Cymru links to the Future Generations Well-Being Goal of a more equal Wales, by ensuring that children and young people are supported when decisions are being made about them. This ensures that young people have access to a range of information in order to fulfil their potential.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 TGP Cymru are invited to attend meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board, to provide a broader understanding and contribution into the services available to young people and vulnerable adults.

National Approach to Statutory Advocacy

Local Authority Report - Rhondda Cynon Taf - 2019 - 2020

Collated Quarterly Report Quarter 1: April - June 2019

Headline Report

Referrals

26 children and young people were referred in the period, which relate to 12 Active Offer referrals and 14 Issue based referrals.

A total of 12 Active Offer referrals were made; 6 face to face visits took place with 6 young people moving on to Issue Based Advocacy. Advocates will be contacting 6 newly referred young people to arrange a visit.

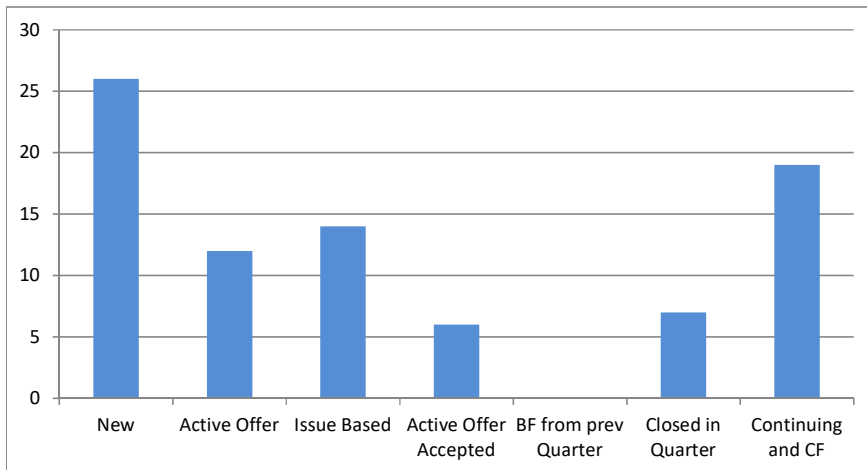
Issue based referrals - 14 children and young people accessed the service presenting with 14 issues.

7 young people requested advocacy support at meetings which included 4 CLA/LAC reviews and 3 young people subject to child protection processes.

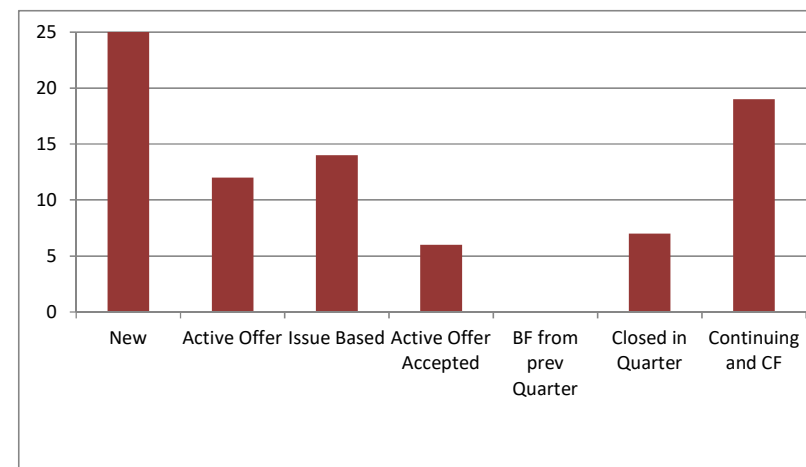
Other young people requested advocacy support with regard to the following issues:- 2 young people requested advocacy support to express issues around placement, 2 young people requested contact with family members and 3 young people wanted to take forward their views regarding services received, emotional well-being and education.

TGP Cymru has supported 1 young person placed out of county this quarter in Neath.

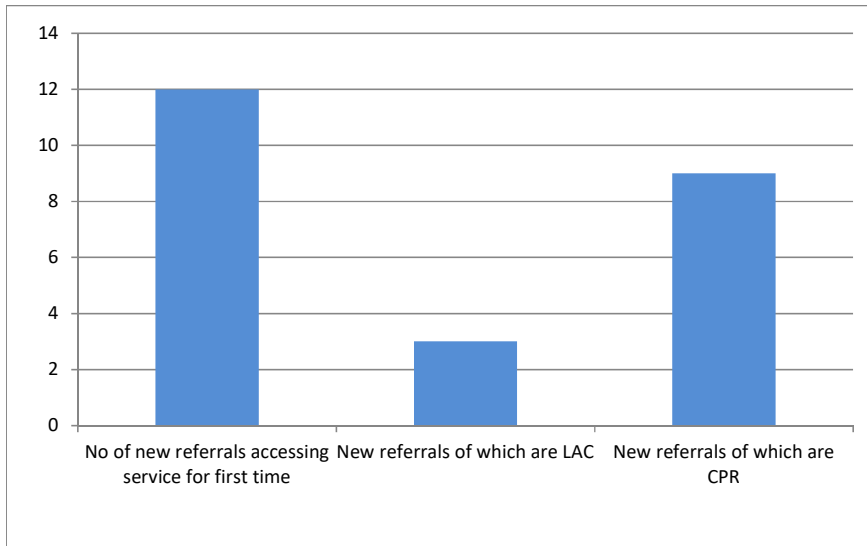
1. Advocacy Cases - Issues



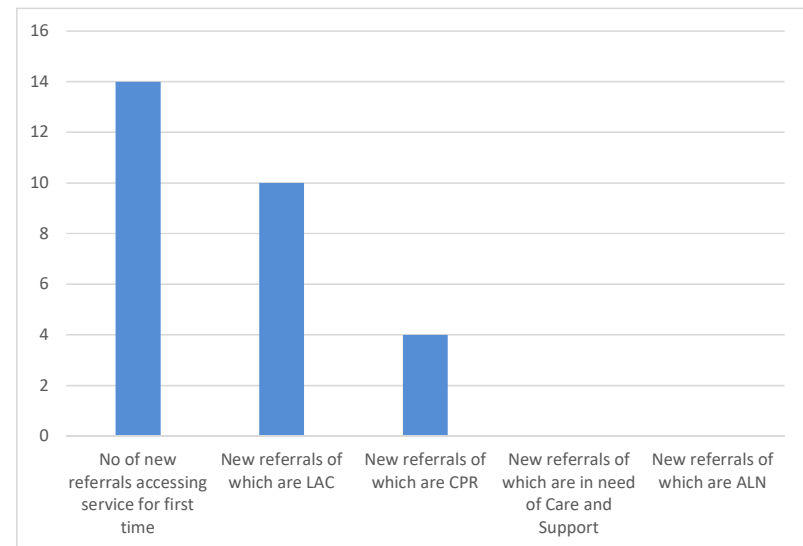
1. Advocacy Cases - Young People



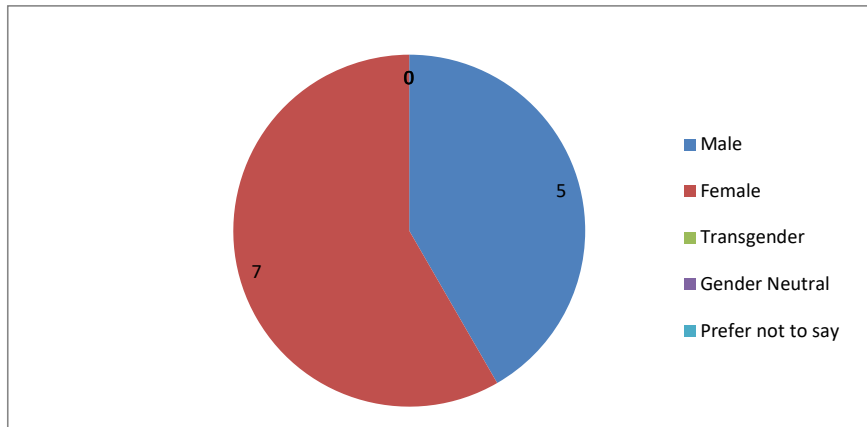
2. Eligibility Criteria: Active Offer



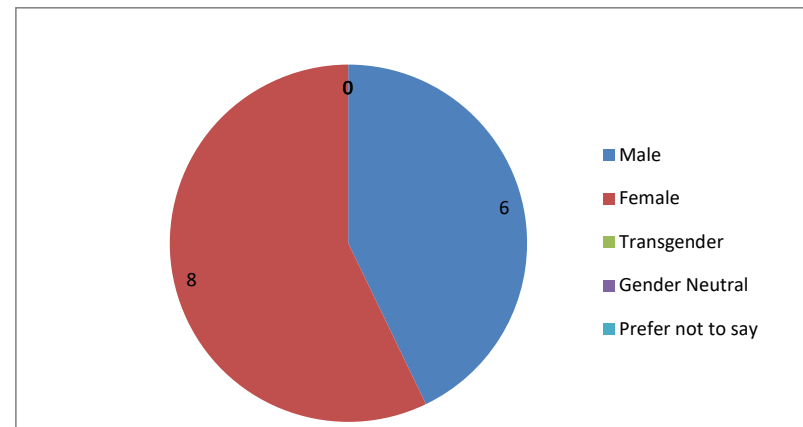
Eligibility Criteria: Issue Based



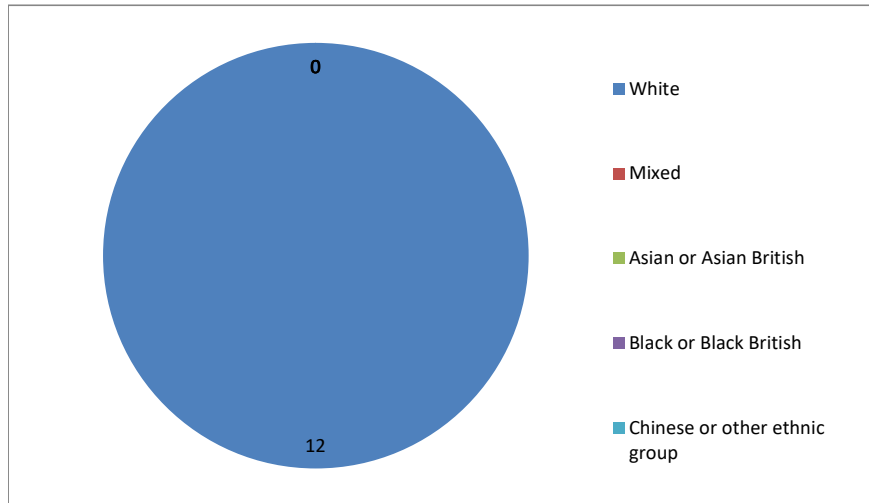
3a. Demographics: Gender - Active Offer



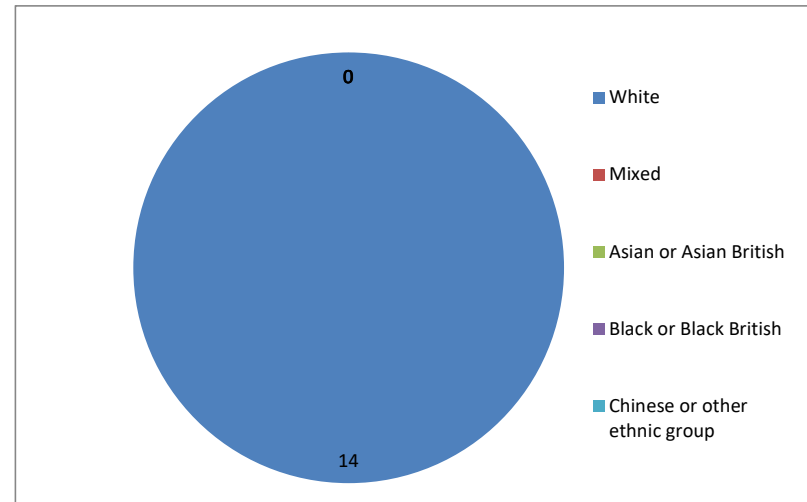
Demographics: Gender - Issue Based



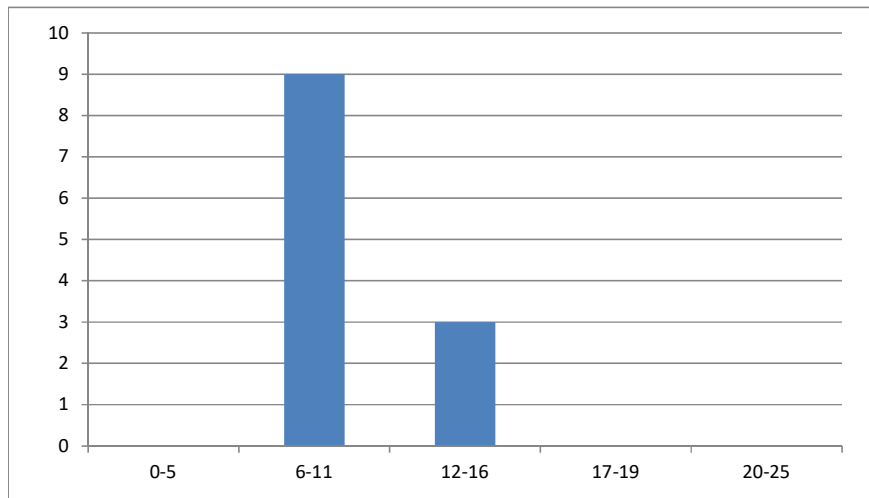
3b. Demographics: Ethnicity - Active Offer



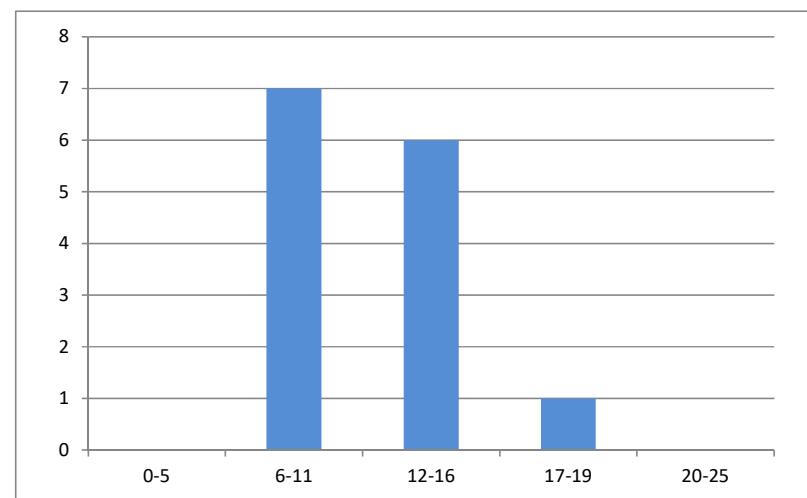
Demographics: Ethnicity - Issue Based



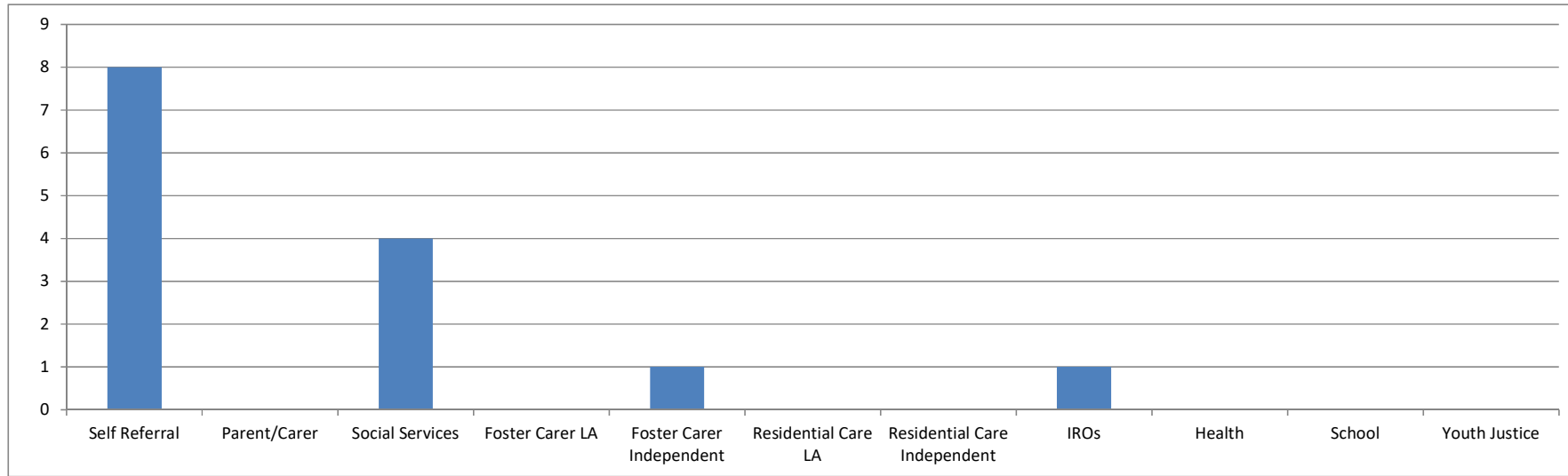
3c. Demographics: Age - Active Offer



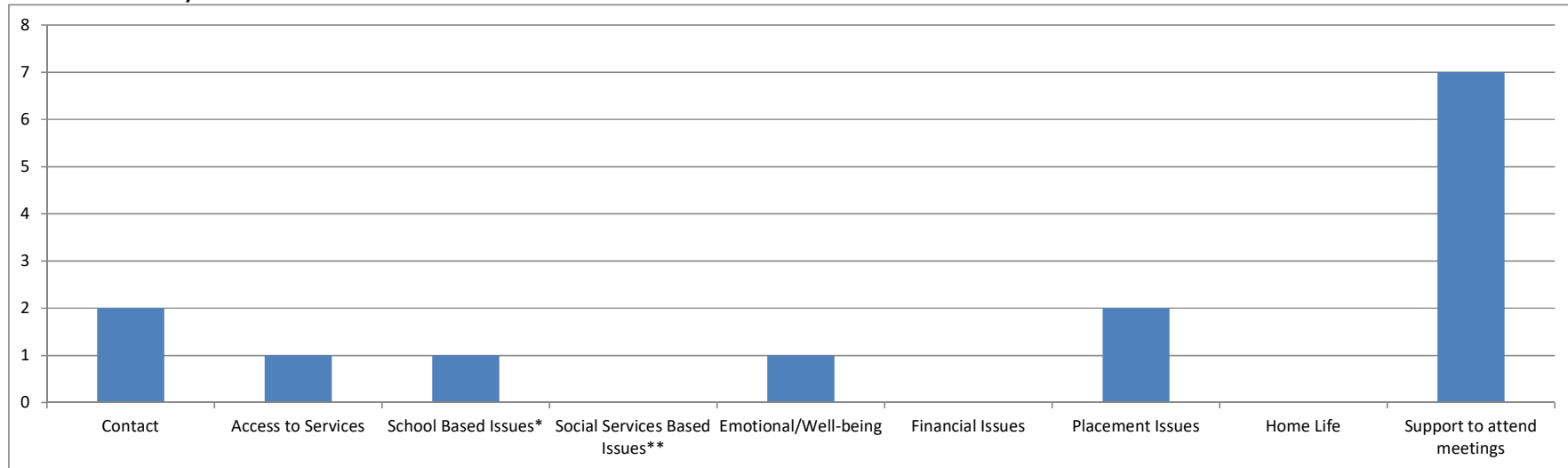
Demographics: Age - Issue Based



4. Referral Source - Issue Based only



5. Nature of Primary Issue Presented



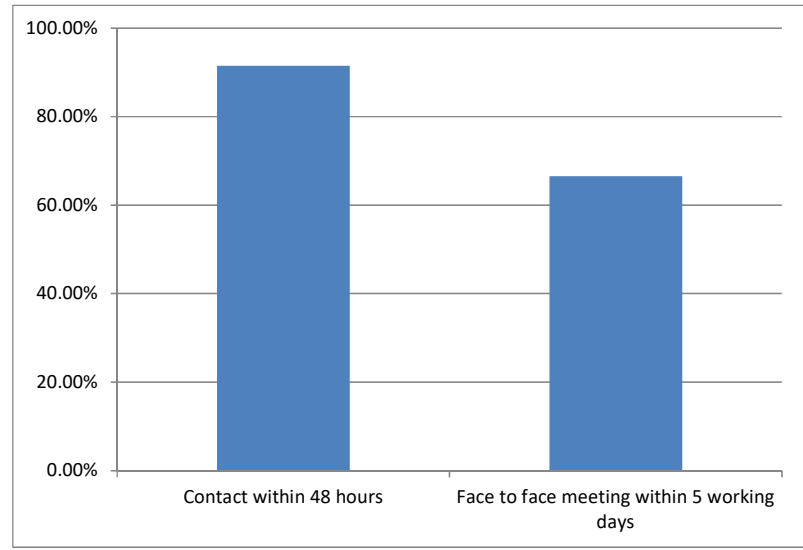
* School based issues including: SEN/ALN, exclusions, bullying, transport.

** Social Services based issues including: relationship with worker, care plan, service provided.

6. Service Performance - Active Offer



Service Performance - Issue Based



7. Personal Outcomes: linked to National Advocacy Standards

Standard Descriptor		Numbers/Any other comments
2	<p>Number of cyp to whom confidentiality is explained.</p> <p>Number of safeguarding referrals made to the local authority.</p> <p>Number of complaints received against the advocacy service.</p>	<p>26 - During every initial visit to a young person the advocate explains confidentiality. Children and young people are then reminded about confidentiality each time they use the service.</p> <p>No Safeguarding referrals were made to the Local Authority.</p> <p>One complaint was received from a Foster Carer in relation to accessing the service. An advocate was provided to the young person in question and information about how to complain to TGP Cymru was also shared.</p>
3	<p>Number of cyp who request and receive a service in English, Welsh and any other language.</p> <p>Number of cyp with protected characteristics receiving support.</p>	<p>26 young people were English speaking. TGP Cymru publicity information is bilingual and services are offered in Welsh to all young people.</p> <p>4 young people who had protected characteristics received advocacy support which included 2 young people with ALN needs, 1 young person with ADHD and 1 young person with mental health/anxiety and depression.</p>
4	<p>Number of cyp referred for legal advice, benefits advice and translation/interpretation support.</p> <p>Number of cyp providing feedback reporting that their wishes and feelings have been heard.</p>	<p>There were no children or young people referred for legal or benefits advice and no translation/interpreter support needed this quarter.</p> <p>TGP Cymru as the new Advocacy provider are still working with the majority of the children and young people referred. All children and young people who received Active Offer visits requested further advocacy support. Direct feedback included a visit to the Porth office from a young person and their support worker with anxiety and depression who commented "Advocacy has helped me express myself clearly, I am feeling much better."</p>
5	<p>Number of cyp participating in recruitment processes.</p> <p>Details of service user engagement/participation activity (outside of NASA contract but which impact and influence (systemic change)).</p>	<p>None, however we are currently in the process of identifying young people who may wish to participate in future recruitment.</p> <p>Young people accessing the service will be invited to attend the next meeting of the national Young People's Advisory Group on advocacy and the National Approach which is facilitated by TGP Cymru in August 2019. The meeting will focus on the development of an advocacy app for children and young people.</p>

8. Summary

So what does this tell us?

We worked with 15 females and 11 males during the period.

We received 8 self referrals and 5 from social services and 1 from a foster carer. TGP Cymru promotes, and encourages direct referrals from children and young people and we also have a free phone number. We would like to work in partnership with the Local Authority to ensure that foster carers also receive information on our services and how to refer to the service.

Identify trends

Support at meetings has been the most common issue presented to our advocates during the period which included 4 CLA/LAC reviews and 3 young people subject to child protection processes. The Active Offer of Advocacy has ensured that 6 children are offered a voice who are newly involved with services. With only 1 self referral from a young person aged 17-19 we may need to work with practitioners to ensure services are promoted to this age group.

Exemption reporting

We do receive phone calls and enquiries for individuals who are not eligible for our service. We will always try to sign-post these individuals to other services. If there is no advocacy service available for a child/young person we would highlight this with the commissioner of that Local Authority.

Awareness raising undertaken

At our recent Meeting with RCT Commissioners we discussed a programme of planned awareness raising. TGP Cymru agreed to look at dates to deliver advocacy training as part of the Core Training Calendar covering RCT and Merthyr. It was agreed that Jayne Thomas will co-ordinate any requests for training and then review with Sarah Durrant. The Team Manager is currently viewing suitable dates for Advocacy Drop In sessions to be held in the Porth Office.

Any future recommendations/forward planning

This is the first report since TGP Cymru became the service provider to Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The first two months of the service have been extremely busy recruiting and training staff, (as only the Team Manager and Administrator transferred from the previous provider. Nonetheless, we have worked with over 20 children and young people during May and June and have gathered some positive feedback.

TGP Cymru is looking forward to working with all three authorities across Cwm Taf Morgannwg, to further increase awareness of the Active Offer of Advocacy and ensure it is fully embedded in each area. We would like to ensure that as many as possible eligible children and young people are able to access the Advocacy service and that practitioners are aware of the referral pathways. TGP Cymru hope to work in partnership with the Local Authorities to monitor, review and develop services in each Local Authority Area.