

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

18TH NOVEMBER 2019

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

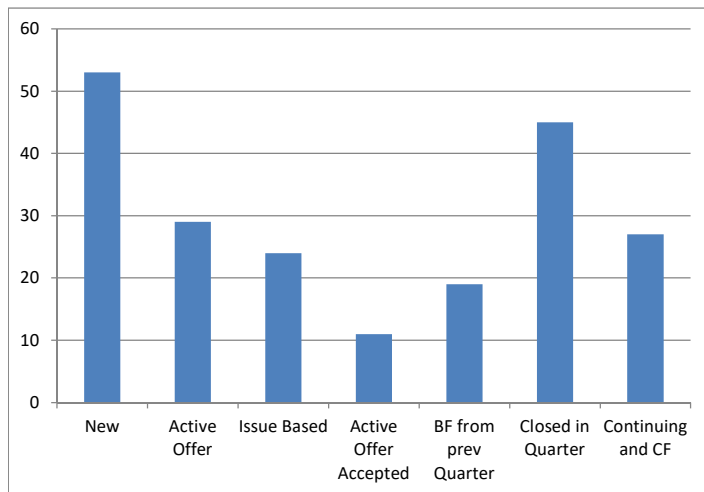
Quarter 2: July - September 2019

Headline Report

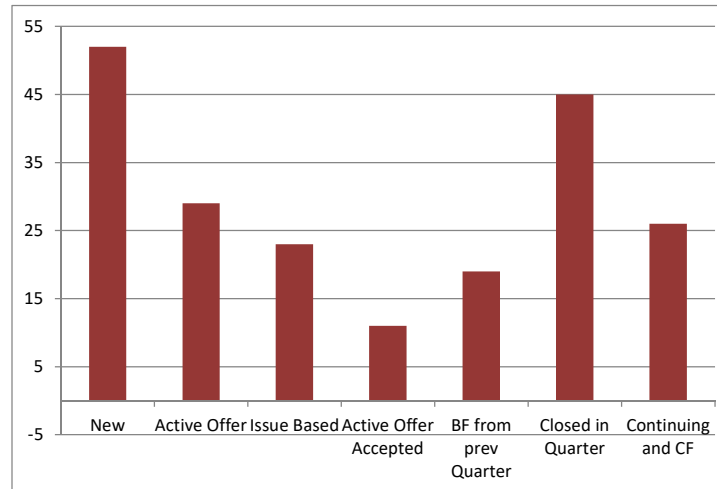
52 young people were referred in Quarter two, presenting with 53 issues. This is broken down into 29 young people referred for Active Offer and 23 young people referred for Issue Based Advocacy. This figure includes three care leavers and three young people living out of area. 74% of young people referred for Issue Based Advocacy received a face to face visit within 5 days while only 35% of young people referred for Active Offer advocacy received a face to face visit within 5 days. There are a variety of reasons for this, including difficulty in contacting parents and carers, and inaccurate or missing information on referral forms. We have developed some strategies to address this issue and hope to see improved 5 day face to face figures in the next quarter.

Case Example: N (17) was referred for advocacy by his IRO. The advocate met with N in placement and agreed to ask questions about his adopted siblings and contact with an uncle at N's CLA Review on his behalf. During the meeting the IRO asked the social worker to look into contact with N's uncle and also asked the social worker to get in touch with the adoption society to ask if it was possible to give N updates on his siblings. The advocate will continue to follow this up on behalf of the young person until a decision has been made.

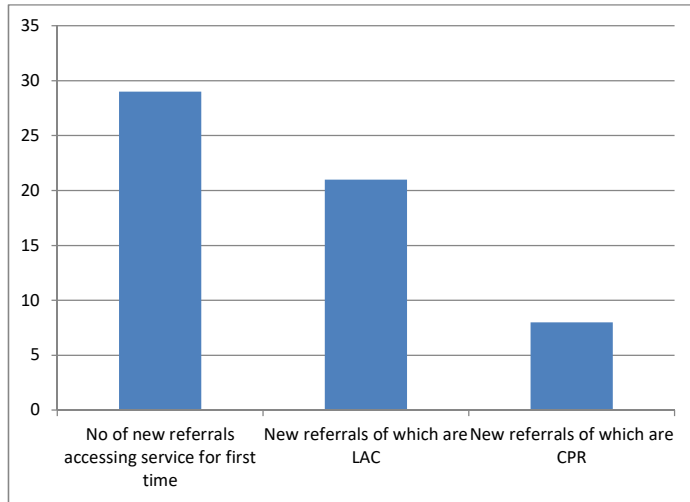
1. Advocacy Cases - Issues



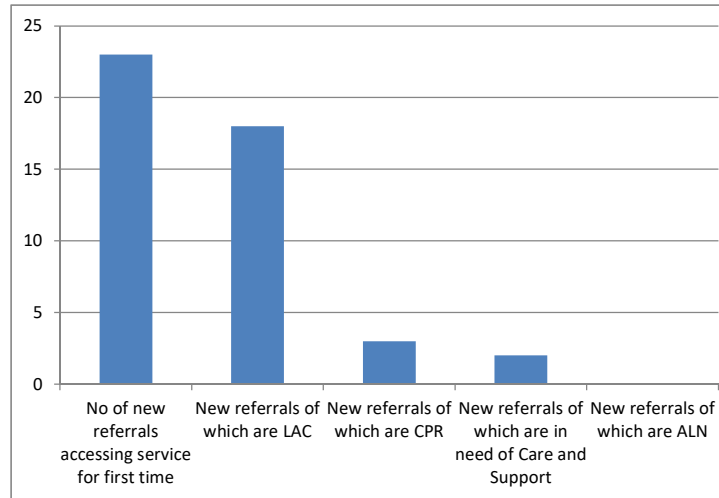
Advocacy Cases - Young People



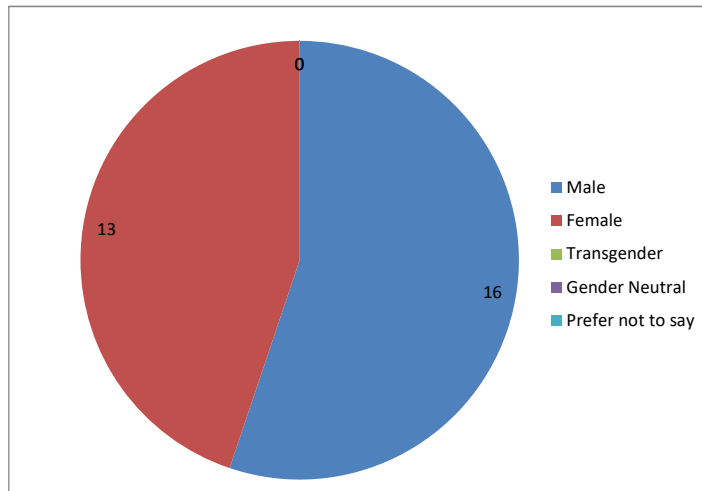
2. Eligibility Criteria: Active Offer



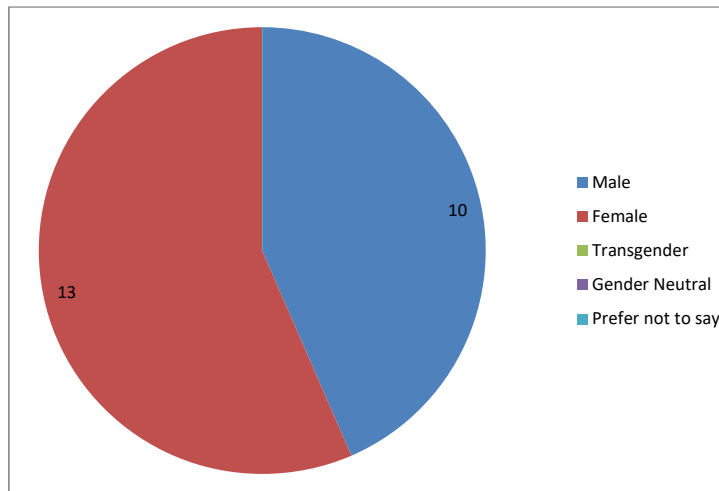
Eligibility Criteria: Issue Based



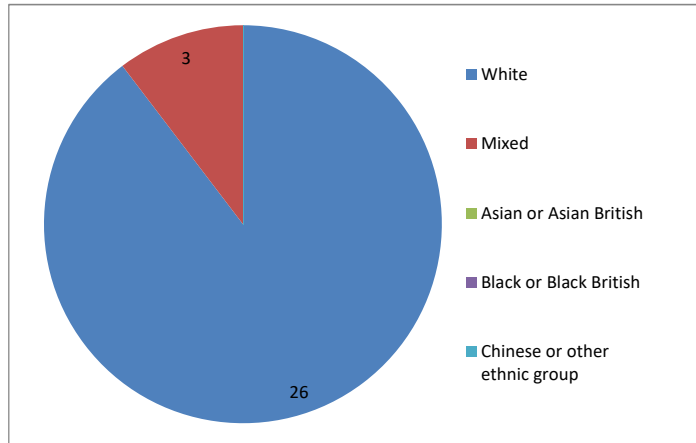
3a. Demographics: Gender - Active Offer



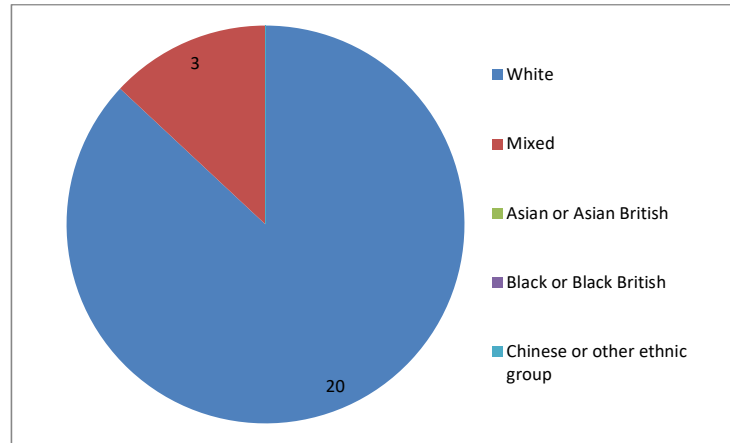
Demographics: Gender - Issue Based



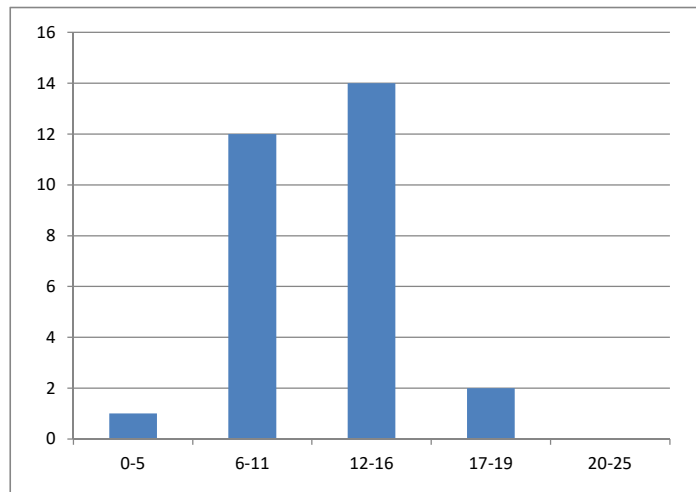
3b. Demographics: Ethnicity - Active Offer



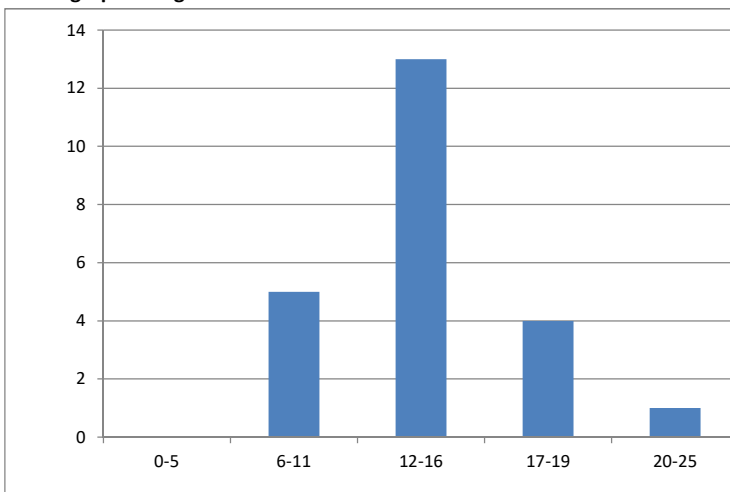
Demographics: Ethnicity - Issue Based



3c. Demographics: Age - Active Offer



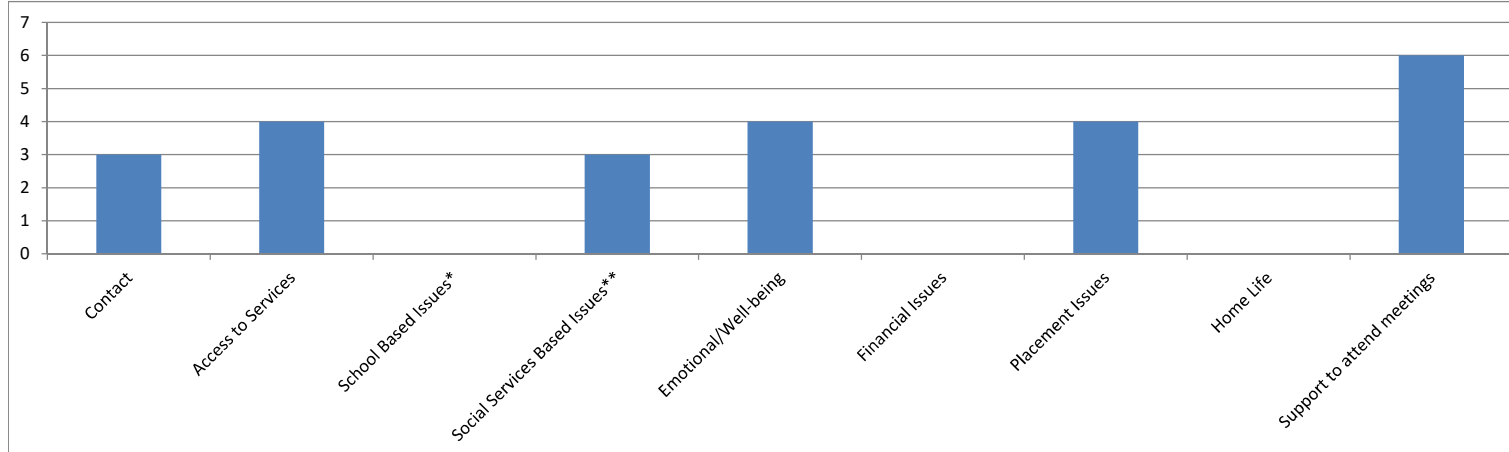
Demographics: Age - Issue Based



4. Referral Source - Issue Based only



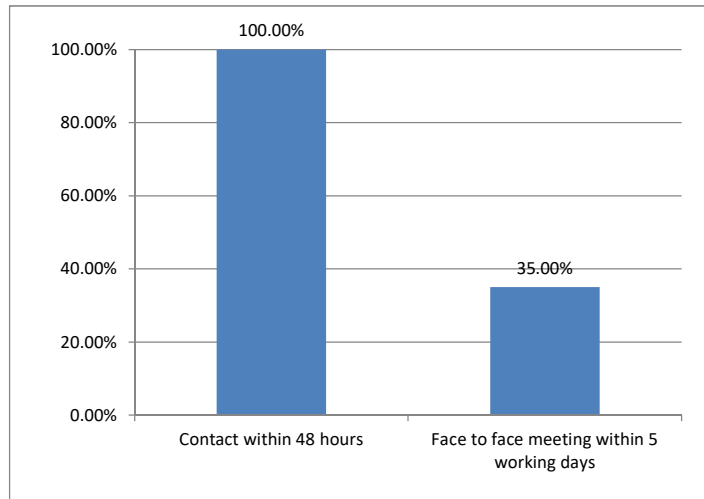
5. Nature of Primary Issue Presented



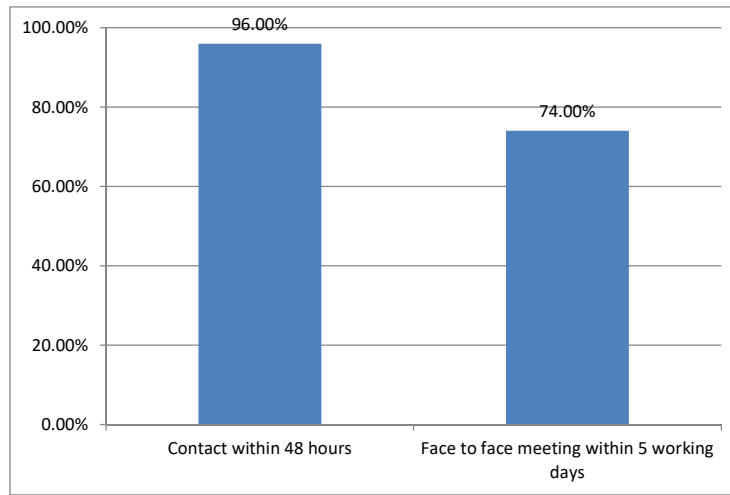
* School based issues including: SEN/ALN, exclusions, bullying, transport.

** 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 complants received against the advocacy service.</p>	<p>53 (Including Active Offer and Issue Based). The advocate explains TGP's confidentiality policy during every initial visit with a young person and will continue to remind them about confidentiality throughout the relationship.</p> <p>No safeguarding referrals were made during this quarter.</p> <p>No complaints were received during this quarter.</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>All young people received a service in the language of their choice. TGP Cymru publicity information is bilingual and services are offered in Welsh to all young people.</p> <p>During this quarter, advocates supported three young people described as having learning difficulties, one young person with ASD and another who identified as having mental health issues. Three BAME young people</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>No young people were supported to access legal or benefits advice, or supported to access interpretation services.</p> <p>Advocates report positive feedback from children and young people using TGP's advocacy services. More formal processes for evaluation of the service are being developed.</p>
5	<p>Number of cyp participating in recruitment process.</p> <p>Details of service user engagement/participation activity (outside of NASA contract but which impact and influence (systemic change).</p>	<p>None this quarter. We hope to identify young people to participate in the recruitment of staff in the future.</p> <p>Young people accessing the service will be invited to participate in the National Young People's Advisory Group on Advocacy and the National Approach which is facilitated by TGP Cymru.</p>

8. Summary

So what does this tell us?

We are pleased to report RCT referrals for both Active Offer and Issue Based Advocacy have doubled when compared to the previous quarter. We have received significantly more referrals for looked after young people compared to those involved in Child Protection processes. For example, Active Offer referrals were made up of 21 referrals for looked after young people and 8 young people involved in the Child Protection Process.

Identify trends

The majority of young people referred for advocacy support fall within the 12-16 age bracket, followed by 6-11. Support at meetings has again been the most common issue presented to our advocates during the period followed closely by placement issues, emotional wellbeing, access to services and contact.

Exemption reporting

We can receive phone calls and enquiries for individuals who are not eligible for our service. Often, these individuals are mostly young people who have children involved in the child protection process but do not have their own allocated social worker. 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

The team manager will arrange for Advocacy Drop In sessions to be held in the Porth Office during the next Quarter.

Any future recommendations/forward planning

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, and that the service they receive is as responsive as possible. We aim to make sure all referrers are aware of all referral pathways, including phone and email.