

OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service

Annual Report & Impact Summary
2023



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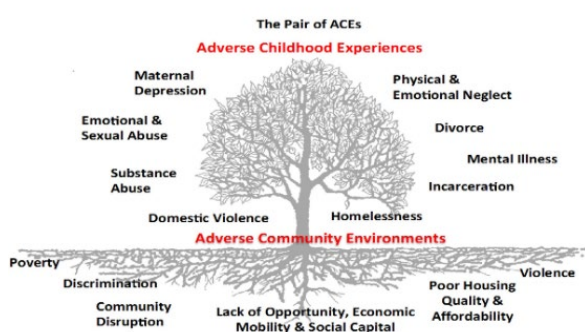
About Us....

The Early Intervention and Youth Service is funded and delivered by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. It is a consent-based service to assist professionals to support children, young people and their families offering advice and guidance, signposting to services & direct support work in the home, at school/nursery or in the community.

The team look to intervene at the earliest point of identification and work with families, children and young people whose needs are identified using the county wide threshold identification as being **TIER 2**.

TIER 2 is defined as: *“These children/families may require extra support in order to promote their safety and happiness and to explore the support of family and services to maintain safety in the community. The nature of need may be short term or more moderate in nature.”*

The Early Intervention and Youth Service looks to prevent damage caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences (**ACE's.**) These are traumatic events which occur during childhood that can have negative and lasting effects on a person's health and behaviour.



Our goal is to prevent the impact of adverse childhood experiences, supporting young people and families to reduce the chances of future generations entering criminal behaviour, unhealthy relationships, violence, substance misuse, ill health and exploitation.

The Early Intervention Service is made up of 4 strands of work working across multi agency pathways & offer a range of services:

Targeted Youth Team

- Targeted youth work on a range of topics as a 1:1 intervention over 12 weeks.
- Group work within schools.

Domestic Abuse Support Team

- Advice & guidance for domestic violence victims in relation to next steps, non-molestation orders, harassment warnings & signposting to legal services.
- 1:1 support at home or in the community.
- DASH assessment with victims & safety planning.

Locality Support Team

- 1:1 holistic family support delivered directly in the home.
- Advocacy and support at meetings with other professionals.

Youth Violence Intervention Unit (YVIU) Team

- Support for young people to reduce the risks of criminal exploitation & knife crime.

Missing Persons Unit (MPU)

- Identifying needs of support early in children who have gone missing to reduce further missing episodes & reduce demand on Police.

**Thresholds do not apply to our Domestic Abuse service or the YVIU cohort.*



"When I first became Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in 2016, I wanted to do everything I could to break the cycle that sees young people who have experienced challenges in childhood being drawn into the criminal justice system as either victims or perpetrators of crime. Police can't simply arrest their way out of crime and disorder, and criminalising young people simply creates a revolving door that many find it difficult to break out of. So I was and remain passionate about early intervention – making sure we identify young people who are at risk of being exploited, and providing them with the best support we can to ensure they reach their full potential. Early intervention is central to my Police, Fire and Crime Plan. By reaching children in their formative years, we can have life-changing impacts that benefit not only that person and their family, but the wider community. The Early Intervention and Youth Service are involved in so many aspects of policing and community safety work: Supporting families; young people who go missing; intervening at the first call to a domestic incident; providing targeted youth work and diverting young people who are at risk of exploitation – prevention always must be better than the cure. These services are provided by a team of specialists, set up to work alongside police and provide the right support in the right way. I am proud of what has been achieved over the past year and humbled by the fact that the impact of the services provided by the Early Intervention and Youth team will be felt across the community."

Stephen Mold

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner



"I am pleased to present the fantastic work completed by my Early Intervention and Youth Service for 2023. In this reporting year, there has been an ongoing commitment to increase the number of domestic abuse practitioners supporting victims and their children. A new project where couples who are struggling to manage conflict within their relationship and have come to the attention of the Police, have been offered help and guidance to improve communication and conflict resolution. This is early help and prevention at its best as relationship issues are improved before children come along and experience adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). This year has also seen a continued commitment to working alongside Police colleagues to prevent, reduce and support those young people who are exploited by others in our county. A brand-new project supporting young people who have been reported as missing has seen youth workers making trusted relationships to find out why this happened and offer the support they need to prevent this happening again. Continued help for young people and their families who have been impacted by violence and knife crime. Online workshops have been made available throughout the year covering parenting strategies, benefits of effective co-parenting and supporting young people. The team have offered training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) to schools and health teams across the county to help professional to identify issues at the earliest opportunity and refer to the service. This has been a busy and exciting year and I thank the tenacity and skills of the practitioners and managers who have supported over four thousand children and young people this year."

Jackie Jones

Early Intervention and Youth Services Manager



Our Commitment to Safeguarding

Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people:

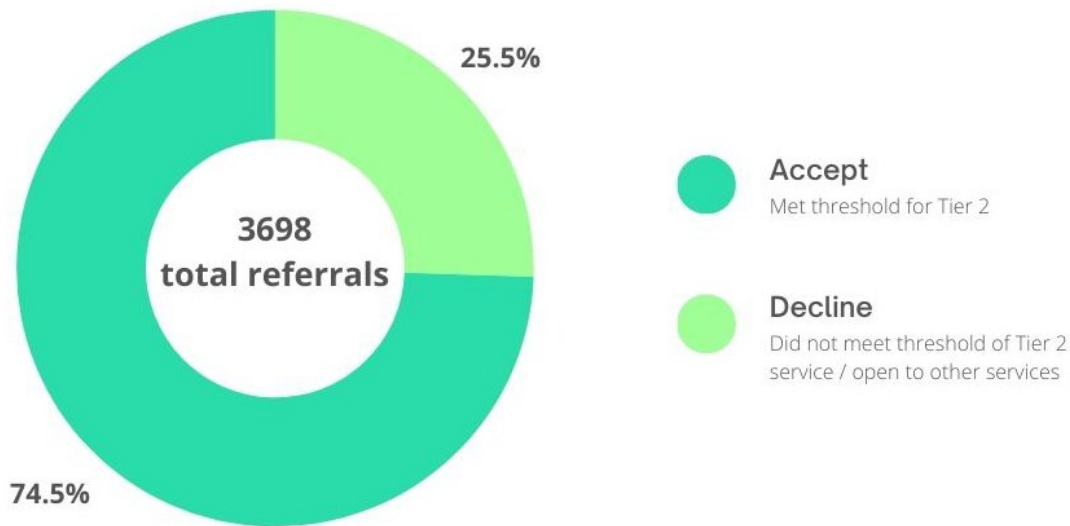
Northamptonshire Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) Early Intervention and Youth Services recognises our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children who are referred to our service. We will endeavour to ensure that those children who access our services are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support and that their fears and concerns will be taken seriously and that their voices are heard.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We recognise that our service is part of a wider safeguarding system and will work closely with the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and other agencies to promote the welfare of children.

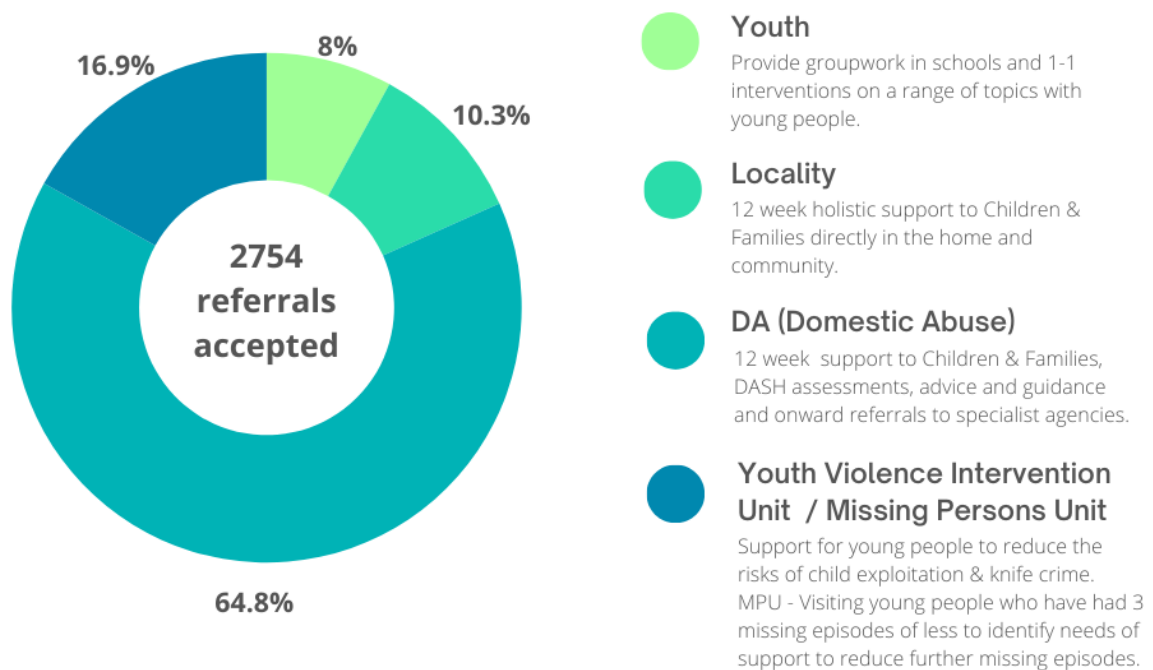


Our Year 2023

Referrals made to OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service

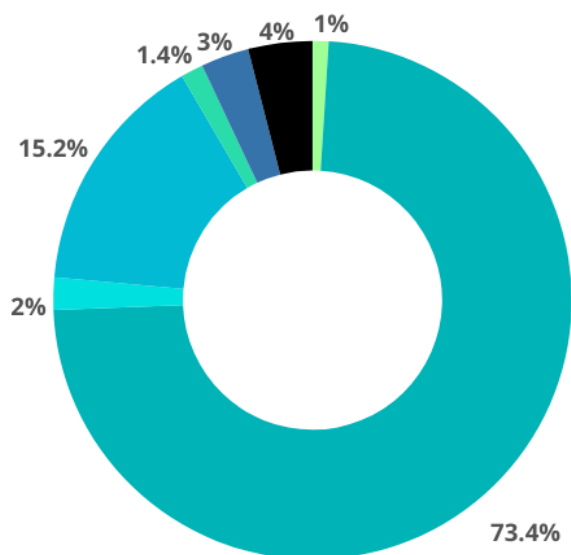


Referral Acceptance By Specialism



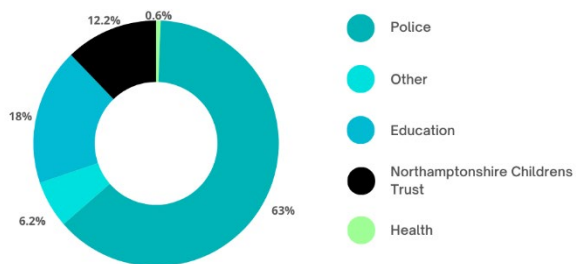
Who referred to us?

Who Referred to the OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service?

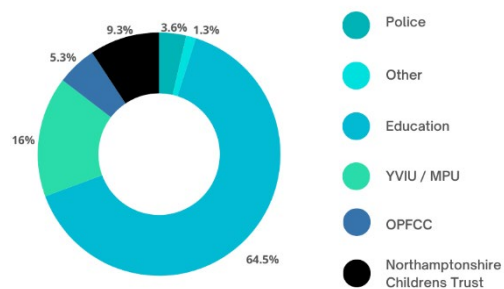


- **Police**
Through direct referrals or Public Protection Notices submitted from Officers
- **Other**
- **Education**
Direct referrals made through schools and special provision
- **YVIU / MPU**
Referrals passed from the Youth Violence Intervention Unit and Missing Persons Unit
- **OPFCC**
Referrals re-directed across the service
- **Northamptonshire Childrens Trust**
- **Health**
Health profession referrals such as GP's, Midwives, 0-19 and Urgent Care

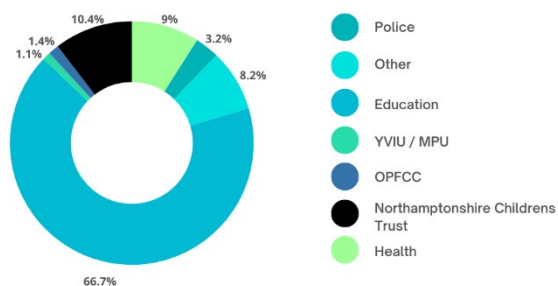
Who Referred to the Youth Violence Intervention Unit / Missing Persons Unit?



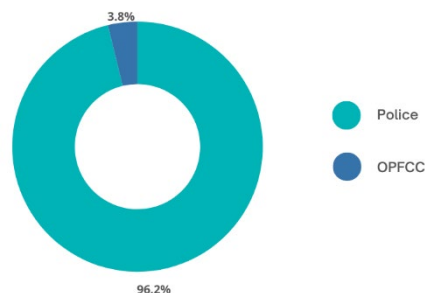
Who Referred to the Youth Project?



Who Referred to the Locality Project?

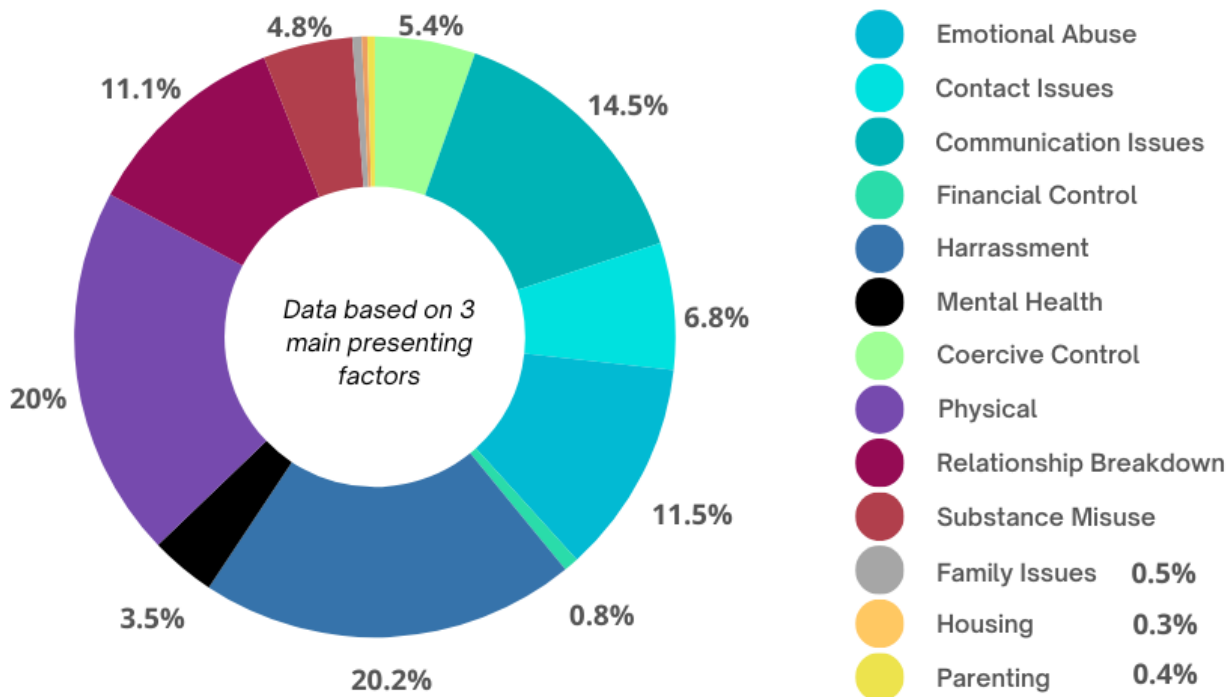


Who Referred to the Domestic Abuse Project?



What were the main presenting factors?

Presenting Factors for Domestic Abuse (Overall)



Our specialist team works with low level domestic abuse where children are present. This intervention is designed to prevent escalation and improve outcomes for all involved.

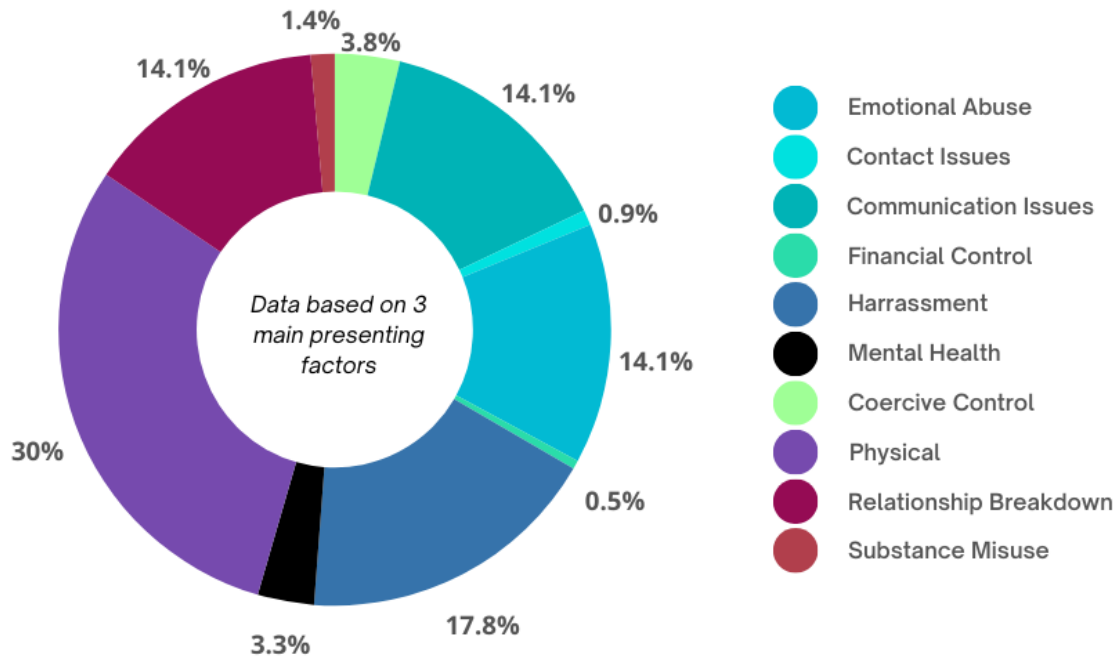
From July 2023, the Domestic Abuse service has also been supporting, young adult couples where Domestic abuse has been reported to provide support and early intervention before they may start a family.

“Thank you so much for all the help you have given me, I feel so much comfort and support with you and so sad you can't carry on. Thank you so much for pushing to see me more than you should've I genuinely appreciate it so much. You have inspired me a lot in so many different ways. I want to say a massive thank you for all the help and support you have given me as you got me out of a dark place I never thought I would get out of”

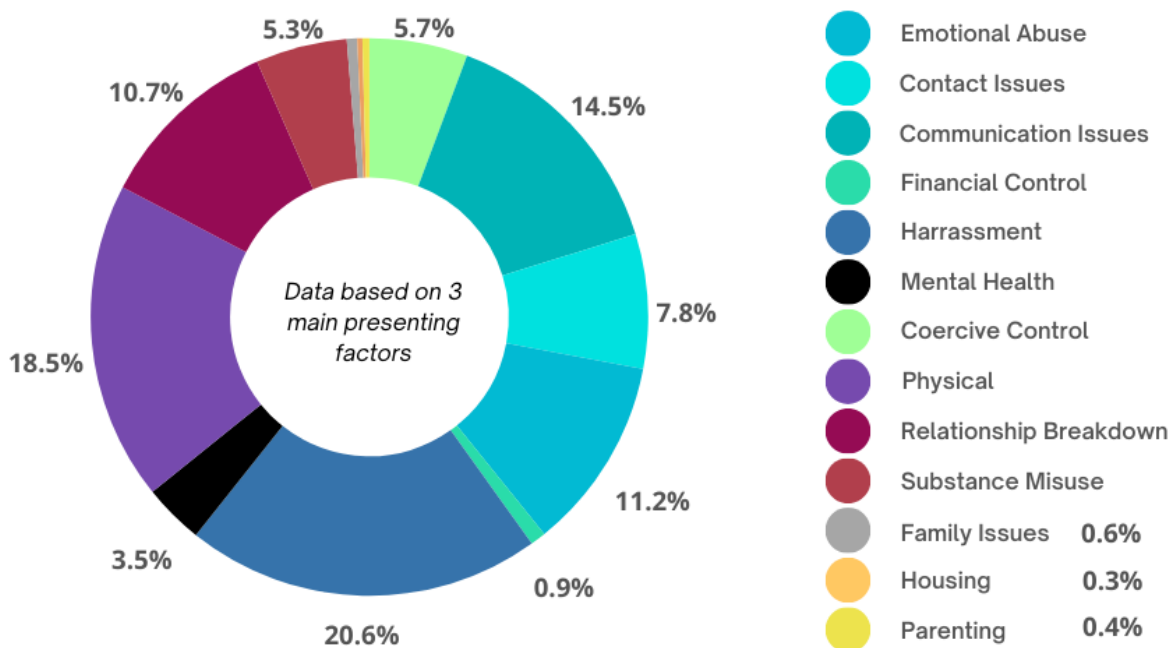
“You were always there for me, really kind and very supportive. Communication was very professional and productive. You helped me to find a strength in myself and brought back my confidence to stop unhealthy relationship. I'm very great full to L for her patience and she is such good listener. Massive Thank you.”



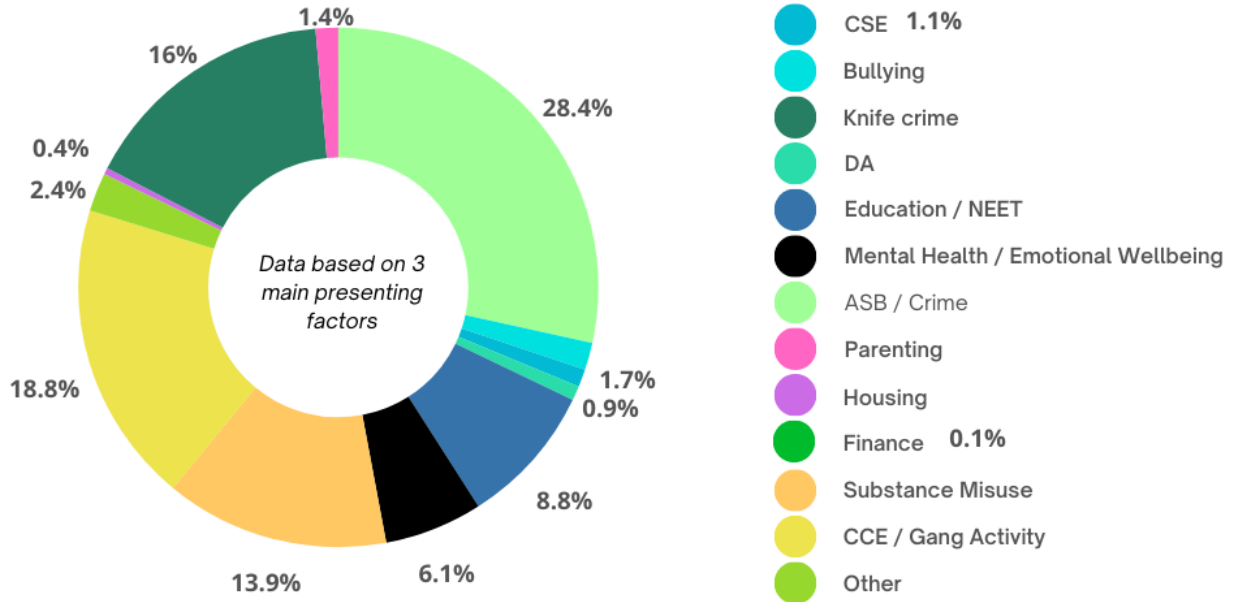
Presenting Factors for Adult Domestic Abuse work



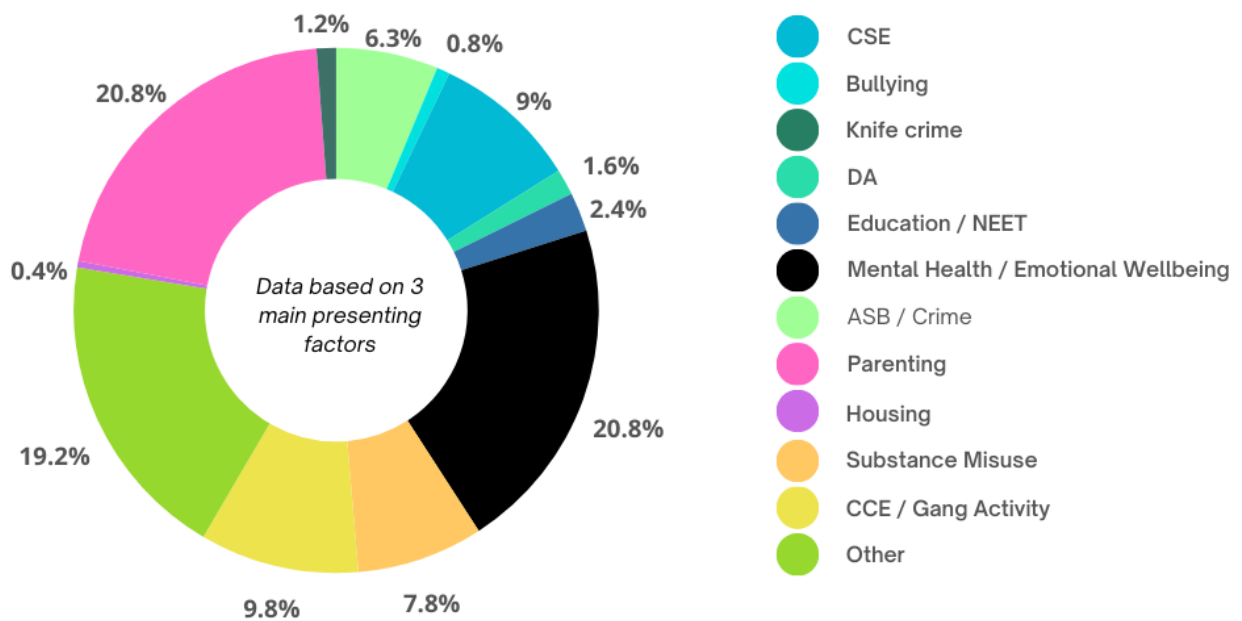
Presenting Factors for Domestic Abuse Family work



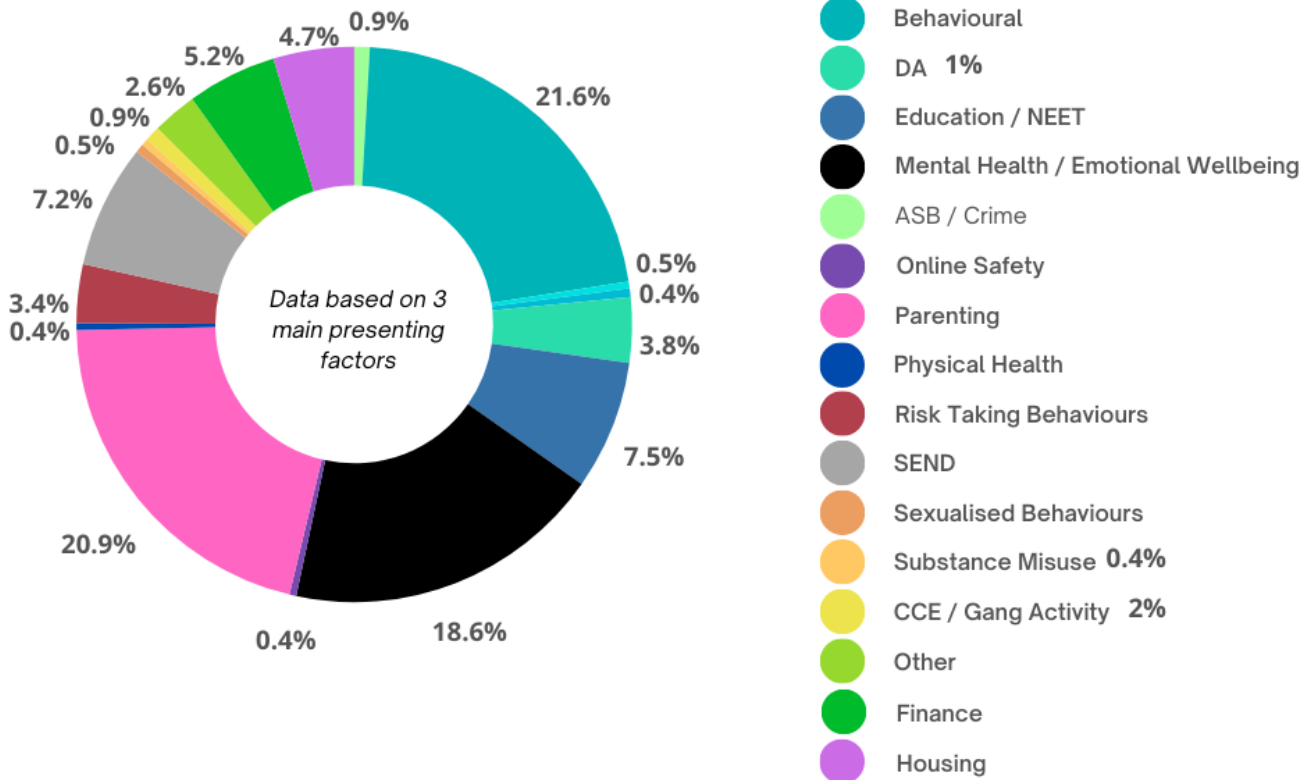
Presenting Factors for the Youth Violence Intervention Unit Project



Presenting Factors for the Missing Persons Project



Presenting Factors for the Locality Project



“E was incredible. She was so informative and helpful. Not at any time did I feel judged. Em is a font of knowledge about other help and support available. I felt listened to. We are going to miss seeing her. She is a complete asset to your team. My son is more aware of the dangers that can be posed in society. He realises that there are consequences to his actions.”

“She was always there, offering comfort and support. She never judged and always had a positive outlook that helped me see things in a different light. My family and I are grateful to have had someone like S in my life at a time when we needed it the most.”

Annual Report & Impact Summary 2023

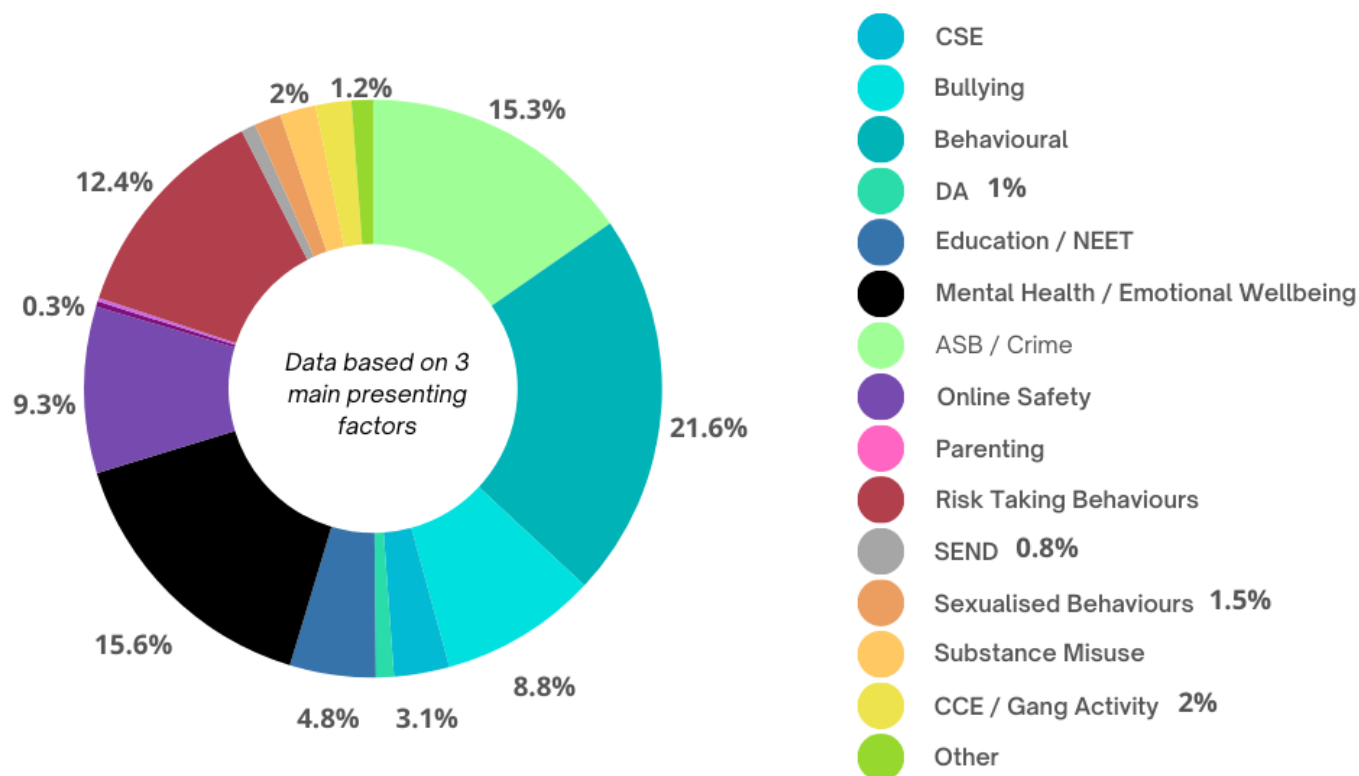
“There are not enough words to express my gratitude to you. She took on quite a complex situation and was always there to listen to us. She has gone above and beyond our expectations, providing support to us and getting us involved with other agencies to help with our issues. You have been an absolute godsend; she truly is a credit to your team. We are going to miss her, but she has given us the impetus and confidence to change our lives for the better. Thank you”

“I look at my reactions and communication with my child and really put into perspective if it's ME that needs to change or them. We have much better routine, structure and communication. I feel more relaxed and able to engage with the kids. Just having the ability and tools now to put into perspective what the desired outcome is has really helped!”

“I feel more confident with my parenting skills and safer about my daughter being able to protect herself.”



Presenting Factors for the Youth Project



"I liked that he was understanding and always told me that what I did was still something i could learn from so yeah he was a really understanding person."

"It was really helpful service and I can't thank Lauren enough for what's she's done for me and my family."

"J helped me with getting my life back on track, he helped me find work and supported me and my mum with new furniture in the house. I would recommend J and the service to other young people that need that support."

"I liked the interaction, the work, everything. Everything was spot on."

"She helped me a lot. Everything was amazing so wouldn't change anything. I miss u."

"Since I had H as my youth worker she helped me understand how to control my feelings and also how to put myself first in difficult situations she always made me laugh when I was feeling down and she always put a smile on my face."



Who we supported?

Our **Youth team** helped 232 individual young people between the ages of 11 – 18 for up to 12 weeks with tailored 1:1 support.

Our **Missing Person Unit (MPU) support workers** visited 119 vulnerable young people from August 2023 to identify needs of support to prevent further missing episodes.

Our **Locality Practitioners** supported 294 individual families for up to 12 weeks with 1:1 support.

Our **Domestic Abuse Practitioners** accepted 1761 domestic abuse referrals, contacting each family or individual victim to offer support.

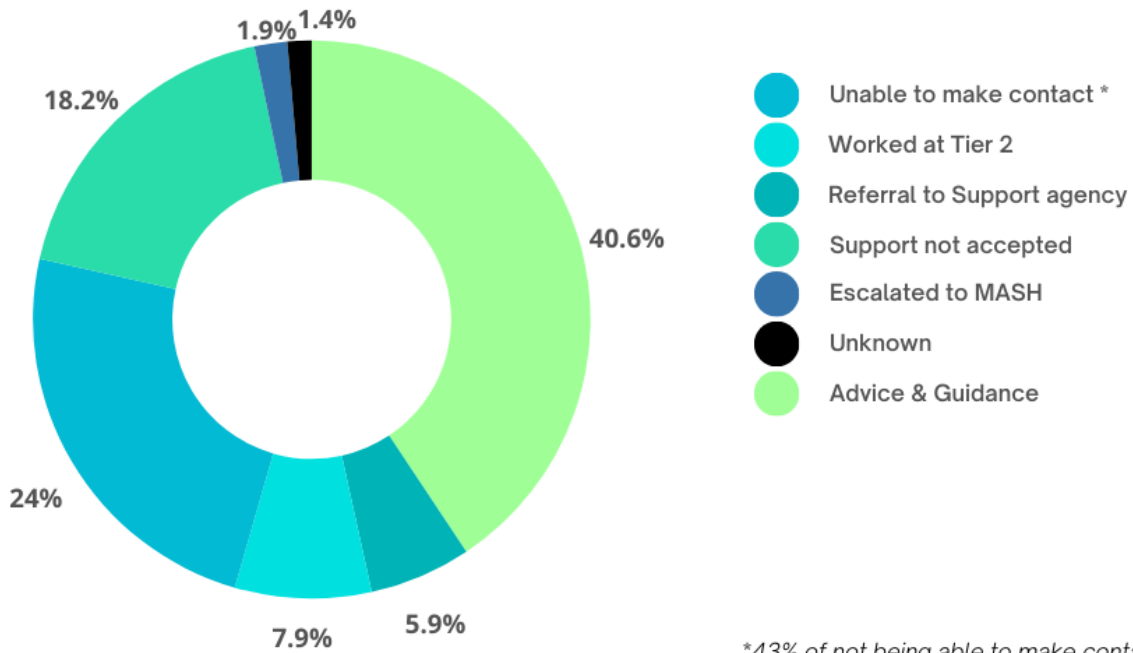
The **Youth Violence Intervention Unit (YVIU)** reached out to 348 young people who had been identified as being involved in serious violent crime and exploitation.

As a service, that's over **4,200** children we have reached.



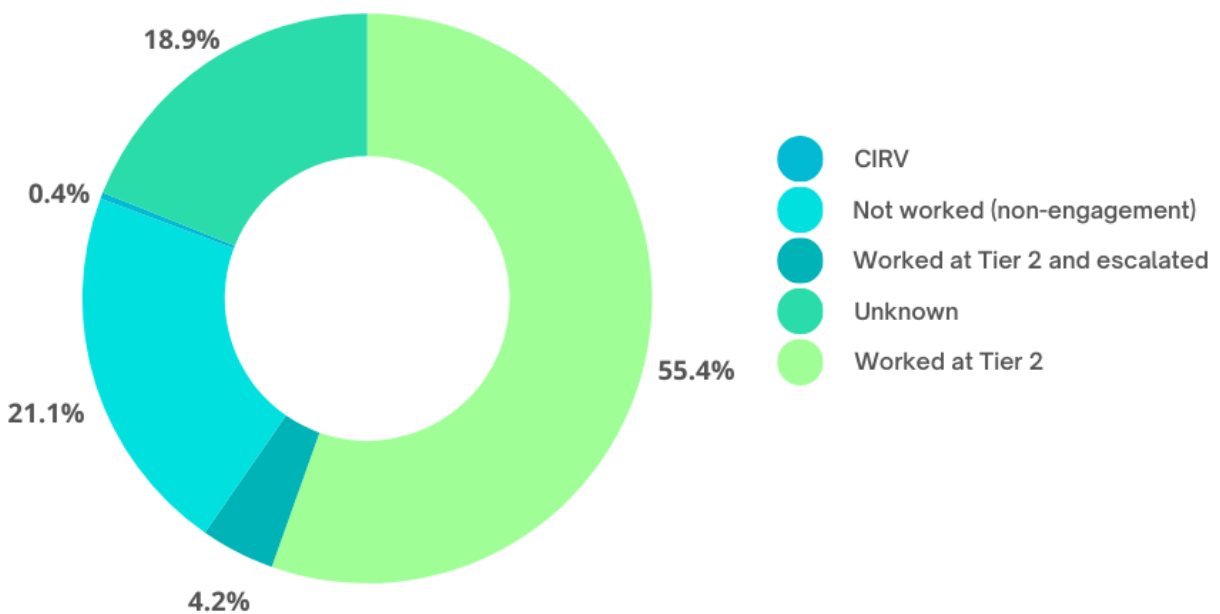
What were the outcomes?

Outcomes - Domestic Abuse Project

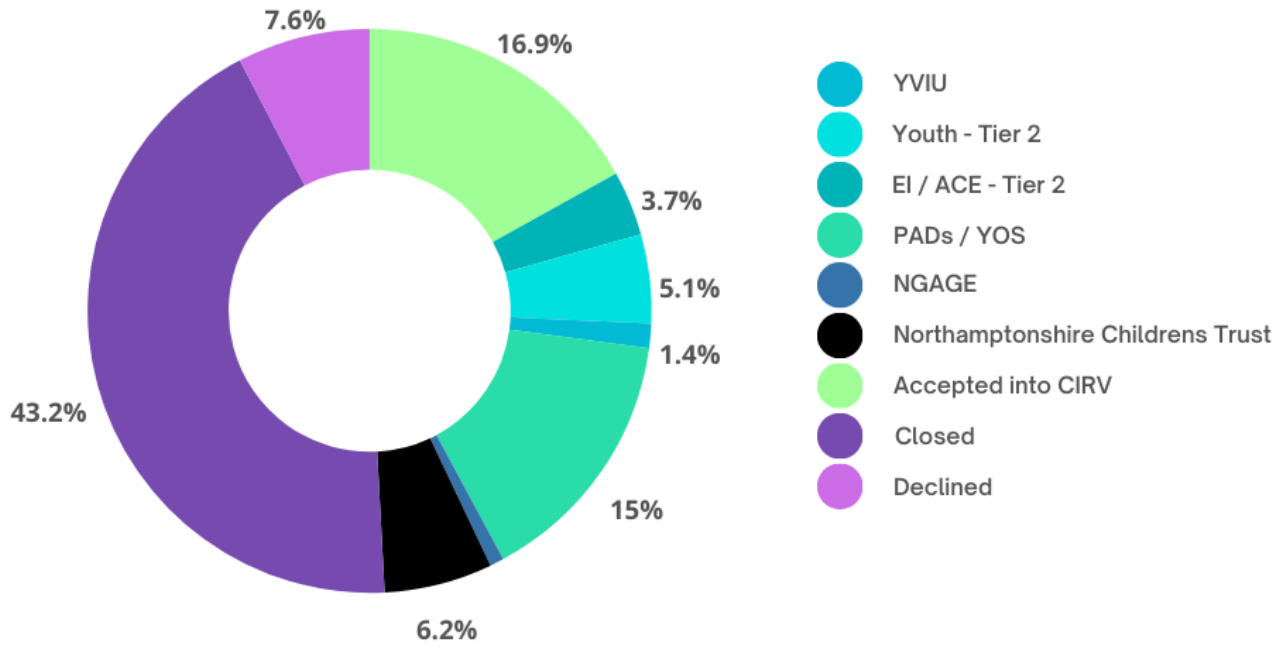


*43% of not being able to make contact due to number provided not being active.

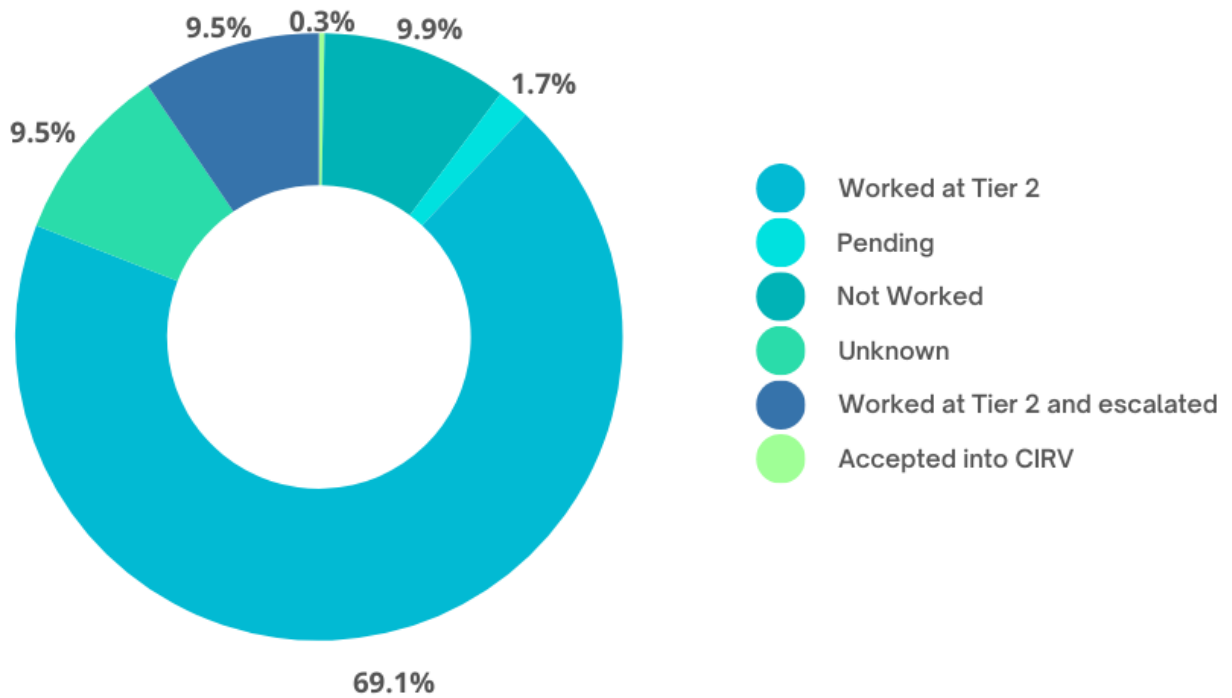
Outcomes - Youth Project



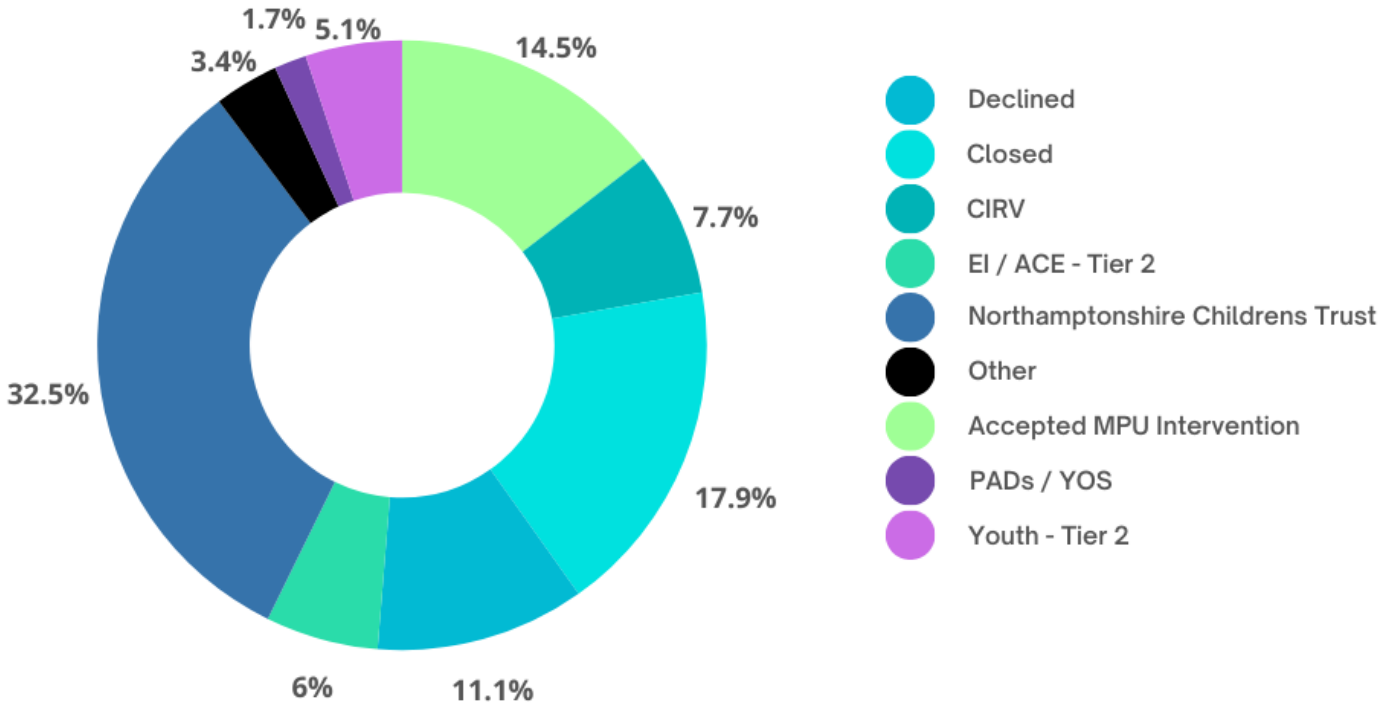
Outcomes - Youth Violence Intervention Unit



Outcomes - Locality Project



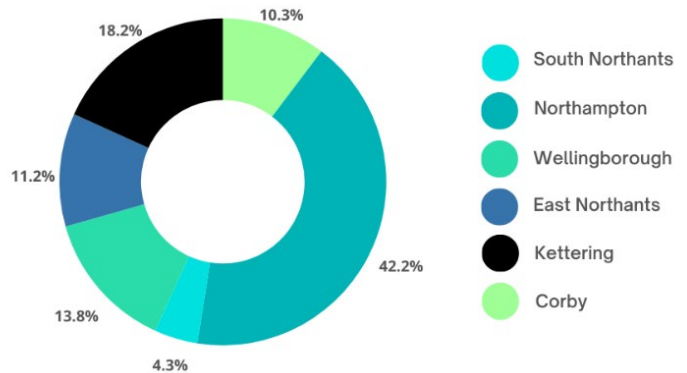
Outcomes - Missing Persons Unit



Project began in Aug 2023. Dedicated Practitioner from Nov 2023

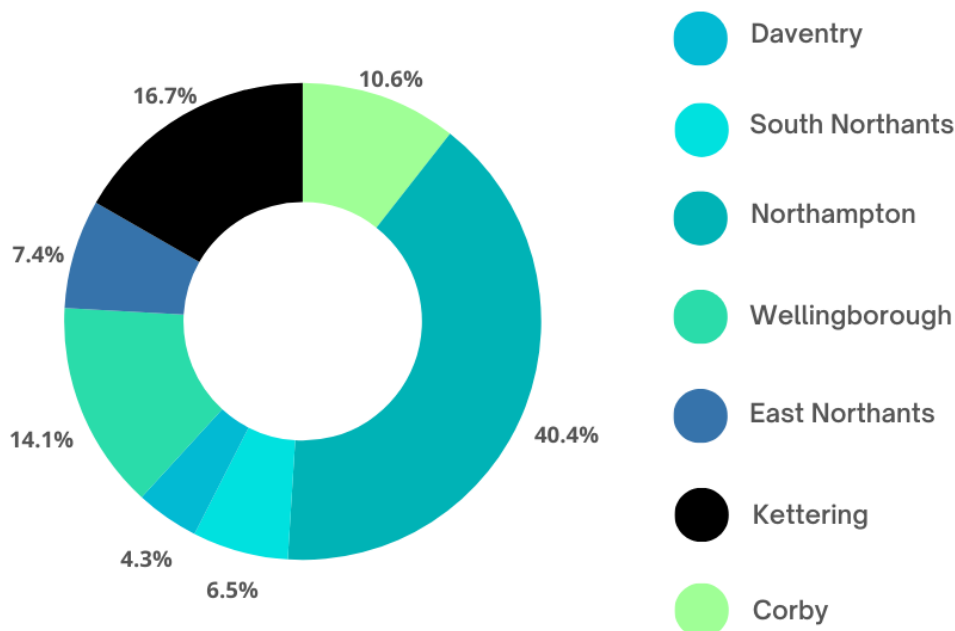
Early Intervention Workers for Missing Person’s unit (MPU) re-visit young people who to date, have 3 or less missing episodes. The aim is to identify needs of support early to reduce further missing episodes & reduce risks and demand on Police. In addition, the role plays a key part in building trust with parents to enable them to share and report concerns for their child and offer reassurance that MPU take their reports seriously. To date, our data shows that a child visited by an EI Worker for MPU is now 5 times less likely to go missing again.

Where have the Missing Persons Unit been working?

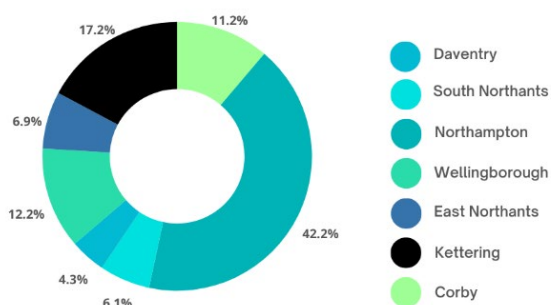


Demand By Geographical Area

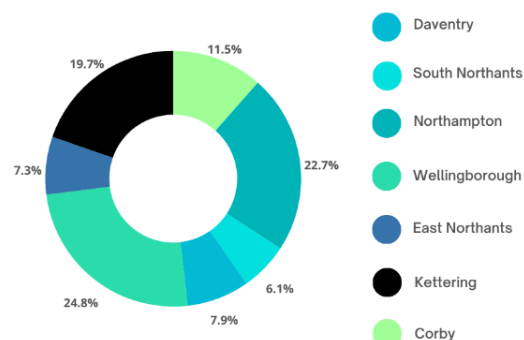
Where have we been working?



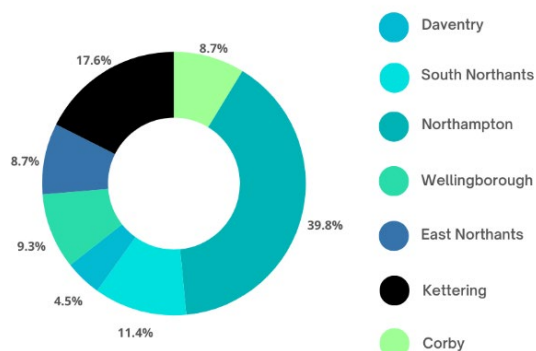
Where have the Domestic Abuse Project been working?



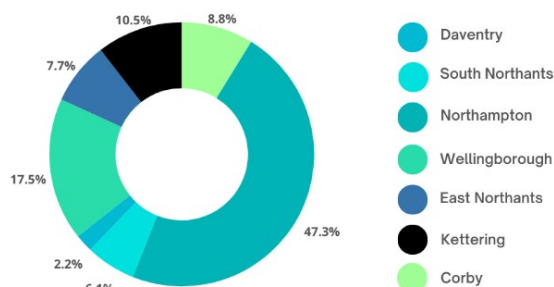
Where have the Youth Project been working?



Where have the Locality Project been working?



Where have the Youth Violence Intervention Unit been working?



How did we do?

Our Families said:



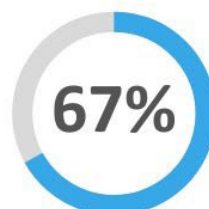
rated the service a 9 or 10 out of 10 for their **level of satisfaction** with the support they received



said they had **good communication** with their support worker



felt their **situation had improved** as a result of the support received

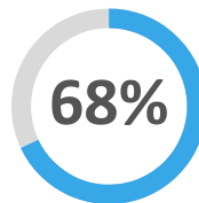


felt their **situation wouldn't have changed without the support they had received**, 32% wasn't sure



said they **wouldn't change anything** about the support they received

Of the responses that would have changed things:

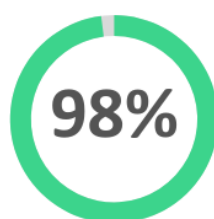


said they would have liked the **support to last longer**

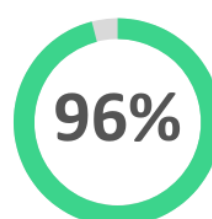
Children & Young People said:



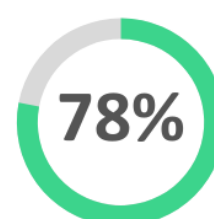
rated the **support given to them** by their support worker 4 or 5 out of 5 stars



said **things have changed positively** for them since working with the team



felt they **wouldn't have changed anything** about the support they received



said if they were to change anything, it would be to have the **support last longer**



Professional partners said:



rated the **communication with the OPFCC** good to excellent



rated the **quality of the service provided** as good to excellent



rated the **information, advice and guidance on other services** as good to excellent



rated the **referral process** as good to excellent

"We think this is an amazing service. Always prompt, which is fabulous as it's really hard if families are experiencing difficulty but have to wait a long time for support and the workers are all great to work with. J has worked really well with this family. They came to us in difficult circumstances and both mum and her son were struggling. Jen worked alongside them both and things have improved dramatically. Both mum and her son seem far more secure and settled now."

"The timeliness of your service gives families support when it is needed and the fact that you can work in the home setting takes away any stigma felt at 'School'."

"You went above and beyond to support us in what we felt was a very challenging time. She provided useful guidance and then came to follow up the work that had taken place. It was such a valuable and important service and we are very grateful to her."

"So excellent to have support in the home for this family, child presenting differently in school and masking behaviours so to be able to get support was brilliant for putting in appropriate long term services."

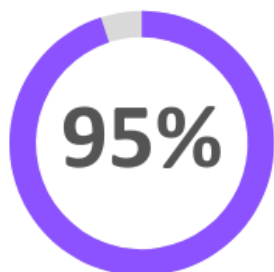
"We have had organisation training/information delivered to us at our staff meeting. I feel this service is extremely valuable and do share your service details with families and schools. Prior to me joining my service I hadn't heard of this team. I worked in a school within a deprivation area and ran a Nurture provision to support vulnerable children. I feel more schools need to know about your service as I feel that this service is hugely beneficial and has the potential to impact many families in a positive way, without stigma or judgement."

"Thank-you very much. It's often we have people fall through the net so to speak as they do not meet criteria with other services."

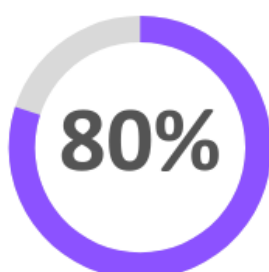
"The support given by this service has been excellent. G has kept me informed and updated throughout the intervention and responded quickly to any questions I have asked. This support has helped the family hugely. Sincere thanks."



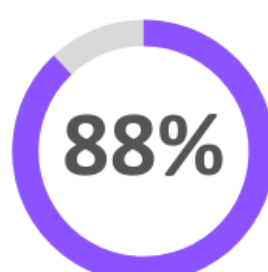
6 month check back with families:



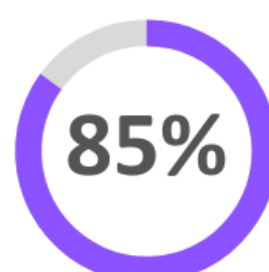
rated the **support** given to them at the time as appropriate



said the support received has made a **difference** to theirs and their Children's wellbeing



said they have **made changes** since receiving support



said they were **managing better** as a result of the support received



said they were **given** appropriate advice and guidance



said the agency **met theirs** and their Children's needs



said the agency **supported them** to make improvements for their family



agreed that the **agency** communicated well

We contact families we have worked with after 6 months to see if the support put in place has been effective in improving their lives with positive change.

"My daughter has completely had a turnaround she is telling myself and her dad her feelings she has come on leaps, and we are so proud of her."

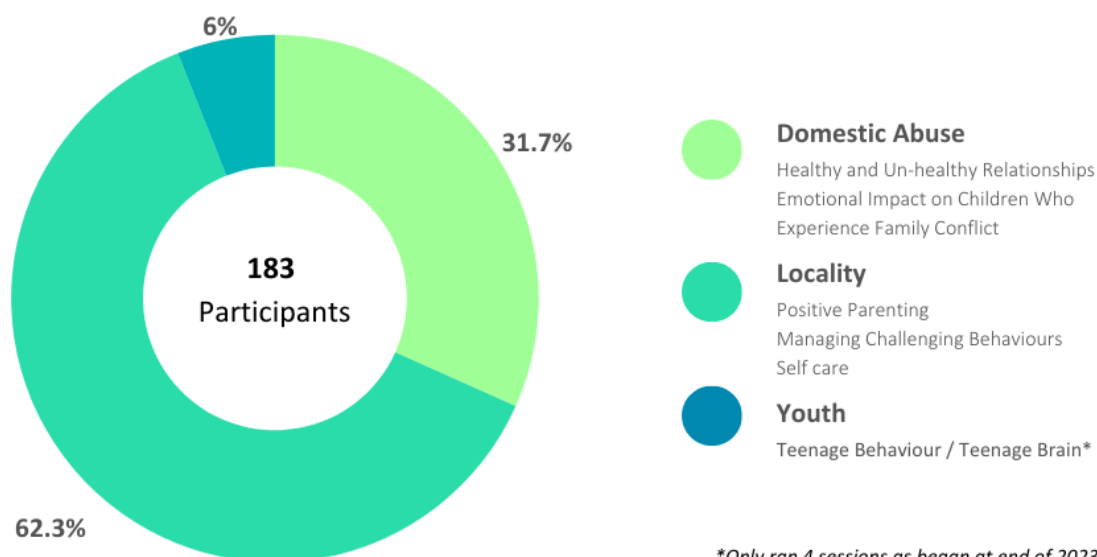
"Without this support a lot of things wouldn't have been possible. Would like to thank the Team, but especially L - absolute star."

"I would like to say thank you, both with my son Oliver he has a new life in peace, I am very grateful for everything ACE Team have done for both of us me and my little one. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, I AM VERY GRATEFUL."




How else have we been supporting families and Young People?

Parenting Workshops



Our Parenting workshops are open to any family or individual meeting any threshold level, they do not have to be currently working with us to be eligible to participate. Professionals can refer individuals onto a selection of the 1-hour, virtual workshops through a dedicated referral form.

FREE Training For Schools



to book an appointment or to just find out more, please contact Cheryl Stewart on cheryl.stewart@northampton.gov.uk

We offer **FREE**, in-house, 1 hour training sessions for schools on **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)** and how we can help students and families.

- What are ACE's?
- Indicators of ACE's.
- Applying ACE's when using Thresholds and Pathways.
- Who are the Early Intervention & ACE Team?
- Referral pathway.
- Apply learning through discussion and case study activity.

We have been providing FREE training to a range of other professionals in education, health, housing and Police on identifying early indicators of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's). These include an overview of our service, how we can help families & how they can refer to us for support.



FREE Group Work For Schools

Northampton Children's Educational and Community Intervention Team

Our Youth workers have been delivering drop in sessions and targeted groupwork programmes throughout Northamptonshire. These primary and secondary schools have been identified by local trends and community needs on a range of topics to prevent and reduce risk of harm and exploitation.

Our prevention work has reached **5,729** students in schools across the county through days of intervention and education.

