



OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service

Annual Report & Impact Summary
2024



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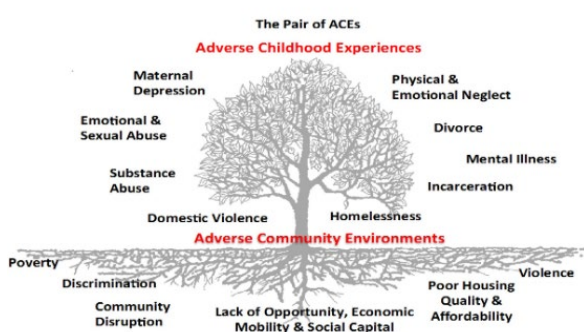
About Us....

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 family's 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)

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

Missing Persons Investigation Unit

- 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 MPIU and YVIU cohort.*



"Young people in Northamptonshire deserve the very best start to life and to feel safe and supported where they live.



As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, I want us to have resilient communities with first-class services in place to help our most vulnerable young residents and their families.

The work being delivered by my Early Intervention and Youth Service is key in helping to deliver that ambition, and I am very proud of everything it has already achieved over the last 12 months.

It has supported families affected by domestic abuse; worked with young people who go missing to understand their issues and prevent further episodes; and provided targeted youth work to divert young people away from exploitation.

Solving complex social problems and keeping the public safe requires a multi-agency approach. I am working to develop a countywide youth strategy which will have input from partners and young people themselves.

The work being delivered by the Early Intervention and Youth Service will play a vital part in the delivery of that strategy.

Prevention is at the heart of building safer communities. I have no doubt the continued delivery from the service, along with further work alongside our partners, will help us to achieve the long-term change that is required.

Danielle Stone

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

"I'm proud to present the work completed by my Early Intervention and Youth Service for 2024. In this reporting year, the hard work and commitment demonstrated by my team to support families, children and young people has been tremendous. The Service has seen an increase in demand across the whole county and the team have shown flexibility and problem solving to ensure there is a balance between managing demand and delivering high quality support.

This year has seen the team diversify into some new projects working alongside the Force, supporting children and young people who have gone missing. This has been a hugely successful initiative and has been nominated for a national Prevention Work Award. This initiative has received interest from other Forces as a model of good practice.

The team continue to support victims and their children who have been impacted by Domestic Abuse and family conflict. Nine of the ten practitioners qualified as an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) with our newest team member qualifying next year.

Youth workers have continued to work with schools and Academies offering educational input to groups of young people and individuals, exploring and understanding issues around exploitation, online harm and knife crime. This continued partnership approach helps to make the identification, engagement, and good outcomes possible.

The team have continued to support the Youth Violence Intervention Unit, preventing those young people identified as vulnerable to exploitation and harm from requiring Police intervention.

This year puts the Service in a really good position to move towards the delivery of the Commissioners new Safe and Sound plan giving opportunity to offer targeted support for young people who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system."



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.



2024 Highlights

- The Early Intervention Service have had a **46%** Increase in the total referrals we received into the service year on year.
- Our acceptance rate was 64% with a **36% increase in the number of referrals we accepted from 2023.**
- Overall Northamptonshire Police account for 79.9% of all the total referrals accepted across the service. Geographically, **Northampton remains the busiest area across all our projects.**

Locality Project: 'Parenting' and 'Behavioural Issues' are still biggest presenting factors for the Locality project who work with families within the home. We have also seen a big jump in the number of referrals coming through to us from the education sector as a result of our 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' training in the county and for school avoidance issues. We have been working closely with young people to gain their voices, work with schools and working with our partners to safeguard the children and families we support.

Youth Project: The Youth projects biggest growth has been seen in the Northampton area with 'Behavioural Issues' and 'Young Peoples mental health and wellbeing' still the main presenting factors.

Domestic Abuse Project: 90% of our DA team are now IDVA qualified. 'Physical Abuse' and 'Harassment' remain the biggest contributing factors for DA overall with issues around 'Child Contact' increasing by 5.2%. The Adult Domestic Abuse project have seen cases involving harassment grow 13.2% from last year. Overall, the Domestic Abuse project saw a 51% increase in the number of referrals accepted from 2023.

YVIU: The Youth Violence Intervention Unit have seen the biggest growth in the number of referrals taken in 2024 to be in Corby and East Northants. Just under 50% of young people we worked with were in mainstream education with the main presenting factors of 'Anti-Social Behaviour' growing to 36.2% and 'Knife Crime' accounting for 32.1%.

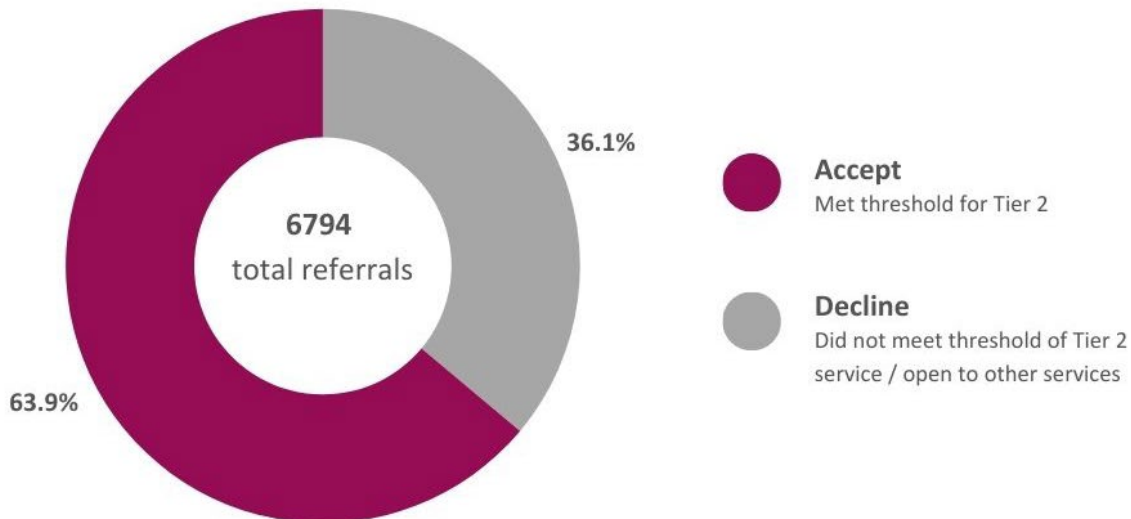
MPIU: Now having completed its first year, the Missing Person Investigation Unit project was allocated the operational name: 'Op Satin'. 'Op Satin' was included in a National Review that was submitted to Ministers in March 2024 and we attended the National Missing Persons Conference and presented to delegates the aims, objectives, and success of 'Op Satin'. We supported Northumbria Police Missing Persons Team with advice and guidance to create their own Early Intervention Project for young people reported missing.

The main presenting factors affecting young people seen was 'Parenting / Family Relationships' & 'Friendships & Relationship' issues which accounted for over 50% of cases.

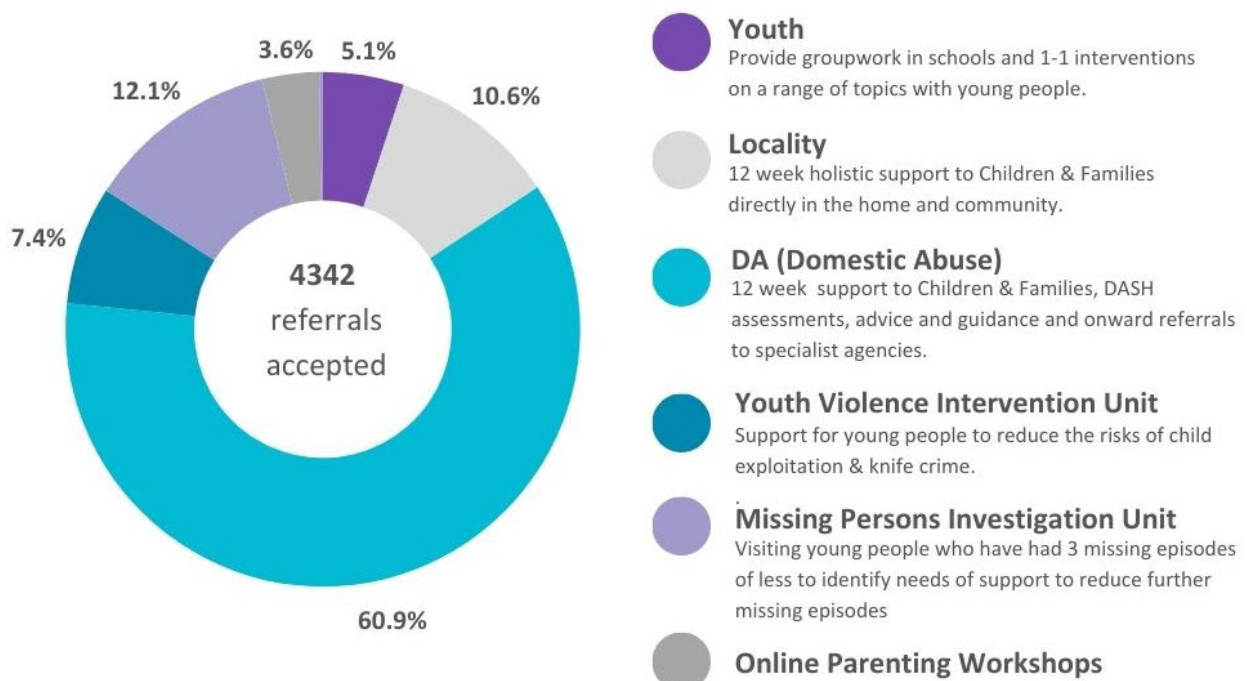


2024 In Detail

Referrals made to OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service

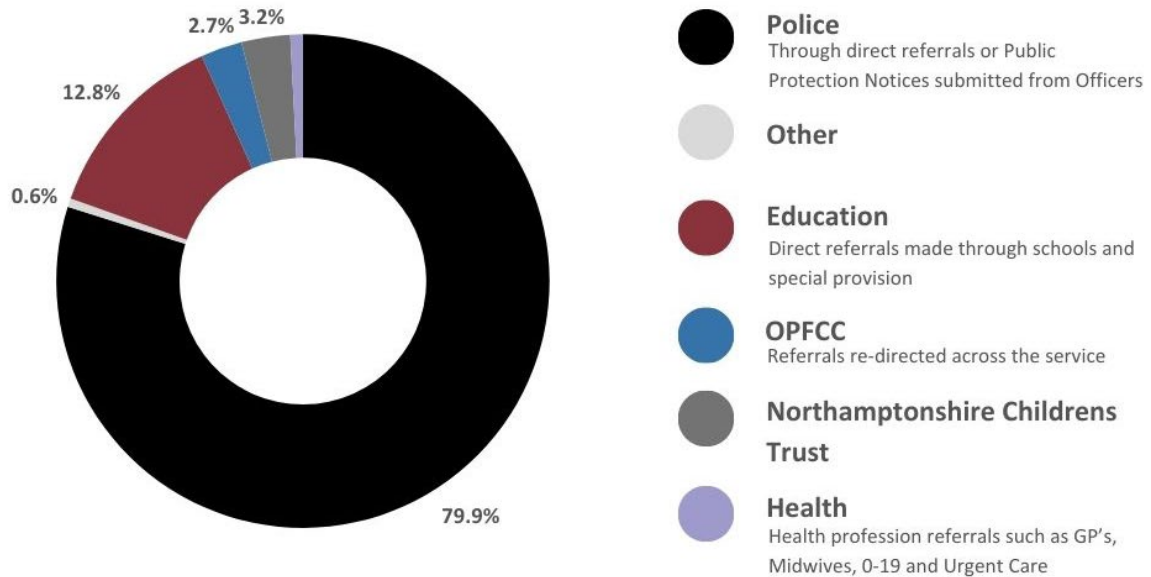


Referral Acceptance By Specialism

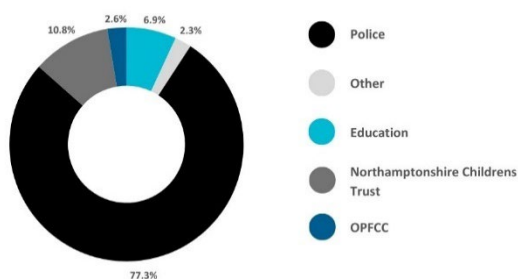


Who referred to us?

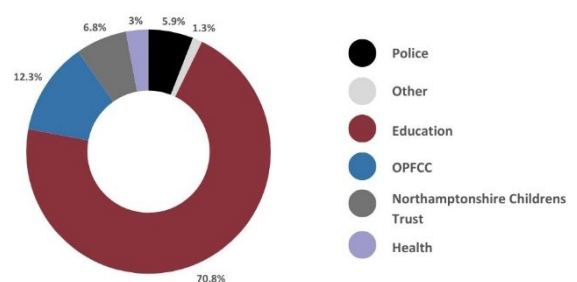
Who Referred to the OPFCC Early Intervention & Youth Service?



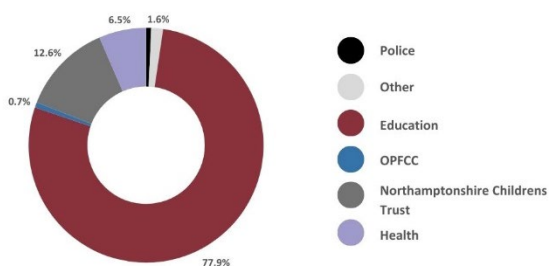
Who Referred to the Youth Violence Intervention Unit?



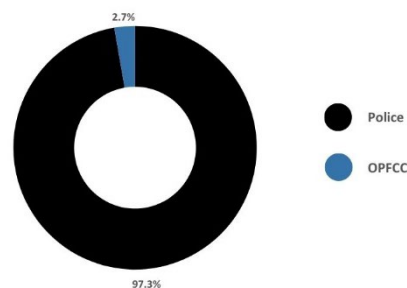
Who Referred to the Youth Project?



Who Referred to the Locality Project?

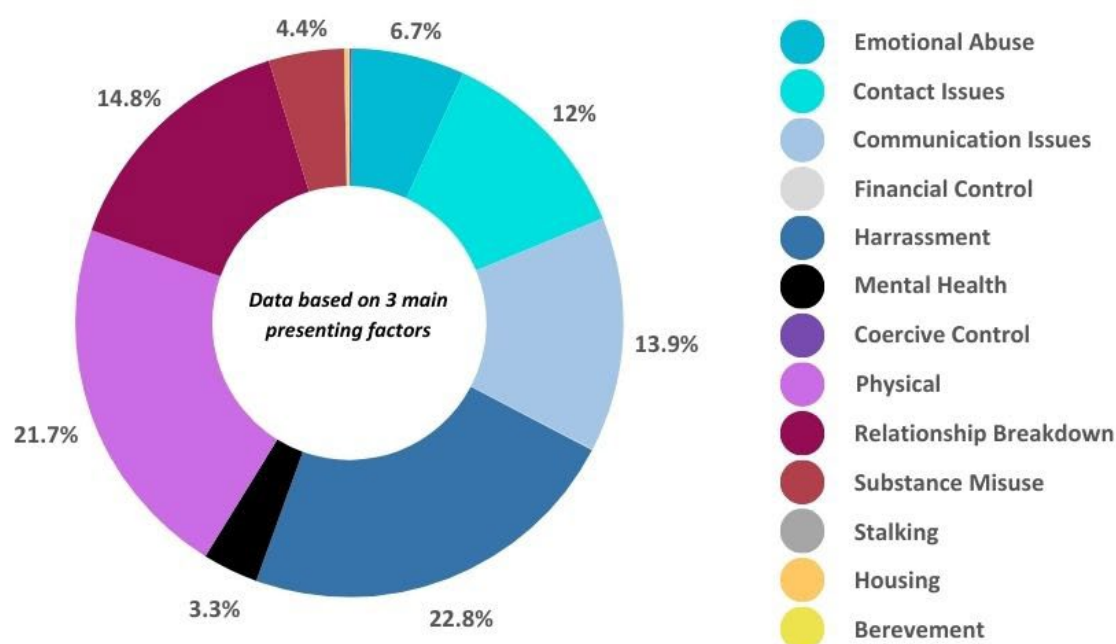


Who Referred to the Domestic Abuse Project?



What were the main presenting factors?

Presenting Factors for Domestic Abuse (Overall)



"I want to thank you so much for being with me through this hard time, for your patience and that you believed in me more than I did myself. I am happy that in case of anything I will be able to still contact you. I wish you good luck for the future and keep doing what you are because many people need you."

"Even though there was a language barrier she did everything for us to understand each other. She made me believe in myself and I felt safe near her. I am grateful that people like her exist. I don't even want to think about what would have happened if I didn't meet her on my path. This might sound weird but she was like an angel to me that took care of me. She is patient, has a lot of empathy and knowledge. She knows what to do to help me. She is amazing."

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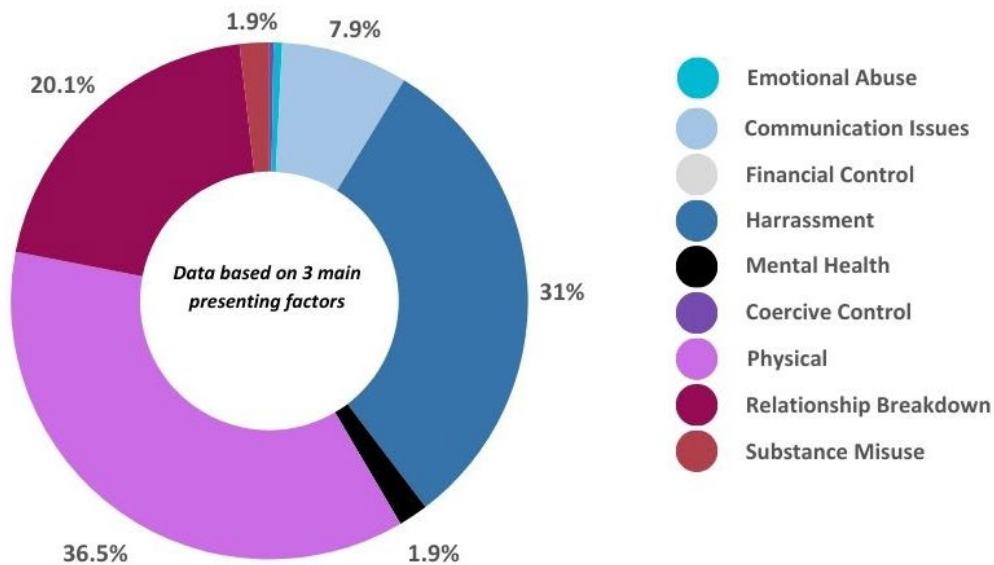
"Thank you so much for all the support and help you have provided, during mine and my children's difficult time of our lives. When our life was falling apart. You really were there for us and made sure we was getting the right help and support. And most importantly always there when I needed any advice or words of support."

"You have been amazing and nothing was too much. I reached out for support and guidance when incidents had occurred. You have also supported me in court, provided me with transport and was calming for me and sat beside me whilst acting as Mackenzie friend. You supported me and spoke to me whilst I was visibly upset. I feel more positive as I have fought the emotional abuse that had impacted me. I have boundaries to help support my mental health. Without you, I may not have had someone to give me insightful advice, you have also helped by informing my children's schools with information that they needed to know. I feel very grateful for you help as you have helped me to overcome my fear in court."

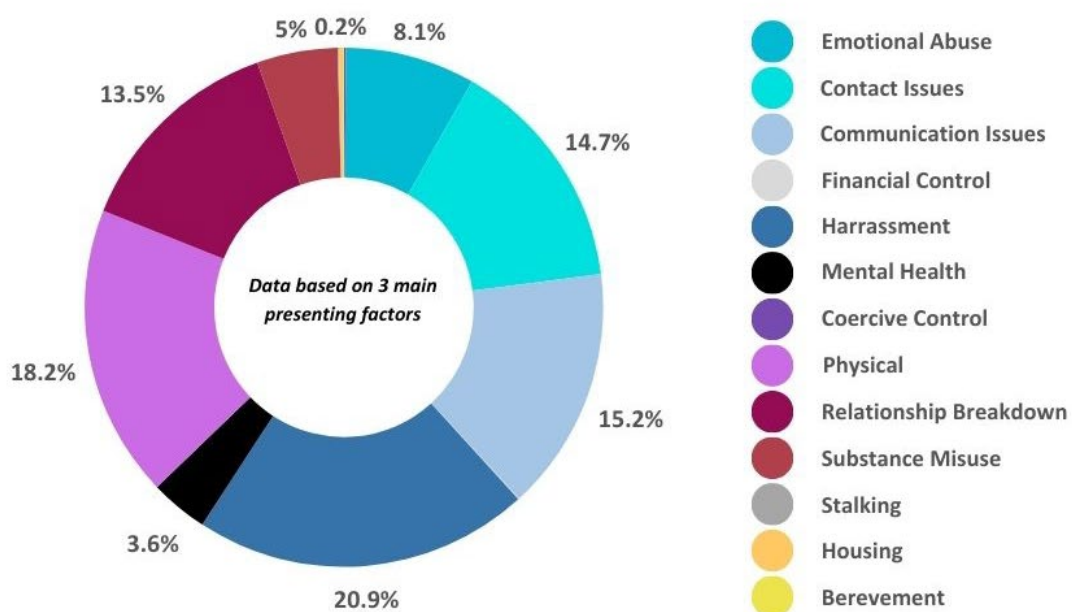
"Just wanted to say Thanks to you for everything you've done for me, I wouldn't have been able to come this far in my life and could only think of that freedom and peace which I have today and it's all because of you for which I cannot thank you enough."



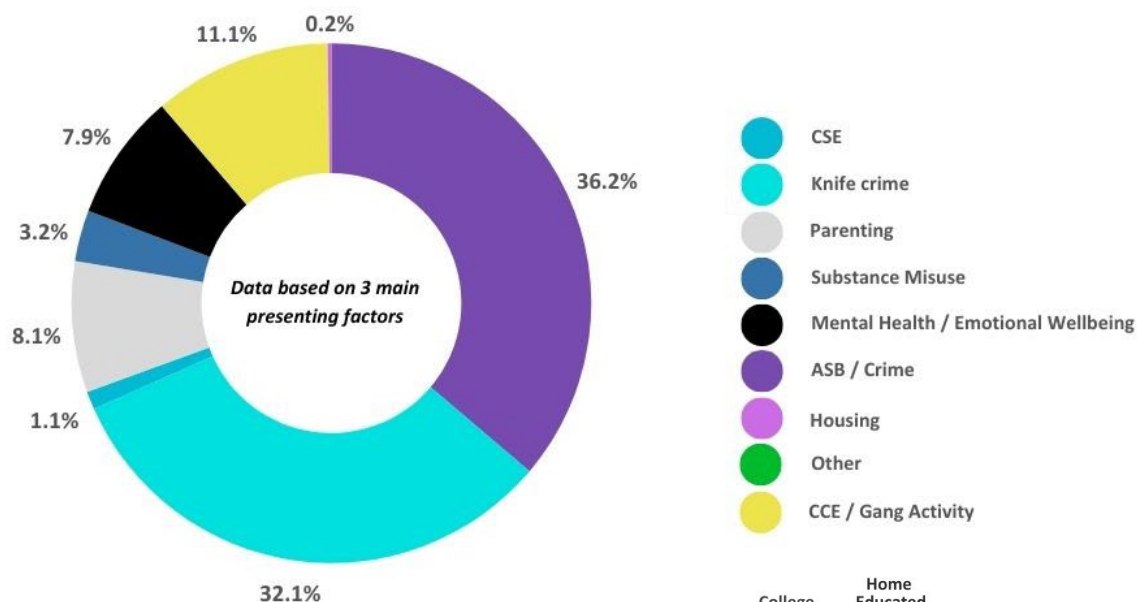
Presenting Factors for Adult Domestic Abuse Work



Presenting Factors for Domestic Abuse Family Work

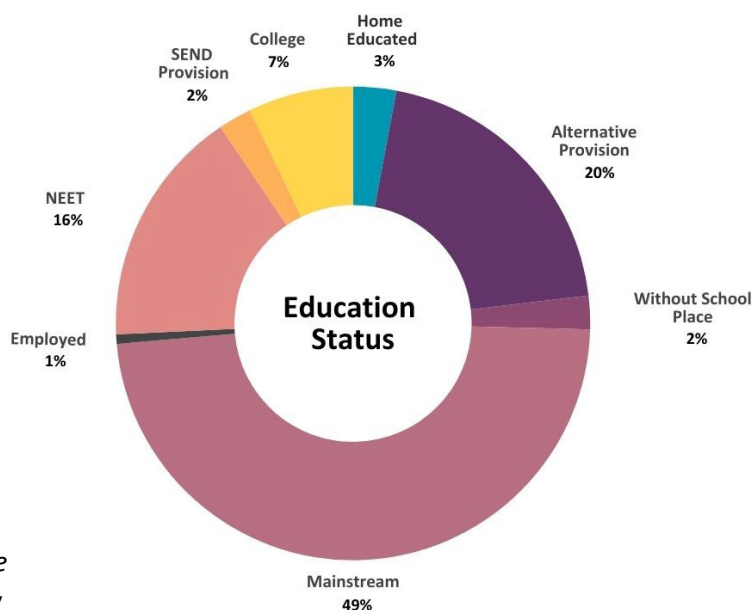


Presenting Factors for the Youth Violence Intervention Unit Project



"S listened to my concerns. Worked with me and not against me. Mine and my son's relationship has strengthened. He's less volatile. Getting into less or no trouble. Think if we had had S and my MST worker sooner we might not have had such extreme problems. S has worked extremely hard with K and at times I think she's gone above her job requirements."

"I knew when I had a tag put on that I had to make better decisions and think about my family and my future. C gave me a second chance and I had to start doing good. You sorted out the home education and now I learn all the construction and I am getting some money and things are good for me. I don't hang out with bad guys."



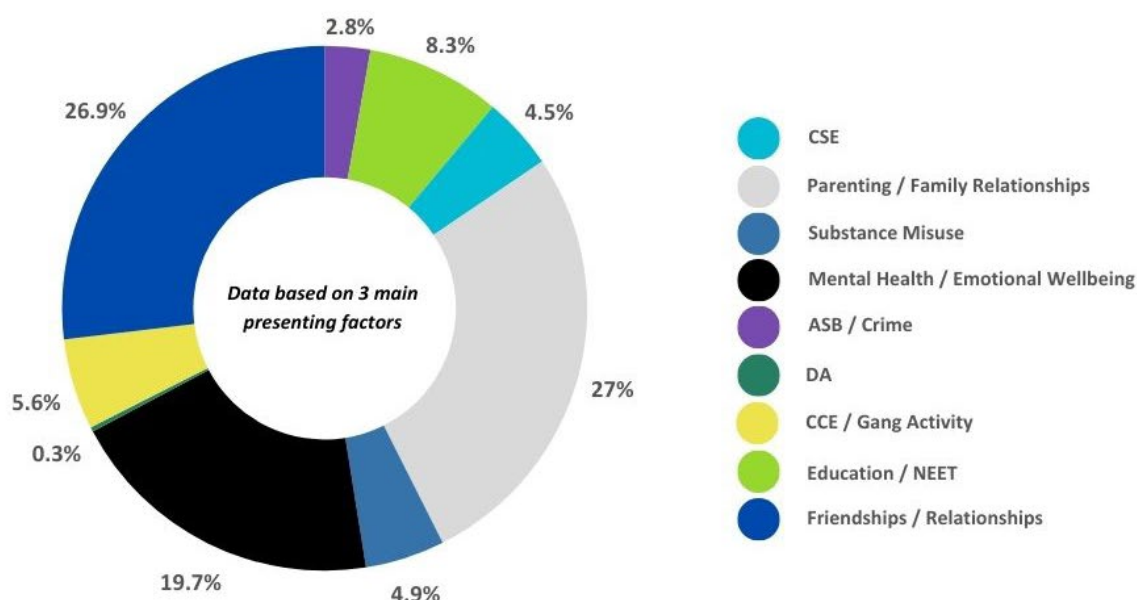
"She helped me understand things on a better level was always there if I needed someone to talk to and overall just helped with any problems or answered any questions I had."

"You listened to me and helped me fix all the things that were going on for me. I was doing mad things and involved with people I now know were exploiting me. You showed me how to safely get away from drugs and weapons without any people coming after me and now I'm living happily. When I come back to Northampton I know how to stay safe. I have moved away from Northampton now but if I didn't work with you I would still be involved in drug dealing and maybe even have been stabbed or dead."

Thank you for the help "



Presenting Factors for the Missing Person Intervention Unit Project



OPFCC Early Intervention workers support the Missing Persons Investigation Unit (MPIU) with visiting young people who to date, have 3 or less missing episodes.

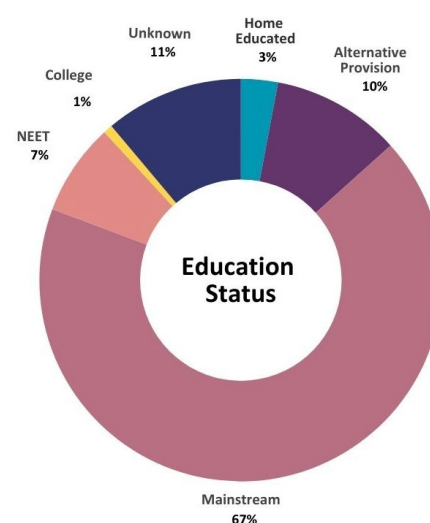
"I was able to actually speak to someone who understands me. My mental health has gotten better. I haven't been reported missing again since."

"L is amazing and very supportive, she gives the best support I've had within the past 3 years."

"A helped me with all my questions. I was always happy for her to have a chat with my daughter at school also meet her in person. She's a very nice lady, I felt very relaxed and confident talking with her."

"I got to talk about important and helpful things. My self-esteem has improved. I have not gone missing again. Thank you."

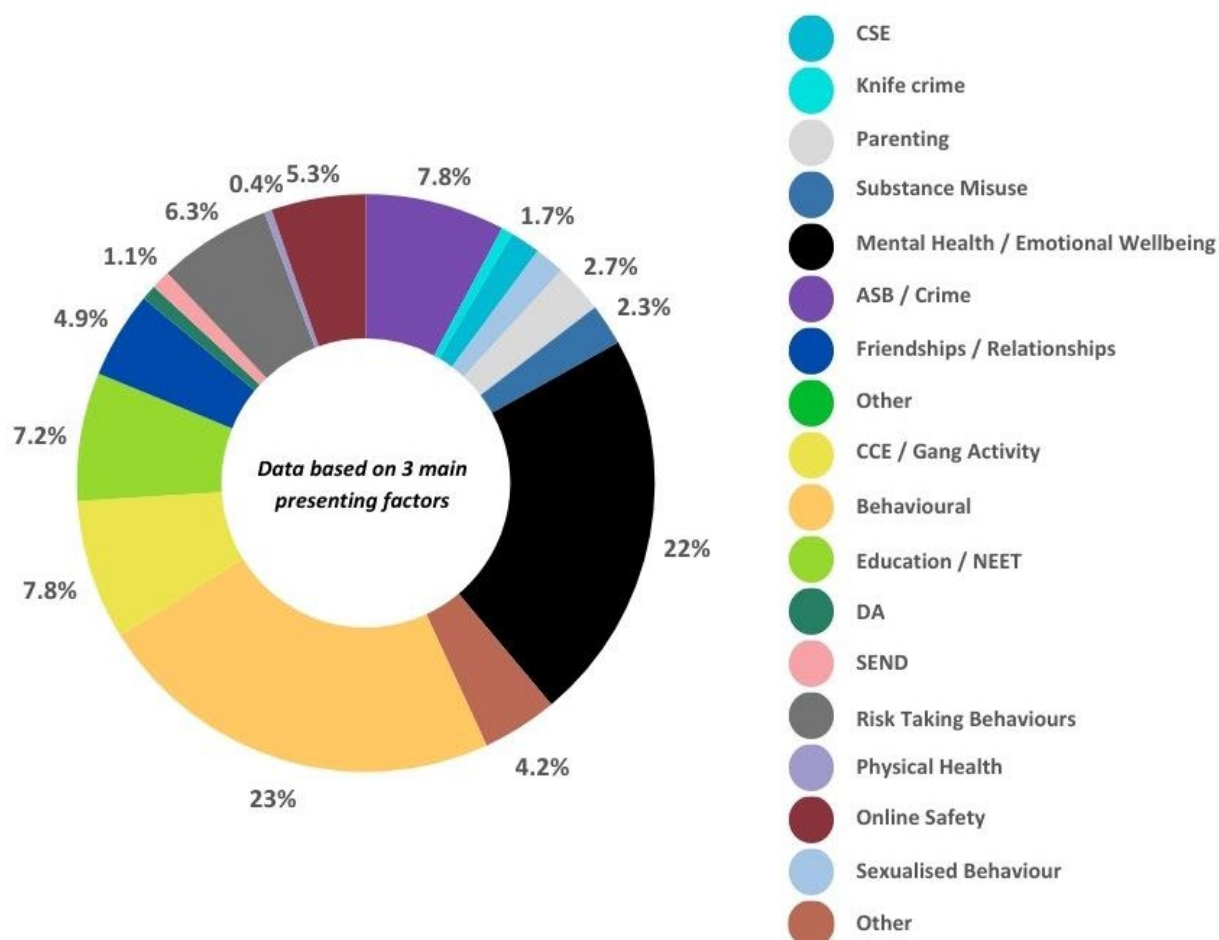
"My son's behaviour at home and at school and his respect towards me. We're all a lot happier. Thanks for the help and support. No further missing episodes."



The team now consists of 3 dedicated Early Intervention Workers who come with a specialist range of skills and experience to engage young people and their families. **Within the first year (November 2023 – November 2024) 88% of young people referred to us have not since been reported missing.**



Presenting Factors for the Youth Project



"I could talk about anything I wanted with L, she helped me a lot. L helped me to get into lessons and more support from school. I've got less suspensions now. I haven't had a fight since we started. I have used the strategies L gave me to help keep my anger under control."

"We can't thank H enough for all of the support she has given R and myself. R has enjoyed her sessions with R and has always been positive afterwards. R said out of every other professional she has worked with H is the only one she feels she can talk to. H formed a positive relationship with R which helped her to open up more and feel happier about things. Thank you for all of your support in what was a very upsetting and challenging time."

"I felt like I could always talk to him about stuff and he wasn't going to judge me for anything I was going to say."

"I could talk about my feelings without being judged. Amazing, best worker ever."

My sessions were well tailored to meet my needs and understanding. We had a good relationship and got on well. The learning we did was very useful. I learnt new stuff like the knife depths and that stuff, I didn't know that before. I would advise people to do the learning, I wouldn't carry a knife, its so risky."

"She was easy to understand and she took time with me and didn't pressure me or rush me."

"He had been there with me since thick and thin and has helped me settle down into school life. also help lead me onto the right path affecting my life tremendously. I will never forget B, he has been fantastic."



Who have we supported?

Our **Youth team** helped 238 individual young people between the ages of 11 – 18 for up to 12 weeks with tailored 1:1 support.

Our **Missing Person Investigation Unit (MPIU)** support workers visited 514 vulnerable young people from August 2023 to identify needs of support to prevent further missing episodes.

Our **Locality Practitioners** supported 461 individual families for up to 12 weeks with 1:1 support.

Our **Domestic Abuse Practitioners** accepted 2651 domestic abuse referrals, contacting each family or individual victim to offer support.

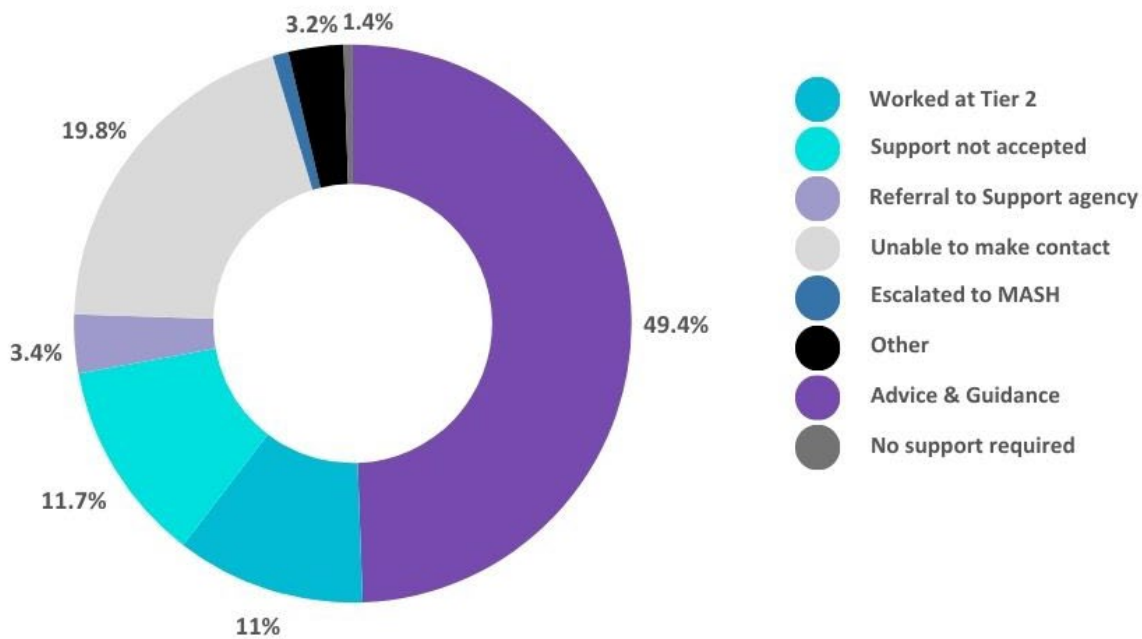
The **Youth Violence Intervention Unit (YVIU)** reached out to 324 young people who had been identified as being involved in serious violent crime and exploitation.

As a service, that's over **5,359** children we have reached.

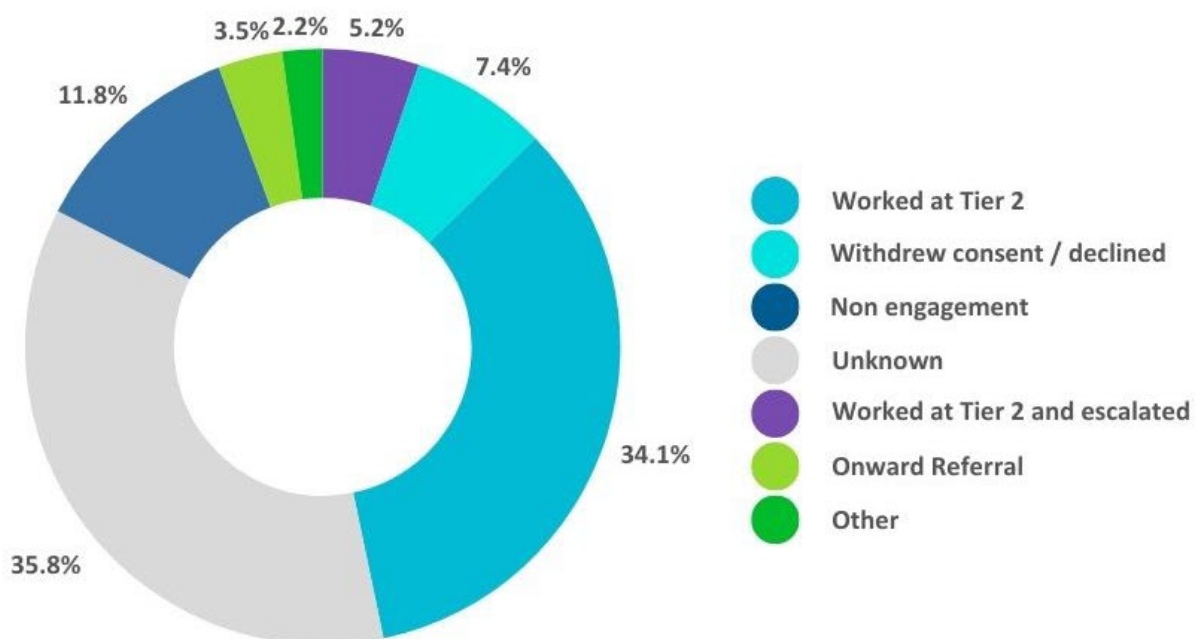


What were the outcomes?

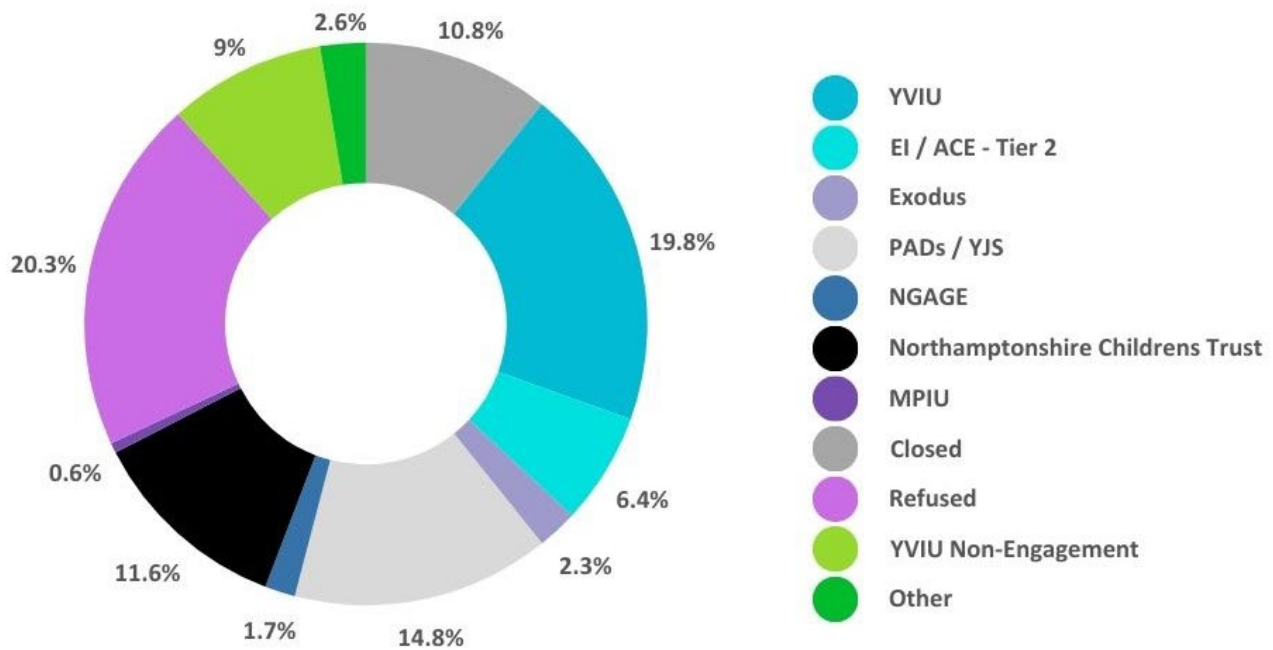
Outcomes - Domestic Abuse Project



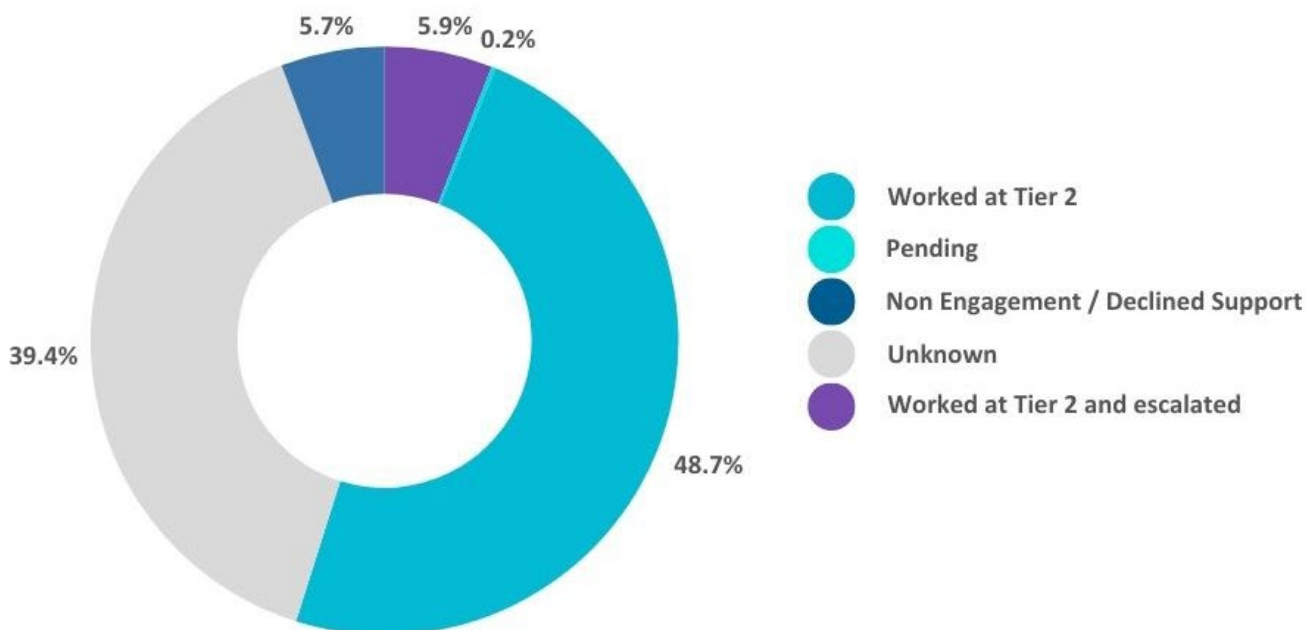
Outcomes - Youth Project



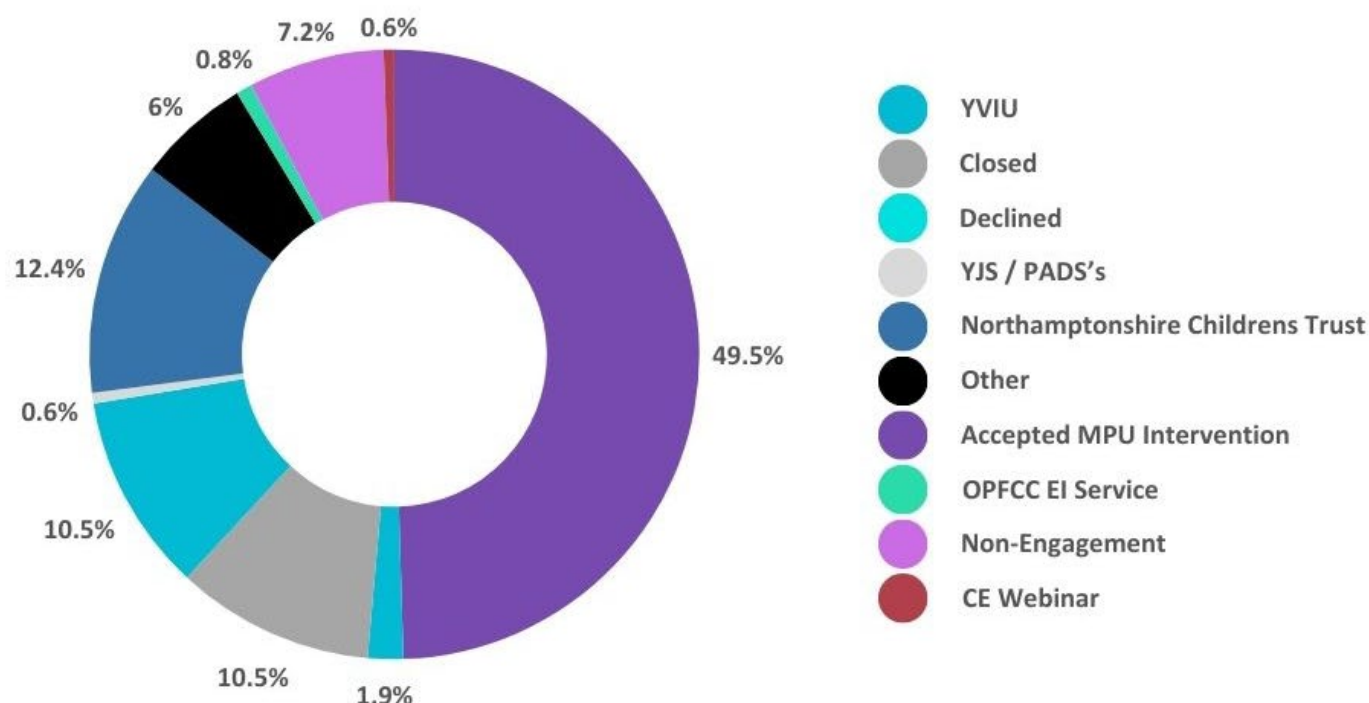
Outcomes - Youth Violence Intervention Unit



Outcomes - Locality Project



Outcomes - Missing Persons Intervention Unit

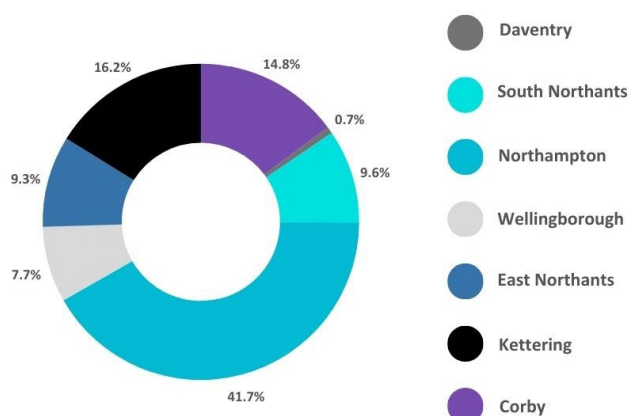


"S is helping us to get the right support and answers questions or signposts in the right direction. She is stopping the current situation we are in from becoming too overwhelming.

I feel that a service to not support just children but parents, like Sharna has, that continues throughout your situation is needed. Sharna has been amazing at this.

10/10 for the speed and level of support O has received."

Where have Missing Person Intervention Unit been working?

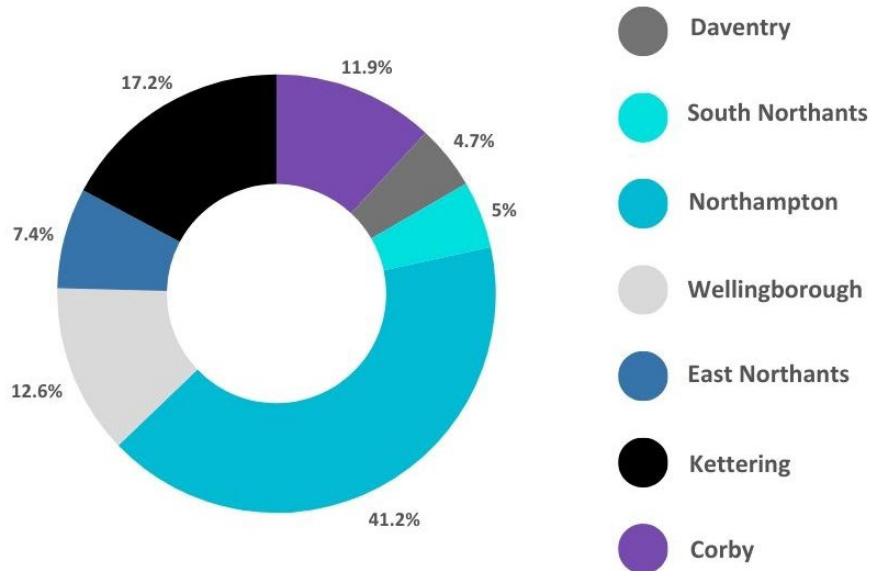


"I described L as my guardian angel. When I was really struggling with my daughter, she was there to provide support and suggestions, not just to me but to my daughter as well. L has been a literal ray of hope during a very difficult time and I couldn't be more grateful. I feel that my daughter has begun to listen more to the dangers of meeting boys online and sending pictures etc. I feel that she has really helped to back up what I've been saying, and that my daughter has started to listen as it's not just me saying it. I feel closer to my daughter and that we have an even more open relationship than before. I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am for the support and kindness both myself and my daughter have received. I honestly couldn't have asked for a more amazing person than L to come in and support us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. No further missing episodes."

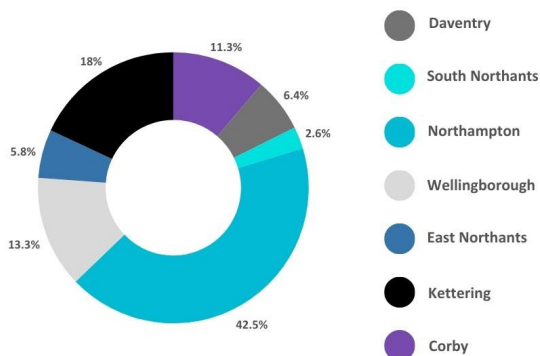


Demand By Geographical Area

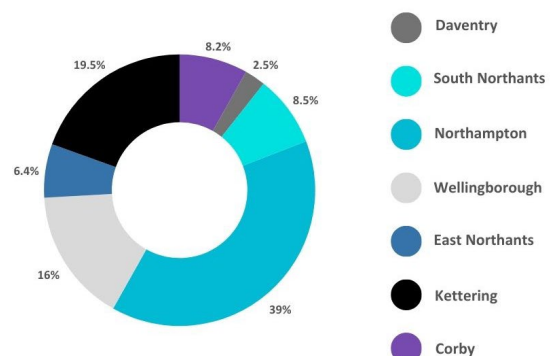
Where have we been working?



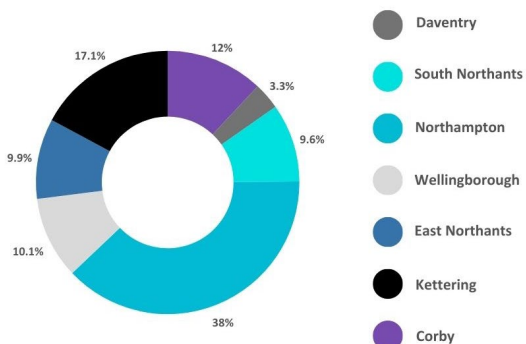
Where have the DA Project been working?



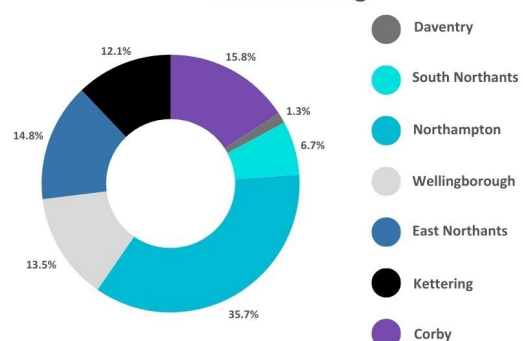
Where have the Youth Project been working?



Where have the Locality Project been working?



Where have 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**, 25% 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

"A has been extremely supportive of the family that she has worked with and it is evident that they have worked really well with her. She has formed really strong working relationships with the child and parent and has gone above and beyond to support them. This has included A sourcing resources during her own time. A is always approachable and helpful to us as a school as well as the family."

"The whole service was very good, communication with J was excellent and the family found her support amazing. I have referred a number of families to OPFCC over the years and have always found the workers to be of outstanding ability. They are able to make the families feel very much at ease and offer a wealth of support and advice."

"J has been fantastic - she quickly understood the family members and instigated the support she recognised they needed. Thank you for your support J. It has been a pleasure working with you."

"J is such a great professional to have on board. Her work is tireless and she families she supports always appreciate her so much. She can naturally switch from being really supportive to blunt and honest in a way in which parents respect and get, there is a warmth about her straight talking - this is rare and so appreciated. She searches for solutions for the children she works with and is great to call on when you are stuck. Thank you so much!"

"E was great to work alongside. She was a wonderful support to the family. She helped mum engage with school and she challenged other professionals when necessary. She was proactive in ensuring the needs for the family were escalated and I was also grateful for her support. Thank you."

"As always, the support provided by the team has been excellent and communication from K is always very good. I know that the parents and child have valued the support from K and there has been some noted progress in terms of the child's wellbeing and confidence. Thank you for all of your support."

"As always, your service has been amazing, J has been extremely supportive on quite a difficult case and built a trusting relationship with the family. Your services are invaluable to the Families that your team have worked with and Jodie in particular was amazing, she managed to build a wonderful relationship with quite a challenging family."



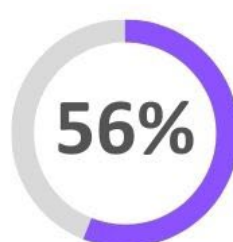
6 month check back with families:



said the **support** given to them helped them make positive changes



said the **support** made a difference to theirs and their children's wellbeing



said they have been able to maintain any changes they made - 33% said 'somewhat'



said we were the **correct service** for them



feel the service **supported theirs** or their children's needs

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.

"Amazing intervention, I have taken a lot from emotional support and also my children have understood the boundaries and safety around technology and the importance of the support from the ACE team."

"Well 2 and a bit years on, I am pleased to say we are doing really well thanks to you and all of the support received during the toughest time. The girls and I are in a little 2 bed house in a nice area and have settled in to life co-parenting with the ex. He still has his moments of trying to exert control, but I am less immune to him now."

"The practical and emotional support I received was a god send and definitely came at the right time. I only wish I'd reached out sooner."

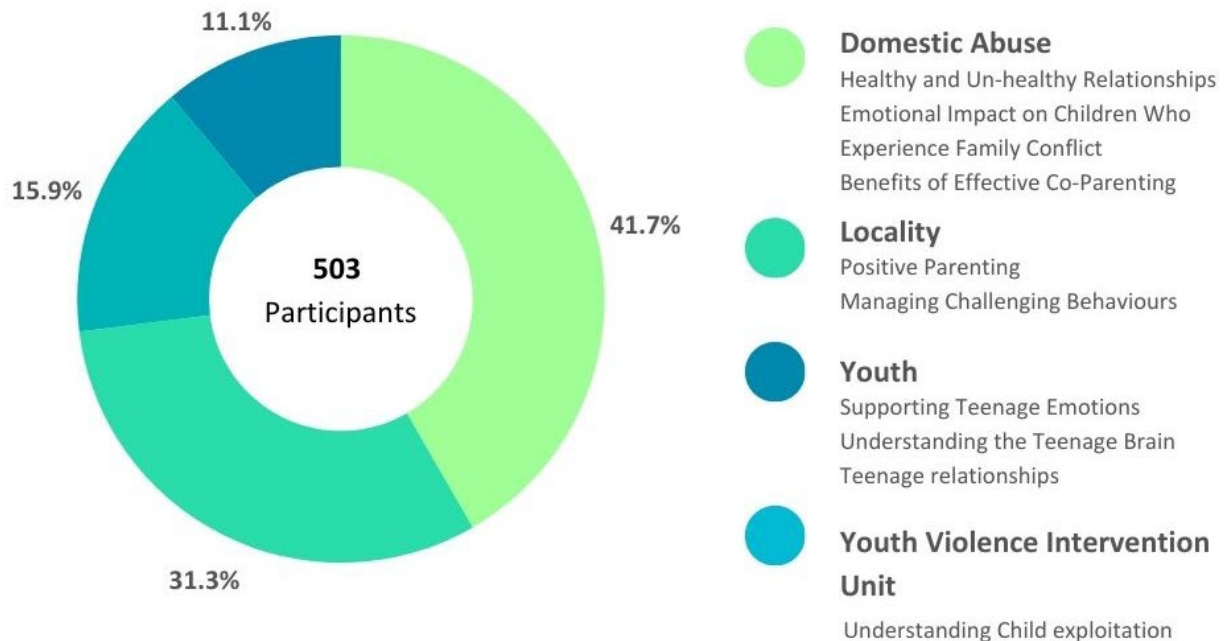
"I couldn't thank the team enough for being there with their help and guidance. I'm now able to ask for more help and stand up for myself when needed."

"It was a brilliant service and really helped myself to support my child and help him make the right choices and keep him out of trouble. Brilliant"



How else have we been supporting families and Young People?

Parenting Workshops



Our online 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, each one presented by two of our highly skilled Practitioners.

"Really helpful, lots of content that was relevant and made us think! Enabled us to have a good conversation with our teen afterwards to talk about boundaries and challenges. We also had a good conversation about the positives in our family and helped to see things with a bit more perspective rather than thinking it was all negative behaviour. Thank You!"

"A wonderful session and thank you so much to the two presenters who allowed me to stay on and ask questions at the end of the session."

"Such understanding, compassionate, helpful ladies delivering the course. Thank you for today."

"Thank you for your help today. I have been dealing with a difficult long term separated home situation for the children. This gave me some new tools but also validated the things I have already implemented and a boost of confidence."

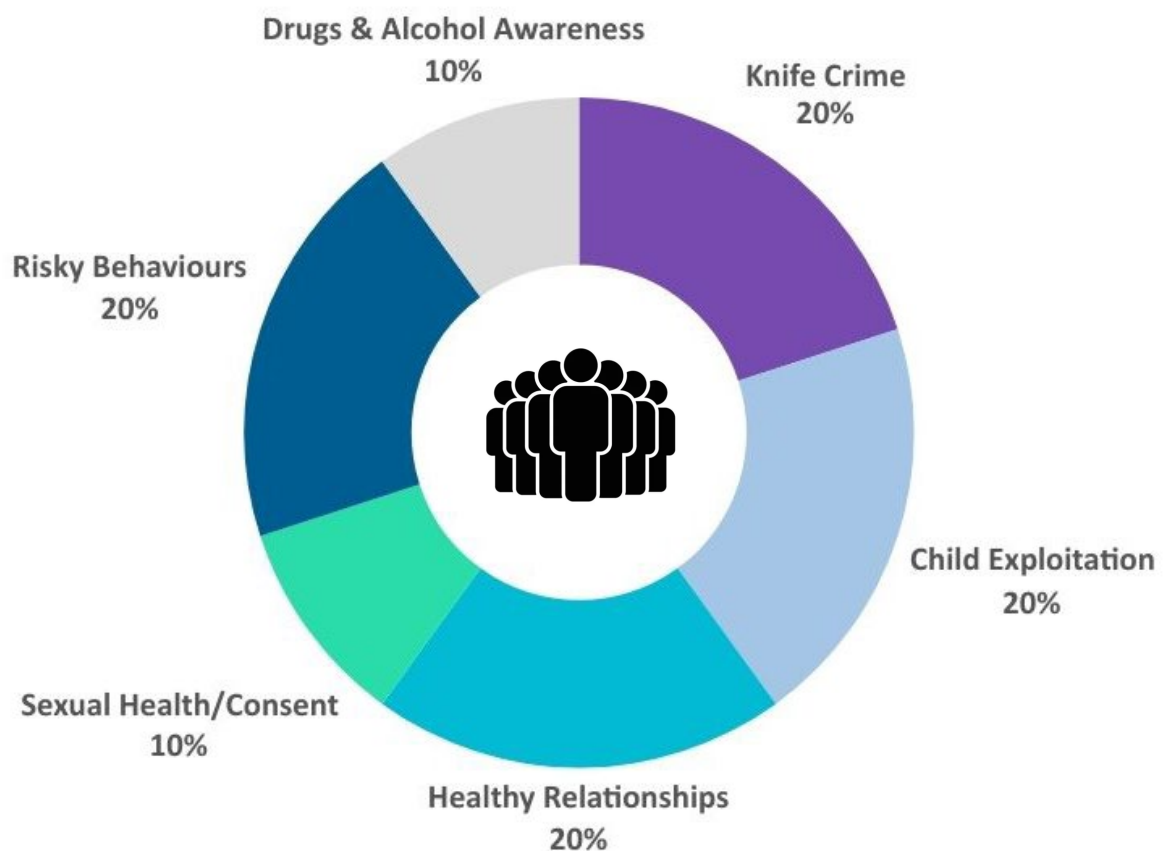
"The information provided and the way of explaining it was really helpful to get an understanding about how to differentiate between an unhealthy and an abusive relationship. Also, it made me realise that I do not have to be alone in this experience that actually there is help and support."

"Lots of relevant useful examples brought content to life. Specific questions were answered. Not patronising. Good pace. Thank you."



Our Youth workers and Practitioners have been delivering targeted groupwork programmes throughout Northamptonshire schools and working with partners attending multi agency days and beginning to deliver 'Understanding the Risks of Child Exploitation' webinars to children directly – all aimed at helping young people keep themselves safe from harm and exploitation.

In total we have reached 2677 Young People



We have begun working closely with care homes and education settings to educate staff and carers on recognising the signs

We have introduced a new parenting workshop into our range of online support – 'The Internet, Social Media and Young People'

Days of action with Northants police for the Youth Violence Intervention Unit with British Transport Police focusing on county lines

We are delivering webinars to help educate school students on understanding 'child exploitation'. These are then followed up with drop-in sessions

Training all new recruits into Northamptonshire police force on the work we do tackling knife crime and supporting victims of domestic violence

Partnership work with our Youth project and Neighbourhood policing teams to tackle local Anti-Social Behaviour

Prison Intervention Project: supporting children and families where a parent or sibling has received a custodial sentence

