

Youth Crime Reduction Strategy

Haringey Borough

2006 - 2008

1. Contents

	Page number
1. Contents	1
2. Introduction	2
3. Characteristics of Youth Crime in Haringey	3
4. Reasons and risk factors associated with Youth Offending	4
5. Existing Programmes	4
6. Strategic Aims	9
7. Appendix 1 – Abbreviation and glossary	12
8. Appendix 2 – YISP - Statistical Monitoring Report	13
9. Appendix 3 - On Track and Junior YIP Statistical Data	18
10. Appendix 4 – Senior YIP Statistical Data	20

Haringey Youth Crime Reduction Strategy 2006-2008

2. Introduction

2.1 Context

Haringey was one of eleven Boroughs asked by the Government Office for London (GOL) to produce a Youth Crime Reduction Strategy for 2002-2005. The resulting strategy was based on GOL's guidance and was instrumental in setting up services in the Prevention Team within the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The Scrutiny Review – Reducing Re-offending by Young People (Feb 2006) recommended that a corporate Youth Crime Prevention Strategy be developed. This current strategy reviews the existing services and sets out what we hope to achieve over the next two years.

The purposes of this strategy are:

- to address the reduction of youth offending and youth victimisation within the community of Haringey and
- to divert children and young people away from becoming victims and perpetrators of crime.

In order to achieve this it is necessary to prioritise the needs of young people across agencies and services and to adopt a multi agency and complementary approach, encompassing the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors. To this end, a Youth Crime Prevention Conference was held in November 2005 and, as a result, a Youth Crime Prevention Steering Group has been established. Membership includes representatives from the voluntary and statutory sectors.

One of Haringey Community Strategy's corporate priorities is **Building Safer and Stronger Communities**. The Council with its partners on the Safer Communities Executive Board has set out a vision for a safer and stronger community for Haringey residents and businesses. This vision is:

“To measurably improve the quality of life for the people of Haringey by handling criminal and anti-social behaviour and reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol, making Haringey a Borough of which we can all be proud.”

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the relevant authorities to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder. The act defines the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young people “and it is the duty of all persons and bodies carrying out functions in relation to the youth justice system to have regard to that aim”. The Children Act 1989 requires that local authorities take steps to encourage children not to commit offences.

2.2 In addition, under the terms of the Children Act 2000 and the “Every Child Matters” agenda, the Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- **Be healthy** - children and young people should be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, with healthy lifestyles.
- **Stay safe** – from mistreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation; accidental injury or death; bullying and discrimination; crime and anti-social behavior; and have security and stability.

- **Enjoy and achieve** – ready for school and to attend and enjoy school with as many as possible achieving national standards at the age of 16 and beyond.
- **Make a positive contribution** – engage in decision making and a wide range of opportunities; support their local community and overcome the negative effects of deprivation.
- **Achieve economic well-being** – engage in further and higher education, employment or training.

The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy has been designed to complement and feed into 'Changing Lives – the Haringey and Young People's Plan' and the 'Haringey Annual Youth Justice Plan'.

2.3 The Association of Chief Police Officers recommends a twin track approach to youth crime, aiming to:

- Reduce the risk, through early identification of those at high-risk.
- Control the problem through constructive early intervention and targeting to deal with persistent and serious young offenders.

It must also be acknowledged that young people are not only the perpetrators of crime, but are also victims of criminal activity.

2.4 Haringey has over 224,000 people living in 11.5 square miles. A quarter, that is 55,000, children and young people are under 20 years of age. Almost three quarters of Haringey's children and young people came from minority ethnic communities and speak 190 different languages between them.

Overall Haringey is the 10th (out of 354) most deprived district in England and ranks in the top 5 most deprived districts in London. Many children and young people are from asylum – seeking families – the third largest in London.

The level of employment in Haringey, 56.1%, is lower than the average for England and Wales of 60.6%. The level of unemployment is 5.8%, higher than the average of 3.4% for England and Wales.

3. Characteristics of Youth Crime in Haringey

Youth crime in Haringey is falling, but still one in five crimes in Haringey is committed by a young person. Haringey has the highest number of youth accused of crime in London – 71 offences per 1000 in the age 10-17 year population.

The recidivism rate for 2004 (latest figure) is 31.3% putting Haringey the 9th lowest out of 32 London YOS's.

The Metropolitan Police's youth crime profile analysis (1.9.2004 – 31.8.2005) highlights the following key findings in Haringey:

1. Youth crime contributes 18.14% of Haringey borough's crimes.
2. The crimes committed by youths contribute significantly to the Borough's priority crimes, such as robbery and residential burglary.
3. Over 25% of all youth crime is committed between the hours of 3 - 6pm.
4. Crime involving youth victims cover 6% of crime in Haringey (4,271 youth victims).

5. 31% of crime committed against youths occurs between 3 - 6pm.
6. Youth on youth crime accounts for just under 3% of all crime committed in Haringey.

The largest hotspots for youth crime are in the Wood Green area, encompassing Turnpike Lane, and Tottenham High Road at Seven Sisters and Bruce Grove junctions. These are areas of busy travel interchanges and town centres, containing shops which are busy between 3 - 6pm with school children, shoppers and commuters.

4. Reasons and Risk Factors associated with Youth Offending

4.1 A great deal of research has taken place to identify the significant risk factors which act as the primary drivers of youth crime and young people who are exposed to the greatest risks are between 5 and 10 times more likely to become violent and serious offenders than those who have not. The Home Office Publication, "No More Excuses" (1997) and the later Youth Justice Board (YJB) publication "Risk and Protective Factors associated with Youth Crime and Effective Interventions to Prevent it" (2001), identify the following risk factors:

Family Factors:

- Poor parental supervision and discipline, family conflict, history of criminal activity, parental attitudes which condone anti-social and criminal behaviour, low income, poor housing and a large sized family.

Educational factors:

- Low achievement in primary school, aggressive behaviour, including bullying, lack of commitment to school and school disorganisation, anti-social peers/truancy.

Community Factors:

- Living in a disadvantaged neighbourhood, poverty, community disorganisation and neglect, availability of drugs, high turnover and lack of neighbourhood attachment and homelessness.

Research from the United States has also identified:

- Availability of firearms, community norms favouring drug use, firearms and crime, and media portrayals of violence.

Individual factors:

- Hyperactivity and impulsiveness, low intelligence and cognitive impairment, alienation and lack of social commitment, attitudes that condone offending and drug misuse and early involvement in crime and drugs misuse, friendships with peers involved in crime and drugs misuse.

5. Existing Programmes

5.1 Haringey is committed to the desire for "young people to thrive in an environment that is both safe and felt to be safe. We want them to take responsibility for their own actions and to strive to fulfil their ambitions." The following underlying principles will assist in enabling this vision to be achieved:

- Outcome focused – to achieve positive outcomes for young people.
- Working together with a range of partners to deliver initiatives and provision which are effective and fulfil best practice and best value criteria.
- Effective and timely information and data sharing.
- Empowerment of all stakeholders, including agencies, young people and their families and members of the community.

In order to be effective in reducing levels of youth crime, interventions should be targeted and incorporate the following principles:

- Early identification of risk factors and their analysis are crucial to prevention.
- Medium - high risk young people and their families need to be targeted.
- Programmes must remain focused and of high intensity with agreed, planned objectives.
- Absence from school is strongly correlated with youth crime and needs to be recognised as a problem, particularly where the absence is condoned by the family.
- Employ a whole family approach, including use of protective and supportive factors.

5.2 The YOS Prevention team

The YOS contains the core of interagency work between the police, children and young people's services, health authorities, probation and the court. The YOS has a clear focus and remit to reduce offending by young people. It, therefore, has an active role to play in both the prevention and reduction of youth crime and making the community a safer place for its residents.

The prevention team is made up of three projects all working toward one aim of preventing offending in children and young people aged 4 -18yrs. These include; On Track, Youth Intervention and Support Panel (YISP) and Junior Youth Inclusion Project (YIP). The YOS also monitors the services provided by the Senior YIP. The funding for all these areas of work ceases in March 2008.

The core intervention work done by the Prevention Team includes:

Family Therapy

The Family Therapist post is the result of an ongoing contract with the CAMHS team. The Therapist works with complex cases referred to the Prevention team and such cases are discussed at CAMHS fora as necessary. A bereavement group, the first of its kind in Haringey, has been set up and run by the On Track Family Therapist with support from a CAMHS Family Therapist, an Outreach worker and a Play worker/Coach. The group offers support to families who have suffered bereavement, helping each family member to voice their feelings in an effort to understand each other's experience and work together to come to terms with their loss. Evaluation of the first group is being completed and further groups are planned in future.

Parent Support/Training

The Home/School Co-ordinator now works across 3 schools, Bruce Grove, Broadwater Farm and Risley Avenue. Activities continue to be provided for parents to assist in their understanding of the work their children undertake in school, forging closer links with teachers as well as encouraging them to become more involved in the work of the school. Groups for families from Somali and Turkish backgrounds are supported by interpreters and crèche workers.

Home visiting

Children with complex behaviour problems who are disruptive at school or home and at risk of exclusion are offered individual support following an ONSET assessment. Parents are also supported and encouraged to effect change where necessary. Work with children and parents may take the form of individual or group work and may take place in the school.

Pre-school education

The Psychology service continues to identify children with communication difficulties in children in transition from home to school and from primary to secondary schools offering advice to teachers on how best to assist the children and offering help to individual children where necessary.

Specialist interventions

On Track continues to provide assistance to schools for targeted children through the provision of breakfast clubs, football and basketball clubs during lunchtimes and after school as well as behaviour management through chess which is offered to 2 schools working with targeted children whose behaviour in class gives cause for concern. A number of children have benefited from involvement in the football sessions in school and on Saturday mornings and have gone on to become involved in London clubs, including Chelsea, Arsenal and Charlton

Residential weekend

On Track has used the Pendarren House Outdoor Centre for its residential activities with children in the past and in April 2006 had its first weekend including parents, with 11 children and their parents – 8 mothers and 4 fathers. This was a very positive experience with parents and children working together, realising the strengths in each other that they had not recognised before and having the space to share their feelings and emotions with each other.

The three Prevention Team projects are:

Haringey On Track

- On Track is a crime reduction programme aimed at children aged 4 -13yrs and their parents who are at risk of becoming involved in crime. These families are based primarily in the Bruce Grove Ward and also parts of Coleraine and Park wards.
- Its objectives are to ensure intensive multi-agency co-operation so that children displaying negative or disruptive behaviour are identified early in order that they and their families are provided with consistent services through the period of their child's development.

Youth Inclusion and Support Panel

- A multi-agency planning group that seeks to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by offering voluntary support services and other complementary interventions for high risk children aged between 8-18yrs and their families. The children and young people are primarily known to the criminal justice system, behaving in an anti-social manner or judged to be at high risk of offending.
- The Panel is made up of various partnership agencies and aims to hold statutory bodies and other agencies accountable for delivering services; it provides a focus for co-ordinating and analysing the sharing of inter-agency information on risk factors and problem behaviour.

Junior Youth Inclusion Project

- The JYIP seeks to reduce offending, truancy and exclusion amongst the 8 -13 year olds who are most at risk of becoming involved in negative behaviour. It provides activities for the 50 most at risk children and young people in Bruce Grove, West Green, White Hart Lane and Noel Park wards.
- It aims to tackle the problems of social exclusion in neighbourhoods where crime rates have risen in recent years recognising the importance of education in doing so.
- An after-school club has been established for targeted children – particularly those with behavioural difficulties - at the Bell Unit; after-school activities are organised at Sky City, in conjunction with Metropolitan Housing Association and group work focusing on anger management operates in schools settings.
- Although difficult to measure changes in “soft outcomes” feedback given by schools is encouraging due to workers reinforcing positive behaviour in their work.

Other youth crime prevention work includes:

Senior Youth Inclusion Project

- Works with at risk young people aged 13-16 who live in one of the following wards: Haringey, Noel Park and Woodside. A number of agencies refer young people to the programme.
- The project provides after-school and evening activities. These include arts and drama, self-development group work, sports activities delivered in partnership with Positive Futures, music projects, residential and holiday activities.
- Young people are able to gain accreditation throughout the year through participating in these activities through the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, ASDAN, AQA and Millennium Volunteers. Young people are also able to gain football coaching certificate level 1 and basketball coaching certificate level 1 and 2 .
- Young people who are in the Core 50 (those most at risk) are allocated a key worker who will help them access provision and tackle any problems they have.

Safer Schools

- Safer Schools Officers are based in ten secondary schools and the Pupil Support Centres and deal with crime and disorder within the schools.
- The Safer Schools Project funded by the Behavioural Improvement Programme works in four secondary schools with at risk young people.
- The Project liaises with schools officers, the YISP, YOS and Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Over 3000 young people have received interventions from the Safer Schools Project in the form of personal meetings, prison visits, dance studio sessions, restorative justice meetings and specific, targeted workshops such as “Be Safe”.

Haringey Crime and Drugs Strategy

The above strategy identifies the following priorities (agreed in consultation with residents):

- Acquisitive crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Violent crime (domestic violence, knife/gun crime)

In addition, agencies have acknowledged that a number of themes cut across these priorities and have to be addressed – one theme is that of young people. The groups of young people considered ‘at risk’ and ‘vulnerable’ to developing substance misuse problems are children of misusing parents, persistent truants and excludees, looked-after children, young people in contact with the criminal justice system; ‘other’ groups - including: homeless young people, young people abused through prostitution, teenage parents, and those not in education employment or training (NEET).

Amongst the KPI’s monitored by GOL, are:

- Number of young people in treatment and
- To ensure all young offenders screened for substance misuse receive appropriate assessment and intervention if appropriate within set timescales.

Diversions activities and projects which target marginalised young people are important and, in Haringey, include Positive Futures – a national sports based social induction programme targeting young people aged 13-19 which aims to address participants’ substance misuse, physical health and offending behaviour. The YOS employs two drugs workers who are principally funded by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). This sum of money is ringfenced for these workers.

Respect Agenda and Action Plan

- The Government’s Respect Action Plan was published in January 2006 and is described as “deepening, widening and furthering” the Government’s commitment to tackling antisocial behaviour. The plan includes initiatives for parents, schools, challenging families, communities and local authorities. As part of its commitment to prevent youth crime and antisocial behaviour, the Prevention Team and the YOS has obtained YJB funding for two additional workers to join the YISP in 2006. Current provision, as outlined in this strategy, addresses other Action Plan initiatives which are already operational within Haringey. The decision for Haringey to become a Respect Trail Blazer local authority will enhance the provision of current services.

6. Strategic Aims

Strategic Aim 1 - To build on and improve Partnership Working

Priorities	Actions
<p>1. To improve multi agency working via improving agencies' understanding of partnership working and their information sharing practices and protocols and youth crime.</p> <p>2. To establish an effective, multi-agency Youth Crime Reduction Steering Group</p>	<p>1. To develop practices and values to be adopted locally by partners, which must be transparent, understood, owned, shared and delivered.</p> <p>2. To improve links with the Voluntary, Statutory and public sectors. In addition to continue to service the multi disciplinary teams i.e. YISP and forge alliances with the Children's Networks.</p> <p>3. To ensure that all providers and services are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Data Protection and Crime and Disorder Act and the Children's Act/ Every Child Matters.</p> <p>4. To agree a planning, monitoring and evaluation system to be shared particularly between Youth Provisions.</p>

Strategic Aim 2 - To reduce re-offending and tackling persistent and high risk offenders

Priorities	Actions
<p>1. To reduce repeat offending levels within the borough of Haringey. To achieve this we intend to improve information sharing between key partners.</p> <p>2. To focus specific effort at reducing crime committed by prolific persistent/serious young offenders.</p>	<p>1. To review the Prevent and Deter strand of the Persistent and Priority Offenders strategy (PPO) with particular reference to identifying those under the intensive targeting section. This will ensure they receive an enhanced and multi-agency intervention package.</p> <p>2. To work with others to increase the number of education/training opportunities for offenders.</p> <p>3. To access and utilise relevant funding opportunities to provide services for at risk young people.</p> <p>4. To implement innovative diversionary support packages specifically designed to meet the needs of socially excluded high-risk individuals.</p> <p>5. To ensure that all vulnerable groups receive Onset screening and are appropriately referred in accordance with the assessments.</p>

Strategic Aim 3- To reduce Child and Youth Victimization

Priorities	Actions
<p>1. To reduce levels of youth victimisation by increasing the level of crimes reported and by implementing support packages for victims.</p> <p>2. To improve the quality and quantity of data on youth victimisation.</p>	<p>1. To establish and work closely with the Victim Support Outreach worker.</p> <p>2. To improve the partnership links between the Safer Schools Officers, Schools and Victim Support in order to support young victims and encourage the reporting of crime.</p> <p>3. To maintain the Safer Schools Partnership to ensure that police officers remain accessible to young victims, thereby encouraging the reporting of crime.</p> <p>4. To continue to support young people through the Safer Schools Project – Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP) who are vulnerable both as victims and potential offenders.</p> <p>5. To continue the YISP multi agency intervention programmes and support young victims and potential offenders through creative packages designed to meet individual need.</p>

Strategic Aim 4 - Targeted Crime Prevention and Reduction and Early Intervention

Priorities	Actions
<p>1. To prevent 'at risk' young people from becoming involved in offending behaviour, through targeted initiatives both within and outside school</p> <p>2. To engage young people being conscious of the need to prevent stigmatisation/labelling in early intervention</p> <p>3. To reduce bullying.</p> <p>4. To promote the issue of mental health with regard to youth offending and victimisation.</p>	<p>1. To encourage referrals to the YISP multi agency panel and On Track in order to ascertain a holistic assessment of needs and review actions taken accordingly.</p> <p>2. To target and design resources specifically tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable groups e.g. looked after children, black and minority ethnic groups.</p> <p>3. To address each individual 'risk factor' and monitor and evaluate as appropriate, through the completion of the Onset Assessment tool.</p> <p>4. Focus resources on improving parenting skills and contribute to the Family Support Strategy.</p> <p>5. Reduce risk and rates of exclusion by linking with existing or providing behavioural management support programmes to support</p>

	<p>schools in dealing with challenging and difficult behaviour.</p> <p>6. To ensure that young people at risk, in particular those at risk through drug and alcohol misuse, are referred onto appropriate projects provided by voluntary /statutory agencies.</p> <p>7. To conduct regular targeted truancy patrols in partnership with the Education Welfare Service (EWS).</p> <p>8. To work with schools and education welfare service to promote a culture of attendance at school.</p> <p>9. To promote reporting processes regarding bullying within schools and investigate methods of dealing with bullying (e.g. Restorative approaches/Peer mentoring), working in liaison with other mentoring and restorative justice providers.</p> <p>10. To raise the profile and reduce the stigma of bullying in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.</p> <p>11. To promote factual information around mental health issues and young people.</p> <p>12. Liaise and work in partnership with CAMHS and other associated health services.</p>
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Strategic Aim 5 - *To improve consultation and participation with young people*

Priorities	Actions
1. To offer opportunities to develop personal skills and competences with regard to co-ordinated consultation and participation of young people.	<p>1. To liaise closely with the Youth Council.</p> <p>2. To identify candidates and continue to provide training opportunities for the Leaders in Training Programme, in order to enable them to become involved in problem solving processes in relation to young people.</p>

Appendix 1

Abbreviations and glossary:

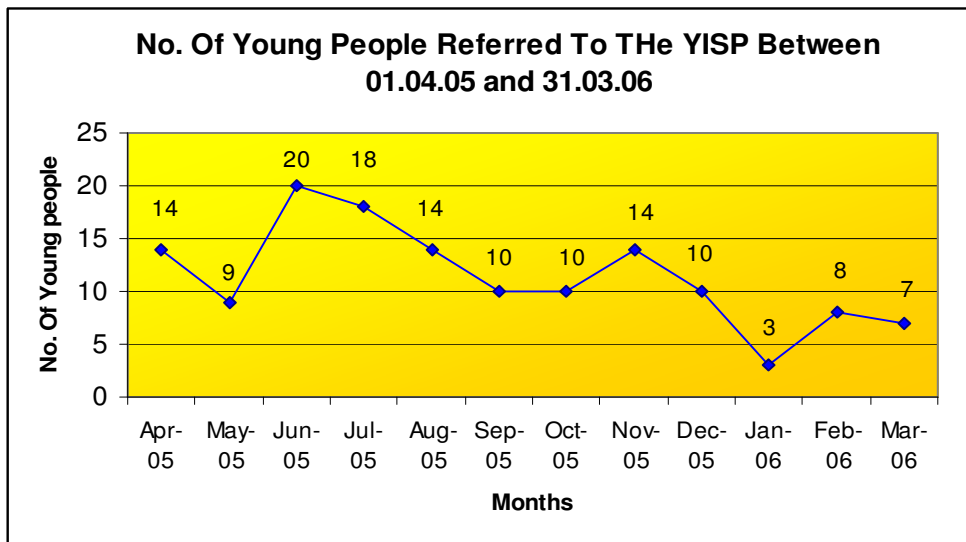
AQA	Assessment and Qualification Alliance
ASDAN	Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network
BIP	Behaviour Improvement Programme
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
EWS	Education Welfare Service
GOL	Government Office for London
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
ONSET	YJB assessment tool for assessing children and young people.
P&D	Prevent and Deter
PPO	Prolific and Priority Offender
YIP	Youth Inclusion Programme
YISP	Youth Inclusion and Support Panel
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service

Appendix 2

Youth Inclusion and Support Panel- Statistical data 1st April 2005 – 31st March 2006

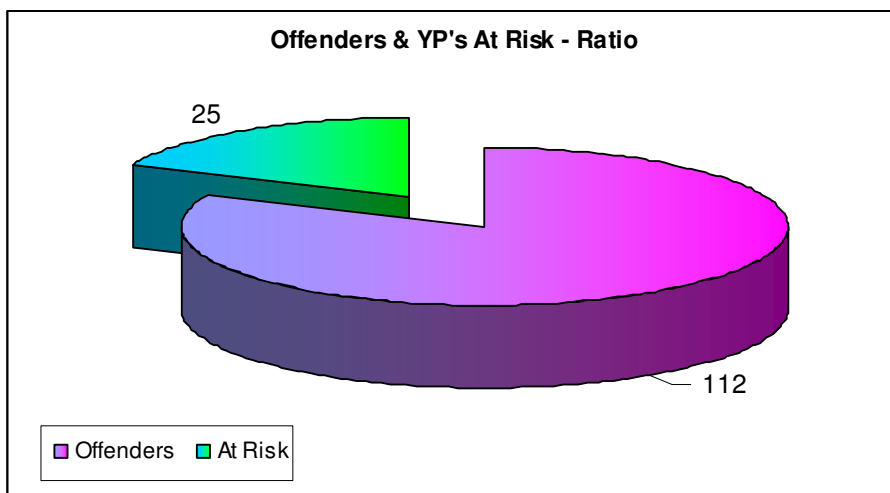
Referrals

Illustration 1A: Total number of referrals received



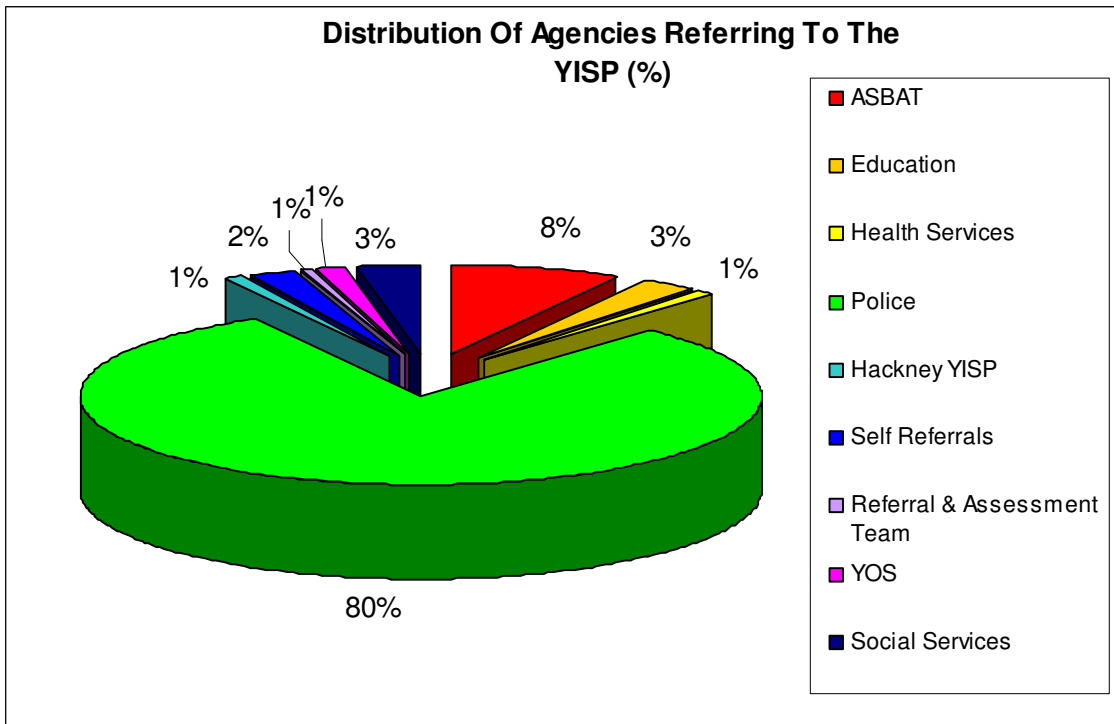
Young Offenders and Young People at Risk

Illustration 2A: Comparison of young offenders and young people at risk



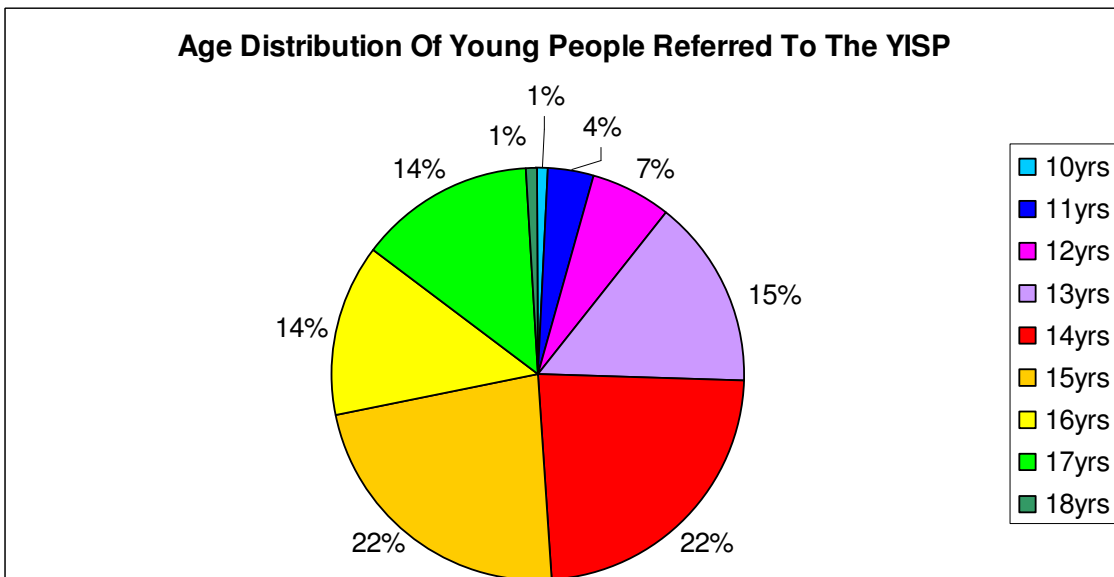
Referral Sources

Illustration 3A: Distribution of agencies referring to the YISP by percentage



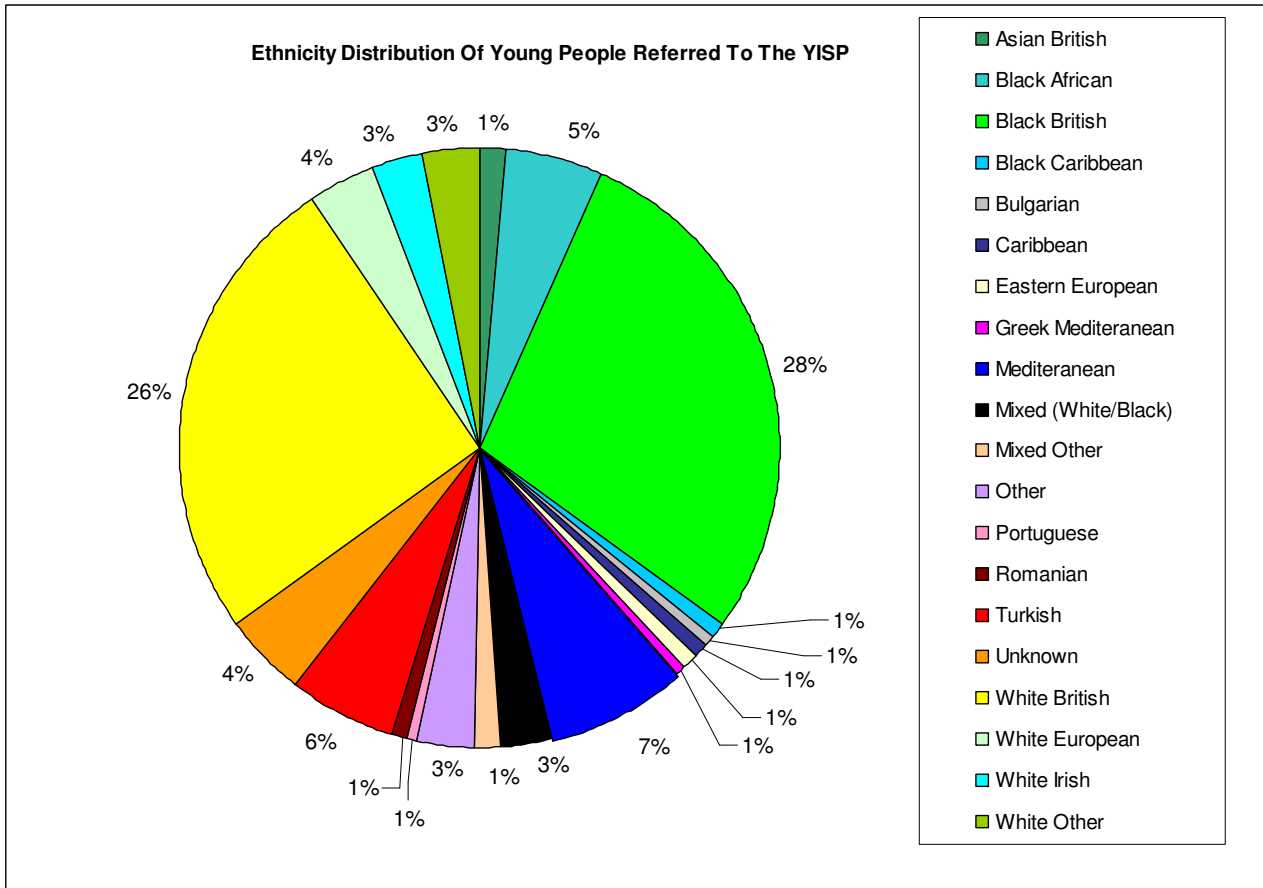
Age

Illustration 4A: Age breakdown of young people referred to the YISP



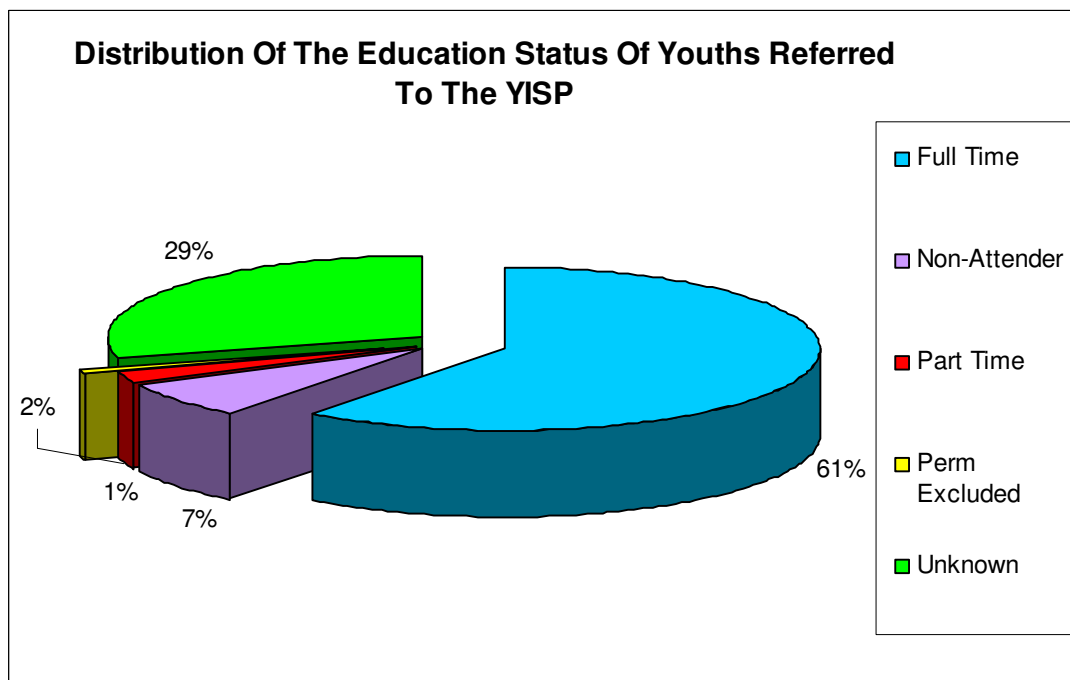
Ethnicity

Illustration 5A: Ethnicity breakdown of young people referred to the YISP



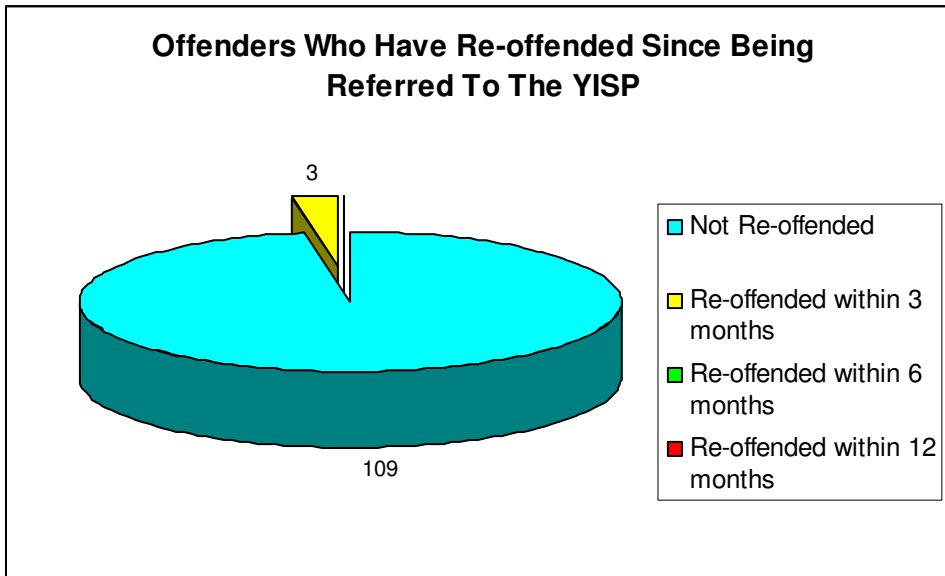
Education Status

Illustration 6A: Breakdown of education status



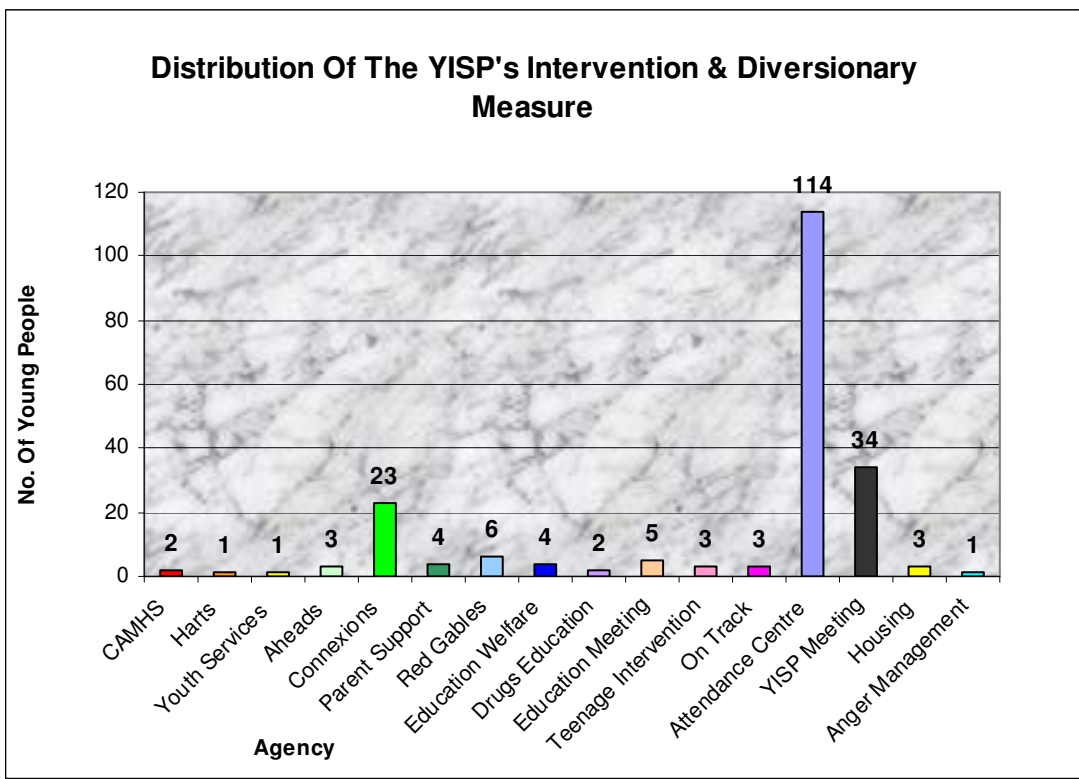
Re-Offending

Illustration 7A: Conviction rates for young people referred to the panel



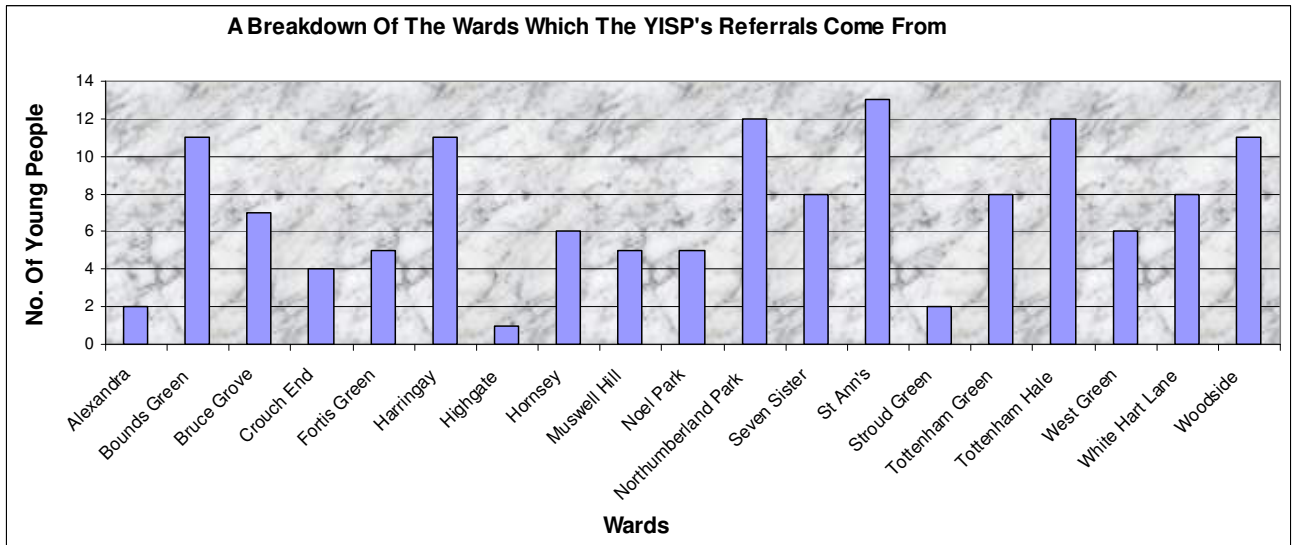
Intervention and Diversionary Measures

Illustration 8A: Distribution of intervention and diversionary measures



Wards

Illustration 9A: A breakdown of the referrals wards



Appendix 3

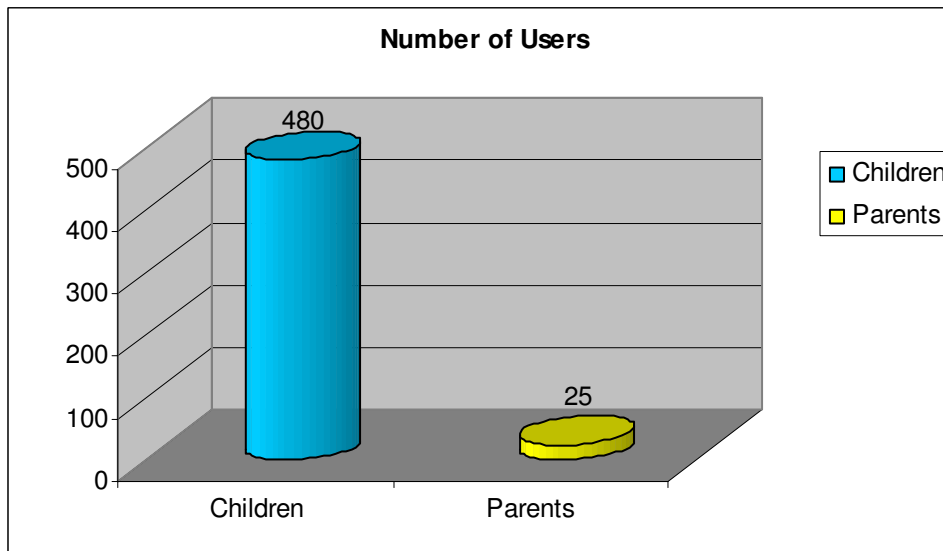
On Track and Junior YIP statistical data

Between September 2005 and July 2006, 505 individual children and young people and their parents/carers have attended interventions in schools – Broadwater Farm, Bruce Grove, Coleraine Park, Downhills, Lancasterian, Risley Avenue, The Green, The Mulberry. (This does not include details of outreach work undertaken which is the subject of research from the University of East London. The research is due for publication in the autumn 2006)

Types of users

Of the 505 service users, 95% are children and 5 % parents. The data collected reflects all interventions excluding half term trips, home visiting, family therapy, Easter and summer play schemes - hence the low number of parents.

Illustration 1A



Ethnicity Breakdown

Of the main ethnic listings, the highest number of service users is from Black of Black British Caribbean with 34%, followed by Black of Black British African with 25% and white British with 13%.

Illustration 2A

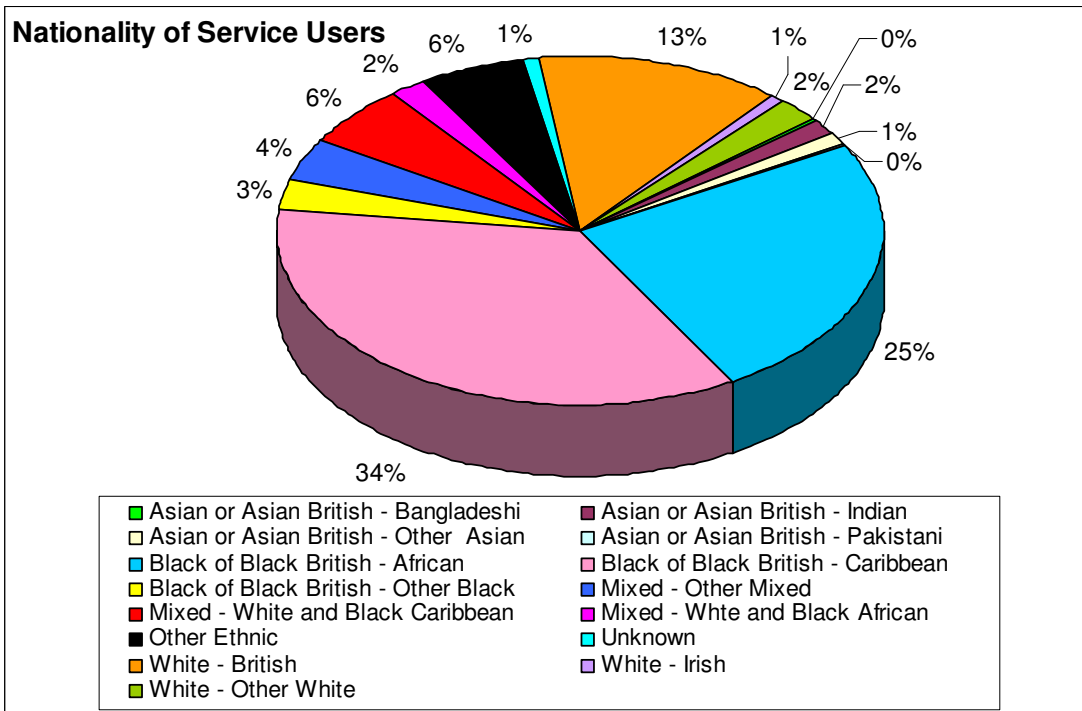
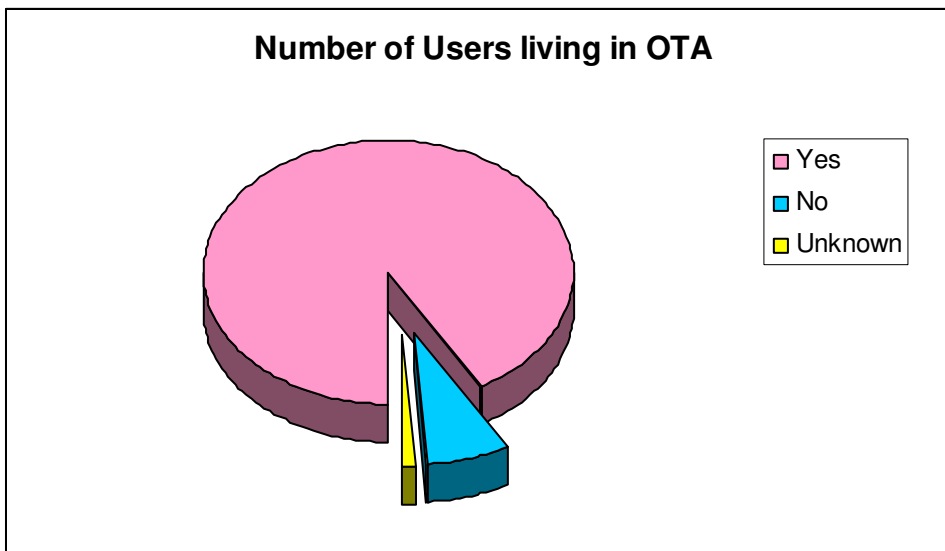


Figure 3A shows that the majority (92%) of the clients who attended the On Track interventions lived in the On Track Area. 7% of the clients did not live in the On Track Area, although they do reside in the London Borough of Haringey.

Illustration 3A

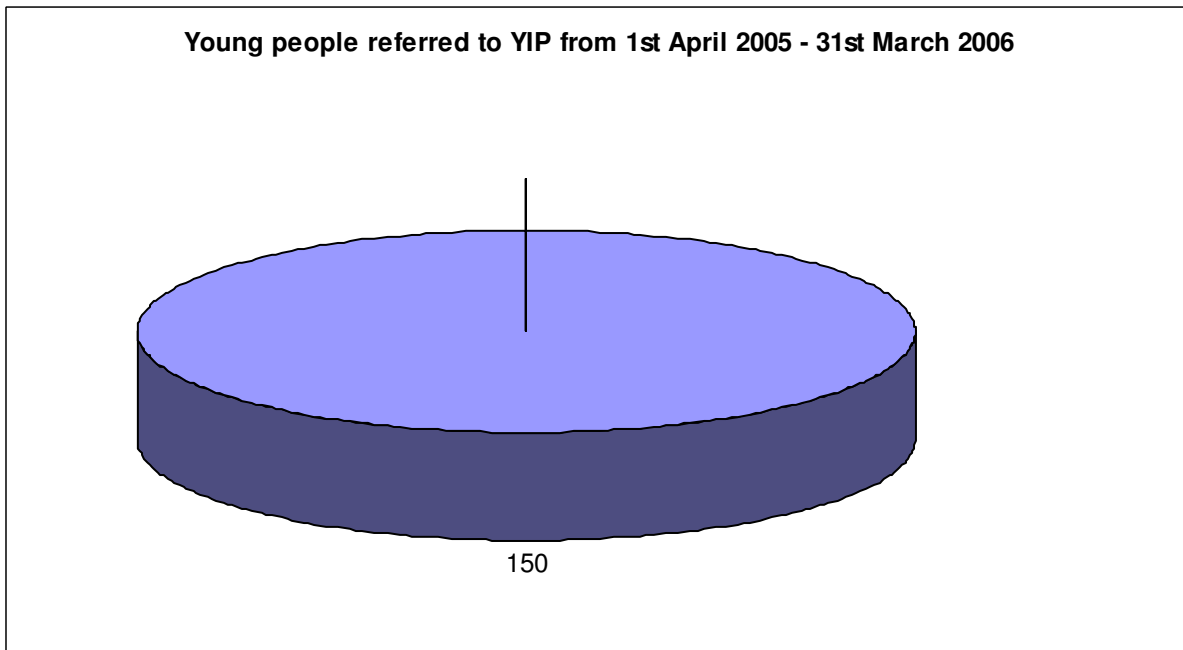


Appendix 4

Senior YIP statistical information

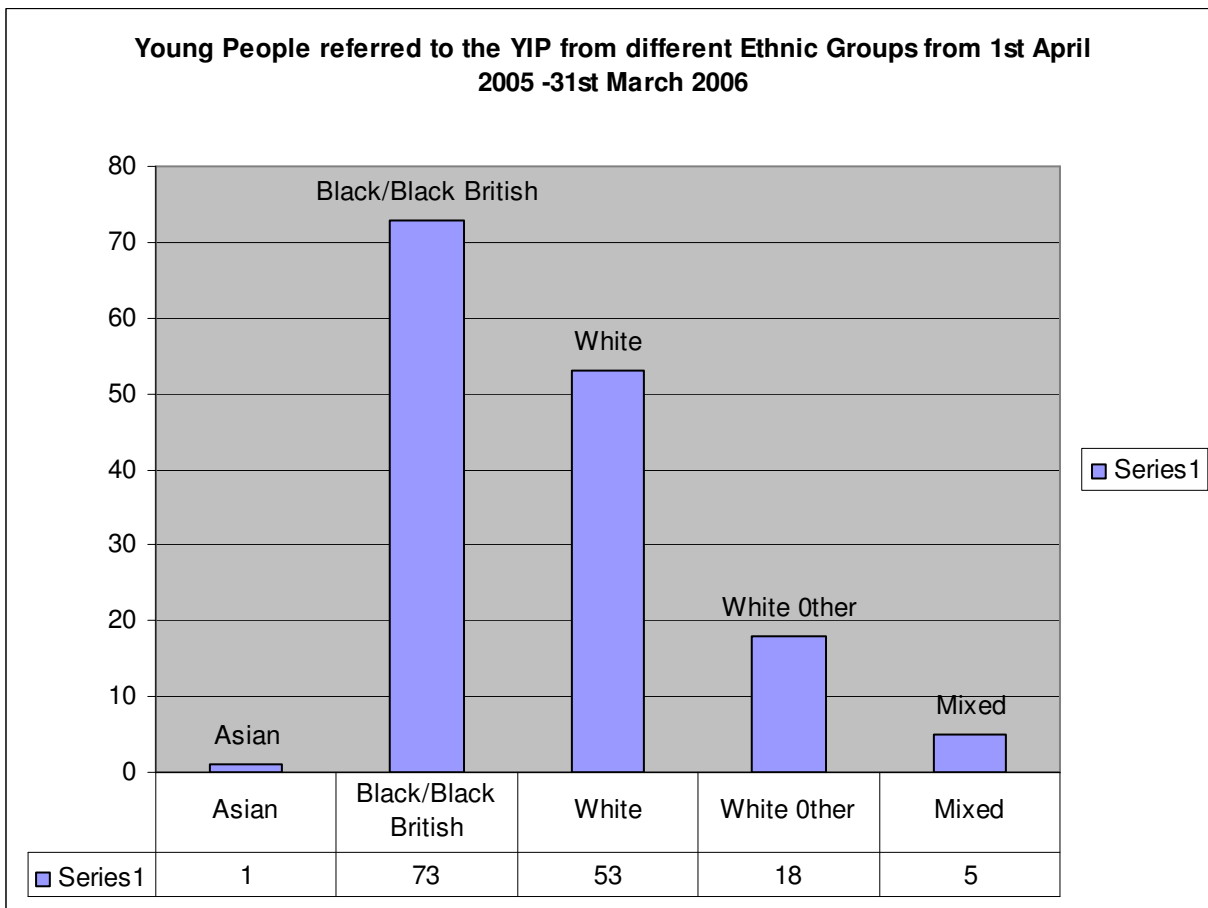
Referrals

Illustration 1A: Breakdown of numbers referred to Senior YIP



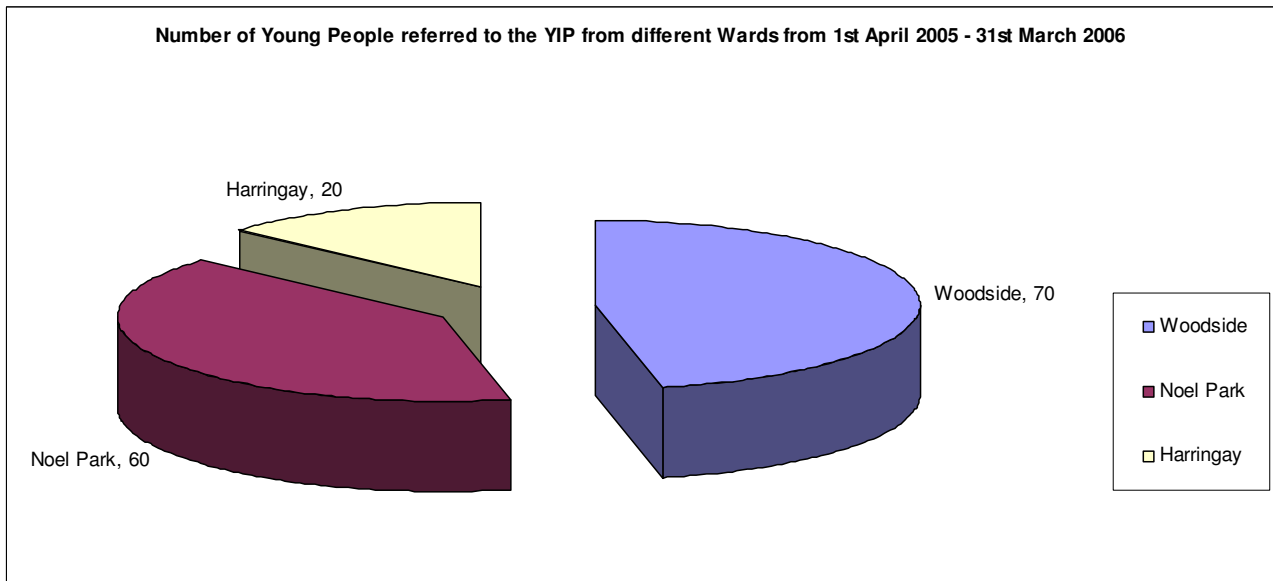
Ethnicity breakdown

Illustration 2A



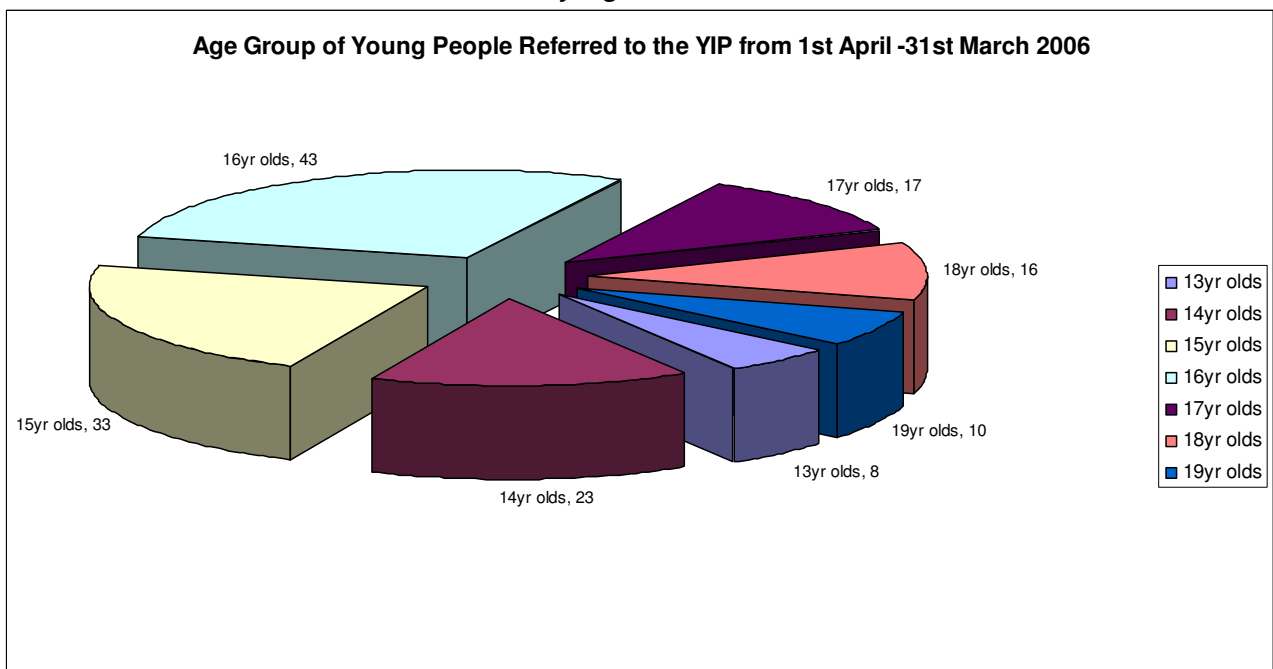
Wards

Illustration 3A: Breakdown of referral wards



Age

Illustration 4A: Breakdown of referrals by age



Re-offending

Illustration 5A: Conviction rates of young people referred to Senior YIP

