

“It helps ya...makes a big difference in your life. When I first went here to YAP I was a lonely child walking around my bedroom, playing games on my own...but now everyday I’m doing something fun like out playing soccer with my friends.” – Young Person Cork

Services Provided, Outcomes and Feedback from Young People, Families and Referrers.

- 85% of young people who were at home when referred to YAP remained at home at the end of the programme.
- 89% of young people recorded an improvement in their self-esteem and confidence.
- 84% reported an improvement in their home environment (physical/financial).
- 77% reported an improvement in school attendance.
- 89% reported an improvement in risky behaviour.
- 93% of parents/carers gave YAP a satisfaction score of 4+ out of 5.
- 92% of young people gave YAP a satisfaction score of 4+ out of 5.
- 94% of referrers gave YAP a satisfaction score of Very Satisfied or Satisfied.
- A 6-month placement with YAP costs approximately €10000 in total, compared with private residential places which can cost the state up to €6000 per week.
- In Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow we worked with 24 young people and families in 2017.

Youth Advocate Programmes Ireland is a registered charity providing a range of services to Young People and Families with complex needs across 22 counties. The YAP Model is a strengths-based, family focused, wraparound service that achieves positive outcomes for Young People and Families including increased resilience and wellbeing. The model is unique in Ireland as we employ community based advocates to work directly with Young People and Families in the community to support them to achieve their goals.

The primary purpose of YAP Ireland is to support young people and families to live positive lives in the community, where possible. Young people and families are primarily referred to YAP by TUSLA social work teams, with small numbers referred by HSE Disability and Mental Health Services and Oberstown Children’s Detention Campus. In 2017 we commenced an Independent Advocacy Scheme in the Ginesa Suite, St John of God’s Hospital.

OUTCOMES

Outcomes are recorded for Young People over four domains; Self, Family, Education and Risky Behaviour. Data for 145 young people worked with between January 2011 and October 2017.

<p>SELF: 85% improvement in Relationship with Peers 89% in Self Esteem/ Confidence 88% in Withdrawn/Isolated</p>	<p>FAMILY: 71% improvement in Parenting Skills 84% in Social Supports /Family 84% in Home Environment – Physical/Financial</p>
<p>EDUCATION: 83% improvement in General Behaviour; 77% in Attendance 83% in Aspirations.</p>	<p>SAFETY/RISKY BEHAVIOUR: 89% improvement in Risky Behaviour (Self) 87% in Impulsivity 95% in Co-operation with JLO/Gardaí</p>

(See full outcomes tables below)

INVESTING IN CHILDREN

YAP Ireland maintained our Investing in Children Award in 2017. We have assessed three other organisations for their membership award, all of whom were successful and we look forward to supporting a wide range of organisations to achieve the Award in 2018. Quotes from Young People who took part in this year's assessment:

"I feel free and I am a much happier person"

"They listened and talked to me, and have brought a smile to my face"

"It gives me time to set my mind free, gets me out of a sad place"

QUALITY MONITORING

93% of Parents/Carers gave YAP a satisfaction score of 4+ out of 5

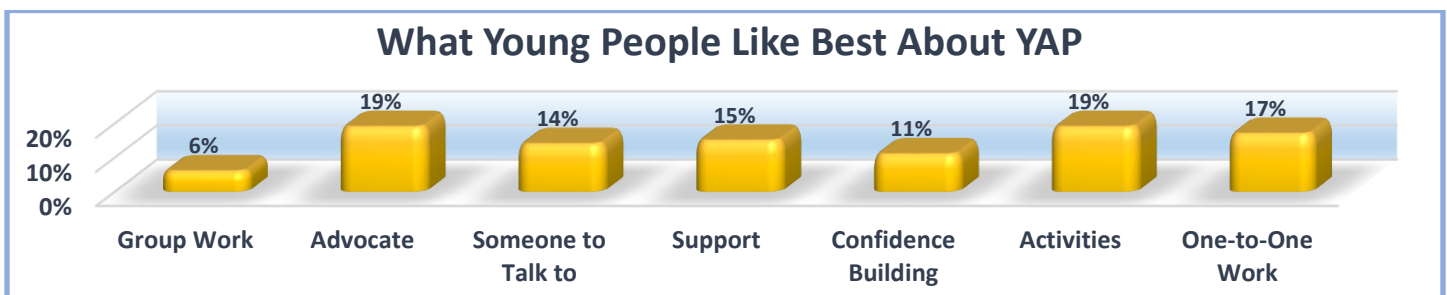
YAP Ireland carries out quality questionnaires with parents/carers, young people and referrers to assess how their involvement with YAP is progressing and to input into service development and improvement. In 2017 we got feedback from 144 parents/carers. 80% resulted in positive feedback and, 99% felt that they were well informed and involved in their Young Persons Programme. 93% of participants gave YAP a satisfaction level score of 4 or more out of 5.

"it's brilliant, he joined with gym recently"
- YAP Mum Cork

"Brilliant, my son went through a lot of bullying, different boy now altogether"
- YAP Dad Midwest

Young People Quality Questionnaire

The response from Young People has continued to grow throughout 2017. In total 63 Young People took part in the Quality Questionnaire. 93% of Young People had a positive comment on the service. 88% felt that they sometimes or always have a say in their own service and 92% gave YAP as satisfaction rating of 4 or more out of 5.



We asked Young People if they could name one great thing about the YAP Services, here are some replies:

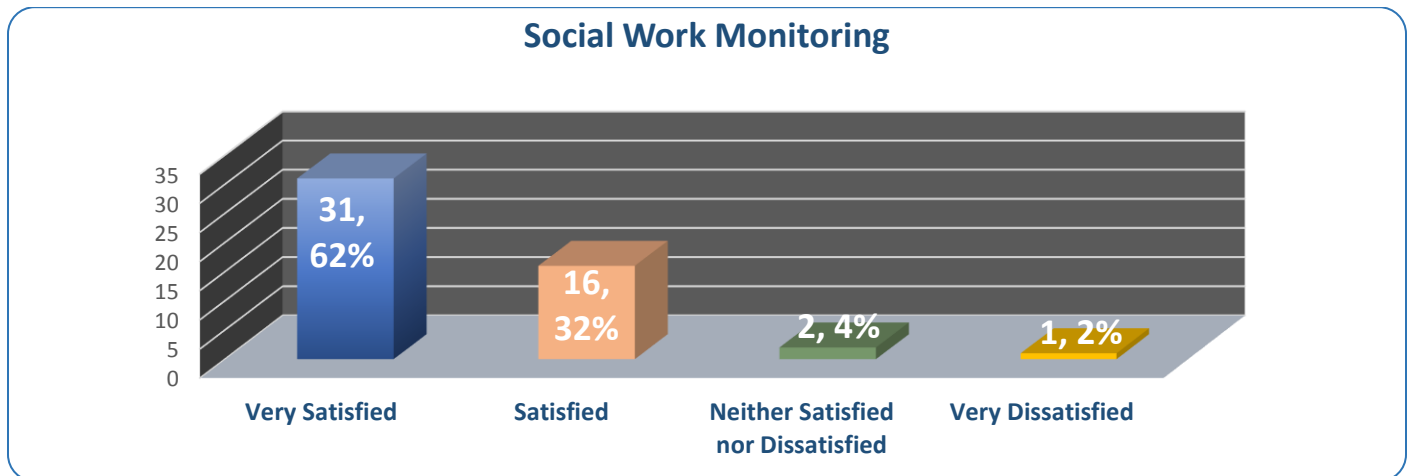
"Yes - Going to the Croke Park award day and meeting my YAP worker."

"One great thing that happened was going to the participation group meeting new friends and helping me gain confidence in a group"

"My advocate has helped me with getting work experience over the Summer"

REFERRERS MONITORING FEEDBACK

84% of Referrers felt that the YAP referral form was easy to complete, 98% of Referrers would recommend to colleagues to refer to YAP. 100% of Referrers responded 'Yes' to the question - Would you refer again?



“This is an invaluable and worthwhile service to young people.”

“The YAP worker went above and beyond to get the young person to engage with the service.”

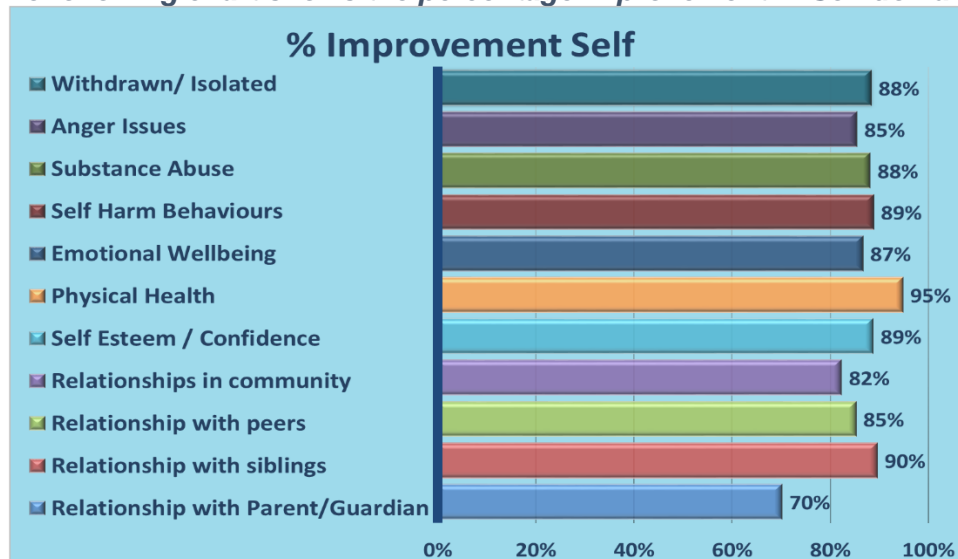
“I think YAP is a fantastic service and do great work.”

SUMMARY OUTCOMES 2011-2017

The Dublin S.W., Kildare & West Wicklow outcomes summary includes information for 145 young people worked with between January 2011 and October 2017. The longitudinal figures show that the programme remains effective in all the main factors with very little variation. The system measures the views of young people, families, referrers, advocates and managers when matched and then at the 6 month exit on a range of indicators.

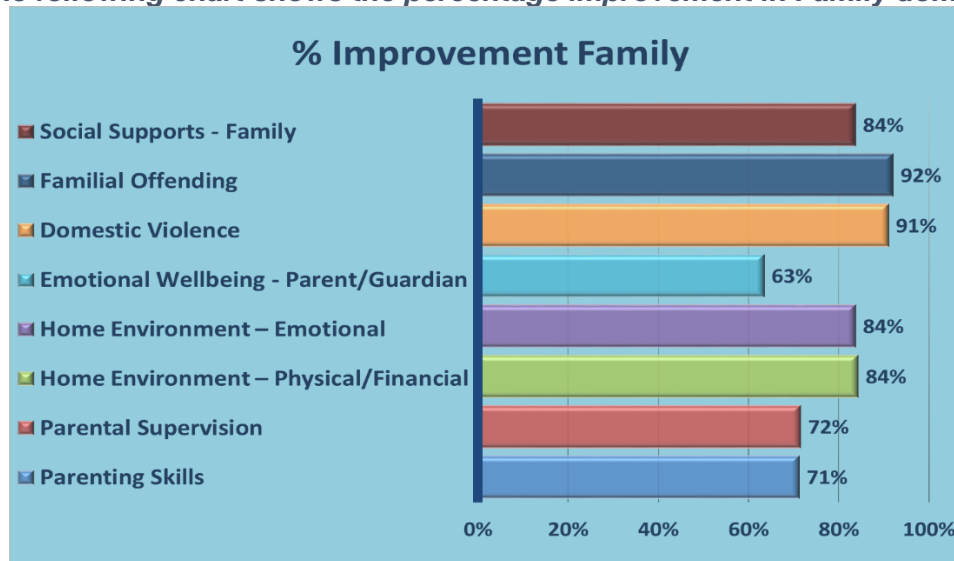
The outcome rating is on a scale of 1 – 9, with 1 indicating significant issues, 4 some difficulties, 5 is a medium point and 6 – 9 showing some or significant improvements.

The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Self domain.

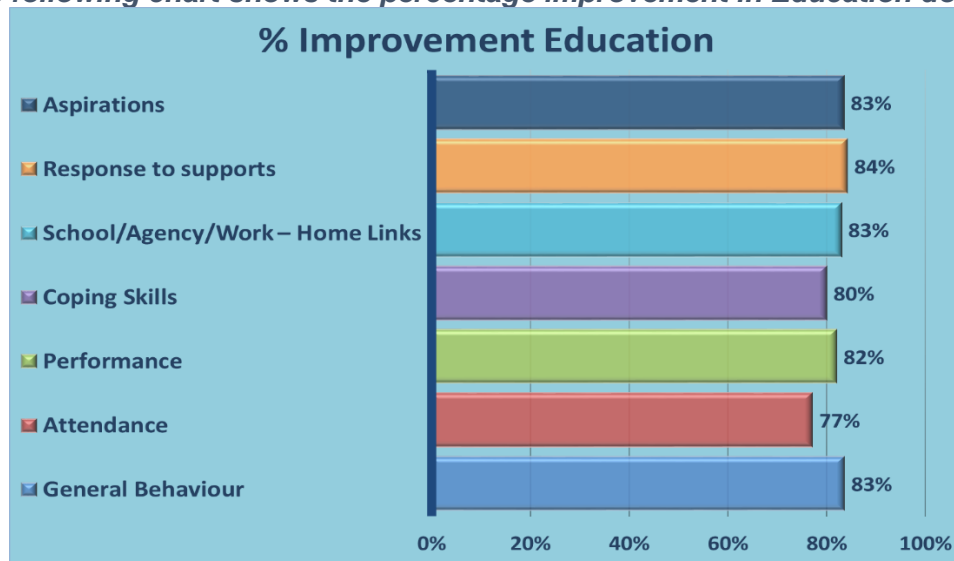


87% young people reported an improvement in Emotional Wellbeing

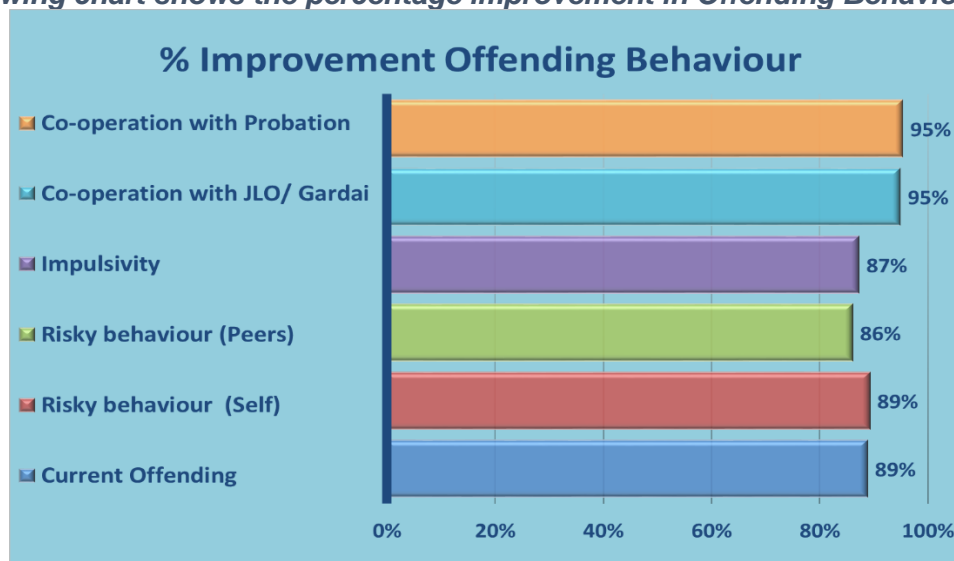
The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Family domain



The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Education domain



The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Offending Behaviour domain



“Young Person made a successful return home to his mother and this was supported by his YAP worker.” – Yap Referrer

NUIM Longitudinal Evaluation of YAP Ireland 2014.

The National University of Ireland Maynooth evidence based evaluation evidences the positive outcomes achieved by young people and families through participation in the YAP Programme and reinforces the impact of the strengths based, needs led, flexible model on their lives. See full report at www.yapireland.ie.

STRENGTHS & DIFFICULTIES QUESTIONNAIRES (SDQ's)

Following on from the NUIM Longitudinal Evaluation YAP Ireland have continued to use SDQ's as a tool for measuring improvement in resilience for Young People engaging in the YAP Programmes. The data is for 256 Young people and 254 Parent /Carers who have completed 3 SDQ's.

Average 'Total Difficulties Scale' for people who completed all 3 SDQ stages.

SDQ Stage	Parent/Guardian	Self
Stage 1	19.20	17.16
Stage 2	17.48	16.50
Stage 3	16.74	15.34

Before engaging in the programme parent/carers gave young people an average score of 19.20 (At Risk) on the total difficulties scale reducing to an average score of 16.74 (Borderline) at programme end. Young people at the outset scored themselves lower with an average of 17.16 (High Average), reducing to 15.34 (Medium Average) at programme end. Overall both parent and Young People report a reduction in overall difficulties with Parents/Carers reporting the biggest improvement.

PARTICIPATION AND VOICE

Young People and Families were involved in a wide range of Participation activities across the country culminating with a major conference in Croke Park in August attended by almost 300 young people, families, professionals and staff. A range of resources developed by Young People and Families addressing parenting skills, bullying, mental health and wellbeing have been made available to services following the event. Young people have been involved in recruitment panels for YAP Ireland across the country in 2017 which has been extremely beneficial.

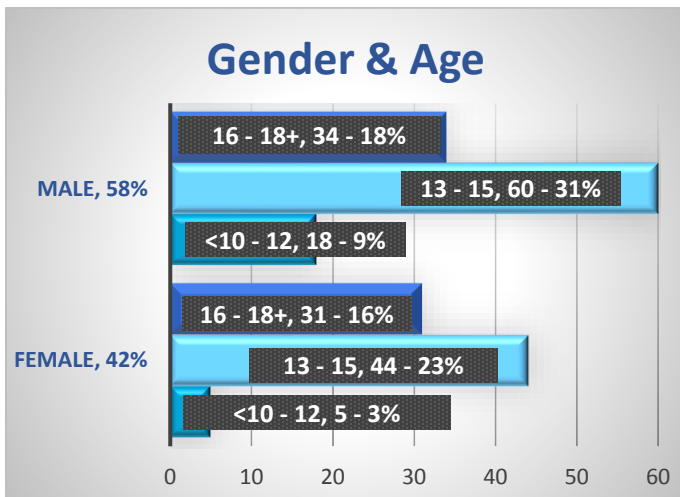
“She has someone to talk to and interact with. Her diagnosis is ADHD - it is difficult and Advocate is able to handle her. Advocate is very easy to talk to, easy to get on with.

PROFILE OF YAP YOUNG PEOPLE

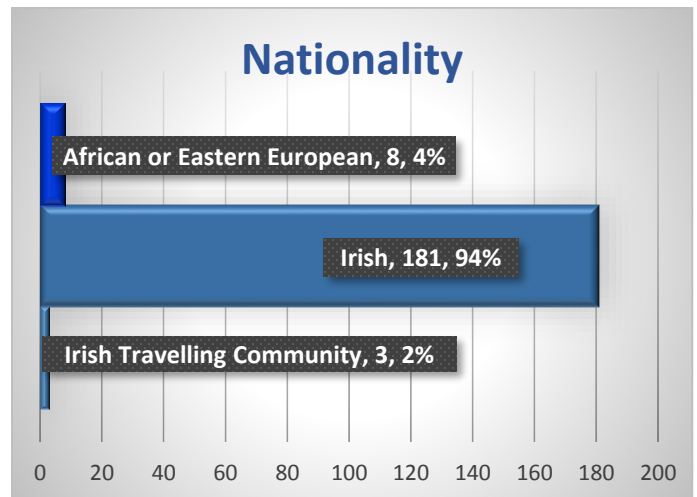
Yap Ireland gathers profile information of Young People and families that are referred to us. The data below relates to 192 Young People and Families worked with by YAP between 2011 and end 2017 in Dublin South West, Kildare and West Wicklow. The profile remains consistent in 2017 with more boys, 58% than girls, 42% referred, 54% of the cohort are aged between 13 and 15 years. 57% are single parent families, with 71% having a full medical card and 49% have a family history of drug or alcohol misuse.

Cohort 2011 - 2017

Gender & Age

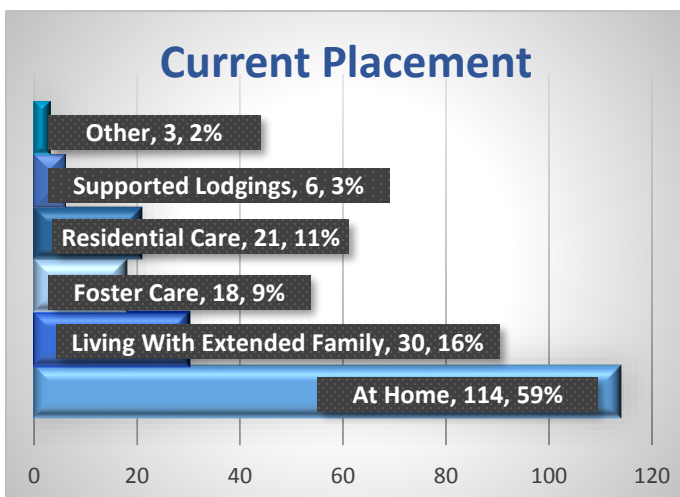


Nationality

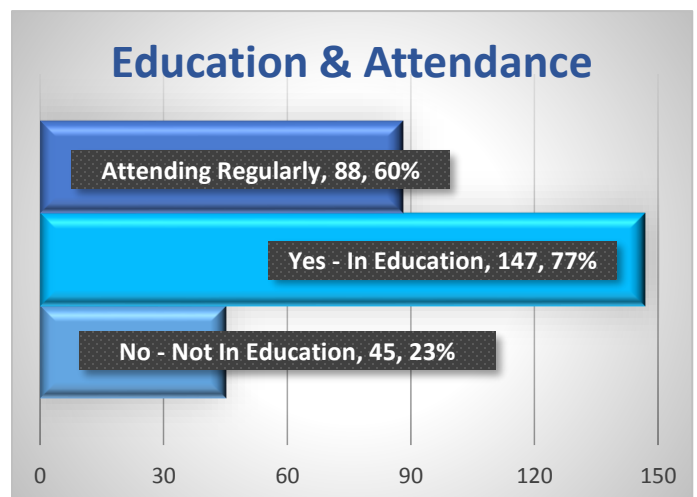


“My advocate got me back playing soccer – now playing 2/3 times per week.”

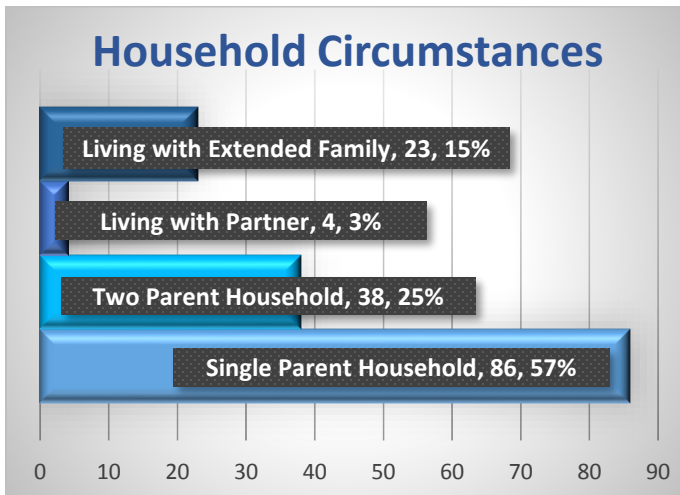
Current Placement



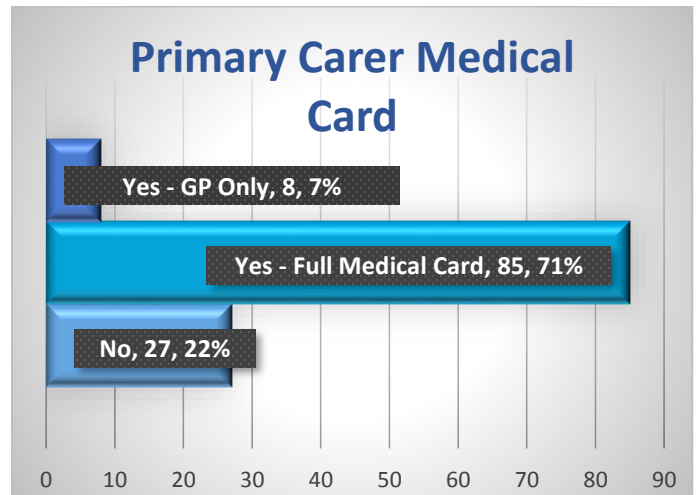
Education & Attendance



Household Circumstances

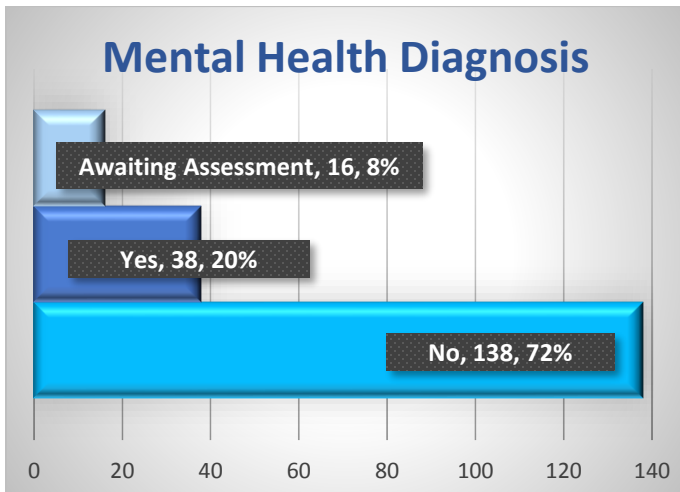


Primary Carer Medical Card

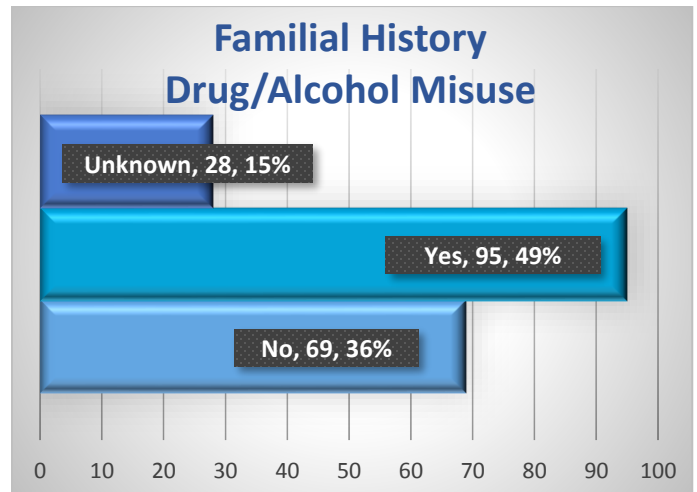


“YAP is fantastic – my child loves it. It is very beneficial to him. The advocate is great, they get on brilliant. 1-to-1 suits my son”

Mental Health Diagnosis



Family History Drug & Alcohol Use



“All positive, very involved in education as well – was not doing well with conduct at school but really progressing with that. Advocate trying to help with that”

“It got me back on my feet”

“Think it’s a great thing - someone to talk to that’s not a social worker - like a second set of eyes and ears”

For further information on Youth Advocate Programmes Ireland please see www.yapireland.ie or YAP Ireland’s Facebook page or Follow @YAPIreland on Twitter