

## Youth Advocate Programmes Ireland – Dublin South West Programme Profile and Outcomes Summary 2011 - 2015

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**“Advocate is very consistent, she's always there and puts in her all.” (Parent/Carer)**

In 2015, YAP DSW matched 12 new young people working with 19 young people and families overall. We have profile information for 80 young people and families and outcomes for 74 young people and families worked with from 2011 to 2015.

### Profile of 80 Young People and Families - 69% Boys\* and 31% Girls

- 12.5% aged <10-12; 52.5% aged 13-15 and 35% aged 16-18+.\*
- 95% described themselves as Irish and 3% Irish Travelling Community.
- 66% were living at home while 34% were in the care system.\*
- 77.5% were in Education or Alternative Education – 73% regular attendance
- 18% had a Mental Health or Disability Diagnosis
- 35% of young people were linking in with one or more services per week
- 70% of young people had never been arrested.
- Family Background of 66 primary carers: 48% are single parent households.
- 5% of primary carers were in employment.
- 54% of primary carers had a full medical card
- 53% have a family history of drug or alcohol misuse

\*Higher than National Average

### OUTCOMES FOR 74 Young People worked with between 2011 and 2015

**SELF:** 93% showed an improvement in Relationship with Peers; 92% in Self Esteem/ Confidence and 96% in Withdrawn/Isolated.

**FAMILY:** 75% showed an improvement in Parenting Skills; 97% in Social Supports /Family and 88% in Home Environment – Physical/Financial.

**EDUCATION:** 79% showed an improvement in General Behaviour; 77% in Attendance and 84% in Aspirations.

**SAFETY/OFFENDING:** 89% showed an improvement in Risky Behaviour (Self); 89% in Impulsivity and 95% in Co-operation with JLO/Gardai.

**Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire Analysis:** Of 169 parents and young people who completed SDQ's at beginning, middle and end of the programme the analysis shows an improvement on total difficulties scores from At Risk to Average for parents and from High Average to Medium Average for young people. See full report on website.

**Participation:** Young people and Parents/Carers presented their work and views at the Have Your Say: Social Media National Event in Croke Park in June. We trained young people from across the country to sit on recruitment panels and they are now part of our recruitment for staff and advocates. We maintained our Investing in Children Award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year running.

**Monitoring:** 87% of participants gave YAP a satisfaction score of 4 or 5 out of 5.

**“I like it, Advocate is a lovely man, I'm happy. They went bowling the other day, Young Person was delighted.” (Parent/Carer)**

### **Profile of young people worked with in Dublin South West 2012 – December 2015**

**The cohort is 80 young people with 25 girls (31%) and 55 boys (69%). Ages of young people: 12.5% aged <10 – 12; 52.5% aged 13 -15; 35% aged 16 – 18+. 95% described themselves as Irish, 3% Irish Travelling Community, 1% Eastern European and 1% African.**

#### *Care Status*

**66% were living in the family home while 34% are in the care system.**

#### *Education Status*

**The majority of young people (77.5%) are in school or alternative education and of these 73% attend on a regular basis.**

#### *Mental Health or Disability Diagnosis*

**82% had no diagnosis of a disability or mental health concern. Of those who did 50% were diagnosed with a behavioural or learning disability and 36% on the Autistic Spectrum.**

#### *Service and Community Links*

**35% of the young people engaged with one or more services on a weekly basis.**

#### *Safety and Offending Behaviour*

**70% of the young people had never been arrested. A family member had been convicted in 19% of families while 47.5% did not have that experience and the information was unknown in 33.5% of cases.**

#### *Family Background*

**Of the 43 cases where the information was provided on primary carers, 6% aged 18-29; 73% aged 30 – 44, 20% aged 45 – 64 and 1% aged 65+, younger parent profile than the average. 48% are single parent households. 5% of primary carers were in employment with the majority of the others describing themselves as full time working in the home. 53% of cases have a family history of drug or alcohol misuse, 31% did not and for 16% the information was unknown. 54% of primary carers had a full medical card, 18% did not, 7% GP only card and the information was unknown for 21%.**

### **Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires.**

YAP Ireland introduced Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires as a research tool as part of the NUI Maynooth evidence informed research completed in 2013. We continue to use the SDQ as an important tool in measuring our effectiveness in improving the mental health and wellbeing of Young People referred to us alongside the outcomes and monitoring systems in place and is an important practice tool.

**The data is for 169 young people and Parents/Carers who completed 3 SDQ's between July 2013 and October 2015. Before engaging in the programme Parents/Carers gave young people an average score of 19.28 (At Risk) on the total difficulties scale reducing to an average score of 16.41 ( Borderline) at programme end. Young people at the outset scored themselves lower with an average of 16.07 (High Average), reducing to 14.07 (Medium Average) at programme end. Overall both Parents and Young People report a reduction in overall difficulties with Parents/Carers reporting the biggest improvement.**

### **Summary Outcomes Tables from 2011 to end of 2015**

The system is based on measuring 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 outcomes

system is just one way of measuring the positive impact of the YAP model and is a useful tool for helping young people and families themselves to see how they are changing their lives through the use of the outcomes booklets. It also assists the organisation to measure what we are achieving through our work and to enhance the services we offer. The number of young people for whom we have outcomes has increased every year and the longitudinal figures show that the programme remains effective in all the main factors with very little variation. See full outcomes tables below.

### **Assessment/Effectiveness of YAP Ireland Service – Monitoring System**

YAP Ireland gives parents/carers the opportunity to have their say about how their involvement with YAP is progressing and to input into service development and improvement. To facilitate this, monitoring calls are carried out midway through the life of the case asking parent/carers of participants to engage in a short questionnaire. To ensure that parents/carers feel free to express their true opinions, this questionnaire is carried out by staff not directly involved in the cases.

Contents of the questionnaire:

1. What do you like best about Youth Advocate Programmes (YAP) Ireland?
2. What do you like least about it?
3. Following on from that, would you like to suggest any changes to the programme?
4. Do you feel informed and involved in your child's YAP programme? Yes/ No  
If no, is there anything we can do to help you feel more involved?
5. Overall, how are you finding the Youth Advocate Programme (YAP) service? (using a satisfaction rating scale of '1' to '5', where '1' = 'very dissatisfied' and '5' = 'very satisfied')

In 2015, a total of 412 cases were identified as eligible for monitoring. 47 were not contacted either because the case had closed before the due date for monitoring came around or other issues such as the parent/carer opted out, or the manager deemed it inappropriate to contact the family at this time. 365 call attempts were made, 165 parent/carers answered the phone and 135 of them agreed to complete the questionnaire. 117 of these calls (86.6%) resulted in positive feedback from parent/carers and 95% felt that they were well informed and involved in their Young Persons YAP Programme. 87% of participants gave YAP a satisfaction level score of 4 or more out of 5.

### **Quotes from Parents/Carers regarding what they like best about YAP**

**I think it's just the way the Advocate seems to be really easy going. They have a very good connection and they are very compatible. She adjusts to Young Person's pace and she's very helpful. It's been working really well.**



**Love the connection Advocate has with Young Person. They way she supports him, she really goes beyond the call of duty. She's been a great support to me too. He is home now and was in emergency foster care in the country - Advocate really went out of her way to support us both.**



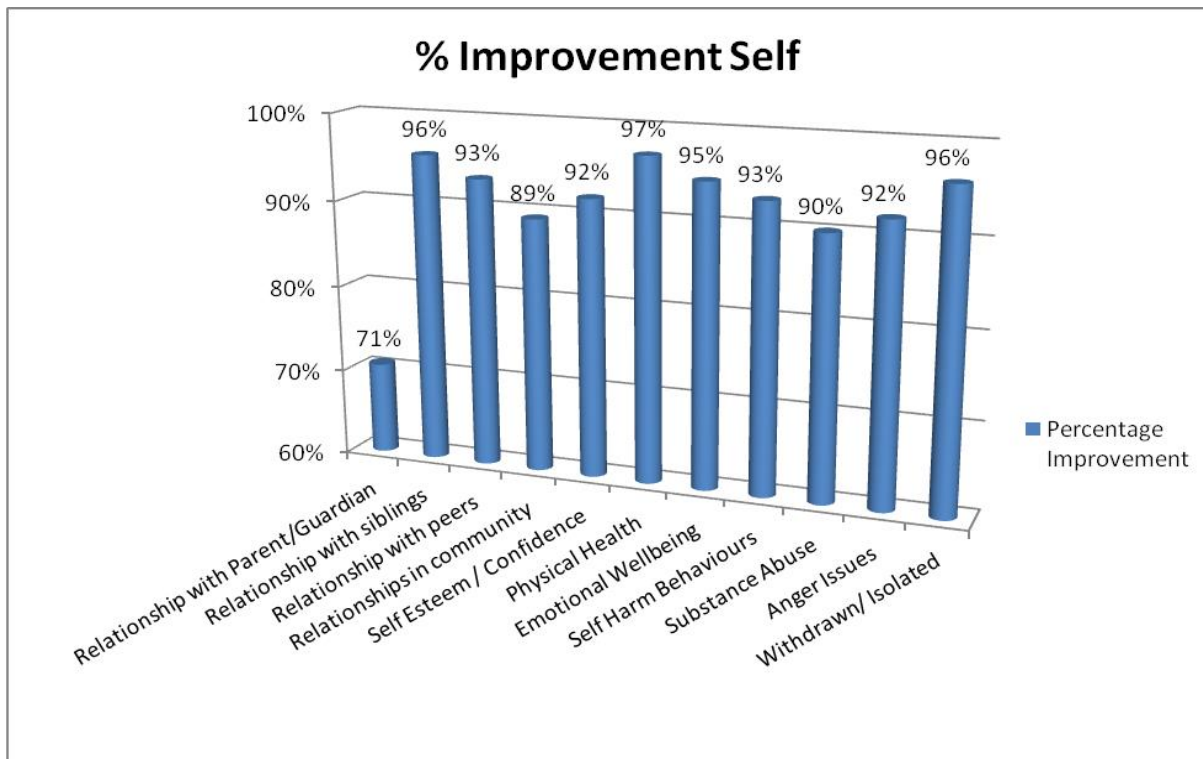
**Young Person is after improving, it's a safe environment for him and he's after quietening down a lot. Advocate is lovely.**

For further information on Youth Advocate Programmes Ireland please see [www.yapireland.ie](http://www.yapireland.ie) or YAP Ireland's Facebook page or Follow @YAPIreland on Twitter

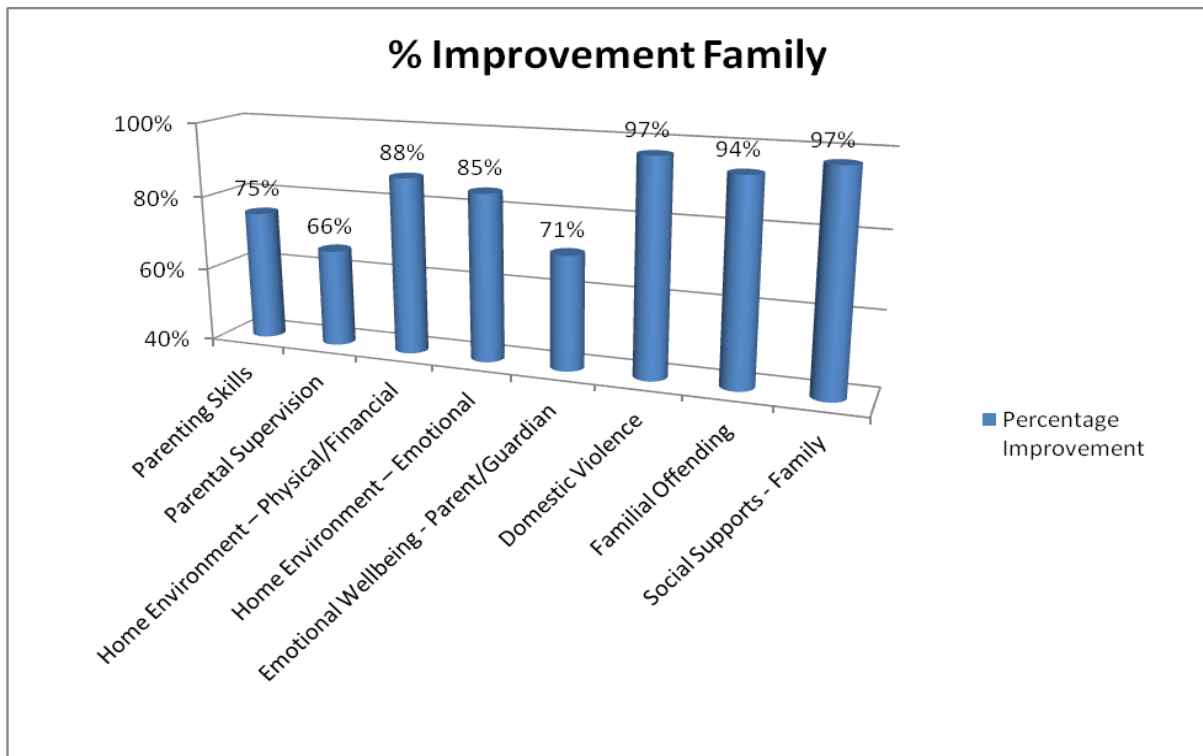
## Outcomes Tables from 2011 to end 2015

See full outcomes in all domains below for 74 young people.

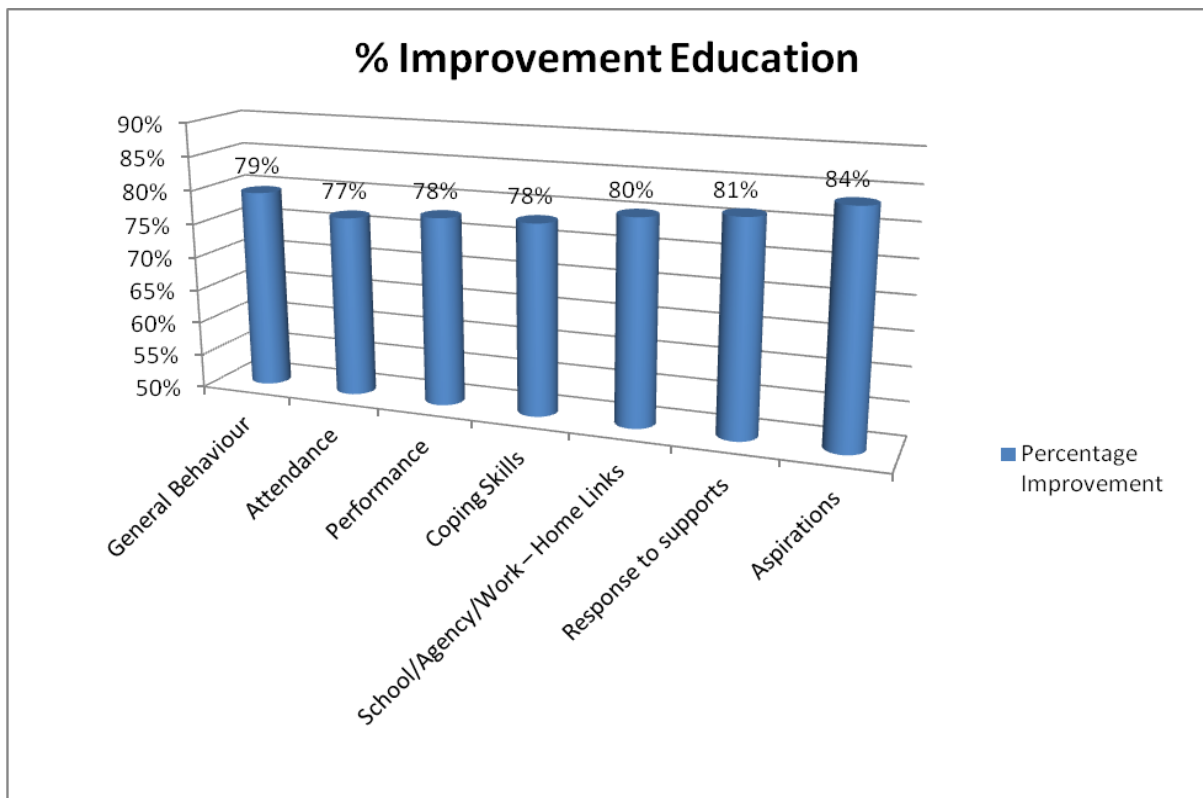
The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Self domain



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

