

YAP Ireland National Profile Information and Outcomes Summary for 2011 to end of 2015

“Advocate is very patient. Very motivated and gets my child motivated to do things. Big difference in him since he started working with the Advocate and YAP”

Quote from Parent/Carer Monitoring 2015

Profile of 1468 Young People and Families

- 57% Boys and 43% Girls. 19% aged -10-12; 55% aged 13-15 and 26% aged 16-18+.
- 89% described themselves as Irish, 5% from an Irish Traveller background, 6% non-Irish.
- 75% were living at home while 25% were in the care system.
- 90% of those referred were still living at home at the end of the programme
- 85% were in Education or Alternative Education – 60% regular attendance
- 27% had a Mental Health or Disability Diagnosis, 7% awaiting assessment.
- 41% of young people were linking in with one or more services per week
- 74% of young people had never been arrested.
- Family Background: 54% are single parent households.
- 23% of primary carers were in employment.
- 60% of primary carers had a full medical card, 3% had a GP only card.
- 50% have a family history of drug or alcohol misuse

OUTCOMES for 1289 young people worked with between January 2011 and October 2015.

SELF: 81% showed an improvement in Relationship with Peers; 83% in Self Esteem/ Confidence and 81% in Withdrawn/Isolated.

FAMILY: 77% showed an improvement in Parenting Skills; 79% in Social Supports /Family and 86% in Home Environment – Physical/Financial.

EDUCATION: 79% showed an improvement in General Behaviour; 77% in Attendance and 78% in Aspirations.

SAFETY/OFFENDING: 84% showed an improvement in Risky Behaviour (Self); 80% in Impulsivity and 90% in Co-operation with JLO/Gardaí.

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 2nd Year running.

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

“The activities are really good for Young Person. Young Person gets on really well with advocate. Great support from Team Leader.”

Quote from Parent/Carer Monitoring 2015

Profile of Young People and Families

The profile information is for 1468 young people matched since June 2011 to end December 2015.

The profile of young people and families remains consistent which indicates that referrers are prioritising young people and families who will most benefit from the YAP service.

General

The profile is of 1468 young people matched from 2011 to the end of 2015, 57% Boys and 43% Girls with 19% aged <10-12; 55% aged 13-15 and 26% aged 16-18+. 89% described themselves as Irish, 5% from an Irish Traveller background, 3% African or Asian and 3% Eastern European.

Care Status

75% were living at home while 25% were in the care system.

Education Status

85% were in education or alternative education with a further 15% not in education, employment or training with 60% of those in education attending regularly.

Mental Health or Disability Diagnosis

66% of young people had no diagnosis of mental health or disability. Of those who did 36% were diagnosed with behavioural issues such as ADHD or ADD while 10% were on the autism spectrum, 25% had an intellectual disability and 7% were awaiting an assessment.

Service and Community Links

41% of young people were linking in with one or more other services per week while 59% were not. This shows the level of isolation often experienced by young people and families in difficulty and is a primary focus of the YAP intervention to build long lasting positive family, community and social links.

Safety and Offending Behaviour

74% of young people had never been arrested. A family member had been convicted in 25% of families while 51% did not have that experience and the information was unknown in 24% of cases.

Family Background

Of the 1212 cases where the information was provided on primary carers, 2% of parents/carers were aged 18 – 29, 71% were aged 30 – 44, 25% aged 45 – 64, and 2% were aged 65+. **54% are single parent households. 23% of primary carers were in employment** with the majority of the other primary carers describing themselves as working full-time in the home. **50% of cases have a family history of drug or alcohol misuse**, 34% did not and for 16% the information was unknown. **60% of primary carers had a full medical card**, 17% did not and 3% had a GP only card and for 20% the information was unknown.

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. The SDQ is also an important practice tool for helping young people and parents/carers to identify concerns they may have and to understand their own improved outcomes.

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 national outcomes summary includes information for 1289 young people worked with between January 2011 and October 2015. 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. 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 cohort is 1289 young people with 521 girls (40%) and 768 boys (60%).

Ages of young people: 21% aged < 10-12; 55% aged 13-15; 24% aged 16-18+. The gender and age profile has remained consistent over the past number of years.

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. See Full Outcomes Below.

Key to the Outcomes Table

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. We use the scale 1 – 9 as given the strengths based model every small step toward positive change is an important one.

The base cohort per factor is calculated by excluding those who did not have the factor as an issue on referral (Column 4). The percentage improvement column (5) is calculated by the number in Column 2 as a percentage of the base cohort.

“I like it, (it) really helps my son, I can talk to them too, it’s working brilliantly and I've seen a big improvement. They take him out, help with homework, help with social skills. Really on his level, they are like friends, he really trusts him and I'm really pleased with the change in him.”

Quote from Parent/Carer Monitoring 2015

“ All the people that work with our family are fantastic people & very accommodating”

Quote from Parent/Carer Monitoring 2015

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

Advocate is a great woman. We get on very well. (My Child) has improved greatly since the help of YAP and Advocate

*

We've had a breakthrough in the last few weeks and my son is now engaging with Advocate, it's hard with Autism. (My son) is getting out and about with someone positive. The Advocate is a good role model. First few weeks were tricky but then they discovered that they have a mutual love for soccer and the gym. I'm delighted with everything.

*

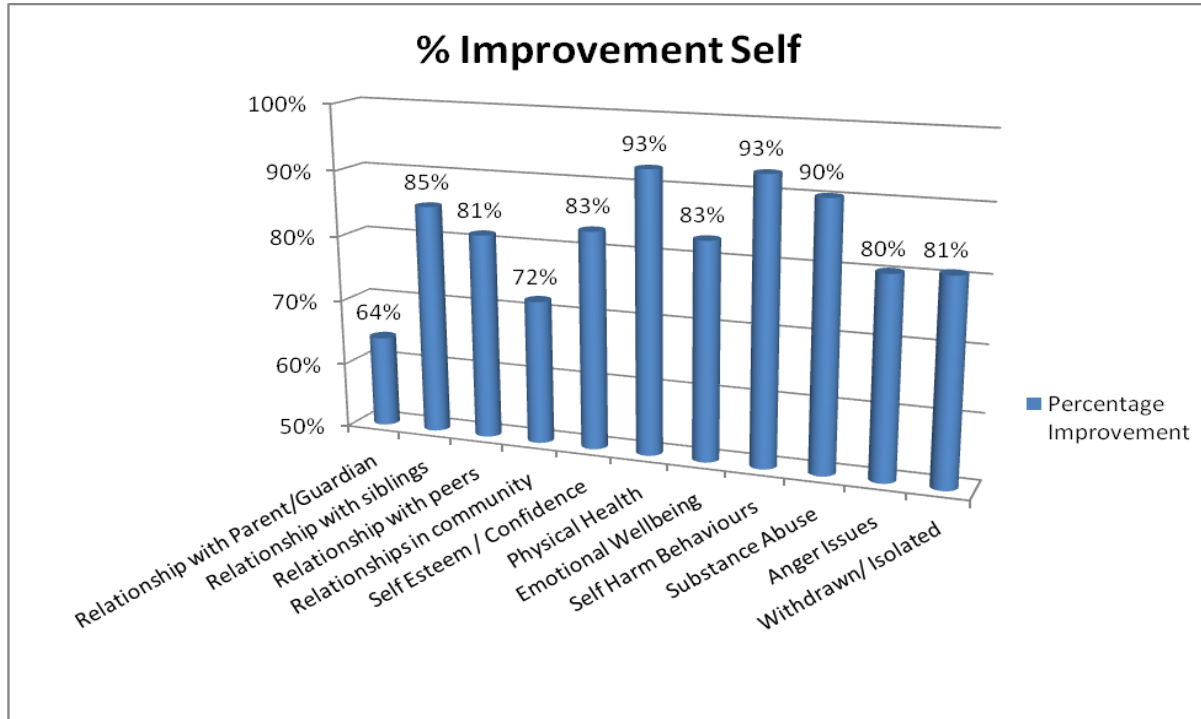
Advocate is working very well. I am happy with YP going out. YAP and advocate is focusing YP in terms of future plans, i.e. education/career. If there is any problem it is sorted and we are helped.

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

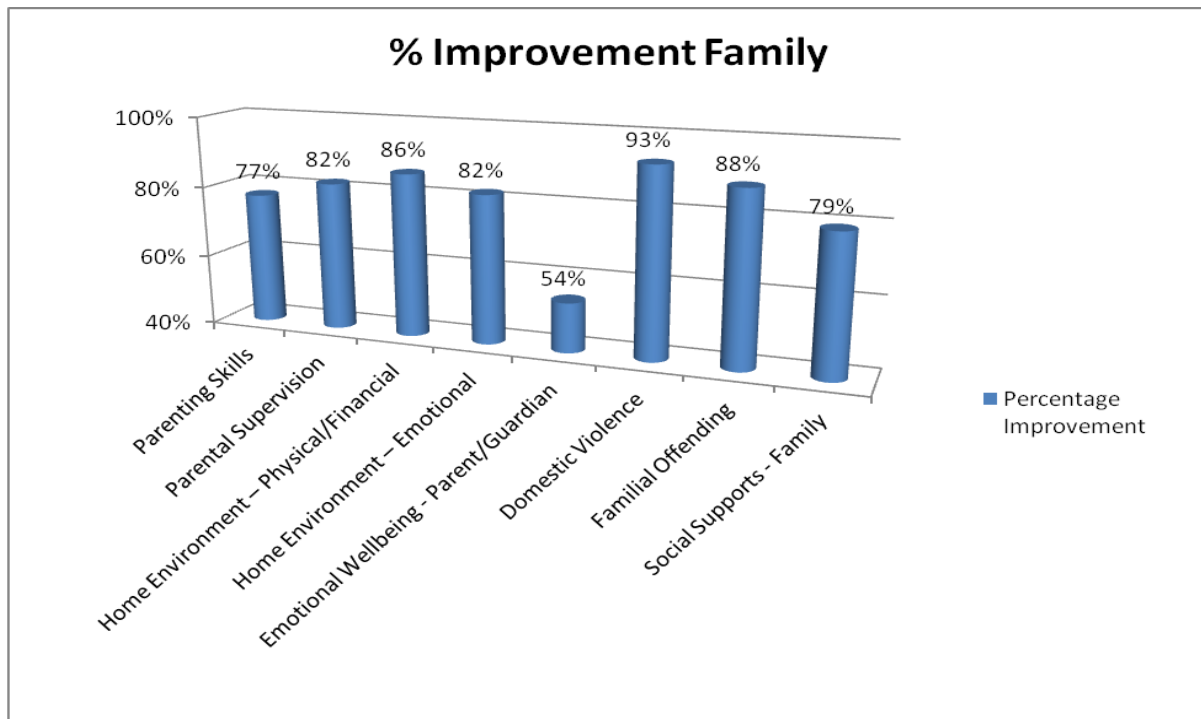
Outcomes Tables from 2011 to end 2015.

See full outcomes in all domains below for 1289 young people.

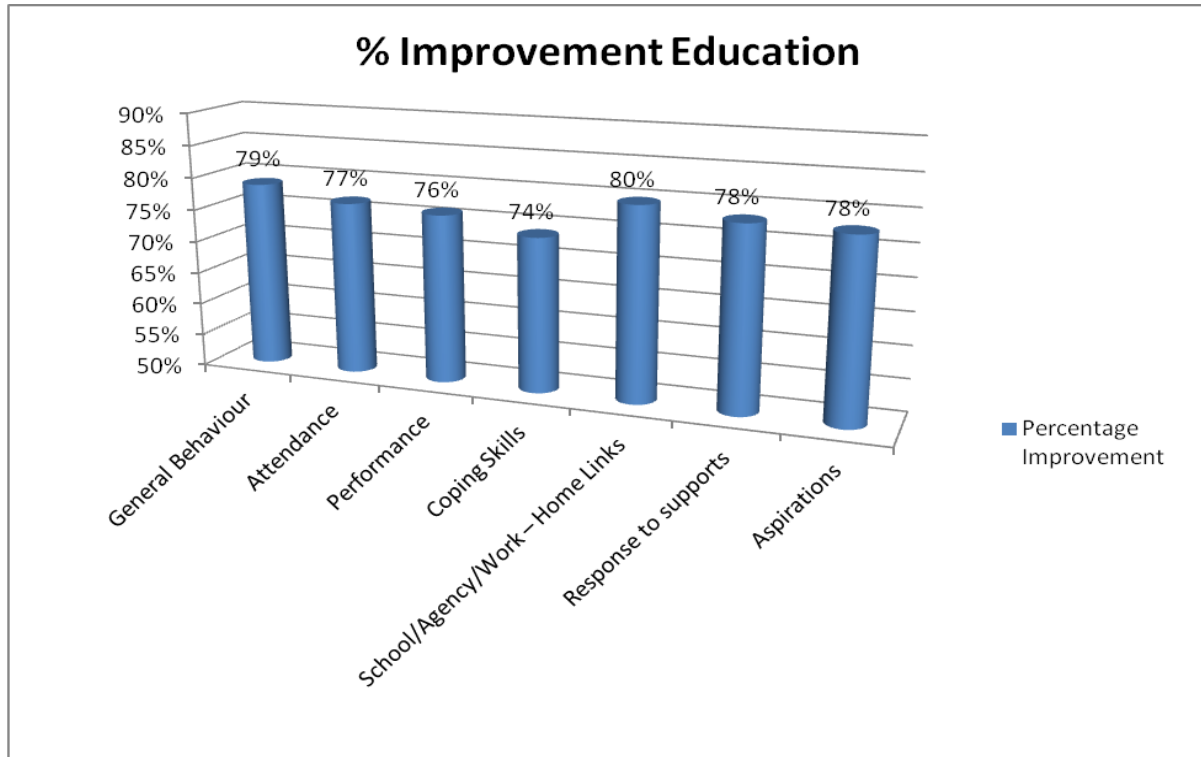
The following chart shows the percentage improvement in Self domain.



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

