

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
25 SEPTEMBER 2019
7.32 - 9.31 PM**



Present:

Councillors Mrs Birch (Chairman), Brossard (Vice-Chairman), Ms Gaw, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Hayes, Ms Merry, Skinner and Temperton

Apologies for absence were received from:

Deborah Windsor, Teachers' Representative

Also Present:

Councillor Barnard, Executive Member: Children, Young People and Learning
Nikki Edwards, Executive Director: People
Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director: Education and Learning
Sonia Johnson, Assistant Director: Children's Social Care
Alison O'Meara, Head of Community Safety, Early Years and Communities
Andrew Cranidge, Deputy LPA Commander
Thom Wilson, Assistant Director: Commissioning
Jo Graves, Operational Manager, Children's Social Care

15. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 12 June 2019 be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Members enquired about Kooth, an online support service for young people. It was noted during the last meeting that the contract for Kooth was due for renewal at the end of September 2019. Members stated they had anecdotal evidence the service had proved useful. Dr Barnard offered to send a written response to members about the renewal of the Kooth service.

16. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest relating to any items on the agenda, nor any indication that Members would be participating under the party whip.

17. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

18. Public Participation

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

19. Youth Crime

In addition to the presentation provided by Andrew Cranidge, Deputy LPA Commander and Alison O'Meara, Head of Community Safety, Early Years and Communities the following points were highlighted:

- Whilst no area could be crime/incident free, Bracknell Forest was Bracknell a very safe place to live.
- The first piece of analysis showed no explicit links to drug activity although it was suspected in some of the cases.
- It was recognised that not all incidents were reported to the police and, therefore, local intelligence and practitioner experience was also relied upon. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) would be monitoring this as part of their new three year plan.
- Some secondary schools were the main locations of violence but this was expected due to the significant number of young people spending most of the day together over a full school year. The numbers were also very low.
- Assault with injury was classed as anything from a slight scratch or reddening of the skin to a broken bone.
- The second piece of analysis was more detailed and looked at all youth crime.
- Police defined youth crime as one where the suspect was aged between 0-17 at the time of the offence.
- The gap in the red line on slide 5 was due to poor data quality.
- There had been very little change in the number of youth crime incidents over the past three years.
- Most common victim and offender profile was male, white, British and aged between 13-15 years.
- Peaks times of incidents were 1.00pm and 3.00pm.
- No seasonal trends were identified for the year analysed.
- Of the incidents that had taken place at the two secondary schools, there were no common suspects, no weapons used, victims were both male and female and all incidents were reported by parents.
- Comparator data for the previous period was poor quality but they had analysed 10 months subsequently and it showed similar patterns.
- Analysis of repeat violence highlighted issues around a few properties/families and supported accommodation for young people. Initiatives were in place to deal with these repeat locations.
- Weapon use was not any higher for young people than for all other age groups, although it was acknowledged even one was too many.
- A four-tiered violence programme of work including theatre tours, practitioner training, exclusion prevention and targeted 1:1 work had begun in Bracknell Forest.
- The Community Safety Partnership were awaiting more information on the Serious Violence Surge Funding and Violence Reduction Unit Funding which had recently been granted by the Home Office.
- The Community Safety Partnership would provide a further update on all its priorities at the Crime and Disorder Committee in June 2020.
- Jo Graves, Operational Manager: Children's Social Care informed members about the preventative methods they used to divert young people away from crime. It was noted that the prevention service could not be used when police investigations were underway.
- Nikki Edwards stated youth crime figures should be considered in context of a school age population of 18,000 in Bracknell Forest Council.

Following a discussion the following points were raised by members:

- Given the 2018 Crime Data Integrity HMI Inspection Report which rated Thames Valley Police as inadequate, members queried the accuracy of the data presented. Andrew Cranidge said the Force acknowledged recording was an issue and this was an area of intense work at the moment to address concerns raised in the report.
- Members queried if the data in tonight's report was based on reporting, not recording, and were informed that the CSP relied on local knowledge of practitioners, as well as data.
- Members asked about the difference between the types of conditional bail options and Jo Graves explained prevention was always the first recourse followed by pre-court disposal. Lowest resolution of a pre-court disposal was by the police on the street. There were also two levels of caution for young people and delivery was compulsory but working with Youth Offending Service (YOS) was voluntary. The next option was a Youth Condition Caution which meant it was compulsory to work with YOS or they could be made to attend Court. The final level was when a child could be charged with offences.
- Members asked if there were gangs of 2/3 or one to one and Alison O'Meara explained group youth violence was not borne out by statistics.
- Members asked if there was a seasonal trend and were informed no season had stood out during analysis, only times of day had flagged up, but this would be useful to identify.
- Members were keen to understand the level of drug crime amongst youths in Bracknell Forest but Andrew Cranidge said the analysis had not shown drug crime was a large part of youth violence, although he acknowledged that was often the perception.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Cranidge and Alison O'Meara for their presentation.

The Chairman asked members, officers and members of the public present to break into groups to scope a potential Task and Finish Group on this subject.

Actions

- Governance & Scrutiny Co-ordinator to compile flipchart notes following the breakout session for the Chairman to assist with completing a scrutiny pro forma.

20. Permanency

Sonia Johnson, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care provided a presentation as a follow up to a session at the previous meeting on how achieving permanency for children looked after worked in Bracknell Forest.

- Sonia Johnson stressed reunification would always be the first option. If this was not possible workers would look at adoption, followed by Special Guardianship, usually by a family member or sometimes a foster carer who had built a strong relationship with the child. Workers always opted for the least restrictive form of placement as Special Guardianship, for example, meant families did not have to have child looked after meetings, etc. For some children long term fostering was best to meet the child's needs where the Council became the Corporate Parent for a child.
- Children aged 7+ were unlikely to have their needs met by adoption and this was an issue nationally, particularly children with special educational needs or disabilities.

- When thinking about permanency needs social workers needed to think about the therapeutic need separately to permanency needs. Ensuring a foster placement had an official long-term match was also important.
- Children looked after benefitted from everyday activities.
- Children's Social Care vacancy rate was low, three currently, down from 19.
- BFC had changed how they recruited workers and gauged their commitment to try and ensure stability of worker for each child.
- Members watched a film made by children in care who were members of SILSIP 'Say It Loud, Say It Proud'. Members' praised the children taking part and agreed it was a useful tool to attract quality, reliable social workers to Bracknell Forest.
- Nikki Edwards, Executive Director: People asked members to note the HR package for attracting social workers to the Borough was up for renewal next March/April.
- The aspiration was for no or even lower numbers of social workers in Children's Social Care by Christmas this year.
- It was noted the Supervision Policy for Children's Social Care staff had been agreed by the Executive recently.

21. **Executive Forward Plan**

Members received and noted the scheduled Key and Non-Key Executive Decisions relating to Children and Young People.

22. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (1) Information relating to any individual (Item 10).

23. **School Performance**

Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director: Education and Learning provided a summary of unvalidated school performance data for 2019 and key priorities for the team

CHAIRMAN

Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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25 September 2019



Minute Item 19
Bracknell Forest Council



Bracknell Forest
**Community Safety
Partnership**

Youth Crime Report

CYPL Overview and Scrutiny

25 September 2019

Contents

1. Community Safety Team: Violence Analysis: 2019 Findings

2. Strategic Assessment: 2019 Findings

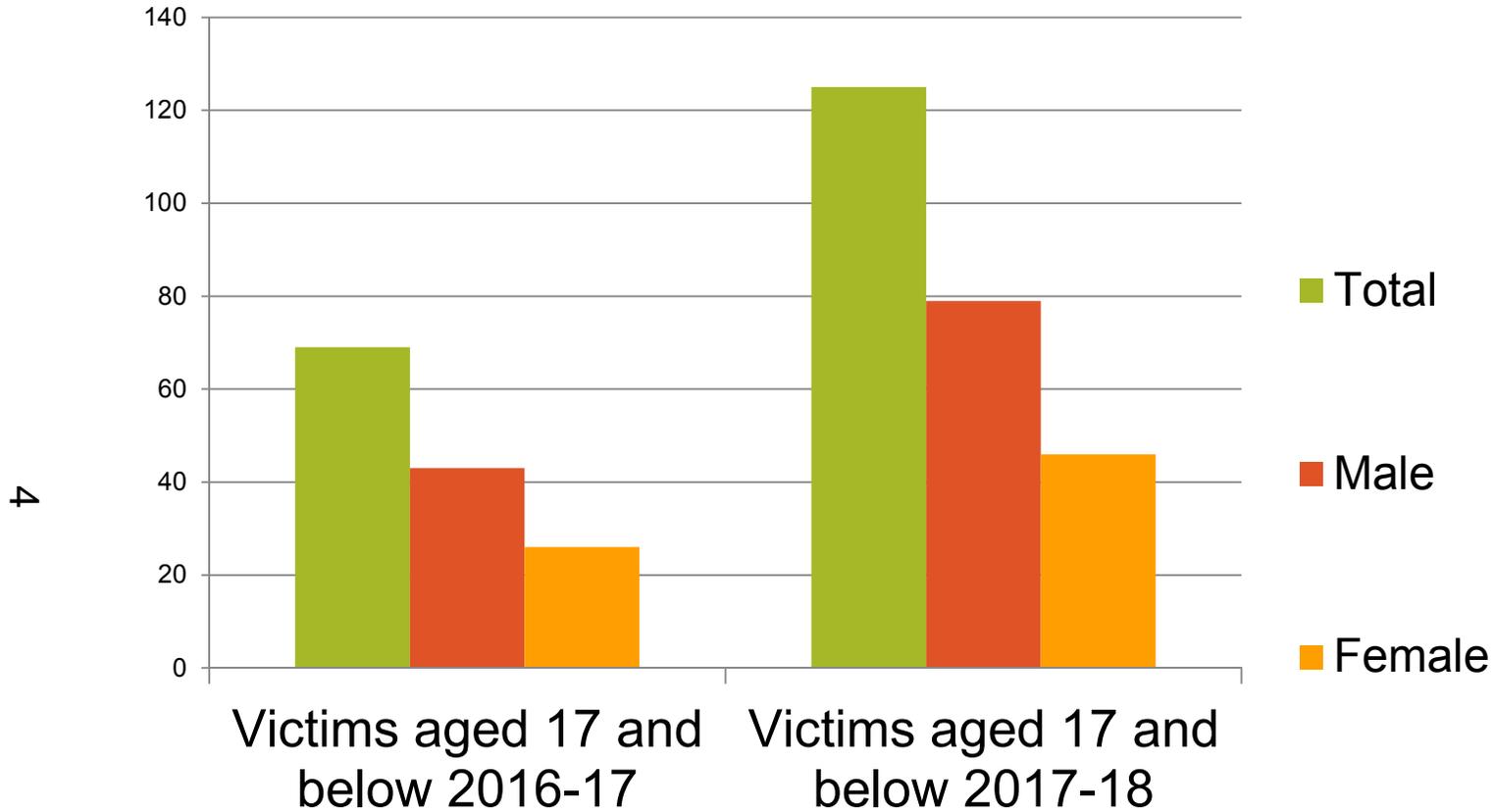
- What are the youth crime issues?
- Who is involved in youth crime?
- When is youth crime taking place?
- Where is youth crime taking place?
- Where is repeat youth violence taking place?
- Are weapons being used?

3. Summary of Findings

4. BF Youth Programmes

5. Data from the Youth Offending Team

1. Community Safety Team: Violence Analysis: 2019 Findings



There was a disproportionately large increase in victims that were 17 and below compared to the previous year

1. Community Safety Team: Violence Analysis: 2019 Findings (continued)

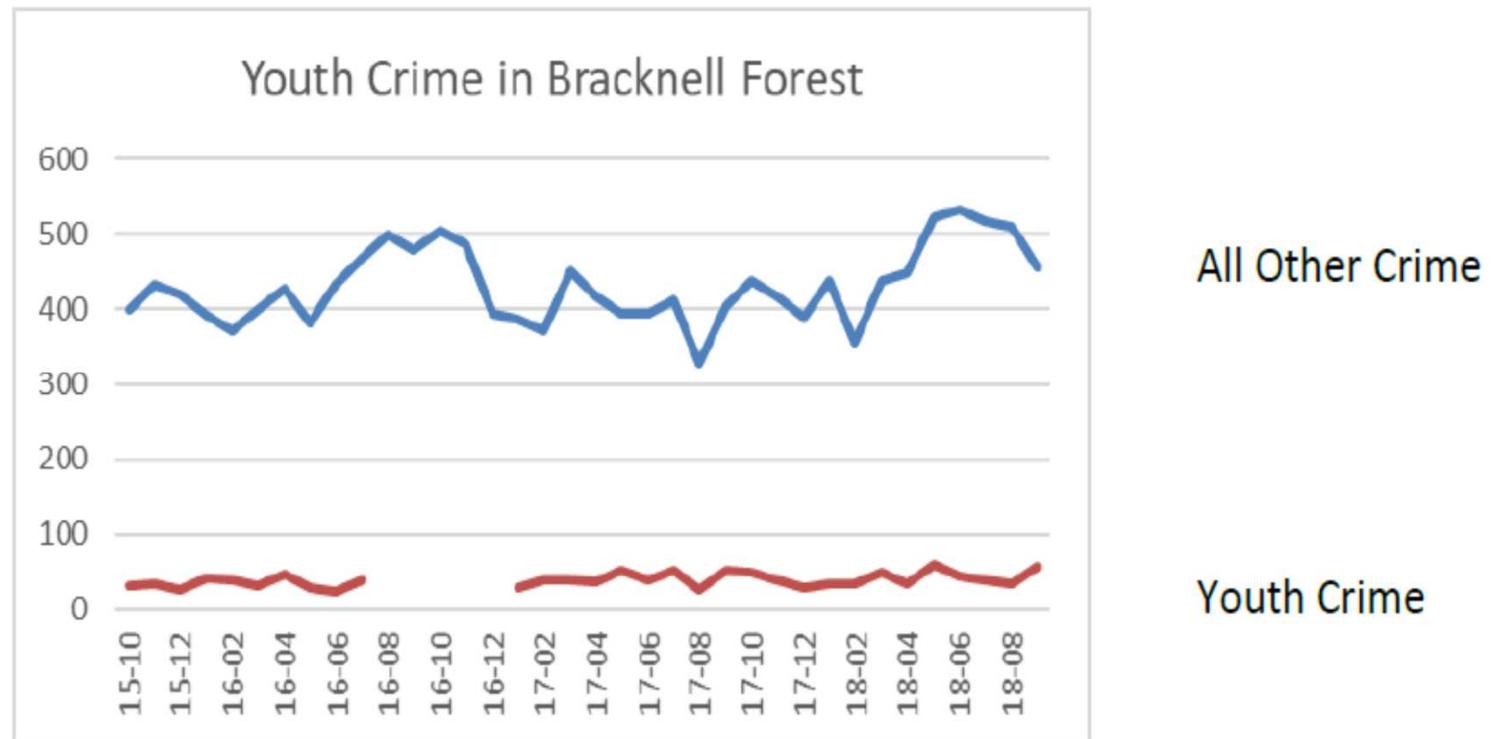
**Top Locations: Assault with Injury: Victims aged 13-17:
(1 October 2017 – 30 September 18)**

Address	Count
School A	7
School B	6
School C	3

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2. Strategic Assessment: 2019 Findings

All crime reported to TVP from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2018 was analysed



NB: Volume of youth crime reported to police over the 3 year period shows little change

Who is involved in youth crime?

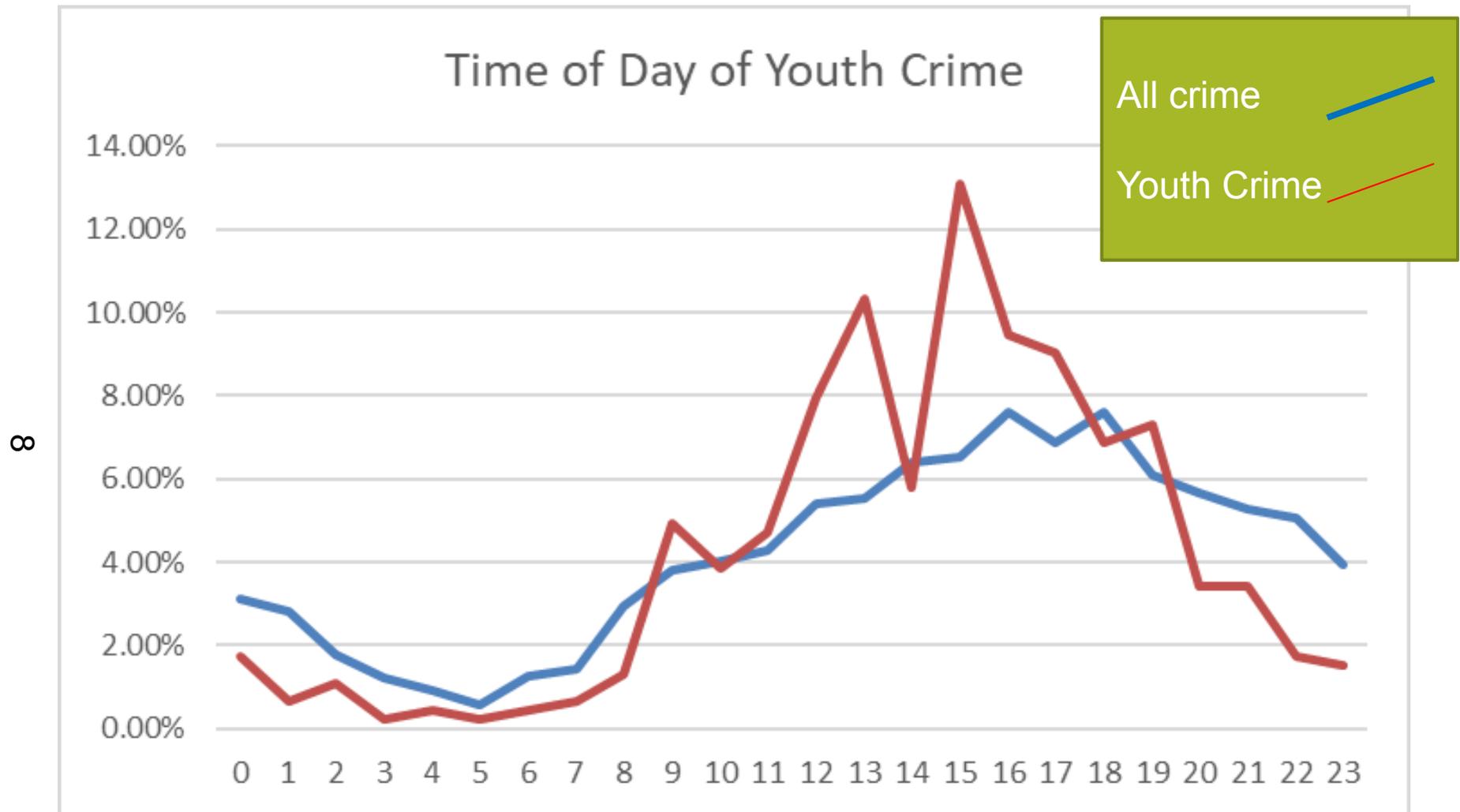
- Most common victim and offender profile: male, white, British, aged 13-15

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- Where the offender status was known for violence, the majority were young people, known, but unrelated, to the victim. This suggests that the primary threat to young people is from other young people known to them

1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018

When is youth crime taking place?



1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018

Where is youth crime taking place?

School A : 11 assaults

School B: 14 assaults

6 Findings:

- No common suspects
- No weapons involved
- Both male and female victims
- Reported by parents

1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018

Where is repeat youth violence taking place?

- 6 youth violence repeat locations
- None featured schools
- Multiple incidents at properties
- Supported accommodation for young people (out of area)

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Are weapons being used?

Weapons Offences (Possession Only)

17% involved a youth suspect (1 October 17 – 30 September 18)

8 out of 47

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Violence where a weapon was involved (based on the manner in which it was being used or intending to be used)

8% involved a youth victim (1 September 17 to 31 August 18)

9 out of 112

Same percentage of incidents involving a weapon for all other age groups (54 out of 610)

3. Conclusions

The volume of youth crime reported to police shows little change over the last 3 years and is considerably lower than all other crime

Youth crime is not mirroring the trends being seen in all other crime

The most common victim and offender profile: male, white, British, aged 13-15

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The role of victim and suspect is interchangeable: a young person can be both

Young people are not being targeted by older people unknown to them: most are known to the victim and are similar in age

Youth crime peaks at 1pm and 3pm

While 2 secondary schools were the top locations for youth violence, numbers were very low and should be considered in context

Of the 25 incidents that took place at these 2 locations, there were no common suspects, no weapons were used, victims were both male and female and were reported by parents. This pattern was also evident in the following year

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Weapon use is not any higher for violent incidents where young people are victims compared to all other age groups

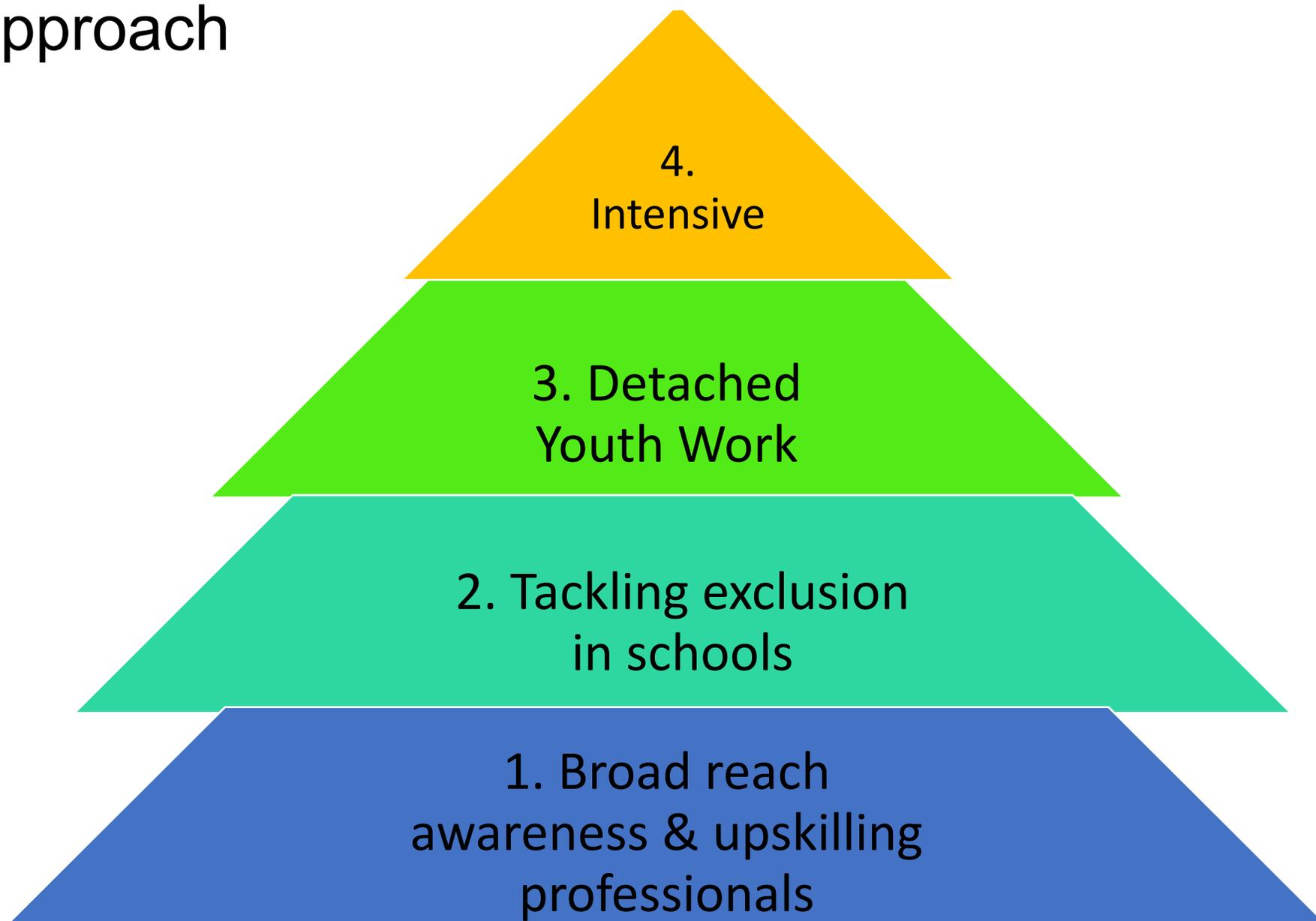
Repeat youth violence comprised locations which were either a family home or sheltered accommodation for young people from outside the area

Possession of weapons by young people is very low and is influenced by increases in police activity

4. BF Youth Programmes

EIYF (Early Intervention Youth Fund): 4-tiered approach

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Level 1:

County Lines Theatre Tour – w/c 18 November 2019 – 9 secondaries
Gang Awareness Training – 7 October and 7 November 2019

Level 2:

Berkshire Youth has a youth worker in 4 schools to work with help young people at risk of exclusion

Level 3:

Berkshire Youth: detached work in the community

Level 4:

Adviza are working with 2 referrals from the YOS

New Home Office Funding 2019

Serious Violence Surge Fund:

- £100,000 for Bracknell and Wokingham LPA
- Reducing serious violence in public spaces focussing on reducing knife crimes against young people
- Spend deadline: 31 March 2020

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Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Fund:

- £1,160,000 for Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- Support team, engagement events, trauma-informed interventions, developing evidence bases etc.
- Spend deadline: Unconfirmed

Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2019-2022

Priority 2:

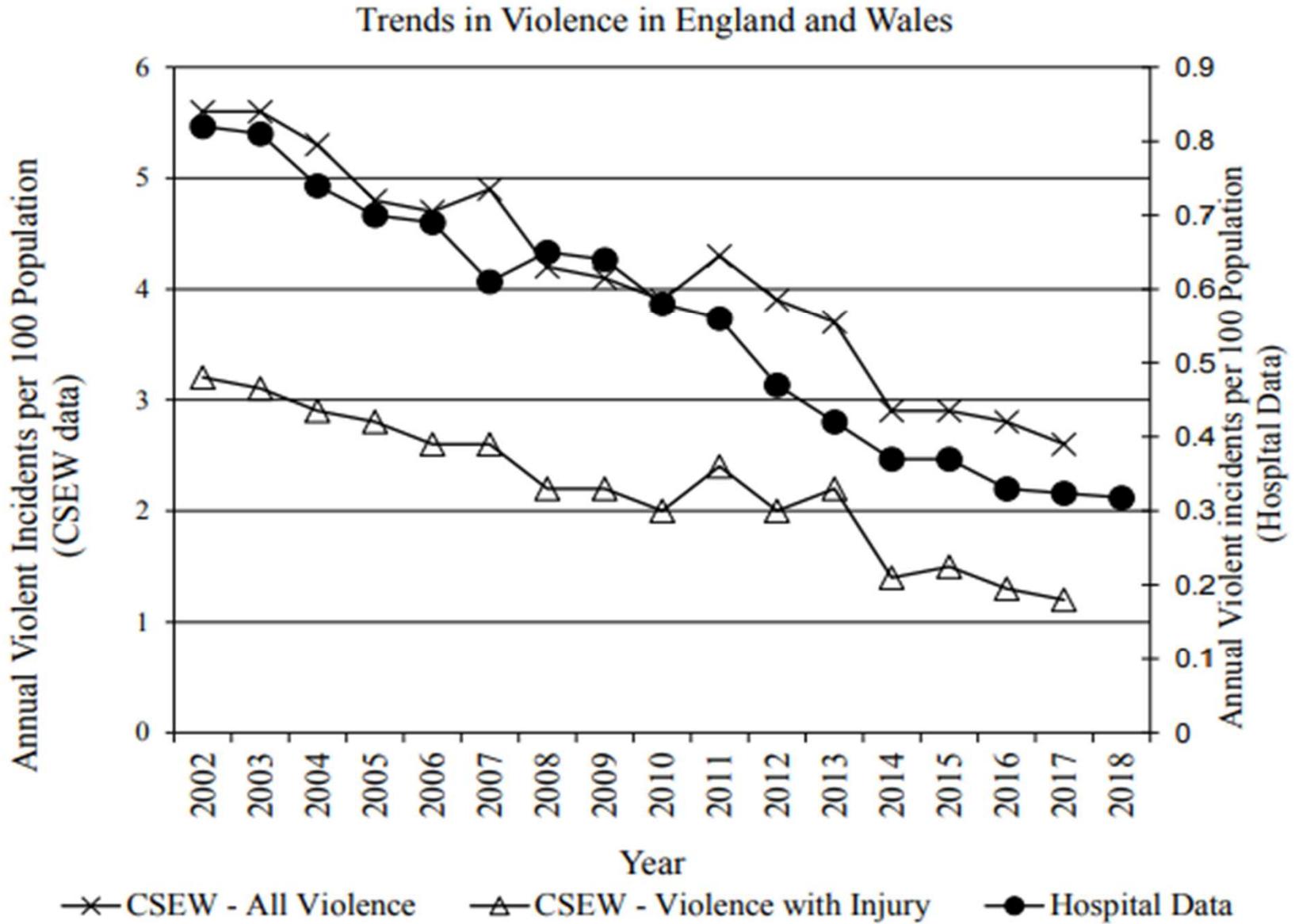


Reduce incidents of serious violence, sexual offences and knife crime'

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Aim:

Understand the risks around knife crime, reduce the harm it causes and reduce the reports of knife crime incidents



5. Data from Youth Offending Team

- The Police dealt with 76 young people committing a total of 97 offences
- 40 young people have been refused charge for their offences
- 21 young people remain under investigation
- 15 received a community resolution, youth caution, youth conditional caution or were charged to Court
- Of the 76 young people 14 waited more than 6 months for an outcome
- 6 waited between 1-2 years
- YOT have 12 statutory cases open at this time

30/05/2017 – 01/09/2019

Youth Offending Team

5. Data from Youth Offending Team (2)

Casework

- There are currently 12 statutory cases ie Court Orders open and being managed by YOT.
- 7 pre court disposals (Youth cautions or Youth conditional cautions)
- Community Resolution and Youth Cautions are voluntary in terms of YOT engagement so the number delivered by the police is greater than the number working with YOT
- These figures do not take account of those children awaiting an outcome from the police who will not receive an intervention during this time

Youth Offending Team

Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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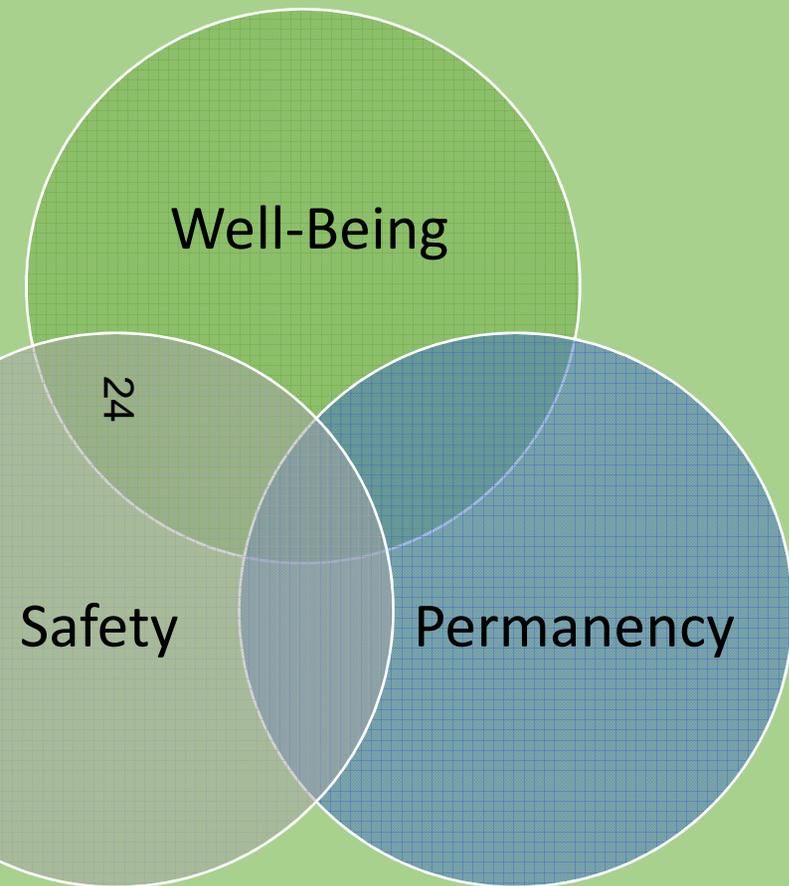


Overview & Scrutiny Permanency and stability for Children Looked After

Sonia Johnson, Assistant Director

Permanency

Child welfare social care primary goals



*Permanency is not a process, a plan, or a placement-
permanency is a family relationship that is intended to last
lifeline*
- Frey, Spring 2004

Permanency

For foster parents we must make reasonable efforts

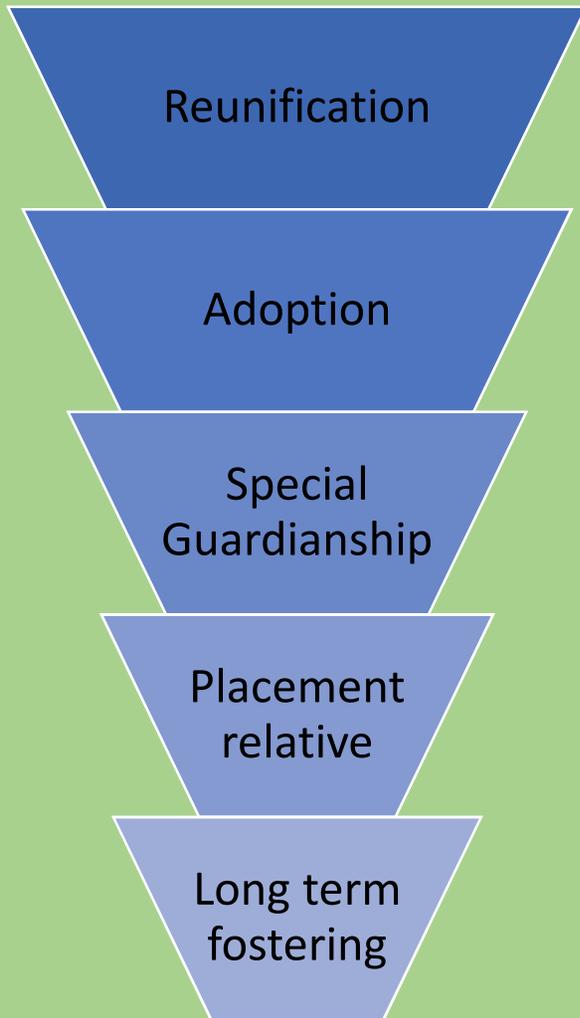
- Prevent removal; and
- Return child home; or
- Achieve another permanency plan.

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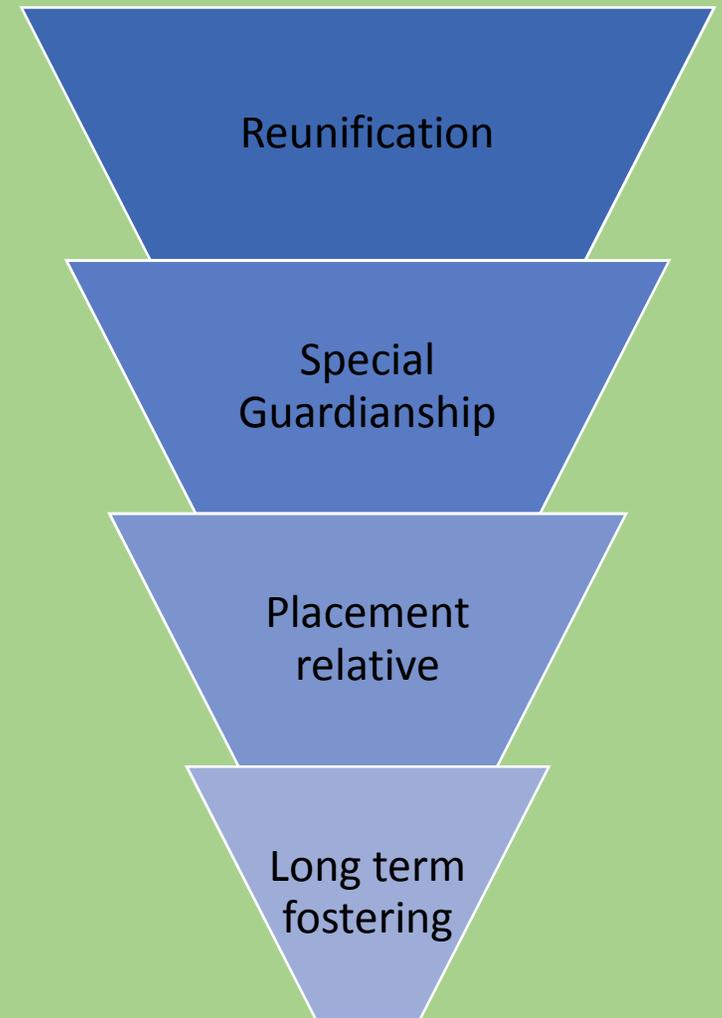


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Children under 6



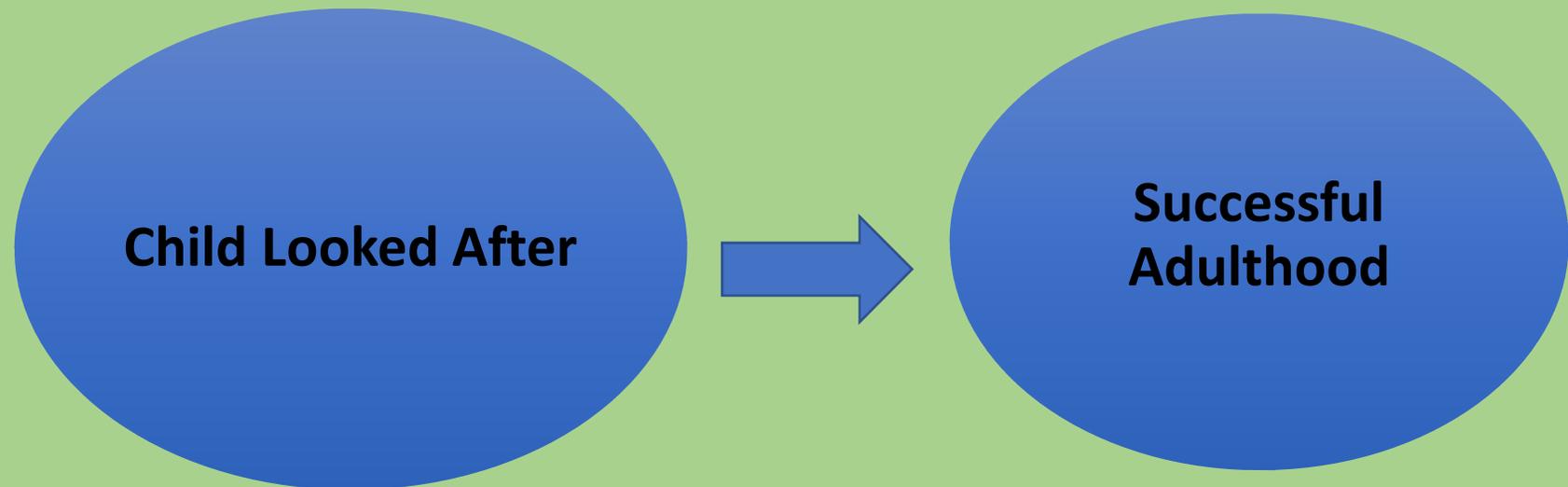
Children 7 to 17



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Outcome plans that must achieved

- good health,
- options for housing,
- education or employment and
- continuing support services.

Permanency

Permanency Challenges

Some children may be labeled early on as “unadoptable”
Family may require more or costly services to keep child safely at home
Workers may confuse placement with permanency
Workers confuse treatment/recovery needs with permanency needs
Workers forget that participation in normal activities
Promotes permanency
Creating stability in the workforce



nanancy

rm Fostering Matched



September 2019

136 Children Looked After

34 Long term matched

10 Placed with parents

34 Residential or semi independent

3 placed for adoption



May 2019

155 Children Looked After

22 Long term matched

8 Placed with parents

36 Residential or semi independent

5 placed for adoption

nanency

Force Stability



Video created by SILSLIP (children in care council)



We listened to children looked after



As a service we pledged to make changes



Co-created and shared their video was presented at a whole service away day

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