



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid

HM Inspectorate of Prisons
Youth Justice Board

Children in Custody 2014–15

**An analysis of 12–18-year-olds' perceptions of their experience
in secure training centres and young offender institutions**

Alissa Redmond

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

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Foreword

This report sets out how children in secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) describe their experience in the secure estate. It is based on the responses to surveys that were part of the unannounced inspections of every STC and YOI in 2014–15. Of the children in these establishments at the time of the inspections, 84% of them completed a survey. Survey responses do not provide a complete picture of an establishment – a key part of their purpose is to suggest the areas that need closer examination during the inspection. Similarly, this annual review raises important questions that policy makers and practitioners looking to the future of youth custody would do well to pursue.

Children in STCs generally reported more positively than those in YOIs, and overall, in both types of establishment, about four in five children said staff treated them with respect. Nevertheless, a significant minority of children in both STCs and YOIs described being frightened and unhappy. Although around four in five children described feeling safe on their first night, almost a third said they had felt unsafe at some time and more than one in 10 said they felt unsafe at the time the survey took place. Two out of five children said they had been physically restrained. This report contains some analysis of what other factors children who feel unsafe or have been restrained have in common, which may suggest areas on which to focus, in order to reduce these concerns.

Only slightly more than half the children in both types of establishment felt they had done anything in custody to make them less likely to offend in future. It is a significant concern that fewer boys in YOIs reported being involved in any kind of purposeful activity than at the time of any of our reports in the last five years.

We have published an annual summary of survey responses in YOIs since 2001–02 and the demographics and circumstances of the boys held has changed over that period. The proportion who said they were from a minority ethnic group has almost doubled between 2001–02 and 2014–15, from 23% to 42%, and the number of Muslim boys has risen from 16% in 2010–11, to 21% in 2014–15. There is also some evidence to support the suggestion, that as the number of boys in custody has fallen, those who remain are a more concentrated mix with more challenging behaviour and complex needs. The proportions of children who consider themselves to have a disability and who have been in local authority care have both risen sharply over the last five years.

The demographics of STCs and YOIs have some significant differences. YOIs do not hold girls and 16% of the children who responded to our survey in STCs were girls. STCs held a greater proportion of children under 16 than YOIs, although the average age of those in STCs was increasing. The proportion of children in STCs who told us they were from a black or minority ethnic background or were Muslim fell sharply. More children in STCs (52%) told us they were or had been in local authority care although the figure for YOIs was also high (38%).

Both STCs and YOIs continued to hold a hugely disproportionate number of children who described themselves as being from a Traveller or Gypsy background. In STCs, 11%

of children told us this – a hundred times greater than the 0.1% which is the estimated proportion in the population as a whole. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about this issue – with any other group such huge disproportionality would have led to more formal inquiry and investigation into what part of their backgrounds or interaction with the criminal justice system had led to this situation. Children from a Traveller background reported greater levels of need and worse experiences in custody than other children.

In the period we have been conducting these surveys, the number of children in custody has fallen sharply, the shape of the estate has changed and policy initiatives have come and gone. As a new round of reform begins, the voices of children in custody – describing what for them has changed and what remains consistent – is an important source of evidence that can help us understand where efforts and change should be focused.

Nick Hardwick
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

Key findings

This report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) presents the findings from 774 surveys completed by children detained at every secure training centre (STC) (N=4) and young offender institution (YOI) (N=5; plus a separate specialist unit at one site) which were all inspected between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. All surveys were conducted as part of an unannounced inspection of each establishment. The surveys enable comparisons to be made with the results in 2013–14 and between children with different characteristics or experiences. Surveys have been conducted in YOIs since 2001–02 and in some cases, where the same question has been asked consistently, we can identify trends over the full length of that period.

The number of children in custody fell by 49% between 2010–11 and 2014–15, made up largely by falls observed in the number of children held in YOIs (down 57%). Over the longer term, the secure estate population has fallen by 63% in the 10 years from 2005–06, reflecting the considerable reductions seen in the numbers detained in YOIs (down 67%) and secure children's homes (SCHs) (down 48%), relative to those held in STCs (up 10%).

In relation to STCs, our survey findings during 2014–15 show that:

- The proportion of children who identified as being from a black or other minority ethnic background was 35% (down from 44% in 2012–13).
- The proportion of boys identifying as Muslim had almost halved in recent years: from 21% in 2012–13 to 12% in 2014–15.
- Eleven per cent of children said they were from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background. This compares with estimates of 0.1% in the population as a whole.¹
- The children held were older than in previous years – those who were under 16 had fallen from 39% in 2012–13 to 28% in 2014–15.
- Of children held, 16% were girls and they were less likely to be under 16 (13% compared with 31% of boys). Girls were less likely than boys to report that they felt safe during their first night in the centre (76% compared with 89%).
- There was an increase in the proportion of children saying they had a disability (from 19% in 2012–13 to 22%).
- Over half of the children (52%) told us they had been or were in local authority care.
- Most children (93%) felt that staff at their centres treated them with respect (up from 88% in 2012–13), but 14% told us they would not turn to anyone if they had a problem. Family (55%) were the most likely source of support.
- One in four children (24%) had felt unsafe at their centre at some point and 7% did so at the time of our inspection. Children who had felt unsafe reported poorer experiences than other children across a range of areas.
- A large minority told us they had experienced verbal (39%) and physical (23%) forms of abuse from other children at the centre and 9% of children told us they had felt threatened or intimidated by staff.

¹ Office for National Statistics (2014) *What does the 2011 census tell us about the characteristics of Gypsy or Irish Travellers in England and Wales?* London: ONS.

- More than one in three children (37%) said they had been physically restrained by staff.
- One in four children (28%) said that they had health needs which were not being met.
- Fewer than half (47%) had visits at least once a week from family, carers or friends.
- Around two-thirds of children (68%) had been given advice about training or jobs they might like to do in future, or had been able to learn skills for these jobs (68%) while at the centre.

In relation to YOIs, our survey findings show that:

- The proportion of boys detained who identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background was 42% in 2014–15 (down from 45% in 2012–13 and up from 23% in 2001–02).
- The proportion of Muslim boys held had risen from 16% in 2010–11 to 21% in 2014–15. There had also been an increase over this period in the proportion of boys identifying as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller (from 6% to 8%), in boys who reported having a disability (from 9% to 18%), and in boys who had been in local authority care (from 27% to 38%).
- The proportion of boys saying they had ever felt unsafe was higher in 2014–15 (33%) than at any time since 2010–11 (when 27% of boys said this).
- Children who felt unsafe in YOIs during 2014–15 were more likely than other children to report that they: did not understand spoken English; considered shouting through windows to be a problem at their establishment; had emotional or mental health problems on arrival; did not feel that they were treated with respect by staff; and had more problems upon arrival at a YOI. This suggests that strategies to help children feel safer should focus on addressing these issues.
- Reported rates of engagement with education (73%), a job (28%), vocational training (14%) and offending behaviour programmes (17%) across the YOI estate were each lower in 2014–15 than at any point since 2010–11.
- The proportion of boys who reported having had a training, sentence or remand plan to facilitate their effective resettlement was lower in 2014–15 than at any point during the last five years.
- The extent to which boys thought that most YOI staff treated them with respect remained high in 2014–15 at 70% compared with 68% in 2013–14.

Comparing YOI and STC survey responses for 2014–15 showed that children held in STCs were significantly more likely to report feeling safe, respected by staff and having engaged in activities which they felt made it less likely that they would reoffend in future.

1. Scope of this report

This report sets out what children surveyed at STCs and YOIs in 2014–15 told us about their experiences of custody. It is based solely on children’s self-reported perceptions and experiences and therefore may differ from administrative data held by STCs and YOIs, and data reported by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

It is only the second report to collate our findings from surveys conducted at both STCs and YOIs.

Since 2001, a team of researchers from HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) has conducted surveys of children (aged 15 to 18) held in each YOI. The objective of the survey is to understand children’s perspectives on their treatment and conditions in custody, as part of the evidence base used by HMIP and the YJB. As well as being published in this annual report, the data collected is used during inspections, where they are triangulated with inspectors’ observations, discussions with the children themselves and the staff working with them, and documentation held in the establishment to inform overall inspection judgements and recommendations. Each YOI holding children has been surveyed annually since April 2008 and these surveys now form part of the annual unannounced inspections of each YOI. This is the eleventh annual report to detail survey responses from children in the YOI estate.

In 2012–13 HMIP, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) began jointly inspecting STCs and each centre is inspected annually on an unannounced basis. A survey was developed by HMIP in collaboration with Ofsted and CQC, and in consultation with children and staff in STCs, and the YJB, to ensure that children are able to comment on their treatment and conditions in custody. As part of the inspection process, children are surveyed about their experiences of the establishment and these survey findings are considered in conjunction with other evidence and form part of the evidence base for each inspection report, feeding into the overall judgements and recommendations.² This is the third report to detail responses from children surveyed in each of the four STCs.

² Individual inspection reports can be found at: http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisons/inspections/?post_type=inspection&s&prison-inspection-type=secure-training-centre-inspections; www.ofsted.gov.uk; or www.cqc.org.uk

2. Methodology

The data for this report derives from surveys conducted at all STCs and YOIs between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. All surveys were conducted as part of an unannounced inspection.

Separate questionnaires are used at STCs and YOIs as they are tailored to support the different inspection criteria used for each setting.³ As with all surveys used across the places of detention we inspect, these are subject to regular review (and the STC questionnaire was reviewed and amended, following consultation with various stakeholders, during the summer of 2014).

The survey questionnaires are included in the online appendices (see appendices A and B).

Sampling and recruiting respondents

All children in each STC and YOI at the time of the surveys were invited by HMIP researchers to complete a questionnaire. Every effort was made to speak to each child individually in order to explain the purpose and confidentiality of the survey and the independence of the inspection process. At STCs, interviews were offered to all children and were conducted with all those who wanted one; at YOIs, interviews were conducted with any boys who said they needed help to complete the survey due to literacy or language difficulties. Self-completed questionnaires were placed in sealed envelopes and collected by HMIP researchers.

During 2014–15, 98% of children detained in YOIs and STCs at the time of our inspections received a questionnaire and/or agreed to be interviewed by an HMIP researcher. As shown in Table 1, surveys and/or interviews were completed with over four-fifths (84%) of these detainees.

³ For YOIs: *HM Inspectorate of Prisons Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of children and young people and conditions in prisons*. For STCs: *Inspections of secure training centres: Framework for inspection*.

Table 1: Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2014–15

YOIs	DATE OF SURVEY	POPULATION ON SURVEY DATE	NUMBER OF SURVEYS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF RETURNED SURVEYS	RESPONSE RATE
Cookham Wood	9 June 2014	135	129	104	81%
Feltham	21 July 2014	167	158	132	84%
Parc	28 April 2014	49	49	45	92%
Werrington	1 September 2014	107	104	97	93%
Wetherby	12 January 2015	191	190	152	80%
Keppel Unit	9 March 2015	41	41	41	100%
YOI TOTAL		690	671	571	85%

STCs	DATE OF SURVEY	POPULATION ON SURVEY DATE	NUMBER OF SURVEYS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF RETURNED SURVEYS	RESPONSE RATE
Medway	16 September 2014	70	68	65	96%
Hassockfield	1 July 2014	38	38	33	87%
Rainsbrook	3 February 2015	77	77	54	70%
Oakhill	4 November 2014	66	66	51	77%
STC TOTAL		251	249	203	82%
OVERALL		941	920	774	84%

To ensure any child protection and safeguarding issues could be followed up, each questionnaire was numbered so that any relevant comments could be traced back to the respondent: before their interview began or when being given a survey, children were made aware of this.

Adjusting for non-responses

As responses were not received from every child, all survey data within this report are weighted to reflect the whole population at each centre. Therefore the overall responses are representative of all children in each establishment at the time of the survey.

Missing data, where respondents have not answered a question, have been excluded from the analysis. This means that percentages will have been calculated from different totals where there are different response rates across questions.

Figures quoted in this report have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Analyses conducted

Survey responses for STCs and YOIs were analysed separately. The following was produced separately for STCs and YOIs:

- analysis of responses by centre/YOI as well as the overall average response from children in the relevant custody setting;
- a comparison between survey responses in 2014–15 and 2013–14, which were tested for statistically significant differences⁴ – highlighting is used in the tables to show where there are significant differences;
- statistical comparisons between different subgroups within the 2014–15 responses, where numbers allowed – highlighting is again used in tables to show where there are significant differences.

For STCs survey data were analysed in order to compare and contrast the experiences of:

- boys and girls;
- children aged under 16 and those aged 16–18;
- black and minority ethnic children and white children;
- Muslim children and non-Muslim children;
- those who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller and those who did not;
- those who considered themselves to have a disability and those who did not;
- children who reported having been in local authority care and those who had not;
- children in custody for the first time and those with prior experience of detention;
- children who said that they had been physically restrained at their centre and those who said they had not;
- children who said they had ever felt unsafe at their centre and those who said they had never felt unsafe.

The full results from these analyses can be found in the online appendix A.

For YOIs we undertook analyses in order to compare and contrast the experiences of:

- boys aged under 17 and those aged 17–18;
- black and minority ethnic boys and white boys;
- Muslim boys and non-Muslim boys;
- those who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller and those who did not;
- boys who considered themselves to be disabled and those who did not;
- boys who said they had been in local authority care and those who said they had not;
- sentenced and unsentenced boys;
- boys in custody for the first time and those with prior experience of detention;
- boys who said they had been physically restrained at their establishment and those who said they had not;
- boys who had been held overnight in the care and separation unit and those who had not;
- boys who said they had ever felt unsafe at their establishment and those who said they had never felt unsafe;
- boys who said they had emotional or mental health problems and those who said they did not.

⁴ This refers to findings that are statistically significant at or below the 5% level ($p < 0.05$). In other words there is a 95% probability that the result has not occurred by chance (i.e. if you were to collect data from 100 samples of a similar size and replicated the analysis, 95 of the samples would produce the same result).

In addition, in YOIs we undertook a historic analysis of survey responses to comparable questions which had been asked since the first annual survey was published in 2001–2.

The full results from these analyses can be found in online appendix B.

Finally, a comparison was also conducted between survey responses received from children in STCs and boys held in YOIs for those questions which were asked in both settings.

Structure of the report

This is the second annual report to collate survey responses from both STCs and YOIs.

Section 3 provides background to and context for the survey findings.

Section 4.1 describes the main findings from surveys conducted at STCs during 2014–15. It includes an overview of the significant differences identified within the 2014–15 responses among specific sub-groups of the STC population. The statistically significant differences between the 2014–15 and 2013–14 STC cohorts are also presented.

Section 4.2 presents the main findings from surveys conducted at YOIs during 2014–15. It begins by outlining the self-reported characteristics of YOI survey respondents, as well as survey findings under each of the Inspectorate's healthy prison areas: safety, respect, purposeful activity and resettlement.⁵ It also includes an overview of the significant differences identified within the 2014–15 responses among specific sub-groups of the YOI population and compares 2014–15 with previous reporting years.

Section 4.3 compares findings between YOIs and STCs in 2014–15. This section also includes a comparison between 2014–15 and previous reporting years.

The full analyses and questionnaire templates are also available in online appendices A and B. In tables, cells are highlighted where the figure is significantly different to the comparison figure.

⁵ HMIP inspects YOIs against a set of inspection criteria known as *Expectations*. The latest version of these has been in use since they were published in June 2012. They are set out in *Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of children and young people and conditions in prisons*.

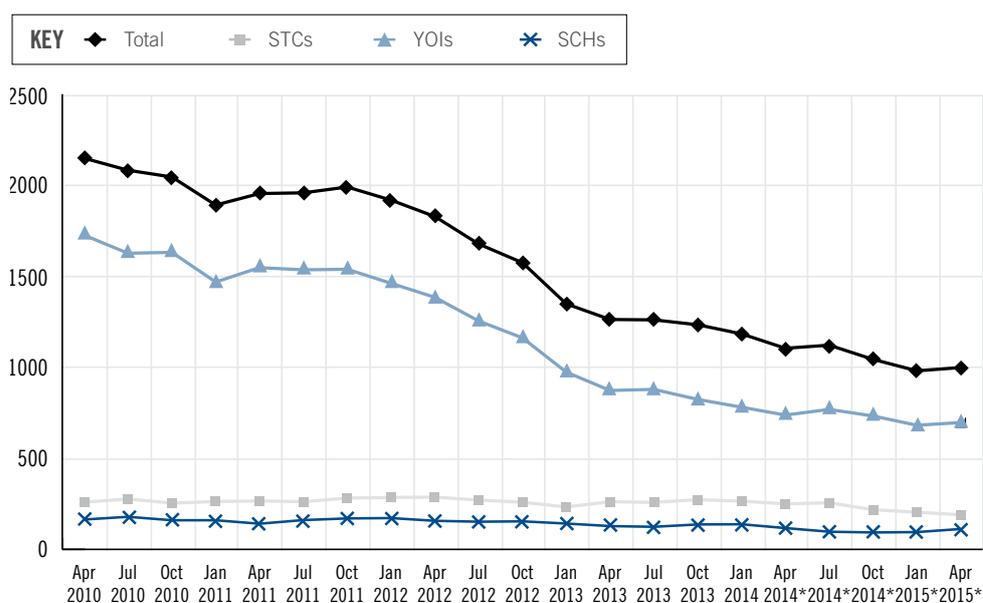
3. Background

Children in custody

The majority of children in custody are held in either young offender institutions (YOIs) or secure training centres (STCs). STCs are purpose-built facilities, originally designed to hold children aged between 12 and 14, although they may now hold boys and girls up to the age of 18. Juvenile YOIs hold boys between the ages of 15 and 18. Until 2013 there were dedicated YOI units for 17-year-old girls. Since these units closed down all girls under the age of 18 are held in either STCs or secure children's homes (SCHs). SCHs are smaller facilities run by local authorities. These usually accommodate girls aged between 12 and 16 and boys aged between 12 and 14, but also 15- and 16-year-old boys who are assessed as vulnerable. SCHs are not included in this report because the statutory responsibilities for inspecting them rest with Ofsted in England and CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) and Estyn in Wales. The number of girls in the secure estate has fallen from around 240 in 2005–06 to fewer than 50 by 2014–15.

The average number of children (aged under-18) in custody fell by 49% between 2010–11 and 2014–15 (from 2,040 to 1,048). As Figure 1 shows, the most substantial drop over this five-year period, was in children held in YOIs which fell by 57% (from 1,726 in April 2010–11 to 738 in April 2014–15). The number of children held in STCs and SCHs fell, but to a lesser extent, during this time (by 4% and 29% respectively). Over the longer term, in the 10 years from 2005–06, the average secure estate population (aged under 18) has fallen by 63%, driven largely by the considerable reductions seen in the numbers detained in YOIs (fell by 67% from 2,240 in April 2005–06 to 738 in April 2014–15) and SCHs (fell by 48% from 226 in April 2005–06 to 117 in 2014–15), relative to those held in STCs (increased by 10% from 227 in April 2005–06 to 250 in 2014–15).

Figure 1: Number of children in custody (including SCHs) over the past five years



*Provisional data⁶

6 Ministry of Justice (2015) *Youth custody report: May 2015*. Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data> [accessed 16.07.2015]

At the time of writing, the most recent published data (relating to 2013–14) show that most children are sentenced to custody in England and Wales following a conviction for a serious offence.⁷ The most common offences are robbery (32%), violence against the person (25%) and burglary – both domestic and commercial forms (17%). While the proportion of young people in custody for violent offences has remained broadly stable since 2010–11, those in custody following a conviction for robbery increased over this period (from 23% in 2010–11 to 32% in 2013–14).

Recent inspection findings on YOIs and STCs

Children's survey responses are one source of evidence for making judgements about an establishment as a whole. Published inspection reports provide an overall assessment based on a number of different evidence sources. These findings are summarised in the annual report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales. The latest report presented the findings from five full inspections of YOIs and four inspections of three STCs published during 2014–15.⁸ The report noted that while outcomes were still reasonably good for boys held in YOIs (particularly with regards to respect and resettlement), safety was not good enough in two of the five inspections conducted (at Cookham Wood and Feltham). It highlighted how fights and assaults, including assaults on staff, were frequent.

Living conditions had generally improved in YOIs, most notably at Cookham Wood, Feltham and Werrington. However, time out of cell was found to be poor. Only one YOI (Parc) achieved the expectation that children should be unlocked and out of their cell for 10 hours a day, and this was only achieved on weekdays.

The reduction in the number of YOI establishments meant that more young people were being held far from home, with potentially detrimental effects on family contact and prospects for effective resettlement, and the report underlined the need for establishments to consider alternative ways of enabling families and children to maintain regular contact. The inspection process had also revealed that boys were regularly uncertain about where they would be living on their release. Finding accommodation was often a particular problem for boys previously in looked-after care.

By contrast, STCs continued to provide generally good outcomes for the children in their care. The environment and facilities at the three STCs inspected were found to be of a good standard (and better than those observed in YOIs). However, the number of reported violent incidents had risen at two establishments (Medway and Oakhill). While STCs had introduced a new minimising and managing physical restraint (MMPR) model, which encourages de-escalation and a reduction in the use of force by staff, inspectors found a concerning increase in use of force.⁹

The latest HMIP annual report noted that the experiences of the small number of girls held in STCs were mixed. A joint inspection with HMI Probation published in December 2014¹⁰ had found that, while girls in custody spoke positively about staff and the help they had received to understand what they needed to do in order to resettle successfully on release, the risk of child sexual exploitation in the community was significant in many of the cases looked at, and responses to this issue by youth offending teams (YOTs) were variable.

7 Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice (2015) *Youth Justice Statistics 2013/14*. England and Wales. London: YJB/MOJ.

8 HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (2015) *Annual Report 2014–15*. <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/annual-report-2014-15/>

9 HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2015) *Behaviour management and restraint of children in custody*. London: HMIP.

10 HM Inspectorate of Probation, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Ofsted (2014) *Girls in the Criminal Justice System*. <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/girls-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>

Children in STCs were found to have made good progress in education (especially so at Medway) and resettlement work was good (and assessed as outstanding at Hassockfield).

The annual report highlighted the findings from a thematic review of transfers and escorts, published in December 2014.¹¹ This found that some escort vans carrying children to YOIs were dirty, and that the lack of seat belts commonly made children fear for their safety. By contrast, children in STCs had usually travelled in taxis and most reported a positive experience of the transfer and escort process.

The youth custodial estate in 2014–15

STCs

STCs are commissioned to provide each child with 25–30 hours of education each week. They have a staff-to-child ratio ranging from two staff members to seven children; to two staff members to five children. The average cost of a place in a STC is estimated to be £178,000 per annum. On 1 January 2014, the YJB commissioned 301 beds in STCs. During 2014–15, there were four STCs, all run by private operators on behalf of the YJB. HMIP and Ofsted inspected all four STCs during 2014–15:

- Hassockfield (County Durham) – held up to 58 children (both boys and girls) who were sentenced or on remand. It had been operated by Serco since 1999. The closure of Hassockfield was announced in October 2014 and it shut at the end of March 2015.
- Medway (Chatham, Kent) – is operated by G4S. It opened in April 1998 and originally held up to 40 children. The centre expanded in 2002 to accommodate a total of 76 boys and girls.
- Oakhill (Milton Keynes) – opened in 2004, originally to hold boys and girls. It now only holds up to 80 boys. It is operated by G4S.
- Rainsbrook (near Rugby) – opened in 1999 to accommodate 40 boys. It was expanded in 2002 to accommodate up to 87 boys and girls. In July 2007, a purpose built mother and baby unit opened to accommodate girls in the final stages of pregnancy onwards. The centre is operated by G4S.

YOIs

YOIs are commissioned to provide each child with 10 hours of ‘purposeful activity’ a week, with a further 15 hours of education per week provided by a private education provider. The staff-to-child ratio is a minimum of one member of staff to 12 children. As part of the Transforming Youth Custody programme, services in the secure estate were reviewed during 2014–15 in order to help make education the focus for children while they were held in custody. As a result, it was agreed that 60% of time spent on education would be ‘protected’, with no avoidable absences from education being permitted. The average cost of a place in a YOI is estimated at £65,000 per annum. On 1 January 2014, the YJB commissioned 1,311 beds in YOIs. In response to the fall in the number of children in custody, several YOIs have been decommissioned by the YJB in recent years. During 2014–15 there were five YOIs and one specialist unit operating, all of which were inspected:

- **Cookham Wood (Rochester, Kent)** – operates as a dedicated site (holding boys aged 15 to 18), having become a YOI in May 2008. It has a certified normal

¹¹ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2014) *Transfers and escorts within the criminal justice system*. <http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/transfers-and-escorts-within-the-criminal-justice-system/>

accommodation(CNA)¹² and operational capacity¹³ of 188 (as of March 2015).

- **Feltham (Middlesex)** – is a split site serving mainly the London area, holding both boys and young adults (aged 15 to 21). The under-18s side has a CNA and operational capacity of 240; however, the operational capacity has been temporarily reduced to 180 since April 2014. It holds both sentenced and unsentenced boys and has a substantial population of boys on remand.
- **Parc** (Bridgend, South Wales) – is a split site. It is the only male establishment to hold boys, young adults and adults on the same site. The boys' unit has a CNA and operational capacity of 64 and holds boys who are sentenced or on remand. It is privately run by G4S.
- **Werrington** (near Stoke-on-Trent) – is a dedicated site. It is one of the oldest establishments for boys and has a CNA and operational capacity of 160.
- **Wetherby** (West Yorkshire) – is a dedicated site. At the time of our inspection in January 2015 it had a CNA and operational capacity of 228. It includes a long-term unit which is the only dedicated unit holding boys with life or long-term determinate sentences.
- **Keppel Unit** (Wetherby) – is a 48-bed specialist unit which opened in 2008. It acts as a national resource for very vulnerable boys, and those who find it difficult to engage in the regime in larger establishments.

It should be noted that even on a split or mixed site, boys are still held in their own dedicated wings or units, and should be kept completely separate from older prisoners.

The youth custodial estate: policy developments during 2014–15

In the reporting year 2013–14, the coalition Government announced plans for the introduction of secure colleges, which would hold the majority of children in the custodial estate. In January 2014, in its response to the consultation *Transforming youth custody: Putting education at the heart of detention*,¹⁴ the Government stated that the aim of secure colleges was to provide 'a new generation of secure educational establishments where learning, vocational training and life skills will be the central pillar of a regime focused on educating and rehabilitating young offenders'. It set out plans for the construction of the first secure college in the Midlands, to hold up to 320 children and to be launched in 2017.¹⁵ The measures outlined in *Transforming youth custody* also saw the launch of a competition for new education provision within public sector YOIs which would more than double the number of hours of contracted education young people will receive to 30 hours each week. It also stated an intention for leaders from the education sector to play a more prominent role in the leadership of YOIs (in order to ensure that education became the focus of custodial regimes). It emphasised the importance of ensuring that effective plans were in place to support resettlement in the community and encouraged entry into education, training or employment.

12 CNA is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the service aspires to provide all prisoners.

13 The operational capacity of an establishment is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by area managers on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

14 Ministry of Justice (2013) *Transforming youth custody: Putting education at the heart of detention*, consultation paper CP4/2013. London: The Stationery Office.

15 Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/273402/transforming-youth-custody-consultation-response.pdf [accessed 01.07.2015]

The legislation to create secure colleges progressed throughout 2014 and into 2015. However, in July 2015 Andrew Selous MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, informed Parliament that ‘We are...not going ahead with the creation of a secure college pathfinder. All work on the proposed secure college pathfinder...has now ceased’.¹⁶

Following closure of the Transforming Youth Custody programme, responsibility for education in the young person’s estate has transferred to the YJB and is being delivered through the YOI reform programme. As this report was being finalised in September 2015, the government announced a review of youth justice to report in the summer of 2016.

¹⁶ Hansard (2015) ‘Secure colleges’, 9 July, Column 5710.

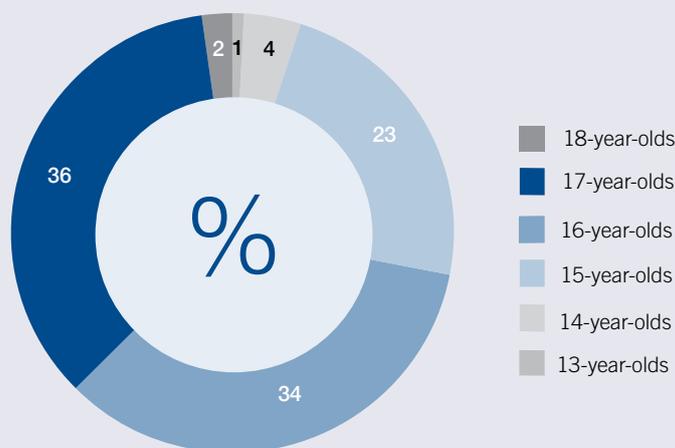
4. Results

4.1 Secure training centres – main findings

Demographics

Four secure training centres (STCs) were visited during 2014–15. Overall, 82% of the resident children completed a questionnaire as part of our inspection process. The majority (84%) of respondents were boys. Over a quarter (28%) of children reported that they were under 16.

Figure 2: Ages of children in STCs (2014–15)



White children accounted for 65% of the STC population and black children were the largest minority ethnic group (18%). However, the reported ethnicity of detainees varied considerably between centres: from 5% identifying as being from a black or minority ethnic group in Hassockfield, to 46% of children in Medway. The largest religious group was Christian (46%), closely followed by those of no religious faith (42%). Twelve per cent of children said that they were Muslim, again ranging from no detainees in Hassockfield to one in five children (20%) at Medway. Eleven per cent of children reported that they were Gypsy, Romany or Traveller, with a higher proportion doing so in Medway (18%) and Oakhill (16%) relative to elsewhere. Just over a fifth (22%) of children held in STCs during 2014–15 said that they had a disability (identical to the figure reported in 2013–14). Full details of the STC cohort for 2014–15 can be found in online appendix A2.

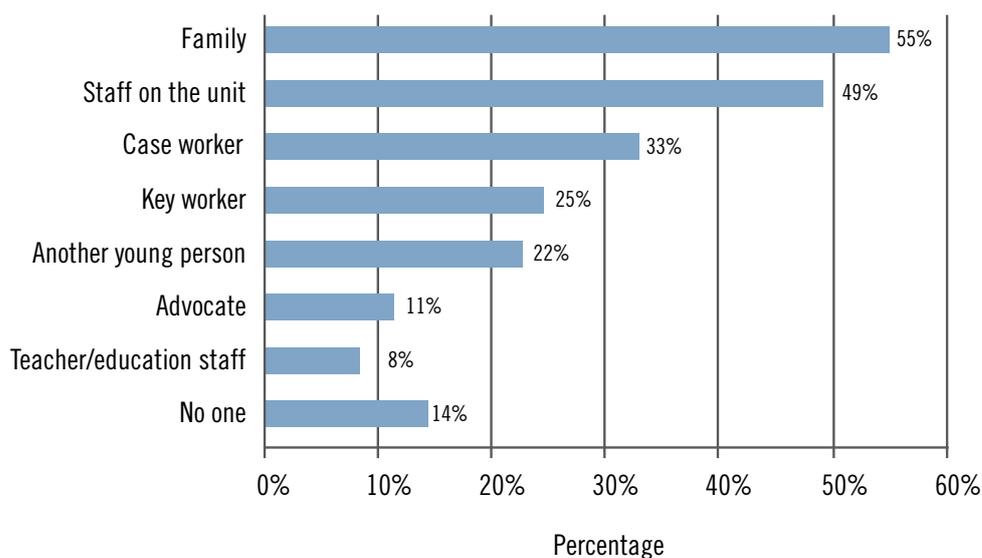
The trip to the centre and the first 24 hours

Most children (94%) said that staff looked after them on the journey to the centre and nearly all children (98%) were searched on their arrival. Although most children said they were treated with respect when being searched (95%), a lower proportion said that staff had explained why they were being searched (86%). The majority of children said they had seen a doctor or nurse before they went to bed on their first night (93%); however, fewer (79%) had spoken with a member of staff about how they were feeling on their first night. Eighty-seven per cent said that they felt safe on their first night.

Daily life

Four out of five children (79%) said they were told everything they needed to know about life at their centre in the first few days. Children were generally positive about their interactions and relationships with staff, with 93% reporting that most treated them with respect. Nevertheless, 14% of children felt there was 'no one' they would turn to if they had a problem at the centre. As illustrated in Figure 3, children detained in STCs were most likely to say they would turn to 'family' with a problem and least likely to seek support from a 'teacher' or 'education staff'.

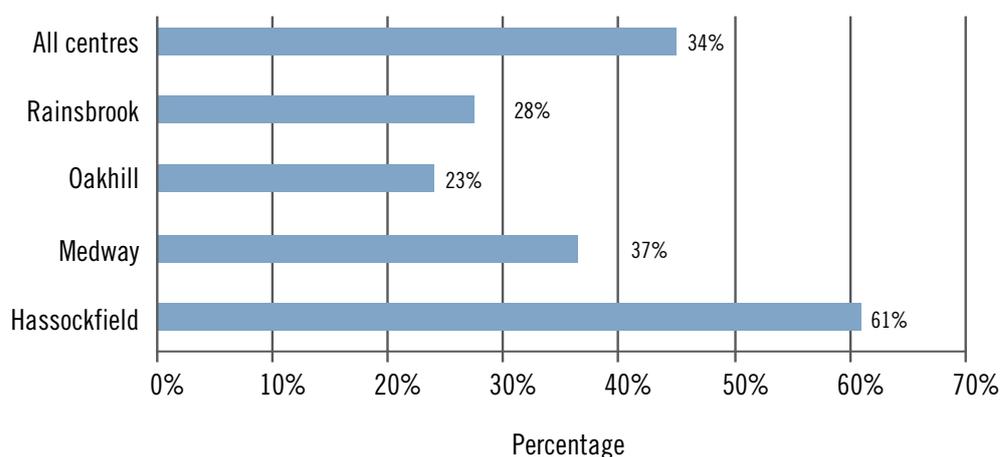
Figure 3: Who children said they would turn to if they had a problem (2014–15)



Most children (87%) said they had a key worker on their unit, though this varied across the four centres (from 53% in Hassockfield to 97% in Medway). The majority of those who reported having a key worker said that this person had helped them in some way (87%).

Seven out of 10 children said that they could follow or observe their religious belief if they wanted to. Only one-third felt that the food in their centre was 'good' or 'very good' (34%). As shown in Figure 4, below, there were marked variations in perceptions of food quality across the four centres inspected during 2014–15.

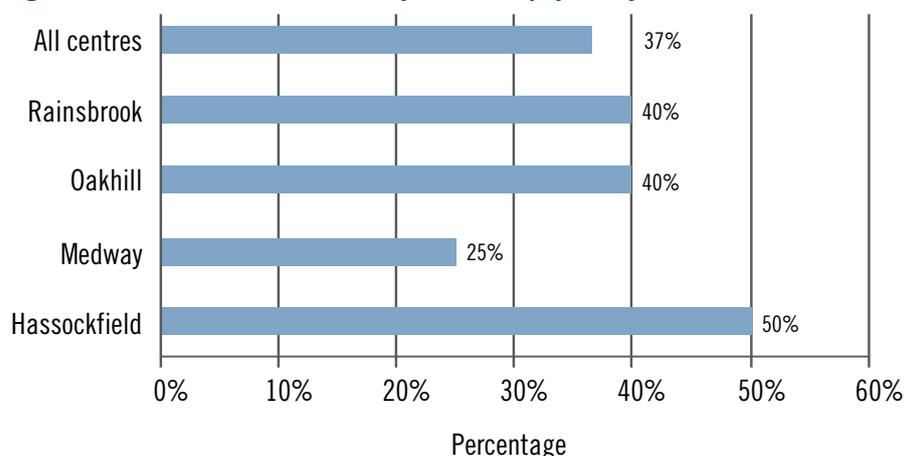
Figure 4: Proportion of children who said that the food in their centre was 'good' or 'very good' (2014–15)



Behaviour

Around three-quarters (73%) of the boys and girls detained in STCs during 2014–15 said that the incentives and sanctions scheme encouraged them to behave well, and two-thirds (67%) thought it was a fair system. Eighty-six per cent reported that if they got into trouble, staff explained what they had done wrong. Similarly, most children (81%) said that staff also let them know when their behaviour was good. Just over a third (37%) said they had been physically restrained at some point by staff at their centre. However, as shown in Figure 5, children in Hassockfield were twice as likely to report having been restrained as those held in Medway. Just under three-quarters (73%) of children who had been restrained said that they had been given a chance to talk to somebody about it afterwards. Again, experiences in this regard varied between centres: from 89% of those restrained in Rainsbrook to fewer than three-fifths in Hassockfield and Oakhill (57%).

Figure 5: Children who said that they had been physically restrained in their STC (2014–15)



How did the characteristics and experiences of children who had been physically restrained by STC staff differ from children who had not?

Children who said they had been physically restrained in 2014–15 were:

- more likely to say they had been seen by a doctor or nurse before going to bed on their first night in the centre (98% compared with 90%);
- more likely to say that if they had a problem they would turn to another young person at the centre (31% compared with 18%) or an advocate (17% compared with 7%);
- more likely to feel that they could follow their religious beliefs if they wanted to (80% compared with 65%).

However, they were also:

- more likely to report having been in local authority care (63% compared with 45%);
- less likely to report anyone talking to them about how they were feeling on their first night (72% compared with 84%) and that staff had explained why they were being searched when they first arrived at the centre (78% compared with 90%);
- more likely to report that staff had made them stay in their room away from other children because of something they had done (80% compared with 37%);

- less likely to have had a key worker on their unit (79% compared with 90%);
- less likely to say that the incentives and sanctions scheme encouraged them to behave well (63% compared with 79%), and think that the scheme was fair (53% compared with 75%);
- more likely to have been victimised by other children because of: their race or ethnic origin (16% compared with 5%); being from a Traveller community (7% compared with 0%); their sexual orientation (5% compared with 0%); gang-related issues (17% compared with 5%);
- more likely to report having been physically abused by staff (13% compared with 1%), and to attribute any victimisation by staff to: their offence or crime (7% compared with 1%); drugs (6% compared with 0%); medications they received (6% compared with 0%); or because they made a complaint (9% compared with 0%).

Full details can be found in online appendix A10.

Health services

Most children (92%) detained in STCs said that they were able to see a doctor or nurse if they felt ill, but there was substantial variation in perceptions of the quality of health services across centres. Those held in Hassockfield (86%) were twice as likely as those in Medway (43%) to report that the health services they had received were 'good', and when asked whether they had health needs which were not being met, this also varied, from 14% of children in Hassockfield to 40% in Medway.

Complaints

Almost all children (98%) held in STCs during 2014–15 said they knew how to make a complaint. Of those who had made a complaint, over two-thirds (68%) felt that it had been dealt with fairly (ranging from 53% of children in Oakhill to 94% in Hassockfield). Overall, around one in eight children (13%) said that they had been discouraged from making a complaint at some point because of concerns about the consequences (ranging from 3% in Hassockfield to 17% in Medway and Oakhill).

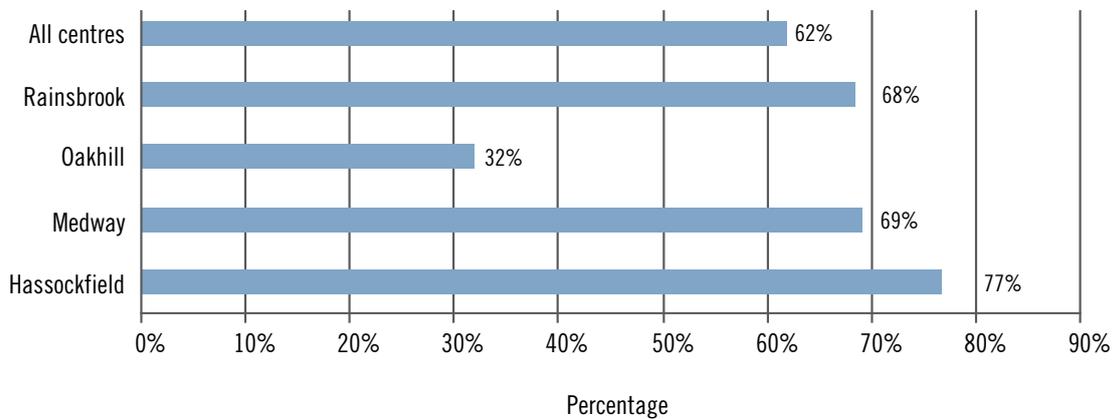
Education and activities

Just over half the children (52%) said they had a care plan setting out targets for them to achieve while in custody, with children in Hassockfield being most likely to report this (65%). Around two-thirds (68%) reported that they had been given advice about training or jobs. The same number (68%) said that they had been able to learn skills to help them in future jobs. In terms of education, 69% of children said that education in the centre would help them once they left, although there were diverse views on this across the four centres (from a low of 53% of children in Oakhill to a high of 83% in Hassockfield).

Four-fifths (83%) of respondents felt that they had been able to learn 'life skills' in their centre, and 86% said they were encouraged to take part in activities outside of education/training hours. However, less than three-quarters of children (70%) said that they knew where they would be living when they left the centre.

Around three in five children (62%) said that they had done something at their centre to make them less likely to offend in the future. As illustrated in Figure 6, views on this varied by centre, with children in Oakhill less likely to hold these views (32%) and those in Hassockfield most likely to (77%).

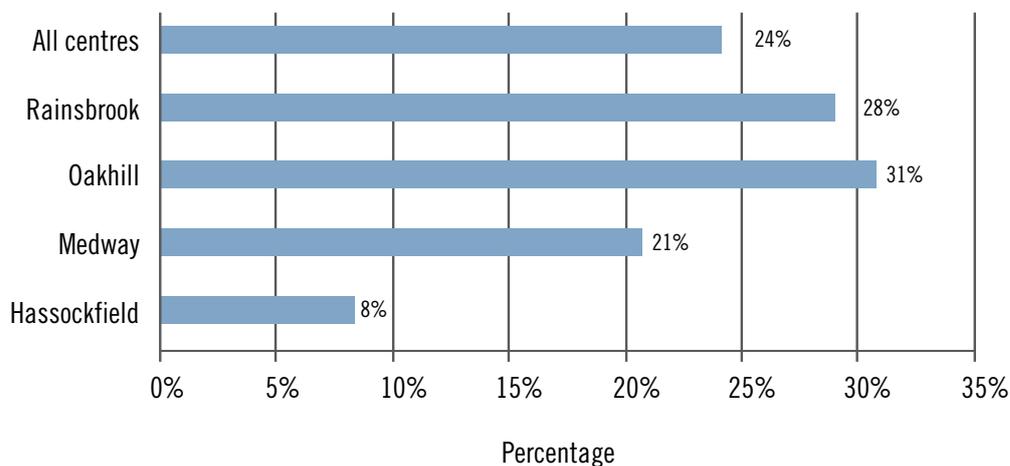
Figure 6: Children who said they had done something in their centre to make them less likely to offend in the future (2014–15)



Safety

A quarter of children (24%) held in STCs during 2014–15 said that they had felt unsafe in their centre at some point and 7% said that they felt unsafe at the time of the survey, both of which were not significantly different from the results in 2013–14. Perceptions and feelings of safety during 2014–15 varied cross the four centres inspected, however, ranging from 31% of children in Oakhill reporting that they had felt unsafe to 8% of those detained in Hassockfield (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of children who said they had ever felt unsafe in their centre (2014–15)



Children were asked about the types of victimisation they may have experienced from other young people detained at the STC. Two-fifths of children (39%) reported that they had been subjected to insulting remarks, around a quarter (23%) had experienced physical abuse, and 2% reported being the victim of sexual abuse at the hands of other children while at the centre. Around one in six children (17%) said that they had felt threatened or intimidated, one-third (32%) had been shouted or yelled at by other children through windows and more than one in 12 (8%) had had their canteen or property taken.

Just under half of children surveyed (46%) said that they would not tell a member of staff if they were being bullied or 'picked on'. In fact, around one in five children (18%) said that

a member of staff had insulted them. Six per cent of children said they had been physically assaulted and 2% reported to us that they had been sexually abused by a member of staff.

Feeling threatened or intimidated by staff was an experience reported by one in 11 children (9%) in 2014–15, and 7% said that their canteen and/or other property had been taken by staff. Children who reported they had felt unsafe at their centre were less likely to identify as being from a black or minority ethnic group (23% compared with 39%). Children who had felt unsafe also had poorer experiences in several areas of life in the centre, as shown below.

How did the characteristics and experiences of children who said that they had felt unsafe at some point at their centre differ from children who said they had not?

Arrival at the centre

Children detained in 2014–15 who said they had felt unsafe at some point at their centre were significantly less likely to:

- feel that staff had looked after them well on their journey to the centre (86% compared with 96%);
- report that staff explained why they were being searched on arrival (68% compared with 91%);
- say that staff treated them with respect during their search (88% compared with 97%);
- report that they were seen by a doctor or nurse before they went to bed on their first night (84% compared with 96%);
- say that they felt safe on their first night (66% compared with 84%).

However, they were also significantly less likely to report that they were searched on arrival at the centre (91% compared with 100%).

Daily life

Children who said they had felt unsafe at some point were less likely to report that they had been told everything they needed to know about life at the centre within their first few days (58% compared with 86%). They were more likely to say they would turn to an advocate if they had a problem (21% compared with 8%), and less likely to say that most staff treated them with respect (84% compared with 97%).

Behaviour

STC detainees who had felt unsafe at some point at their centre were less likely to:

- report that staff explained what they had done wrong when they got into trouble (67% compared with 91%);
- report that most staff let them know when their behaviour was good (69% compared with 85%).

Health services

Children who said they had felt unsafe at their STC were significantly less likely to report that they were able to see a doctor or nurse if they were ill (80% compared with 96%) and more likely to say that they had unmet health needs (45% compared with 22%).

Complaints

Children who said they had felt unsafe at their centre were significantly more likely to say that they had wanted to make a complaint but didn't because they were worried about what would happen to them (44% compared with 4%).

Education and activities

Those children who had felt unsafe at some point within their STC were significantly less likely to:

- say that they had been able to learn skills for jobs that they might like to do in the future (54% compared with 72%);
- say that they had been able to learn any 'life skills' at their centre (70% compared with 87%);
- report that they were encouraged to take part in activities outside of education/training hours (77% compared with 90%);
- say that they knew where they would be living once they left the centre (51% compared with 75%).

Safety

For those children who said they had felt unsafe at some point at their centre, one-third (32%) also felt unsafe at the time of the survey.

Children who said they had felt unsafe in detention were also significantly more likely to:

- say that they had experienced the following from other children at the centre: insulting remarks (70% compared with 28%); physical abuse (51% compared with 14%); sexual abuse (8% compared with 1%); feeling threatened or intimidated (60% compared with 3%); shout outs/yelling through the windows (64% compared with 22%); having their canteen/property taken (24% compared with 3%);
- report that victimisation from other children related to: having a disability (8% compared with 0%); being new at the centre (28% compared with 7%); their offence or crime (28% compared with 6%); gang-related issues or people that they know or mix with (22% compared with 5%); drugs issues (10% compared with 1%);
- say that they had experienced insulting remarks (41% compared with 10%) and had felt threatened or intimidated by staff at the centre (24% compared with 4%);
- report that victimisation from staff related to: their nationality (6% compared with 1%); their age (11% compared with 1%); being new at the centre (9% compared with 0%); their offence or crime (11% compared with 0%); gang-related issues or people that they know or mix with (11% compared with 0%).

Diversity

The survey allows us to compare children's experiences of discrimination based upon different diversity and protected characteristics. The full results from these analyses are available in online appendices A4 to A9.

Girls

In 2014–15, one in six STC detainees were female (16%). As expected, because girls were not held in YOIs, a lower proportion of girls than boys in STCs said they were under 16 (13% compared with 31%). Girls were less likely to report having a disability (3% compared with 26%). Girls were less likely to say that they had felt safe on their first night at the centre (76% compared with 89%), though a higher proportion said would turn to a key worker if they had a problem (39% compared with 22%). Compared with boys, girls were less likely to report that they knew how to make a complaint (90% compared with 100%). They were also more likely to report experiencing insulting remarks from other children (65% compared with 34%), and to attribute any experiences of victimisation to their race or ethnic origin (19% compared with 6%).

Children under 16

Of those surveyed in 2014–15, 28% of children were under 16 and 72% of children were aged 16 to 18. (This is a significant reduction from 2013–14 when 37% of respondents were aged under 16.) A higher proportion of those under 16 said they were from a minority ethnic group (45% compared with 30%), and identified as Muslim (19% compared with 8%). Those aged under 16 painted a broadly more positive picture about victimisation than those aged 16 and above – a lower proportion said that they had experienced insulting remarks from other children (24% compared with 44%), and said their canteen and/or property had been taken (2% compared with 11%). They were also less likely than children aged 16 to 18 to report that any victimisation related to their race or ethnic origin (2% compared with 12%), but more likely to state that it was as a consequence of their gender (5% compared with 0%).

Children who said they were from a black or other minority ethnic group

Around one in three children (35%) held in STCs self-identified as being from a black and minority ethnic group during 2014–15 (down from 43% in 2013–14). Children from a black and minority ethnic background were more likely than those who were not, to say that they were aged under 16 (37% compared with 23%). A higher proportion of black and minority ethnic detainees said they were Muslim (32% compared with 2%).

Black and minority ethnic children held in STCs were more likely than white children to report that if they had a problem, they would turn to another young person at the centre (31% compared with 17%). A higher proportion said that they had a key worker on their unit (95% compared with 82%), and almost nine out of 10 black and minority ethnic children said that they could follow their religion if they wanted to, compared with just six out of 10 white children (88% compared with 59%).

Additionally, black and minority ethnic children were significantly less likely than white children to report: ever feeling unsafe at their centre (16% compared with 29%); feeling threatened or intimidated by other children (9% compared with 23%); having had their

canteen and/or property taken (1% compared with 11%); that any victimisation from other children was attributed to them being from a different part of the country (1% compared with 10%), for being new at the centre (4% compared with 16%), or because of their offence or crime (1% compared with 15%). However, they were more likely to say that experiences of victimisation from other children were related to their gender (4% compared with 0%), and less inclined to tell a member of staff if they were being bullied or 'picked on' (38% compared with 63%). These results are set out in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Survey responses – Black and minority ethnic children compared with white children

KEY TO TABLES		Black and minority ethnic children	White children
	Significantly better for black and minority ethnic children		
	Significantly worse for black and minority ethnic children		
	A significant difference in background details		
Number of completed questionnaires returned		70	130
SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU			
1.2	Are you aged under 16?	37%	23%
1.4	Are you Muslim?	32%	2%
1.5	Do you consider yourself to be Gypsy/Romany/Traveller?	3%	15%
SECTION 3: DAILY LIFE			
	If you had a problem, who would you turn to?		
3.2f	Another young person here	31%	17%
3.3	Do you have a key worker on your unit?	95%	82%
3.6	Can you follow your religion if you want to?	88%	59%
SECTION 8: SAFETY			
8.1	Have you ever felt unsafe here?	16%	29%
	Have you experienced any of the following from young people here:		
8.4d	Feeling threatened or intimidated?	9%	23%
8.4f	Having your canteen/property taken?	1%	11%
	For those who have indicated any of the above, what did it relate to:		
8.5d	Your being from a different part of the country than others?	1%	10%
8.5i	Your being new here?	4%	16%
8.5j	Your offence or crime?	1%	15%
8.5o	Your gender?	4%	0%
8.10	If you were being bullied or 'picked on', would you tell member of staff?	38%	63%

Children who said they were Muslim

Of the children in STCs, 12% said they were Muslim. This was not significantly different from the 2013–14 results. The corresponding figure for 2012–13 was 21%. Children who said they were Muslim were more likely to report being younger, for example, under 16 (48% compared with 26%) and from a black and minority ethnic background (89% compared with 26%).

Almost all Muslim children said they could follow their religion while in their STC if they wanted to (96% compared with 66% of non-Muslim children). However, they were less likely to report: that staff had explained why they were being searched upon their arrival at the centre (71% compared with 87%); that they had been seen by a doctor or nurse before they went to bed on their first night (82% compared with 94%); that someone had talked to them about how they were feeling on that first night (57% compared with 81%); that if they had a problem they would turn to a key worker (4% compared with 25%); that most staff treated them with respect (82% compared with 95%); that if they felt ill they were able to see a doctor or nurse (80% compared with 94%); that they had been able to learn some 'life skills' at their centre (63% compared with 84%); and that they knew where they would be living when they eventually left the centre (38% compared with 74%).

Muslim children held in STCs during 2014–15 were also more likely than non-Muslim children to report: that they had unmet health needs (50% compared with 25%); that they had received insulting remarks from staff (43% compared with 16%); that they had felt threatened or intimidated by staff (29% compared with 8%); and that any victimisation from staff stemmed from their race or ethnic origin (29% compared with 4%), or because of their religious beliefs (29% compared with 3%).

Children who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller

Of the children detained in STCs during 2014–15, 11% considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller. This figure is unchanged from 2013–14.

These children were more likely to say they had a disability (52% compared with 18%). A lower proportion of children who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller said they felt that staff had looked after them well on their journey to the centre (78% compared with 95%). They were also less likely to say: that they would turn to a caseworker if they had a problem (14% compared with 36%); that most staff treated them with respect (82% compared with 95%); or that they had a care plan setting out targets for them to achieve while in custody (39% compared with 54%). Additionally, they were more likely to say that they had had their canteen and/or property taken by other children in the centre (25% compared with 6%) and to attribute any victimisation from other children to drugs (17% compared with 2%). Those children identifying as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller were also significantly more likely to report having experienced physical (17% compared with 4%) and sexual (9% compared with 1%) forms of abuse from staff, and to attribute any reported victimisation at the hands of staff to their religious beliefs (14% compared with 3%), or to the fact that they had a disability (9% compared with 0%).

Children who said they had a disability

One in five children (22%) held in STCs during 2014–15 considered themselves to have a disability (identical to the figure for 2013–14).

Those who considered themselves to have a disability were more likely than those who did not, to identify as Gypsy, Romany, or Traveller (28% compared with 7%). These children were less likely to report that they were searched on arrival at the centre (93% compared with 100%), and more likely to say that they would turn to a teacher/education staff if they had a problem (18% compared with 5%). However, they were also more likely to say that they had had unmet health needs (49% compared with 21%), and that they had wanted to make a complaint, but didn't because they were worried about what would happen to them (29% compared with 9%).

Children who said they had a disability were also significantly more likely to report that they had had their canteen and/or property taken by other children at the centre (26% compared with 3%) and to attribute any victimisation by other children to them being from the Traveller community (9% compared with 1%). Victimisation by staff was attributed to them being new to the centre (11% compared with 0%); their offence or crime (9% compared with 1%); their family or friends (9% compared with 1%); or medications they were receiving (9% compared with 0%).

Children who said they had ever been in local authority care

Over half (52%) the children held in STCs during 2014–15 said they had been in local authority care (see online appendix A12).¹⁷ These children were less likely to say that they had visits from family, carers or friends at least once a week (34% compared with 61%), and that they knew where they would be living when they left the centre (52% compared with 89%). They were more likely to say that they had been physically restrained during their time at the STC (45% compared with 29%), and that they had felt threatened or intimidated by other children while at their centre (25% compared with 10%). These results are set out in Table 3, below.

Table 3: Survey responses – Children who had ever been in local authority care and those who had not

KEY TO TABLES		Children who have been in local authority care	Children who have not been in local authority care
	Significantly better for children who have been in local authority care		
	Significantly worse for children who have been in local authority care		
	Number of completed questionnaires returned	103	97
SECTION 3: DAILY LIFE			
3.9	Do you have visits from family, carers or friends at least once a week?	34%	61%
SECTION 4: BEHAVIOUR			
4.6	Have you been physically restrained since you have been here?	45%	29%
SECTION 7: EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES			
7.8	Do you know where you will be living when you leave the centre?	52%	89%
SECTION 8: SAFETY			
	Have you experienced any of the following from young people here?		
8.4d	Feeling threatened or intimidated?	25%	10%

¹⁷ This was the first year a question on experience of local authority care was asked of STC respondents.

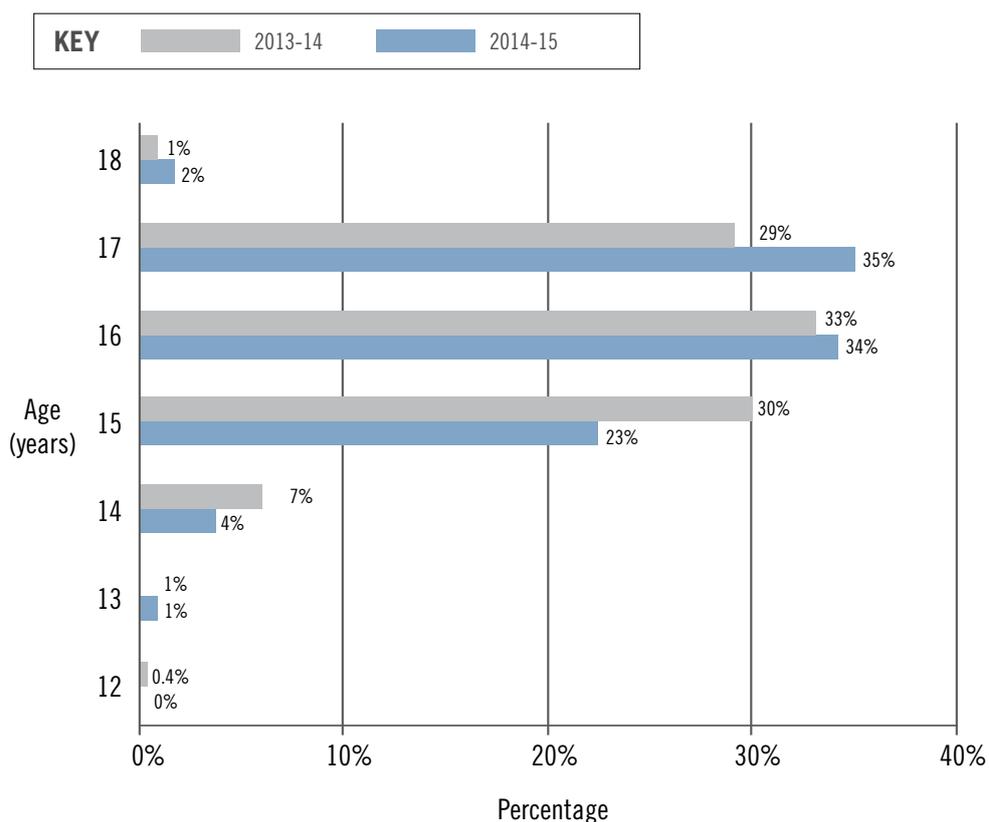
What were the main changes observed within STCs since 2013–14?

The full comparison of survey responses between the 2014–15 and 2013–14 reporting years is available in online appendix A3. Our STC questionnaire was revised in April 2014, and as such some questions are no longer directly comparable.

When contrasting survey responses from 2013–14 with those from 2014–15, only five of the 47 comparable questions showed a significant difference. In 2014–15:

- a lower proportion of children said they were aged under 16 (28% compared with 37%), see Figure 8;
- children were less likely to say they would turn to a key worker for help if they had a problem (25% compared with 33%), and more likely to say they would turn to another young person at the centre (22% compared with 13%);
- a lower proportion of children said that they had a care plan setting out targets for them to achieve while in custody (52% compared with 64%), and that they were encouraged to take part in activities outside education/training hours (86% compared with 94%).

Figure 8: Age range of children detained in STCs (2013–14 and 2014–15)

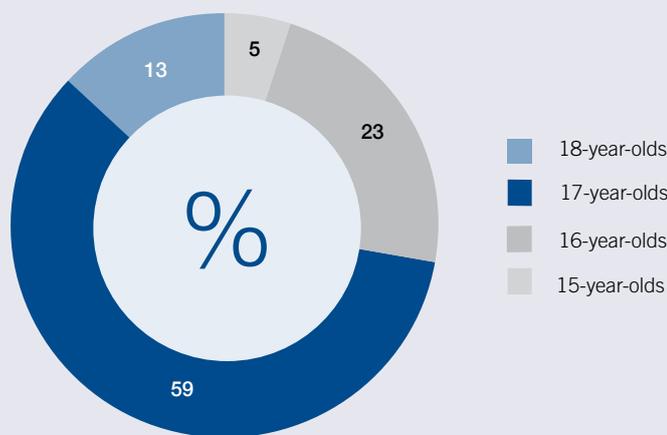


4.2 Young offender institutions – main findings

Demographics

Five young offender institutions (YOIs) were inspected, plus the specialist unit (Keppel) which is part of Wetherby YOI (full results can be found in online appendix B2). Three were dedicated sites and two were split sites. Overall, 85% of the children detained in them completed a survey as part of our inspection process. All of those held in YOIs were boys. As illustrated in Figure 9, most of the boys in YOIs during 2014–15 were 17 years old (59%). By contrast, only 5% said they were aged 15. Fewer than one in eight boys (13%) were 18 years of age.¹⁸

Figure 9: Ages of boys in YOIs (2014–15)



Five per cent of boys were foreign nationals. The proportion of foreign nationals ranged from 3% (in the Keppel Unit) to 7% (in Werrington). Almost all boys held in YOIs during 2014–15 said they understood spoken (99%) and written English (98%).

The highest proportion of boys (58%) said they were from a white ethnic background, and 42% identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background. The proportion of boys who identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background varied considerably between establishments from 2% in the Keppel Unit, 47% at Cookham Wood and 74% at Feltham.

Of those boys who said they had a religion (68%), most said they were Christian (41%) and one in five (21%) said that they were Muslim. The proportion of boys who said their religion was Muslim in 2014–15 varied considerably across the six inspected sites, from 3% in the Keppel Unit to 36% in Feltham.

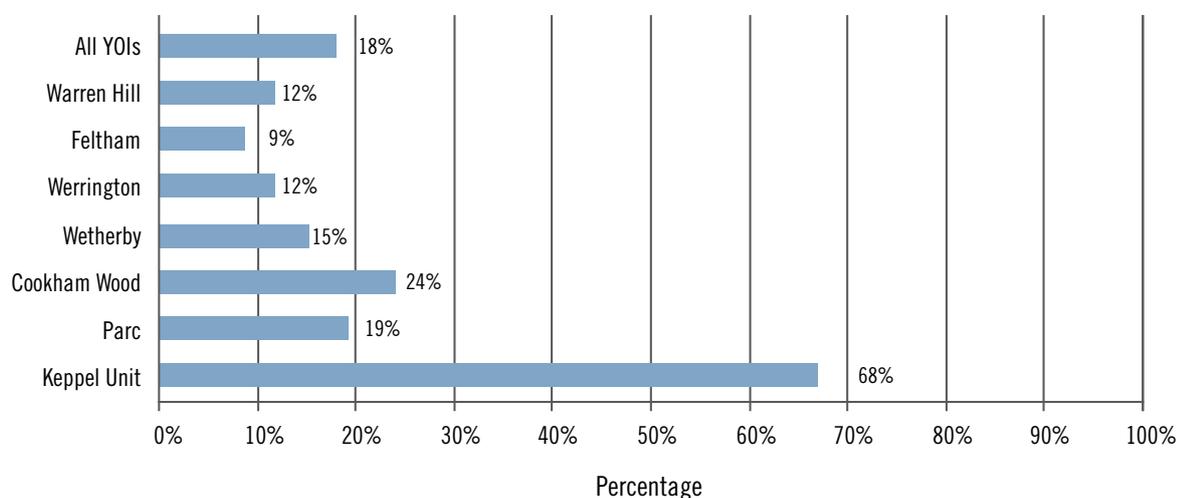
Just over one in 12 (8%) YOI detainees considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller. However, these boys were not evenly distributed across the YOI estate. For example, the proportion of boys identifying as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller in the Keppel Unit (15%) was three times that observed in Parc (4%) and Feltham (5%).

In 2014–15, 18% of boys considered themselves to have a disability (up from 9% in 2010–

¹⁸ If children only have a short time left to serve after their eighteenth birthday, it may be considered too disruptive to move them to a different type of establishment for such a short time, in which case – dependent on a risk assessment – they would remain in the YOI. Children turning 18 but sentenced to a DTO will also remain in a YOI unless they pose a risk to other young people.

11). As illustrated in Figure 10, levels of self-reported disability ranged from two-thirds (68%) of the boys held in the Keppel Unit to around one in 11 detainees in Feltham (9%).

Figure 10: Boys detained in YOIs who considered themselves to have a disability (2014–15)



Almost two-fifths (38%) of YOI detainees reported that they had been in local authority care at some point, with the highest proportion in the Keppel Unit (64%) and lowest proportions in Feltham (33%) and Wetherby (32%).

One in 11 boys (9%) said that they themselves had dependent children, with considerable variation across the six sites, ranging from 4% in Feltham to 17% in Cookham Wood.

As shown in Table 4, below, there have been some considerable changes over time in the profile of boys held in YOIs, most notably in relation to their ethnicity and disability status.

Table 4: Boys' YOI survey responses 2001/03–2014/15 (N=6,238)

	2001/03	2004/06	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Question							
Number of completed questionnaires returned	1089*	929*	1052	926	942	729	571
Characteristics							
Are you 18 years of age?	11%	12%	14%	12%	15%	11%	13%
Are you a foreign national?	N/A	N/A	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Do you understand spoken English?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	99%	99%	99%
Do you understand written English?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%	98%	98%
Are you from a minority ethnic group? (Including all those who did not tick white British, white Irish or white other category.)	23%	23%	39%	42%	45%	41%	42%
Are you Muslim?	N/A	N/A	16%	21%	22%	22%	21%
Do you consider yourself to be Gypsy/Romany/ Traveller?	N/A	N/A	N/A	5%	5%	6%	8%
Do you have any children?	12%	10%	13%	12%	11%	11%	9%
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	N/A	N/A	9%	11%	16%	19%	18%

Question	2001/03	2004/06	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Have you ever been in local authority care?	37%	29%	27%	30%	33%	33%	38%
Do you have any emotional or mental health problems?	N/A	N/A	21%	27%	19%	23%	24%
Did you have any problems with drugs when you first arrived?	N/A**	N/A	33%	36%	34%	37%	36%
Safety							
Have you ever felt unsafe in the establishment?	36%	32%	37%	32%	30%	29%	33%
Do you feel unsafe now?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11%	11%	13%
Respect							
Do most staff treat you with respect?	N/A	76%	63%	64%	74%	68%	70%
Purposeful activity							
Involved in education	72%	79%	74%	80%	79%	75%	73%
Involved in a job	34%	33%	31%	31%	28%	30%	28%
Involved in vocational training	N/A	N/A	19%	20%	18%	14%	14%
Involved in offending behaviour programmes	N/A	N/A	22%	24%	24%	20%	17%
Resettlement							
Do you have a training plan, sentence plan or remand plan?	N/A***	N/A	47%	49%	53%	51%	41%

*Boys responses only.

**Asks respondents about any drug problems on arrival OR in the past (28% said 'yes').

***Results relate only to sentenced respondents (86% of whom said they had a training or sentence plan) N/A=Not asked.

Sentence status and length

Three-quarters (75%) of YOI respondents said that they were sentenced, while one in four were unsentenced or on remand. Although most of the boys held in the Keppel Unit (88%) had been sentenced, more than two-fifths of those detained in Feltham (43%) had not. Almost half of sentenced boys said they were serving 12 months or less (48%), while nearly one in three (31%) were serving a sentence of two years or more. Only 2% said they were subject to an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP). Around three-quarters (73%) had been in the establishment for six months or less at the time of our inspection in 2014–15.

Unsentenced boys reported a poorer experience than sentenced boys in some key areas (see online appendix B9). They were significantly less likely to report feeling that their personal officer tried to help them (54% compared with 65%); that complaints were easy to make (50% compared with 61%), or that applications were resolved within seven days (35% compared with 50%). While unsentenced boys were less likely to report having been victimised by staff because of their race/ethnic origin (0% compared with 5%) or religious beliefs (0% compared with 3%), they were also less likely to feel that staff would take reports of victimisation seriously (22% compared with 32%).

Unsentenced boys were less likely to have had a job in the establishment (16% compared with 31%); to be engaged in vocational or skills training (7% compared with 16%); and offending behaviour programmes (11% compared with 19%).

Prior experiences of custody

Overall, almost three-fifths (58%) of boys in 2014–15 said that this was their first time in custody in a YOI, secure children's home (SCH) or secure training centre (STC). With one exception (Parc, 47%), this was reportedly the case for over half the population in each of the establishments inspected.

Compared with those who had been in custody before, those boys who said it was their first time were significantly less likely to have: had access to a chaplain (39% compared with 56%) or ChildLine/Samaritans (15% compared with 22%) during their first 24 hours; seen a doctor or nurse before being locked up on their first night (65% compared with 74%); felt safe on their first night (72% compared with 87%); attended an induction course which covered everything they needed to know about the establishment (55% compared with 64%); felt able to speak to a chaplain of their faith in private (62% compared with 75%), a member of the Independent Monitoring Board (21% compared with 28%), or an outside advocate (40% compared with 53%). Additionally, they were more likely to report that they had felt unsafe at some point in the establishment (37% compared with 28%).

In contrast, those new to custody in 2014–15 were significantly more likely to report that they: believed most staff treated them with respect (75% compared with 64%); saw the different IEP levels (positively) affecting their behaviour (49% compared with 40%); felt staff would take them seriously if they reported victimisation (34% compared with 24%); perceived the overall quality of health services in the YOI to be 'good' or 'very good' (54% compared with 46%); had participated in educational activities while in custody which would help them on release (65% compared with 56%); received one or more visits per week from family and friends (43% compared with 27%); and considered it 'easy' or 'very easy' for family and friends to visit them (36% compared with 26%). (Further details on the experiences of those in custody for the first time during 2014–15 can be found in online appendix B10.)

The Keppel Unit

As described in Section 3, the Keppel Unit is a specialist centre for very vulnerable boys. As such, the characteristics of the boys detained there were quite distinct from those held at other YOIs. At the Keppel Unit in 2014–15:

- more than a quarter (27%) of boys said they were 18;
- there was the lowest proportion across YOIs saying that they were from a black and minority ethnic background (2%) or that they were Muslim (3%), and only one of the 41 children said they were a foreign national;
- 15% identified as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller, the highest proportion across the YOI estate;
- almost two-thirds (64%) said they had been in local authority care at some point and a similar proportion (68%) considered themselves to have a disability (the highest rates of care and disability observed across the YOI estate);
- one in 10 (10%) said they themselves had children;
- more than in any other establishment, respondents from the Keppel Unit (70%) reported that this was their first time in custody.

The trip to the establishment

More than four-fifths (83%) of boys held in YOIs during 2014–15 said they felt safe on their most recent journey to the establishment. Around one in three boys (36%) reported travelling with adults (people aged 18 or over) or with female detainees, ranging from 25% of boys in Cookham Wood to 42% in Feltham.

Over half of the boys surveyed (51%) said they spent more than two hours in the van, with 6% reporting spending more than four hours travelling to the establishment. Among those who had spent two or more hours in the van, only around one in eight (13%) said that they were offered a toilet break and fewer than half (45%) had been offered anything to eat or drink.

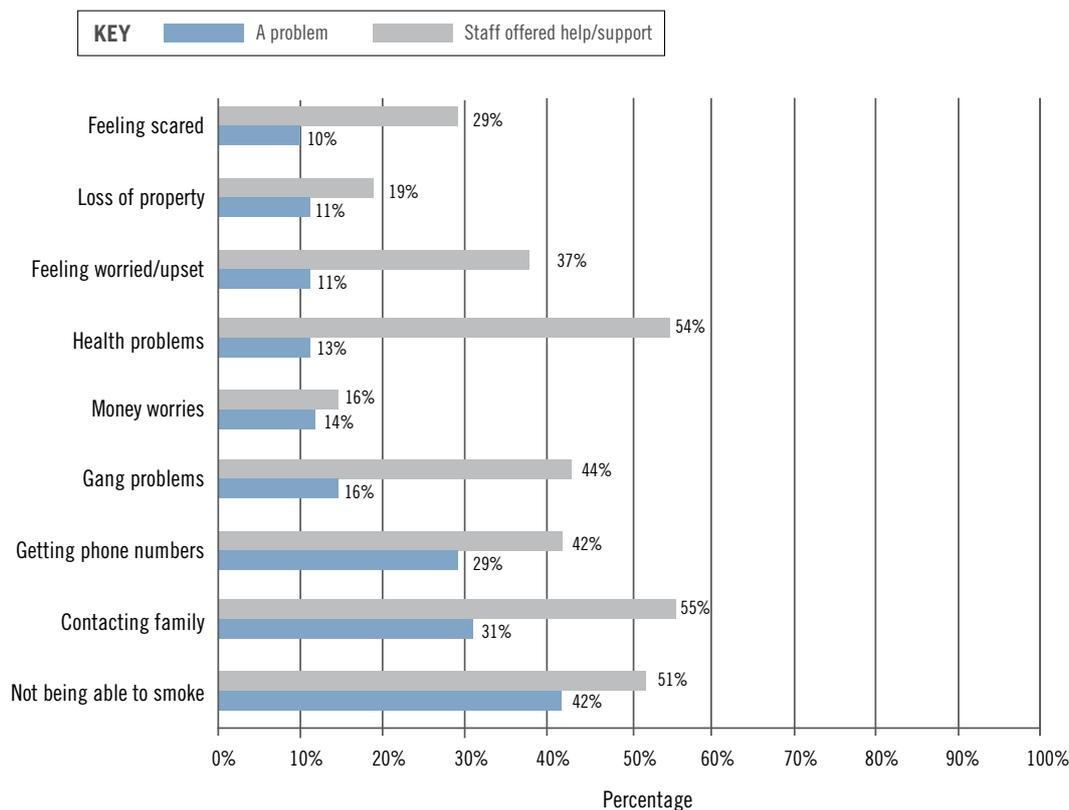
Just over half (54%) the YOI cohort in 2014–15 felt they had been treated ‘well’ or ‘very well’ by escort staff and one in six (17%) said that they had received helpful information to prepare them for coming to the establishment.

First days in custody

Four out of five YOI detainees (80%) said that they were in reception for less than two hours, and a similar proportion (82%) felt that they had been searched during the reception process in a respectful way. Overall, 69% said they had been treated ‘well’ or ‘very well’ in reception, but this view was not consistently held across the YOI estate, ranging from less than half (47%) of boys in Feltham to 88% of those detained in the Keppel Unit.

Boys were asked whether they had a variety of different problems when they first arrived, and whether staff had asked them if they needed help or support in these areas (regardless of whether it was an issue for them or not). Their responses are set out in Figure 11, below.

Figure 11: Problems experienced by boys and help offered to them on arrival at a YOI (2014–15)



Overall, nearly three-quarters (73%) of the YOI population said they had at least one problem upon their arrival at the establishment.¹⁹ Not being able to smoke was the most common issue raised (42%), followed by problems contacting family (31%) and getting hold of phone numbers (29%). One in nine boys (11%) reported feeling worried or upset. Around half of boys in YOIs during 2014–15 reported that staff had asked them if they needed help with any health problems, contacting family members, or not being able to smoke when they first arrived at the establishment. Boys were also asked what facilities they had been offered on arrival. Although around four-fifths said they had been given something to eat (83%), a free phone call (77%), and basic toiletries (79%), only one in three boys had been given any information about feeling worried or upset following their arrival at the establishment (32%).

Respondents' experiences of the arrivals process at a YOI varied markedly across the estate. While only one in four (24%) boys at Feltham had been given the opportunity to take a shower on arrival, almost three-quarters (73%) had been afforded this at Cookham Wood. Boys in Werrington (62%) were twice as likely as those in Parc (31%) to report being given PIN phone credit. Less than half (46%) of boys held in a YOI during 2014–15 had access to a chaplain in the first 24 hours (ranging from 30% of boys in Feltham to 68% of boys in the Keppel Unit). Only one in nine boys (11%) had access to a peer mentor (ranging from 6% in Feltham and Parc to 23% in the Keppel Unit); around one in five boys (18%) had access to ChildLine/Samaritans; and one in eight boys (12%) had access to the prison shop/canteen. More than two-thirds (68%) of boys were seen by a doctor or nurse before they were locked up on their first night (ranging from 52% in Feltham to 83% in Werrington and Cookham Wood). Most boys (79%) reported feeling safe on their first night, from a high of 90% in Parc to 73% in the Keppel Unit. For those who had been on an induction course following their arrival, three-fifths (59%) said that it had covered everything they needed to know about the establishment.

Perceptions of safety and experiences of victimisation

One in three boys (33%) said that they had felt unsafe at some time in their establishment and 13% of boys also said they felt unsafe at the time of our survey visit. This was higher than at any time since 2010–11 (when 27% of boys said this). Perceptions of safety were not evenly distributed across the six YOI sites inspected during 2014–15: the proportion of boys reporting that they had ever and were currently feeling unsafe were highest at the Keppel Unit (68% and 23% respectively) and lowest at Parc (19% and 4% respectively).

Although shouting through windows was considered a problem by around two-fifths of boys overall (37%), those in the Keppel Unit were more than twice as likely to say this (69%) when compared with boys held in Feltham (27%) and Parc (33%). These findings are set out in Table 5.

¹⁹ There were no significant differences in the average (mean) number of problems identified by boys upon their arrival at a YOI (our surveys ask about problems in six separate areas) and surveyed during 2014–15 (mean=1.4), when compared with cohorts questioned in 2013–14 (mean=1.4; $p=1.000$), 2012–13 (mean=1.3; $p=1.000$) and 2011–10 (mean=1.5; $p=.964$).

Table 5: Perceptions of safety in YOIs (2014–15)

No.	Question	Cookham Wood 2014	Feltham 2014	Parc 2014	Werrington 2014	Wetherby 2015	Keppel Unit 2015	Overall
	Number of completed questionnaires returned	104	132	45	97	152	41	571
9.1	Have you ever felt unsafe here?	27%	33%	19%	43%	29%	68%	33%
9.2	Do you feel unsafe now?	10%	10%	4%	21%	14%	23%	13%
9.3	Is shouting through windows a problem here?	36%	27%	33%	44%	36%	69%	37%

What predicted feeling unsafe in an establishment?²⁰

We modelled our survey responses in order to identify which variables best predicted the probability of a boy detained in a YOI during 2014–15 reporting that they had ever felt unsafe in that establishment. Our results (see online appendix C) identified six variables (from 38 initially examined) as being significant predictors of whether a boy had ever felt unsafe in a YOI, once other factors were controlled for. The variable which exerted the greatest influence over perceptions of safety was comprehension of spoken English: those detainees who did not understand spoken English were 14 times more likely to report having ever felt unsafe in their establishment (when compared with those who did understand spoken English).

Those boys who considered shouting through windows to be a problem at their establishment were found to be more than four times more likely to report having ever felt unsafe. The odds of feeling unsafe were 89% higher among those detainees reporting emotional or mental health problems and 62% higher among those who did not feel that they were treated with respect by staff. Each problem identified by boys upon their arrival at a YOI was associated with a 55% increase in the odds of reporting ever feeling unsafe at that establishment.

Finally, the establishment itself also affected perceptions of safety: those held in Werrington during 2014–15 were more than twice as likely to report having ever felt unsafe compared to detainees in Wetherby.

One in four boys (26%) detained in YOIs during 2014–15 reported experiencing some form of victimisation at the hands of their peers in the establishment. The most common types and causes of victimisation by other boys were: insulting remarks (13%); being hit, kicked or assaulted (10%); feeling threatened or intimidated (10%); being new to the establishment (6%); and because of gang-related issues (5%). Other issues were reported by less than 5% of YOI detainees in 2014–15 (e.g. because of debt or drugs).

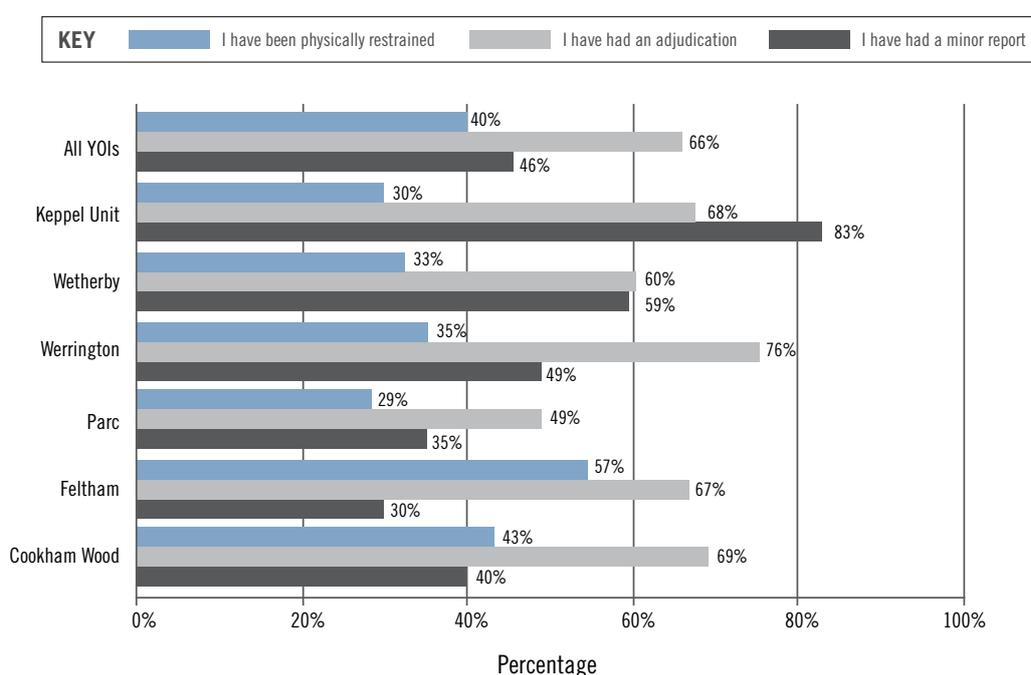
A quarter (25%) of boys detained in YOIs during 2014–15 also reported having being victimised by staff. Again, insulting remarks were the most commonly cited type of victimisation (reported by 12% of boys); 6% said they had been hit or assaulted by staff and an identical proportion said they had been threatened or intimidated by staff. All

²⁰ These analyses were undertaken by Tim McSweeney at HMIP.

other staff-related issues and forms of victimisation were reported by less than 5% of respondents.

Less than half of the boys (48%) detained in YOIs during 2014–15 felt they had been treated fairly by the incentives and reward scheme, and fewer still (45%) said the different levels within it affected their behaviour. As illustrated in Figure 12, the proportion of boys who said they had received minor reports varied considerably between the six sites (from 30% of boys in Feltham to 83% of boys in the Keppel Unit), as did the proportion reporting an adjudication (from 49% of boys in Parc to 76% of boys in Werrington), being physically restrained by staff (from 29% in Parc to 57% in Feltham), and spending a night in a care and separation unit (from 17% in Cookham Wood to 36% in Feltham).

Figure 12: Boys who said they had experienced formal disciplinary procedures in YOIs (2014–15)



Respect

The majority of boys were positive about their interactions and relationships with YOI staff, with 70% reporting that most staff treated them with respect, although this ranged from 55% of boys in Feltham to 86% in Cookham Wood. Overall, at the time of our inspections, more than a third of boys in 2014–15 (36%) said that a member of staff had checked on them personally during the last week to see how they were getting on, and three-quarters (73%) had a personal officer, with most boys (63%) acknowledging that this staff member had tried to help them. Despite this, a large minority of boys (29%) told us they would not turn to anyone if they had a problem. For three-fifths of boys (61%), cell bells normally took longer than five minutes to be answered.

Half of boys (53%) said it was 'easy' or 'very easy' for them to attend religious services and a similar proportion (57%) felt that their religious beliefs were respected at their establishment.

Few detainees felt that the food in their centre was 'good' or 'very good' (17%), with marked variations across the YOI estate, ranging from 9% of boys in Feltham describing the food there as 'good' or 'very good' to 30% of boys at the Keppel Unit describing the same.

Health services

Most boys (64%) said it was easy to see a nurse, but fewer felt the same way about access to a doctor (50%) or dentist (32%). Half the YOI population in 2014–15 described the health services as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ but perceptions varied markedly between establishments, with only 20% of detainees in Feltham describing them positively compared with 80% of boys at Parc.

While one in four boys self-reported an emotional or mental health problem in 2014–15, rates varied from 11% in Parc, 28% in Cookham Wood and 73% in the Keppel Unit. Fewer than half the boys in Feltham (44%) who reported such problems told us they were receiving any help for these issues.

More than one-third of boys (36%) reported having a problem with drugs on their arrival at an establishment. Need in this area was, again, not evenly distributed across the YOI estate, ranging from 23% of boys at Feltham, to 48% at Parc and 63% at the Keppel Unit.

Complaints

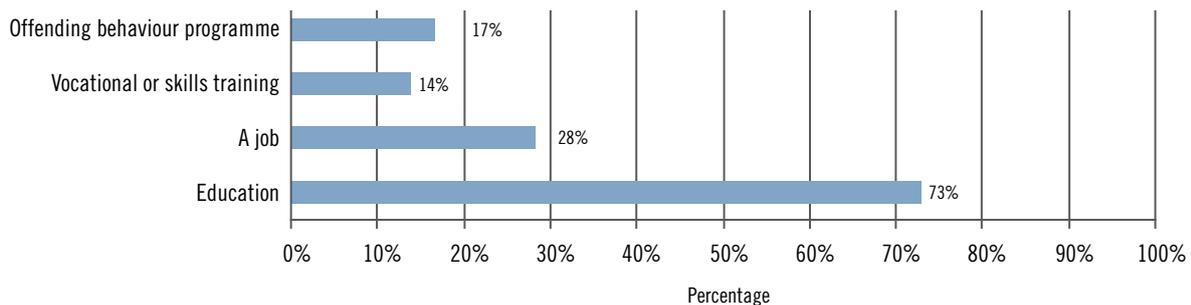
Many boys (70%) during 2014–15 said it was easy for them to make an application within their YOI. Most of those who had done so (64%) also felt that these were dealt with fairly. However, fewer boys (38%) considered the applications process to be a timely one (being completed within seven days).

More than half (58%) also felt it was easy for them to make a complaint in 2014–15, but having done so, few then experienced the complaints process to be either fair (42%) or timely (38%). Though few boys reported ever being too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (10%), reports of this experience ranged from 5% of boys at Parc and Wetherby to around one in six boys (18%) at the Keppel Unit.

Purposeful activity

During 2014–15, around three-quarters (73%) of the boys detained in YOIs said they were engaged in some form of education at the time of our inspection (see Figure 13). Rates of participation in education ranged from 59% in Feltham to 95% in the Keppel Unit. While more than one in four boys (28%) reportedly had a job within the establishment, employment rates varied from 9% (in Parc) to 49% (in Wetherby). Around one in six boys (17%) were engaged in an offending behaviour programme (but again participation rates varied from 3% to 31% between establishments) and one in seven (14%) were enrolled in some form of vocational or skills training.

Figure 13: Activities boys said they were taking part in in their establishments (2014–15)

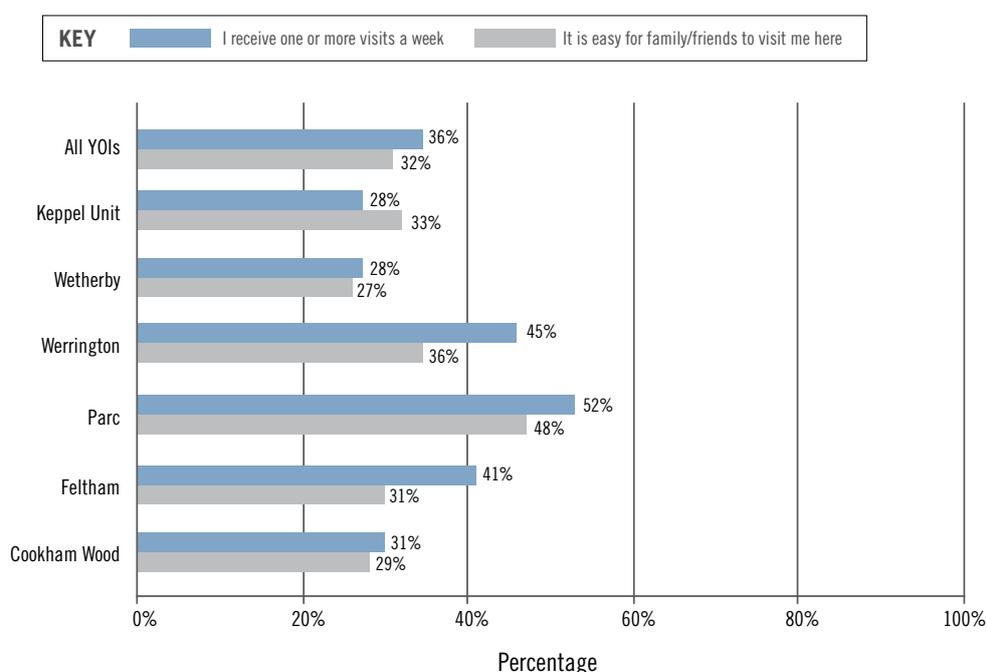


These rates of engagement with education, a job, vocational training and offending behaviour programmes across the YOI estate were lower in 2014–15 than at any point since 2010–11.

Resettlement

Most boys (78%) in 2014–15 had access to and use of a telephone on a daily basis. However, a significant minority of boys (45%) encountered problems with sending or receiving letters and parcels. Only one in three boys (36%) usually had one or more visits from family and friends each week and a similar proportion (32%) said it was ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ for these people to visit them, or said their visits started on time (33%). As illustrated in Figure 14, the extent to which boys received visits from family and friends, and the ease with which these visits could be undertaken, varied considerably across the YOI estate.

Figure 14: The extent of visits and perceptions of how easy it was for family to visit the YOI (2014–15)



Two-fifths (41%) of boys held in the YOI estate during 2014–15 said that they had a training, sentence or remand plan. The proportion of boys who reported having such a plan to facilitate their effective resettlement was lower in 2014–15 than at any point during the last five years.

Diversity

The survey allows us to compare boys’ experiences of discrimination and differential treatment based upon a range of diversity and protected characteristics. The full results from these analyses are available in online appendices B4 to B15.

Boys under 17 and those aged 17–18

Around one in four YOI detainees (28%) were under 17 years old. These younger boys were significantly less likely to: report having been offered a free phone call to friends/family when they first arrived at the establishment (71% compared with 80%); consider it 'easy' or 'very easy' to attend religious services (45% compared with 56%); be on the enhanced level of the reward scheme (17% compared with 28%); or report having a job in the establishment (21% compared with 31%). They were also significantly more likely to: have been adjudicated against (73% compared with 62%); had their canteen and/or property taken by other boys (6% compared with 2%); attribute experiences of victimisation to their status as a member of the Traveller community (2% compared with 0%); and have been 14 or younger when they last attended school (53% compared with 38%). However, more positively, boys under 17 were less likely to: think they would have problems accessing continuing health services upon release (4% compared with 10%); have spent a night in the care and separation unit (26% compared with 46%); have been the subject of insulting remarks from staff (7% compared with 14%). Full results can be found in online appendix B4.

Boys who said they were from a black or other minority ethnic background

Boys from a black and minority ethnic background were significantly less likely to say that they felt safe during their most recent journey to the establishment (79% compared with 85%). They were also less likely to report that they had: been treated 'well' or 'very well' by escort staff (49% compared with 58%); received any information to help them prepare for coming to the establishment (13% compared with 19%); been well treated by reception staff (61% compared with 75%); been given any information about feeling worried or upset on arrival (25% compared with 37%); or had access to a chaplain during their first 24 hours at the establishment (38% compared with 52%).

In terms of daily life and respectful custody, while black and minority ethnic boys were significantly more likely to report that their religious beliefs were respected (66% compared with 50%), they were less likely to report: being able to have a shower every day if they wanted to (81% compared with 91%); that their cell call bell was normally answered within five minutes (33% compared with 43%); that the food in the establishment was of a 'good' or 'very good' standard (12% compared with 21%); and that the prison shop/canteen sold a wide enough variety of products (39% compared with 59%).

Reported relationships with staff were also poorer for black and minority ethnic boys. They were less likely to say that most staff at the establishment treated them with respect (59% compared with 79%); to report that a member of staff had checked on them personally in the last week to see how they were getting on (29% compared with 40%); or to think that their personal officer tried to help them (57% compared with 68%).

Similarly, black and minority ethnic boys' reported experiences of the applications and complaints processes were inferior. Compared to white boys, black and minority ethnic boys were significantly less likely to feel that applications were sorted out fairly (49% compared with 76%) or quickly (within seven days) (33% compared with 57%). This was also true with regard to the fairness (34% compared with 50%) and timeliness of the complaints process (24% compared with 52%). Black and minority ethnic boys held during 2014–15 were less likely to report occupying the enhanced level of the incentives and reward scheme (17% compared with 31%). They were also less likely to perceive their treatment under the scheme as being 'fair' (35% compared with 57%) and more likely to have been physically restrained at their establishment (46% compared with 36%). They were, however, significantly less likely to have spent a night in the care and separation unit (27% compared

with 58%). While black and minority ethnic boys were less likely to have been victimised by other boys at their establishments (19% compared with 31%), they reported higher rates of victimisation from staff (33% compared with 19%).

Although those from a black and minority ethnic background had a lower reported incidence of emotional or mental health problems (16% compared with 30%), including problems with alcohol (3% compared with 11%) and drugs (21% compared with 46%) upon arrival at their establishment, they were also significantly less likely to report it being 'easy' to see a doctor (36% compared with 60%), nurse (54% compared with 71%) or dentist (21% compared with 38%), or to rate the overall quality of health services as 'good' or 'very good' (39% compared with 57%).

In terms of activities, fewer black and minority ethnic boys detained in YOIs during 2014–15 told us that they had a job in their establishment (22% compared with 32%), or that they were participating in an offending behaviour programme (13% compared with 21%), and significantly more of them said they were not engaged in any constructive activity (21% compared with 15%). This pattern also emerged in relation to preparation for release, in that significantly fewer black and minority ethnic boys had a training, sentence or remand plan in place at the time of our inspection (30% compared with 50%), or had a caseworker who was preparing them for release (33% compared with 51%). Full results from analyses involving black and minority ethnic detainees can be found in online appendix B5. Some are illustrated in Table 6.

Table 6: A comparison of survey responses from black and minority ethnic boys and white boys in YOIs (2014–15)

KEY TO TABLES		Black and minority ethnic boys	White boys
	Significantly better for black and minority ethnic boys		
	Significantly worse for black and minority ethnic boys		
Number of completed questionnaires returned		234	330
SECTION 5: DAILY LIFE AND RESPECT			
5.1	Can you normally have a shower every day if you want to?	81%	91%
5.2	Is your cell call bell normally answered within five minutes?	33%	43%
5.3	Do you find the food here good/very good?	12%	21%
5.4	Does the shop/canteen sell a wide enough variety of products?	39%	59%
5.6	Do you feel your religious beliefs are respected?	66%	50%
5.8	Can you speak to a peer mentor when you need to?	24%	36%
5.10	Can you speak to an advocate (an outside person to help you) when you need to?	39%	50%
SECTION 6: RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF			
6.1	Do most staff treat you with respect?	59%	79%
6.3	Have staff checked on you personally in the last week to see how you are getting on?	29%	40%
For those who have met their personal officer:			

6.6	Do you feel your personal (named) officer tries to help you?	57%	68%
SECTION 7: APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS			
For those who have made an application:			
7.2	Do you feel applications are sorted out fairly?	49%	76%
7.3	Do you feel applications are sorted out quickly (within 7 days)?	33%	57%
For those who have made a complaint:			
7.5	Do you feel complaints are sorted out fairly?	34%	50%
7.6	Do you feel complaints are sorted out quickly (within 7 days)?	24%	52%

Muslim boys

Boys identifying as Muslim reported poorer experiences and outcomes in a number of areas during 2014–15. Although Muslim boys were less likely than non-Muslim boys to have had access to chaplaincy services within their first 24 hours in a YOI (35% compared with 49%), they were more likely to say that they subsequently found it ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to attend religious services (65% compared with 50%), to feel that their religious beliefs were respected (76% compared with 51%) and to be able to speak to a chaplain in private (77% compared with 64%). These positive accounts were offset by negative experiences of daily life and respect, with a significantly lower proportion of Muslim boys saying they were able to shower on a daily basis (78% compared with 89%) and fewer reporting that the prison shop/canteen stocked an appropriate range of products (37% compared with 54%), fewer describing the quality of food as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ (11% compared with 19%), and fewer feeling that most staff in the establishment treated them with respect (57% compared with 74%). Muslim boys were less likely than non-Muslim boys to experience the applications process as easy (60% compared with 73%) or fair (46% compared with 69%), or to encounter the complaints procedure as fair (24% compared with 48%) and efficient (46% compared with 69%). Experience of the rewards system as fair was also less common (36% compared with 51%).

Muslim boys were significantly more likely than non-Muslim boys to report having been victimised by a member of staff (33% compared with 23%) and to attribute this to their race or ethnic origin (12% compared with 1%), religious beliefs (9% compared with 1%), or because they had previously made a complaint (9% compared with 3%). Perhaps as a consequence, Muslim boys were less likely to think staff would take it seriously if they told them about their experiences of victimisation (19% compared with 32%).

Muslim boys were less likely to report that it was easy/very easy for them to see a doctor (38% compared with 54%) or nurse (22% compared with 34%), and they were less likely to be engaged in education (65% compared with 75%), a job (20% compared with 30%), or to have had a training plan, sentence plan or remand plan in place (31% compared with 44%). Few also said they knew who to contact for help in their establishment with problems relating to finding accommodation (19% compared with 31%), getting into school or college (18% compared with 29%), claiming benefits (9% compared with 19%), opening a bank account (9% compared with 19%) and avoiding bad relationships (6% compared with 16%). See online appendix B6 for a comparative assessment of the views and experiences of Muslim boys.

Boys who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller

Of boys detained in YOIs during 2014–15, 8% considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller. This was an increase from the 6% of boys who identified as such in 2013–14.

Compared to other boys, Gypsy, Romany or Traveller boys were significantly less likely to: say that they understood written English (92% compared with 99%), identify as belonging to a black and minority ethnic group (18% compared with 44%) and report this being their first time in custody (41% compared with 59%). By contrast, they were significantly more likely to say they were foreign nationals (12% compared with 4%) and consider themselves to have a disability (34% compared with 17%). These boys reported significantly better experiences of escort (71% compared with 52%) and reception (86% compared with 68%) processes, with large majorities saying that they were treated ‘well’ or ‘very well’ by staff. Upon arrival, these boys were twice as likely to report having ‘money worries’ (24% compared with 12%). Although only around one in three Gypsy, Romany or Traveller boys felt the food at their establishment was ‘good’ or ‘very good’, this was significantly higher than the proportion of other boys reporting this (35% compared with 16%).

For those reporting victimisation by other boys at their establishments, these experiences were attributed to them being new to the establishment (16% compared with 5%), having their canteen/property taken (11% compared with 3%), being from a Traveller community (9% compared with 0%), having a disability (9% compared with 1%), their religion/religious beliefs (7% compared with 1%) and their nationality (7% compared with 2%). Similarly, any victimisation by YOI staff was significantly more likely to be attributed by these boys to the fact that they: were from a Traveller community (9% compared with 0%), were from a different part of the country (9% compared with 1%), were taking medication (9% compared with 0%), had a disability (7% compared with 1%), or because of drugs issues (5% compared with 0%).

In relation to substance misuse, those boys held in YOIs and identifying as being Gypsy, Romany or Traveller were significantly more likely to report having had a problem with alcohol when they first arrived (16% compared with 7%), and to have received help at their establishment for alcohol (14% compared with 4%) and drugs (36% compared with 21%). They were more than twice as likely to have perceived illegal drugs as being ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to obtain in their establishment (37% compared with 14%).

Fewer of these boys told us that they were taking part in education (56% compared with 74%) and more of them said they were not engaged in any purposeful activity (36% compared with 16%). None of the Gypsy, Romany or Traveller boys held in YOIs said they attended the gym more than five times each week (0% compared with 9%). In terms of resettlement, they were twice as likely as other boys to say they would have problems opening a bank account following their release (35% compared with 16%).

Boys who said they had a disability

Around one in six boys (18%) detained in a YOI during 2014–15 considered themselves to have a disability. Compared to those who did not self-report having a disability, these boys were less likely to have been from a black and minority ethnic background (23% compared with 47%), less likely to identify as Muslim (14% compared with 23%), but more likely to say they were Gypsy, Romany or Traveller (14% compared with 6%). They were more likely to have dependent children (15% compared with 8%) and to report having been in local authority care (54% compared with 34%).

Boys who self-reported having a disability were more likely to say they arrived at their establishment with problems (88% compared with 69%). Fewer felt safe on their first night (70% compared with 80%), or felt that their induction course at the establishment had covered everything they needed to know (50% compared with 62%).

There was some evidence of staff taking greater care of boys with a disability – a significantly higher proportion of boys with disabilities said staff checked on them personally to see how they were getting on (44% compared with 34%), a larger proportion said they had met their personal officer within their first week (48% compared with 35%) and they were more likely to say that their personal officer tried to help them (77% compared with 59%).

Safety outcomes, by contrast, were poorer in terms of how many had ever (56% compared with 29%) and currently (25% compared with 11%) felt unsafe at the establishment. Disabled boys also experienced higher rates of victimisation by other boys (46% compared with 22%) and were more likely to identify shouting through windows as a particular problem (58% compared with 32%). However, they were almost twice as likely to say they would report experiences of victimisation to staff (41% compared with 22%) and think that staff would take these reports seriously (41% compared with 27%).

Despite a higher rate of reported emotional or mental health problems (68% compared with 14%), and having problems on arrival (47% compared with 33%) and at the time of our inspection, a problem with drugs (14% compared with 6%), disabled boys were positive about the overall quality of health services at their YOI (with 62% rating them as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ compared with 47% of boys who did not describe themselves as having a disability).

Comparatively speaking, disabled boys reported good rates of engagement with vocational or skills training (24% compared with 12%) and offending behaviour programmes (26% compared with 15%), and there were fewer who were not engaged in any constructive activities (9% compared with 20%). In terms of preparations for release, disabled boys identified a wider range of problems that they anticipated needing assistance with post-release. Full results can be found in online appendix B7.

Boys who had been in local authority care

Almost two-fifths of boys (38%) held in YOIs during 2014–15 said they had been in local authority care. Those who had been in local authority care were less likely to have been from a black and minority ethnic background (37% compared with 46%). They were twice as likely to have dependent children (14% compared with 7%) and consider themselves to have a disability (26% compared with 13%). In terms of school attendance, a significantly higher proportion of boys who had been in local authority care said they had been 14 or younger when they were last at school (57% compared with 34%), that they had been excluded from school (93% compared with 81%), and that they had ‘skipped’ school before they came into custody (83% compared with 68%). Fewer boys who had been in local authority care told us that this was their first custodial experience of a YOI, SCH, or STC (34% compared with 70%), and they were more likely to say they had problems upon their arrival in custody (78% compared with 69%).

Our survey data highlighted the challenges these boys posed for staff in terms of behaviour. They were less likely to say that the different levels of the rewards scheme encouraged them to change their behaviour (39% compared with 48%), and significantly more of them had been placed on a minor report (59% compared with 40%), been adjudicated against (74% compared with 61%) and physically restrained (48% compared with 36%). These

challenges were likely to have been amplified by the higher rates of emotional or mental health problems reported by these boys (37% compared with 16%), their heightened propensity to have drug problems, on arrival (42% compared with 32%) and at the time of our inspection (11% compared with 5%), and the extent to which they perceived illicit drugs to be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain within their respective establishments (22% compared with 12%).

Proportionally, more boys with experience of local authority care said they felt unsafe at the time of our inspection (17% compared with 11%), identified shouting through windows as a problem at their establishment (45% compared with 31%) and reported experiencing victimisation by a member of staff (29% compared with 22%). These boys were also socially isolated, in that they were significantly less likely to have had one or more visits per week from family and friends (23% compared with 43%), to report that it was 'easy' or 'very easy' for family and/or friends to visit them (23% compared with 36%), or for their visits, when these did happen, to start on time (26% compared with 37%). Finally, boys who had experience of local authority care within the YOI system during 2014–15 identified a wider range of problems and issues with which they felt they would require assistance following their release from custody. Findings relating to boys with experience of the local authority care system can be found in online appendix B8. Some of these findings are set out in Table 7.

Table 7: A comparison of survey responses from boys in YOIs who said they had been in local authority care and those who said they had not (2014–15)

KEY TO TABLES		Said that they had been in local authority care	Said they had not been in local authority care
	Any percentage highlighted in green is significantly better		
	Any percentage highlighted in blue is significantly worse		
	Number of completed questionnaires returned	208	338
SECTION 9: SAFETY			
9.2	Do you feel unsafe now?	17%	11%
	Since you have been here, have other young people:		
9.5a	Made insulting remarks about you, your family or friends?	17%	11%
9.5f	Victimised you because of medication?	3%	1%
9.5h	Victimised you because of drugs?	3%	1%
9.5n	Victimised you because of your sexual orientation?	2%	0%
9.5r	Victimised you because of your offence/crime?	5%	2%
9.7	Have you ever been victimised by a member of staff here?	29%	22%
	Since you have been here, have staff:		
9.8j	Victimised you because of your religion/religious beliefs?	5%	1%
9.8k	Victimised you because you were from a different part of the country?	3%	1%
9.12	Is shouting through the windows a problem here?	45%	31%
SECTION 10: HEALTH SERVICES			
10.4	Do you have any emotional or mental health problems?	37%	16%

10.8	Did you have any problems with drugs when you first arrived?	42%	32%
10.9	Do you have a problem with drugs now?	11%	5%
10.11	Is it easy/very easy to get illegal drugs here?	22%	12%
SECTION 12: KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS			
12.3	Do you usually have one or more visits per week from family and friends?	23%	43%
12.4	Is it easy/very easy for your family and friends to visit you here?	23%	36%
12.5	Do your visits start on time?	26%	37%

Those boys who said they had emotional or mental health problems

One in four boys (24%) detained in a YOI during 2014–15 said they had an emotional or mental health problem. There were significantly fewer black and minority ethnic detainees among this sub-group (28% compared with 47%), but boys self-identifying with emotional health issues were more likely to have dependent children (16% compared with 7%), view themselves as having a disability (52% compared with 8%), have been under the care of a local authority (59% compared with 31%), and arrived at the YOI with problems (81% compared with 69%).

Safety responses for this group of boys were poor. They were significantly more likely to say they had felt unsafe at their establishment (54% compared with 25%), almost three times more likely to report feeling unsafe at the time of our inspection (26% compared with 9%), and twice as likely to have been victimised by other boys at the establishment (42% compared with 21%). Those boys reporting mental health problems in 2014–15 were also significantly more likely to tell us that they had been victimised by staff (42% compared with 21%). Perhaps unsurprisingly, these boys were more likely to report feeling too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (15% compared with 7%). These boys also reported being more prone to falling foul of the disciplinary process, with a significantly higher proportion being placed on a minor report (67% compared with 41%), being subject to an adjudication (74% compared with 64%) and being physically restrained by staff (50% compared with 37%).

Any emotional or mental health issues experienced by these boys were likely to be exacerbated by the problems with alcohol (12% compared with 6%) and drugs (51% compared with 30%) with which they reportedly arrived at the establishment, and the drug issues which persisted at the time of our inspections (14% compared with 5%). The view among those with emotional or mental health problems that illicit drugs were 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain within the YOI estate (26% compared with 13%) will have done little to alleviate these problems.

There was also evidence that boys with emotional and mental health issues were experiencing problems maintaining contact with family and friends while detained. Examples included being significantly more likely to experience problems with sending or receiving letters or parcels (59% compared with 40%), being less likely to have had one or more visits per week from family and friends (29% compared with 40%), and being less likely to report having had visits which started on time (25% compared with 35%). Lastly, those boys reporting emotional or mental health problems within the YOI estate during

2014–15 identified a wider range of barriers to their effective resettlement. The results of our analyses comparing the experience of boys with emotional or mental health issues are in online appendix B14.

What were the main changes observed within YOIs since 2013–14?

The full comparison of survey responses between the 2014–15 and 2013–14 reporting years is available in appendix B3.

When contrasting survey responses from 2013–14 with those from 2014–15, a total of 17 questions showed a significant change over time. Positive changes in 2014–15 included a larger proportion of YOI detainees reporting that they:

- were offered something to eat or drink during their most recent journey to the establishment (having spent two or more hours in the escort van) (45% compared with 37%);
- had been treated ‘well’ or ‘very well’ in reception (69% compared with 64%);
- had been asked by staff upon their arrival whether they needed help or support with feeling worried, upset, or needing someone to talk to (37% compared with 30%);
- could have a shower every day if they wanted to (87% compared with 79%);
- had a caseworker at the establishment (90% compared with 83%).

A smaller proportion of YOI detainees in 2014–15 compared with 2013–14 reported that they:

- had been placed on a minor report (46% compared with 52%);
- thought they would have problems claiming benefits on release (15% compared with 20%).

However, negative differences in 2014–15 included boys being significantly less likely to report:

- finding it ‘easy’ to see a doctor (50% compared with 58%), nurse (64% compared with 70%) or a dentist (32% compared with 37%);
- that a job they had had in the establishment would help them when they left prison (44% compared with 53%);
- having had daily association (67% compared with 73%);
- visits which started on time (33% compared with 41%);
- having a training plan, sentence plan or remand plan (41% compared with 51%).

Boys were also more likely to report in 2014–15 that:

- they would not turn to anyone if they had a problem (29% compared with 22%);
- they had been victimised by other young people at the establishment (26% compared with 22%);
- they had experienced problems with sending or receiving letters or parcels (45% compared with 40%).

4.3 Comparison of STC and YOI survey responses

This section compares the background characteristics of the children in each type of establishment inspected during 2014–15, followed by a comparison of experiences reported. As different questionnaires are used within STCs and YOIs, comparison is only possible in a few instances where the same survey questions are asked. These have all been tested for statistical significance – highlighting is used within the tables to show where significant differences in responses have been detected.

When comparing STCs and YOIs directly, it should be kept in mind that each type of establishment:

- is commissioned separately;
- funded differently;
- has different roles;
- deals with a different cohort of young people;
- delivers different things.

Therefore, we would expect findings in relation to some aspects of the children's experiences to differ, for example, the proportion of children who reported having access to education in each establishment type.

Demographics

YOIs only hold boys aged 15 to 18 and therefore a higher proportion of those in STCs said they were under 16, although over two-thirds (70%) of children at STCs said they were aged 16 or 17.

Overall, two-fifths (40%) of the children held in YOIs and STCs during 2014–15 identified as being from a black or minority ethnic background while fewer than one in five (18%) said they were Muslim. Significantly fewer children in STCs said they were from a black and minority ethnic background, or identified as Muslim during 2014–15, compared to those detained in YOIs. The proportion of foreign national detainees was evenly distributed across the STC and YOI cohorts during 2014–15.

A similar proportion of children detained in STCs and YOIs during 2014–15 considered themselves to have a disability (around one in five).

The responses to questions asked about the demographic characteristics of STC and YOI survey respondents are set out in Table 8.

Table 8: Characteristics of the STC and YOI cohorts in 2014–15

KEY TO TABLES		STCs	YOIs	All
	Significantly better			
	Significantly worse			
	A significant difference in background details			
Number of completed questionnaires returned		203	571	774
Are you aged under 16?		28%	5%	11%
Are you from a minority ethnic group (including all those who did not tick white British, white Irish or white other category)?		35%	42%	40%
Are you Muslim?		12%	21%	18%
Do you consider yourself to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller?		11%	8%	9%
Are you a foreign national?		4%	5%	5%
Do you have a disability?		22%	18%	19%

Daily life

Most STC and YOI detainees in 2014–15 said they felt safe on their first night in their establishment (81%). As set out in Table 9, below, boys in YOIs were significantly less likely to say that they felt safe on their first night than those in STCs (79% compared with 87%). Around one in five children felt that the food at their establishment was ‘good’ or ‘very good’ (22%). Children in STCs were twice as likely to report that the food at their centre was ‘good’ or ‘very good’ (34%), compared with boys in YOIs (17%).

Over three-quarters (77%) of detained children felt that most staff treated them with respect. Children in STCs were significantly more likely to report this. Almost all children in STCs (93%) said this, compared with 70% of boys in YOIs. Two-fifths of children detained in YOIs and STCs during 2014–15 said they had been physically restrained by staff, with no significant differences observed between the two groups (40% and 37% respectively).

Over half the children detained in YOIs and STCs during 2014–15 (55%) said that they had done something, or something had happened to them in custody, that would make them less likely to offend in the future. Those in STCs were significantly more likely to report this (62%) than boys held in YOIs (52%), however.

Table 9: Aspects of daily life as reported by STC and YOI detainees in 2014–15

KEY TO TABLES		STCs	YOIs	All
■	Significantly better for STCs			
■	Significantly worse for STCs			
Number of completed questionnaires returned		203	571	774
Did you feel safe on your first night here?		87%	79%	81%
Do you find the food here good/very good?		34%	17%	22%
Do most staff treat you with respect?		93%	70%	77%
Have you been physically restrained since you have been here?		37%	40%	40%
Have you done anything or has anything happened to you here that you think will make you less likely to offend in the future?		62%	52%	55%

Safety

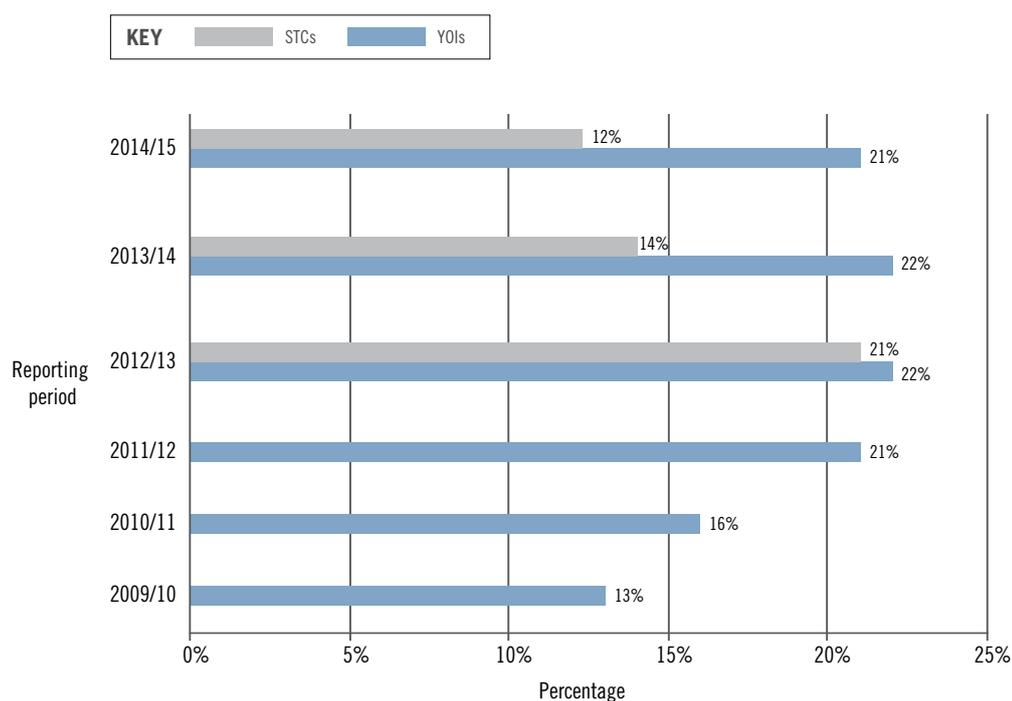
The responses to our questions on aspects of safety are set out in the table below. Around one in three children (31%) held in STCs and YOIs in 2014–15 said that they had ever felt unsafe at their establishment and one in eight (12%) said they felt unsafe at the time of our inspection. Children in STCs were less likely to say that they had ever felt unsafe in their centre (24% compared with 33% of children in YOIs). Children in STCs were also less likely to say they felt unsafe at the time of our survey.

Table 10: Aspects of safety as reported by STC and YOI detainees in 2014–15

KEY TO TABLES		STCs	YOIs	All
■	Significantly better for STCs			
■	Significantly worse for STCs			
Number of completed questionnaires returned		203	571	774
Have you ever felt unsafe here?		24%	33%	31%
Do you feel unsafe now?		7%	13%	12%

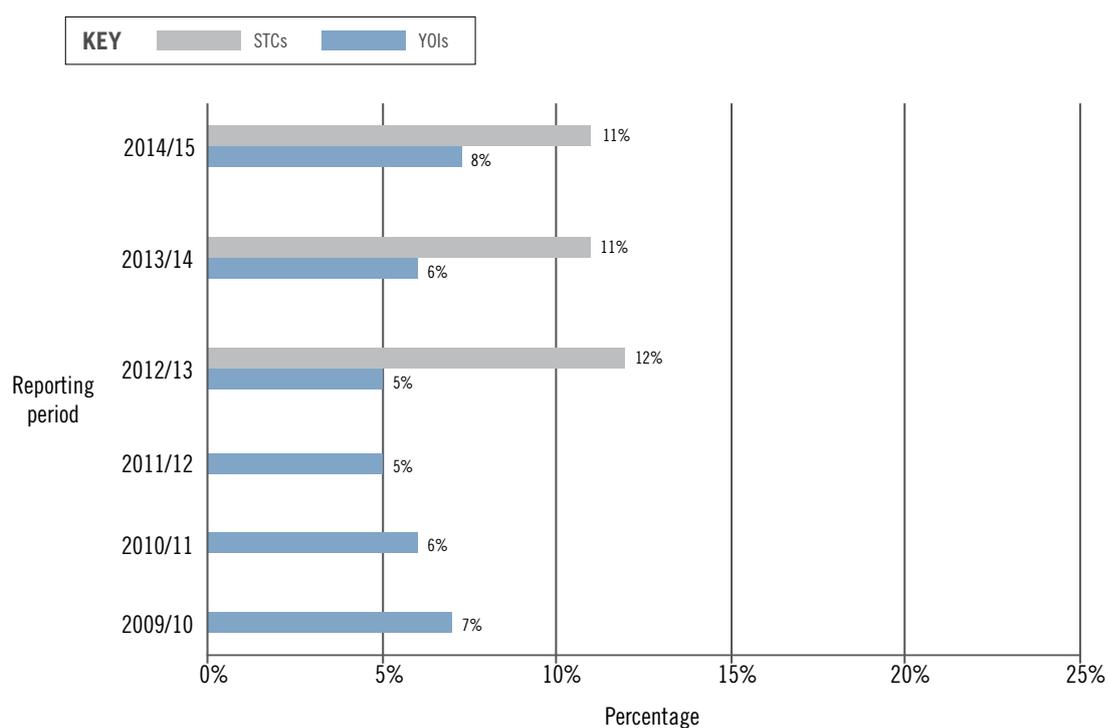
Changes over time

As illustrated in Figure 15 below, while the proportion of YOI detainees identifying as Muslim has remained stable during recent years (following a substantial increase from 2011–12), the proportion of Muslim children detained in STCs has fallen considerably over the last three years.

Figure 15: Children who said they were Muslim over the past five reporting years

Note: Data for STCs were not available in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12

The percentage of children who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller is shown in Figure 16. While the proportion identifying themselves in this way has been stable across STCs during more recent years, the figure for 2014–15 was higher in YOIs than at any time since 2009–10.

Figure 16: Children who said they were Gypsy, Romany or Traveller

Note: Data for STCs is not available in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12

