



HM Inspectorate of Prisons



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid

Children in Custody 2015–16

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

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

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Acknowledgements

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HM Inspectorate of Prisons owes thanks to all the children who took time to complete our survey and offer their views and experience for analysis.

The research, development and thematics (RDT) team at HM Inspectorate of Prisons also appreciates the help given by staff at each secure training centre and young offender institution.

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Printed on paper containing 75% recycled fibre content minimum.

Printed in the UK by the Williams Lea Group on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

	Foreword	6
	Key findings	7
1	Scope of this report	9
2	Methodology	10
3	Background	14
4	Results	18
	4.1 Secure training centres – main findings	18
	4.2 Young offender institutions – main findings	28
	4.3 Comparison of STC and YOI survey responses	50
	List of tables	
1	Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2015–16	11
2	Types and causes of victimisation reported by children in STCs (2015–16)	25
3	Children who said they could follow their religion if they wanted to (2015–16)	37
4	Characteristics of the STC and YOI cohorts in 2015–16	50
	List of figures	
1	Number of children (under 18) in custody over the past five years	14
2	Who children said they would turn to if they had a problem (2015–16)	19
3	Who children said they would turn to if they had a problem (2015–16)	19
4	Proportion of children who said it was easy for their family to visit and reported having weekly visits (2015–16)	20
5	Children’s responses to questions relating to behaviour management (2015–16)	21
6	Responses to key questions on health care (2015–16)	22
7	Ages of boys in YOIs (2015–16)	28
8	Problems reported by boys and help offered to them on arrival (2015–16)	32
9	When you first arrived here, were you given the following?	33
10	Problems anticipated by boys post-release and the extent to which help was available (2015–16)	42

Foreword

As part of the inspection process for secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs), HM Inspectorate of Prisons conducts surveys of the children who are detained. These surveys do not, of course, constitute the totality of the evidence on which our reports are based, but they do provide an invaluable source of information about the perceptions that children have of their experiences while in detention, and give inspectors some clear indications of areas that might warrant further enquiry.

The wider context in which this report is published offers a complex backdrop for the findings. They need to be considered in the light of the troubling allegations about the treatment of children at Medway STC that were revealed in January 2016, and the subsequent work of the Youth Custody Improvement Board. In addition, Charlie Taylor has published an interim report as part of his Review of Youth Justice. Both of these strands of work, together with the wider prison reform programme, provide a dynamic context within which the findings of this report should be considered.

Over the past decade the number of children in custody has fallen by some 66%, but the perceptions of those that remain leave us with some worrying and difficult issues to consider. For instance, during the inspections of YOIs in the past year, we found that actual outcomes in our test of safety were not sufficiently good in all but one YOI. In terms of perceptions, our surveys disclose that 46% of boys had, at some point, felt unsafe at their establishment, the highest figure we have recorded. These poor outcomes in safety are directly related to correspondingly poor outcomes in education.

I hope the report speaks for itself, but there are some particularly troubling findings in the areas of disproportionate over-representation (in terms of the characteristics of the children now being held in custody), safety, victimisation, respect and training. Some of these areas are showing survey findings at historically poor levels. I shall not set them out in detail in this foreword as they merit closer inspection by the reader. In summary, the findings of this report should inform the work of those charged with developing and improving policy, and my invitation is for these findings to be taken seriously.

Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

Key findings

This independent report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), presents the findings from 767 questionnaires completed by children detained at every secure training centre (STC) ($N=3$) and young offender institution (YOI) ($N=5$; plus a separate specialist unit at one site) between 1 April 2015 and 12 April 2016. All surveys were conducted to support unannounced inspections of each establishment. The surveys enable comparisons to be made with the results from 2014–15 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 53% between 2010–11 and 2015–16, made up largely by falls observed in the number of children held in YOIs (down 59%). Over the longer term, the secure children's estate population has fallen by 66% since 2005–06.

In relation to STCs, our survey findings during 2015–16 show that:

- the proportion who identified as being from a black or other minority ethnic background was 41%;
- the proportion who identified as Muslim was 15%;
- the proportion who said they were from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background was 12%;
- nearly a quarter of children (23%) reported feeling unsafe at some point since their arrival at the STC and 10% felt unsafe at the time of the inspection – those children who reported having ever felt unsafe also reported poorer experiences than those who had not;
- almost a third of children (31%) reported being victimised by being shouted at through windows;
- compared with last year, children were significantly less likely to say that it was explained to them why they were being searched on their arrival at the STC (74% compared with 86%); that the search had been carried out respectfully (85% compared with 95%); or that they had spoken to someone about how they were feeling on their first night in the centre (66% compared with 79%).

In relation to YOIs, our survey findings during 2015–16 show that:

- forty-seven per cent of the boys were from a black or minority ethnic background, the highest rate recorded during our time inspecting the secure estate;
- those with experience of the local authority care system (37%), Muslim boys (22%), boys reporting a disability (19%) and those identifying as being from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background (7%) continued to be disproportionately over-represented across the YOI estate when compared with the population as a whole;
- when asked if they had ever felt unsafe at their establishment, 46% of boys said they had, again the highest figure we have recorded through our surveys;
- in the last 12 months there was a significant increase in the proportion of boys who reported being victimised by other detainees (35% compared with 26% in 2014–15) or members of staff (32% compared with 25% in 2014–15);

- children who had ever felt unsafe were more likely than other children to report that they: considered shouting through windows to be a problem at their establishment; arrived there with gang problems; did not feel that they were treated with respect by staff; could not talk to someone when they needed to (like a chaplain, peer mentor, member of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), or an advocate); and had more problems upon arrival at their YOI, suggesting that strategies to help children feel safer should focus on addressing these issues;
- there was a significant fall in the proportion of boys who felt YOI staff treated them with respect (only 63% compared with 70% in 2014–15);
- the proportion of boys with a job in their establishment had fallen significantly in the last 12 months (16% compared with 28% in 2014–15);
- the proportion of boys engaged in a job (16%), vocational training (11%) and offending behaviour programmes (16%) across the YOI estate was lower in 2015–16 than at any point since 2010–11.

Comparing YOI and STC survey responses for 2015–16 showed that children held in STCs were significantly more likely to report that they felt treated with respect by staff, that complaints were sorted fairly and that the food was ‘good’ or ‘very good’. They were also less likely to report that they had been restrained or that they had felt unsafe at the centre.

1. Scope of this report

This report sets out what children surveyed in secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) during 2015–16 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).

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 are 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.¹

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, as well as 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

¹ Individual YOI inspection reports can be found at: www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons

² Individual STC inspection reports can be found at: http://www.justiceinspectorates.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 secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) between 1 April 2015 and 12 April 2016. All of the surveys conducted at YOIs and STCs were conducted to inform upcoming inspections.

Separate questionnaires are used at STCs and YOIs as they are tailored to support the different inspection criteria used for each setting.³ Since 2012 HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) has administered the same structured questionnaire to children held in YOIs. A separate structured questionnaire has also been used in STCs. As well as forming a key piece of evidence to inform the inspection process, survey data assists us in tracking trends over time, and monitoring change within and between institutions. As with all surveys used across the places of detention we inspect, these are subject to regular review and the survey questionnaires are included in the online appendices (see online appendices A and B).

Sampling and recruiting respondents

All children in each STC and YOI at the time of the surveys were invited by researchers from HMIP 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.⁴

During 2015–16, 99% 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.⁵ As shown in Table 1, questionnaires and/or interviews were completed by over four-fifths (84%) of all 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*.

⁴ In accordance with HMIP child protection protocols, where our research led to child protection/safeguarding concerns being raised, those cases were referred to the establishment for investigation. Details of the HMIP child protection protocol can be found at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/about-our-inspections/>

⁵ In some instances, for example when a child was at court or outside hospital, it was not possible to offer them a survey.

Table 1: Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2015–16

YOI	DATE OF SURVEY	POPULATION ON SURVEY DATE	NUMBER OF SURVEYS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF RETURNED SURVEYS	RESPONSE RATE OF RESIDENT CHILDREN
Cookham Wood	5 May 2015	167	163	139	83%
Feltham	27 July 2015	159	158	146	92%
Werrington	12 October 2015	108	107	79	73%
Parc	11 January 2016	38	38	29	76%
Wetherby	22 February 2016	224	224	201	90%
Keppel Unit	22 February 2016	42	42	38	90%
YOI total		738	732	632	86%
STC	DATE OF SURVEY	POPULATION ON SURVEY DATE	NUMBER OF SURVEYS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF RETURNED SURVEYS	RESPONSE RATE OF RESIDENT CHILDREN
Oakhill	3 November 2015	76	76	51	67%
Rainsbrook⁶	15 September 2015	59	59	51	86%
Medway	12 April 2016	36	33	33	92%
STC total		171	168	135	79%
TOTAL		909	900	767	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. 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 total 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. In some cases, due to rounding, a result of 0% can, in fact, have been reported and/or experienced by a very small number of children. For example, across the entire YOI sample of 632, three children reporting a particular view on a given issue would appear as 0% in our report. In these instances, reporting of the exact (unweighted) number of children has been suppressed in an effort to preserve respondents' anonymity.

⁶ While two surveys were conducted at Rainsbrook during this period, this report only refers to the most recent survey conducted.

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 2015–16 and 2014–15, which were tested for statistically significant differences⁷ – highlighting is used in the tables to show where there are significant differences;
- statistical comparisons between different sub-groups within the 2015–16 responses, where numbers allowed – highlighting is again used in tables to show where there are significant differences.⁸

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 emotional or mental health problems and those who did not;
- children who reported having been in local authority care and those who did not;
- children who said they were 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;
- children who reported that they had been held overnight in the care and separation unit and those who did not.

The full results from these analyses can be found in 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;

⁷ This refers to findings that are statistically significant at or below the 1% level ($p < .01$). This threshold is used in order to appropriately adjust p-values in light of multiple testing within the survey data. In other words there is a 99% 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, 99 of the samples would produce the same result).

⁸ Comparisons between sub-groups are made when both groups have at least 10 responses and make up more than 10% of the returned surveys.

- boys who said they had been physically restrained at their establishment and those who said they had not;
- boys who reported that they had been held overnight in the care and separation unit and those who did 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.

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 the small number of identical questions which are asked in both settings.

Structure of the report

This is the third annual report to present survey responses from both STCs and YOIs.

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

Section 4.1 describes main findings from surveys conducted at STCs during 2015–16. It includes an overview of the significant differences identified within the 2015–16 responses among specific sub-groups of the STC population. The statistically significant differences between the 2015–16 and 2014–15 STC cohorts are also presented.

Section 4.2 presents the main findings from surveys conducted at YOIs during 2015–16. It begins by outlining the self-reported characteristics of YOI survey respondents, as well as survey findings under each of HMIP's healthy prison areas: safety, respect, purposeful activity and resettlement.⁹ It also includes an overview of the significant differences identified within the 2015–16 responses among specific sub-groups of the YOI population. This section also includes a comparison between the 2015–16 and 2014–15 reporting years.

Section 4.3 presents a comparison of findings between YOIs and STCs in 2015–16.

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.

⁹ The Inspectorate assesses 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 HM Inspectorate of Prisons Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of children and young people and conditions in prisons.

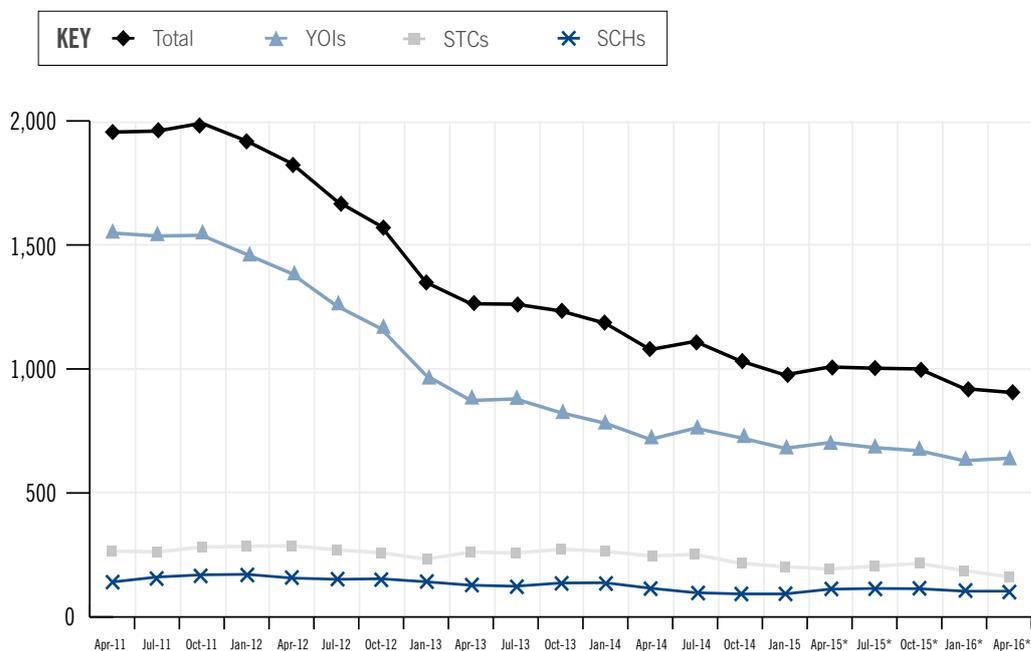
3. Background

Children in custody

As of April 2016, 1,021 children were held in custody across England and Wales: of these, 906 were aged under 18 years of age.^{10,11} All these children were held in either a secure training centre (STC), a young offender institution (YOI), or a secure children's home (SCH). STCs were originally intended to hold boys and girls aged between 12 and 15, but following the introduction of detention and training orders (DTOs) in 2000, the age range was extended to 18 years. YOIs hold only boys aged between 15 and 18. Before 2013, there were specialist YOI units for girls aged 17 or under but after the closure of these specialist units, all girls aged under 18 are now held in either STCs or SCHs. SCHs are run by local authorities or other providers and can hold children aged between 10 and 17, as well as those held on youth justice grounds or detained for welfare reasons under Section 25 of the Children Act. This report focuses on the responses from children held in YOIs and STCs as HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) has no remit to inspect in SCHs.¹²

The average number of children in custody aged under 18 fell by 51% between 2011–12 and 2015–16 (from 1,963 to 962).¹³ Figure 1 shows the most substantial drop was in children held in YOIs, falling 59% from 1,548 in April 2011 to 640 in April 2016. Over the last 10 years, the average secure estate population (including those aged over 18) has fallen by 67% from an average population of 3,177 in 2005–06 to an average population of 1,049 in 2015–2016.

Figure 1: Number of children (under 18) in custody over the past five years



*Provisional data

¹⁰ Note: Some children are detained in YOIs, STCs and SCHs past their eighteenth birthday. This report will continue to refer to all people held in these places of detention, regardless of age, as children.

¹¹ Youth Justice Board (2016) *Youth custody report*, April 2016.

¹² The statutory responsibilities for these inspections rest with Ofsted in England, and, in Wales, with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Estyn.

¹³ Provisional data from *Youth custody report*.

Youth custodial estate in 2015–16

STCs

During 2015–16 there were three STCs operating, all privately run on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (YJB). All the STCs were purpose-built and are not located within an existing prison.

- Medway (Chatham, Kent) opened in April 1998 and was operated by G4S. In 2002, the centre expanded to be able to hold 76 boys and girls. In July 2016 the National Offender Management Service took over responsibility for running Medway.
- Oakhill (Milton Keynes) opened in 2004. It can currently hold up to 80 boys. Throughout 2015–16 Oakhill was operated by G4S. The NHS does not commission services at Oakhill.
- Rainsbrook (Rugby) opened in 1999 and was expanded in 2002 to accommodate up to 87 girls and boys. In 2007, a purpose-built mother and baby unit opened to accommodate girls in the final stages of pregnancy or with newborn babies. During 2015–16 it was operated by G4S.

YOIs

During 2015–16 there were five YOIs and one specialist unit operating. Three of the five YOIs were dedicated YOI establishments while two were within an existing establishment that held either adults or young adults. Any boys held on split sites are still held on their own dedicated wings or units and should be kept completely separate from both adults and young adults.

- [Cookham Wood \(Rochester, Kent\)](#) became a YOI in May 2008. It is a dedicated site with a certified normal accommodation (CNA) and operational capacity of 188 (as of April 2016)¹⁴.
- [Feltham \(Middlesex\)](#) is a split site holding boys and, separately, young adults (aged 18–21 who are not included in this report). It has a CNA and operational capacity of 180. It holds both sentenced and unsentenced boys.
- [Parc \(Bridgend\)](#) is a split site, and the only prison in England and Wales to hold adults, young adults and boys. The boys' unit has a CNA and operational capacity of 64 and holds both sentenced and unsentenced boys. It is privately run by G4S.
- [Werrington \(Stoke-on-Trent\)](#) is a dedicated site holding both sentenced boys and boys on remand, with a CNA of 118 and an operational capacity of 142.
- [Wetherby \(West Yorkshire\)](#) is a dedicated site holding sentenced boys, and includes a unit dedicated to holding boys with life or long-term determinate sentences. It has a CNA and operational capacity of 336.
- [Keppel Unit \(Wetherby\)](#) is a 48-bed specialist unit within Wetherby. It is a national resource for very vulnerable boys and those who find it hard to engage in the larger YOIs.

¹⁴ CNA refers to the number of people a prison can accommodate without being overcrowded. Operational capacity is the number of people who can be held in a prison before it has an impact on the running of the establishment.

Recent inspection findings on YOIs and STCs

The survey responses from children are a valuable source of evidence for making judgements about an establishment as a whole. Published inspection reports provide an overall assessment, based on a number of evidence sources, and these findings are summarised in the annual report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales.¹⁵ The latest report included the findings from five inspection reports of YOIs and two inspection reports of the same STC published in 2015–16.

During 2015–16, inspections of YOIs found significant failings in the areas of safety and activity; only one YOI was judged to be sufficiently safe. We found that for too many children in custody, violence, bullying and intimidation were a regular feature of life. Poor management of behaviour also affected children's access to purposeful activity, and too often we found large numbers of children locked up when they should have been in class. The outcomes in this area were not good enough in all but two YOIs. We had particular concerns at Wetherby and the specialist Keppel Unit, where we judged the provision to be poor.

Outcomes for children held in STCs had also deteriorated during 2015–16. HMIP, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Rainsbrook twice. This was due to significant failings identified during the first inspection that brought into question whether the centre could hold children safely. Although the inspection found that there were generally positive relationships between children and staff, as well as good behaviour management, there had been serious incidents of gross misconduct by staff, compounded by poor decision-making by senior managers. The follow-up inspection showed that there had been some progress but there was still evidence of staff misconduct, which called into question the culture of the centre. While the staff had been dealt with appropriately, children at the centre had again been exposed to risk.

Sadly the situation at Rainsbrook did not appear to be unique. Following allegations made in a BBC TV programme, a team of HMIP and Ofsted inspectors made an unscheduled visit to Medway STC in January 2016 and issued an advice note to the Justice Secretary.

HMIP's annual report also highlighted the findings of a review into behaviour management and restraint of children in custody.¹⁶ The new system of MMPR (minimising and managing physical restraint) places a greater emphasis on staff using their relationships with children to de-escalate volatile incidents and minimise the number of restraints as a result. While the review found improvements in national oversight and a greater focus on communication and de-escalation as part of a wider approach to behaviour management, there was still significant variation in local practice. Despite this effort and some good practice, it was concluded that further work was needed to reduce the risk to children while being restrained.

¹⁵ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2016) *Annual Report 2015–16*. London: HMIP.

¹⁶ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2015) *Behaviour management and restraint of children in custody: A review of the early implementation of MMPR*. London: HMIP.

The youth custody estate: policy developments during 2015–16

In September 2015, Charlie Taylor was asked to lead a review of the youth justice system on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The review was tasked with examining ‘what works’ in preventing youth crime; how the youth justice system can successfully interact with other children’s services; and whether the youth custody estate is fit for purpose. An interim report, setting out the initial findings of the review, was published in February 2016^{17,18} and reported that the fall in the number of children being held in custody has meant that children are now being held further from their homes, undermining resettlement efforts. This drop in the number of children in custody also means that those held are often the most persistent and troubled offenders, creating pressure on staff; some of whom, despite their best efforts, do not have the skills or experience to manage these children. The review also highlighted the importance of education. While new education contracts should be ensuring 30 hours of education a week, children, on average, were only gaining access to 17 hours a week. The review proposed creating a series of smaller, education-led, custodial establishments, located in the regions that they serve.

Following the findings from a BBC TV programme, aired in January 2016, and the advice note issued by HMIP, the Justice Secretary announced the formation of an Independent Improvement Board for Medway STC. Tasked with investigating the safeguarding arrangements at Medway, as well as overseeing G4S and reporting to the Secretary of State, the Board published its final report in May 2016.¹⁹ It found there was a lack of clarity around the purpose of STCs, and a culture within Medway that emphasised control and contract compliance rather than rehabilitation. The Board highlighted that safeguarding measures were outdated, while also expressing concern over how the YJB was managing its contracts and monitoring safeguarding in STCs.

Both of these reviews have illustrated how this is a challenging time for the youth custody estate, and a time of considerable change, especially for STCs. It was announced that MTCnovo would take over control of Rainsbrook STC over the course of the year, and in February 2016, G4S announced its intention to sell its UK children’s services business, which includes STCs.²⁰ While it was announced that NOMS would take over the running of Medway STC from July 2016, it has not yet been confirmed who will run Oakhill STC. This adds to the uncertainty throughout the secure estate landscape, which HMIP will continue to monitor during the coming year.

¹⁷ Review of the Youth Justice System: An interim report of emerging findings. Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498736/youth-justice-review.pdf [accessed 19/08/2016]

¹⁸ At the time of writing (August 2016) the final report had yet to be published.

¹⁹ Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/523167/medway-report.pdf [accessed 22/06/2016]

²⁰ Source: <http://www.g4s.com/en/Media%20Centre/News/2016/02/26/G4S%20Sale%20of%20UK%20Childrens%20Services%20business/> [accessed 22/06/2016]

4. Results

4.1 Secure training centres – main findings

Demographics

Three secure training centres (STCs) were surveyed during 2015–16. Overall, 79% of the resident children participated, resulting in a total of 135 responses. The vast majority (90%) were boys while 31% of children reported that they were under 16.

White children accounted for 59% of the STC population. However, the reported ethnicity varied between centres: from 33% of children identifying as being from a black or minority ethnic background at Oakhill, to 67% of children reporting this at Medway. When asked about their religious beliefs, over two-fifths of children (43%) said they had no religious faith, two-fifths (39%) identified as Christian and 15% said they were Muslim (which ranged from 12% of children at Oakhill to nearly a quarter of children (23%) at Medway. Twelve per cent of children said they were from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background, with the highest proportion at Rainsbrook (18%). Just over a fifth of children (22%) reported having a disability and 39% reported having experience of local authority care prior to entering the STC.

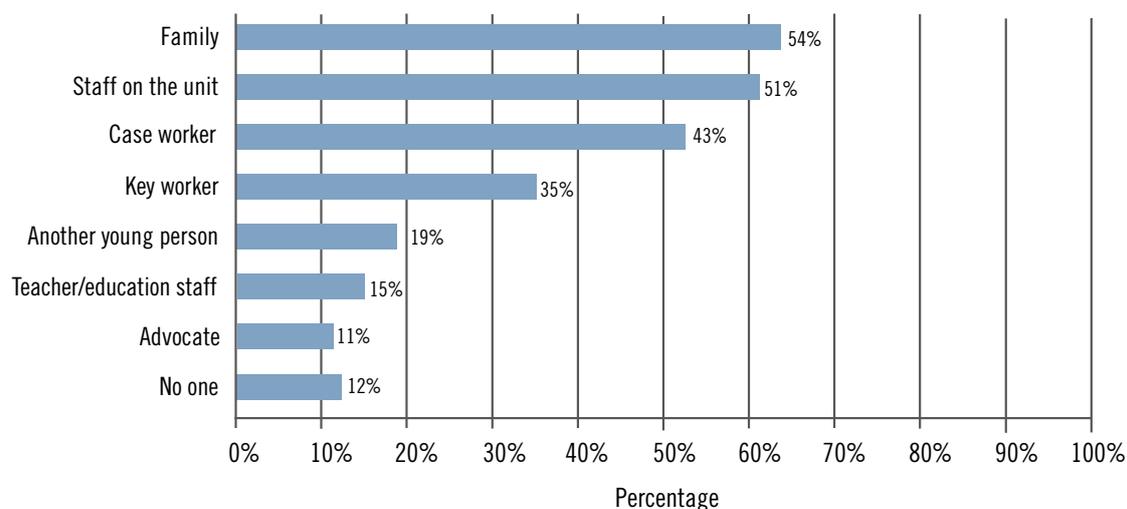
The journey to the centre and the first 24 hours

Nearly all children (91%) said that they felt looked after by staff on their journey to the centre, and the vast majority of children (95%) said that they were searched on their arrival. While most children reported that the search was conducted respectfully (85%), one in four children (26%) said that staff did not explain why the search was taking place. While 90% said that they saw a doctor or nurse before they went to bed on their first night at the centre, fewer children (66%) stated that a member of staff had asked them about how they were feeling, ranging from 85% of children at Medway, to only 50% at Oakhill. Eighty-seven per cent of children said that they felt safe on their first night at the centre.

Daily life

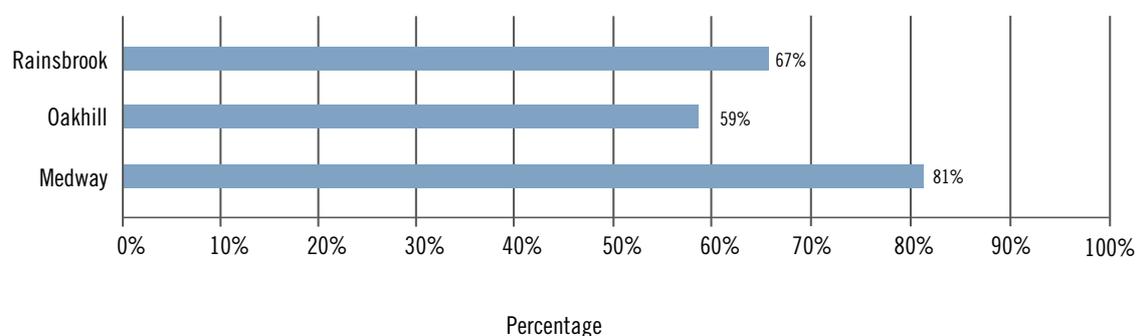
Three-quarters (74%) of children said they were told everything they needed to know about the centre in their first few days (ranging from 94% of children at Medway, to 63% at Oakhill). A very high proportion of children (89%) said that they felt that staff treated them with respect. Around one in eight children (12%) felt that they would have ‘no-one’ to turn to if they had a problem. As shown in Figure 2, children were most likely to report turning to family if they had a problem (54%) and least likely to report going to an advocate (11%).²¹ Just over half (51%) said they would go to a member of staff with a problem; however, this ranged considerably between centres, from 72% of children at Medway to only a third at Oakhill.

²¹ Advocates are independent from the STC. Their role is to ensure that children understand their rights and that the centre is upholding these rights.

Figure 2: Who children said they would turn to if they had a problem (2015–16)

Most children (89%) said that they had a key worker and a similar number felt their key worker helped them (90%). However, it is worth noting that only just over a third of children (35%) said they would turn to a key worker if they had a problem.

Two-thirds (67%) of children who had religious beliefs said they could follow their religious beliefs if they wanted to. As shown in Figure 3, this varied across the STCs.

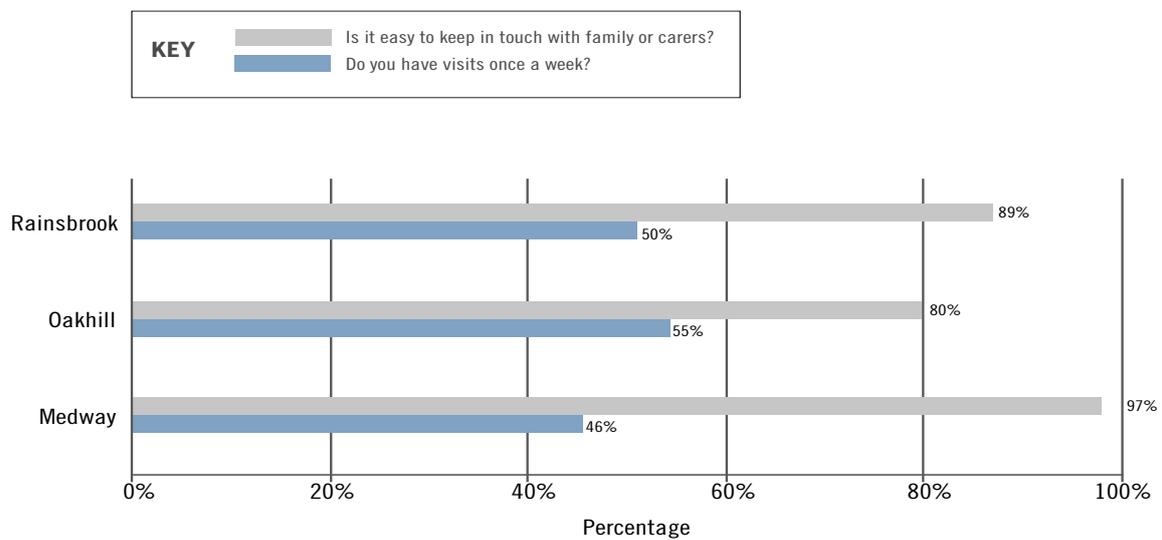
Figure 3: Children who said they could follow their religion if they wanted to (2015–16)

Only 31% of children felt that the food provided by the centre was 'very good' or 'good' (ranging from 37% of children at Rainsbrook to 25% of children at Oakhill).

Contact with the outside world

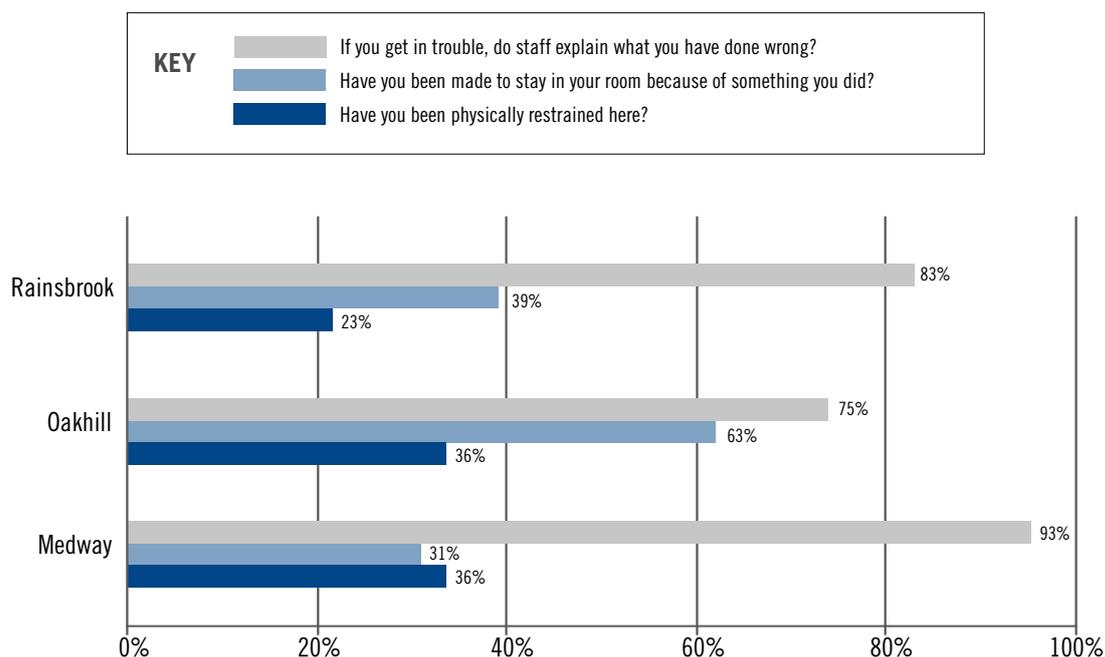
While the majority of children (89%) reported that it was easy to keep in touch with family or carers outside the centre, only half the children (51%) said they received a visit from their friends or carers at least once a week. The views on whether it was easy to keep in contact with family or carers varied by STC, from nearly all children (97%) saying it was easy at Medway, to 80% of children stating the same at Oakhill. While children at Medway were most likely to say that it was easy to keep in contact with family, they were least likely to report having visits once a week, suggesting that other forms of contact were also important, such as phone calls (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of children who said it was easy for their family to visit and who reported having weekly visits (2015–16)



Behaviour

Four-fifths (79%) of children in 2015–16 said that the incentives and sanctions scheme encouraged them to change their behaviour, but fewer experienced it as a fair scheme (68%). Similarly, while 82% of children said that staff would let them know what they had done wrong if they got into trouble, fewer children reported that staff would tell them if their behaviour was good (73%). Almost half of children (48%) said that they had been made to stay in their room away from the other children because of something they had done (ranging from 31% at Medway to 63% at Oakhill). Approximately a third of children (32%) stated that they had been restrained since their arrival at the centre. Of these, around two-thirds (63%) said that they had had an opportunity to speak about the restraint with somebody after the event. While 85% of children were afforded this opportunity in Medway, only half (50%) at Oakhill reported the same.

Figure 5: Children's responses to questions relating to behaviour management (2015–16)

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

Those children who had been restrained were significantly less likely to:

- say that they had been searched when they arrived (83% compared with 99%);
- say that they were searched with respect by staff (72% compared with 90%);
- report that they had been told everything they needed to know about the centre in their first 24 hours (59% compared with 82%);
- report that they were treated with respect by staff (71% compared with 97%);
- say that the incentives and sanctions scheme encouraged them to behave well (60% compared with 88%);
- know where they would be living when they left the centre (43% compared with 81%).

They were significantly more likely to:

- say that staff had made them stay in their room away from other young people because of something they had done (79% compared with 35%);
- have wanted to make a complaint but did not do so, because they were concerned about the consequences (28% compared with 10%).

In the area of safety, children who were restrained were also significantly more likely to report:

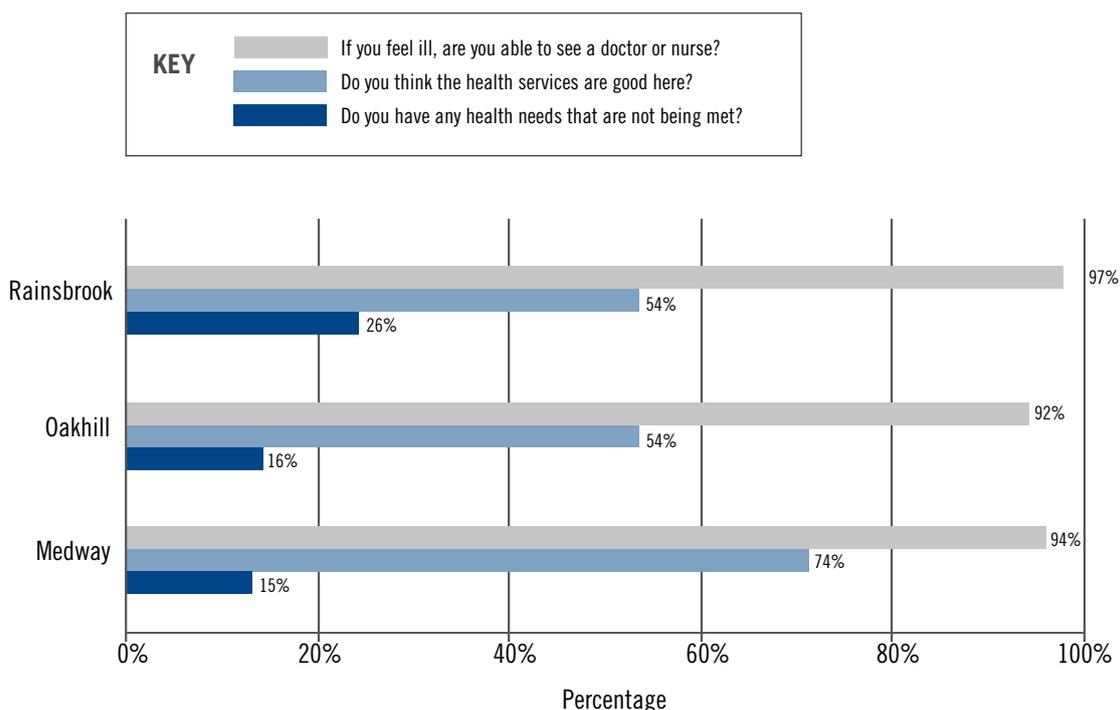
- having been physically abused (40% compared with 14%) or sexually abused (8% compared with 0%) by other young people at the centre;

- being victimised by other detainees because of gang-related issues (27% compared with 0%) or because of their family or friends (23% compared with 6%);
- having been insulted (29% compared with 5%), physically abused (27% compared with 4%) or having felt threatened and intimidated (25% compared with 5%) by members of staff;
- being victimised by members of staff because of:
 - their race or ethnic origin (12% compared with 1%);
 - their nationality (10% compared with 0%);
 - their age (10% compared with 0%);
 - their offence (10% compared with 0%);
 - gang-related issues (10% compared with 0%);
 - their gender (10% compared with 0%);
 - making a complaint (12% compared with 0%);
 - their family or friends (12% compared with 0%).

Health care

The overwhelming majority of children (94%) said that they were able to see a doctor or nurse if they felt unwell. However, only 58% felt that the health services at their STC were 'good'. Children at Medway were more positive about the health care, with 74% describing the services as 'good', compared with 54% at both Oakhill and Rainsbrook.²² These responses are shown below in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Responses to key questions on health care (2015–16)



²² The NHS does not commission services at Oakhill.

Complaints

Nearly all children (96%) knew how to make a complaint. Of those who had made a complaint, 69% felt this was dealt with fairly. Children's views on the fairness of the complaints process varied across the three STCs, with 83% of children at Medway saying they were fair, compared with 76% of children at Rainsbrook and 55% at Oakhill. Across the three STCs, 15% of children said they had not made a complaint because they were worried about the consequences; however, this ranged from 6% of children at Medway to nearly a quarter (23%) at Rainsbrook.

Education and activities

Overall, less than half of children (44%) said that they had a care plan, ranging from 56% of children at Medway to 30% at Rainsbrook.²³ Around three-quarters (73%) said that they had been given advice about training or jobs, just over two-thirds (68%) reported being able to learn skills for jobs they might want in the future and a similar number (66%) felt that the education they had received would help them on their release.

Many children (87%) said they had been able to learn 'life skills' (everyday activities such as ironing or food preparation) at the centre, and the same percentage said that they were encouraged by staff to take part in activities outside of the core day.

Of those children surveyed in 2015–16, 70% knew where they would be living once they left the centre, although this varied from 75% of children at Rainsbrook to 59% at Medway. Just over three-fifths (63%) of children who were sentenced said that they had done something to make them less likely to offend in the future.

Safety

Almost a quarter (23%) of the children held in STCs during 2015–16 said that they had felt unsafe at some point and 10% reported feeling unsafe at the time of the survey. The percentage of children feeling unsafe at the time of the survey varied from one child at Medway to 12% of children at Rainsbrook.

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?

Journey to the centre and first 24 hours

Children who said that they had felt unsafe at some point in their centre were significantly less likely to report that:

- they felt looked after on their journey to the centre (78% compared with 97%);
- staff had explained why they were being searched on arrival (45% compared with 84%), or that the search was carried out respectfully (66% compared with 91%);
- on their first night they were seen by a doctor or nurse (72% compared with 95%), they were spoken to about how they were feeling (38% compared with 75%), or they felt safe (57% compared with 95%);
- they were told everything that they needed to know about the centre in their first few days (55% compared with 81%).

²³ Care plans are opened for young people who may have specific needs, for example those who are particularly vulnerable or who are displaying challenging behaviour.

Daily life, behaviour, complaints and education

Children who said that they had felt unsafe at some point in their centre were also significantly less likely to report that:

- staff treated them with respect (76% compared with 94%);
- it was easy to keep in touch with family or carers (69% compared with 92%);
- the rewards and sanctions scheme encouraged them to behave well (54% compared with 87%) or was fair (40% compared with 76%);
- staff explained what they had done wrong if they were in trouble (53% compared with 90%), or told them when their behaviour was good (46% compared with 82%);
- they knew how to make a complaint (85% compared with 99%), and were more likely to say they had not made a complaint because they were concerned about the consequences (41% compared with 8%);
- they had been given advice about training or jobs that they might like to do in the future (51% compared with 81%), or had been encouraged by staff to take part in extra-curricular activities (65% compared with 94%).

Safety

Children who said that they had felt unsafe at some point in their centre were significantly more likely to report:

- having been physically abused (40% compared with 15%), sexually abused (11% compared with 0%), felt threatened or intimidated (46% compared with 10%), received insulting remarks (51% compared with 26%), and had their canteen/property taken (23% compared with 6%) by other young people at the centre;
- being victimised by other children because of their offence or crime (26% compared with 7%);
- having received insulting remarks (31% compared with 6%), been physically abused (29% compared with 5%), felt threatened and intimidated (26% compared with 7%), and had their canteen or property taken (26% compared with 5%) by members of staff;
- being victimised by members of staff because of their race or ethnic origin (17% compared with 1%), their nationality (14% compared with 0%), being from a different part of the country (14% compared with 1%), being from the Traveller community (11% compared with 0%), their age (14% compared with 0%), their offence (14% compared with 0%), because they had made a complaint (14% compared with 1%), and because of their family or friends (14% compared with 1%).

Children were asked about the various types of victimisation that they might have experienced from other children. Just over half (54%) of children reported some form of victimisation by their peers, as shown in Table 2. The most commonly reported form of victimisation was insulting remarks, which was experienced by a third of children held in STCs during 2015–16 (33%). A similar percentage of children (31%) reported feeling victimised by being shouted at through windows. The next most commonly reported form of victimisation was physical abuse, reported by 22% of children, followed by being

threatened or intimidated (18%). One in 10 children reported having their canteen or property taken, while 3% said that they had been sexually abused by other young people.

Table 2: Types and causes of victimisation reported by children in STCs (2015–16)

	By other young people	By members of Staff
Number of completed questionnaires returned	135	135
Have you experienced any of the following from young people here?		
Insulting remarks?	33%	13%
Physical abuse?	22%	12%
Sexual abuse?	3%	2%
Feeling threatened or intimidated?	18%	11%
Shout outs/yelling through windows?	31%	
Having your canteen/property taken?	10%	10%
For those who have indicated any of the above, what did it relate to?		
Your race or ethnic origin?	11%	5%
Your religion or religious beliefs?	6%	2%
Your nationality?	8%	3%
Your being from a different part of the country than others?	10%	4%
Your being from a Traveller community?	2%	3%
Your sexual orientation?	3%	2%
Your age?	5%	3%
Your having a disability?	2%	2%
Your being new here?	13%	4%
Your offence or crime?	10%	3%
Gang-related issues or people you know or mix with?	8%	3%
Your family or friends?	11%	4%
Drugs?	8%	3%
Medications you receive?	1%	1%
Your gender?	2%	3%
Because you made a complaint?		4%

When asked about the reason for their victimisation by other children, the most common response was being new at the centre (13%). Eleven per cent of children said that they were victimised because of their race or ethnic origin, or their family or friends, while 10% said they were victimised because of their offence/crime, or for being from a different part of the country than others.

Children were also asked about the various types of victimisation they had experienced from staff. Just over a quarter (27%) reported that they had been victimised by staff. This was most commonly in the form of insulting remarks (13%), while 11% of children reported physical victimisation or feeling threatened or intimidated. Ten per cent said that members of staff had taken their canteen or property, while 2% stated that they had been sexually abused by members of staff. When the children were asked what their victimisation may

have been related to, the most common reason was because of their race or ethnic origin (5%). Two-thirds (68%) of children said that they would tell a member of staff if they were being bullied or picked on, which was broadly consistent across all three STCs.

Diversity

The survey allows us to compare children's experiences of discrimination based on different diversity and protected characteristics. The full results from these analyses are available as online appendices (see online appendix A).

Girls

In 2015–16, one in 10 STC detainees were girls (10%). Their experiences when compared to boys were very similar. They were, however, more likely than boys to say they would turn to a member of staff on their unit if they had a problem (92% compared with 48%). This was the only statistically significant difference observed in the survey responses between girls and boys.

Children under 16

Around a third (32%) of children detained in STCs were under 16. A higher proportion of these children said they were from an ethnic minority background (57% compared with 33%). While those children aged under 16 were less likely to feel that they were looked after by staff on their journey to the STC (81% compared with 96%), once they had arrived at the centre none of their responses to questions on life in the STC were significantly different to those children who were over 16.

Children from a black or other minority ethnic group

Two-fifths of children (41%) self-identified as being from a black or minority ethnic group. These children were more likely than white children to report being under 16 (45% compared with 23%) and being Muslim (36% compared with 0%).

Children from a black or minority ethnic background were significantly less likely to report being searched on arrival at the centre (87% compared with 99%). These children were also less likely to say that members of staff treated them with respect (78% compared with 96%) or that they knew where they would be living once they were released from the STC (56% compared with 78%). They were also more likely to report being victimised by other young people because of gang-related issues (20% compared with 1%).

Muslim children

In 2015–16, 15% of children in STCs said that they were Muslim. All of these children were from a black or minority ethnic background and were boys.

Boys who said they were Muslim were significantly less likely than non-Muslim boys to report feeling looked after on their journey to the centre (71% compared with 94%); being searched on their arrival in the centre (78% compared with 97%); and being treated with respect by staff (65% compared with 92%). They were also more likely to report having been physically restrained by staff since their arrival in the centre (59% compared with 28%).

Gypsy, Romany or Traveller children

Of those children detained in STCs during 2015–16, 12% considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller. These children were less likely to find it ‘easy’ to keep in contact with their family or carers outside the centre (60% compared with 90%) and more likely to report being victimised by other young people by having their canteen or property taken (37% compared with 7%). They were more likely to attribute their victimisation, by both staff and other children, the medication they received (12% compared with 0% and 11% compared with 0% respectively). Almost a quarter (24%) felt that they were victimised by staff and 17% by other children because they were from a Traveller community.

Disabled children

While around a fifth of children (22%) surveyed in STCs during 2015–16 identified themselves as having a disability, there were no significant differences between these children and other children for any of the survey questions.

Children who had been in local authority care

Almost two-fifths of the children held in STCs during 2015–16 reported that they had been in local authority care. Generally their responses were similar to children who had not been in local authority care. However, they were significantly more likely to report being victimised by other children because of their family and friends (25% compared with 3%), and less likely to say that they knew where they would be living once they were released from the STC (51% compared with 79%).

What were the main changes observed in STCs since 2014–15?

When comparing the survey responses from 2015–16 with those in 2014–15, there were only three questions that showed a significant difference, all of which related to the children’s arrival and first night. Children who were detained in STCs in 2015–16 were less likely to say that staff explained why they were being searched on their arrival at the centre (74% compared with 86%); that the search was carried out respectfully (85% compared with 95%); or that they spoke to someone about how they were feeling on their first night in the centre (66% compared with 79%).

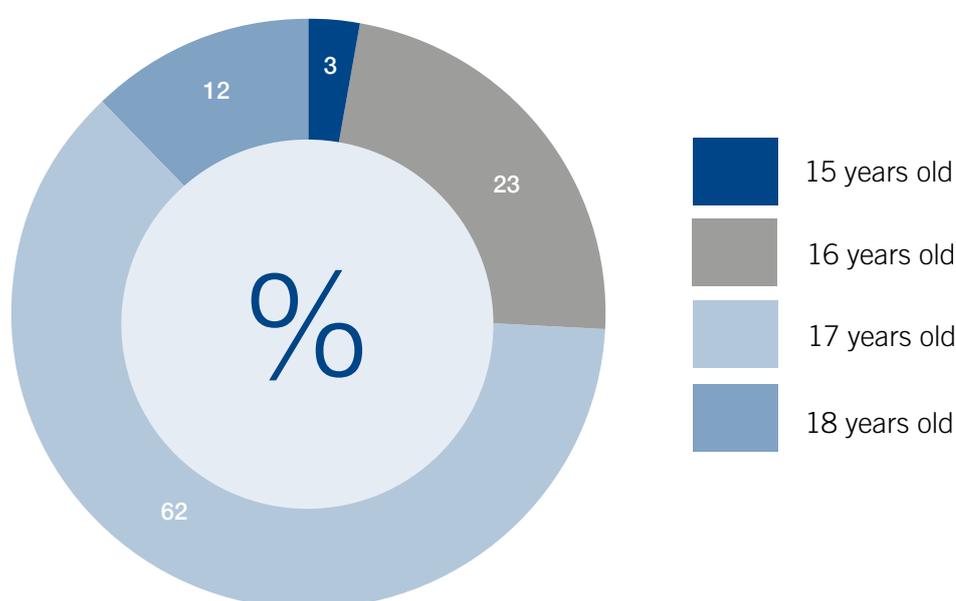
A full comparison of survey responses between the 2015–16 and 2014–15 reporting years is available in online appendix A3.

4.2 Young offender institutions – main findings

Demographics

Five young offender institutions (YOIs) were inspected during 2015–16, as well as the specialist unit (Keppel) which is part of Wetherby YOI (full results can be found online in appendix B). Three were dedicated sites (Cookham Wood, Werrington and Wetherby) while two (Parc and Feltham) were split sites. Overall, 86% of those children detained in the YOIs at the time of our inspection participated in a survey, resulting in a total of 632 responses. All those held in YOIs were boys. Most of the boys were 17 years old (62%). Only 3% said that they were 15. Approximately one in eight boys (12%) were 18 years old. The proportion of boys aged 18 varied across the YOI estate, from 0% at Parc to 24% at the Keppel Unit.²⁴

Figure 7: Ages of boys in YOIs (2015–16)



Five per cent of boys said they were foreign nationals, and this varied from one boy at Parc to 8% of boys at Cookham Wood. Nearly all the boys held in YOIs said that they understood spoken (99%) and written (98%) English.

Just over half (53%) said that they were from a white ethnic background with 47%, the highest rate recorded since 2001, identifying as black or minority ethnic. The proportion of boys who identified as being from a black or minority ethnic background varied considerably, from 7% in the Keppel Unit to 70% at Feltham.

Of those boys who said that they had religious beliefs (71%), most identified as either Christian (49%) or Muslim (22%). The proportion of boys who said they were Muslim varied markedly across the surveyed sites, ranging from 0% (Parc) to 32% (at both Cookham Wood and Feltham).

Seven per cent of boys considered themselves to be from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background.

²⁴ 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 will remain in the YOI. Children turning 18 but sentenced to a Detention and Training Order will also remain in a YOI unless they pose a risk to other young people.

Almost one in five boys (19%) considered themselves to have a disability. The levels of self-reported disability ranged from between 15% and 21% across most of the sites inspected, with the exception of Keppel, where 53% of boys said they had a disability.

In 2015–16, 37% of boys reported that they had been in local authority care at some point. The proportion of boys reporting this was relatively consistent across the YOI estate, ranging from 29% (Wetherby) to 41% (at both Cookham Wood and Feltham).

One in 10 boys (10%) said that they had dependent children. Again, there was variation between all sites, ranging from 5% at Feltham to 18% in the Keppel Unit.

As shown in Table 3 there have been some considerable changes in the profile of boys held in YOIs since 2001–03.

Table 3: Boys' YOI survey responses 2001–03 to 2014–15 (N=6,870)

Question	2001–03	2004–06	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Number of completed questionnaires returned	1,089*	929*	1,052	926	942	729	571	632
Characteristics								
Are you 18 years of age?	11%	12%	14%	12%	15%	11%	13%	12%
Are you a foreign national?	N/A	N/A	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Do you understand spoken English?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	99%	99%	99%	99%
Do you understand written English?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%	98%	98%	98%
Black or minority ethnic group (includes all those who did not tick white British, white Irish or white other category)	23%	23%	39%	42%	45%	41%	42%	47%
Are you Muslim?	N/A	N/A	16%	21%	22%	22%	21%	22%
Do you consider yourself to be Gypsy/Romany/Traveller?	N/A	N/A	6%	5%	5%	6%	8%	7%
Do you have any children?	12%	10%	13%	12%	11%	11%	9%	10%
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	N/A	N/A	9%	11%	16%	19%	18%	19%

Have you ever been in local authority care?	37%	29%	27%	30%	33%	33%	38%	37%
Do you have any emotional or mental health problems?	N/A	N/A	21%	27%	19%	23%	24%	25%
Did you have any problems with drugs when you first arrived?	N/A**	N/A	33%	36%	34%	37%	36%	33%
Safety								
Ever felt unsafe in the establishment	36%	32%	27%	32%	30%	29%	33%	46%
Feel unsafe now	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11%	11%	13%	18%
Respect								
Most staff treat you with respect	N/A	76%	63%	64%	74%	68%	70%	63%
Purposeful activity								
Involved in education	72%	79%	74%	80%	79%	75%	73%	76%
Involved in a job	34%	33%	31%	31%	28%	30%	28%	16%
Involved in vocational training	N/A	N/A	19%	20%	18%	14%	14%	11%
Involved in offending behaviour programmes	N/A	N/A	22%	24%	24%	20%	17%	16%
Resettlement								
Do you have a training plan, sentence plan or remand plan?	N/A***	N/A	47%	49%	53%	51%	41%	48%

*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

Just over three-quarters (77%) of YOI respondents said that they were sentenced. This ranged from nearly every boy (97%) at Parc to two-thirds (67%) at Cookham Wood. Two-fifths (40%) of sentenced boys during 2015–16 were serving a sentence of less than 12 months, while nearly one in three (32%) were serving a sentence of two years or more. Four per cent said that they were subject to an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP).²⁵ Of those sentenced, three-fifths (60%) had been in the establishment for six months or less at the time of our inspection, while 14% had been there for more than a year.

²⁵ The IPP sentence was abolished in 2012.

Unsentenced boys reported a poorer experience when compared with sentenced boys in a number of areas (see online appendix B9). They were significantly more likely to report feeling worried or upset and needing someone to talk to on their arrival (22% compared with 13%). They were also more likely to report feeling unsafe in the YOI at the time of the survey (27% compared with 16%).

While unsentenced boys were less likely to report it being easy to make a complaint (30% compared with 48%) or to being on the top level of the incentives and earned privileges (IEP) scheme (11% compared with 28%), they were less likely to report having had a minor report (34% compared with 53%) or an adjudication (58% compared with 71%).

Unsentenced boys were significantly less likely to have had a job in the establishment (8% compared with 18%); report being able to have association every day (43% compared with 58%); or be able to use the phone on a daily basis (72% compared with 83%).

Prior experiences of custody

Overall, almost three-fifths (59%) of boys said that this was their first time in custody. Compared with those who had been in custody before, boys who said that it was their first time in custody were significantly less likely to report having seen a doctor or nurse before being locked up (65% compared with 75%), or to say that they felt safe on their first night (70% compared with 85%). Additionally, they were more likely to have had problems when they first arrived in custody (84% compared with 72%) and for those problems to relate to feeling scared (17% compared with 9%). They were also more likely to report being victimised by another young person at their establishment (39% compared with 29%) and for that victimisation to be physical in nature (19% compared with 11%). These boys, with no prior experience of custody, were also less likely to have an advocate who could help them (30% compared with 40%), to know who to contact for help with money and finances (20% compared with 29%) or how to open a bank account (16% compared with 25%) on their release.

In contrast, those new to custody were more likely to report that the food was 'good' or 'very good' (18% compared with 10%) and less likely to say that they would have no one to turn to if they had a problem (18% compared with 30%). They were also less likely to report being victimised by staff generally (28% compared with 38%) and to report staff victimisation in the form of: insulting remarks (13% compared with 22%); victimisation because of their medication (0% compared with 3%); or because they were from a Traveller community (0% compared with 3%). Furthermore, those with no prior experience of custody were more likely to have association every day (60% compared with 47%), and to have one or more visits a week from their family or friends (41% compared with 22%). They were also more likely to want to stop offending when released (90% compared with 86%) and to have done something, or had something happen to them, to make them less likely to offend in the future (59% compared with 41%).

The journey to the establishment

More than three-quarters (77%) of boys held in YOIs during 2015–16 said that they felt safe on their most recent journey to the establishment. Approximately a third (34%) reported travelling with adults or female detainees, ranging from 19% at the Keppel Unit to 68% at Parc.

Half (50%) of boys surveyed said that they spent more than two hours in the escort van on their journey to the establishment, with 7% reporting that they had spent more than four hours travelling. Of those who spent two hours or more in the escort van, only around one in nine (11%) said that they were offered a toilet break and 42% said they had been offered something to eat or drink.

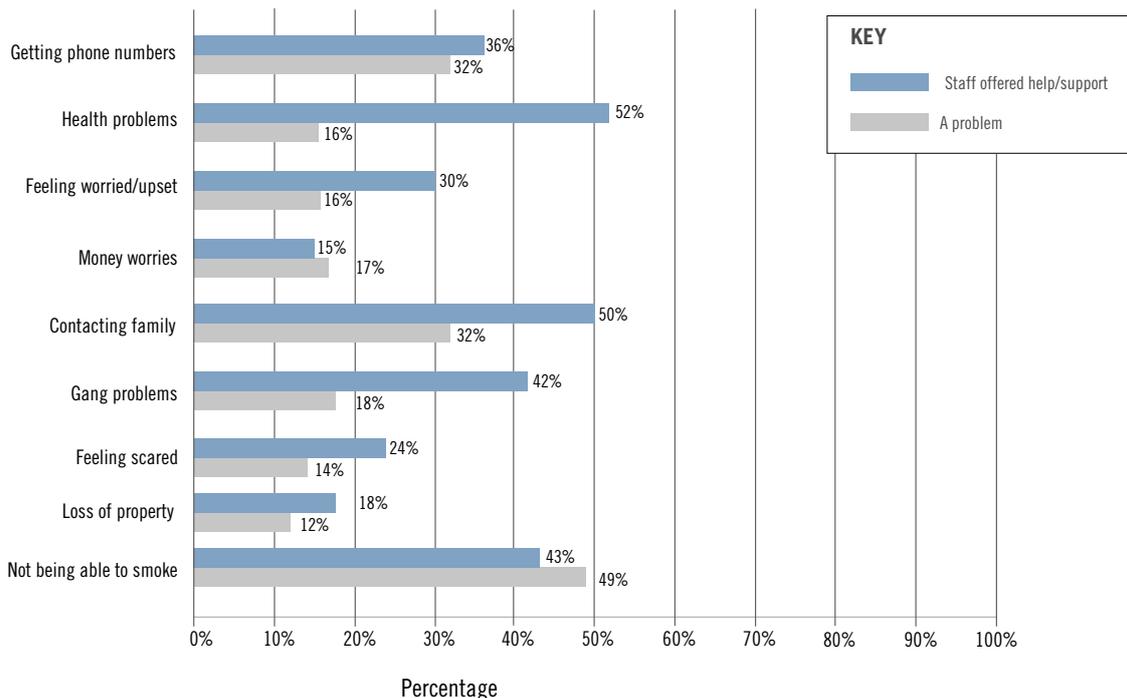
Just over half (53%) of boys said that they were treated 'well' or 'very well' by escort staff and only one in eight (13%) said that they had received useful information to prepare them for coming to the establishment.

First days in custody

Around three-quarters (77%) of boys detained in YOIs said that they were in reception for less than two hours upon arrival at the establishment. Four-fifths (81%) reported that, when they were searched in reception, this was carried out in a respectful way, which varied across the inspected YOIs, ranging from 61% of boys at Parc, to 86% at Cookham Wood. Overall, 65% of boys reported being treated 'well' or 'very well' in reception, but again this experience varied considerably between establishments (from 46% of boys at Parc, to 86% at Werrington).

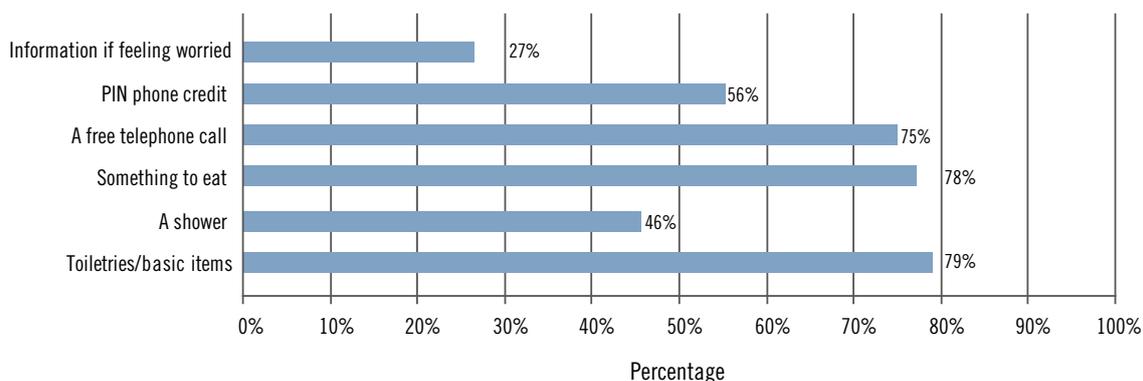
In our survey, boys were asked if they had any problems on arrival at the establishment and whether staff had asked them whether they needed help or support in these areas (even if it was not an issue for them). Their responses are set out in Figure 8. Overall, just under four-fifths (79%) reported having a problem when they first arrived at the establishment. Not being able to smoke was the most commonly reported problem (49%) followed by contacting family and getting phone numbers (both 32%). Despite being the most commonly reported problem, only around two-fifths (43%) of boys reported being asked by staff if they needed any help with not being able to smoke. Instead, boys reported that staff most commonly asked if they needed help with health problems (52%, with 16% reporting entering the establishment with that problem), contacting family (50%) and gang problems (42%, with 18% reporting entering the establishment with that problem).

Figure 8: Problems reported by boys and help offered to them on arrival (2015–16)



Although around four-fifths were given toiletries (79%) and something to eat (78%) and three-quarters (75%) were offered a free telephone call to family or friends, only 27% were offered information about feeling worried or upset following their arrival at the establishment, as shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: When you arrived here, were you given the following?



Boys' responses to questions about the arrival process varied across YOIs. For example, four-fifths (79%) of boys said they were offered the opportunity to have a shower on arrival at Cookham Wood. However, less than a quarter of boys (22%) at Feltham reported being offered this opportunity. Furthermore, 90% of boys at Cookham Wood said they were offered something to eat on arrival while only three-fifths of boys reported being given something to eat at Parc (61%) and the Keppel Unit (62%). Less than half of boys at Parc reported being offered a free telephone call to family (46%) or any PIN phone credit (39%). At Cookham Wood, by contrast, 82% of boys reported being offered the opportunity to have a free telephone call and 67% said that they were offered PIN phone credit.

There was less variation in reported access to people or services. Less than one in 10 said they had access to a peer mentor (9%) or the prison shop (8%), while 14% had access to ChildLine or the Samaritans. However, there was still some inequity in levels of access to these people or services: two-fifths (40%) of boys reported seeing the chaplain in their first 24 hours but this ranged from 29% at Parc to 50% at the Keppel Unit. Furthermore, 69% reported being seen by a doctor or nurse before they were locked up on their first night. Again this varied, from just over half (53%) of boys at Feltham to four-fifths (80%) of boys at Werrington.

While most boys (76%) reported feeling safe on their first night, it is worth highlighting that nearly a quarter of boys (24%) did not. For those who had been on an induction course (87%), just over half (53%) said that it covered everything they needed to know about the establishment (though this ranged from 38% at Werrington to 77% at Parc).

Perception of safety and experiences of victimisation

Just under half (46%) of boys said that they had felt unsafe at some time in their establishment and 18% of boys said that they felt unsafe at the time of the survey, which was the highest rate recorded since the Inspectorate started conducting surveys in YOIs.

Perceptions of safety varied across the YOI estate: the Keppel Unit had the highest proportion of boys who had ever felt unsafe (69%), while Werrington had the highest proportion of boys feeling unsafe at the time of the survey (25%). Parc had the lowest proportion of boys who had ever, or were currently feeling unsafe (28% and 11% respectively).

How did the characteristics and experiences of boys who said that they had felt unsafe at some point at their YOI differ from boys who said they had never felt unsafe?

Boys who reported feeling unsafe at some point in their YOI during 2015–16 were significantly more likely to have reported having:

- a disability (24% compared with 14%);
- emotional or mental health problems (33% compared with 18%);
- a problem with drugs on their arrival at the establishment (41% compared with 28%).

However, they were less likely to have skipped school prior to entering custody (67% compared with 80%).

Boys who reported having felt unsafe at some point in their establishment during 2015–16 were more negative in a number of areas including, but not limited to:

- being less likely to have felt safe during their journey (67% compared with 85%);
- being less likely to feel that they were treated well by reception staff (47% compared with 58%);
- feeling that they were searched respectfully (77% compared with 85%).

As well as being more likely to arrive with a problem (89% compared with 70%), a significantly higher proportion of these boys reported problems on arrival in the following areas:

- not being able to smoke (55% compared with 44%);
- feeling scared (25% compared with 4%);
- gangs (27% compared with 9%);
- contacting family (40% compared with 25%);
- money (24% compared with 11%);
- feeling worried (27% compared with 5%);
- health problems (23% compared with 9%);
- getting phone numbers (38% compared with 27%).

In terms of daily life in custody, boys who had felt unsafe at some point were also less likely to report:

- being able to shower every day (83% compared with 93%);
- finding it easy to attend religious services (42% compared with 55%);
- that staff treated them with respect (57% compared with 68%);
- being too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (29% compared with 4%);
- being able to use the telephone every day (73% compared with 87%);
- having a visit once a week from family and friends (28% compared with 39%).

They were also more likely to report that illegal drugs were easy to access (30% compared with 18%) and not being involved in any activity (20% compared with 12%).

There were significant differences in the nature of the victimisation experienced by boys who had felt unsafe. They were more likely to report victimisation by other young people (63% compared with 11%), including:

- insulting remarks (39% compared with 5%);
- being hit, kicked or assaulted (29% compared with 4%);
- being made to feel threatened or intimidated (30% compared with 2%);
- having their canteen and property taken (16% compared with 0%);
- perceiving shouting through the windows to be a problem (63% compared with 28%).

They were more likely to report victimisation by staff (42% compared with 23%) including:

- insulting remarks (22% compared with 12%);
- being made to feel threatened or intimidated (12% compared with 4%).

A full breakdown of the results can be found in online appendix B13.

Over two-fifths of boys (44%) reported shouting through the windows being a problem at the establishment. This varied across the YOI estate with boys at Werrington being almost twice as likely to say this (59%) as boys at Feltham (32%).

Just over a third of boys (35%) reported being victimised by other boys in the establishment. The most common types and causes of victimisation by their peers were insulting remarks (20%); feeling threatened or intimidated (15%); being hit, kicked or assaulted (15%); or because they were new to the establishment (10%). Other issues were reported by less than 10% of boys in YOIs during 2015–16. For the full breakdown, see Table 4.

What predicted victimisation in YOIs?

We modelled survey responses in order to identify which factors best predicted the probability of a boy saying that they had been victimised at their establishment.

Victimised by other young people

The results identified five variables (from 35 initially examined) as being significant predictors of being victimised by other young people at a YOI. These were:

- those who said shouting through windows was a problem – these boys were four times more likely to say they had been victimised;
- those who reported entering the YOI with a gang problem – these boys were almost three times more likely to say that they had been victimised;
- those who reported entering custody with a drug problem – the odds of reporting victimisation were 64% higher for these boys;

- the number of problems a boy reported entering custody with – each problem was associated with a 22% increase in the odds of reporting being victimised by other boys;
- whether they had been in custody before – the odds of being victimised were 40% lower for those boys who had prior experience of custody.

Victimised by members of staff

There were no consistent predictors of victimisation by staff compared with victimisation by other young people. Our analyses indicated that seven variables (from 35 initially examined) were significant predictors of being victimised by members of staff in a YOI during 2015–16, all of which are different from the predictors of victimisation by young people. These were:

- being treated with respect by staff – boys who said that staff did not treat them with respect were six times more likely to say that they had been victimised by them;
- those who had been to the segregation unit – boys who had spent time in an establishment's segregation unit were almost three times more likely to report having been victimised;
- those who reported being restrained – these respondents were almost twice as likely to say that they had been victimised by staff;
- treatment at reception – boys who said that they were not treated 'well' or 'very well' were also nearly twice as likely to say that they had been victimised by staff;
- mental health problems – those boys who said that they had a mental health problem were almost twice as likely to report being victimised by staff;
- receiving an adjudication – the odds of reporting victimisation by staff was 77% higher among boys who said that they had received an adjudication;
- religious beliefs – the odds of reporting having been victimised by staff were 58% higher among Muslim boys.

A full breakdown of the results can be found in online appendix B.

Almost a third (32%) of boys in 2015–16 reported being victimised by staff while in their establishment. Insulting remarks were, again, the most commonly reported type of victimisation (16%). Others included being hit, kicked or assaulted (10%) or feeling threatened and intimidated (8%). For the full breakdown, see Table 4.

Table 4: Types and causes of victimisation reported by boys in YOIs (2015–16)

	By other young people	By members of staff
Number of completed questionnaires returned	632	632
Since you have been here, have other young people or members of staff:		
Made insulting remarks about you, your family or friends?	20%	16%
Hit, kicked or assaulted you?	15%	10%
Sexually abused you?	1%	1%
Threatened or intimidated you?	15%	8%
Taken your canteen/property?	7%	5%
Reasons for this victimisation:		
Victimised you because of medication?	1%	1%
Victimised you because of debt?	2%	0%
Victimised you because of drugs?	2%	1%
Victimised you because of your race or ethnic origin?	6%	4%
Victimised you because of your religion/religious beliefs?	3%	3%
Victimised you because of your nationality?	3%	3%
Victimised you because you were from a different part of the country?	5%	2%
Victimised you because you are from a Traveller community?	3%	1%
Victimised you because of your sexual orientation?	1%	0%
Victimised you because of your age?	1%	2%
Victimised you because you have a disability?	2%	1%
Victimised you because you were new here?	10%	3%
Victimised you because of your offence/crime?	5%	2%
Victimised you because of gang-related issues?	9%	2%
Victimised you because you made a complaint?		5%

Only 28% of boys said that they would report any victimisation to a member of staff (with rates ranging from nearly half (48%) of boys at Werrington to just under one in six (16%) at Feltham). Furthermore, less than a quarter of boys (23%) thought that staff would take them seriously if they reported being victimised.

What predicted whether a boy would report feeling unsafe during 2015–16?

We modelled survey responses to identify factors which best predicted the probability of a boy reporting that they had ever felt unsafe. The results identified six variables (from 35 initially examined) as being significant predictors of feeling unsafe.

These were:

- those who felt shouting through windows was a problem;
- those who reported entering the YOI with a gang problem;
- the number of problems a boy reported entering custody with;
- those who felt that staff did not treat them with respect;
- those who said that they could not speak to a chaplain, peer mentor, the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), or an advocate when they wanted to;
- the establishment itself.

The variable which had the greatest influence over perceptions of safety was whether shouting through windows was a problem at the establishment. Boys who said it was a problem were four times more likely to say they had felt unsafe.

Boys who entered the prison with a gang problem were twice as likely to say that they had felt unsafe. Furthermore, for each problem a boy entered custody with (from a maximum of nine covered by our survey), their odds of feeling unsafe increased by 34%. Those boys who felt that staff did not treat them with respect were 79% more likely to say they felt unsafe. Similarly, those boys who said that they could not speak to a chaplain, peer mentor, the IMB or an advocate when they wanted to were 77% more likely to say they had felt unsafe.

Finally, the establishment the boys were held in had an impact on perceptions of safety. The odds of boys reporting that they had felt unsafe at Parc were 70% lower compared with those at Wetherby (the comparison group due to having the largest number of boys).

A full breakdown of the results can be found in online appendix B.

Behaviour management

Two-fifths of boys (40%) felt that they had been treated fairly by the IEP scheme and a similar proportion (42%) reported that the scheme encouraged them to change their behaviour. During 2015–16, less than half (49%) of boys in YOIs reported that they had received a minor report, ranging from 32% of boys at Feltham to more than double that (71%) at Parc.²⁶ Of those who had received a minor report, only three-fifths felt that the process was clearly explained to them. A higher proportion of boys reported having received an adjudication since their arrival (68%) and, of these, 78% felt that the process was clearly explained to them. More than two-fifths (45%) of boys in 2015–16 reported being restrained while in the establishment, ranging from 39% of boys at Wetherby to over half (53%) at Feltham.

²⁶ Feltham was not using minor reports at the time of the inspection.

How did the characteristics and experiences of boys who said that they had been restrained by YOI staff during 2015–16 compare with those boys who said they had not been restrained?

Boys who had been restrained were more likely to have:

- been from a black or minority ethnic background (57% compared with 37%);
- been in local authority care (43% compared with 32%);
- been excluded from school (93% compared with 82%);
- skipped school prior to entering custody (79% compared with 65%).

Boys who had been restrained reported more negatively in many areas including, but not limited to:

- being significantly less likely to say that they were treated with respect by staff (53% compared with 70%); were on the top level of the rewards scheme (15% compared with 32%); felt they were treated fairly by the rewards scheme (33% compared with 46%); felt that the scheme made them change their behaviour (33% compared with 50%);
- being more likely to have no one to turn to if they had a problem (29% compared with 18%); have had a minor report (65% compared with 35%); have had an adjudication (97% compared with 44%);
- being more likely, regarding victimisation, to report being victimised by staff (48% compared with 18%), with the victimisation involving being hit, kicked or assaulted (19% compared with 2%); having insulting remarks being made about them (27% compared with 7%); being made to feel threatened or intimidated (12% compared with 4%); having their canteen/property taken (9% compared with 1%).

A full breakdown of the results can be found in online appendix B11.

During 2015–16, a quarter (25%) of boys in YOIs said that they had spent a night in the segregation unit. Of these, just over a third (36%) reported that segregation staff treated them ‘very well’ or ‘well’ while in segregation. This varied from 10% of boys who had been segregated at Parc to over half (54%) of boys at segregated Cookham Wood.

How did the characteristics and experiences of boys who said that they had been in the segregation unit during 2015–16 compare with those boys who had not?

Boys who had been to segregation were more likely to have been:

- from a black or minority ethnic background (56% compared with 43%);
- excluded from school (93% compared with 84%);
- younger than 14 when they were last in school (50% compared with 30%).

Boys who had been in segregation reported more negatively in many areas including, but not limited to, being significantly less likely to say that they could shower every day (79% compared with 92%); the shop sold a wide enough range of goods to meet their needs (40% compared with 53%); they were treated with respect by most staff (50% compared with 67%).

Furthermore, those boys who had been held in segregation were significantly more likely to say that they had received a minor report (66% compared with 44%); they had had an adjudication (86% compared with 62%); they had been restrained by staff (73% compared with 36%).

These boys were more likely to report being victimised by staff (57% compared with 24%), with this victimisation involving being hit, kicked or assaulted (26% compared with 5%); having insulting remarks made about them (28% compared with 13%); being made to feel threatened or intimidated (18% compared with 4%); having their canteen/property taken (9% compared with 3%).

A full breakdown of the results can be found in online appendix B12.

Respect

Overall, 63% of boys detained in YOIs during 2015–16 reported that staff treated them with respect. Less than a quarter (23%) said that they would have no one to turn to if they had a problem (ranging from fewer than one in 10 (8%) at the Keppel Unit to over a third (37%) at Parc). However, fewer than one in three boys (29%) reported that staff had checked on them personally in the last week to see how they were getting on. While just over two-thirds (70%) said they had a personal officer, fewer than half of these boys (43%) said that they saw their personal officer at least once a week. Three-fifths (60%) said that their personal officer had tried to help them.

Only one in five boys (21%) said that their cell bell was answered within five minutes, with this ranging from 11% at Wetherby to 57% at Parc.

Of those boys who said that they had a religion, around half (49%) reported it being 'very easy' or 'easy' to attend religious services, although a higher proportion (60%) reported that they felt their religious beliefs were respected. This varied across the YOI estate with fewer than half of boys (43%) at Parc feeling that their religious beliefs were respected, compared with 67% of boys at Feltham.

Only 15% of boys said that the food in their YOI was 'very good' or 'good'. This was broadly consistent across the establishments.

Health services

While three-fifths of boys (61%) felt that it was ‘easy’ to see a nurse, less than half (47%) felt that it was ‘easy’ to see a doctor, and fewer still (25%) reported that it was ‘easy’ to see a dentist. The proportion of boys reporting that it was ‘easy’ to see a nurse, doctor or dentist was highest at Parc (85%, 74% and 63% respectively) and lowest at Cookham Wood (55%, 41% and 18% respectively). Just under half of boys (47%) who had experience of health care said that it was ‘very good’ or ‘good’, ranging from 37% of boys at the Keppel Unit to 57% of boys at Werrington.

One in four (25%) boys reported an emotional or mental health problem in 2015–16, but this varied considerably across the YOI estate: from 15% at Feltham, to 66% at the Keppel Unit. Of those boys who reported emotional or mental health problems, just over half (54%) said that they were being helped by someone in their establishment. But the extent of this support again varied across the establishments inspected: only 25% of boys at Parc said that they were being helped compared with 75% of boys at the Keppel Unit.

A third of boys (33%) reported having a drug problem on their arrival at the YOI, ranging from a quarter of boys (26%) at Feltham to over half the boys from Parc and the Keppel Unit (57% and 51% respectively).

Applications and complaints

Overall, 59% of boys said that it was ‘easy’ to make an application in their YOI. Boys at Parc were twice as likely to say this as boys from Feltham (81% compared with 40%). Over half (55%) of boys felt that their applications were handled fairly, but fewer boys (35%) felt that applications were processed quickly (within seven days).

Forty-four per cent of boys said that it was ‘easy’ to make a complaint, but less than a third of those (32%) who had made a complaint felt that the process was fair. Fewer still (23%) felt that the process was quick. Boys from the Keppel Unit were least likely to say that the complaints process was easy, fair or prompt (32%, 13% and 13% respectively). While boys at Parc were the most positive about the ease with which complaints could be made (with 60% saying the process was ‘easy’), boys at Cookham Wood were the most likely to have experienced the complaints process as being fair (38%) and, alongside boys from Werrington, prompt (both 25%). Fifteen per cent of boys said that they had felt too scared or intimidated to make a complaint, varying from 22% at Werrington to 9% at Cookham Wood.

Purposeful activity

In 2015–16, at the time of our inspections, 76% of boys in YOIs said that they were involved in some form of education. This rate of participation varied from 64% at Feltham to 89% at the Keppel Unit. Around one in six boys (16%) reported having a job in the establishment (rates of employment varied from 0% at Parc to 23% at Werrington) and the same proportion of boys (16%) reported being enrolled in offending behaviour courses (ranging from 11% to 33% across the YOI estate). Finally, around one-tenth (11%) of boys were involved in some form of vocational and skills training. Despite the falling numbers of young people being detained, the proportion of boys reporting that they were engaged in the above activities was lower in 2015–16 than in any previous reporting year since 2010–11.

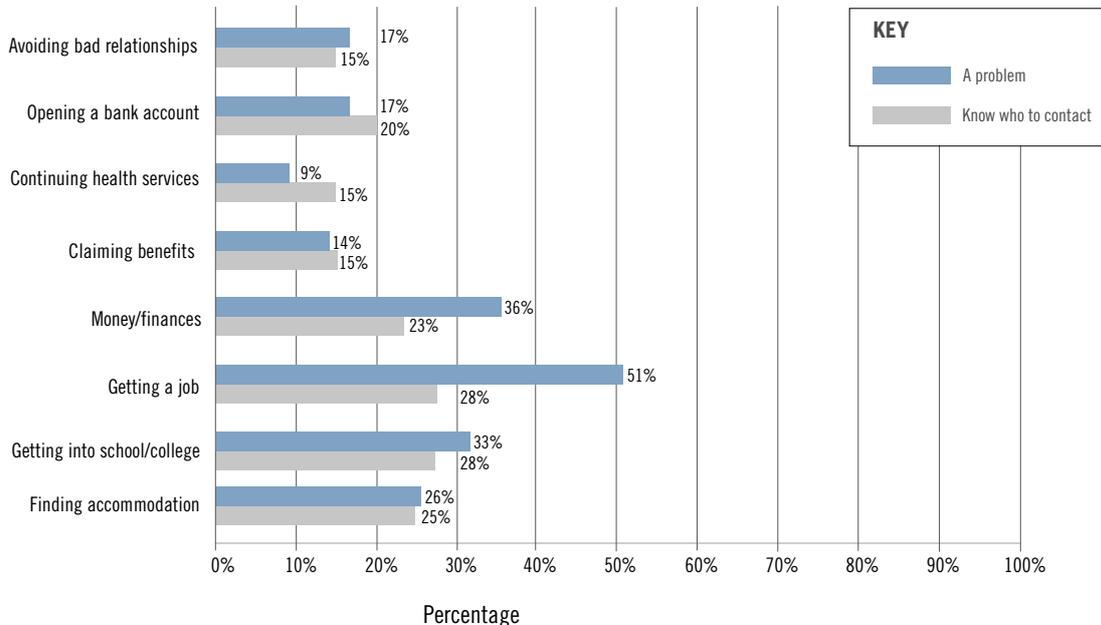
Boys who had been involved in education were optimistic that this would help them on their release (59%). Those who had taken part in offending behaviour programmes, vocational or skills training or held a prison job were less confident that participation in these activities would prove useful post-release (40%, 38% and 36% respectively thought that it would help them on release).

Resettlement

Four-fifths of boys (80%) said they could access and use a phone on a daily basis. Boys at Parc were the most positive about this, with 97% reporting that they could access a phone every day. However, just over half (52%) of boys reported having problems sending or receiving letters or parcels. Only one in three boys (33%) had one or more visits from family or friends each week, and a similar proportion reported that it was 'very easy' or 'easy' for their family or friends to visit them (30%) and that their visits started on time (35%). The establishment at which most young people said it was 'very easy' or 'easy' for their family to visit was Parc (46%), while those at Wetherby and the Keppel Unit were the least positive (23% and 25% respectively).

Fewer than half of boys (48%) said that they had a training, sentence or remand plan. Most of the boys who had one said they had been involved in the development of that plan (86%) and understood the targets within it (91%). Most boys (92%) said they had a caseworker, although only two-fifths of those said they felt the caseworker had helped them to prepare for release. Boys were asked to identify problems that they thought they might have when leaving custody and whether they knew who to contact for help with these problems. Their responses are set out in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Problems anticipated by boys post-release and the extent to which help was available (2015–16)



Less than two-fifths of boys (39%) felt that they had a say about what would happen to them when they were released. While 91% of sentenced boys said that they wanted to stop offending, only just over half of those sentenced (52%) felt that they had done something, or something had happened to them while in custody, that would make them less likely to offend in the future.

Diversity

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

Younger boys

Around a third of boys (35%) detained during 2015–16 were under 17 at the time of our survey. These younger boys were significantly less likely to have received helpful information prior to arriving at the establishment to help them prepare (6% compared with 15%); be on the top level of the rewards scheme (16% compared with 27%); be involved in vocational or skills training at the time of the inspection (5% compared with 13%); and to believe that their experience of offending behaviour programmes would help them on their release from custody (26% compared with 46%). They were also more likely to report having been 14 or younger when they were last in school (46% compared with 34%). However, more positively, they were less likely to report having concerns with the following problems on their release: finding accommodation (17% compared with 29%); getting a job (38% compared with 56%); having money or finance problems (25% compared with 40%); or claiming benefits (8% compared with 17%).

Boys from a black or minority ethnic background

Boys from a black or minority ethnic background were more likely to report being Muslim (42% compared with 2%) but were less likely to consider themselves to be a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller (2% compared with 12%), or to consider themselves to have a disability (12% compared with 26%). They were also less likely to report having a problem with needing to smoke (39% compared with 58%), or being asked by staff if they needed help or support for this (36% compared with 49%). Black or minority ethnic boys were more likely to report having had problems getting phone numbers (38% compared with 27%). They were also more likely to report having had gang problems on their arrival (27% compared with 10%) but a significantly higher proportion had been asked by staff if they needed help with gang issues (49% compared with 36%). Black or minority ethnic detainees were less likely to report having seen a chaplain within their first 24 hours in the establishment (32% compared with 46%).

While black or minority ethnic boys were more likely to report that their religious beliefs were respected (65% compared with 54%), they were less likely to have felt respected by staff (58% compared with 68%). In relation to the rewards and sanctions scheme they were also less likely to report being on the top level of the scheme (18% compared with 31%); feel that the scheme treated them fairly (34% compared with 46%); or feel that the scheme made them change their behaviour (36% compared with 48%). Furthermore, black or minority ethnic boys were less likely to report that applications were processed within seven days (25% compared with 43%).

In terms of safety, victimisation and discipline, black or minority ethnic boys were more likely to report having been victimised by a member of staff (39% compared with 26%), with victimisation including being hit, kicked or assaulted (13% compared with 7%). Black or minority ethnic boys were more likely to attribute this victimisation to their race or ethnic origin (8% compared with 1%). With regard to victimisation, they were also more likely to report that they would tell a member of staff that they were being victimised (23%

compared with 34%), or feel that a member of staff would take this seriously if they were told about it (19% compared with 28%). They were more likely to report having received an adjudication in the establishment (77% compared with 59%) and more likely to report having been restrained (55% compared with 36%). Those black or minority ethnic boys who had spent a night in the segregation unit were less likely to report that they had been treated 'well' or 'very well' by staff there (26% compared with 47%). They were, however, less likely to report that shouting through the windows was a problem at the establishment (35% compared with 52%); that they were victimised by having their canteen or property taken (3% compared with 11%); or that they were victimised because they were from a Traveller community (0% compared with 5%).

Boys from a black or minority ethnic background reported a lower incidence of mental health problems (17% compared with 31%) or drug problems on arrival (22% compared with 43%), and were less likely to report finding it 'very easy' or 'easy' to get illegal drugs (18% compared with 28%). By contrast, they were less likely to report finding it easy to see a nurse (54% compared with 66%) or doctor (39% compared with 53%), or to report that the overall quality of health services was 'very good' or 'good' (39% compared with 54%).

In terms of activities, black or minority ethnic boys reported lower levels of participation in offending behaviour programmes at the time of the survey (11% compared with 21%). In relation to resettlement, fewer black or minority ethnic boys anticipated problems on release with claiming benefits (10% compared with 18%) or avoiding bad relationships (13% compared with 21%), but they were less likely to report having a training, sentence or remand plan (38% compared with 56%).

Muslim boys

Boys identifying as Muslim reported poorer experiences in a number of areas during 2015–16. On arriving at the establishment they were less likely to report being asked by staff if they needed help with not being able to smoke (30% compared with 46%) and they were less likely to have been able to see a chaplain in their first 24 hours (29% compared with 44%). A significantly higher proportion of Muslim boys did, however, think that their religious beliefs were respected (72% compared with 56%). Muslim boys reported less positively about other elements of daily life such as being able to have a shower every day (81% compared with 90%), or feeling that the prison shop sold a wide enough range of goods to meet their needs (37% compared with 53%). These poorer perceptions extended to the boys' experiences of the applications and complaints process, which fewer Muslim boys thought was either fair (44% compared with 58%) or prompt (22% compared with 39%). Furthermore, they were more likely to have felt too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (24% compared with 13%).

Muslim boys reported significantly higher rates of victimisation by staff in 2015–16 (42% compared with 29%) and were more likely to attribute this victimisation to their religious beliefs (8% compared with 1%); their race or ethnic origin (12% compared with 2%); their nationality (6% compared with 2%); or because they were new at the establishment (8% compared with 2%). They were, however, less likely to report being victimised by other young people by having their property or canteen taken (2% compared with 9%).

Muslim boys' poor perceptions continued in relation to their experiences of health care, with significantly fewer saying they could see a doctor easily (37% compared with 50%). Those Muslim boys who did see a member of health care staff were less likely to say that the quality of care received was 'very good' or 'good' (33% compared with 51%). Muslim

detainees were less likely to report having had a drug or alcohol problem on their arrival at the establishment (22% compared with 37%).

While Muslim boys in 2015–16 were more likely to report having had one or more visits a week from their family or friends (43% compared with 31%), they were less likely to report that they had been involved in the development of their sentence or remand plan (71% compared with 90%).

Gypsy, Romany or Traveller boys

Those boys who considered themselves to be Gypsy, Romany or Traveller reported very similar experiences to other boys. On their arrival at the establishment, a higher proportion of these boys reported being asked if they required help with not being able to smoke (62% compared with 41%) which was the only significant difference identified through our survey in relation to their arrival and daily life at the establishment.

Gypsy, Romany or Traveller boys were more likely to report being victimised because they were Gypsy, Romany or Traveller by both staff (13% compared with 0%) and other young people (28% compared with 1%). They were also more likely to report being victimised by other young people because of their race and ethnic origin (17% compared with 5%), and by having their canteen or property taken (20% compared with 7%).

Boys who said they had a disability

Boys who said that they had a disability reported significantly poorer experiences of custody across a wide range of areas. This began on their journey to the establishment with significantly fewer disabled boys feeling safe during their journey (64% compared with 80%). Upon arrival, their negative experiences continued. For example, they were less likely to report that when they were searched, it was carried out in a respectful way (69% compared with 84%), or that they felt safe on their first night in the establishment (65% compared with 78%). Boys with a disability were also more likely to report having one or more problems on their arrival (88% compared with 45%) and were more likely to report having a problem with not being able to smoke (62% compared with 45%); feeling scared (23% compared with 11%); contacting family (49% compared with 28%); money (30% compared with 14%); or their health (35% compared with 11%).

In relation to their daily life, disabled boys' experiences were again poorer, particularly regarding their religious beliefs. They were less likely to report that they found it 'very easy' or 'easy' to attend religious services (38% compared with 52%); that their religious beliefs were respected (46% compared with 62%); or they could speak to a chaplain of their faith in private (55% compared with 68%). Disabled boys were also less likely to report being able to shower every day (79% compared with 90%). There were fewer disabled boys occupying the top level of the rewards scheme (14% compared with 27%), and fewer feeling that they were treated fairly by that system (29% compared with 43%). Furthermore, they were more likely to report feeling too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (23% compared with 13%).

The poor experiences of boys with disabilities continued in the area of safety. They were more likely to report having felt unsafe at some point in the establishment (61% compared with 43%) as well as feeling unsafe at the time of the inspection (37% compared with 15%). Disabled boys considered shouting through windows to be a problem at the establishment to a much greater extent than those who weren't disabled (58% compared with 41%). Disabled boys were also more likely to report being victimised by both staff

(43% compared with 30%) and other young people (50% compared with 32%). When asked why they were victimised, they were more likely to attribute this to their disability, both in relation to victimisation initiated by staff (3% compared with 0%) and other young people (6% compared with 1%).

Victimisation of disabled boys by other boys was more likely to take the form of insulting remarks being made about them, their family or their friends (36% compared with 18%) or threats and intimidation (24% compared with 13%). Disabled boys also reported higher levels of victimisation because of their age (5% compared with 1%); being new to the establishment (17% compared with 8%); or gang-related issues (16% compared with 8%). In terms of their experiences of victimisation by members of staff, disabled boys were more likely to report being hit, kicked or assaulted (16% compared with 8%), and attribute this to their race or ethnic origin (11% compared with 3%) or because they had made a complaint (10% compared with 4%).

In relation to health care, significantly fewer disabled boys said they were allowed to keep medication in their cell (36% compared with 54%). A higher proportion of boys with disabilities described having an emotional or mental health problem (62% compared with 17%), arriving in the establishment with a drug problem (48% compared with 30%) or having a problem with drugs at the time of the inspection (12% compared with 5%).

Disabled boys said they were less likely to be occupied with either a job, education, vocational training or offending behaviour courses (25% compared with 13%) at the time of the survey. They were also less likely to report going to the gym more than five times a week (1% compared with 9%).

Finally, disabled boys had poor perceptions and experiences of contact with family and friends, and their preparation for release. For example, these boys were less likely to report being able to use the phone every day (69% compared with 83%), or find it 'easy' for their family or friends to visit (20% compared with 32%). Furthermore, they were more likely to report and anticipate concerns post-release about getting a job (67% compared with 47%); claiming benefits (29% compared with 11%); avoiding bad relationships (26% compared with 15%); or continuing access to health services (23% compared with 7%).

While disabled boys reported concerns with accessing continued support from health services, they were more likely to know who to contact for help with this while in the YOI (24% compared with 12%). This was the only area in which disabled boys were significantly more likely to know who to contact, despite highlighting numerous other potential issues facing them on their release.

Boys who had been in local authority care

There were significant differences in the profiles and characteristics of boys who had spent time in local authority care and those who had not. These boys were more likely to be disabled (16% compared with 7%), more likely to have children themselves (26% compared with 14%) and it was less likely to be their first time in custody (41% compared with 69%). They were also significantly more likely to have been 14 or younger when they were last in school (47% compared with 33%); have skipped school prior to entering custody (78% compared with 67%); or have been excluded from school (94% compared with 67%). In addition, these boys were more likely to report having an emotional or mental health problem (31% compared with 21%) or a drug problem on their arrival at the establishment (41% compared with 29%).

Once at the establishment, boys with experience of local authority care had a greater tendency to say that the shop or canteen contained a wide enough range of products (57% compared with 46%) and that they could see an advocate should they wish to (44% compared with 29%). They were also, however, more likely to say that they had received an adjudication while in the establishment (76% compared with 63%) or that they had been physically restrained by staff (52% compared with 41%).

Boys who had spent time in local authority care were less likely to receive at least one visit a week from family or friends (20% compared with 42%) or say that it was 'very easy' or 'easy' for their family or friends to visit (23% compared with 35%).

When asked to identify any issues that they thought they might have on their release, boys with experience of local authority care were more likely to highlight problems with getting into school or college (40% compared with 29%); claiming benefits (19% compared with 12%); continuing health services (14% compared with 6%); or opening a bank account (23% compared with 14%). These concerns were mitigated somewhat by the fact that these boys were significantly more likely to report knowing who to contact for help with problems on release around finding accommodation (33% compared with 21%), claiming benefits (21% compared with 12%) or continuing health services (22% compared with 10%).

Boys who had emotional or mental health problems

Of the boys surveyed in a YOI during 2015–16, one in four (25%) said that they had an emotional or mental health problem. These boys were less likely to be from a black or minority ethnic group (32% compared with 50%), but were more likely to have had children (19% compared with 6%); considered themselves to have a disability (44% compared with 9%); and have had experience of local authority care (47% compared with 34%).

On their journey to the establishment, these boys felt less safe (67% compared with 80%) and their perception of the reception experience was poor compared with boys who said they did not have emotional or mental health problems. They were less likely to say that searches by staff on arrival were carried out respectfully (75% compared with 67%), or that they felt safe on their first night in the establishment (65% compared with 79%). These boys were also more likely to say that they had problems on arrival in custody (91% compared with 74%), including:

- not being able to smoke (60% compared with 45%);
- feeling scared (28% compared with 9%);
- contacting family (50% compared with 26%);
- money concerns (26% compared with 13%);
- feeling worried/upset/needing someone to talk to (31% compared with 11%);
- health problems (35% compared with 9%);
- getting phone numbers (42% compared with 28%).

Despite the nature and extent of their reported needs upon arrival, these boys were no more likely to have been asked by staff if they needed help with any of the problems listed (the one exception being support with gang issues: 33% compared with 46%).

In relation to daily life and behaviour management, significantly fewer boys with emotional or mental health problems felt their religious beliefs were respected (49% compared with 63%). They were also less likely to feel that their applications were dealt with fairly (41% compared with 60%) while also being more likely to report feeling too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (31% compared with 10%), or having received a minor report (60% compared with 45%). Boys with emotional or mental health problems were also less likely to report being able to go on association every day (43% compared with 59%).

A significantly higher proportion of boys with emotional or mental health problems said they had felt unsafe at some point in their establishment (63% compared with 42%) or at the time of the survey (37% compared with 13%). They were also more likely to report being victimised by staff (43 compared with 28%) and other young people (50% compared with 30%). The most commonly reported forms of victimisation by other young people included insulting remarks about themselves, their family or their friends (35% compared with 16%); being physically assaulted (27% compared with 12%); being threatened or intimidated (28% compared with 11%); having had their canteen or property taken (16% compared with 5%).

They were more likely to attribute their victimisation by other young people to their medication (4% compared with 0%); being from a different part of the country (12% compared with 3%); being a member of the Traveller community (7% compared with 2%); being new (17% compared with 8%); their offence (10% compared with 3%); or gang-related issues (16% compared with 7%).

In terms of victimisation by staff, these boys were more likely to say they had experienced insulting remarks (24% compared with 14%). They were more likely to attribute the victimisation as being due to drugs (4% compared with 0%); being from a different part of the country (6% compared with 1%); or having made a complaint (11% compared with 3%).

Boys with emotional or mental health problems were also significantly more likely to report shouting through the windows as being a problem in their establishment (61% compared with 40%).

Boys with an emotional or mental health problem were more likely to report arriving in custody with an alcohol problem (13% compared with 5%) or drug problem (54% compared with 27%). While they were significantly more likely to say that they had received help with their drug problem (35% compared with 18%), they were also more likely to say that they still had a problem with drugs (12% compared with 5%), and that illegal drugs were 'easy' to get in their establishment (36% compared with 20%).

When answering questions on contact with family and friends the responses of boys with emotional or mental health problems were more negative than those of boys who did not report emotional or mental health problems. They were less likely to report being able to use the phone every day (72% compared with 82%) and more likely to say that they had experienced problems sending or receiving mail (63% compared with 48%). They were also less likely to usually have a visit at least once a week from family and friends (25% compared with 37%); say that it was 'very easy' or 'easy' for their family and friends to visit (19% compared with 34%); or to say that visits started on time (26% compared with 39%).

As highlighted above, boys with emotional or mental health problems reported having a number of issues on arrival at their establishment. When asked about problems they anticipated having on release, these boys were significantly more likely to identify having difficulties with getting a job (61% compared with 48%); money (47% compared with

31%); claiming benefits (24% compared with 11%); continuing health services (18% compared with 7%); and avoiding bad relationships (26% compared with 15%).

What were the main changes observed in YOIs since 2014–15?

The full comparison of survey responses between the 2014–15 and 2015–16 YOI cohorts is available in online appendix B3.

Twenty-eight questions showed a significant change between the YOI survey responses from 2014–15 and 2015–16. In no instance was that change a positive one.

Boys held in YOIs during 2015–16 were significantly less likely than in 2014–15 to report:

- feeling safe on their journey to the establishment (76% compared with 82%) or being asked if they needed help with not being able to smoke on their arrival at the YOI (43% compared with 51%);
- that staff treated them with respect (63% compared with 70%);
- that it was 'easy' to make an application (59% compared with 70%), or that the process was fair (55% compared with 64%) and timely (35% compared with 47%);
- that it was 'easy' to make a complaint (44% compared with 58%) or that the process was prompt (23% compared with 38%);
- that they had been treated fairly by the rewards scheme (40% compared with 48%);
- that when they had an adjudication, the process was clearly explained to them (62% compared with 76%);
- that they had a job in the establishment at the time of the inspection (16% compared with 28%);
- that they could go on association every day (54% compared with 67%).

In their perceptions of safety and experiences of victimisation, boys were significantly more likely to report in 2015–16 that:

- they had felt unsafe at some point (46% compared with 33%);
- they had been victimised by another young person (35% compared with 26%).

In relation to victimisation by another young person, they were more likely to say that the victimisation involved:

- making insulting remarks about them, their family or their friends (20% compared with 13%);
- being hit, kicked or assaulted (15% compared with 10%);
- having their canteen or property taken (7% compared with 3%).

This victimisation was, in turn, considered to be a result of:

- being from a Traveller community (3% compared with 1%);
- being new (10% compared with 6%);
- gang-related issues (9% compared with 5%).

In 2015–16, boys were also more likely to report having been victimised by a member of staff (32% compared with 25%) and for this to have taken the form of being hit, kicked or assaulted (10% compared with 6%). There was also a significant increase over this 12-month period in the proportion of boys reporting that they had felt too scared or intimidated to make a complaint (15% compared with 10%).

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 2015–16, followed by a comparison of reported experiences. As different questionnaires are used for STCs and YOIs, comparison is only possible in a few instances where identical questions are asked. These have all been tested for statistical significance – highlighting is used 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;
- is 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 15–18 and therefore a higher proportion of those in STCs were under 16 years of age (32% compared with 3%). However this was the only significant difference in demographics between YOIs and STCs. A full breakdown can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5: Characteristics of the STC and YOI cohorts in 2015–16

Any percentage highlighted in green is significantly better		STC 2015-16	YOI 2015-16
Any percentage highlighted in blue is significantly worse			
Any percentage highlighted in orange shows a significant difference in young people's background details			
Percentages which are not highlighted show there is no significant difference			
Number of completed questionnaires returned		135	632
1.1	Are you aged under 16?	32%	3%
1.2	Are you a foreign national?	7%	5%
1.5	Are you from a minority ethnic group (including all those who did not tick white British, white Irish or white other category)?	41%	47%
1.6	Are you Muslim?	15%	22%
1.7	Do you consider yourself to be Gypsy/Romany/Traveller?	12%	7%
1.9	Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	22%	19%
1.10	Have you ever been in local authority care?	39%	37%

Other differences

Significantly, children in STCs were twice as likely as those in YOIs to say that the food was 'good' or 'very good' (31% compared to 15%). They were also more likely to report that staff treated them with respect (89% compared with 63%), and that complaints were sorted out fairly (69% compared with 32%). Children in STCs were also less likely to report that they had been physically restrained (23% compared with 47%). Finally, children held in STCs were less likely to report that they had felt unsafe (23% compared with 46%).

