



# **Children in Custody 2018–19**

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

**February 2020**

## **Glossary of terms**

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# Foreword

HM Inspectorate of Prisons, as part of our regular inspection process at secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) conducts surveys of the children who are detained in those establishments. These surveys contribute to the evidence upon which we judge the treatment and conditions experienced by those being held in custody. They are particularly valuable, not only in providing data about the perceptions at the time of the inspection, but also in giving indications of trends. This is why we consider it essential that we maintain the tempo of our inspection activity in STCs and YOIs.

The alignment of questions asked in STCs and YOIs means that for the first time we are able to compare in detail the perceptions of children held in different sectors. The findings show children held in YOIs are more negative about their treatment across a wide range of indicators, including treatment by staff, time out of cell and access to everyday essentials. This unequivocally shows the need for sustained reform in this sector which holds more than three-quarters of all the children detained in England and Wales.

The population held in children's institutions has remained relatively stable over the year. This stability masks the continued, and in some cases, increasing overrepresentation of different groups in custody. More than half of children responding to our survey identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background and almost one in 10 said they were from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller community. In addition, 52% told us that they had been in the care of a local authority at some point prior to entering custody.

As in previous years the most pressing issues are the increasing levels of bullying and violence across all types of institution. Forty-eight per cent of children reported having experienced victimisation by other children in their current establishment. The rising levels of violence have led to increasing use of restraint and separation. Nearly two-thirds of children reported being subject to restraint and 59% reported having been kept locked up and stopped from mixing with other children as a punishment.

Inspection findings throughout the year have consistently highlighted these issues. Inspectors continue to see too few incentives for children who behave well and chronic inconsistencies in the application of rewards and sanctions, particularly in STCs.

Only 41% of children reported that someone was helping them to prepare for release. This supports the findings of our thematic inspection of resettlement provision in YOIs, completed this year. Inspectors tracked the cases of 50 children in detail and found accommodation was regularly arranged far too close to the point of release and only 11 had any sort of activity arranged on release.

I do not underestimate the challenge facing those responsible for holding children in custody. However, there is a growing body of evidence that shows the pressing need for children's custody to receive consistent, focused and indeed innovative attention from policy-makers and senior practitioners to ensure that all children are held in safe, decent conditions where their needs are properly recognised and met.

**Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM**  
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

February 2020



# Key findings

This report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), presents the findings from 717 questionnaires completed by children detained at three secure training centres (STC) and five young offender institutions (YOI), plus a separate specialist unit at one site, between 2 October 2018 and 2 April 2019. All surveys were conducted to support unannounced inspections of each establishment.

## Differences across the custodial estate

- The majority of children were held in YOIs (84% of respondents).
- Where significant differences were found, the responses of children in STCs tended to be more positive than those in YOIs.
- The survey revealed large disparities in the experiences of children held in different establishments.

## Background characteristics of children

- More than half of respondents (53%) were from a black and minority ethnic background.
- Nearly one in 10 (9%) indicated that they were from a Traveller community.
- Just 2% were female.
- Over half reported having been in the care of a local authority (52%).
- One in 10 (10%) said that they had children of their own.

## Day-to-day life

- Children in YOIs were significantly less likely than those in STCs to report positively about aspects of day-to-day life such as being able to shower every day, having clean and suitable clothes for the week, and accessing stored property when needed.
- Less than one-third (32%) of children said that the food was good or very good, and just over one-third (37%) reported that they got enough to eat at mealtimes always or most of the time.

## Time out of cell

- Children held in STCs reported having significantly more time out of their cell or room than their counterparts in YOIs. Ninety-four per cent of children in STCs said that they spent more than two hours out of their rooms on both weekdays and weekends. However only 71% of children in YOIs reported more than two hours out of cell on weekdays and just 27% reported the same at weekends.

## Health and well-being

- Just over one-third (34%) of children said they had health problems, including mental health, but only 63% of these respondents reported that they had received help for these problems.
- Just over half of respondents (52%) said they were able to spend time in the fresh air most days.

## Complaints

- While 87% of children said they knew how to make a complaint, only 35% of reported that their complaints were dealt with fairly and just 32% said that they were dealt with promptly. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than white children to report prompt or fair responses to their complaints.

## Safety

- More than one-third (35%) of children said that they had felt unsafe in their establishment at some point.
- Overall 13% reported feeling unsafe at the time of the survey. Children from Traveller communities were significantly more likely to report this than non-Traveller children, as were those who had a disability (compared with those without a disability).

## Bullying and victimisation

- Bullying or victimisation by other children was common across the estate, with just under half (48%) saying they had experienced it.
- Responses from children with disabilities and children from Traveller communities suggested that they were particularly vulnerable to victimisation by their peers. By contrast, children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were less likely to report certain types of victimisation by other children than their white counterparts.
- Forty-two per cent of children reported experiencing some sort of victimisation by staff.
- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly more likely than children from white backgrounds to report being verbally abused or threatened/intimidated by staff.

## Behaviour management

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of children said that they had been physically restrained since they had been at their establishment.
- Nearly three in five (59%) of children reported that they had been separated from their peers as a punishment.
- Fewer than two in five (38%) of children said that the rewards or incentives for good behaviour encouraged them to behave well, and only one-third (33%) thought that the system was fair.

## Relationships between staff and children

- Children in STCs reported more positively than children in YOIs in terms of being cared for by staff, being treated with respect, and having staff to turn to if they had a problem.
- Across the estate, children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than white children to report feeling cared for or respected by staff.

## Preparing to move on

- Almost two-thirds (63%) of children reported that they had a plan setting out their objectives or targets during their sentence. However, only two in five (41%) said that anybody was helping them to prepare for release.
- Just over a half (56%) of respondents said they would be less likely to offend in the future because of their experiences in custody.

# Section 1. About this report

- I.1** Every year HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) publishes an annual report on the survey findings from children in custody,<sup>1</sup> pulling together and comparing the findings from surveys conducted in young offender institutions (YOIs) and secure training centres (STCs). The data for this report is derived from surveys conducted by HMIP at all STCs and YOIs between 2 October 2018 and 2 April 2019.
- I.2** All YOIs and STCs are inspected annually and researchers from HMIP carry out a survey of children in advance of every inspection. The primary objective of the survey is to understand children's perspectives on their treatment and conditions in custody. Survey responses 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.
- I.3** In 2018, HMIP carried out a review of our Expectations for children in custody.<sup>2</sup> These are the criteria we use during our inspections to assess the treatment of children and the conditions in establishments in which they are held. The Expectations were drafted following extensive consultation and are underpinned by international and regional human rights standards. At the same time as the Expectations review, a new questionnaire was developed for use in all children's custodial establishments in England and Wales. This was developed by HMIP researchers and inspectors and extensively tested on children in both YOIs and STCs for accessibility and relevance. The new questionnaire has been in use since October 2018 and a copy is included in the online appendices.
- I.4** Prior to this, separate questionnaires were used in STCs and YOIs, which meant that it was not possible to fully compare the experiences of children in different types of custody. Following the recent review, HMIP now uses a single questionnaire which enables us to draw comparisons between the experiences of children detained in STCs and those in YOIs about all aspects of their custody for the first time.<sup>3</sup> However, we now have only limited capacity to track trends over time as many questions in the new questionnaire are not directly comparable to those in the previous versions.
- I.5** It should be noted that the survey findings reported here are 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 HM Prison and Probation Service.

## Structure of the report

- I.6** This is the sixth annual report to present survey responses from both STCs and YOIs, and the first in which a common questionnaire has been used across all settings.
- I.7** Section 2 provides background to and context for the survey findings. Section 3 describes the survey methodology. Section 4 presents the findings from the survey analyses.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this report 'children in custody' refers to children held in YOIs and STCs only and may include a small number of 18-year-olds.

<sup>2</sup> The current Children's Expectations (v4, November 2018) can be found on the HMIP website at <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/our-expectations/children-and-young-people-expectations/>.

<sup>3</sup> To be able to compare responses from children across every STC and YOI, we have not included survey data from the inspection of Oakhill in June 2018, as the old STC survey was still in use at that time. Instead we have used data from a survey conducted at Oakhill on 2 April 2019 using the new questionnaire.

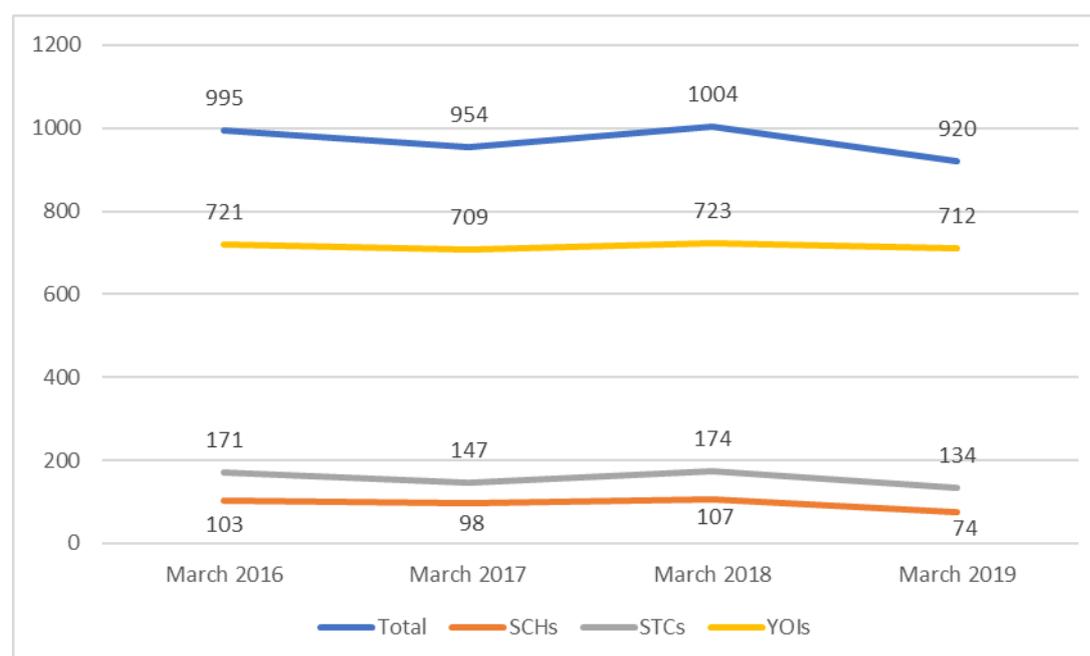
- I.8** The full analyses and questionnaire are also available in online appendices. In tables, cells are highlighted where the figure is significantly different to the comparison figure.

## Section 2. Background

### Children in custody

- 2.1** Children in custody are held in one of three types of setting: 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 raised to 18 years. YOIs hold only boys aged between 15 and 18. Before 2013, there were specialist YOI units for girls aged 17 but after the closure of these specialist units, all girls 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, SCHs can also hold those detained for welfare reasons under Section 25 of the Children Act.
- 2.2** The number of children in custody, while fluctuating slightly, has remained relatively stable in recent years. In March 2019 the total number of children (including 18-year-olds) held in YOIs, STCs and SCHs stood at 920.<sup>4, 5</sup>

**Figure 1: Number of children in custody over the past four years and numbers held in each type of accommodation<sup>6</sup>**



- 2.3** This report focuses on survey responses from children held in YOIs and STCs only, as HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) has no remit to inspect in SCHs.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Note: Some children are detained in YOIs, STCs and SCHs past their 18th birthday. This report will continue to refer to all people held in YOIs and STCs, regardless of age, as children.

<sup>5</sup> Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (2019) Youth custody report: September 2019. London: HMPPS.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> The statutory responsibilities for these inspections rest with Ofsted in England, and with the Care Inspectorate Wales and Estyn in Wales.

## Youth custodial estate in 2018–19

- 2.4** The Youth Custody Service (YCS) within HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) continues to commission and manage custodial institutions holding children. All establishments accommodate children on remand as well as those who have been sentenced and are awaiting sentence.

### STCs

- 2.5** During 2018-19, there were three purpose-built STCs operating; two of them privately run and the third run by HMPPS on behalf of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).
- Medway is operated by HMPPS. The centre provides secure accommodation for up to 67 boys and girls. During 2018-19 the number of children held in Medway was reducing in preparation for its proposed re-role as a Secure School.
  - Oakhill is operated by G4S Care and Justice Services and provides accommodation for up to 80 boys.
  - Rainsbrook is operated by MTCnovo and is designed to accommodate up to 76 children (both girls and boys).

### YOIs

- 2.6** During 2018-19, there were five YOIs and one specialist unit holding boys aged 15-18. Four establishments were operated by HMPPS and one was privately run. Three of the five YOIs were dedicated for young offenders, while two were located within existing establishments, one of which held adults and the other young adults.
- Cookham Wood could accommodate up to 188 boys at the time of the survey, on a site dedicated to young offenders aged 15-18.
  - Feltham YOI is a split site holding boys (Feltham A) and, separately, young adults (Feltham B). At the time of the inspection in January 2019, Feltham A could accommodate up to 180 boys.
  - Parc is a split site, and the only prison in England and Wales to hold adults, young adults and children. The children's unit can accommodate up to 60 boys. It is privately run by G4S.
  - Werrington is a dedicated YOI site holding up to 118 boys.
  - Wetherby is a YOI holding up to 288 boys on its main site.
  - Keppel unit is 48-bed specialist self-contained unit within Wetherby YOI. It is a national resource for very vulnerable boys and those who find it hard to engage in the larger YOIs.

## Findings from inspections of YOIs and STCs in 2018–19

- 2.7** HMIP inspects all YOIs holding children every year, and joins Ofsted on its annual inspections of STCs. Our recent inspection findings on YOIs and STCs, carried out during 2018–19, continued to highlight many concerning outcomes for children in custody.
- 2.8** Inspection findings in YOIs were mixed, with less positive outcomes at Feltham and Cookham Wood than across the rest of the estate.

- 2.9** Challenges around providing adequately safe environments persisted, with high levels of violence a consistent finding across the estate. Efforts to minimise violence through complex and dynamic keep-apart measures had a serious detrimental impact on the services provided to children. This was a particular problem at Feltham and Cookham Wood where it prevented the delivery of a meaningful regime, including access to education. Outcomes for children were not sufficiently good in the key test of safety at Cookham Wood, Feltham and Werrington.
- 2.10** Conversely, our inspections at Parc and Wetherby found some improving safety-related outcomes for children in custody. At Parc, recorded violence was on a downward trajectory, with few serious incidents. Few children isolated themselves in their cells and use of the segregation unit was rare. The leadership team had established a reward-led culture that encouraged positive behaviour, incorporating an evidence-based instant rewards scheme that we considered to be good practice. At Wetherby, the amount of violence had fallen slightly and was lower than at other YOIs, with some good initiatives in place to encourage further reduction. The Keppel unit continued to provide good levels of care and support for some of the most vulnerable children in the country.
- 2.11** Outcomes were better in our healthy prison test of care. We found reasonable living conditions at all sites, with the exception of Feltham where they had deteriorated since the last inspection. Relationships between staff and young people were mostly positive. Health care was also good but access at some sites was frustrated by the regime restrictions. We remained concerned about the continued delays in transferring sick children to mental health settings.
- 2.12** Outcomes in purposeful activity were good at Parc where Estyn judged standards, teaching and learning experiences and care, support and guidance to be excellent. At Wetherby and Keppel we found learning and skills was well led, and priority had been given to maintaining high levels of attendance. However, outcomes were not sufficiently good at Feltham and Cookham Wood.
- 2.13** In the area of resettlement there was good release-focused work at Wetherby. However, across all YOIs outcomes were undermined by a lack of timely provision of accommodation on release, an issue we highlighted in thematic work carried out in partnership with HMI Probation this year.<sup>8</sup>
- 2.14** We remain concerned about outcomes for children who are placed in secure training centres. All three STCs - Medway, Rainsbrook and Oakhill - required improvement. Most children placed in these establishments had experienced use of force and had been physically restrained. Furthermore, there remained a significant amount of work to be done in all three centres to ensure fairness and consistency was applied in behaviour management, as well as ensuring that children's positive behaviour was well promoted.
- 2.15** More positively, we found some good work in health care for children at Medway and Oakhill, but it required improvement at Rainsbrook. We also found some improved outcomes in resettlement.

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<sup>8</sup> HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2019) Youth resettlement - final report into work in the community. A thematic inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Prisons. London: HMI Probation.



## Section 3. Methodology

### Administering the survey

- 3.1** At the time of the survey in each secure training centre (STC) and young offender institution (YOI), all children were invited by researchers from HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) to complete a questionnaire. Every effort was made to speak to each child individually to explain the purpose and confidentiality of the survey, its voluntary nature, and the independence of the inspection process. We also offered to administer the questionnaire via an interview for children who said they needed assistance.
- 3.2** We did not ask children to put their name on their questionnaire, but to enable us to follow up any child protection and safeguarding issues, each questionnaire was numbered so that any relevant comments could be traced back to the respondent. Children were made aware of this. Self-completed questionnaires were placed in sealed envelopes and collected by HMIP researchers.

### Response rate

- 3.3** During 2018–19, 97% of children detained in YOIs and STCs at the time of our inspections were offered the opportunity to participate in the survey.<sup>9</sup> As shown in Table 1, questionnaires were completed (either through self-completion or via an interview) and returned by 84% of the children who were resident in the establishment at the time of the survey. The response rate ranged from 71% at Rainsbrook STC to 91% at Wetherby YOI.

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<sup>9</sup> In some instances, for example when a child was at court or an outside hospital or had limited English fluency, it was not possible to offer them a questionnaire.

**Table 1: Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2018–19**

<b>YOIs</b>	<b>Date of survey</b>	<b>Population on survey date</b>	<b>Number of questionnaires distributed</b>	<b>Number of returned questionnaires</b>	<b>Response rate<sup>10</sup></b>
Parc	15 October 2018	36	36	31	86%
Cookham Wood	10 December 2018	162	156	126	78%
Feltham A	14 January 2019	147	141	125	85%
Werrington	18 February 2019	114	112	99	87%
Wetherby	11 March 2019	210	208	191	91%
Keppel unit	11 March 2019	40	39	31	78%
<b>YOI total</b>		<b>709</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>STCs</b>	<b>Date of survey</b>	<b>Population on survey date</b>	<b>Number of questionnaires distributed</b>	<b>Number of returned questionnaires</b>	<b>Response rate<sup>11</sup></b>
Rainsbrook	2 October 2018	65	63	46	71%
Medway	22 November 2018	35	34	31	89%
Oakhill	2 April 2019	45	43	37	82%
<b>STC total</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>YOI AND STC TOTAL</b>		<b>854</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>84%</b>

## Non-responses

**3.4** Missing data, where respondents have not answered a question, have been excluded from the analysis. This means that the percentages calculated are from a total sum where there may have been different response rates to each question within the survey.

**3.5** Figures quoted in this report have been rounded to the nearest whole number. In some cases, due to the way we round the data, 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 603 individuals, the responses of two children on a given issue would appear as 0% in our report.

<sup>10</sup> Calculated as a proportion of children resident in the establishment at the time of the survey.

<sup>11</sup> Calculated as a proportion of children resident in the centre at the time of the survey.

## Analyses conducted

**3.6** In addition to presenting the aggregated survey responses for children in custody (across all STCs and YOIs), additional analyses are reported:

- a comparison between survey responses received from children in STCs and YOIs
- responses from children in each STC and YOI as well as the overall response from children in that type of custody setting
- statistical comparisons between different subgroups within the 2018–19 responses, where numbers allowed – highlighting is again used in tables to show where there are significant differences.



## Section 4. Findings

- 4.1** This section begins with an exploration of the demographics and background characteristics of respondents. A full breakdown can be found in Annex I. We then present survey findings in the order of a child's 'journey' through custody, from arrival and induction to release and resettlement.
- 4.2** Overall findings from children in secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) are outlined and statistically significant differences in the experiences of children in the two types of establishment are highlighted. Notable variation in children's responses between each STC and YOI are also presented.
- 4.3** Sub-population analyses<sup>12</sup> have also been carried out and statistically significant differences are indicated.

### Background characteristics of children

#### Overall profile of children responding to our survey

- 4.4** Overall 717 children returned questionnaires.
- 4.5** Of those who filled in a questionnaire, 98% indicated that they were male and 98% reported that they were aged 15 years or over. Just over one in 10 (11%) children had turned 18 at the time of our surveys.<sup>13</sup>
- 4.6** More than half (53%) identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background and almost one in 10 (9%) said they were from a Traveller community.<sup>14</sup>
- 4.7** Nearly half of respondents (46%) reported that they were Christian, and almost a fifth (19%) said that they were Muslim. Just under one-third (32%) of respondents indicated that they did not have a religion.
- 4.8** Over one-third (34%) of children said that they had health problems at the time of the survey (including mental health problems) and more than a quarter (26%) reported having a disability.<sup>15</sup>
- 4.9** More than half (52%) told us that they had been in the care of a local authority and one in 10 (10%) said that they had children of their own.

<sup>12</sup> For the complete list of sub-population analyses carried out for both STCs and YOIs, see the online appendices.

<sup>13</sup> If children only have a short time left to serve after their 18th birthday, it may be considered too disruptive to move them to a different type of establishment for such a short period, in which case – dependent on a risk assessment – they would remain in the YOI. Children turning 18 but sentenced to a detention and training order (DTO) will also remain in a YOI unless they pose a risk to other young people.

<sup>14</sup> A Traveller community was defined as anyone who identified as Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller.

<sup>15</sup> Disability was defined as any physical, mental or learning needs that affect your day-to-day life.

## Profile of STC respondents

- 4.10** Overall, 79% of the children who were resident in an STC at the time of the inspection completed a questionnaire, resulting in a total of 114 questionnaires returned from the three STCs (see Annex 1).
- 4.11** Of those who filled in a questionnaire, the vast majority were boys (88%). Fewer than one in 10 children (9%) reported that they were under 15 years old and 5% were 18 years or older.
- 4.12** Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds accounted for 56% of the STC population and this proportion varied considerably between centres, from 38% at Rainsbrook to 68% at Medway and 69% at Oakhill. One in eight children (13%) identified as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller, ranging from 10% at Medway to 17% at Oakhill.
- 4.13** When asked about their religious beliefs, about one-third (34%) said they did not have a religion and just over two-fifths (44%) identified as Christian. Eighteen per cent said they were Muslim, ranging from 9% of children at Rainsbrook to 25% at Medway.
- 4.14** Nearly two-fifths (38%) of children in STCs said they had a health problem at the time of the survey and just under one-third (32%) reported having a disability.
- 4.15** More than half of children in STCs (53%) reported having been in the care of a local authority, with the highest proportion at Medway (63%). Eight per cent of children in STCs said that they had a child of their own.

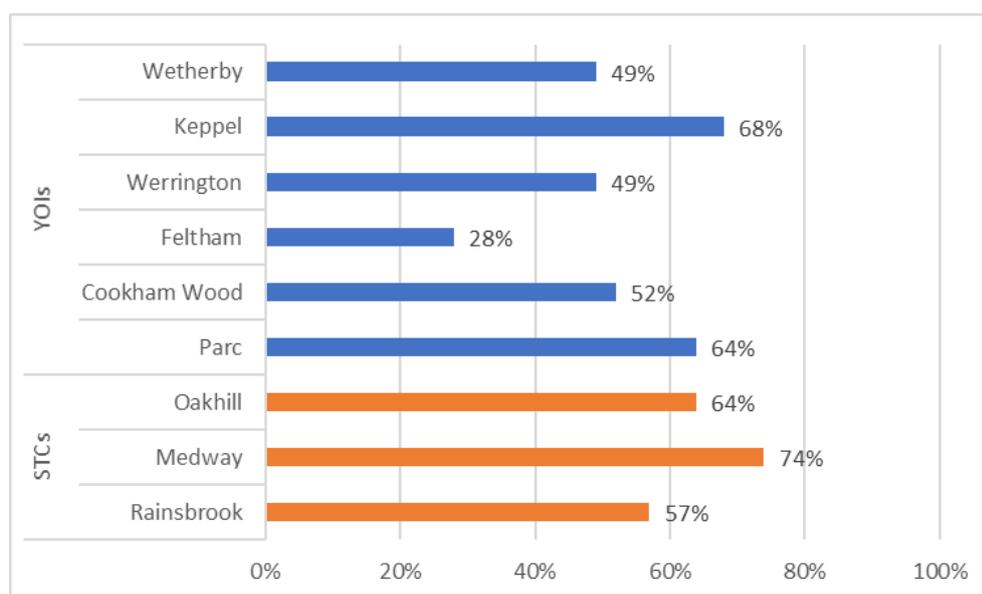
## Profile of YOI respondents

- 4.16** Five young offender institutions (YOIs) were inspected during 2018–19, as well as the specialist Keppel unit, which is part of Wetherby YOI. Overall, 85% of the children detained in YOIs at the time of our inspections participated in the surveys, resulting in a total of 603 completed questionnaires (see Annex 1).
- 4.17** The majority of children (83%) said they were 16 or 17 years old, while 12% of children said they were 18 years old.
- 4.18** More than half of children in YOIs (52%) identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background. This varied greatly between YOIs, from 26% at the Keppel unit to 70% at Feltham. Eight per cent of children identified themselves as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller, ranging from 5% at Feltham to 23% at the Keppel unit.
- 4.19** With regards to religious beliefs, about one-third of children in YOIs (32%) said they did not have a religion, while almost half identified as Christian (47%) and just under one-fifth as Muslim (19%).
- 4.20** One-third of YOI respondents (33%) reported having a health problem, including more than four-fifths (84%) of children in the Keppel unit. A quarter (25%) of children reported having a disability. The latter varied considerably across the YOI estate, from 15% at Cookham Wood to 67% at the Keppel unit.
- 4.21** About half (52%) of the children who completed a questionnaire said they had been in the care of a local authority at some point in their lives: this ranged from 46% at Feltham to 77% at the Keppel unit. One in 10 children in YOIs (10%) reported having a child of their own.

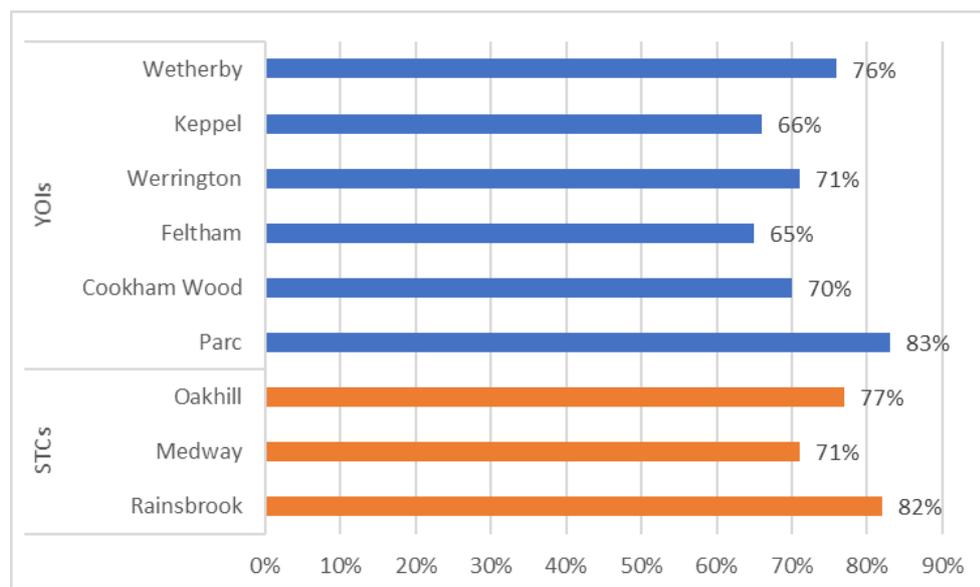
## Arrival and induction

- 4.22** Almost all children (96%) in custody reported being searched on arrival and just over two-thirds (68%) of those who had been searched thought that it had been done respectfully.
- 4.23** While most children said that they had been treated well in reception (70%), the majority (71%) reported having had problems or worries when they first arrived at the establishment. Only half (50%) of those who indicated they had problems on arrival said that they had received help with these problems. As shown in Figure 2, this kind of support from staff varied considerably across the estate (from 74% at Medway to just 28% at Feltham).

**Figure 2: For those who had problems when they first arrived: did staff help you to deal with these problems or worries?**



- 4.24** Analyses of sub-population data with regards to treatment and support from staff on arrival and during induction revealed that:
- of children who reported problems on arrival, a significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds said that staff had helped them with their problems (42% compared with 59% of children from white backgrounds)
  - Muslim children who reported problems on arrival were significantly less likely than non-Muslim children to say that staff had helped them (35% compared with 53%)
  - a significantly lower proportion of Traveller children reported that they had been treated well in reception than non-Traveller children (53% compared with 72%)
  - children who said that they had a disability were significantly less likely to report having been treated well in reception than those without a disability (62% compared with 73% of children without a disability).
- 4.25** Most children (72%) said that they felt safe during their first night in the establishment. However, across the custodial estate this varied, from 83% at Parc to only 65% at Feltham. A significantly lower proportion of children with a disability reported feeling safe on their first night than those without a disability (63% compared with 75%).

**Figure 3: Did you feel safe on your first night?**

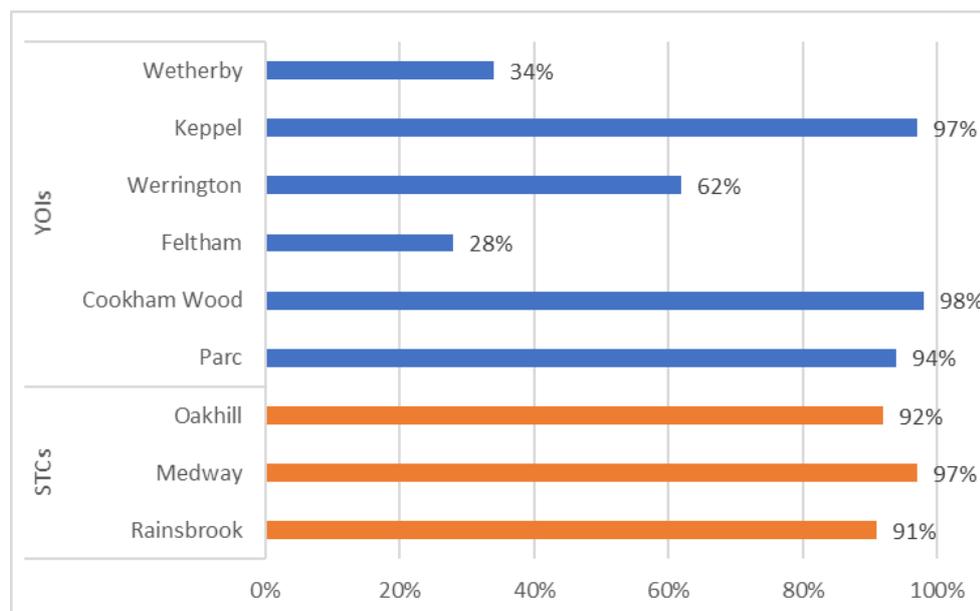
**4.26** When asked about whether they had been told everything they needed to know about life at the establishment within their first few days there, 61% of children said they had. A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than YOIs said they had received all necessary information (72% compared with 58%). However, only two in five girls held in STCs (39%) reported this, compared with more than three-quarters of boys in the same establishments (76%).

## Living conditions

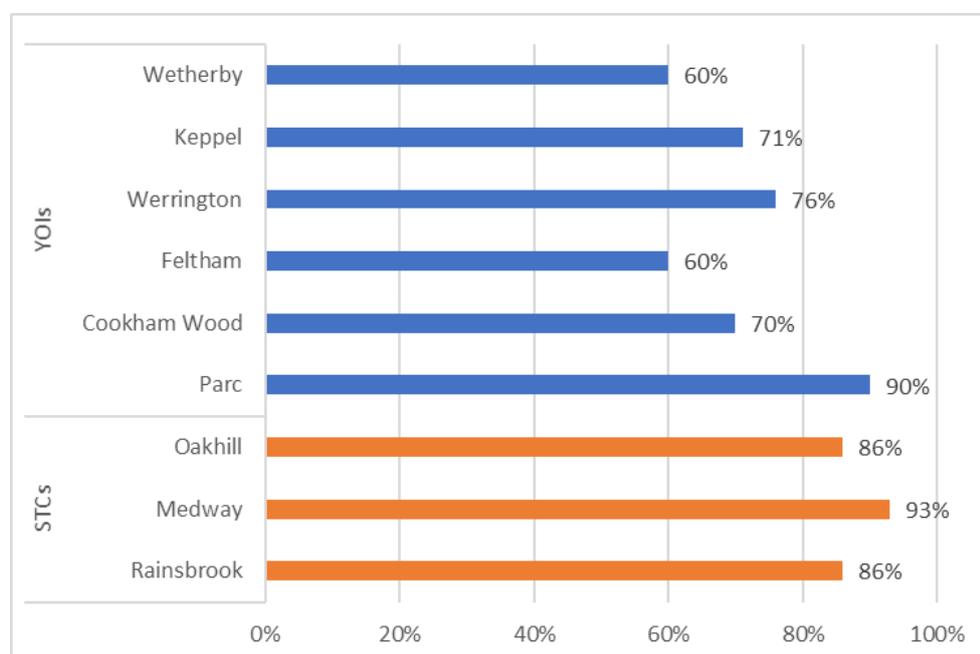
**4.27** Just over two-fifths (43%) of children reported that they felt the temperature of their room or cell was about right and under a half (49%) said it was normally quiet enough for them to relax or sleep at night. Three-quarters of children (75%) said they had clean sheets every week, although children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely to report this than children from white backgrounds (69% compared with 82%).

**4.28** Less than two-thirds (63%) of children reported that they could shower daily. However, a significantly higher proportion of children held in STCs reported that they could shower daily than those in YOIs (93% compared with 57%) and there was a lot of variation between individual establishments, with almost all children at Cookham Wood (98%), the Keppel unit (97%), and Medway (97%) saying they could shower every day, compared with less than a third (28%) at Feltham.<sup>16</sup>

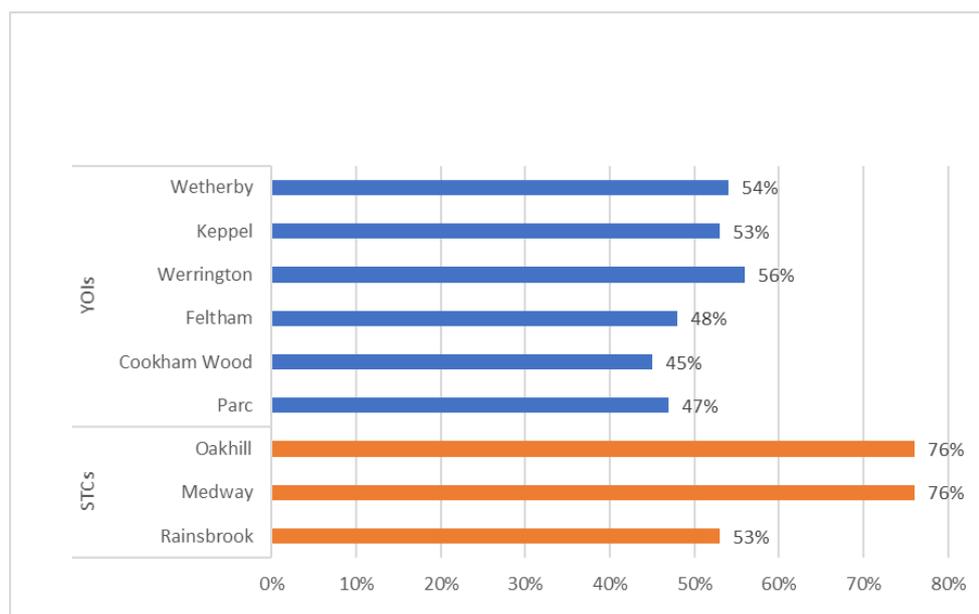
<sup>16</sup> There are in-cell showers at Cookham Wood and the Keppel unit, and at all STCs.

**Figure 4: Can you shower every day?**

**4.29** Seventy per cent of children indicated that they normally had enough clean, suitable clothes for the week. Again, this was significantly higher in STCs than YOIs (88% compared with 67%). Ninety-three per cent of the children at Medway and 90% at Parc said they had access to clean clothes on a weekly basis, compared with 60% at Feltham and Wetherby.

**Figure 5: Do you normally have clean, suitable clothes for the week?**

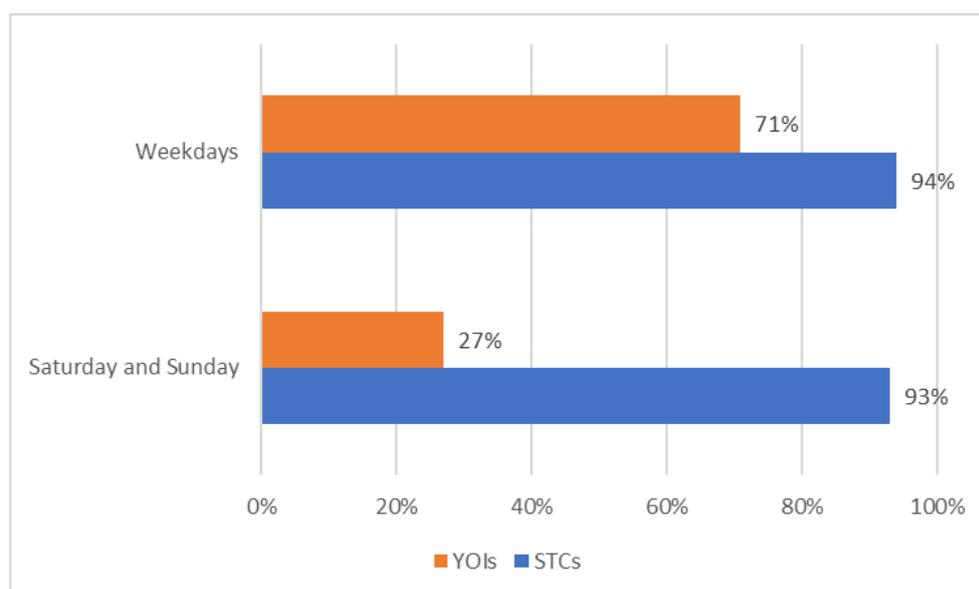
**4.30** Over half of children (53%) reported that they could access their stored property if they needed it, and again the picture was significantly more positive in STCs than YOIs: 67% of children in STCs said they could access their property if needed, compared with 51% in YOIs. Gaining access to stored property also varied between establishments with three-quarters (76%) of children in Oakhill and Medway being able to access their property, compared with less than half of children at Cookham Wood, Parc and Feltham. A significantly lower proportion of children with disabilities said they could access their property when they needed it (only 43% compared with 57% of children without a disability).

**Figure 6: Can you get your stored property if you need it?**

## Time out of cell

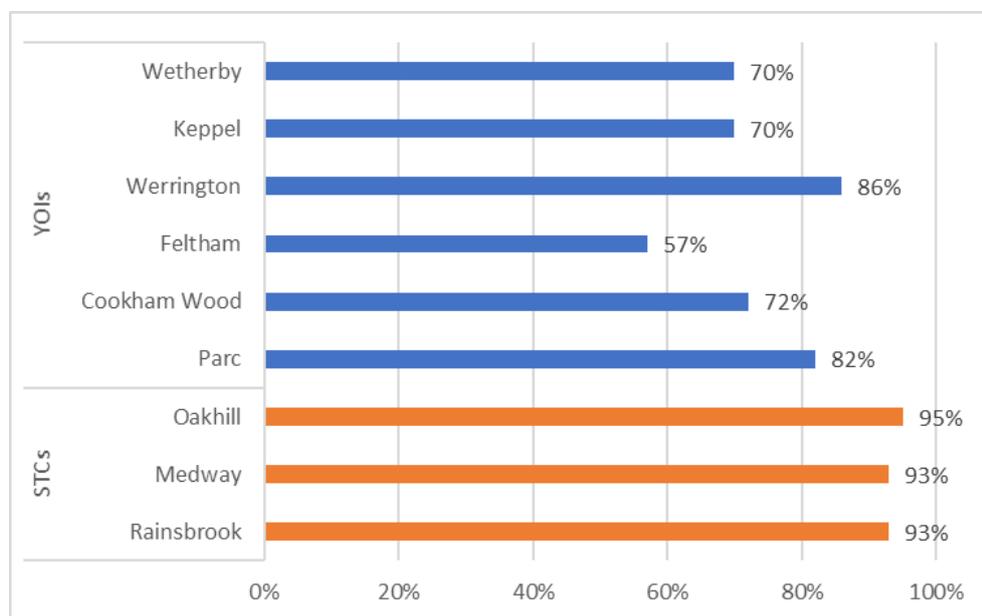
**4.31** Time out of cell is another area where we found significant differences between the reported experiences of children in STCs and YOIs.

**4.32** In our questionnaire, we ask children if they usually spend more than two hours out of their cells or rooms on weekdays and, in a separate question, at weekends. Across the estate three-quarters of respondents (75%) said they spent over two hours out of their room on weekdays but only 38% said the same about Saturdays and Sundays. However, for both questions, the proportions reporting more than two hours out of cell were significantly higher in STCs than YOIs (94% compared with 71% for weekdays and 93% compared with 27% at weekends).

**Figure 7: Significant difference between STCs and YOIs on reported time of more than two hours out of cell/room on weekdays and weekends**

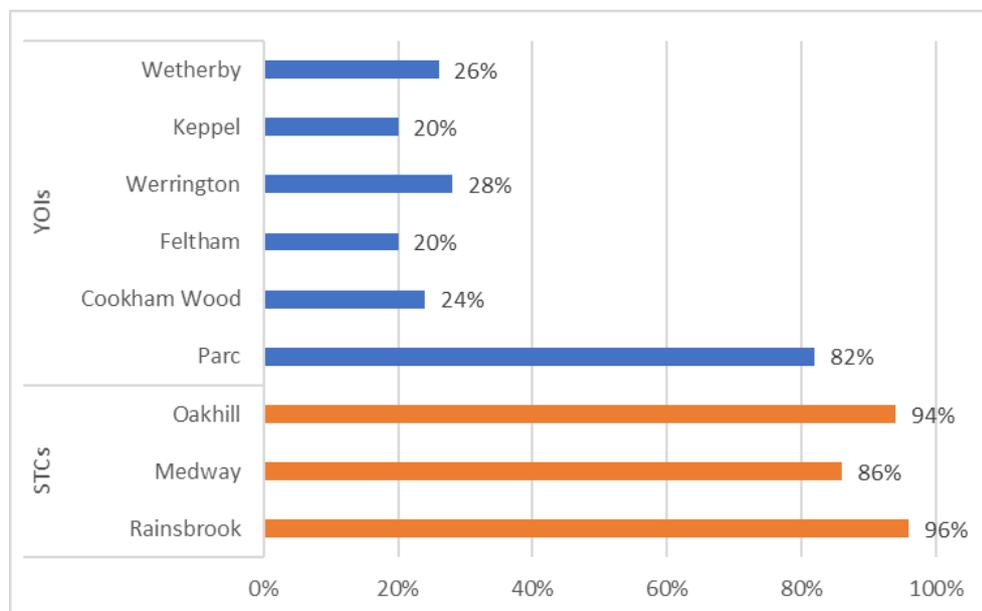
**4.33** Reported time out of cell on weekdays varied between establishments, particularly within the YOI estate, as shown in Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Do you usually spend more than two hours out of your cell or room on weekdays?**



**4.34** Parc was the only YOI holding children where the majority (82%) said they could spend more than two hours out of their cells at the weekend, and the proportion was as low as one in five (20%) at both Feltham and the Keppel unit.

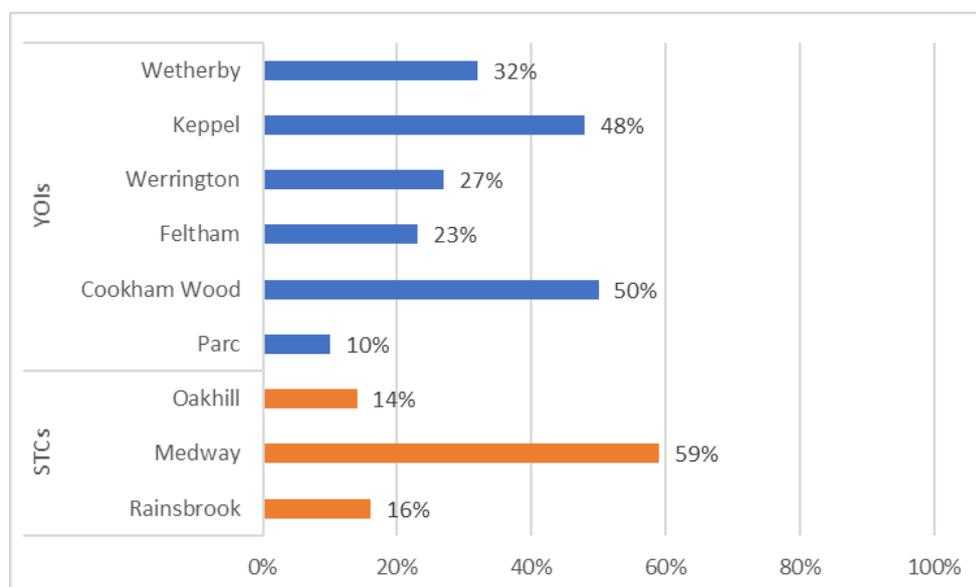
**Figure 9: Do you usually spend more than two hours out of your cell or room on Saturdays and Sundays?**



## Food and canteen

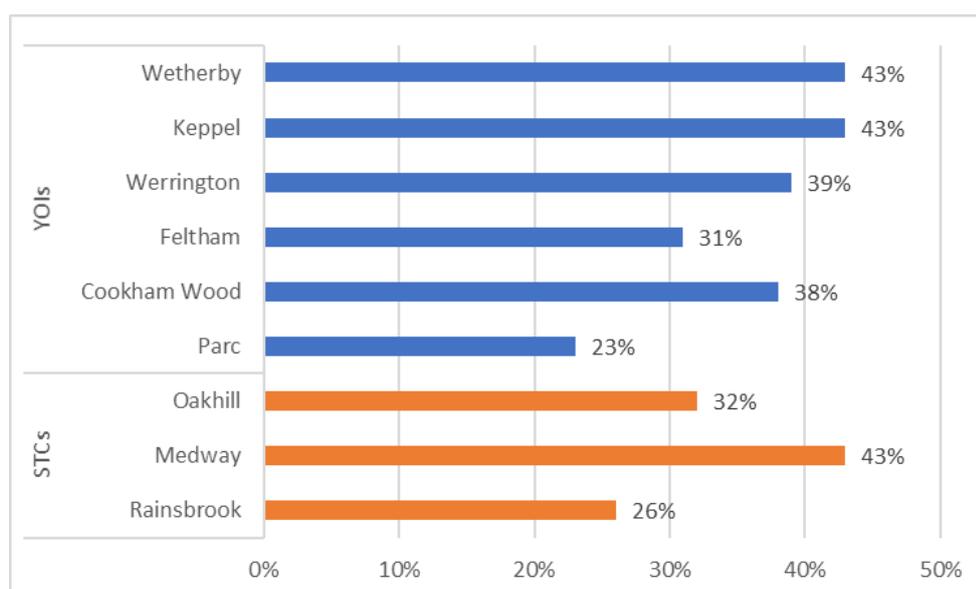
**4.35** Our survey of children in custody indicated that less than one-third (32%) believed that the food they received was good. This varied between establishments: Medway was the only establishment in which over half of children (59%) found the food to be very or quite good, whereas only one in 10 (10%) respondents said this at Parc.

**Figure 10: Is the food here very or quite good?**



**4.36** In addition to the quality of the food, we also asked children about the quantity of food they received. Overall, just 37% of children said that they got enough to eat at mealtimes always or most of the time. This again varied between establishments, from only 23% of children at Parc to 43% at Wetherby, the Keppel unit and Medway.

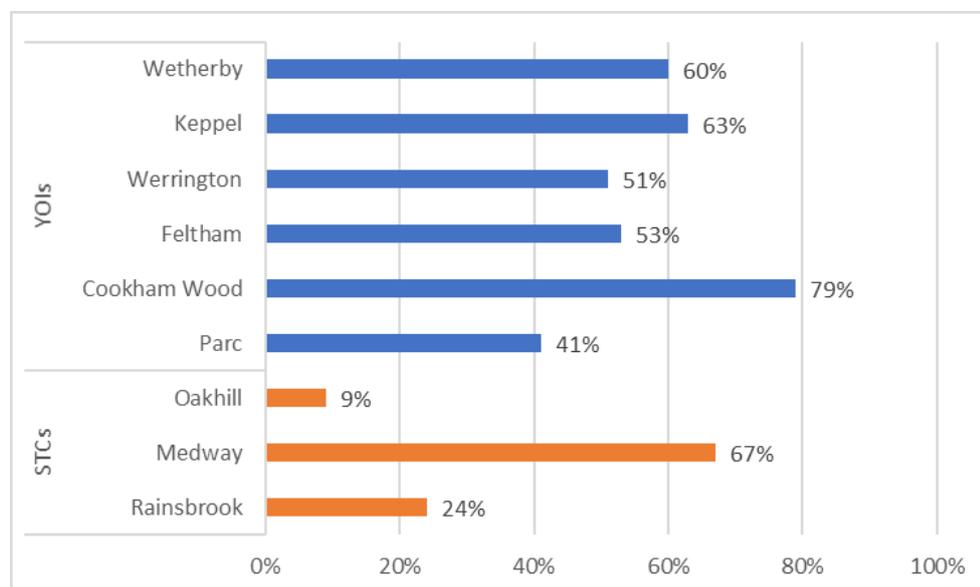
**Figure 11: Do you get enough to eat at mealtimes always/most of the time?**



**4.37** In STCs and YOIs, children can purchase products from the shop or canteen. While overall, more than half (56%) of children said that the shop/canteen sold the things they needed, a

significantly lower proportion of children in STCs than YOIs said this (31% compared with 60%). These overall figures mask considerable differences between establishments, with nearly four-fifths (79%) of children in Cookham Wood reporting favourably about the canteen compared with fewer than one in 10 (9%) at Oakhill.

**Figure 12: Does the shop/canteen sell the things that you need?**



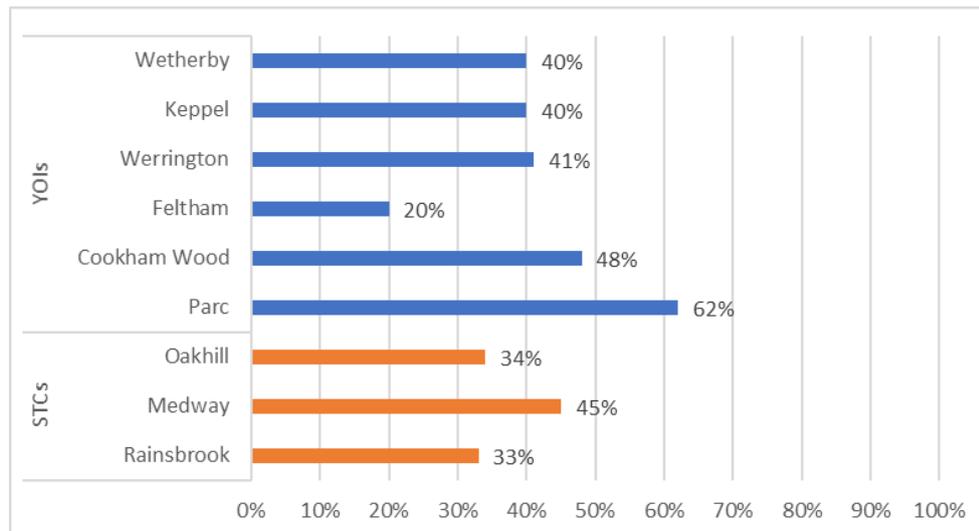
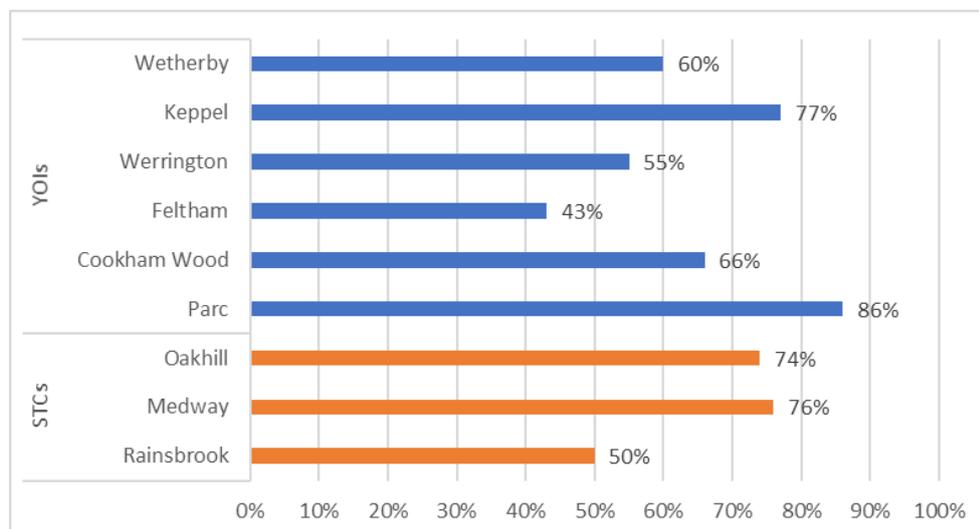
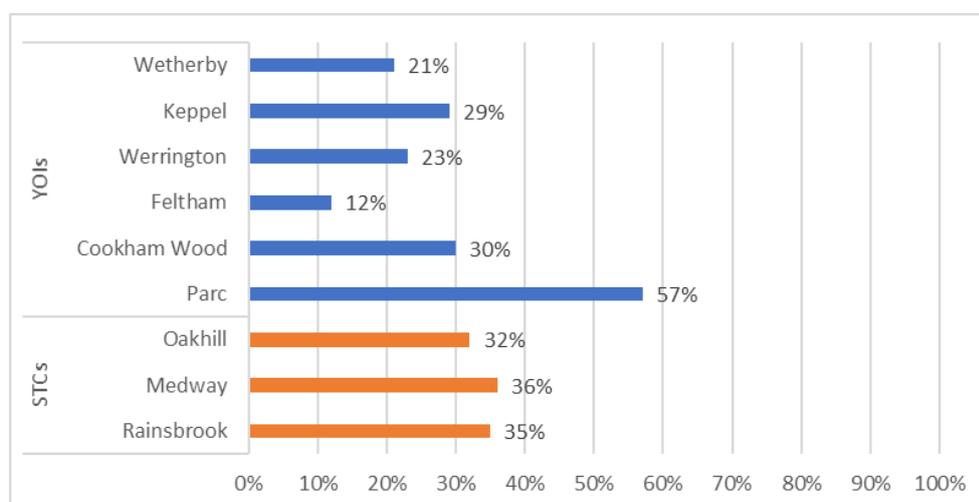
**4.38** Analyses on sub-population data for whether the shop or canteen sold the things that children needed revealed that:

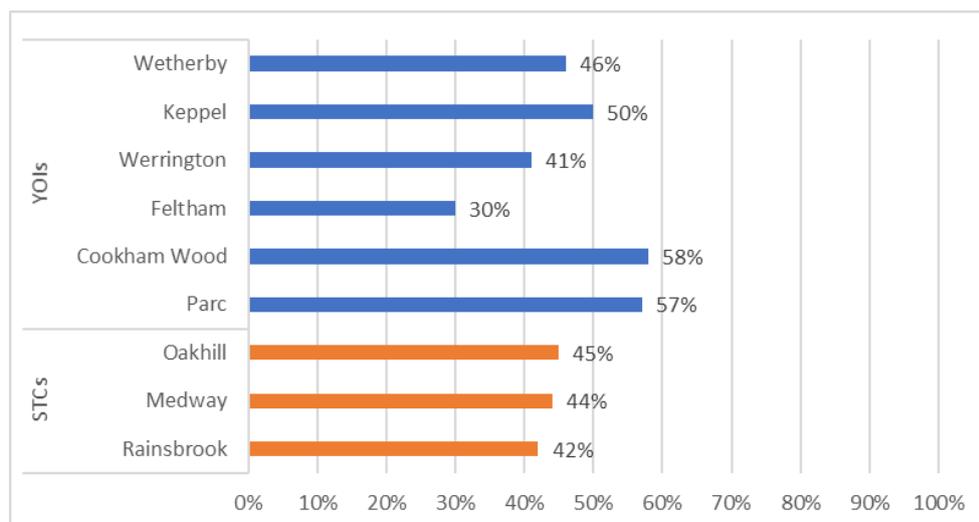
- a significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than white backgrounds reported that the shop or canteen sold what they needed (47% compared with 65%)
- a significantly lower proportion of Muslim than non-Muslim children reported that the shop or canteen sold what they needed (44% compared with 59%).

## Health and well-being

**4.39** Overall, three-fifths (60%) of children in custody said that it was easy for them to see the nurse, while less than half (45%) said it was easy for them to see mental health workers or the doctor (38%). A significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds said it was easy to see a doctor (33%) than white children (44%). Only a quarter (25%) of children across the estate said it was easy for them to see a dentist.

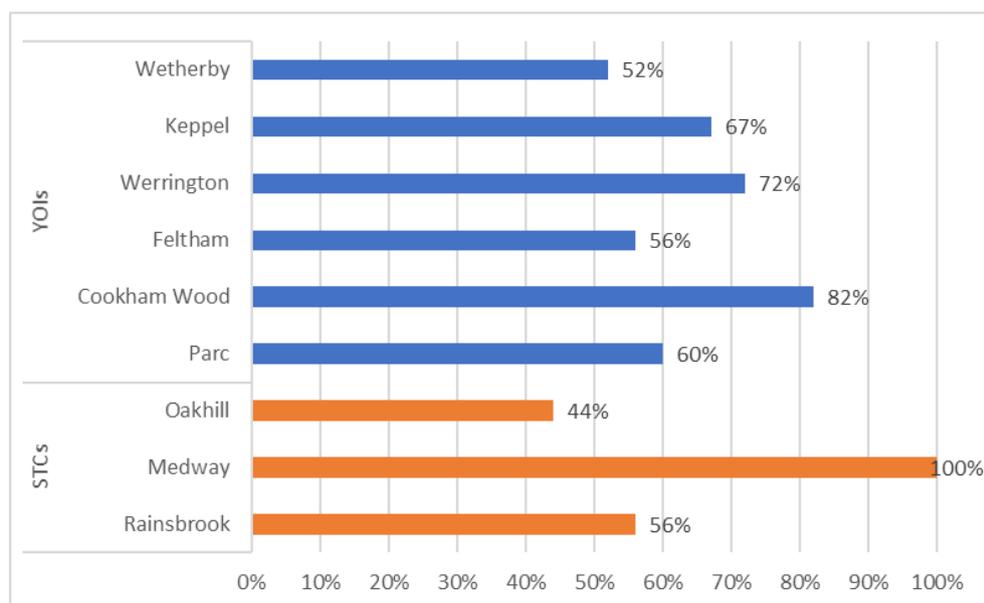
**4.40** While there are no significant differences between STCs and YOIs overall, considerable variation was reported between establishments.

**Figure 13: Is it easy to see the doctor?****Figure 14: Is it easy to see the nurse?****Figure 15: Is it easy to see the dentist?**

**Figure 16: Is it easy to see mental health workers?**

**4.41** In our survey, we asked children whether they consider themselves to have any health problems, including mental health problems, and if they have received any help for them. Of those who said that they had health problems (34% overall), just under two-thirds said that they had received help for them (63%).

**4.42** While there were no significant differences between children held in STCs and YOIs reporting whether they had received help with their health problems, our survey findings indicate a notable variation between establishments, particularly within the STC estate; all children (100%) at Medway who reported health problems said they had received help, while less than half of those in a similar situation at Oakhill (44%) reported receiving it.

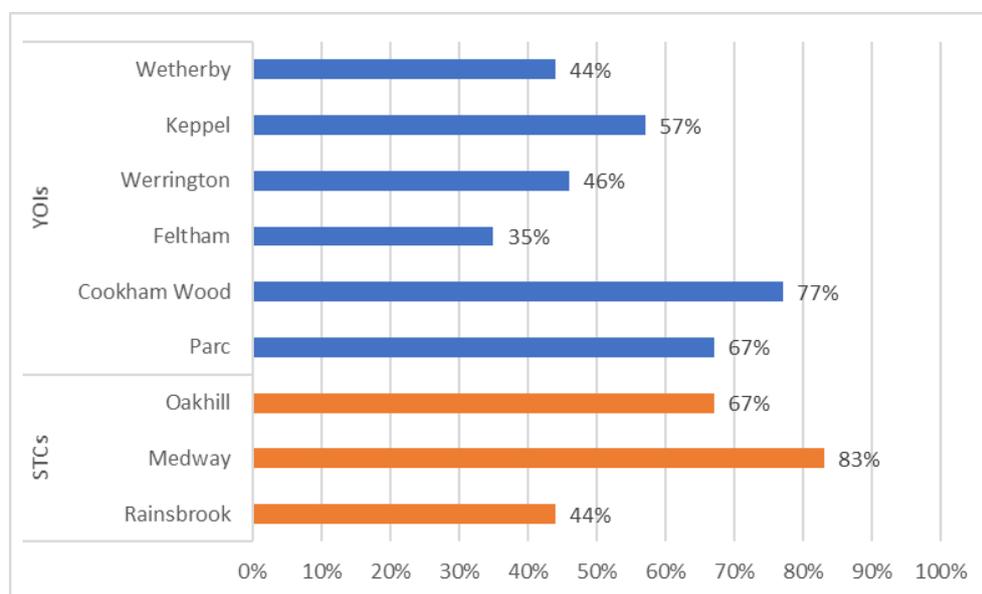
**Figure 17: If you have health problems, have you been helped with them since you've been here?**

**4.43** Children were also asked if they had a disability<sup>17</sup> and, if so, whether or not they were receiving the support they needed. Over a quarter (26%) of children in custody said they had a disability and just over half (51%) of children said they were getting the support that they

<sup>17</sup> See footnote 15.

needed. While there was no statistically significant difference between STCs and YOIs, there was considerable variation between establishments, with just over a third (35%) reporting this in Feltham and over four-fifths (83%) at Medway.

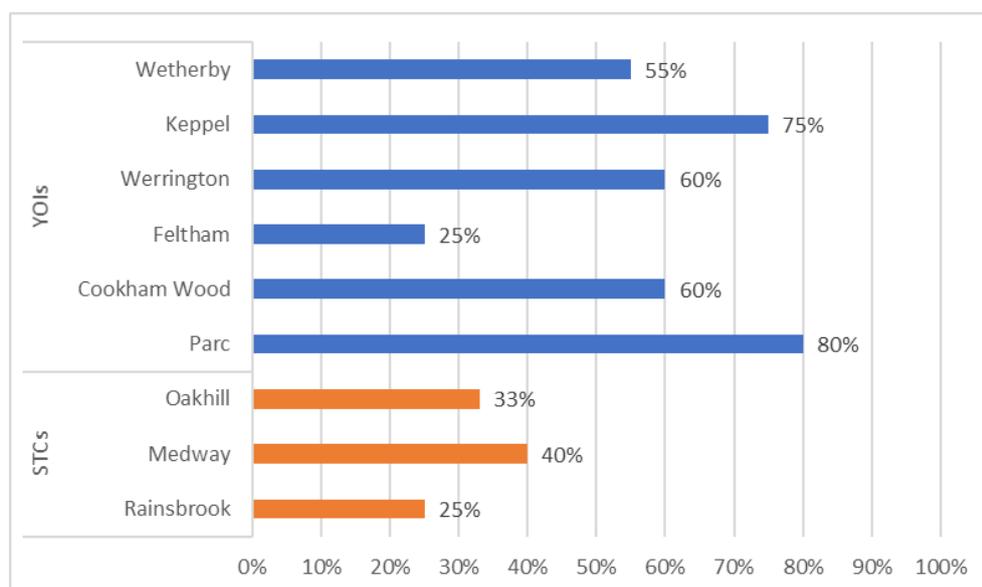
**Figure 18: For those who said they had a disability, are you getting the support you need?**



**4.44** We also asked children whether they had problems with alcohol or drugs when they arrived at their establishment. Overall 7% of children reported having a problem with alcohol and 24% a problem with drugs.

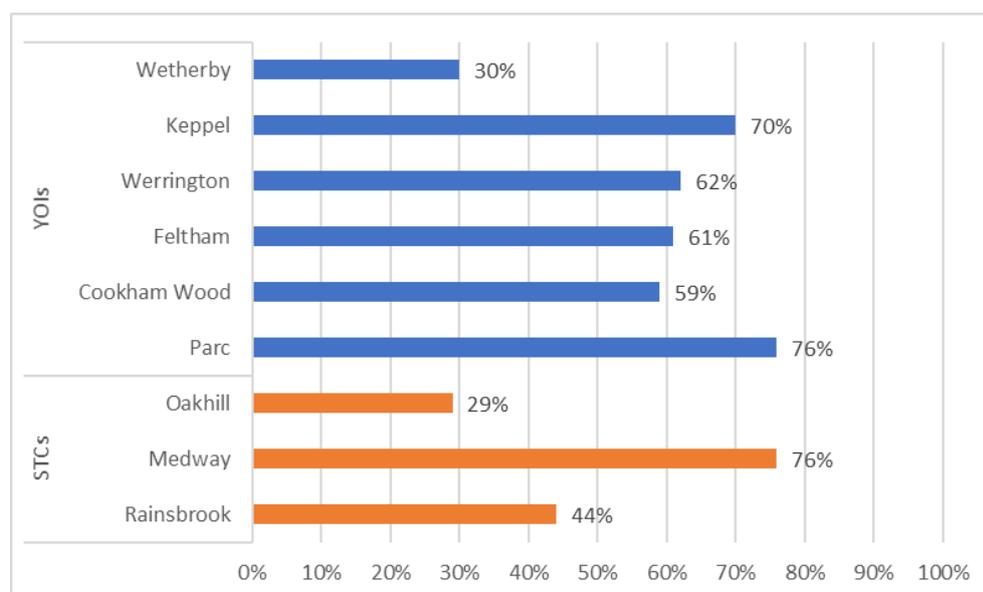
**4.45** Just over half (52%) of children who reported having had a problem said they had received support for their issues with alcohol and/or drugs. The receipt of reported support varied considerably between establishments: 80% of children at Parc said they had received support compared with only 25% at Feltham and Rainsbrook.

**Figure 19: For those who had an alcohol or drug problem, have you been helped with these since you've been here?**



**4.46** With regards to the children’s well-being, we asked them about opportunities to spend time outside in the fresh air (excluding time spent going to and from activities). Overall, just over half (52%) of respondents told us that they could spend time outside most days. While there was no statistical significance between STCs and YOIs, this varied considerably between establishments, with 76% of children at Parc and Medway reporting spending time in the fresh air most days, compared with only 30% at Wetherby and 29% at Oakhill.

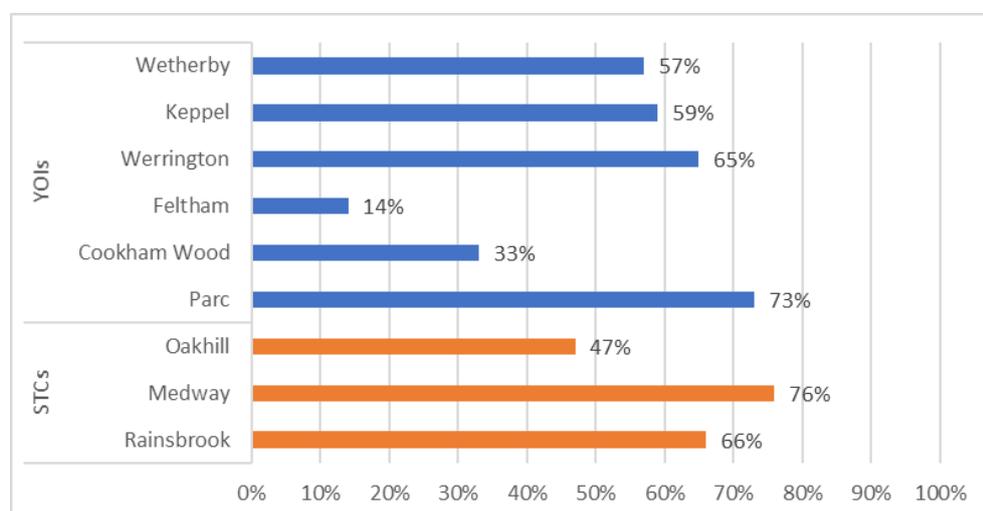
**Figure 20: Can you spend time outside in the fresh air most days (not counting time spent going to and from activities)?**



**4.47** Children were asked about opportunities to go to the gym or play sports. Overall, just under half (48%) of children said that they could go to the gym or play sports at least once a week. However, there was a significant difference between STCs and YOIs, with 62% of children held in STCs reporting being able to go to the gym or play sports at least once a week, compared with 45% in YOIs.

**4.48** There was variation between establishments: nearly three-quarters (76%) of children at Medway told us they could go to the gym or play sports at least once a week compared with just 14% at Feltham.

**Figure 21: Do you go to the gym or play sports once a week or more?**

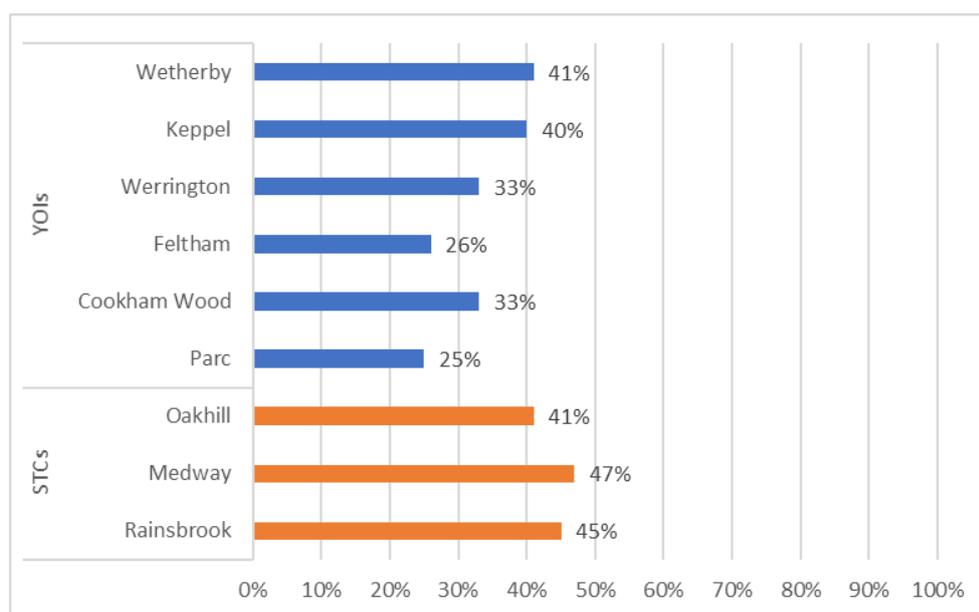


## Complaints

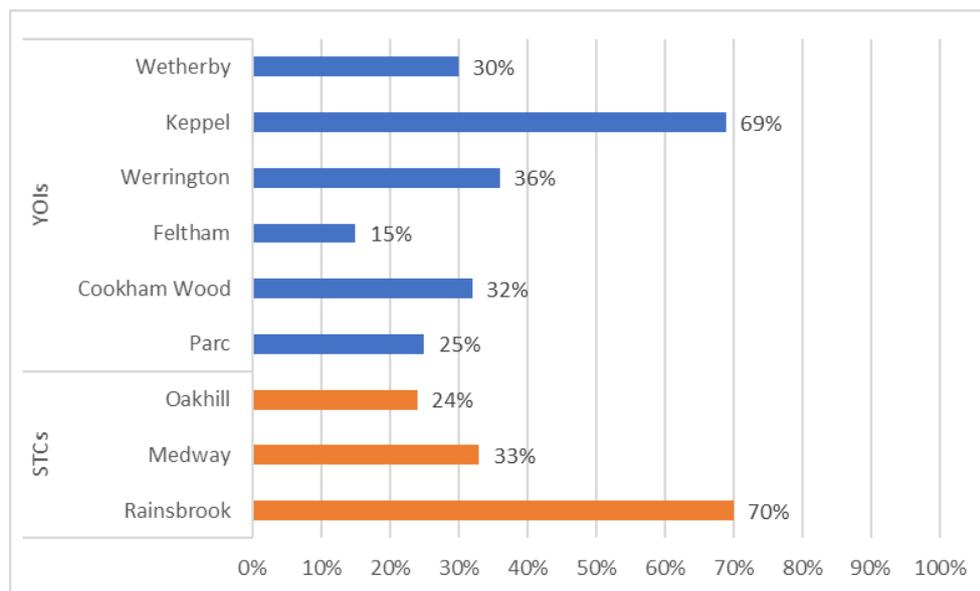
**4.49** Our survey indicates that the majority (87%) of children in custody knew how to make a complaint, and this did not vary significantly or substantially between types of custody or establishment.

**4.50** However, when asked about the effectiveness of the complaints procedures, lower proportions of children reported that complaints were dealt with either fairly (35%) or promptly (32%). In relation to reported fairness, this varied from 47% at Medway to only 25% at Parc.

**Figure 22: Were your complaints usually dealt with fairly?**

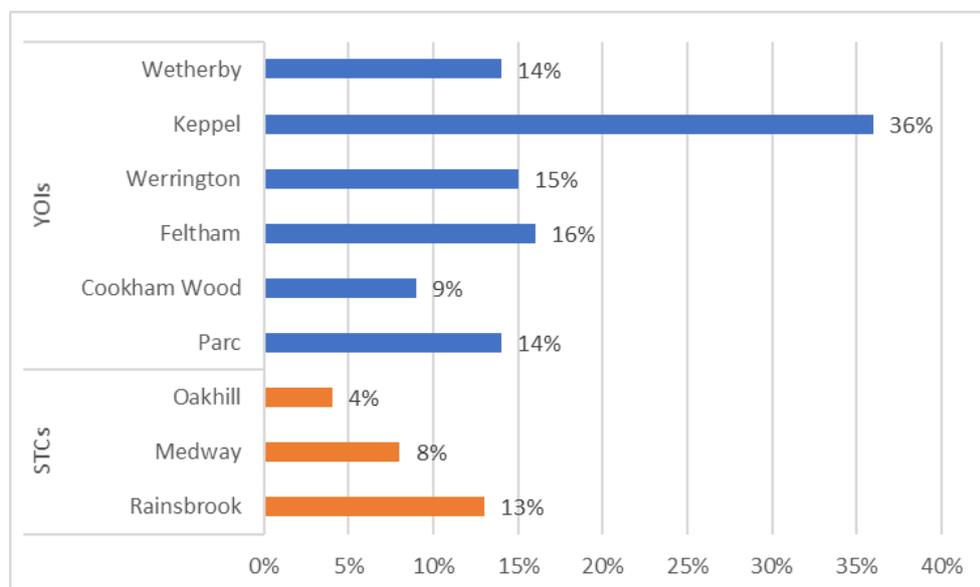


**4.51** In terms of the timeliness of responses to complaints, there was even greater variation across establishments, ranging from 15% of children reporting that complaints were dealt with within seven days at Feltham to 70% of children at Rainsbrook.

**Figure 23: Were your complaints usually dealt with within seven days?**

**4.52** Significantly lower proportions of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than white backgrounds reported that their complaints were dealt with fairly (28% compared with 47%), or within seven days (22% compared with 46%).

**4.53** Fourteen per cent of children reported that they had at some time felt too scared to make a complaint, ranging from 4% of children at Oakhill to more than a third (36%) at the Keppel unit.

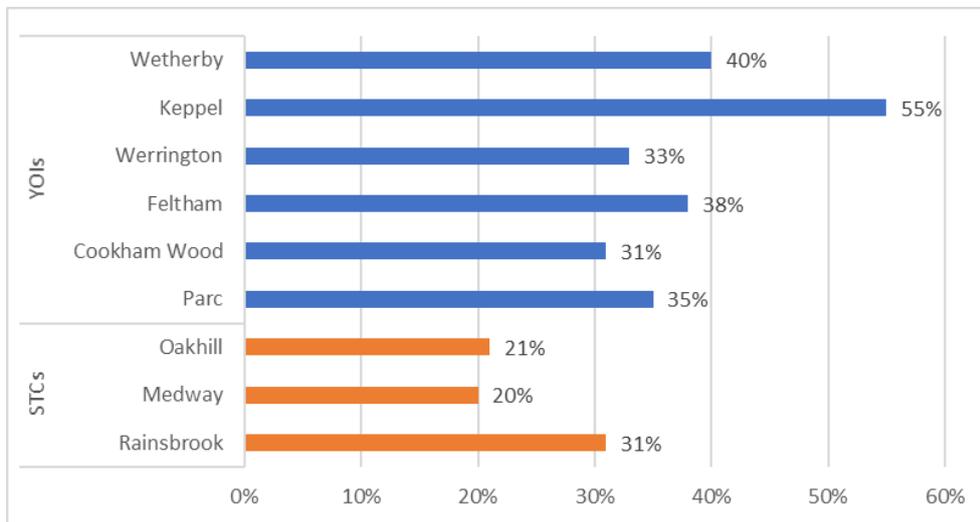
**Figure 24: Have you ever felt too scared to make a complaint?**

## Safety and security

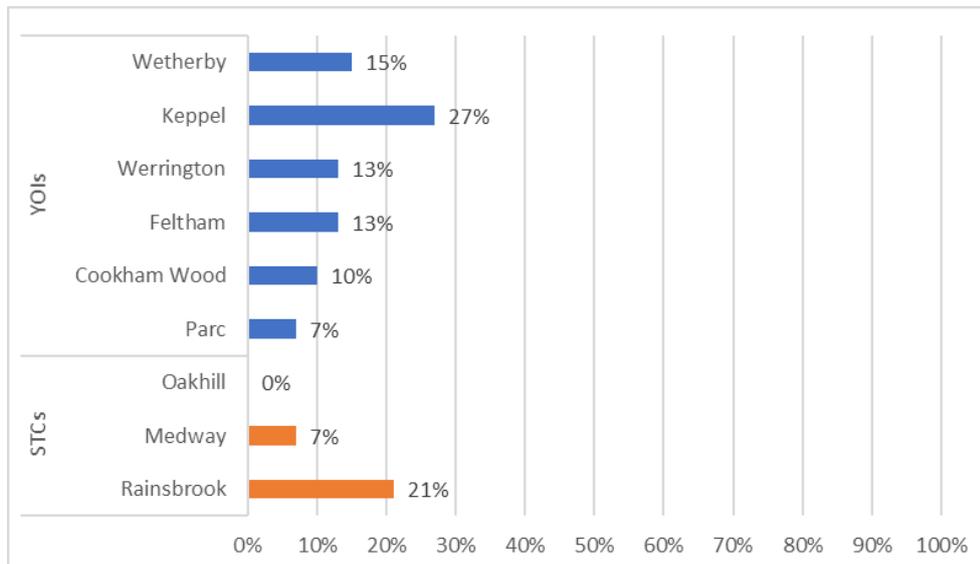
**4.54** Overall, more than a third (35%) of children in custody said that they had felt unsafe in their establishment at some point. At the time of the survey, 13% of respondents said that they were feeling unsafe. This was applicable for 30% of Traveller children, a significantly higher proportion than non-Traveller children (12%). A significantly higher proportion of children with a disability reported that they had ever felt unsafe (52% compared with 29% of children without a disability), or were feeling unsafe at the time of the survey (28% compared with 8% of children without a disability).

**4.55** While differences between perceptions of safety in STCs and YOIs were not statistically significant, they did vary considerably between establishments. More than half of children in the Keppel unit (55%) reported having felt unsafe there at some point, and 27% said that they were feeling unsafe there at the time of the survey, a higher proportion than at any other establishment.

**Figure 25: Have you ever felt unsafe here?**

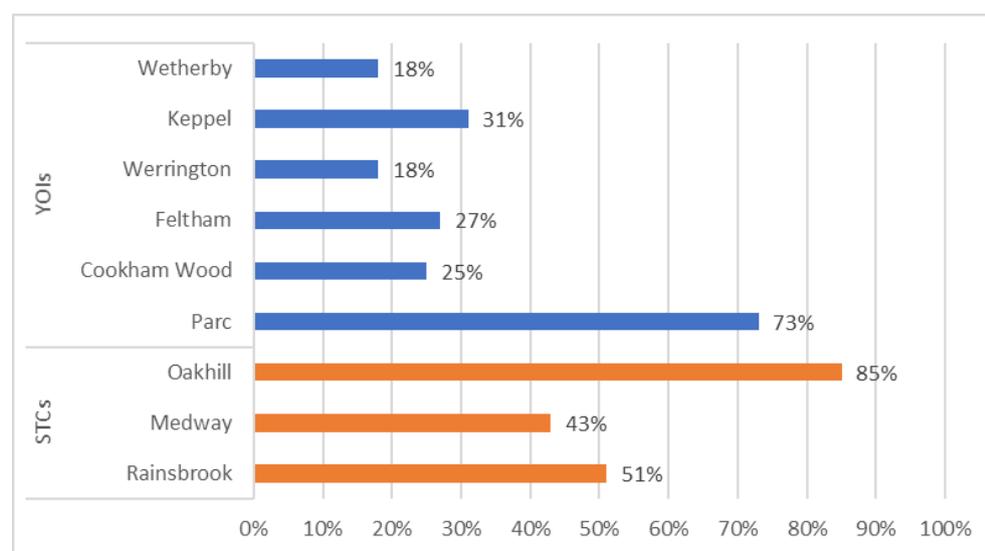


**Figure 26: Do you feel unsafe now?**



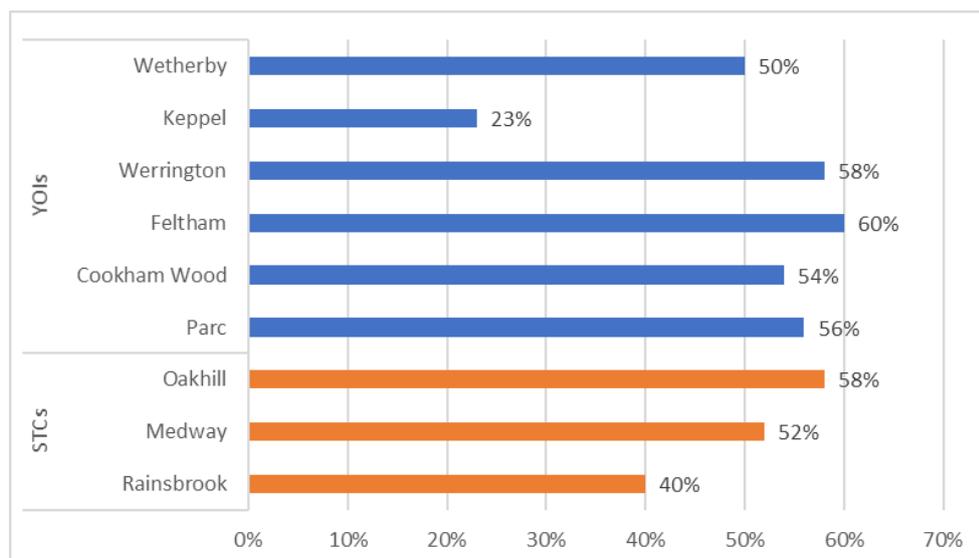
**4.56** All cells or rooms in STCs and YOIs have an emergency call bell. When children were asked if their bell was normally answered within five minutes, only 30% said it was. However, this differed significantly between STCs and YOIs, with 60% of the children in STCs reporting that their bell was normally answered within five minutes compared with only a quarter (25%) in YOIs. There was wide variation between establishments, ranging from 85% of children reporting their bell was answered within five minutes at Oakhill, to only 18% at Werrington and Wetherby.

**Figure 27: Is your emergency call bell or intercom normally answered within five minutes?**



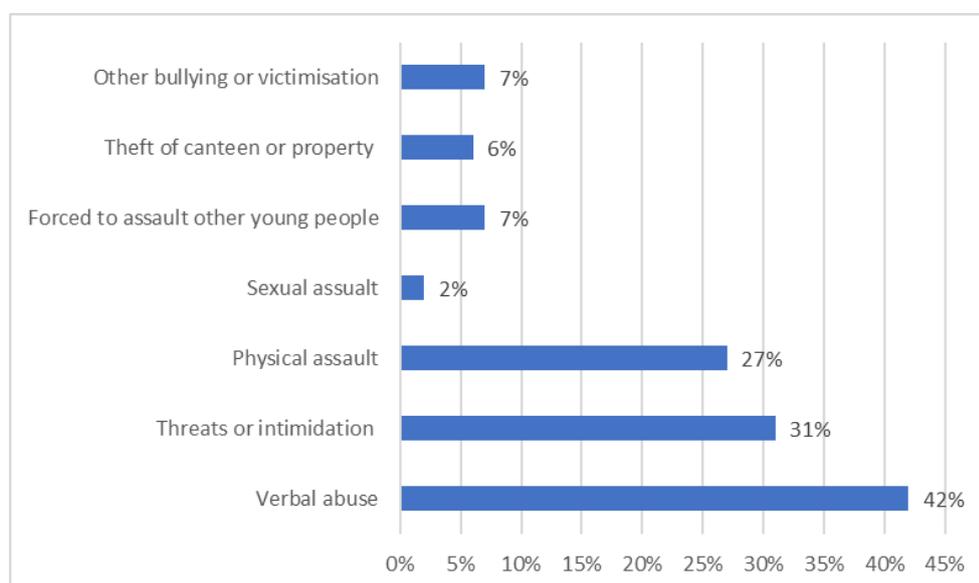
**4.57** Children were asked about victimisation or bullying they had experienced from other children, and whether they would feel comfortable reporting it. There were no significant differences in responses between children in STCs and those in YOIs to any of our questions about victimisation by peers.

**4.58** Just over half (52%) of children reported that they had not experienced any victimisation by other children. Two-thirds (66%) of Muslim children indicated that they had not been victimised by other children, which was a significantly higher proportion than non-Muslim children (50%). In terms of variation across the estate, 60% of respondents at Feltham told us that they had not been victimised by other children, compared with just 23% of respondents at the Keppel unit.

**Figure 28: Children here have not victimised me**

**4.59** Only 33% of respondents said they would report it if they were being victimised by another child.

**4.60** Our questionnaire lists a number of different ways in which children can be victimised by their peers. Overall, verbal abuse was the most commonly reported type of victimisation by other children (42%).

**Figure 29: Types of victimisation by other children**

**4.61** Analyses on sub-population data for types of victimisation by other children revealed that:

*Verbal abuse (reported by 42% of children)*

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report that they had been verbally abused by other children (37% compared with 48%).
- A significantly higher proportion of respondents who said they had a disability reported that they had been verbally abused by other children (57% compared with 38% of children without a disability).

*Threats or intimidation (reported by 31% of children)*

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely to report having been threatened or intimidated by other children (24% compared with 39% of children from white backgrounds).
- Disabled children were significantly more likely to report having been threatened or intimidated by other children than those without a disability (51% compared with 24%).

*Theft of canteen or property (reported by 6% of children)*

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report that they had had their canteen or property stolen by other children (4% compared with 9%).
- Children from a Traveller community were significantly more likely to report having had their canteen or property stolen by other children than non-Traveller children (20% compared with 5%).
- Children who said they had a disability were significantly more likely to report having had their canteen or property stolen by other children than children without a disability (14% compared with 3%).

*Physical assault (reported by 27% of children)*

- Children who said they had a disability were significantly more likely to report being physically assaulted by other children than those without a disability (38% compared with 23%).
- Children who had previously been in local authority care were significantly more likely to say that they had been physically assaulted by other children (33% compared with 21% of children who had not been in local authority care).

*Sexual assault (reported by 2% of children)*

- Children from a Traveller community were significantly more likely to report having been sexually assaulted by other children than non-Traveller children (13% compared with 1%).

*Forced to assault another child (reported by 7% of children)*

- A significantly higher proportion of children from a Traveller community than non-Traveller children reported that they were forced by other children to assault another child (20% compared with 6%).
- A significantly higher proportion of respondents who had a disability reported that they were forced by other children to assault another child than children without a disability (12% compared with 5%).

*'Other' bullying or victimisation<sup>18</sup> (reported by 7% of children)*

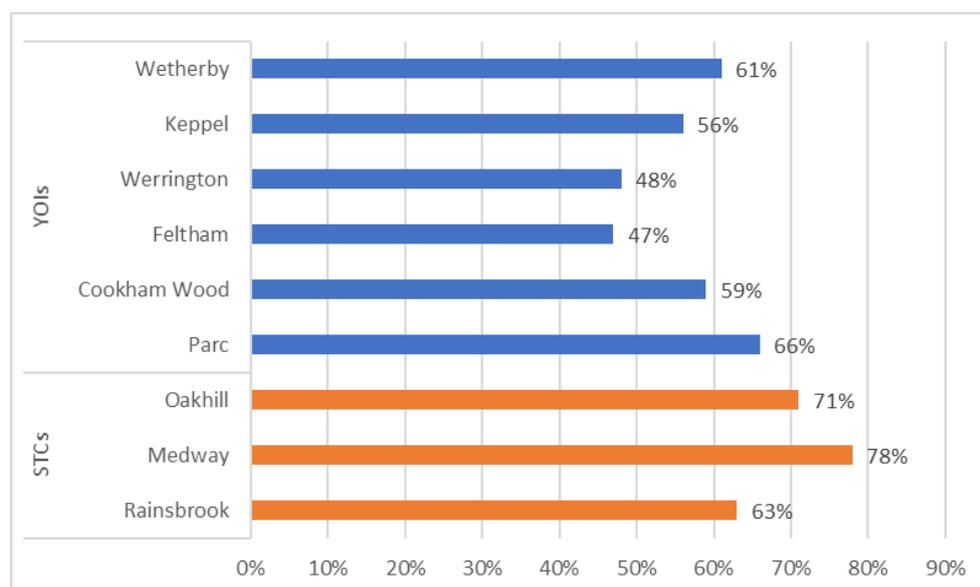
- A significantly higher proportion of children from a Traveller community reported that they had experienced other bullying or victimisation from children than non-Traveller children (19% compared with 6%).
- Children who said they had a disability were also significantly more likely to report other bullying or victimisation from children than those without a disability (16% compared with 4%).

**4.62** Similarly, children were asked equivalent questions about victimisation or bullying they had experienced from staff, and whether or not they would feel comfortable reporting it. Again, there were no significant differences in responses between children in STCs and those in YOIs to any of these questions.

<sup>18</sup> The questionnaire did not require children to explain what this 'other' bullying or victimisation consisted of.

**4.63** Fifty-eight per cent of children reported that they had not experienced victimisation by staff. This varied between establishment, from 78% of respondents at Medway to fewer than half (47%) of respondents at Feltham.

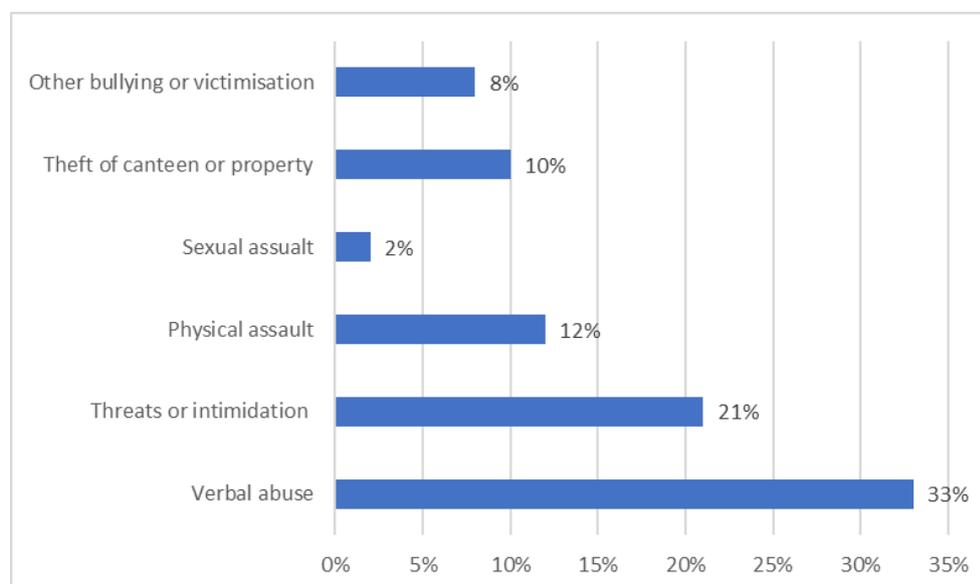
**Figure 30: Staff here have not victimised me**



**4.64** Over half (55%) of respondents said they would report it if they were victimised by staff.

**4.65** Overall, verbal abuse was the most common type of victimisation that children reported from staff (33%).

**Figure 31: Types of victimisation by staff**



**4.66** Analyses on sub-population data for types of victimisation by staff revealed that:

*Verbal abuse (reported by 33% of children)*

- A significantly higher proportion of children from a black and minority ethnic background than children from a white background reported that they had been verbally abused by staff (38% compared with 28%).

*Threats or intimidation (reported by 21% of children)*

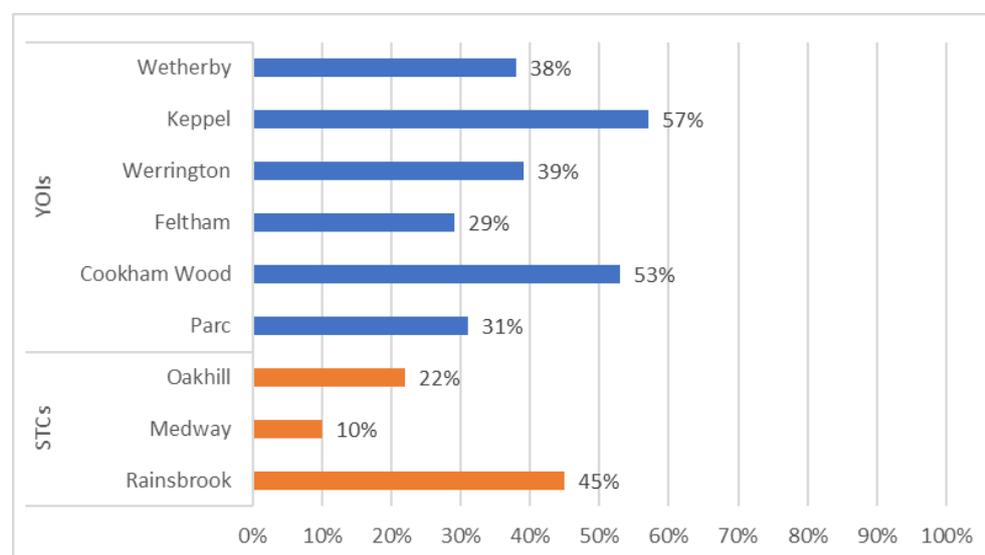
- Children from a black and minority ethnic background were also significantly more likely than children from a white background to report that they had been threatened or intimidated by staff (25% compared with 16%).
- Sexual assault (reported by 2% of children)
- Children from a Traveller community were significantly more likely to report being sexually assaulted by staff than children from a non-Traveller community (13% compared with 1%).

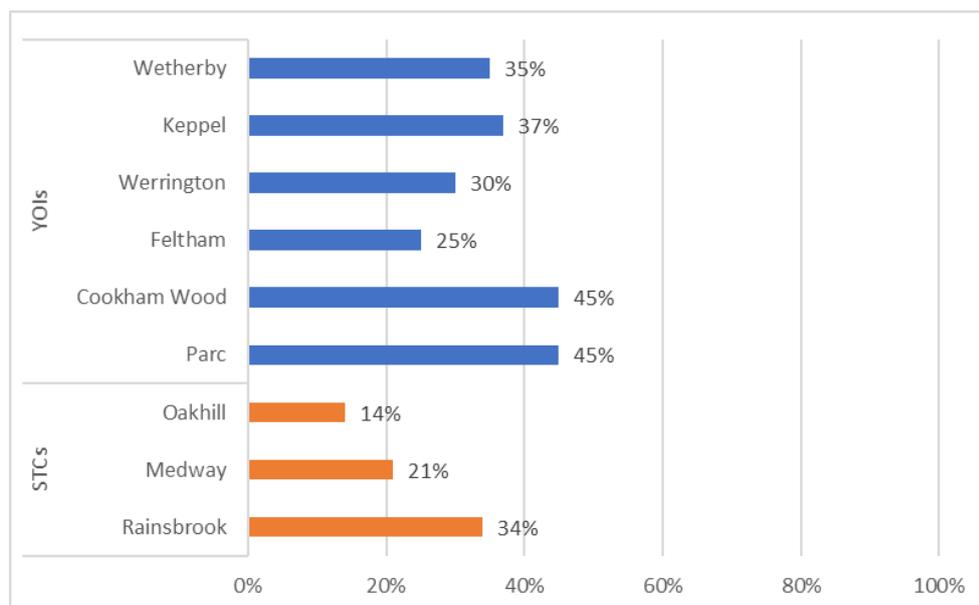
## Behaviour management

**4.67** All STCs and YOIs have a rewards or incentives scheme to encourage positive behaviour. The specifics of the schemes vary between establishments, but all generally offer a system of benefits which can be earned by good behaviour, and removed if behaviour is poor.

**4.68** In our questionnaire, we ask if the rewards scheme encourages them to behave well and if they think it is applied fairly. Overall, only 38% of children said the rewards or incentives for good behaviour encouraged them to behave well and only a third (33%) thought that the system of rewards or incentives was fair. A significantly lower proportion of children from a black and minority ethnic background thought that the system of rewards or incentives was fair than children from a white background (28% compared with 40%). There were no significant differences between STCs and YOIs, and in only two establishments (the Keppel unit and Cookham Wood) did more than half of the children report that the system encouraged them to behave well. At Medway, only one in 10 (10%) said this.

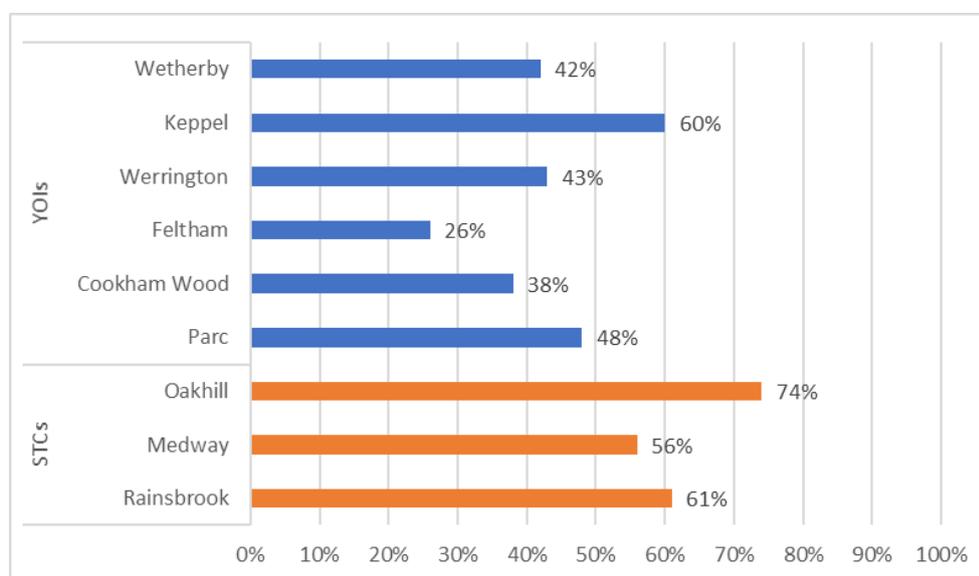
**Figure 32: Do the rewards or incentives for good behaviour encourage you to behave well?**



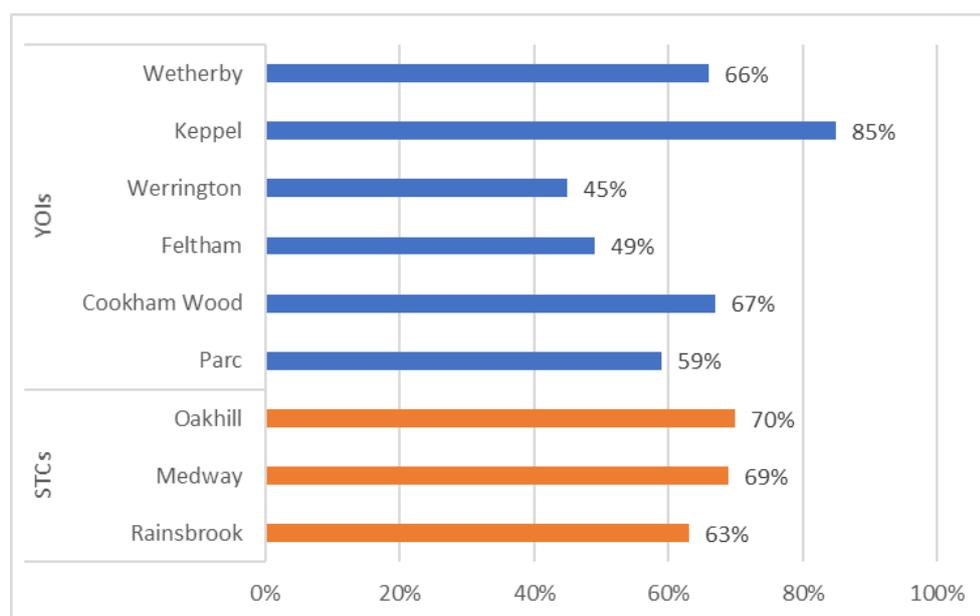
**Figure 33: Do you think the system of rewards or incentives is fair?**

**4.69** We also asked whether staff let children know when they behaved well, or explained what they had done wrong if they got into trouble. Overall, 43% of children said that staff let them know when their behaviour was good.

**4.70** Children in STCs were significantly more likely to say that staff let them know when their behaviour was good (64% compared with 39% in YOIs). This varied between establishments, with only 26% reporting this at Feltham and 74% at Medway.

**Figure 34: Do staff usually let you know when your behaviour is good?**

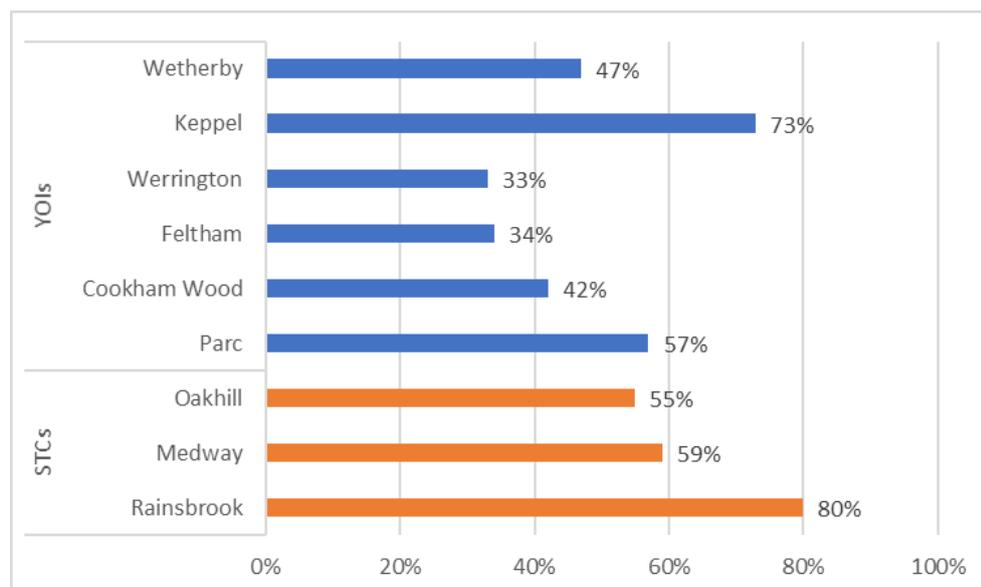
**4.71** Just over three in five (61%) of children said that staff usually explained what they had done wrong when they got into trouble. While there were no significant differences between STCs and YOIs, the variation between establishments ranged from 85% at the Keppel unit to 45% at Werrington.

**Figure 35: If you get in trouble, do staff usually explain what you have done wrong?**

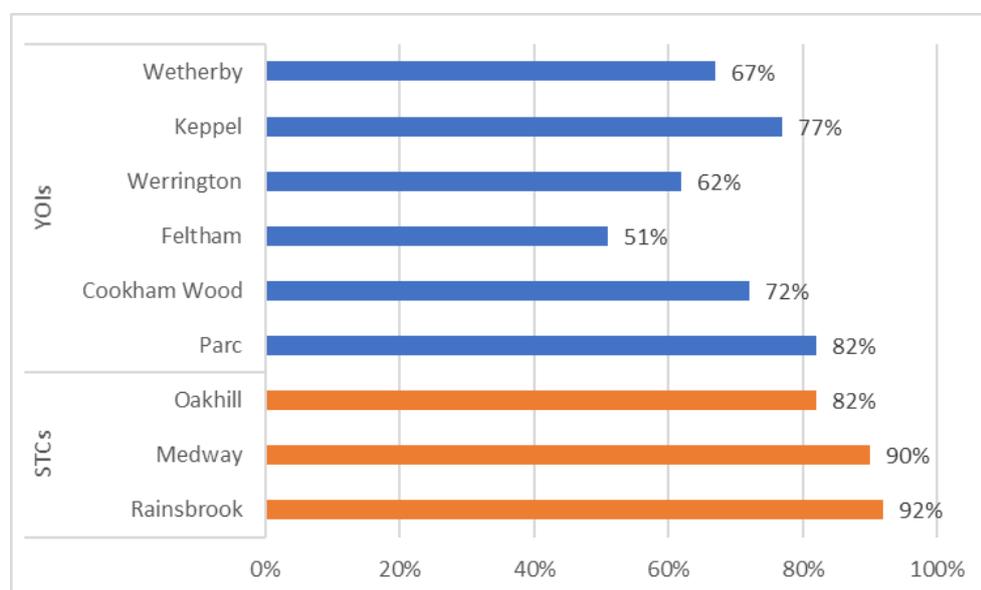
- 4.72** A significantly lower proportion of children from a black and minority ethnic background said that staff usually let them know when their behaviour was good (38% compared with 49% of children from a white background), or said that staff usually explained what they had done wrong when in they were in trouble (54% compared with 70%).
- 4.73** Almost two-thirds (64%) of children said that they had been physically restrained since they had been at their establishment. Of these, 69% told us that a member of staff came to speak to them about the restraint afterwards.
- 4.74** We also asked children whether they had ever – as a punishment – been separated from their peers by being kept locked up or stopped from mixing with other children. Overall, nearly three in five (59%) of children said they had.

## Relationships between staff and children

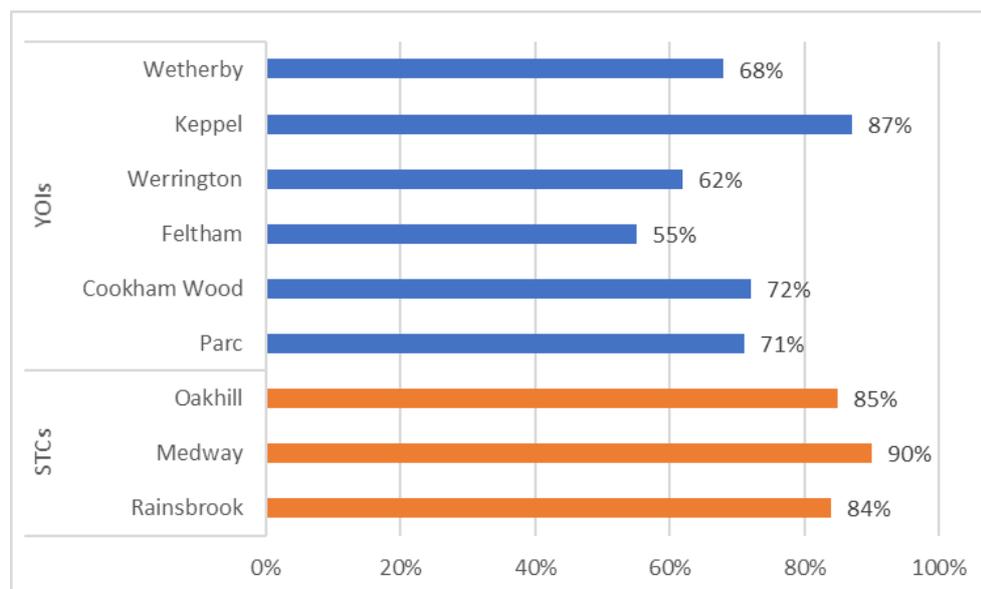
- 4.75** Overall, less than half (46%) of the children told us that they felt cared for by most of the staff at the establishment in which they were being held. Children from a black and minority ethnic background were significantly less likely than children from a white background to state that they felt cared for by most staff (35% compared with 58%).
- 4.76** When comparing STCs and YOIs, significantly more children in STCs than YOIs felt cared for by most staff (65% compared with 43%). This ranged from 80% of children at Rainsbrook to only around a third at Werrington (33%) and Feltham (34%).

**Figure 36: Do you feel cared for by most staff here?**

**4.77** Just over two-thirds (69%) of children said that staff treated them with respect. Children from a black and minority ethnic background were significantly less likely than children from a white background to report that most staff treated them with respect (63% compared with 74%). The proportion reporting respectful treatment was significantly higher in STCs than YOIs (88% compared with 65%) and ranged between individual establishments, from 92% of respondents at Rainsbrook to only 51% at Feltham.

**Figure 37: Do most staff here treat you with respect?**

**4.78** The majority (69%) of children reported that if they had a problem, there were staff at the establishment they could turn to for help. Again, children from a black and minority ethnic background were significantly less likely than children from a white background to report this (64% compared with 75%). A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than in YOIs reported having a member of staff to turn to for help (86% compared with 66%). While the responses of children in different STCs were fairly similar, those of children in YOIs varied considerably, ranging from 87% of those at the Keppel unit to just over half (55%) at Feltham.

**Figure 38: If you had a problem, are there any staff here you could turn to for help?**

**4.79** We also asked children whether they could speak to a Barnardo's advocate when they needed to.<sup>19</sup> Overall, 69% of children said they could do so.

## Faith

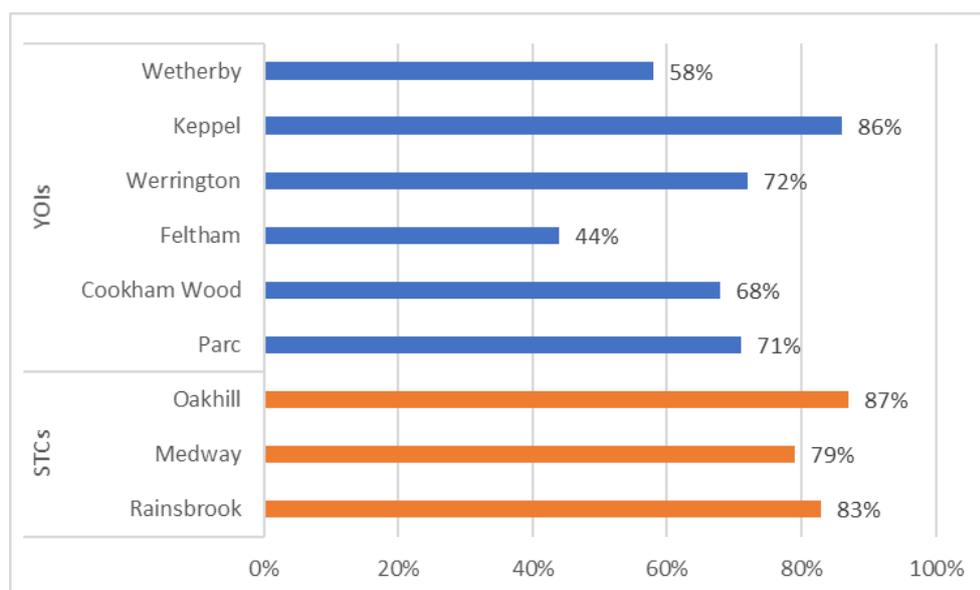
**4.80** Overall, 68% of children said that they followed a religion, ranging from 82% at Feltham to 33% at Parc.

**4.81** We asked those who said they followed a religion if their religious beliefs were respected and whether they could speak to a chaplain of their faith in private if they wanted to. There were no significant differences between the two estates. Overall, the majority (79%) of children said that their religious beliefs were respected and 73% of children reported that they could speak to a chaplain of their faith in private.

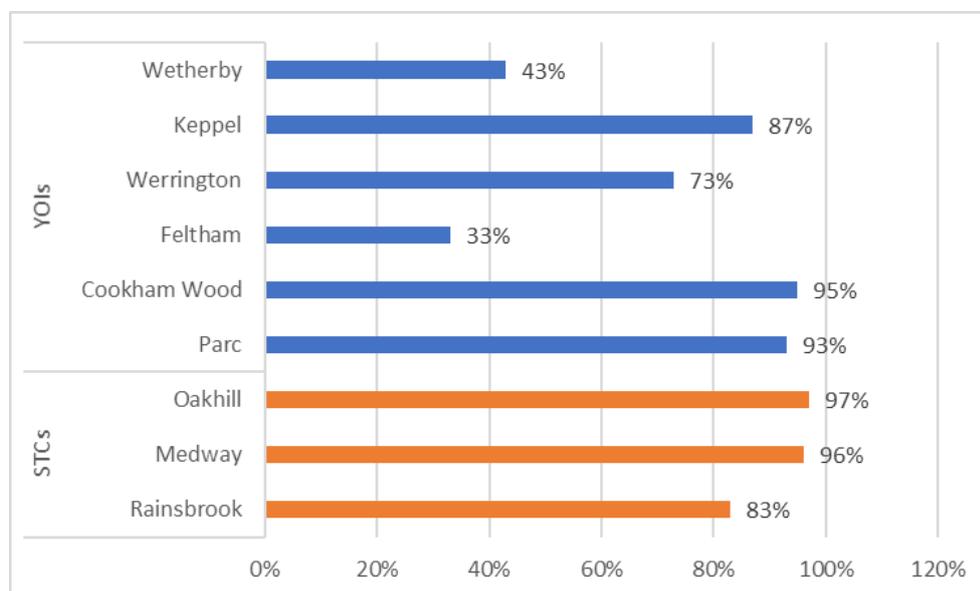
## Keeping in touch with family and friends

**4.82** We asked children if anyone in establishment had helped them to keep in touch with family and/or friends. Overall, around two-thirds (65%) of children said that they had received help. There was a significant difference between STCs and YOIs, with 83% of children in STCs saying that someone in the centre had helped them keep in touch with family and friends, compared with 62% in YOIs. This varied considerably between establishments, with 87% reporting they had been helped at Oakhill, compared with just 44% at Feltham.

<sup>19</sup> Barnardo's run specialist advocacy services across the UK. Advocates are independent and aim to support, protect rights and encourage young people to speak out.

**Figure 39: Has anyone here helped you keep in touch with your family/friends?**

**4.83** Two-thirds (66%) of respondents said that they could use a phone daily if they had credit.<sup>20</sup> There was a significant difference between STCs and YOIs, with 92% of children in STCs telling us that they could use the phone every day, compared with only 61% in YOIs. The variation between establishments ranged from 97% at Oakhill to 33% at Feltham.<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 40: Are you able to use a phone every day (if you have credit)?**

**4.84** Overall, only 37% of children said that it was very or quite easy for their families and friends to visit. Less than one-third (32%) of children who had been in local authority care said that it was easy for their family and friends to visit, which was significantly lower than the 43% of children reporting this who had not been in local authority care.

<sup>20</sup> To be able to ring someone from the centre or institution, a child would need to have the phone numbers of their families/friends added to their PIN and also have enough credit to pay for the call.

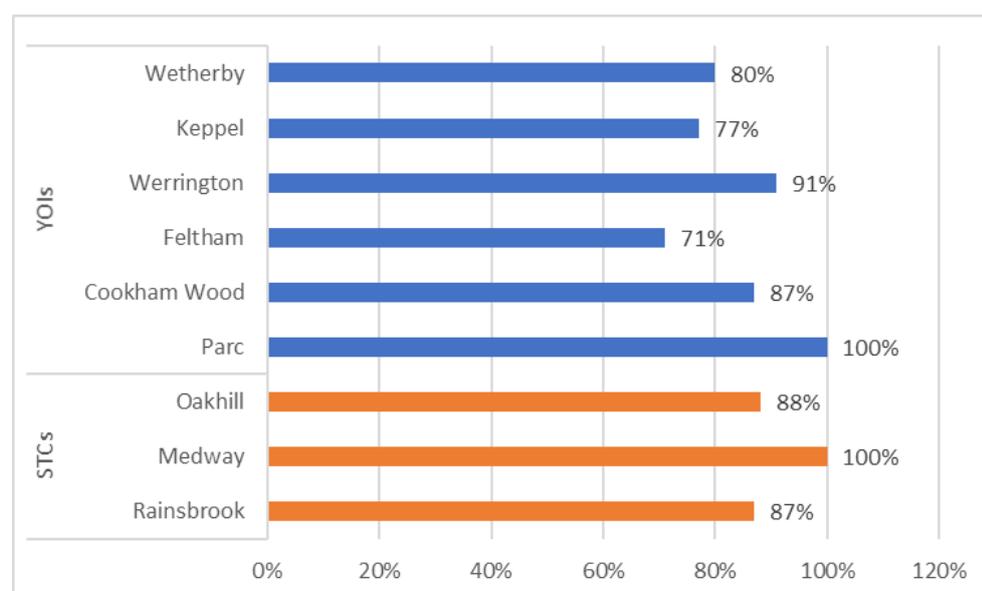
<sup>21</sup> Of the YOIs, only Parc, Cookham Wood and the Keppel unit had in-cell phones. All STC had phones in cells.

- 4.85** Despite this, 80% of children said that they did receive visits, but this was significantly lower for children who had been in local authority care (75%) than for children who had not (84%).
- 4.86** Overall, less than half (46%) of those who received visits said that they had at least one visit per week and for children who had been in local authority care this was just 36%, compared with 55% of children who had not been in care.
- 4.87** No significant differences were found between the two estates in relation to visits.

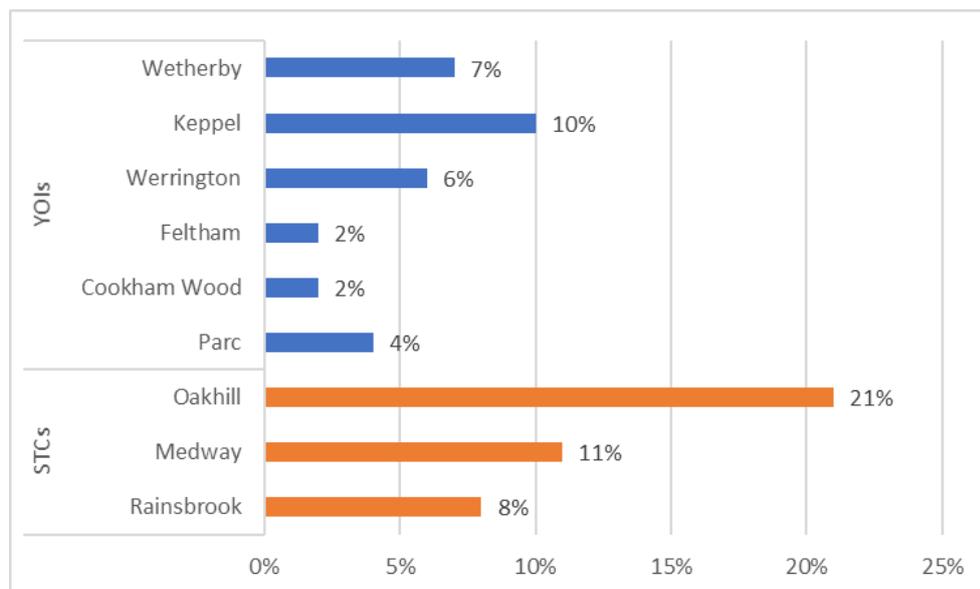
## Education, skills and work activities

- 4.88** In our survey, we ask children about access to education, jobs, vocational training and offending behaviour programmes.
- 4.89** Overall, 83% of children said that they were receiving education at the time of our survey, and there was no significant difference between children in STCs and YOIs. The proportion receiving education in each establishment ranged from 100% of children at Medway and Parc to 71% at Feltham.

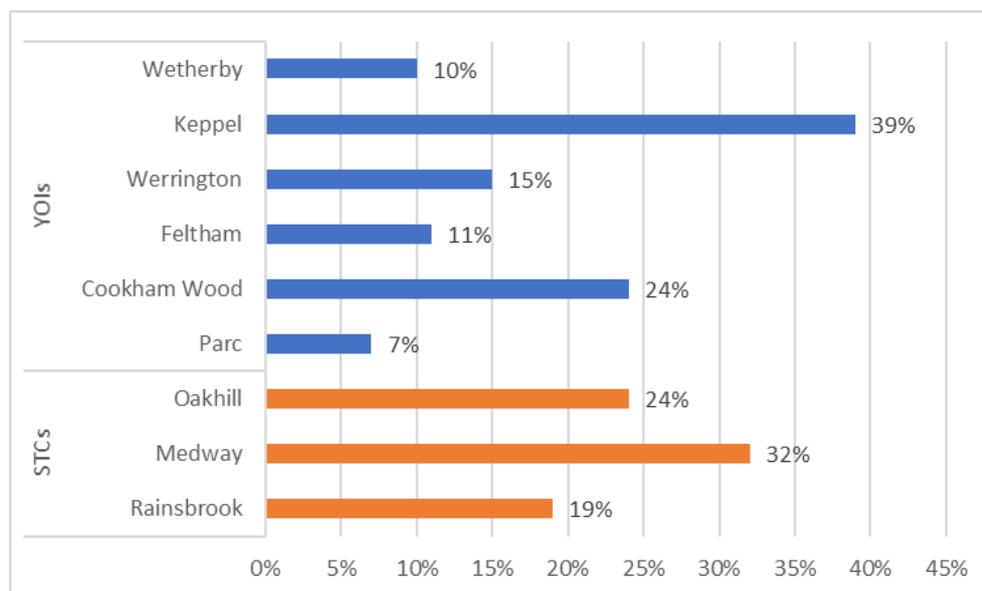
**Figure 4I: Are you participating in education?**



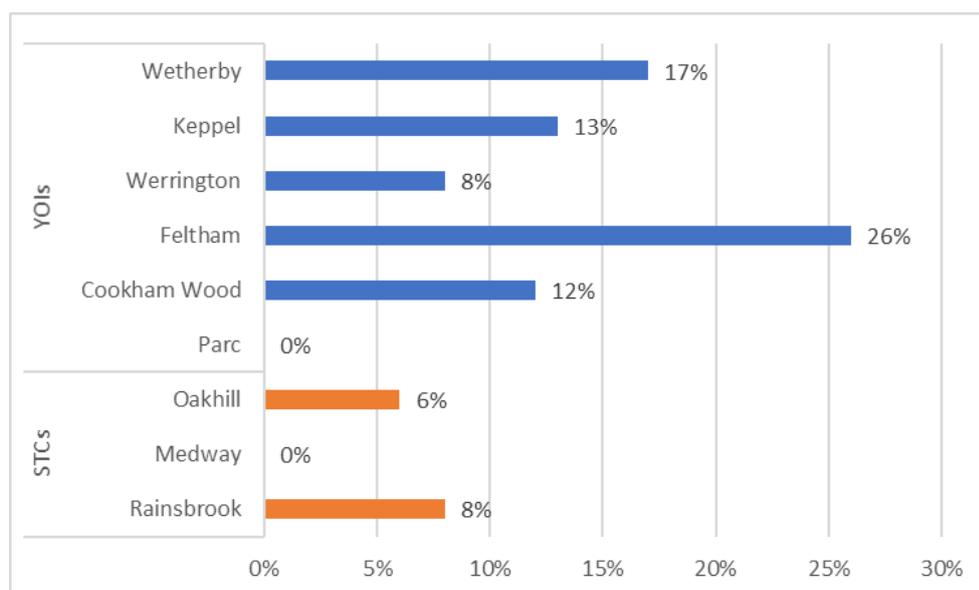
- 4.90** Only a very small proportion (6%) of children said that they had a paid job at the time of our survey.
- 4.91** Overall 6% of children said they were involved in vocational training at the time of our survey. Children from Traveller communities were significantly more likely to report that they were training for a job than non-Traveller children (19% compared with 5%). Significantly more children in STCs said they were taking part in vocational training than those in YOIs (13% compared with 5%). Reported participation in training ranged from 21% of children at Oakhill to just 2% at Cookham Wood and Feltham.

**Figure 42: Are you training for a job?**

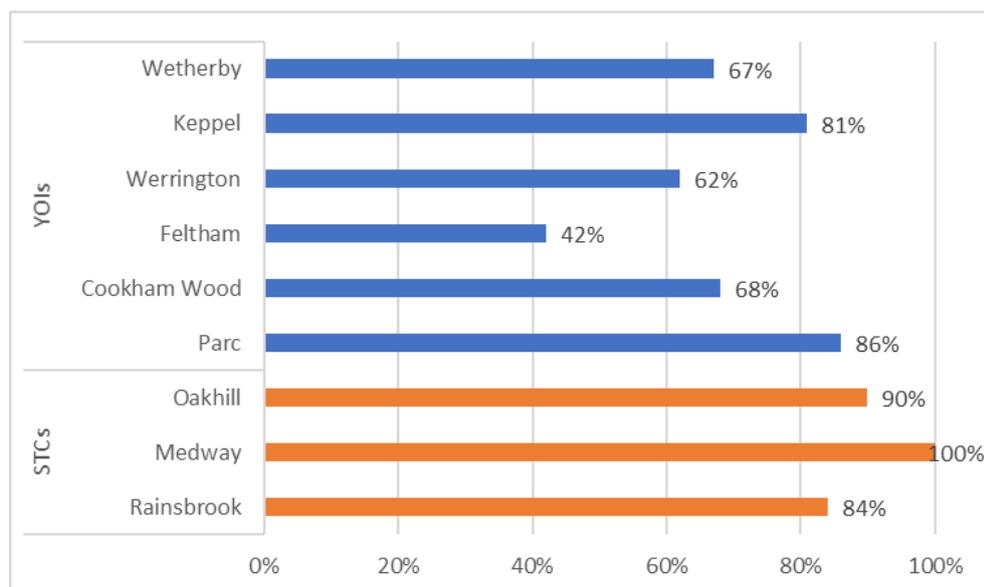
**4.92** Of the children we surveyed, 17% said they were receiving offending behaviour programmes or interventions. This ranged from 39% of children at the Keppel unit to only 7% at Parc.

**Figure 43: Are you participating in offending behaviour programmes?**

**4.93** Across the estate, more than one in 10 (14%) children said that they were not involved in any of the activities mentioned above. This ranged from more than a quarter (26%) of children at Feltham to no children at Parc and Medway.

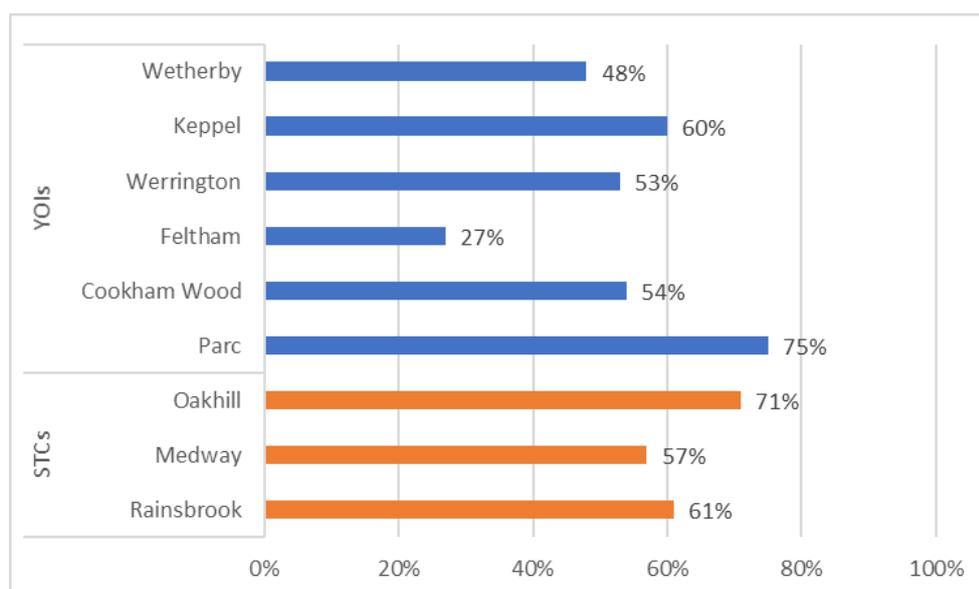
**Figure 44: Not participating in any activities**

**4.94** We also asked children if they were encouraged by staff to attend education, work or vocational training. Overall, over two-thirds (67%) of children said they were. A significantly lower proportion of children from a black and minority ethnic background than a white background said that staff encouraged them to attend education, training or work (62% compared with 74%). The difference between STCs and YOIs was significant, with 91% of children held in STCs saying that staff encouraged them to attend education, training or work, compared with 63% in YOIs. Between establishments this ranged from 100% of children at Medway to 42% at Feltham.

**Figure 45: Do staff encourage you to attend education, training or work?**

**4.95** We asked children whether they had learned anything that would help them when they were released, such as education or skills. Overall, half (50%) said that they had. A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than YOIs reported that they had learned something in their establishment which would help them when released (63% compared with 48%). This ranged quite considerably, from 75% of children at Parc to only 27% at Feltham.

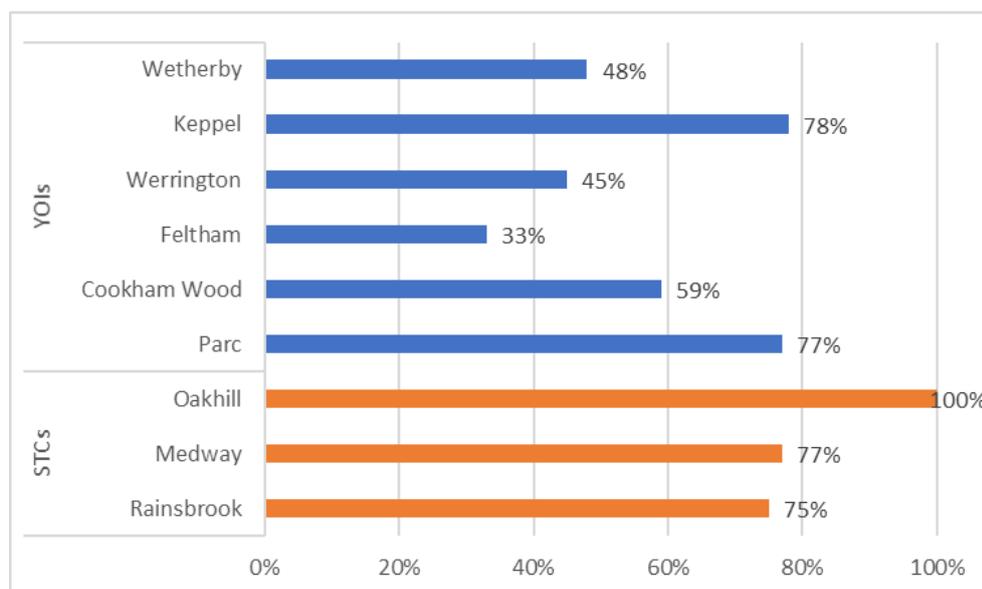
**Figure 46: Have you learned anything here that will help you when you are released (e.g. education or skills?)**



## Preparing to move on

- 4.96** When we asked children if they had a plan setting out their objectives or targets during their sentence, almost two-thirds (63%) said they did and the vast majority (95%) of children who reported having a plan said that they understood what they needed to do to achieve their objectives or targets. There was no significant difference between STCs and YOIs. However, children from Traveller communities were significantly less likely to say they had any type of plan setting out objectives or targets during their sentence (42% compared with 65% for non-Traveller children).
- 4.97** Overall, just over half (55%) of children who had a plan said that staff were supporting them to achieve their targets, and this was significantly higher in the STC estate than in YOIs (83% compared with 50%). Between establishments this ranged from all respondents (100%) at Oakhill to just a third (33%) at Feltham.

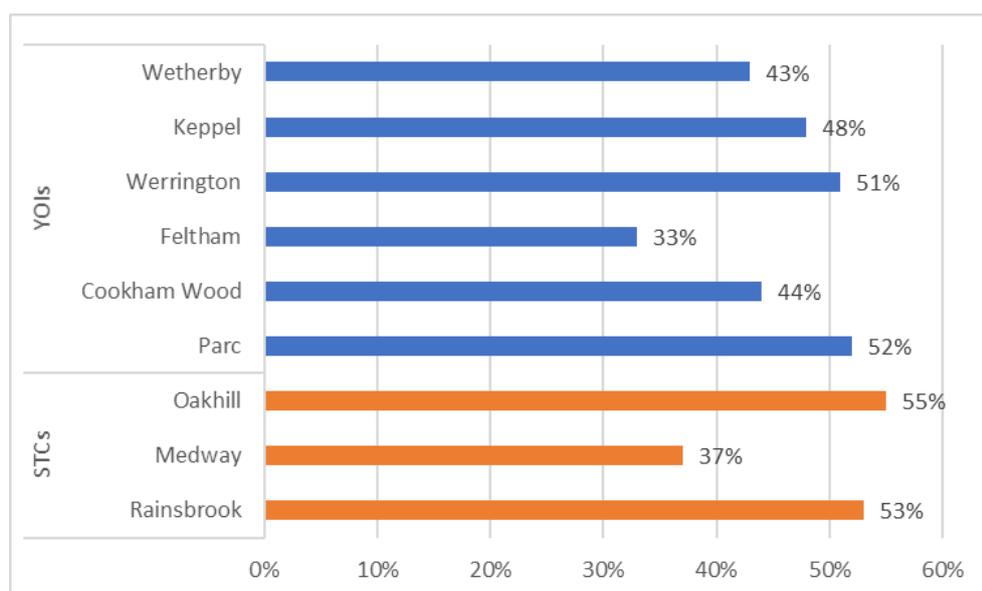
**Figure 47: If you have a training plan, are staff here supporting you to achieve your objectives or targets?**



**4.98** Children were asked if anybody was helping them to prepare for leaving the establishment. Overall, less than half (41%) of children said they had been helped in this way. The difference between STCs and YOIs was significant: a higher proportion of children in STCs reported that they had been helped by someone in the centre to prepare for leaving than those in YOIs (55% compared with 39%).

**4.99** We asked children whether they had had a say in what would happen to them when they left the STC or YOI. Overall, 44% of children said they had, ranging from 55% at Oakhill to 33% at Feltham.

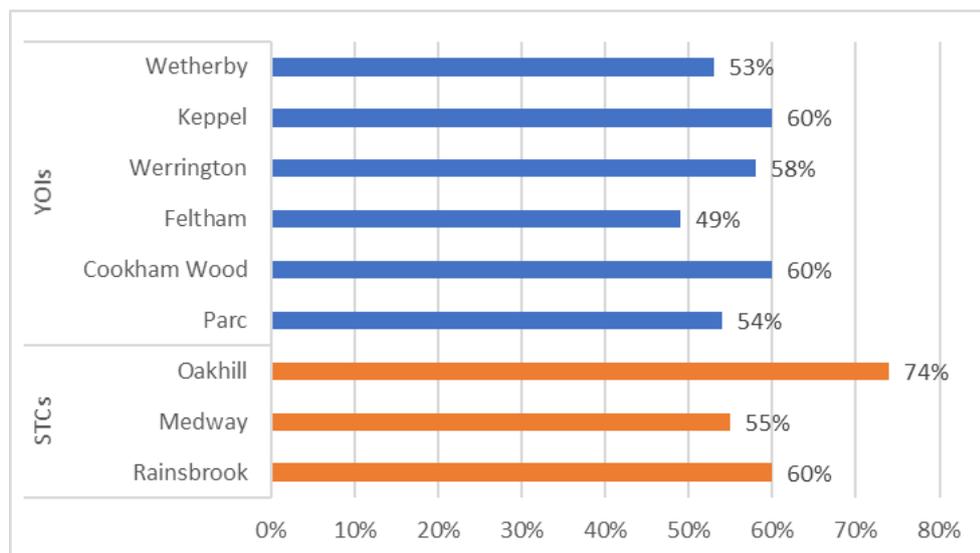
**Figure 48: Have you had a say in what will happen to you when you leave here?**



## Likelihood of reoffending

**4.100** In the final section of our questionnaire, we ask children whether or not they think that their experiences in the STC or YOI have made them more or less likely to offend in the future. Overall, just over half (56%) of the children surveyed in 2018–19 thought that they would be less likely to offend in the future because of their experiences in custody, ranging from 74% of children at Oakhill to 49% at Feltham.

**Figure 49: Children who said they were less likely to reoffend**



# **Annex I: Demographic and other background characteristics - overall, between types of, and within establishments**

	YOIs						STCs			Overall
	Cookham Wood	Parc	Feltham A	Werrington	Wetherby	Keppel unit	Rainsbrook	Medway	Oakhill	
<b>Gender</b>										
<b>Male</b>	100%						88%			98%
	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	81%	82%	100%	
<b>Female</b>	0%						13%			2%
	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	19%	18%	0%	
<b>Age</b>										
<b>14 or under</b>	1%						9%			2%
	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	9%	7%	11%	
<b>15</b>	5%						33%			9%
	5%	3%	10%	4%	2%	0%	27%	27%	47%	
<b>16</b>	23%						33%			24%
	20%	27%	22%	19%	27%	19%	31%	43%	28%	
<b>17</b>	60%						19%			54%
	60%	67%	54%	65%	61%	68%	24%	20%	11%	
<b>18 or over</b>	12%						5%			11%
	16%	3%	15%	11%	9%	10%	9%	3%	3%	
<b>Ethnicity</b>										
<b>White</b>	48%						44%			47%
	40%	53%	30%	38%	64%	74%	62%	32%	31%	
<b>Black</b>	26%						33%			27%
	35%	20%	46%	23%	12%	3%	22%	52%	31%	

<b>Mixed</b>	15%						15%			15%
	13%	27%	18%	18%	12%	6%	13%	7%	26%	
<b>Asian</b>	8%						4%			8%
	10%	0%	3%	15%	9%	7%	0%	3%	9%	
<b>Other</b>	3%						3%			3%
	2%	0%	1%	4%	3%	10%	2%	7%	0%	
<b>Arab</b>	1%						1%			1%
	0%	0%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	
<b>Traveller</b>	8%						13%			9%
	7%	14%	5%	8%	8%	23%	12%	10%	17%	
<b>Religion</b>										
<b>None</b>	32%						34%			32%
	24%	67%	18%	23%	46%	23%	51%	21%	27%	
<b>Christianity</b>	47%						44%			46%
	51%	22%	56%	42%	41%	63%	34%	54%	47%	
<b>Islam</b>	19%						18%			19%
	22%	11%	25%	30%	12%	7%	9%	25%	23%	
<b>Sikhism</b>	0%						0%			0%
	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
<b>Buddhism</b>	0%						0%			0%
	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	
<b>Other</b>	2%						3%			2%
	2%	0%	1%	4%	1%	3%	6%	0%	3%	
<b>Health problems</b>	33%						38%			34%
	32%	32%	29%	35%	29%	84%	42%	25%	43%	

<b>Disabilities</b>	25%						32%			26%
	15%	24%	25%	28%	25%	67%	39%	24%	31%	
<b>Been cared for in local authority</b>	52%						53%			52%
	52%	57%	46%	51%	51%	77%	61%	63%	33%	
<b>Have children</b>	10%						8%			10%
	10%	7%	11%	8%	9%	17%	11%	4%	6%	