



Children in Custody 2019–20

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

February 2021

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Foreword

An essential part of each inspection carried out by HM Inspectorate of Prisons is the surveys we run the week before the main team arrives. These help us to triangulate and confirm our findings and give us useful leads to follow when we inspect. This report is a presentation of the data we got from our surveys of children in young offender institutions (YOI) and secure training centres (STC) in 2019–20, each of which we inspect annually. It describes the grim reality of life in custody and mirrors closely our own findings, in which none of the STCs were good enough, and violence and self-harm in YOIs remained at or near an all-time high. Only one institution we inspected in 2019–20 was sufficiently safe.

Children's perceptions of their day-to-day life were particularly concerning. Most did not feel cared for by staff and many spent long hours locked up in their cells, particularly at the weekend. Less than half reported being able to sleep easily, and even fewer felt they were getting enough food. In YOIs, though the proportion had improved from 2018–19, only 68% were able to shower every day.

There continued to be limits on time spent outside, with most children unable to play sport even once a week. Children's perceptions of the support they had received to become rehabilitated were poor, with only 49% of children saying they had learnt something that would help them on release. Only just over half told us that their experiences in custody had made them less likely to offend in the future.

The ability of the youth estate to reduce violence continues to be a huge challenge, with many children feeling unsafe at some stage in 2019–20. Forty-four per cent told us they had been bullied or victimised by other children, and the same proportion reported they had been bullied or victimised by staff. Children often felt that behaviour management systems were not effective and a higher proportion of children than in 2018–19 described being separated from their peers. The use of restraint remains much too high in youth custody.

In many of our measures, the feedback from black and minority ethnic children, who made up more than 50% of the population, painted a worse picture than their white peers. These children were more likely to say they had been restrained and were less likely to say they were cared for in custody or were well treated by staff. Half of all children who responded had been in local authority care and these children were more likely to report health problems or a disability. Children from a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller background are the most disproportionately represented group, making up nearly 10% of the youth estate despite being a tiny proportion of the overall population of England and Wales.

These findings show how much work must be done in order that children in custody are given the support that they need to lead successful, crime-free lives when they are released. Nothing is more important than building effective, trusting relationships between staff and children, and this report shows that there is still a long way to go. Without further reductions in violence and restraint, and a greater focus on education and resettlement, the Youth Custody Service will continue to struggle to provide adequately for the children in its care.

Charlie Taylor

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

February 2021

Key findings

This report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) presents the findings from 613 questionnaires completed by children detained at three secure training centres (STCs) and five young offender institutions (YOIs), plus a separate specialised unit at one site, between 2 April 2019 and 9 March 2020. We received 613 completed questionnaires back from 789 children who were in custody at the time, a 78% response rate. All surveys were conducted to support unannounced inspections of each establishment.

Differences across the custodial estate

- The majority of children who responded to the survey were held in YOIs (83%).
- When significant differences were found, the responses of children in STCs were often more positive than those in YOIs.
- The responses of children at HMYOI Feltham were consistently more negative than other youth establishments.

Background characteristics of children

- Only 3% of children who completed the questionnaire were female.
- More than half (55%) reported that they were from a black and minority ethnic background.
- Almost one in ten (9%) reported that they were from a Traveller background.
- More than half (52%) told us that they had been in the care of a local authority.
- Eight per cent said they had children.

Day-to-day life

- Three-quarters (75%) of children reported that they spent over two hours out of their room on weekdays. However, this figure dropped considerably to only 39% when asked the same about Saturdays and Sundays.
- Overall, just under half (48%) of children reported that it was quiet enough to relax or sleep at night.
- In YOIs, 68% of children reported that they could shower daily, an increase compared the responses from 2018–19 (68% compared to 57%).
- Only 53% said they could spend time outside most days and less than half (45%) of children said they could go to the gym or play sports at least once a week.
- Less than a third (30%) of children believed the food to be very or quite good, and only 39% said they got enough to eat at mealtimes, always or most of the time.
- In STCs, girls were significantly less likely than boys to report that the food was very or quite good (0% compared to 33% of boys).

Health and well-being

- Just over a third (36%) of children reported having health problems and, of these, 63% reported that they had received help.
- Overall, a quarter (25%) of children reported having a disability, of who half (50%) reported getting support.

- In YOIs, although significantly fewer children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than white children reported having a disability (17% compared to 34%), those who did were significantly less likely than white children to report that they had received support (32% compared to 60%).

Complaints

- Only 35% of children believed the complaints procedures were fair and 31% thought complaints were dealt with promptly.
- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than white children to report that complaints procedures were fair (28% compared to 45%).

Safety

- Over a third (35%) of children said that they had, at some point, felt unsafe in their establishment.
- At the time of the survey, 10% said that they were feeling unsafe.
- Children who reported having a disability were significantly more likely to report to ever having felt unsafe or feeling unsafe at the time of the survey than children who did not report having a disability (46% compared to 30% and 18% compared to 7% respectively). Similarly, a higher proportion of children from a Traveller background reported feeling unsafe at the time of a survey compared to non-Travellers (23% compared to 8%).
- Forty-four per cent of children reported being victimised or bullied by other children. The same proportion reported victimisation by staff.
- In STCs, 9% of children (eight children) reported being a victim of sexual assault by staff compared to 1% of children in YOIs (five children).

Behaviour management

- Only 31% of children said that the behaviour management systems encouraged them to behave well and 26% thought that they were fair.
- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and Muslim children tended to report more negatively than white children and non-Muslim children respectively regarding behaviour management (fairness of system, staff letting them know when their behaviour was good and telling them what they had done wrong), whereas children from Traveller backgrounds reported more positively than non-Traveller children.
- Almost two-thirds (65%) of children reported that they had been physically restrained while at their establishment. A significantly higher proportion of black and minority ethnic children reported being restrained (71% compared to 59% of white children).
- Overall, two-thirds (66%) of children reported that they had been separated as a punishment, by being kept locked up or stopped from mixing with other children. A significantly higher proportion of children in YOIs reported being separated in 2019–20 than 2018–19 (67% compared to 58%).

Relationships between staff and children

- Less than half (41%) of children reported that they felt cared for by most staff in their establishment.
- Across the estate, children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and Muslim children were significantly less likely to report feeling cared for by staff (36% compared to 48%) and

to feel that there was a member of staff they could turn to for help (57% compared to 75%), compared to white children and non-Muslim children (29% compared to 45% and 52% compared to 71% respectively).

Education and training

- Less than half (49%) of children reported that they had learned something that would help them on release. However, a significantly lower proportion of children held in YOIs reported this compared to children in STCs (46% compared to 65%).

Preparing to move on

- Just over half (52%) of children said that staff were supporting them to achieve their objectives and targets. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than white children to report that staff were supportive (40% compared to 65%).
- Only 55% of children reported that their experiences in custody had made them less likely to offend in the future.

Section 1. About this report

- 1.1** Every year HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) publishes an annual report on the survey findings from children in custody, 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 HMI Prisons at all STCs and YOIs between 2 April 2019 and 9 March 2020.
- 1.2** 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. 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.
- 1.3** All YOIs and STCs are inspected annually and researchers from HMI Prisons 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.
- 1.4** In 2018, HMI Prisons carried out a review of our Expectations for children in custody. 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 HMI Prisons 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. The current Children’s Expectations (v4, November 2018) can be found on the HMI Prisons website at <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/our-expectations/children-and-young-people-expectations/>.
- 1.5** Prior to October 2018, 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, HMI Prisons 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. 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. Furthermore, because we have used April 2019 survey data from Oakhill STC in both the 2018–19 and 2019–20 annual reports, it would not be legitimate to draw comparisons between the two aggregated data sets. (We chose to use the Oakhill STC April 2019 data in the 2018–19 report in order to have a complete set of data from across the children’s estate using the newly revised survey.)
- 1.6** 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 (HMPPS).

Structure of the report

- I.7** This is the seventh annual report to present survey responses from both STCs and YOIs, and the second in which a common questionnaire has been used across all settings.
- I.8** 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.
- I.9** 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.

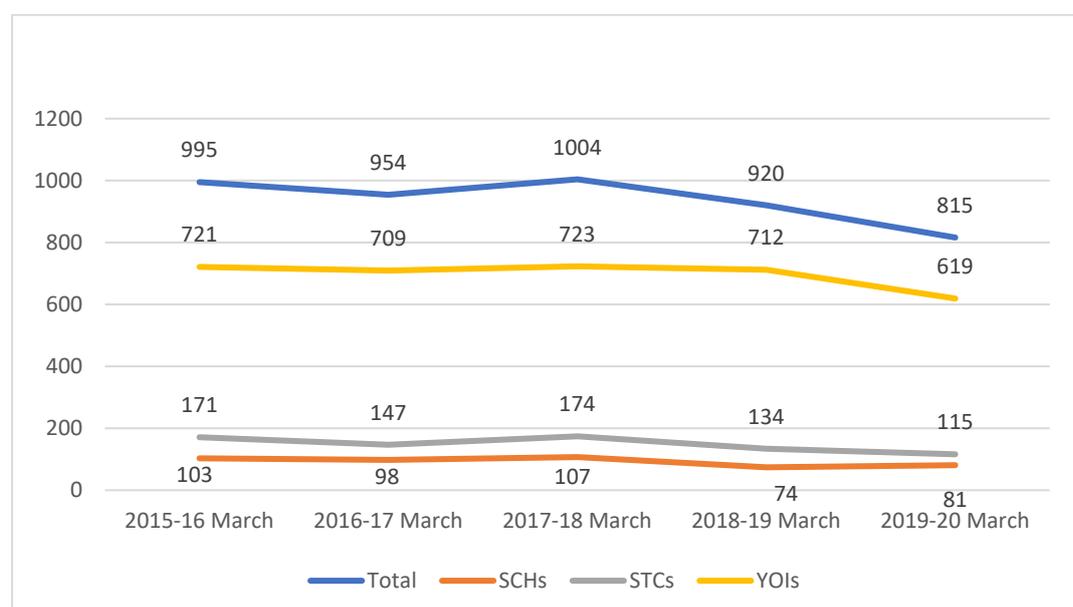
Section 2. Background to the report

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 upper age 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 has seen a steady decline in the last two years. In March 2020 the total number of children (including 18-year-olds) held in YOIs, STCs and SCHs was 815, a reduction from 1,004 in March 2018 and 920 in March 2019 (see: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (2020) *Youth custody report: March 2020*. London: HMPPS).

Figure 1: Number of children in custody over the past five years and numbers held in each type of accommodation

Source: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (2020) *Youth custody report: March 2020*. London: HMPPS.



- 2.3** This report focuses on survey responses from children held in YOIs and STCs only, as HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) has no remit to inspect in SCHs. 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 2019–20

- 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 2019–20, there were three purpose-built STCs in operation. Two of them were privately run and the third was run by HMPPS on behalf of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).
- 2.6** Medway was operated by HMPPS. The centre provided secure accommodation for up to 67 boys and girls. During 2019–20 the number of children reduced, and the centre closed in preparation for its proposed re-role as a Secure School.
- 2.7** Oakhill is operated by G4S Care and Justice Services and provides accommodation for up to 80 boys.
- 2.8** Rainsbrook is operated by MTC and is designed to accommodate up to 87 children (both girls and boys).

YOIs

- 2.9** During 2019–20, 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 hold young offenders, while two were located within existing establishments, one of which held adults and the other young adults.
- Cookham Wood holds young male offenders aged 15-18. At the time of the survey it had an operational capacity and normal capacity of 188.
 - Feltham YOI is a split site holding boys (Feltham A) and, separately, young adults (Feltham B). At the time of the survey in July 2019, the operational capacity of Feltham A was 110 but the normal capacity was 160 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 has an operational capacity of 60 boys but at the time of the survey it had a normal capacity of 64. It is privately run by G4S.
 - Werrington is a dedicated YOI holding boys. It has an operational capacity and normal capacity of 118.
 - Wetherby is a YOI for boys. Its main site has an operational capacity and normal capacity of 288.
 - 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 2019–20

- 2.10** All YOIs are inspected by HMI Prisons each year. HMI Prisons also join Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in their annual inspections of STCs. During the 2019–20 financial year the inspections of Wetherby and Keppel unit were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent community restrictions. Arrangements were made to visit these sites in April 2020 and a separate short scrutiny visit report was published.
- 2.11** Inspection reports followed last year's trend with mixed findings across the YOIs. Outcomes for children were less positive in Feltham and Cookham Wood than across the rest of the estate.

- 2.12** Conditions at Feltham had deteriorated so badly since our last inspection that HM Chief Inspector took the decision to issue an Urgent Notification¹ to the Secretary of State explaining our concerns. Violence levels were high and had increased significantly between children and to a greater extent against staff. Use of force had also increased and oversight had collapsed. Levels of self-harm had trebled since our last visit six months previously. The regime was poor with high numbers of children locked up for at least 22 hours a day. Ofsted rated the education provision as inadequate. Family visits were often cancelled, and children were being released without stable accommodation, education, employment or training in place.
- 2.13** Levels of violence were also found to be high at Cookham Wood and Werrington. Parc still recorded high levels of violence, but these had reduced since our last inspection. Outcomes for children in our healthy prison test for safety were poor at Feltham, not sufficiently good at Cookham Wood and Werrington and reasonably good at Parc.
- 2.14** Problems with complex keep-apart protocols, which stopped children from mixing for fear of violence, continued to hamper regimes at Feltham and Cookham Wood. The picture was much better at Werrington and Parc. Werrington had worked hard to reduce these protocols and children were spending more time out of cell and had increased access to other activities. We found good practice at Parc where effective use of the of behaviour management processes to tackle violence and support victims allowed managers to create a less controlled environment, thereby improving outcomes for children.
- 2.15** The Welfare Development Enhancement Unit (WADE) at Werrington was a positive initiative, taking a multi-agency case management approach helping children with complex needs reintegrate back into the establishment successfully, instead of enduring long periods of segregation.
- 2.16** In our healthy prison test of care, findings were very varied. Feltham was poor and Cookham Wood was not sufficiently good, while both Werrington and Parc were good, our highest score. Staff-prisoner relationships were poor in both Feltham and Cookham Wood, but much better in Werrington and Parc. At Parc, we found good practice and staff were described as *“very knowledgeable about the children in their care and continued to work in a motivational, patient and caring way.”*
- 2.17** Health provision across the children’s estate was generally good, with the exception of Feltham, where staff struggled to get children to appointments or to provide medication on time. Mental health services were good at Cookham Wood, Feltham and Werrington but less good at Parc, which lacked a clinical psychology provision. As at our last inspection, children still waited for too long for mental health transfers at Cookham Wood.
- 2.18** Purposeful activity was jointly inspected by Ofsted, and Estyn at Parc. Again we found outcomes against this healthy prison test to be poor at Feltham, not sufficiently good at Cookham Wood, reasonably good at Werrington and good at Parc. Ofsted judged education at Feltham to be inadequate with only one third of children attending classes as scheduled. The picture was slightly better at Cookham Wood where there was positive formative work being delivered to reduce conflict and address the culture of causes of violence. At Parc nearly all children attended education which was found to be a well-managed, positive learning environment.
- 2.19** Both Feltham and Cookham Wood were found to be not sufficiently good against our healthy prison test of resettlement. Werrington and Parc were reasonably good. At both Feltham and Cookham Wood release arrangements were a cause for concern with children struggling to find settled accommodation on release. Across the estate far too few children had access to education or training on release.

STCS

- 2.20** Outcomes for children in STCs need to improve. The overall experiences and progress of children at Medway were inadequate and required improvement at both Rainsbrook and Oakhill. Medway has subsequently been closed.
- 2.21** Levels of violence across all three STCs were high, although at Rainsbrook they had reduced since the last inspection. The high level of violence at all three sites had led to high levels of use of force against children also. Force was frequently used at Medway to prevent self-harm and inspectors were not assured that de-escalation techniques were used when appropriate.
- 2.22** The quality of children's education and learning varied from site to site. Medway was found to be good, Oakhill required improvement to be good and Rainsbrook was inadequate.
- 2.23** All sites except Medway were good in both health and resettlement. Medway required improvement to be good for both.

Section 3. Methodology

Administering the survey

- 3.1** At the time of the survey, in every secure training centre (STC) and young offender institution (YOI) all children were invited by researchers from HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMI Prisons) 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 asked children to not 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 HMI Prisons researchers.

Response rate

- 3.3** During 2019–20, 97% of children detained in YOIs and STCs at the time of our inspections were offered the opportunity to participate in the survey, though 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. As shown in Table I, questionnaires were completed (either through self-completion or via an interview) and returned by 78% of the children who were resident in the establishment at the time of the survey. The response rate ranged from 72% at Feltham A to 91% at Werrington.

Table 1: Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2019–20

The response rate for YOIs has been calculated as a proportion of children resident in the establishment at the time of the survey.

The response rate for STCs has been calculated as a proportion of children resident in the centre at the time of the survey.

| YOIs | Date of Survey | Population on survey date | Number of questionnaires distributed | Number of returned questionnaires | Response rate |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Feltham A | 8 July 2019 | 116 | 107 | 84 | 72% |
| Cookham Wood | 9 September 2019 | 157 | 152 | 121 | 77% |
| Parc | 11 November 2019 | 38 | 37 | 33 | 87% |
| Werrington | 20 January 2020 | 102 | 102 | 93 | 91% |
| Wetherby | 9 March 2020 | 208 | 206 | 152 | 73% |
| Keppel unit | 9 March 2020 | 33 | 30 | 22 | 67% |
| YOI Total | | 654 | 634 | 505 | 77% |
| | | | | | |
| STCs | Date of Survey | Population on survey date | Number of questionnaires distributed | Number of returned questionnaires | Response rate |
| Oakhill | 2 April 2019 | 45 | 43 | 37 | 82% |
| Medway | 24 September 2019 | 35 | 35 | 28 | 80% |
| Rainsbrook | 20 January 2020 | 55 | 53 | 43 | 78% |
| STC total | | 135 | 131 | 108 | 80% |
| | | | | | |
| YOI AND STC TOTAL | | 789 | 765 | 613 | 78% |

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 505 individuals, the responses of two children on a given issue would appear as 0% in our report.

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 2019–20 responses, where numbers allowed – highlighting is used in tables to show where there are significant differences.
- a comparison between survey responses received from children in YOIs in 2019–20 and the previous year (2018–19).

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 1.
- 4.2** Survey findings are presented in the order of a child's 'journey' through custody, from arrival and induction to release and resettlement.
- 4.3** Overall findings from children in secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) are outlined and statistically significant differences in children's experiences in the two types of establishment are highlighted. Notable variation in children's responses between each STC and YOI are also presented.
- 4.4** Analyses on sub-populations have also been carried out and statistically significant differences are indicated. A full list of sub-population analyses is available in the appendices.

Background characteristics of children

Overall profile of children responding to our survey

- 4.5** Overall, 613 children returned questionnaires.
- 4.6** The majority (97%) of those who filled in a questionnaire indicated that they were male.
- 4.7** Overall, 98% reported that they were aged 15 years or over. Just over one in ten (13%) children had turned 18 at the time of completing our survey.
- 4.8** More than half (55%) identified as being from a black and minority ethnic background and almost one in 10 (9%) said they were from a Traveller background.
- 4.9** Nearly half of respondents (47%) reported that they were Christian and just over a fifth (22%) said that they were Muslim. Just under one third (30%) of respondents indicated that they did not have a religion.
- 4.10** Over one third (36%) of children said that they had health problems at the time of the survey (including mental health problems) and a quarter (25%) reported having a disability.
- 4.11** More than half (52%) told us that they had been in the care of a local authority and nearly one in ten (8%) said that they had a child of their own.

Profile of STC respondents

- 4.12** Overall, 80% of the children who were resident in an STC at the time of the survey completed a questionnaire, resulting in a total of 108 questionnaires returned from the three STCs (see Annex 1).
- 4.13** Of those who filled in a questionnaire, the vast majority (85%) were boys.
- 4.14** Fewer than one in 10 children (8%) reported that they were under 15 years old and 2% of children in STCs were 18 years or older.

- 4.15** More than half (53%) of children in STCs identified as being from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. This proportion varied between centres, from 35% at Rainsbrook to 63% at Medway and 69% at Oakhill.
- 4.16** Overall, 15% of children identified as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller, ranging from 7% at Medway to 17% at both Oakhill and Rainsbrook.
- 4.17** When asked about their religious beliefs, over a quarter (28%) said they did not have a religion. Just under a half (45%) identified as Christian and a quarter (25%) said they were Muslim.
- 4.18** Over two-fifths (42%) of children in STCs reported having a health problem at the time of the survey and just under one quarter (25%) said they had a disability. The proportion of children who reported having a disability ranged from 15% at Medway to 31% at Oakhill.
- 4.19** More than two-fifths of children in STCs (44%) reported having been in the care of a local authority and 9% of children in STCs said that they had a child of their own.

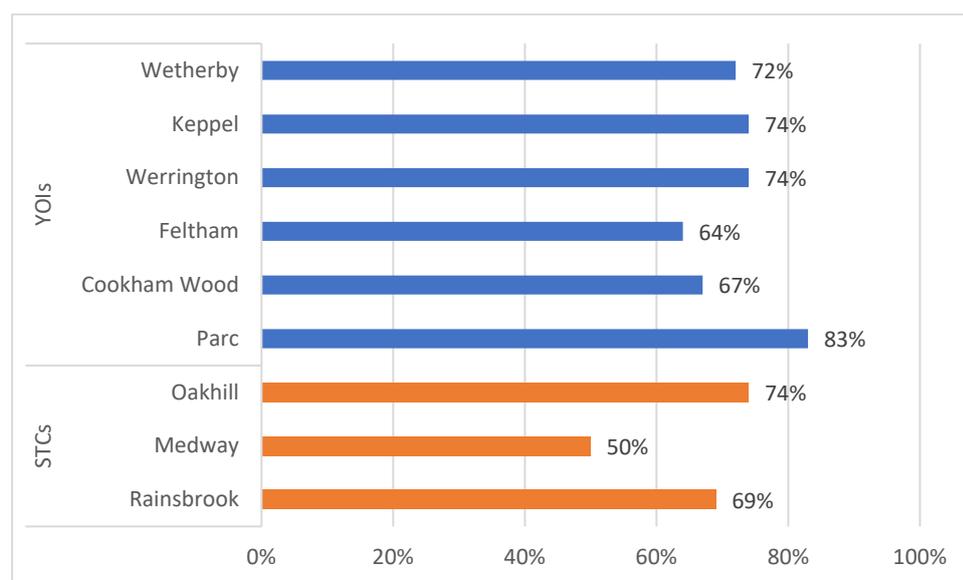
Profile of YOI respondents

- 4.20** Five YOIs were surveyed during 2019–20, as well as the specialist Keppel unit, which is part of Wetherby. Overall, of the children detained in YOIs at the time of our surveys, 77% participated, resulting in a total of 505 completed questionnaires (see Annex 1).
- 4.21** Most children (80%) said they were 16 or 17 years old. Sixteen per cent of children said they were 18 years old or older.
- 4.22** More than half (55%) of children in YOIs identified as being from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. This proportion varied greatly between YOIs, from 23% at the Keppel unit to 80% at Feltham.
- 4.23** Eight per cent of children identified themselves as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller.
- 4.24** When asked about religious beliefs, nearly one-third (30%) of children in YOIs said they did not have a religion, while almost half identified as Christian (47%) and just over a fifth as Muslim (21%).
- 4.25** Over one-third (34%) of YOI respondents reported having a health problem, ranging from 23% at Cookham Wood to more than two-thirds (67%) of children in the Keppel unit.
- 4.26** A quarter (25%) of children reported having a disability. At the Keppel unit, nearly half (48%) of children reported having a disability, with other YOIs ranging from 22% (Feltham and Cookham Wood) to 27% (Wetherby).
- 4.27** Of the children who completed a questionnaire, more than half (54%) said they had been in the care of a local authority at some point in their lives. This proportion ranged from 46% at Werrington to 61% at Parc.
- 4.28** Less than one in 10 children in YOIs (8%) reported having a child of their own.

Arrival and induction

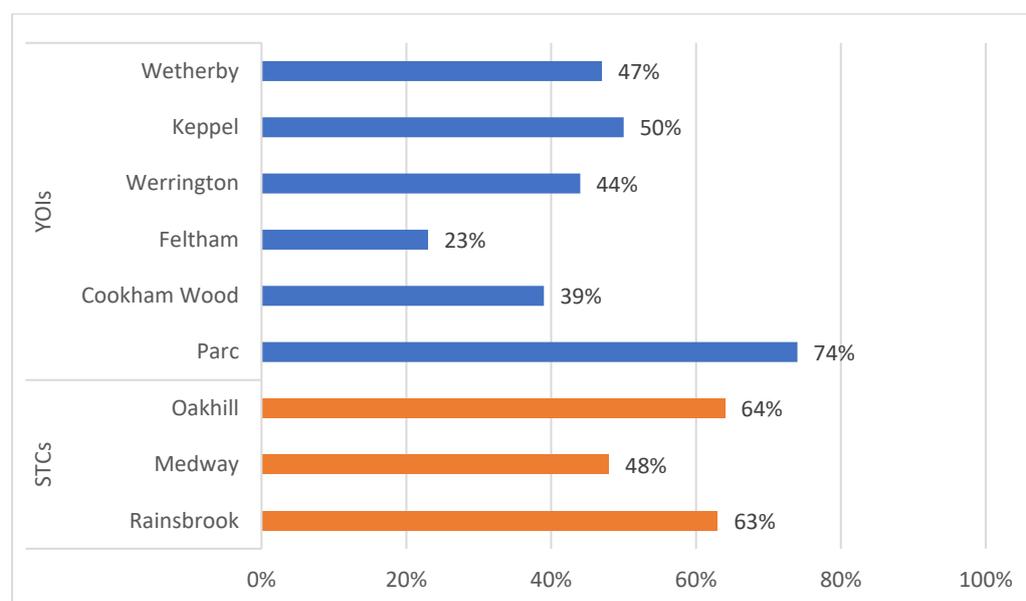
4.29 Almost all (96%) children in custody reported that they had been searched on arrival and the majority (70%) thought that it had been done respectfully. No significant differences in children's experience of arrival and induction were apparent between STCs and YOIs. However, reported experiences varied across the estate. Children at Medway reported a much more negative experience of being searched with only 50% reporting that it was carried out respectfully contrasting to 83% at Parc.

Figure 2: For those who had been searched: was this search done in a respectful way?



4.30 Over two-thirds (71%) of children said that they had been treated well on arrival but most (72%) also reported having problems or worries. There was some variation among establishments regarding how positively children felt they had been treated on arrival: (ranging from 62% at Rainsbrook reporting that they had been treated well on arrival to 84% at Parc) and whether they reported having problems with their reception (63% at Feltham and 86% at the Keppel unit). Less than half (46%) of children who had reported having problems believed that they had then received adequate help from staff. Children's reported experiences of receiving help from staff varied across the youth estate, ranging from 74% at Parc reporting they had received help, compared to only 23% at Feltham.

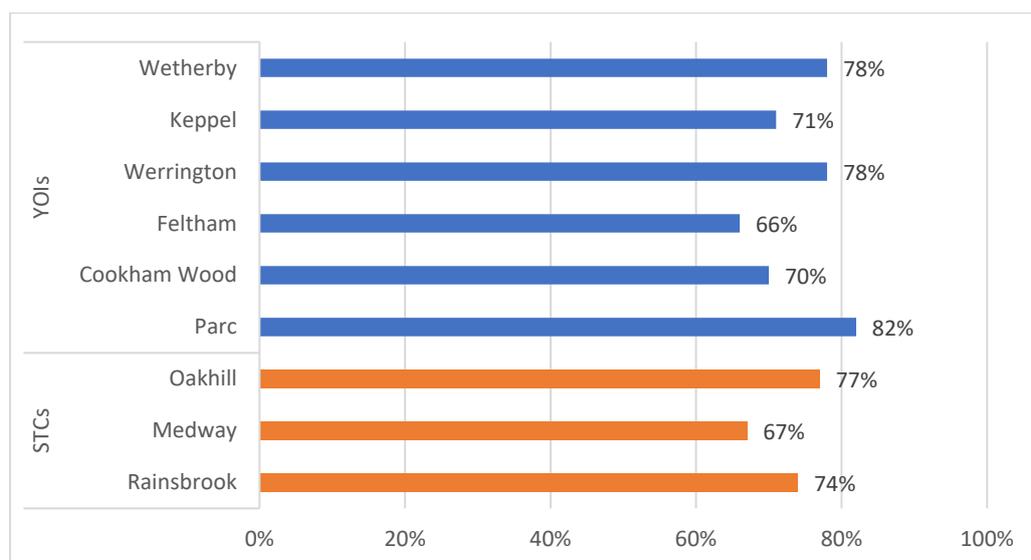
Figure 3: For those who had problems when they first arrived: did staff help you to deal with these problems or worries?



4.31 Analyses of sub-population data with regards to staff support on arrival revealed that:

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely to report that staff had helped them with their problems or worries (36% compared to 57% of children from white backgrounds).
- A significantly lower proportion of Muslim children said that they had been helped by staff with any problems or worries (28% compared to 52% of non-Muslim children).
- In contrast, children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely than non-Travellers to report that they had been helped with their problems (70% compared to 44% non-Travellers).

4.32 When asked about whether they had felt safe on their first night, 74% of children reported that they had. Across the custodial estate feelings of safety during the first night in custody ranged from two out of three (66% and 67%) stating they felt safe at Feltham and Medway respectively to 82% stating they felt safe during their first night at Parc.

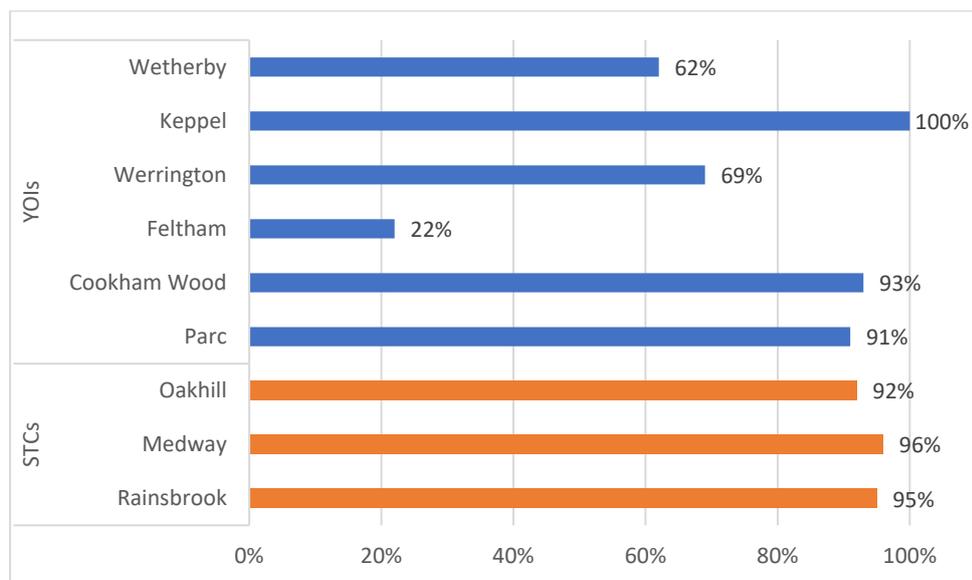
Figure 4: Did you feel safe on your first night?

4.33 Just over half (54%) of children said that in their first few days they had been told everything they needed to know about life at the establishment. However, only 36% of children at Feltham felt they had been adequately informed, compared to three-quarters (75%) of children at Parc.

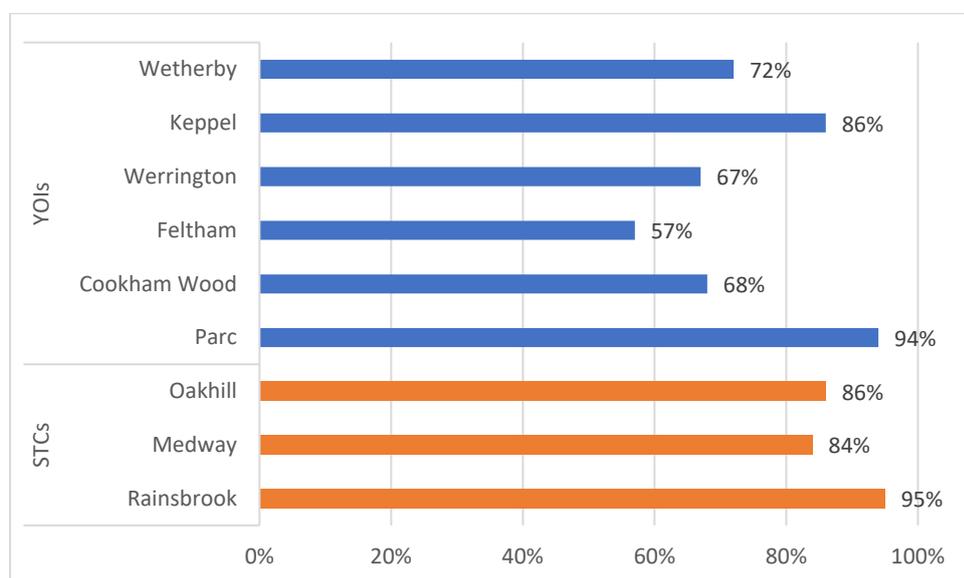
Living conditions

4.34 At the time of the survey, just over two-fifths (41%) of children said the temperature of their room was about right. No significant differences were apparent between STCs and YOIs, however, reported experiences did differ between individual establishments. Over half (55%) of children at Parc reported the temperature of their room was adequate, while only 19% of children at Medway said the same.

4.35 Just under three-quarters (72%) of children reported that they could have a shower every day. In YOIs only, 68% of children reported that they could shower daily, a significantly higher proportion than YOI responses in 2018–19 (57%). Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report being able to shower every day (65% compared to 81%). A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than YOIs reported daily access to a shower (94% compared to 68%). There were also large disparities across establishments ranging from 100% of children at the Keppel unit saying they could shower daily to just 22% of children at Feltham.

Figure 5: Can you shower every day?

4.36 When asked if they normally had enough clean, suitable clothes for the week most children (73%) said that they did. Children in STCs again reported significantly more positively compared to children in YOIs: 89% of children in STCs said they had clean, suitable clothes each week compared to 69% in YOIs. The reported availability of clean, suitable clothes varied across establishments, ranging from 94% at Parc and 95% at Rainsbrook to only 57% of children at Feltham.

Figure 6: Do you normally have enough clean, suitable clothes for the week?

4.37 Overall, 78% of children reported having clean sheets every week, however children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were again less likely to report positively with 72% stating they had access to clean sheets every week compared to 86% of children from white backgrounds. Under half (45%) of children at Feltham reported this, a much lower proportion than all other establishments (ranging from 74% at Medway to 96% at the Keppel unit).

4.38 Just over half (52%) of children reported that they could access their stored property. Although there was no overall difference regarding sub-populations, significant differences

did exist within YOIs with children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds being significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report adequate access to their stored property (44% compared to 58%). Again, variation across establishments was apparent with children at Cookham Wood and Feltham reporting they were less able to access property (37% and 39% respectively) compared to over three-quarters (77%) of children at the Keppel unit.

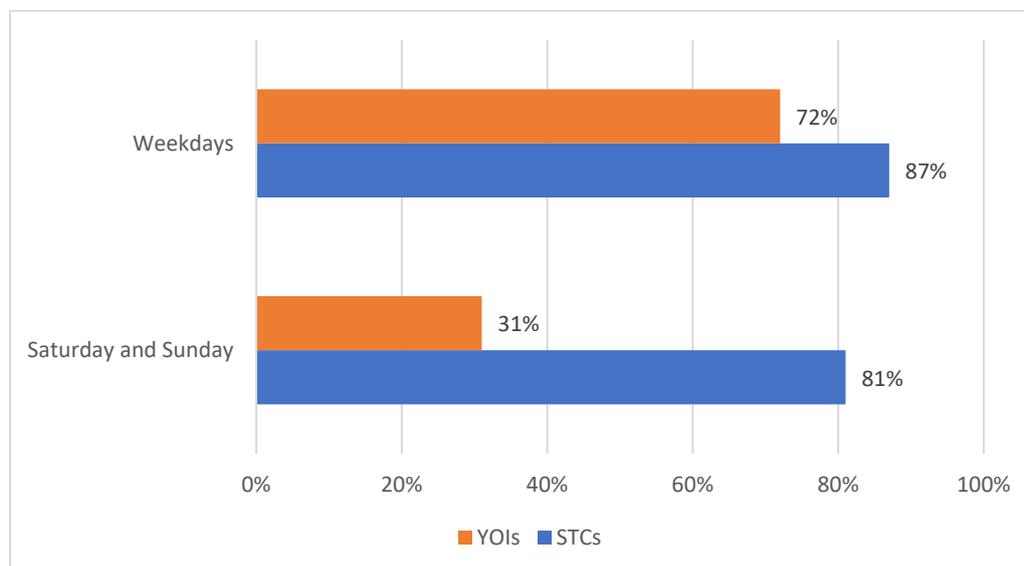
- 4.39** Overall, just under half (48%) of children reported it was quiet enough to relax or sleep at night. Variation was apparent across the estate. At Cookham Wood and Feltham, close to a third (34% and 36% respectively) of children reported that it was quiet enough. At Rainsbrook this proportion rose to 64%.

Time out of cell

- 4.40** In the survey children are asked if they usually spend more than two hours out of their room or cell on weekdays and, in a separate question, at weekends. Three-quarters (75%) of children reported that they spent over two hours out of their room or cell on weekdays. However, this figure dropped considerably to only 39% when asked the same about Saturdays and Sundays.

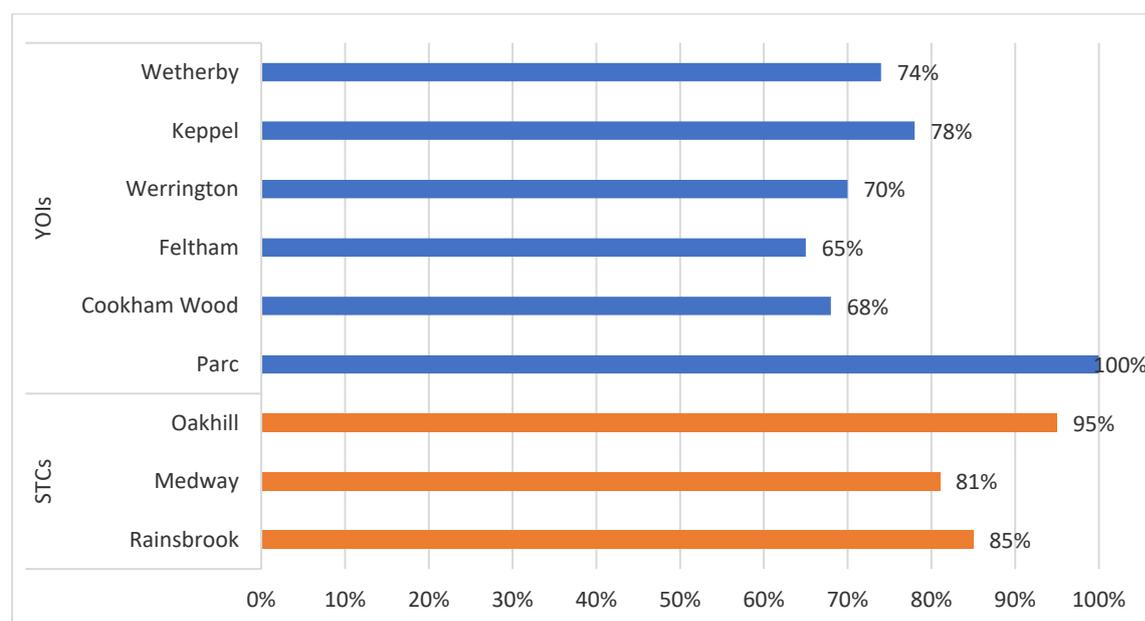
- 4.41** For both questions, a significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than YOIs reported that they spent more than two hours of their room or cell (87% compared to 72% for weekdays and 81% compared to 31% at weekends).

Figure 7: Do you usually spend more than two hours out of your cell or room on weekdays and weekends?



- 4.42** There was also variation in the time out of cell children reported. All (100%) children at Parc reported spending more than two hours of their room or cell on weekdays while 65% reported this at Feltham and 68% at Cookham Wood.

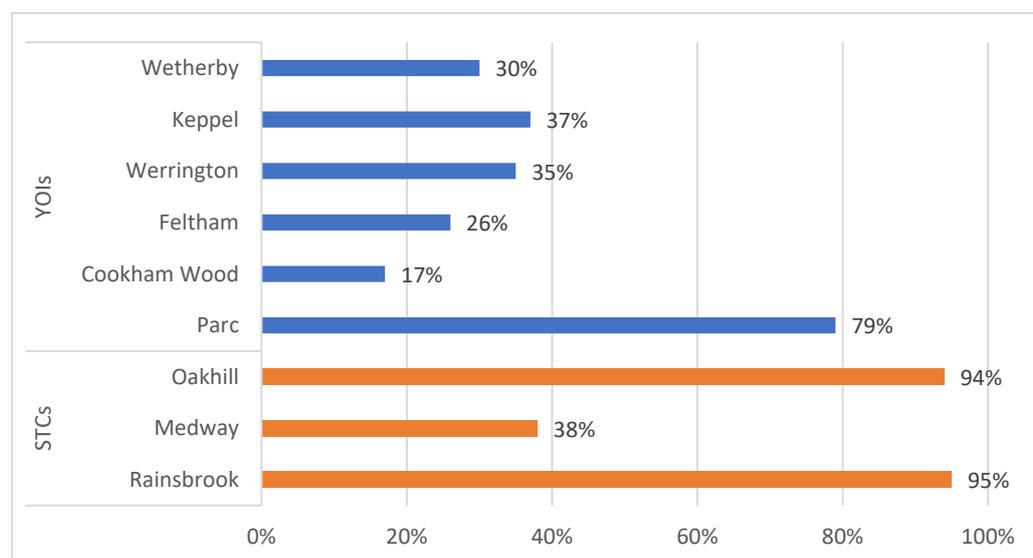
Figure 8: Do you usually spend more than two hours out of your cell or room on weekdays?



4.43 Differences were also apparent in relation to weekends. Just 17% of children at Cookham Wood reported spending more than two hours out of their room or cell compared to 94% at Oakhill and 95% at Rainsbrook. Generally, children in YOIs reported more negatively regarding the time spent out of their cell at weekends. However, at Parc, 79% of children reported spending more than two hours out at weekends, considerably more than all other YOIs. It was also noticeable that children at Medway reported spending considerably less time out at weekends compared to other STCs (38% compared to 94% and 95%).

4.44 Sub-population analysis indicated there was significant differences within YOIs, with children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds being significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report spending more than two hours out of their cell on a weekend (25% compared to 37%).

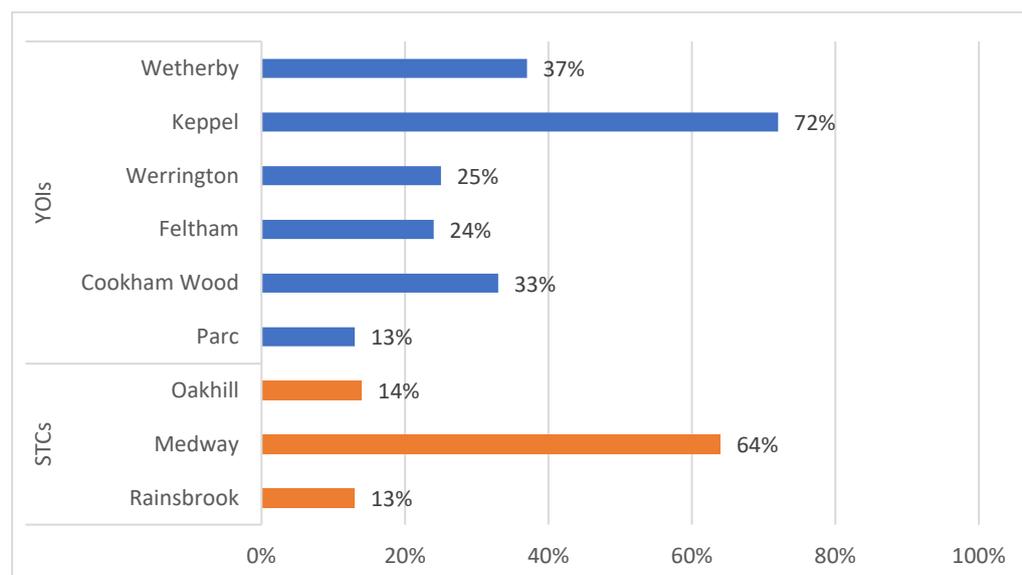
Figure 9: Do you usually spend more than two hours out of your cell or room on Saturdays and Sundays?



Food and canteen

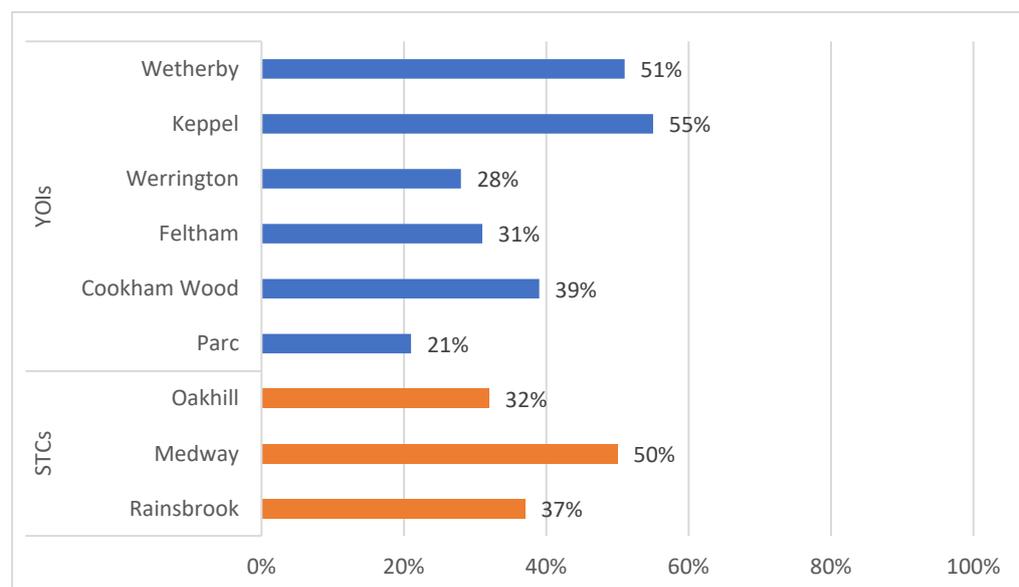
4.45 The questionnaire indicated that less than a third (30%) of children believed the food to be very or quite good. In STCs, girls were significantly less likely than boys to report that the food was very or quite good (0% compared to 33% of boys). In only two establishments (the Keppel unit and Medway) did more than half of children report that the food was of good quality. Children at the Keppel unit were the most positive, with 72% describing the food as very or quite good. Sixty-four per cent of children at Medway stated this too, while only 13% at both Parc and Rainsbrook and 14% at Oakhill said this.

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



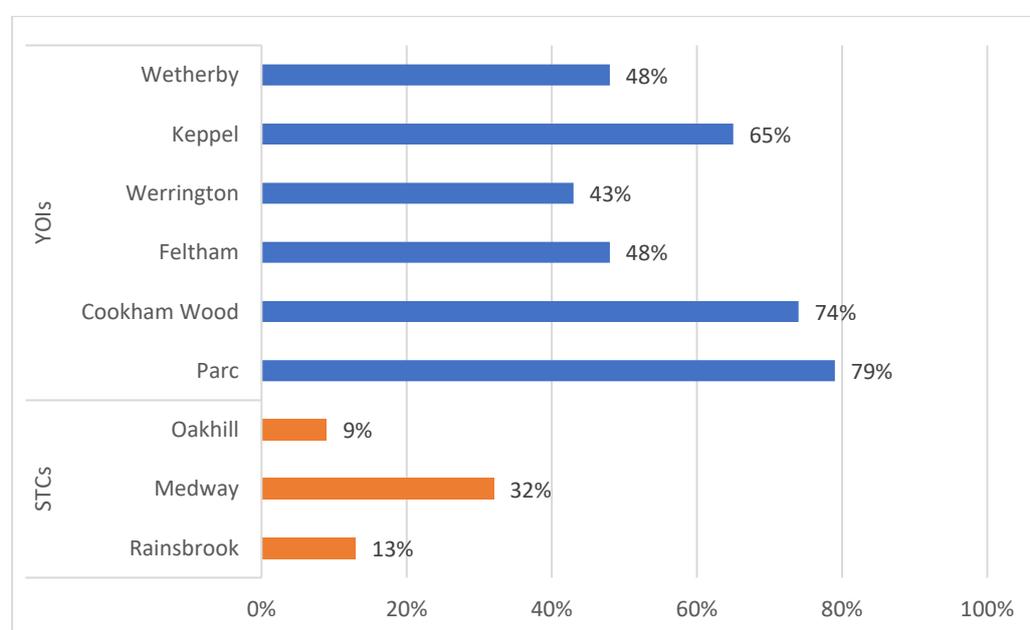
4.46 As well as quality, the survey also asked children about the quantity of food received. Overall, only 39% said they got enough to eat at mealtimes, always or most of the time. Across the estate, children at the Keppel unit were most positive about the quantity of food with 55% children saying they got enough food compared to 21% at Parc.

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



- 4.47** There was no significant difference regarding children’s perceptions of the food between STCs and YOIs.
- 4.48** In STCs and YOIs children can purchase items from the shop or canteen. Overall the survey indicated that around half (49%) of children said the shop/canteen sells the things that they need. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely to report that the shop or canteen sold the items they needed (43% compared to 56% of children from white backgrounds). A third (33%) of Muslim children reported that they could purchase required items from the shop or canteen compared to 54% of non-Muslim children.
- 4.49** Despite our survey findings generally being more positive in STCs, a significantly lower proportion of children in STCs than YOIs reported the shop or canteen selling the things that they need (16% compared to 56%). Large disparities existed across establishments with over three-quarters (79%) of children at Parc saying they could purchase what they wanted. In stark contrast, only 9% at Oakhill stated the same.

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



Health and well-being

- 4.50** Over half (59%) of children said it was easy to see a nurse, while less than half said the same for mental health workers (44%) and doctors (38%). Only a quarter (25%) said it was easy to see a dentist. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report that it was easy to see a doctor (32% compared to 44%).
- 4.51** Despite there being no significant differences between STCs and YOIs, there was clear variation across establishments, with children at Feltham consistently reporting negatively regarding access to health care professionals while children in both Parc and the Keppel unit reported more positive experiences.

Figure 13: Is it easy to see the doctor?

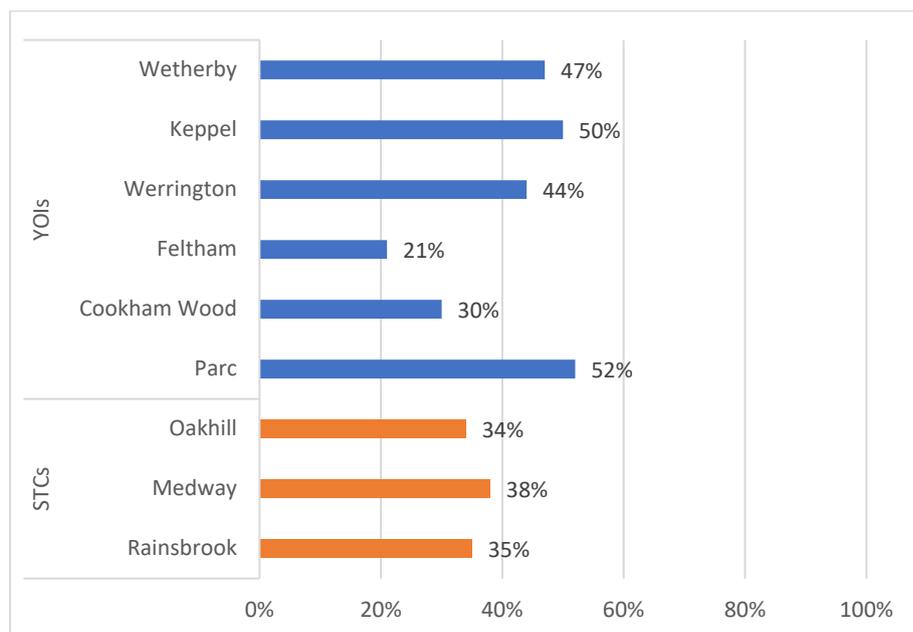


Figure 14: Is it easy to see the nurse?

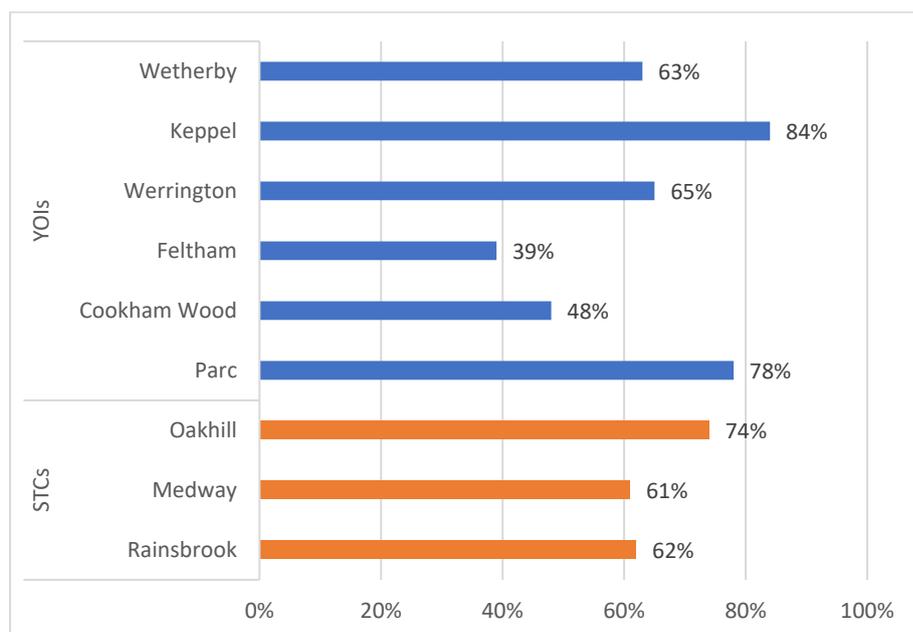
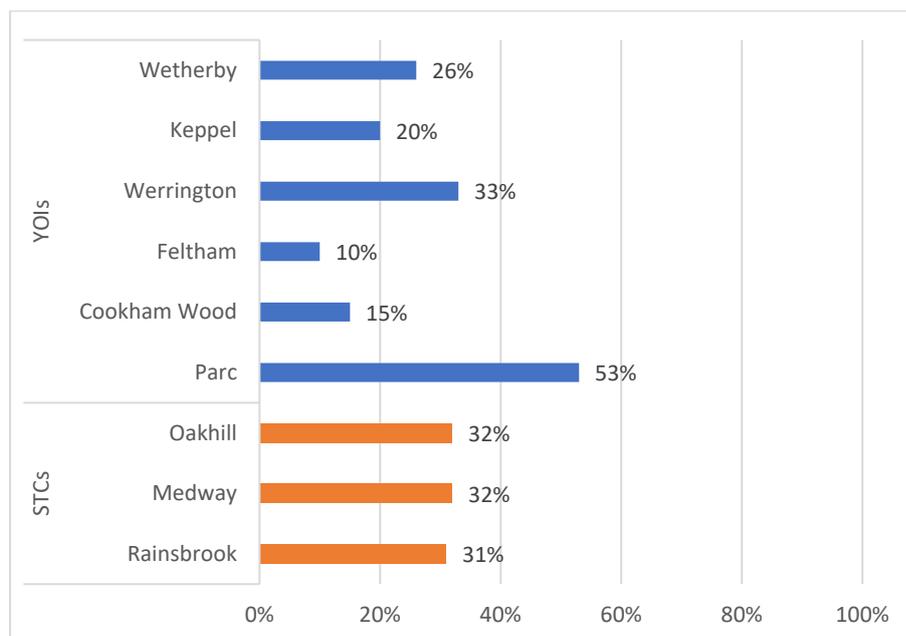
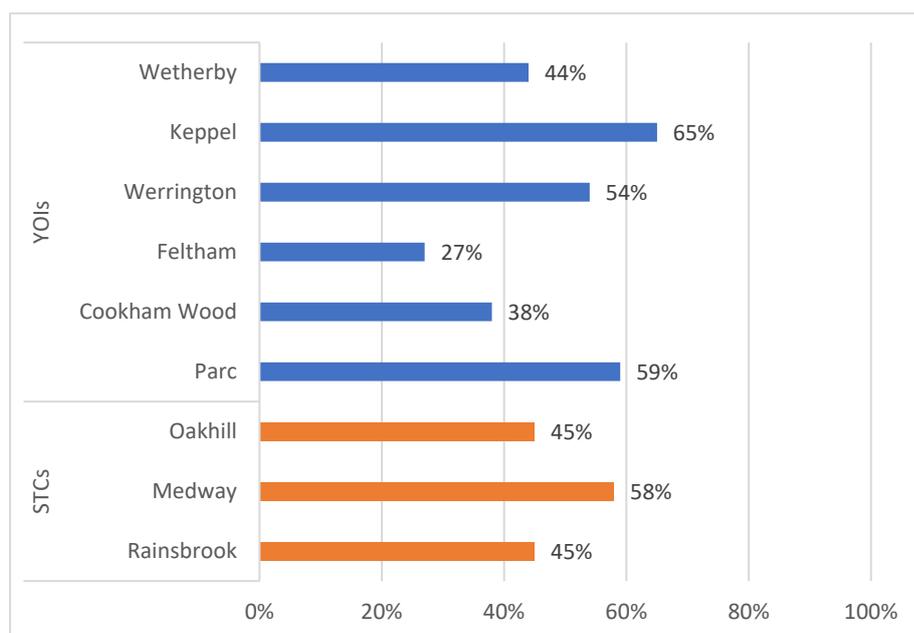


Figure 15: Is it easy to see the dentist?**Figure 16: Is it easy to see mental health workers?**

4.52 The survey asked children if they considered themselves to have any health problems, including mental health problems, and if they had received any help for these problems. Overall, just over a third (36%) reported having health problems and, of these, 63% reported that they had received help.

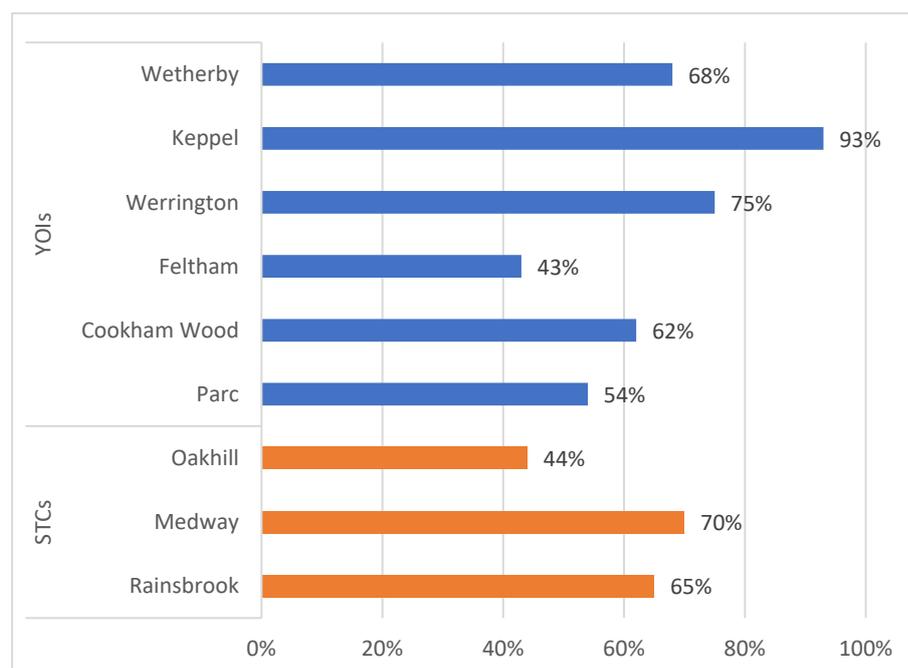
4.53 Sub-population data regarding identified health problems indicated that:

- A significantly higher proportion of children who identified as having a disability reported having health problems (76% compared to 22% of children who did not report having a disability).
- Children who had been in local authority care were significantly more likely to report having health problems than children who had not been in local authority care (42% compared to 29%).

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely to report having health problems than children from white backgrounds (26% compared to 47%).

4.54 Again, no significant difference in children's perceptions of the help they received if they reported a disability was found between STCs and YOIs, but responses indicated that children in different establishments perceived getting different levels of help. Less than half of children at Feltham and Oakhill who had reported health problems said they had received help (43% and 44% respectively) compared to 93% at the Keppel unit.

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

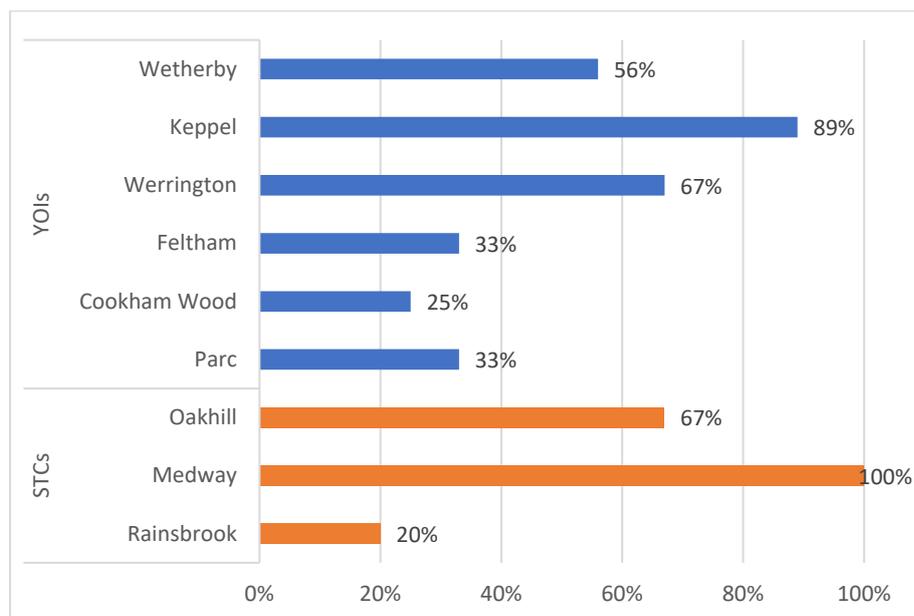


4.55 The survey asked children if they identified as having a disability and if so, if they were receiving the support required. Overall, a quarter (25%) of children reported having a disability, of whom half (50%) were getting support.

4.56 Sub-population data regarding self-reported disability indicated that:

- A significantly higher proportion of children who had been in local authority care reported having a disability than those who had not been in local authority care (32% compared to 18%).
- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were less likely than children from white backgrounds to report having a disability (18% compared to 33%).
- Although significantly fewer children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in YOIs reported having a disability, those that did report this were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds in YOIs to report that they were receiving the required disability support (32% compared to 60%).

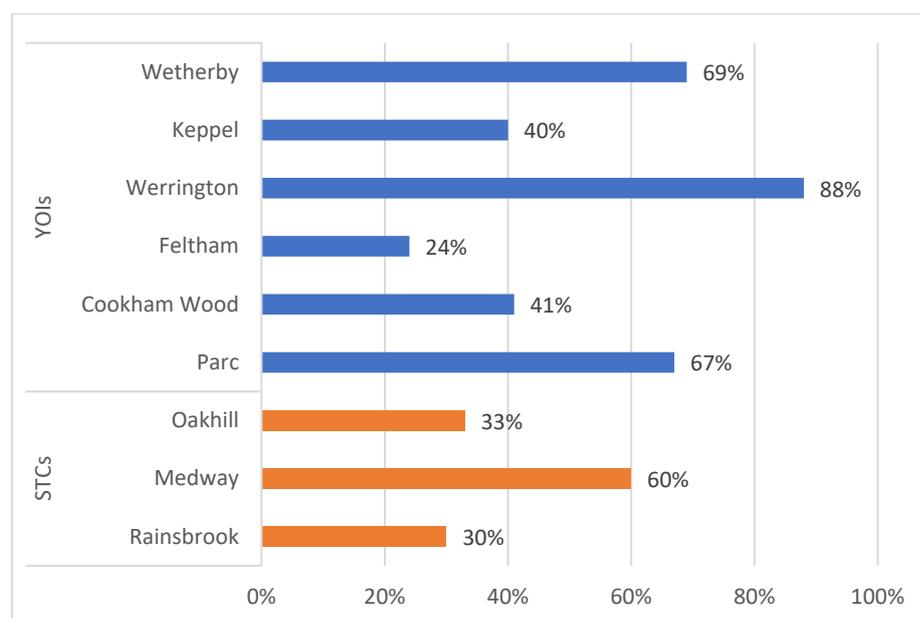
4.57 While there was no significant difference between STCs and YOIs, the level of support varied considerably across establishments. At Medway, all children (100%) who reported that they had a disability stated they were being supported, contrasting to just one in five (20%) at Rainsbrook.

Figure 18: For those who have a disability, are you getting the support you need?

4.58 Children were also asked about any drug and alcohol problems they had when they arrived at the establishment. Overall, only 5% reported having a problem with alcohol and 20% a problem with drugs. Just over half (55%) of children who reported having arrived at the establishment with an alcohol or drug problem said they had been helped with these issues. Children with a self-reported disability were significantly more likely than children without a disability to report an alcohol problem (11% compared to 3%) or drug problems (35% compared to 3%). Similarly, children who reported having been in local authority care also reported significantly higher rates of drug problems compared to those who had not been in local authority care (26% compared to 13%). Children from Traveller backgrounds in YOIs were significantly more likely than non-Travellers in YOIs to report having drug problems (40% compared to 18%).

4.59 Experiences varied across establishments: 88% of children at Werrington reported that they had been given support with their drug or alcohol problem compared to only 24% of children at Feltham.

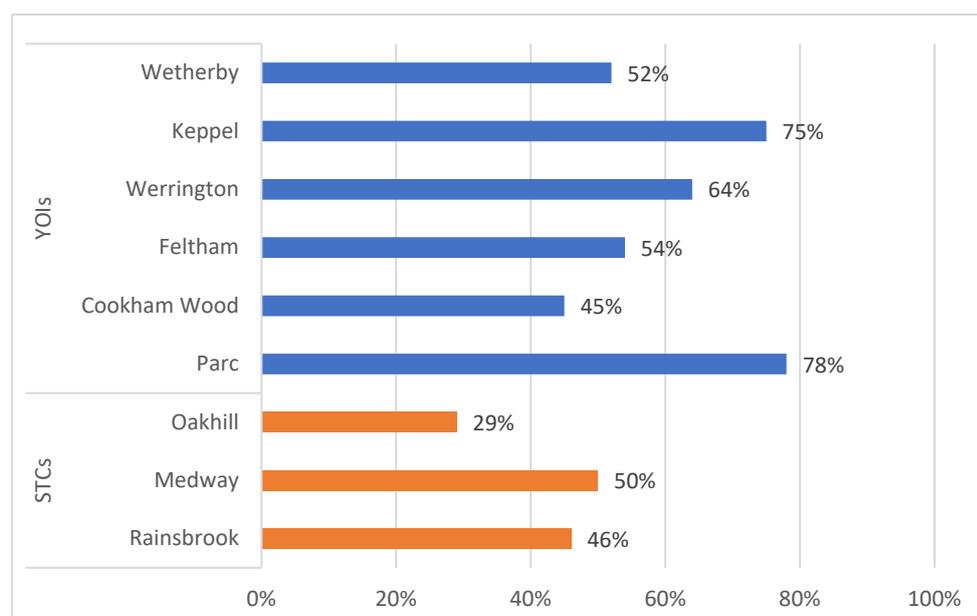
Figure 19: For those who had an alcohol or drug problem, have you been helped with these since you've been here?



4.60 The questionnaire also explores well-being by asking children about time spent outside in the fresh air (excluding time spent going to and from activities) and how often they take part in exercise.

4.61 Over half (53%) of children said they could spend time outside most days. There was no significant difference between STCs and YOIs however responses did differ across establishments. Only 29% of children at Oakhill said they could spend time outside most days compared to over three-quarters (78%) of children at Parc.

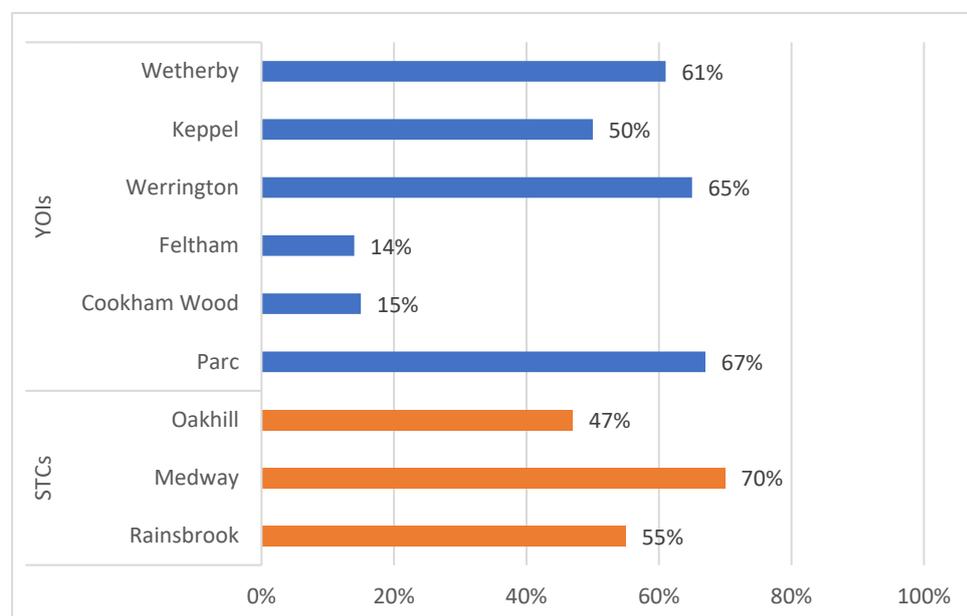
Figure 20: Can you spend time outside in the fresh air most days (not counting time spent going to and from activities)?



4.62 Just under half (45%) of children said they could go to the gym or play sports at least once a week. In YOIs, 37% of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds reported going to the gym or playing sports once a week or more, a significantly lower proportion than

children from white backgrounds (51%). Differences between STCs and YOIs were not significant but there was, once again, variation between individual establishments with 70% at Medway reporting they could exercise regularly compared to just 14% and Feltham and 15% at Cookham Wood.

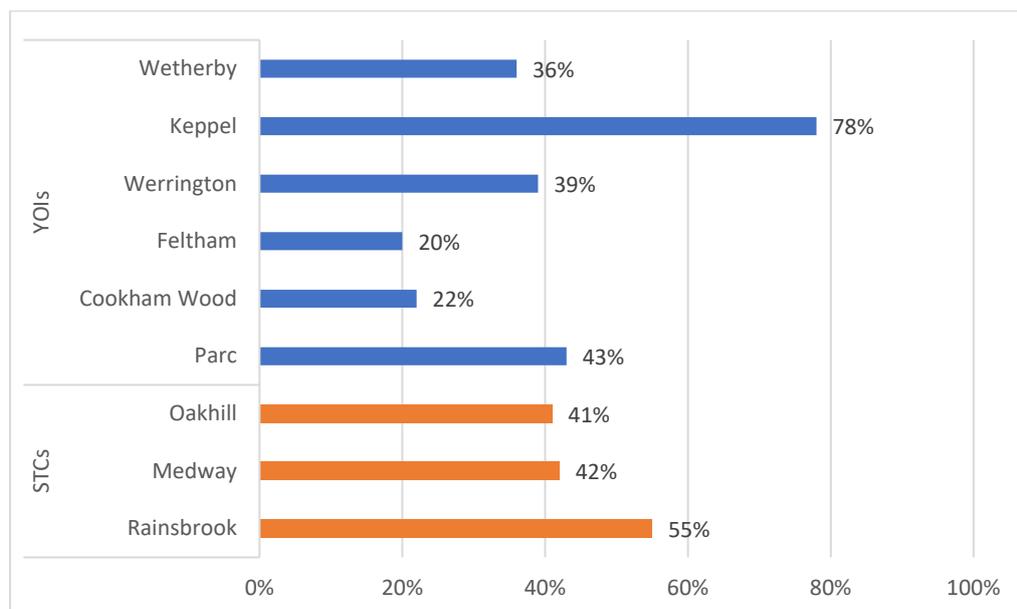
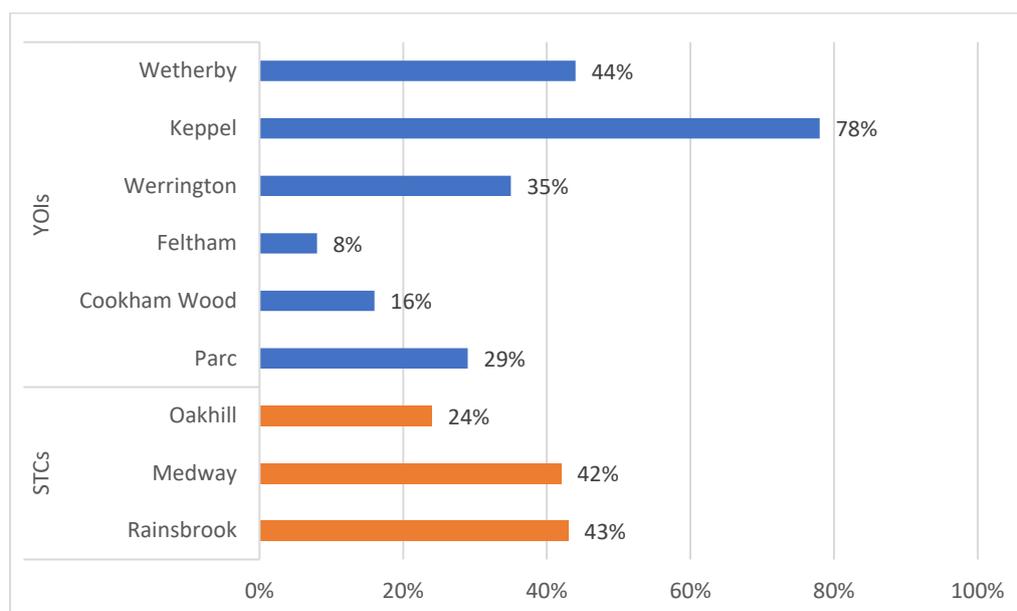
Figure 21: Do you go to the gym or play sports once a week or more?



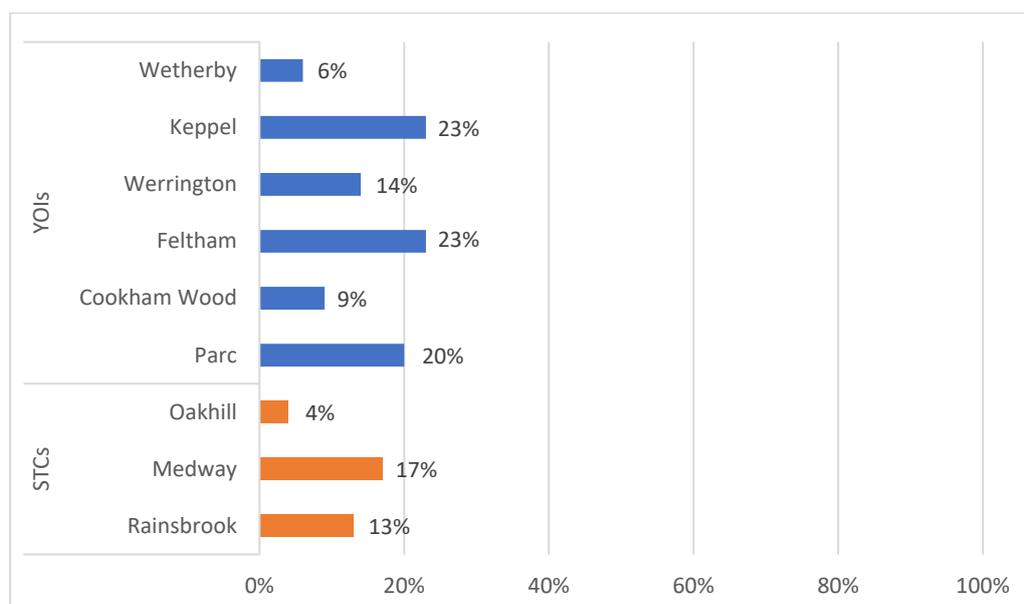
Complaints

4.63 Overall, most children (84%) said they knew how to make a complaint. The proportion of children reporting this ranged from 70% at Cookham Wood to 100% at Oakhill. However, despite the majority of children knowing how to make a complaint, when asked about effectiveness of the complaints system, fewer children believed the complaint system was fair (35%) or prompt (31%). A significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than children from white backgrounds said that the complaints system was fair (28% compared to 45%).

4.64 Children at Feltham reported particularly negative views about the complaints system with just 20% viewing it as fair and only 8% stating complaints were dealt with within seven days. This contrasts to the Keppel unit where 78% of children reported that the complaints system was fair and 78% reported it being prompt.

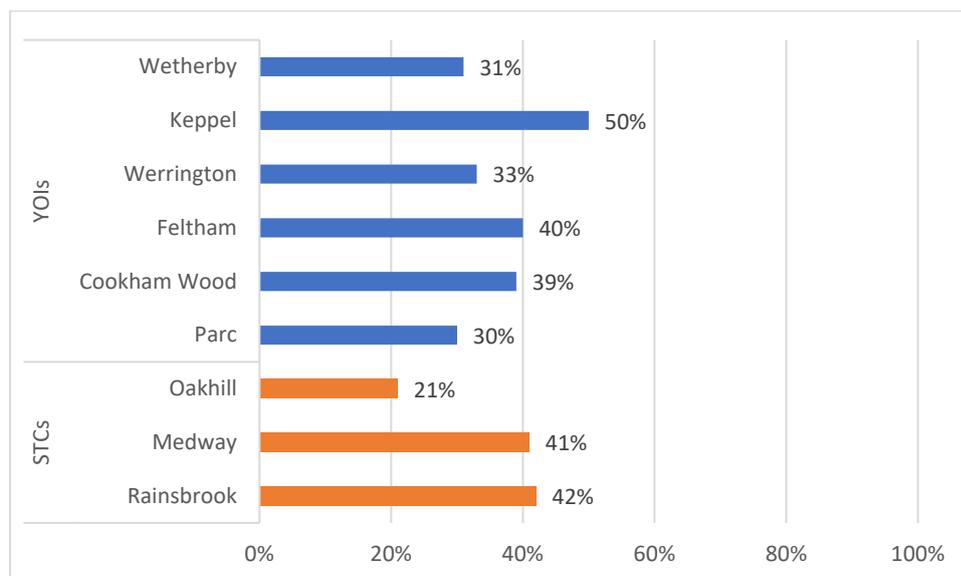
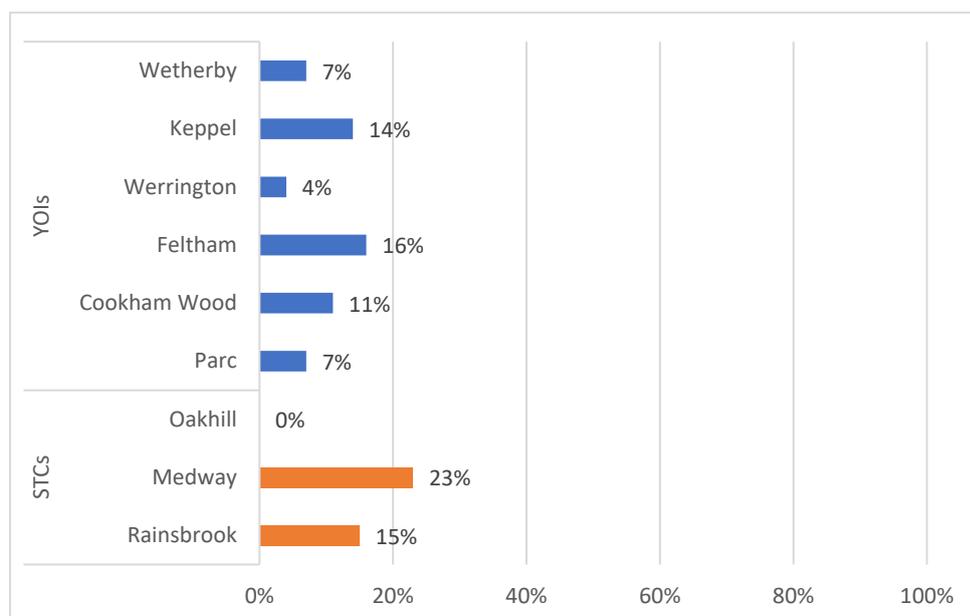
Figure 22: Were your complaints usually dealt with fairly?**Figure 23: Were your complaints usually dealt with within seven days?**

4.65 In total, 13% of children said they had, at some point, felt too scared to make a complaint. Interestingly, despite positive experiences regarding the actual process of complaints, nearly a quarter (23%) of children at the Keppel unit reported that they had felt scared, the same as at Feltham. This compared to only 4% of children at Oakhill.

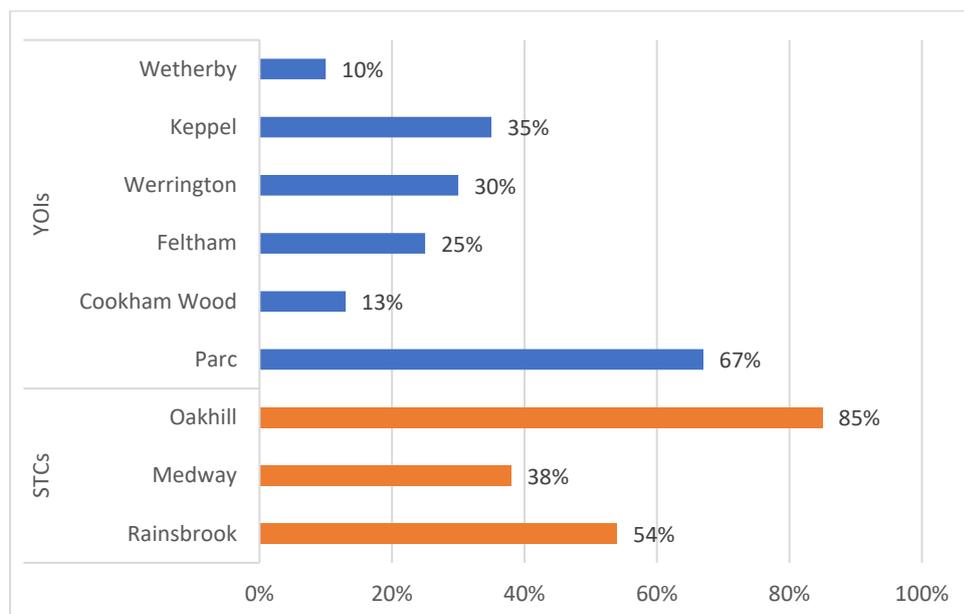
Figure 24: Have you ever felt too scared to make a complaint?

Safety and security

- 4.66** Overall, over a third (35%) of children said that they had, at some point, felt unsafe in their establishment. At the time of the survey 10% said that they were feeling unsafe.
- 4.67** Those children who reported having a disability were significantly more likely to report to ever having felt unsafe (46% compared to 30% without a disability) or feeling unsafe at the time of the survey (18% compared to 7%). Similarly, a higher proportion of children from a Traveller background reported feeling unsafe at the time of a survey compared to non-Travellers (23% and 8% respectively).
- 4.68** While there was no significant difference between reported feelings of safety in STCs and YOIs, there was varying perceptions across establishments. Half of children at the Keppel unit (50%) reported that they had felt unsafe at some point compared to 21% at Oakhill. Regarding currently feeling unsafe, no children at Oakhill reported this compared to nearly a quarter (23%) at Medway.

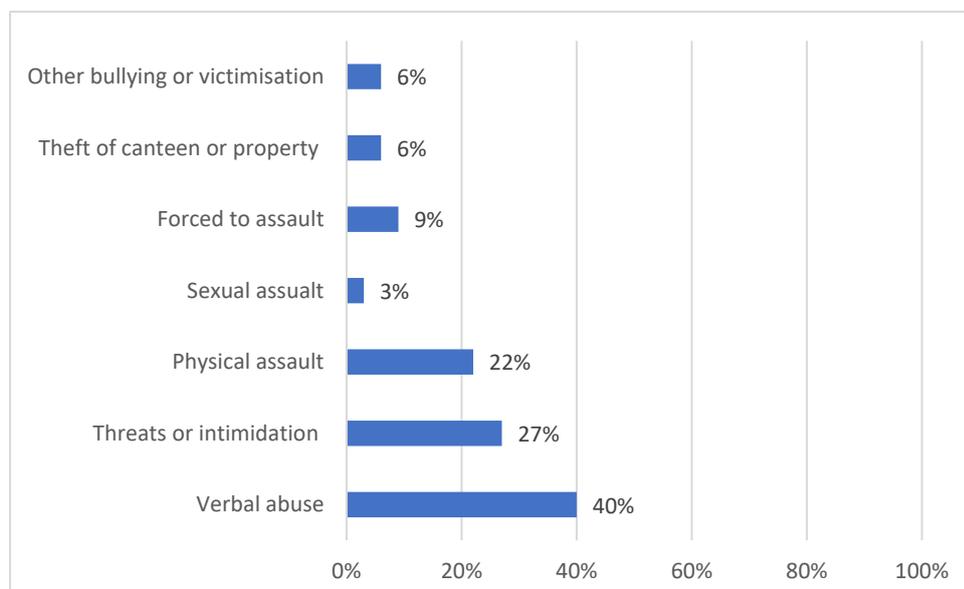
Figure 25: Have you ever felt unsafe here?**Figure 26: Do you feel unsafe now?**

4.69 All rooms in STCs and YOIs have an emergency call bell. Overall, 29% of children reported that their bell was usually answered within five minutes. Experiences differed significantly between STCs and YOIs with 61% of the children in STCs reporting that their bell was normally answered within five minutes compared to under a quarter (22%) in YOIs. There was also notable variation across establishments, ranging from 85% of children reporting their bell was answered within five minutes at Oakhill, while only 10% reported this at Wetherby.

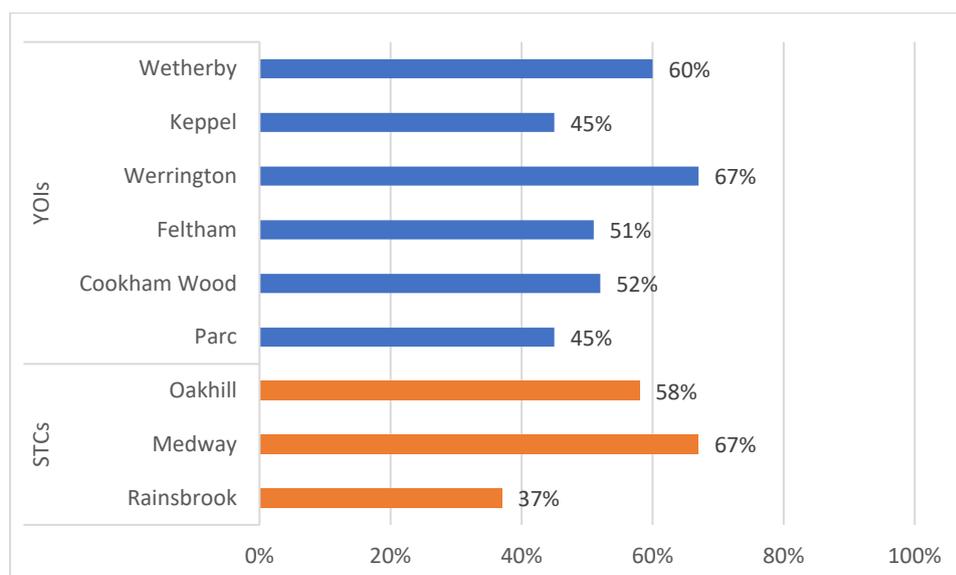
Figure 27: Is your emergency call bell or intercom normally answered within 5 minutes?

4.70 Children were asked about experiences of victimisation or bullying by other children, and if they felt comfortable enough to report it. Just over half (56%) of children said that they had not experienced any victimisation or bullying by other children. Reported experiences varied across the youth estate with over two-thirds (67%) of children at Werrington stating that they had not been victimised by other children, compared to 37% at Rainsbrook.

4.71 Overall, verbal abuse was the most common type of victimisation experienced from other children (40%). Sexual assault was the least common (3%).

Figure 28: Types of victimisation by other children.

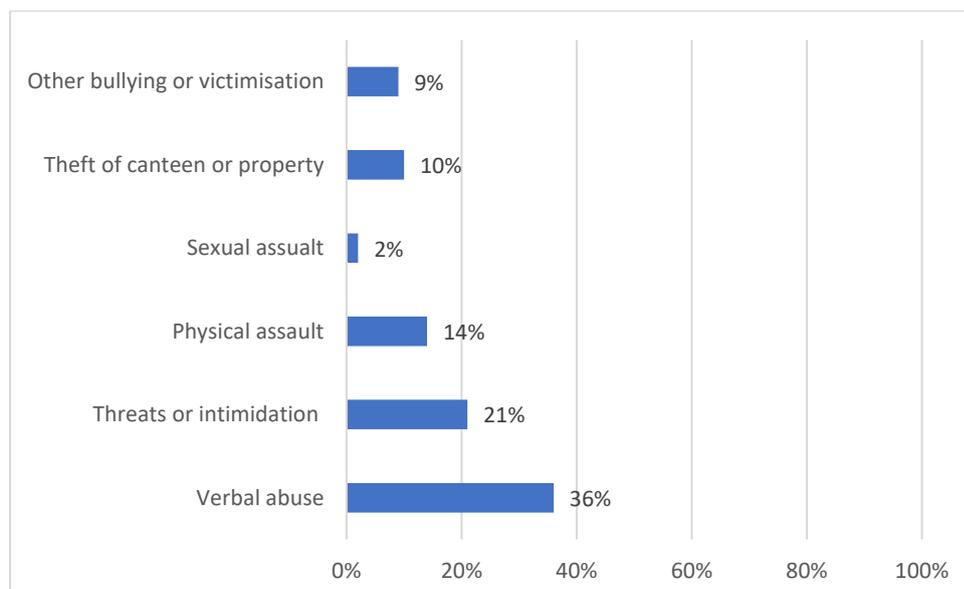
4.72 A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs compared to those in YOIs reported that other children had physically or sexually assaulted them (33% compared to 20% and 11% compared to 1% respectively).

Figure 29: Children here have not victimised me.**4.73** Analyses on sub-population data for types of victimisation by other children revealed that:

- A significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds reported being victimised by other children regarding threats and intimidation (22% compared to 34% of white children), sexual assault (1% compared to 6%) or ‘other’ forms of bullying (3% compared to 10%).
- Children who reported having a disability were significantly more likely to report that they had been forced to assault another young person (15% compared to 7%).
- In YOIs, children who reported having a disability were significantly more likely to report sexual assault by other young people than children without a disability (5% compared to 0%).
- Children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely than those from non-Traveller backgrounds to report that they had been forced to assault another young person (22% compared to 7%).

4.74 Just over a third (34%) of children said they would report it if they were being victimised by other young people. Children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely than those from non-Traveller backgrounds to state that they would report it (52% compared to 32%).

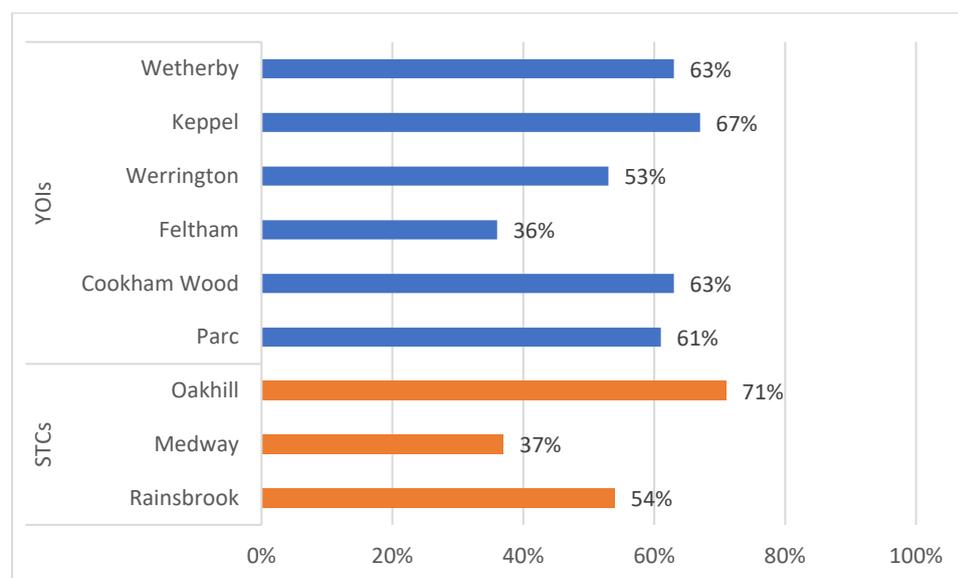
4.75 Children were asked about the types of bullying they might have experienced from staff and if they would report it. Over half (56%) of children said they had not experienced victimisation or bullying from staff. This varied across the estate, from 71% of children at Oakhill reporting no staff victimisation to 36% at Feltham. Over half (54%) of children said they would report it if they were victimised by staff. Verbal abuse was reported as the most common form of victimisation experienced from staff (36%) and sexual assault was, again, the least common (2%).

Figure 30: Types of victimisation by staff.

4.76 Survey findings indicated that a higher proportion of children at STCs reported being a victim of sexual assault by staff than children at YOIs. In STCs 9% (eight children) reported sexual assault by staff compared to 1% (five children) in YOIs. The eight children reporting this in STCs were all boys.

4.77 Although no overall significant differences were apparent in responses between sub-populations to any questions about victimisation by staff there was considerable variation in experiences reported by some sub-groups within YOIs:

- In YOIs specifically, children who reported having been in local authority care were significantly more likely than those who had not been in local authority care to report being a victim of physical assault by staff (19% compared to 9%) and significantly less likely to report that they had not experienced victimisation by staff (50% compared to 64%).
- Again in YOIs, 34% of Muslim children reported being victimised through threats and intimidation by staff, a significantly higher proportion than non-Muslim children (17%).

Figure 3I: Staff here have not victimised me.

Behaviour management

- 4.78** All STCs and YOIs have a rewards or incentives scheme to encourage positive behaviour.
- 4.79** Although the specifics of the schemes may vary between establishments, the premise is a system of benefits that are earned by behaving well and removed if behaviour is poor.
- 4.80** In the questionnaire, children are asked if the rewards scheme encourages them to behave well and if they think it is applied fairly. Overall, only 31% of children said that the system encouraged them to behave well and just 26% thought that it was fair. In YOIs, just over a quarter (26%) of children described the reward system as fair, a significantly lower proportion than 2018–19 (35%). Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report that they thought the rewards scheme was fair (20% compared to 32%). Children from Traveller backgrounds reported more positively. Over two fifths (44%) of children reported a ‘fair’ reward system compared to 24% of non-Traveller children.
- 4.81** No significant difference was found between STCs and YOIs but there was some variation across establishments, albeit all of them having very low proportions responding positively. Half (50%) of children at the Keppel unit reported that they thought the system did encourage good behaviour while only 22% reported this at Oakhill and Medway. Regarding fairness of the system, 40% of children at Parc reported that they thought the system was fair which, although a low proportion, was considerably more than the 14% at Oakhill and 17% at Feltham.

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

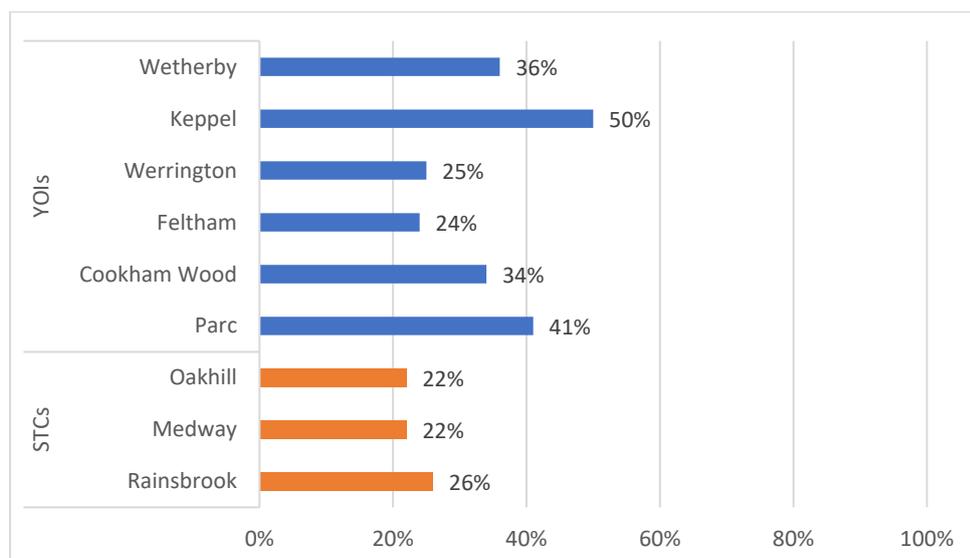
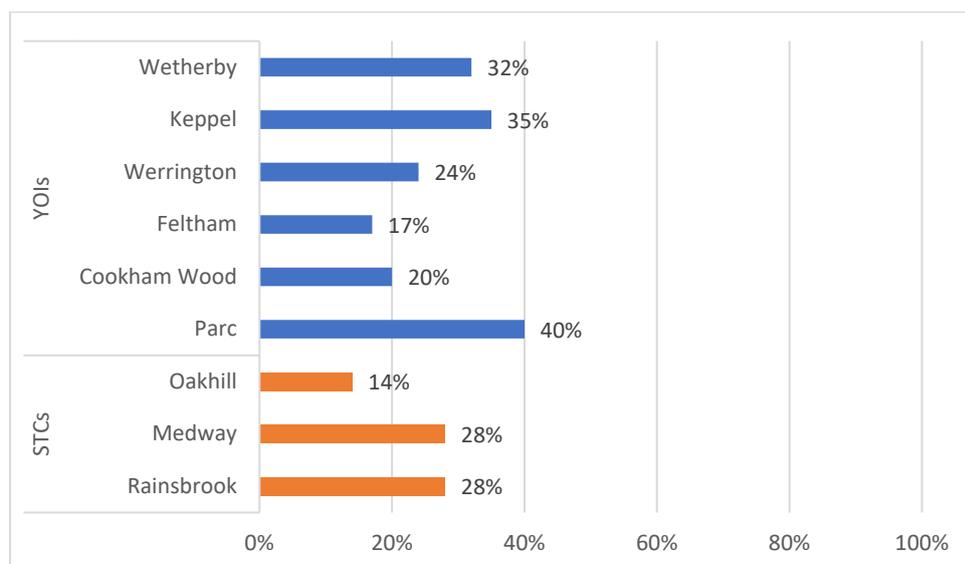


Figure 33: Do you think the system of rewards or incentives is fair?



4.82 The questionnaire also asked children how staff deal with behaviour management (if they let children know when they behave well, and if they explain to children what they had done wrong following getting into trouble).

4.83 Overall, 38% said staff let them know when their behaviour was good.

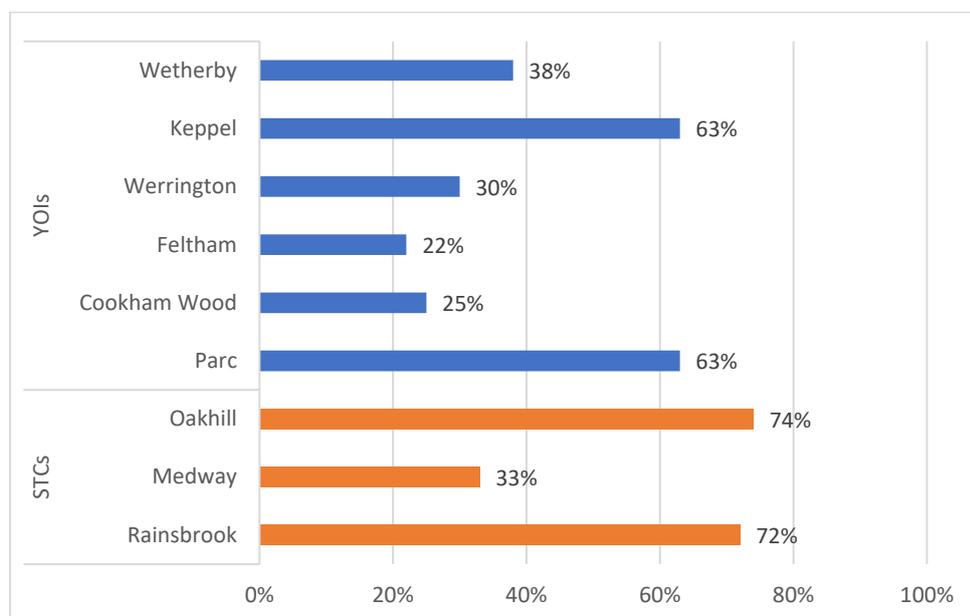
4.84 Significant differences were apparent for sub-populations:

- Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, once again, reported more negatively. A significantly smaller proportion reported that staff let them know when their behaviour was good (30% compared to 47% of children from white backgrounds).
- Muslim children were also significantly less likely than non-Muslim children to report that staff acknowledged good behaviour (28% compared to 41%).

- Children from Traveller backgrounds had more positive experiences with a significantly higher proportion reporting that staff informed them of good behaviour (65% compared to 36% of non-Travellers).

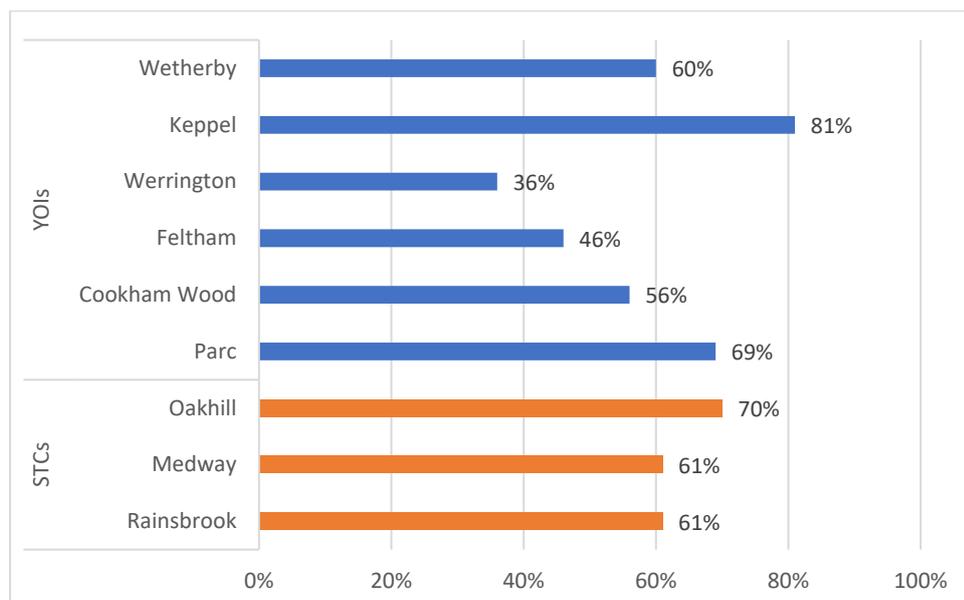
4.85 Children in STCs were significantly more likely to report that staff let them know if their behaviour was good (62% compared to 33% in YOIs). Responses also varied across establishments with only 22% reporting this at Feltham and 74% at Oakhill.

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



4.86 Overall, over half (56%) of children said staff explained what they had done wrong following getting into trouble. As above, both children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and Muslim children reported more negatively. A significantly smaller proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds compared to children from white backgrounds reported that staff explained what they had done wrong following getting in trouble (50% compared to 64%). This was also true of Muslim children (45% compared to 60% of non-Muslim children).

4.87 While no significant differences were apparent between STCs and YOIs, responses did vary across the estate, ranging from 81% at the Keppel unit to just 36% of children at Werrington.

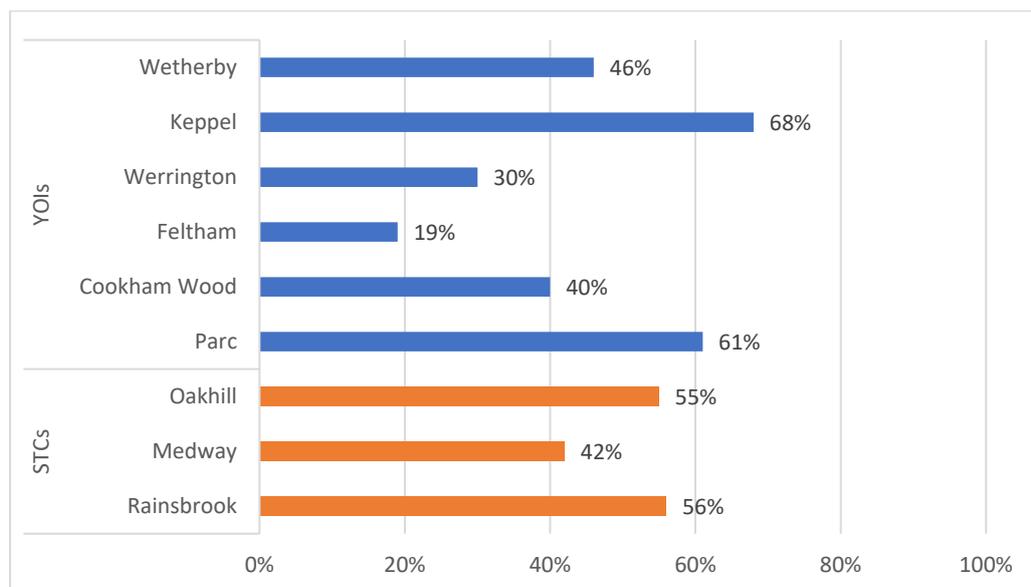
Figure 35: If you get in trouble, do staff usually explain what you have done wrong?

4.88 Almost two-thirds (65%) of children reported that they had been physically restrained while at their establishment. Of these, 68% said that a member of staff came to talk to them about the restraint afterwards. Proportions of children reporting restraint varied across the estate, ranging from 77% of children at Parc to 44% at Medway. A significantly higher proportion of black and minority ethnic children reported being restrained compared to children from white backgrounds (71% compared to 59%).

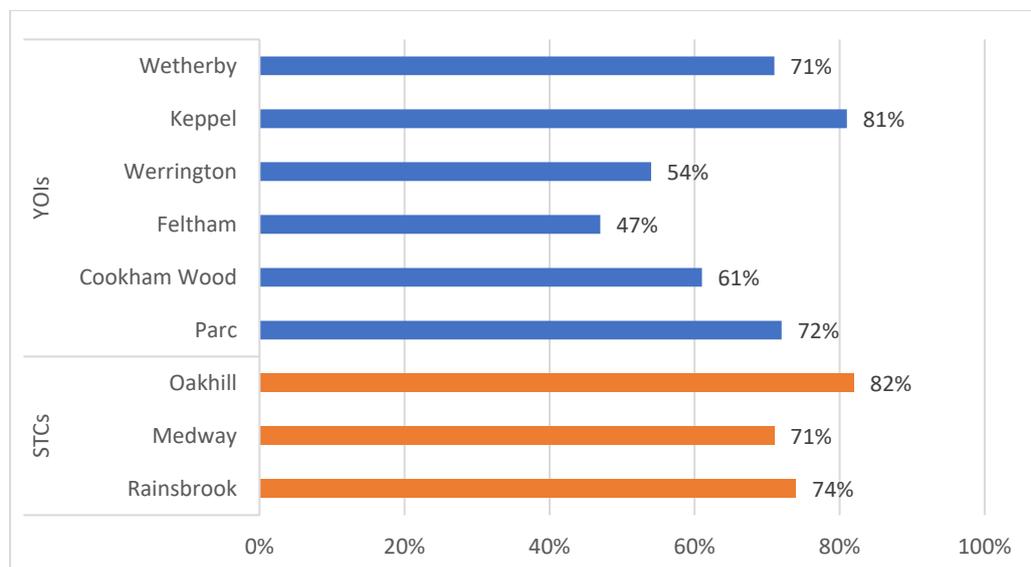
4.89 The survey also asked children if they had ever been separated, as a punishment, by being kept locked up or stopped from mixing with other children. Two-thirds (66%) of children reported that they had. When comparing responses over time, a significantly higher proportion of children in YOIs reported being separated in 2019–20 than 2018–19 (67% compared to 58%). Experiences across the youth estate again were again varied, ranging from just over half (54%) of children at Rainsbrook reporting they had experienced separation to 82% at Medway.

Relationships between staff and children

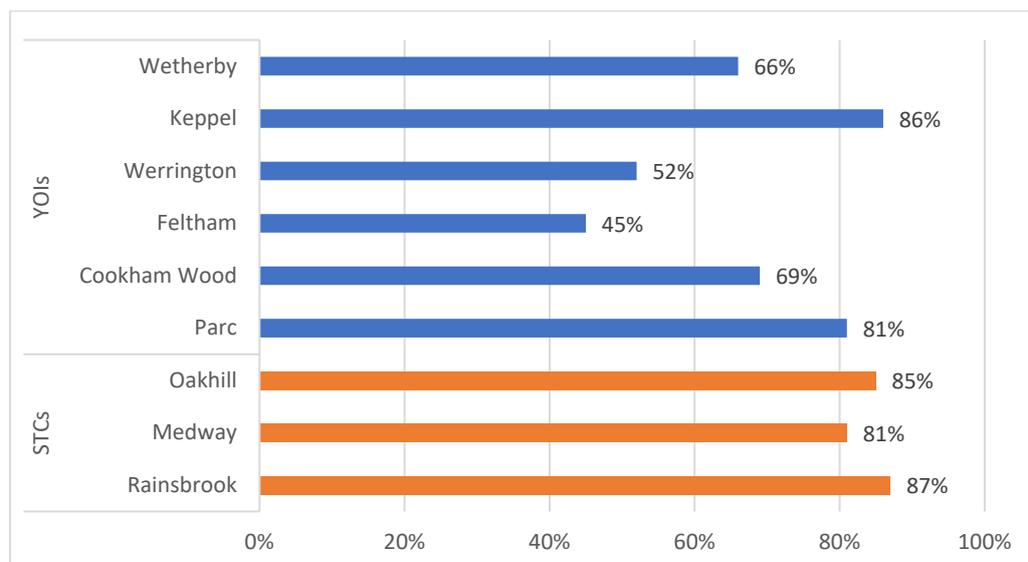
4.90 Overall, only around two in five (41%) of children reported that they felt cared for by most staff in their establishment. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report this (36% compared to 48%). A significantly smaller proportion of Muslim children than non-Muslim children also reported that they felt cared for (29% compared to 45%). While there were no significant differences between the responses of children in STCs and YOIs there was a considerable range in responses across establishments, from less than one in five (19%) of children at Feltham reporting feeling cared for to more than two-thirds (68%) at the Keppel unit.

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

4.91 Almost two-thirds (64%) of children said that most staff treated them with respect. Again, no significant differences were apparent between STCs and YOIs, but responses did range between individual establishments, from 47% feeling respected by staff at Feltham to 82% at Oakhill.

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

4.92 Two-thirds (66%) of children reported that there was a member of staff they could turn to if they had a problem. Again, black and minority ethnic children and Muslim children were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds and non-Muslim children to say there was a member of staff they could turn to for help (57% compared to 75% and 52% compared to 71% respectively). A significantly higher proportion of children in STCs than in YOIs reported this (85% compared to 62%). Responses ranged across the estate, from under half (45%) of children at Feltham reporting they had a member of staff they could turn to, to 86% at the Keppel unit and 87% at Rainsbrook.

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

4.93 We also asked children whether they could talk to a Barnado's advocate when they needed to. Overall, 66% of children said they could. There were no significant differences between STCs and YOIs. Variation was apparent across establishments with children at Feltham, once again, reporting more negatively. Just over half (52%) of children at Feltham said they were able to talk to someone from Barnado's while 84% of children at Parc reported the same.

Faith

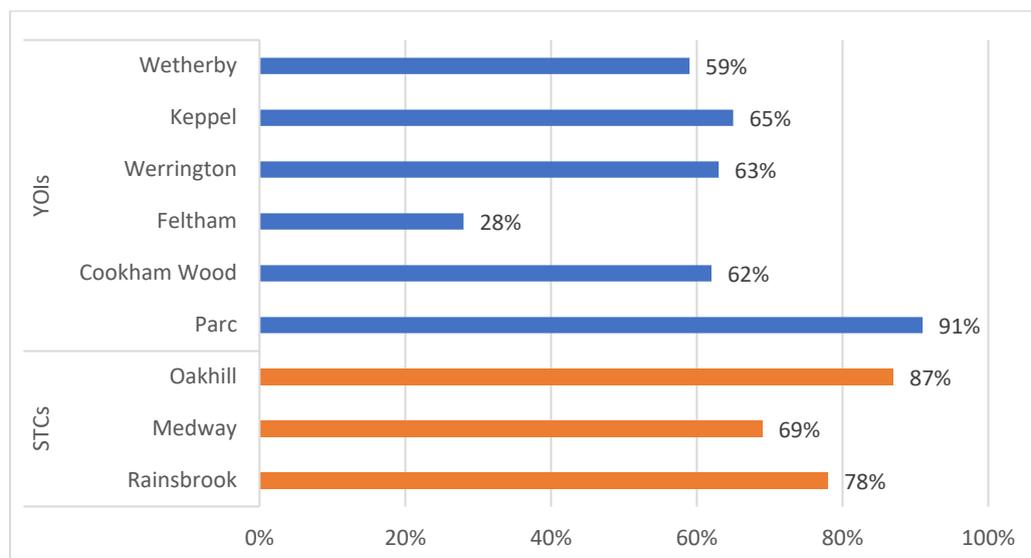
4.94 Overall, 71% of children reported that they had a religion, ranging from 35% of children at the Keppel unit to 83% at Feltham and 84% at Medway.

4.95 Those who had stated that they followed a religion were asked if their religious beliefs were respected and if they could speak to a chaplain of their faith, in private, if they wanted to. Overall, 76% of children who reported having a religion said their beliefs were respected and 72% said they could speak to a chaplain of their faith in private.

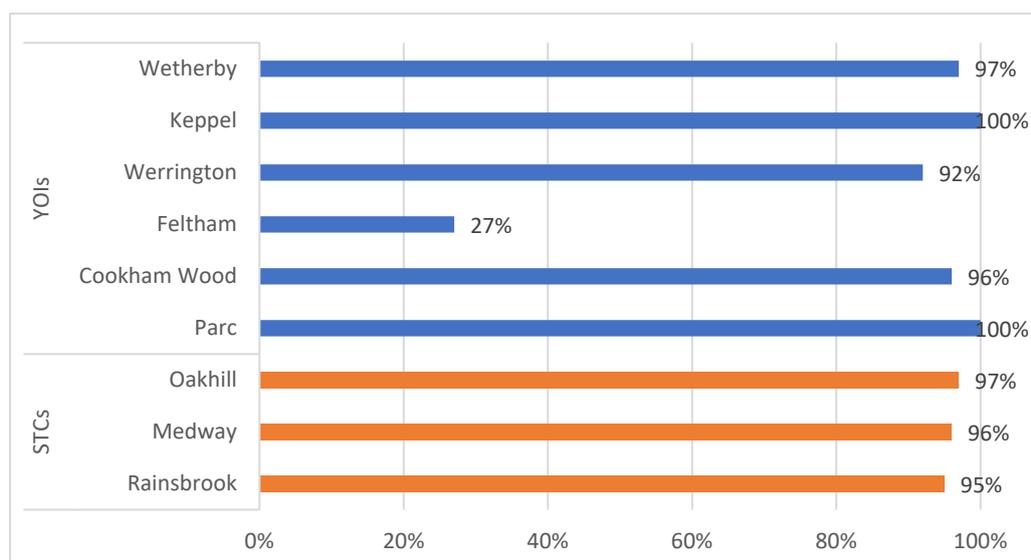
4.96 Despite there being no significant differences between the experiences of children in STCs and YOIs regarding faith, responses did vary across establishments. Fifty-seven per cent of children at the Keppel unit said their beliefs were respected while the majority (95%) at Oakhill reported the same. The majority (91%) of children at Oakhill who followed a religion also reported that they could speak with a chaplain of their faith when needed, while only 61% of children reported this at Cookham Wood.

Keeping in touch with family and friends

4.97 Overall 61% of children said they had been given help to keep in touch with family and friends. There was a significant difference between STCs and YOIs, with 79% of children in STCs saying that someone in the establishment had helped them, compared to 57% in YOIs. Responses across establishments varied regarding this, ranging from only 28% at Feltham to 91% at Parc.

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

4.98 The majority (86%) of children said they were able to use a phone every day if they had credit, however children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than children from white backgrounds to report this (81% compared to 93%). In YOIs specifically, reported access to phones has improved. In 2018–19, just 61% of children in YOIs reported having daily access to a phone. In 2019–20 this rose to 85%. There were considerable differences between establishments, with significantly higher proportions of children in STCs than YOIs reporting they could use a phone daily (96% compared to 85%). Responses also varied across individual establishments. Only 27% of children at Feltham reported that they could use the phone every day, while 100% of children reported this at Parc and the Keppel unit.

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

4.99 The questionnaire also asked children about visits from family and friends. Only 34% of children said it was quite or very easy for family and friends to visit. Just over a quarter (27%) of children who had been in local authority care said family or friends could visit easily, a significantly lower proportion than those who had not been in local authority care (43%). There were no significant differences between STCs and YOIs, but variation was apparent

across the estate with 20% of children in the Keppel unit stating it was quite or very easy and 42% reporting this at Oakhill.

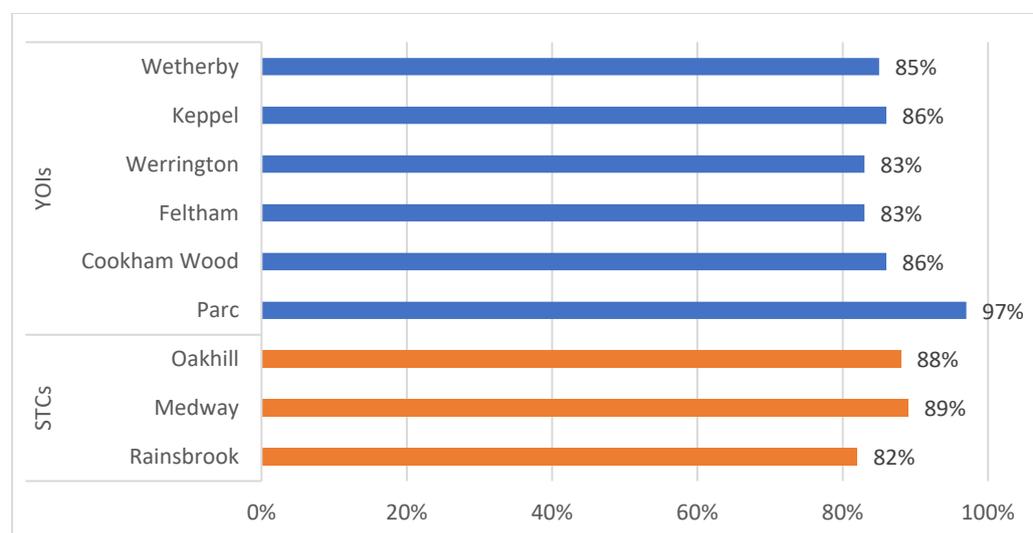
4.100 Despite it often being hard for family and friends to visit, over three-quarters (79%) of children said they did receive visits. However, of those receiving visits, less than half (45%) had visits from family and friends once a week or more. In YOIs, just over a third (34%) of children who had been local authority care reported that they received visits from family and friends once a week or more, a significantly lower proportion than those who had not been in local authority (54%). Again, no significant difference was apparent between STCs and YOIs but there was considerable variation between individual establishments. Almost two-thirds (60%) of children at Parc reported that they got a visit once a week or more, compared to just 6% at the Keppel unit.

Education and training

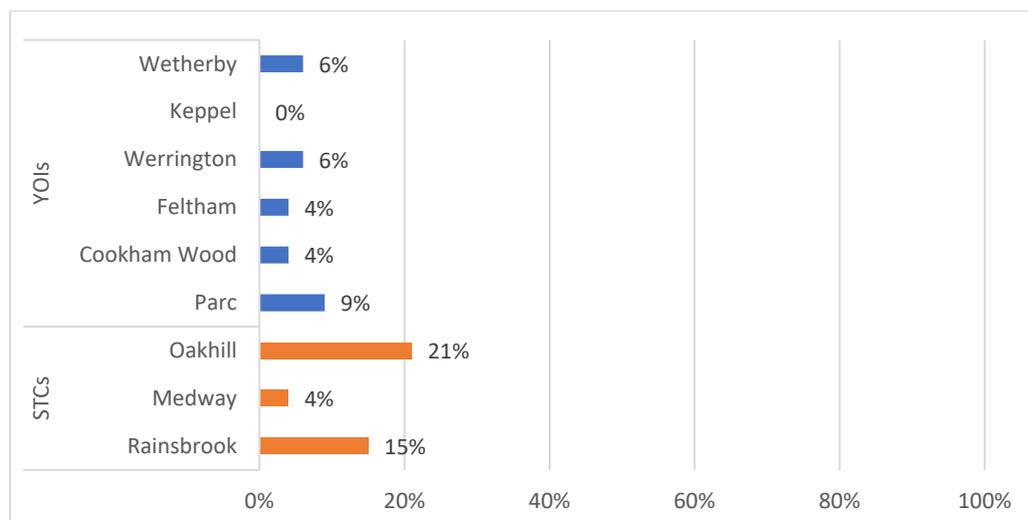
4.101 In our survey, children are asked about access to education, vocational training, paid work and offending behaviour programmes.

4.102 Of the children surveyed, 85% of children reported that they were taking part in education. In STCs, a significantly higher proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds reported taking part in education compared to children from white backgrounds (96% compared to 76%). There was no significant difference in educational involvement between STCs and YOIs and little variation across establishments, the lowest proportion being at Rainsbrook with 82% of children reporting educational involvement and the highest proportion at Parc with 97% of children reporting this.

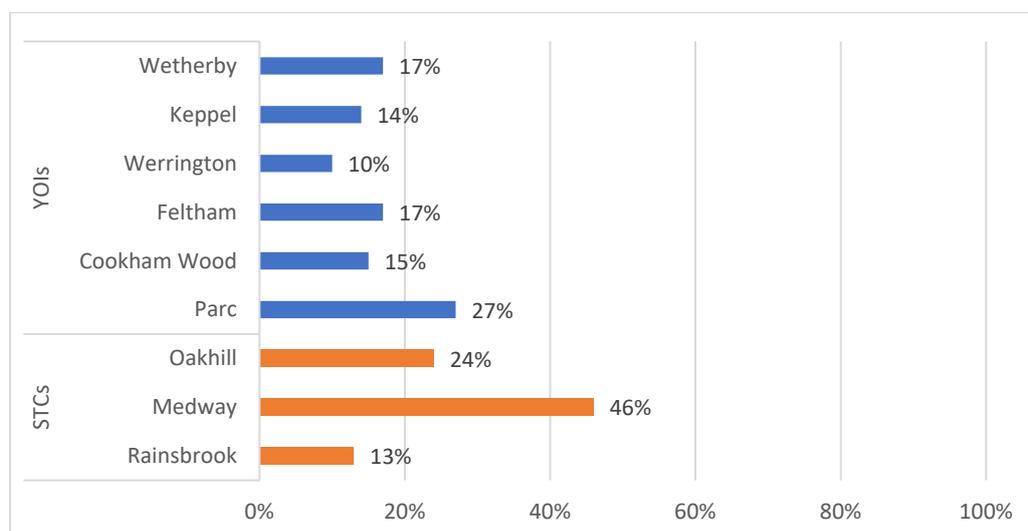
Figure 4I: Are you participating in education?



4.103 Overall, only a small proportion (6%) of children stated that they were involved in vocational training, however children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely than children from non-Traveller backgrounds to report this (20% compared to 5%). Involvement in vocational training also varied according to establishment type with a significantly higher proportion of children at STCs than YOIs reporting that they were taking part in vocational training (14% compared to 5%). Again, disparity between individual establishments was indicated. Over a fifth (21%) of children at Oakhill stated involvement in vocational training, while no children at the Keppel unit reported this.

Figure 42: Are you participating in vocational training?

4.104 Overall, 18% of children stated they were taking part in offending behaviour programmes or interventions. In YOIs specifically, children with a disability were significantly more likely than non-disabled children in YOIs to be taking part in interventions (24% compared to 13%). Similarly, a higher proportion of children from Traveller backgrounds in YOIs reported that they were involved within interventions compared to non-Traveller children in YOIs (33% compared to 15%). There were no significant differences between STCs and YOIs, although responses ranged from just 10% at Werrington to 46% at Medway.

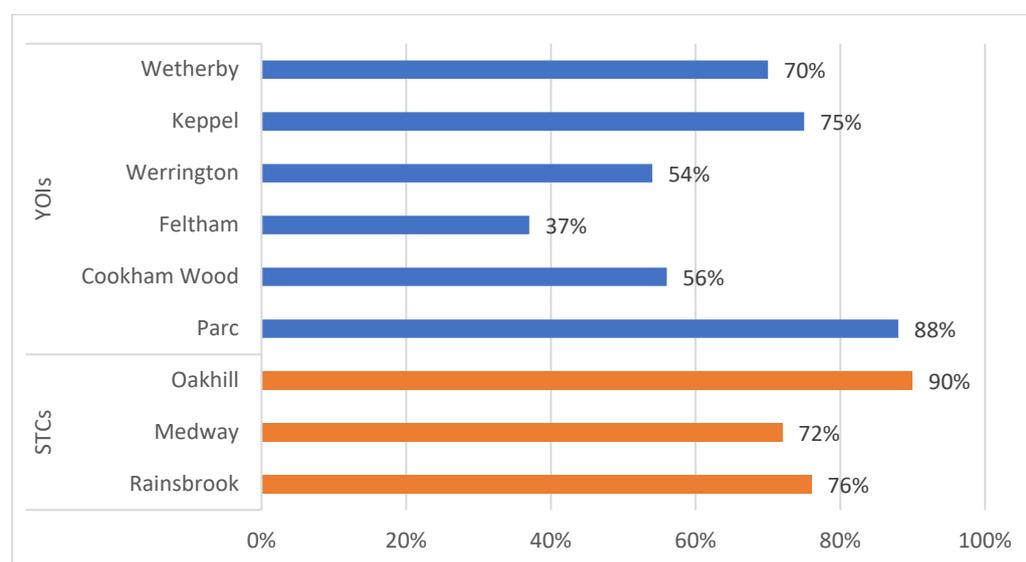
Figure 43: Are you participating in offending behaviour programmes?

4.105 Only a small proportion (8%) of children also reported that they had a paid job at their establishment. Children from Traveller backgrounds were once again significantly more likely than non-Traveller children to report that they had a paid job (18% compared to 6%). There was no significant difference between children's experiences in STCs and YOIs, but variation was apparent across the estate, ranging from 14% at the Keppel unit having a job to no children at Rainsbrook having one.

4.106 Just under two-thirds (63%) of children reported that staff had encouraged them to attend education, training or work. A significantly lower proportion of children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds than a white background reported this (57% compared to 70%). Children were significantly more likely to report staff encouragement at STCs than YOIs

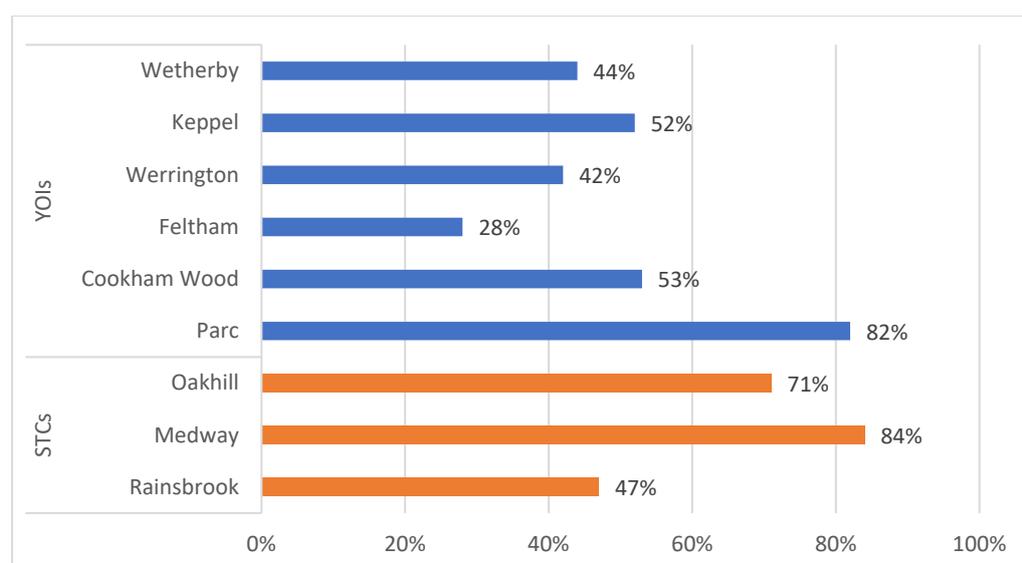
(80% compared to 60%). Responses also varied considerably between individual establishments. At Feltham only 37% of children reported that they had been encouraged to attend education, training or work, while at Oakhill this proportion rose to 90%.

Figure 44: Do staff encourage you to attend education, training or work?



4.107 The questionnaire asked children whether they had learned anything that would help them when they were released, such as education or skills. Overall, almost half (49%) of children reported that they had. Once again, the difference between STCs and YOIs was significant, with 65% of children held in STCs saying that they had learned something that would help on release, compared to 46% in YOIs. Between individual establishments this ranged from 84% of children at Medway to just 28% at Feltham.

Figure 45: Have you learned anything here that will help you when you are released (e.g. education or skills)?



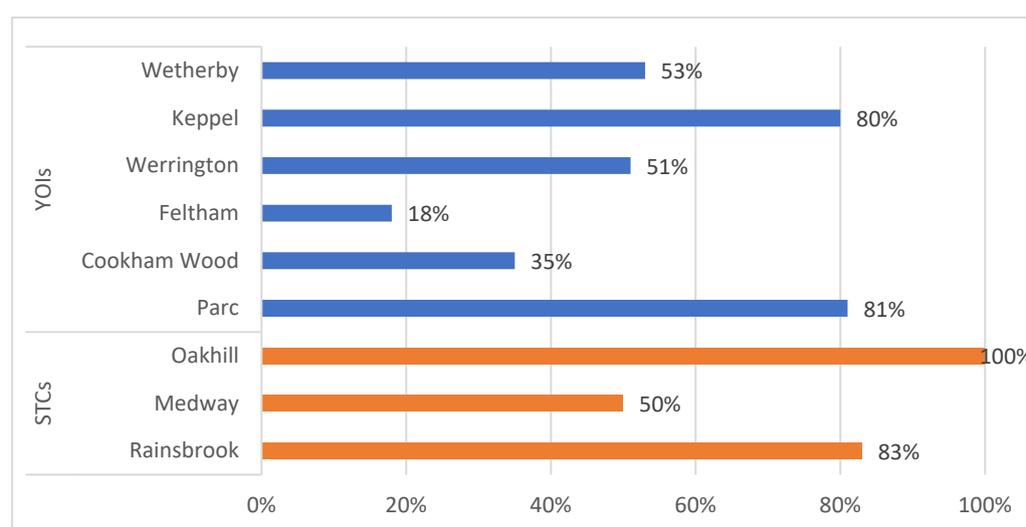
Preparing to move on

4.108 The questionnaire asked children if they had a plan setting out their targets and objectives that they should work on during their sentence. Overall, 57% of children reported having

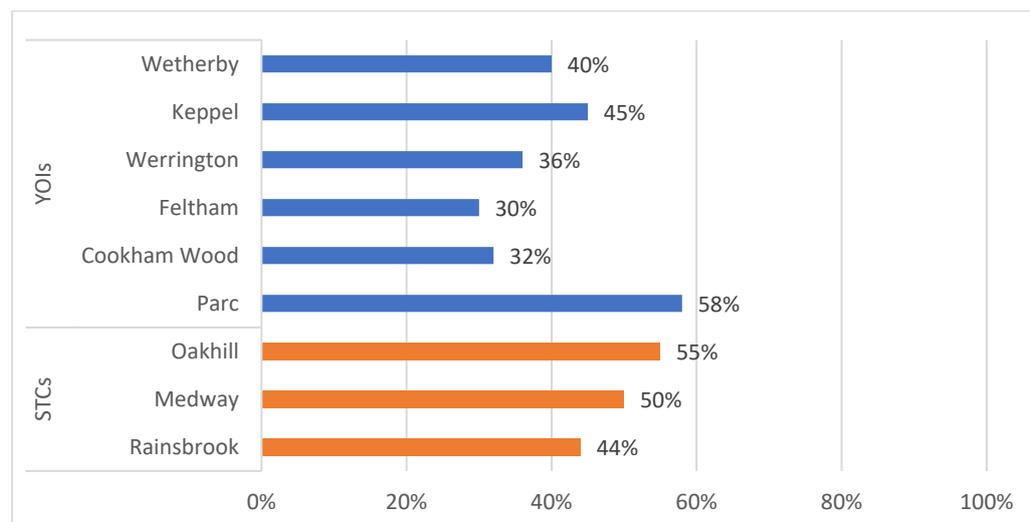
such a plan and, of these, the majority (89%) said that they understood what they needed to do to achieve their objectives and targets. In YOIs, 88% stated that they understood how to achieve objectives or targets, a significantly lower proportion than 2018–19 (95%).

- 4.109** There was no significant difference between STCs and YOIs. Although some variation was apparent between establishments regarding having a plan (69% at Parc and 50% at Cookham Wood), the proportion of children reporting that they understood their plan ranged from 100% at the Keppel unit to 79% at Feltham.
- 4.110** Of those who reported having a plan, just over half (52%) said that staff were supporting them to achieve their targets and objectives. Children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly less likely than white children to report that staff were supportive (40% compared to 65%). However, children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely to report that staff had helped them achieve their targets and objectives (77% compared to 49% of non-Travellers). This was significantly higher in STCs than YOIs (78% compared to 47%). Between establishments the proportion of children from Traveller backgrounds reporting that staff had helped them achieve their targets and objectives ranged from 100% at Oakhill to just 18% at Feltham.

Figure 46: If you have a training plan, are staff here supporting you to achieve your objectives or targets?



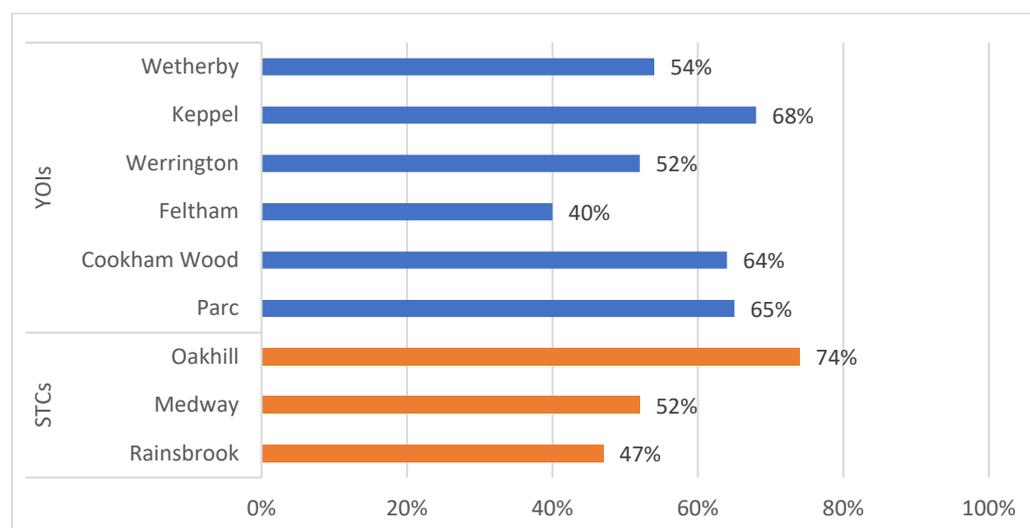
- 4.111** When asked if anyone was helping them to prepare for when they leave their establishment, just a third (33%) of children said that were being supported in this way. In YOIs, a lower proportion of children in 2019–20 than in 2018–19 reported that they had been supported with release (30% compared to 39%). Children from Traveller backgrounds were significantly more likely to report this than non-Traveller children (57% compared to 31%). The difference in responses between STCs and YOIs was significant with 48% of children in STCs reporting that they had been helped to prepare for release compared to 30% in YOIs. Once again, Feltham had the lowest proportion of children answering positively, with just 18% saying that they had been helped. At both Oakhill and Medway this proportion was 54%.
- 4.112** Overall, 39% of children reported that they had had a say in what will happen to them once they leave the establishment. No significant differences were apparent between STCs and YOIs, but responses varied across the estate from 30% at Feltham to 58% at Parc.

Figure 47: Have you had a say in what will happen to you once you leave here?

Likelihood of reoffending

4.113 In the final section of our questionnaire, children are asked whether or not they think that their experiences in custody have made them more or less likely to offend in the future.

4.114 Overall, 55% of children thought that they were less likely to reoffend in the future. No significant differences were apparent between STCs and YOIs, but responses ranged across the estate, from 74% at Oakhill believing they were less likely to reoffend to 40% at Feltham.

Figure 48: Do you think your experiences here have made you less likely to offend in the future?

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Tables

Table I: Sample sizes and response rates across STCs and YOIs during 2019–20

Appendix II: 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 this analysis.

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Annex 1. Demographic and other background characteristics – overall, between types of, and within establishments

Annex 1. 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 | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 100% | | | | | | 85% | | | 97% |
| | 100% | 97% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 67% | 93% | 100% | |
| Female | 0% | | | | | | 16% | | | 3% |
| | 0% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 33% | 7% | 0% | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 or under | 0% | | | | | | 8% | | | 2% |
| | 1% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 5% | 7% | 11% | |
| 15 | 4% | | | | | | 28% | | | 8% |
| | 4% | 3% | 5% | 3% | 5% | 0% | 17% | 19% | 47% | |
| 16 | 24% | | | | | | 41% | | | 27% |
| | 24% | 31% | 29% | 23% | 23% | 14% | 50% | 44% | 28% | |
| 17 | 55% | | | | | | 22% | | | 49% |
| | 52% | 59% | 57% | 55% | 54% | 73% | 26% | 30% | 11% | |
| 18 or over | 16% | | | | | | 2% | | | 13% |
| | 19% | 6% | 10% | 18% | 18% | 14% | 2% | 0% | 3% | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 45% | | | | | | 47% | | | 45% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Other | 2% | | | | | | 2% | | | 2% |
| | 0% | 6% | 0% | 3% | 1% | 5% | 3% | 0% | 3% | |
| Health problems | 34% | | | | | | 42% | | | 36% |
| | 23% | 39% | 35% | 30% | 39% | 67% | 43% | 39% | 43% | |
| Disabilities | 25% | | | | | | 25% | | | 25% |
| | 22% | 24% | 22% | 23% | 27% | 48% | 25% | 15% | 31% | |
| Been cared for in local authority | 54% | | | | | | 44% | | | 52% |
| | 53% | 61% | 56% | 46% | 57% | 57% | 52% | 42% | 33% | |
| Have children | 8% | | | | | | 9% | | | 8% |
| | 4% | 6% | 13% | 9% | 10% | 5% | 10% | 12% | 6% | |