

The Pan-London Children & Young People's (CYP) Service



M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

VS VICTIM
SUPPORT
LONDON

Who are we?

- **The pan-London CYP Service** is funded by MOPAC and works across all 33 London boroughs.
- We work with children and young people **aged 4 to 17 years old**
- We work with any **child or young person affected by a crime**; they do not need to be the direct victim, but could be a witness or it may be something that happened to a family member or friend.
- The pan-London CYP Service **will support a child or young person regardless to whether they have, or want to, formally report the incident to the police.**
- We are a relatively small service with one Senior Ops Manager, 2 team managers, 12 CYP Workers and 18 volunteers.
- Our support is free, confidential, consent-led and independent
- Most of our referrals do come from the Police (90%) however the rest come from parents, self-referrals and professionals.

What do we do?

Our tiered support model enables us to meet the differing needs of children and young people across London:

Tier 1: preventative social education sessions providing wide reach to large numbers of children and young people providing them with crucial safety, prevention and crime diversion information; whilst providing school and youth work staff with the skills and knowledge to identify children and young people affected by crime

- Prevention and building safer communities

Tier 2: drop-in support at crisis touch points and specialist small group work programmes for those who disclose victim experience. Providing early outreach and community-based support to help children and young people develop coping skills to stop risk escalation and prevent repeat victimisation

- Immediate safety and proactive strategies

Tier 3: intensive support over a longer period. This will focus on the child/young person's needs through 1-1 support, family support, multi-agency advocacy and co-ordination and multi-systemic interventions. This is evaluated using an outcome star assessment that identifies a victim's journey and progress across 8 outcome areas

- Intensive cope and recovery interventions

Why a CYP Service for young victims?

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (ONS 2014a) found that less than one fifth of children who experience theft or violent crime report these to the Police, meaning that true levels of crime in London experienced by under 18s could be as high as 68,000 per annum
- Children and young people are most likely to experience crime by their peers, family or people they know
- Once becoming a victim of crime, some risk factors can impact on recovery and increase chances of repeat victimisation and trauma
- Children and young people vary widely in the way they respond to a set of circumstances and the seriousness of a crime does not necessarily equate to the level of impact on a child or young person
- One study (CSCB, 2016) estimates that a quarter of children experience at least one type of domestic abuse during childhood and 5% of children and young people are exposed to severe domestic violence.

Why a CYP Service for young victims?

- The Good Childhood Report (The Children's Society, 2017) reported that 23% of boys had been physically bullied compared to 13% of girls; and 33% of girls bullied in other ways (name-calling, spreading nasty rumours, exclusion) compared to 31% of boys. The report identified that 38% of all respondents are worried about crime and that 'Children who experienced crime' was one of the greatest impactors on children's well-being.
- Young people are more likely to suffer partner abuse than any other age range. 12.6% of women and 6.6% of men aged 16-19 experienced some form of domestic abuse in 2104 (ONS 2015). Violence in young people's relationships can lead to mental health issues, including suicide and depression (Stanley, 2011).

During the month of November 2017, 21 Initial Risk and Needs Assessments (IRNA) were completed with children and young people who accessed support with the pan-London CYP Service.

Findings:

- Only 2 of the young people had not reported the crime. One was because she felt she did not have the support if she did from her family and partner and was worried about the impact of reporting on her family; and the other because she did not think she should report bullying to the police.

Why a CYP Service for young victims?

- The majority (71%) of young people reported that the incident happened somewhere they go often.
- Just over 1/3rd of the young people had been affected by crime before.
- Worrying 1/3rd of the crimes resulted in a physical injury, with 2 of the young people in need of hospital treatment
- Two thirds of all young people reported that things had changed at home for them.
- A third of young people reported it had impacted on school.
- 6 young people reported that they felt too scared to go out, 70% reported that they felt unsafe and feared it happening again, or reprisals.
- Half were worried about someone else.
- 5 young people reported that they could not turn to their family for support .
- 60% reported feeling sad or very low in mood with 5 disclosing suicidal thoughts
- Half reported feeling unwell, having headaches and tummy aches, and feeling shaky.
- 60% of young people said they had problems sleeping.

Our model

Victim Support has a customised service delivery model; **Risk, Protective and Resilience (RPR)**. The focus of the model is to reduce risk factors, increase support and protective factors and increase resilience. With a strong equality focus that enables us to tailor support for each individual and identify vulnerabilities, RPR ensures that those that require support the most, receive it.

It is underpinned by the following principles:

- The most effective intervention models start from a position of building on strengths
- Increasing a child or young person's support network enables changes to become more sustainable
- Protective behaviour strategies are transferable across all areas of a young person's life
- Helping children and young people develop resilience is an effective means of making lasting positive change

Our offer to children & young people

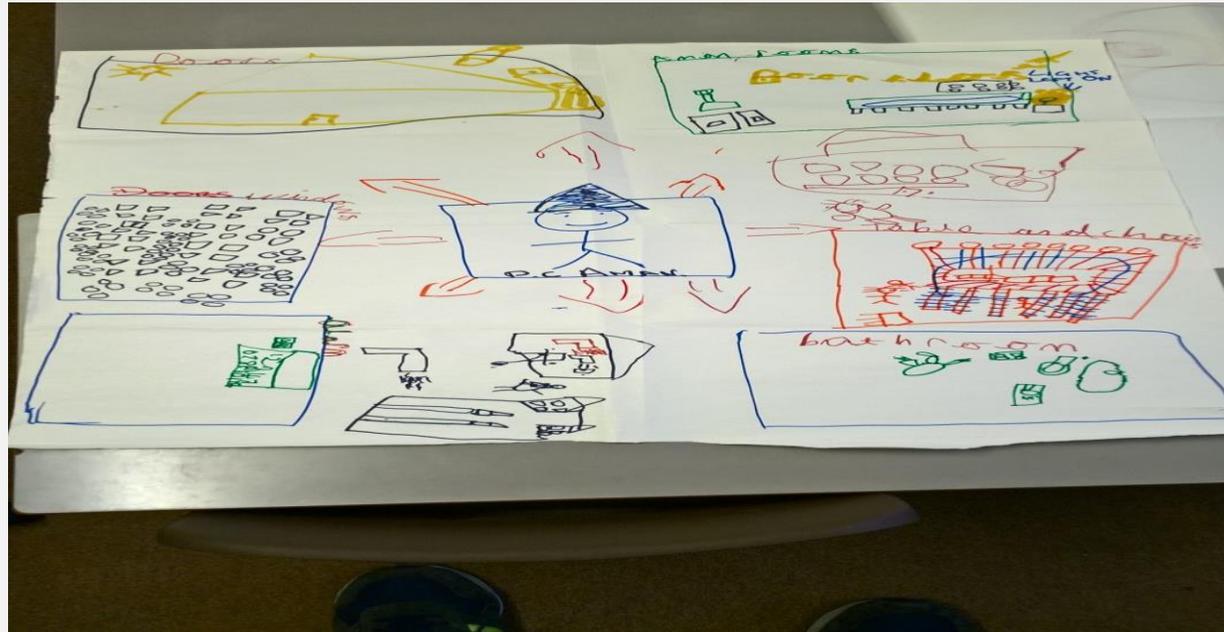
- **A trained, checked and friendly worker**
- One to one support in a confidential space
- We will keep your information safe, unless we need to share, or you agree we can share it
- **At times and places that suit you**
- Starting from you and built around your needs and choices
- Working at your pace
- **Recognising that everyone is different and treating you fairly**
- Getting your voice heard
- Support when you are ready - it is not time-limited
- **Making you feel safer and ensuring you know your rights**
- Working with others ensure you get the right support



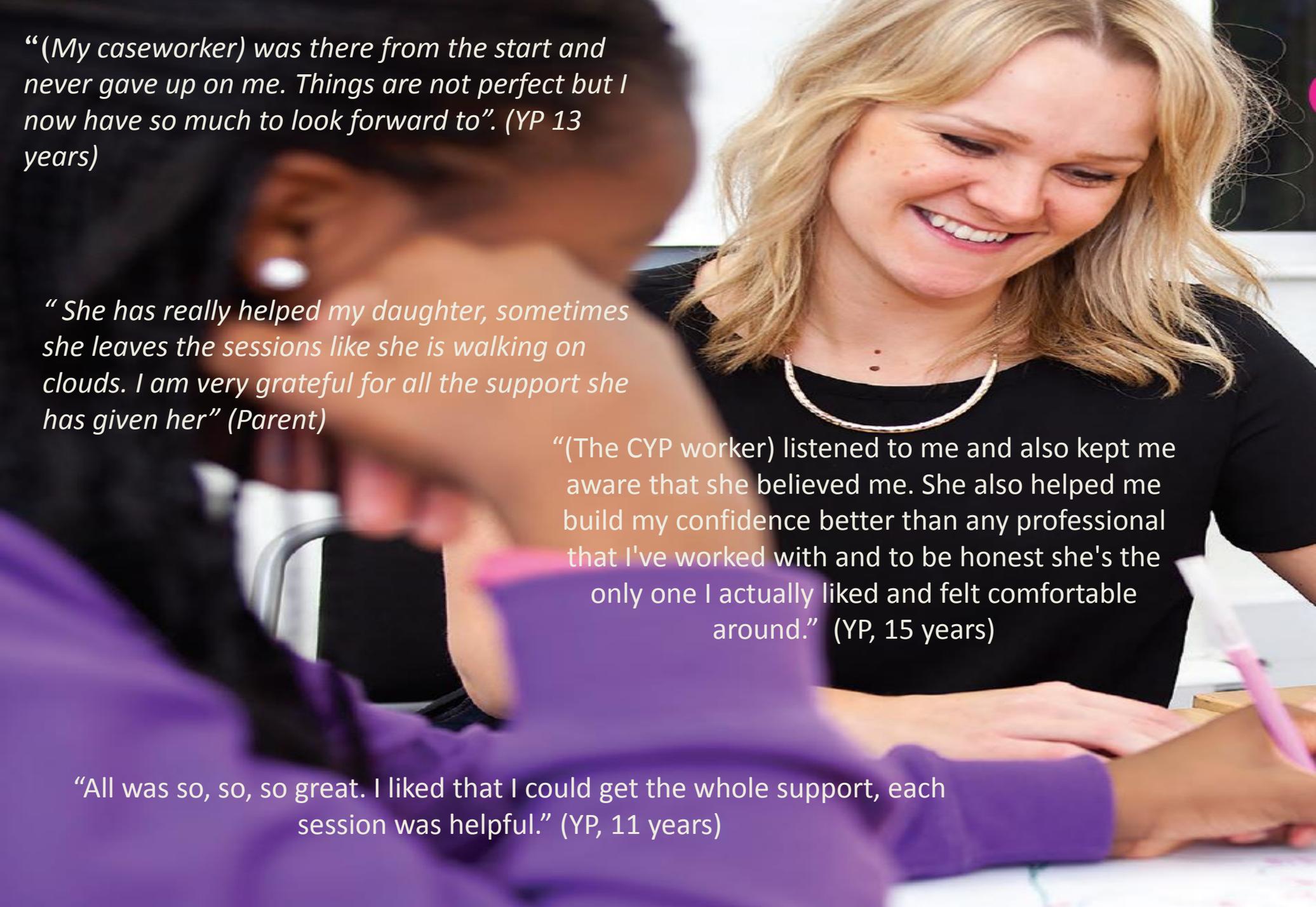
- ❖ From April 2016 to March 2017 the pan-London CYP Service received 13,653 referrals for CYP aged 4-17 years who had been affected by crime.
- ❖ Approx. 2000 young people each year agree to support from our Service; this is predominantly for violence with and without injury (Inc. DV); theft, burglary, bullying and sexual offences.
- ❖ On average 45% of all our service users are male and 55% are female.
- ❖ Our referrals are on average 55% males and 45% female; with on average 76% of crimes experienced by 11-17 year olds
- ❖ Following Risk Assessment , 71% of all cases are Medium or High risk.
- ❖ We refer 9% of our cases to Children's Social Care

Case studies

Amir



and Janet

A young woman with blonde hair is smiling and looking down at something on a table. She is wearing a black top and a necklace. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders is visible, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a classroom or meeting setting.

“(My caseworker) was there from the start and never gave up on me. Things are not perfect but I now have so much to look forward to”. (YP 13 years)

“She has really helped my daughter, sometimes she leaves the sessions like she is walking on clouds. I am very grateful for all the support she has given her” (Parent)

“(The CYP worker) listened to me and also kept me aware that she believed me. She also helped me build my confidence better than any professional that I've worked with and to be honest she's the only one I actually liked and felt comfortable around.” (YP, 15 years)

“All was so, so, so great. I liked that I could get the whole support, each session was helpful.” (YP, 11 years)

If you would like any further information on the CYP Service please email: justine.wilson-darke@victimsupport.org.uk.

If you would like to make a referral for a young person please call 0808 168 9291 and they will ensure the referral comes through the CYP Service