



HUMBERSIDE YOUNG WITNESS SERVICE

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**ELEVENTH COMPARATIVE ANNUAL  
REPORT FOR HULL, EAST RIDING, AND  
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE  
APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014  
&  
EVALUATION ON YOUNG WITNESSES AND THEIR  
PARENTS/CARERS EXPERIENCE  
2012-2014**



**HULL**  
Safeguarding Children Board

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## Introduction

Welcome to the annual report of the Humberside Young Witness Service, covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. For the first time this year the evaluation of the service (covering a two year period from April 2012 – March 2014) is included as part of the Annual Report itself.

### The Young Witness Service

The Young Witness Service was first launched in July 1995, under the auspices of the former Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) of the 'north bank' of Humberside (Hull and East Riding). In April 2003, the service was commissioned by the 'south bank' ACPCs and became the Humberside Young Witness Service. The service continued to cover the whole of the Humberside Criminal Justice Board area until 2011 when North East Lincolnshire withdrew from the arrangement having decided to provide its own local young witness service.

This might seem a strange place from which to start the annual report of 2013/14, some 19 years on from the service launch. But the service has history: since 2005/06 alone 2,488 local children and young people have been supported to prepare for, and to give evidence at, court; the service has been externally evaluated several times and has been specifically praised in several national studies and inspection reports; the service has won many national (and indeed pan-national) awards. In this context, it is important that the service is not 'taken for granted' or, indeed, that we forget why it was established in the first place and what it provides for children and young people.

The service was the 'brainchild' of my predecessor as Safeguarding Children Board Manager in Hull, Kathy Rowe, and its establishment was as a result of Kathy's vision and passion. Kathy recognised that children and young people who were required to give evidence in court, either as victims or witnesses, had to face this, often traumatic experience, with little or no support, either in preparation or at court. The solution was both 'simple' and, at the same time, 'ground breaking'. With the support of criminal justice agencies, including the judiciary, and of agencies jointly involved in child protection, a service was established. The 'model' was based on the establishment of a central coordination and administration function and the recruitment, training and support of support workers drawn, as volunteers, from across the existing work force of partner agencies.

This remains essentially the service 'model' today. Hull Safeguarding Children Board continues to manage and 'host' the service on behalf of the three Boards (Hull, East Riding & North Lincolnshire). The service is coordinated and administered by two part-time post holders, each currently working for three days per week. Support workers continue to be drawn from a range of professional backgrounds: social workers, teachers, health workers, police officers, workers from the voluntary and community sectors, youth justice

workers etc. With the support of their employers, support workers carry out this function 'free of charge' to the Young Witness Service.

Allocated support workers visit children, young people and their parents and spend time with them explaining the court process, the roles of various professionals and what to expect at court. Support workers use a variety of materials, including DVD and 'pre-court visits', to prepare children, young people and families. The service is easily accessible to respond to any questions or concerns which children or their parents may have, and to keep them informed about the progress of their 'case'. Workers support children and their parents at court, including by being with children whilst their evidence is heard via DVD. Support continues to be provided in the immediate aftermath of a court case, by ensuring that children and their families know and understand the outcome and that they are referred or signposted to services where there is a need for longer-term and/or more specialist support.

There is no statutory duty on any one partner agency, or collection of agencies, to provide a young witness service. A report published in 2005 ("In Their Own Words" by Joyce Plotnikoff and Richard Woolfston) detailed the experiences of 50 young witnesses in criminal proceedings. The HWYS participated in the study. The report highlighted the huge gaps in services to young witnesses and victims nationally and to some very poor and damaging experiences (of children) of the criminal justice system.

In 2008, the Government of the day published national guidance on setting up services to support young witnesses (*'Young Witness Service: It's In Your Hands'*). The guidance drew significantly on the local YWS model.

By 2012, (*'Joint Inspection Report on the Experience of Young Victims and Witnesses in the Criminal Justice System'*, HMCPSP & HMIC, February 2012), a young witness support service continued to be available in only a small number of areas. The report found that: *"the work of the Young Witness Service is extremely valuable. It meets essential needs that otherwise would not be met, in a way that is sensitive to the particular needs of young people"*.

The inspectors found criminal justice agency staff and members of the judiciary to be very supportive of the benefits of the YWS, where such a service exists in their area. These benefits have also been verified in academic study. The report recognised that agencies face "difficult choices" about which services to fund in the current public spending climate. However, many of the statutory agencies acknowledged that, in the absence of the Witness Service in general, and of YWS in particular, they would not have the resources to "fill the gaps" and the needs of young victims and witnesses would not be met. In the words of the inspectors this *"would leave questions about whether children were being adequately safeguarded"*.

All of which begs the question: if we don't have to do it, and public spending cuts force tough choices, why do we still do it? And, fundamentally, the answer is, because it remains the right thing to do. The service continues to enjoy the support of the Safeguarding Children Boards, and criminal justice

agencies, because it helps to meet the twin objectives of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and of securing justice for victims. We should continue to cherish and nurture the service, and to celebrate the fact that support is provided to children and young people locally in a way which remains nearly unique.

It is in that context that understanding the history is important – how and why we got to where we are. We cannot afford to be complacent and will focus our attentions on identifying a more secure and sustainable long-term future for the service.

### Wider Governance Arrangements

Historically, the service was supported by local Young Witness Service Coordination Groups. The Coordination Groups provided a forum for joint agency oversight of the service and for resolving any issues in relation to individual or inter-agency practice which might have a negative impact on the service provided to children.

More recently, as the impact of public sector spending cuts began to ‘bite’ and some key partner agencies found it difficult to provide suitable representatives to attend the Coordination Groups, ‘governance’ has been provided via the Humberside Criminal Justice Board’s ‘Victims and Witnesses’ sub-group. The Young Witness Service is a standing item on the agenda, and this provides the opportunity for problem-solving at a senior level across the key agencies.

This does, however, mean that there is no formal continuing dialogue with the Safeguarding Boards about the service. We will seek to rectify this during the year and will aim to meet twice yearly.

### The Service Provided in 2013/14

- How Much Did We Do?

The service as a whole received 303 referrals in 2013/14. Referrals are received from Humberside Police at an early stage. They act as an alert to the service that a defendant has been charged with an offence in which children are involved either as victims or witnesses (or both). Referrals are allocated a support worker at the point where it is apparent that the defendant has pleaded not guilty, there is likely to be a trial and the child or young person will be needed to give evidence in court.

Historically, between 35-45% of referrals in any period progress to the allocation of a support worker. In 2013/14 the proportion was 44.5%. The number of children and young people supported by the service (allocations) during the year was 135. The ‘conversion rate’ (from referral to allocation) was noticeably lower in North Lincolnshire last year (29.8%) compared to the other areas – it is not yet clear why this was the case.

The volume of referrals (and allocations) does fluctuate from year to year. There is clearly a strong correlation with overall rates of crime which have fallen substantially across Humberside over the last six years or so. The volume of referrals in 2013/14 was 6.5% less than in 2012/13, and the number of allocations down by 28.9%. The service will continue to work with all relevant partners to make sure that this reduction in referrals and allocations does not also mean that some children are being “missed” and not provided with support.

- How Well Did We Do It?

Children, young people and their parents (our ‘customers’) are the arbiters of how well we did it.

The second section of our Annual Report provides a summary of the views of 58 children and young people who have provided us with feedback on the service and their experience of the criminal justice system from April 2012 – March 2014. For most of this period, evaluation forms have been given to children and parents to complete and return by their support worker immediately after the court outcome. This approach has not always yielded a high rate of return. From the start of this year (2014) the service has resumed sending out evaluation forms centrally.

All young witnesses who provided feedback said that their support worker was of some help to them prior to court, with 54 of 58 saying that their worker had helped them “a lot”. 95% thought that they had had enough time with their support worker. 51 (of 58) young witnesses had visited the court before the trial and the vast majority (96%) found this helpful. One young witness simply said: *“It helped me feel better about going to court”*.

All young witnesses responding to the question (41 in total) felt that the Young Witness Service was of help to them – 76% said that it had helped lots.

47 parents also provided feedback about the service: all respondents found their child’s support worker to have been helpful, informative and clear. The following is illustrative of the type of feedback provided by parents: *“The service our daughter received was excellent. Also we couldn’t have been as supportive as we were if you weren’t involved. You helped us as parents in a big way.”*

- What Difference Did We Make?

Our evaluation shows that only 1 in 4 (25%) of children and young people felt “OK” about having to go to court. The remainder described one or a number of emotions, ranging through “unsure”, “sad”, “scared”, “nervous”, “worried”, “frightened”, “feeling sick”, “anxious” and “intimidated”. The feedback from both young witnesses and parents demonstrates that the support provided has helped to manage and reduce these feelings, helping children to attend court with greater confidence to give their “best evidence”.

There are too many variables (the strength of the evidence, how well evidence is presented and rebutted, the individual decisions of jurors etc) to attribute court outcomes directly to the Young Witness Service. Nevertheless, 76% of the cases allocated and concluded during the year resulted in conviction, either as a result of a guilty plea (44%) or a finding of guilt (32%). An outcome of “guilty plea” usually reflects a decision by the defendant to change their previous plea of ‘not guilty’ on the day of the trial. It is reasonable to assume that the attendance at court of victims and witnesses able and willing to give strong evidence is a significant factor in these decisions.

### What Are The Challenges Facing The Service?

- Support worker capacity. As previously described, the service continues to rely on support workers employed by partners and who volunteer their time. This is a great strength of the model and provides a core of professionally trained support workers. But, in the context of ‘more for less’ across the public sector, it is increasingly difficult for individuals and organisations to commit time to this role. Whilst we still retain a strong nucleus of dedicated volunteers, Claire Lawson (YWS Coordinator) and Sarah Wood (YWS Administrator) have, between them, provided a greater share of support than in previous years.
- Listing practices. Various court listing practices have caused concern during the year, affecting our ability to provide a consistent service and, more importantly, causing distress to children. There have been a number of examples during the year of trials involving children as victims or witnesses being ‘double-listed’ or even listed as ‘floaters’ (to be fitted in if other trials don’t go ahead). For some children this has meant attending at Court and being sent away on multiple occasions. This disrupts children’s education and causes additional, avoidable distress and anxiety. This is not supposed to happen. We will continue to raise this as an issue with partners via the Humberside Criminal Justice Board.
- Support workers in TV link rooms. In a previous annual report, we highlighted some inconsistency in approach by the judiciary in permitting YWS support workers to sit alongside children (in TV link rooms) whilst giving their evidence. Although the service agreed an approach with the Resident Judge for Hull to make ‘special measures applications’ to facilitate this, practice remains inconsistent. Research, and our own evaluations, confirms how important it is to children and young people to have someone supporting them, with whom they feel comfortable. This is also a key principle of ‘*Achieving Best Evidence*’. As one parent fed back this year: *“I felt it would have been better if she [YWS support worker] had been able to sit with him in the room (video) as this was very sensitive and he felt unsupported with a total stranger”*. We will continue to take every opportunity to promote the service to the judiciary so that there is increased confidence and awareness about the role and competence of YWS support workers.
- Short notice. The service allocates a support worker at the point of ‘not guilty’ plea, when it is clear that a child or young person will be called to give evidence. For Crown Court cases this has normally been immediately after a Plea and Case Management Hearing (PCMH) – a not guilty plea is

entered and a trial date is fixed. For a time during the year, Hull Crown Court began fixing a PCMH date and a potential trial date at an earlier hearing. This resulted in a much shorter period of time between PCMH and trial, leading to very short notice of children needing support. A small number of children received no support from the service as a result. We have subsequently agreed a new notification process with Witness Care Unit colleagues in an attempt to address this problem.

- DVD Viewings. Young witnesses who have been interviewed by the Police on DVD should all have the opportunity to view their DVD interview prior to going to court in order to 'refresh their memory'. This is particularly important since there may often be a delay of six months or more between the Police interview and any subsequent trial. This happens inconsistently at best. We are working with Humberside Police colleagues to see how an enhanced YWS service might be able to help address this problem.

### What Do We Hope To Achieve In The Future?

- A Humberside-wide service. We remain committed to providing a single, consistent service to young witnesses across the whole Humberside CJB area. We hope this can be achieved before the end of the year.
- DVD viewings. We have a joint proposal with Humberside Police to recruit, train and support up to 20 Police volunteers to become Young Witness Service Support Workers. These volunteers would also be able to facilitate pre-court DVD viewings for children and young people (who they were not supporting through the court process). Additional funding is needed to take this proposal forward.
- Recruit additional support workers. We need continuously to recruit and train additional support workers and we will work with each of the three LSCBs to gain their support for fresh recruitment campaigns during the year.
- Achieve a more secure long-term future for the service. We will work with the Safeguarding Children Boards and the Police and Crime Commissioner to explore ways jointly of securing the future of the service.

And, finally, and most importantly, some 'Thank You's':

- To our Support Workers for their continued dedication and commitment to the role and service despite the increased pressures of the 'day job'. Their skill and compassion makes a real difference to children and young people.
- To Claire Lawson (YWS Coordinator) and Sarah Wood (YWS Administrator) again for their hard work and commitment, and the passion to help children which they show in their work. Claire and Sarah have also pulled together the information contained in the body of this report, which is much appreciated.

Neil Colthup  
Hull Safeguarding Children Board Manager

11<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

## HUMBERSIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES GROUP

### Attendees

Claire Lawson ordinator	- Humberside Young Witness service Co-
GerrWareham	- Crown Prosecution Service
Jan Hills	- Crown Prosecution Service
Sarah Laws	- Crown Prosecution Service – Witness Care Unit
Robbie Walker -Brown Manager	- Humberside Criminal Justice Board - Business
Claire Welford Worker	- Humberside Criminal Justice Board – Project
Jo Daniels Performance officer	- Humberside Criminal Justice Board –
Phil Goulding	- HMCTS
Debbie Sivyler	- HMCTS
Mervyn Bishop	- Victim Support
Tracey Lister	- Victim Support
Chris Swaby	- Humberside Police
Colin Andrews	- Humberside Police (CJU)
Pam Dent	- Humberside Probation Trust
Vicki Paddison	- Hull CitySafe, HCJB DV group
Stephanie Price	- Its My Right
Kate Armitage	- HMP Everthorpe
Sue Sheriden	- North Lincolnshire YOT
Karen Meadows	- North Lincolnshire YOT

**A profile of all young witnesses referred to the Humberside  
Young Witness Service and a comparison of young witnesses  
in Kingston upon Hull, East Riding,  
and North Lincolnshire  
2013-2014**

**Statistical data on young witnesses including: -**

**Referrals**

**Witnesses  
Victims  
Nature of offences  
Outcomes at court**

**Allocations**

**Witnesses  
Victims  
Nature of offences  
Outcomes at court**

**Age profile of young witnesses 2013-2014**

# **REFERRALS**

**All young witnesses referred to us at the point  
at which a defendant has been charged**

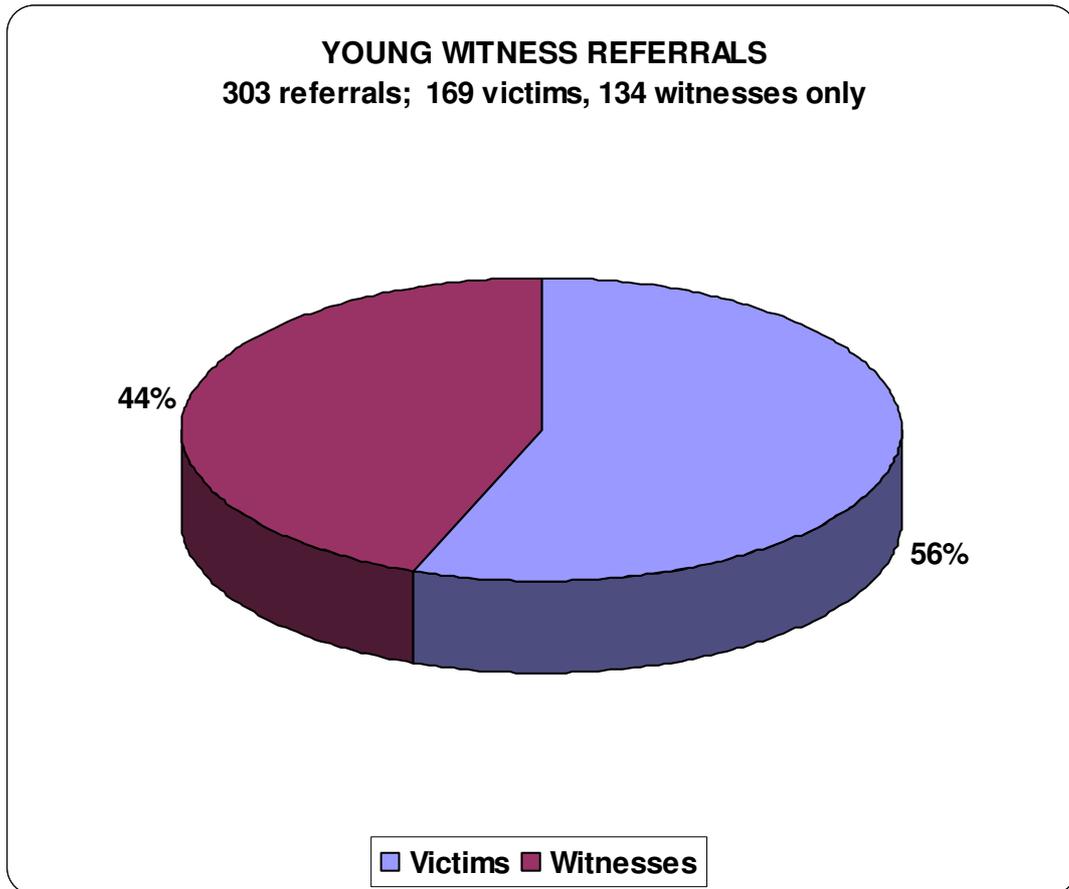
**1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014**

Young Witness Referrals  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

Total Number of witnesses referred = 303  
Total Number of cases = 189

**Referrals**

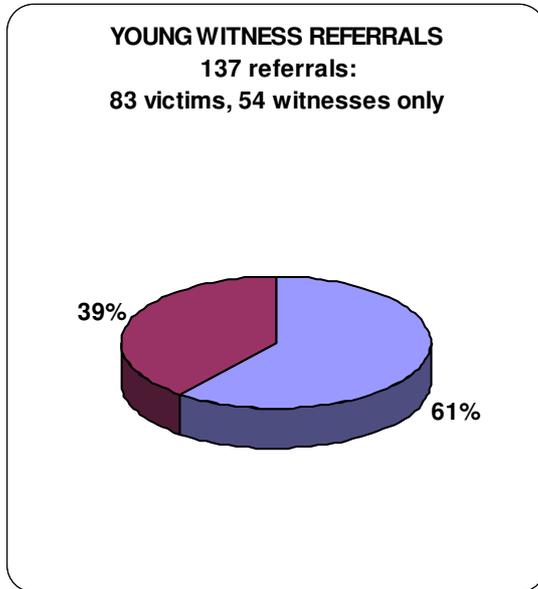
The children referred to us can be the victims of the crime as well as the witnesses. The following is a breakdown of the number of children who were victims as well as witnesses.



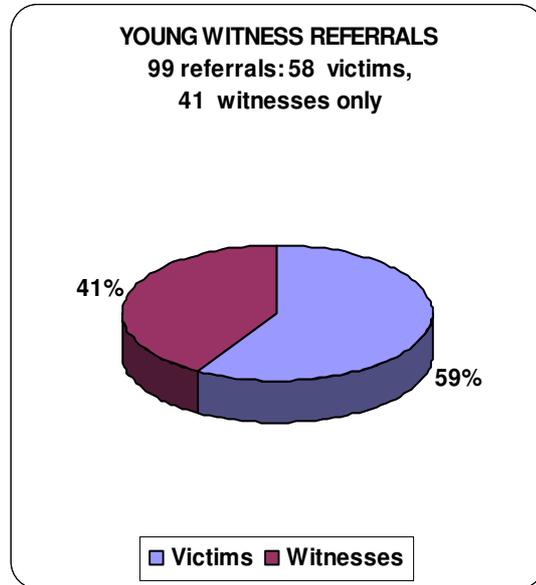
**Comparison of Young Witness Referrals**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

The following is a breakdown of the number of children who were victims as well as witnesses in Kingston upon Hull, East Riding and North Lincolnshire.

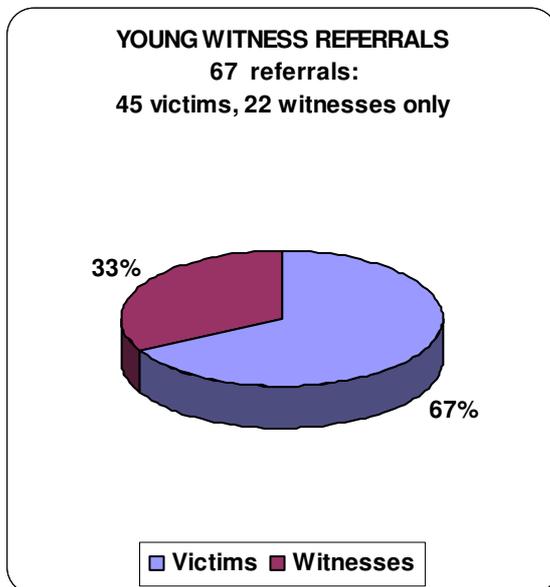
**Hull = 137**



**East Riding = 99**



**North Lincolnshire = 67**

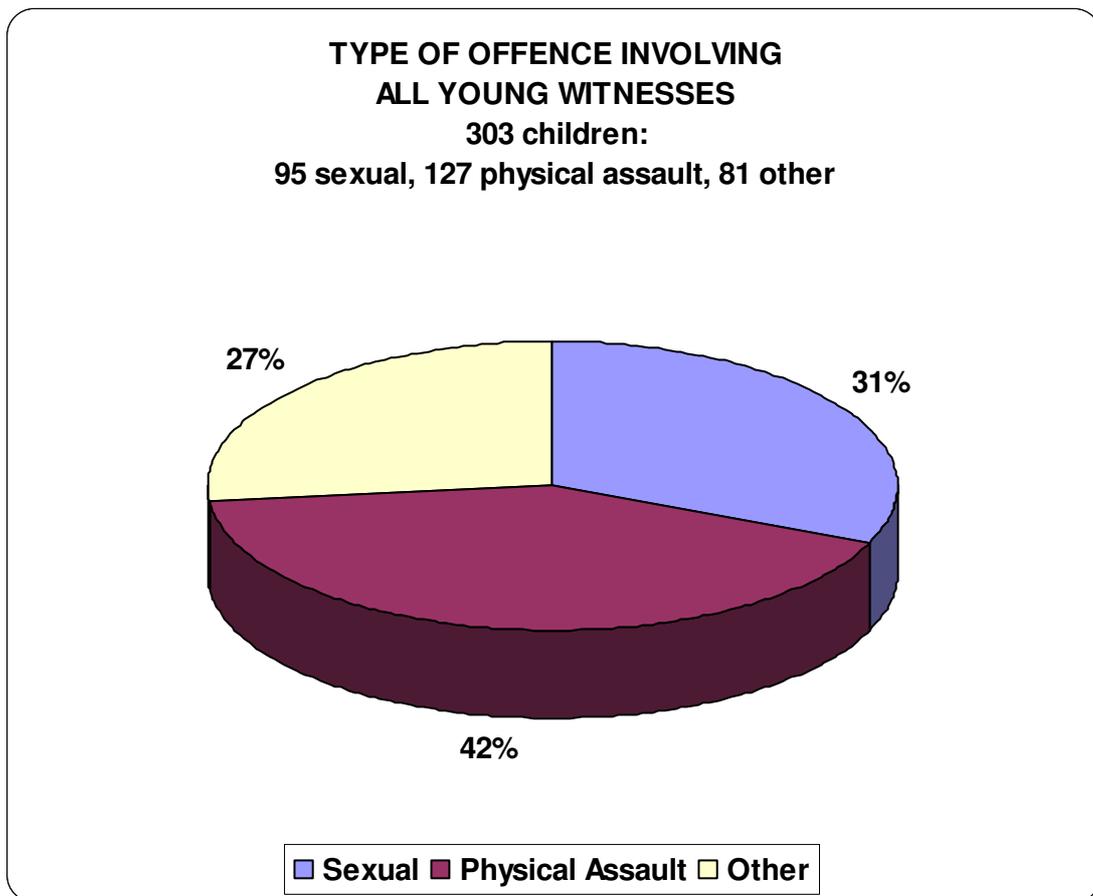


**Nature of Offences Involving Children**  
(1st April 2013- 31st March 2014)

## Referrals

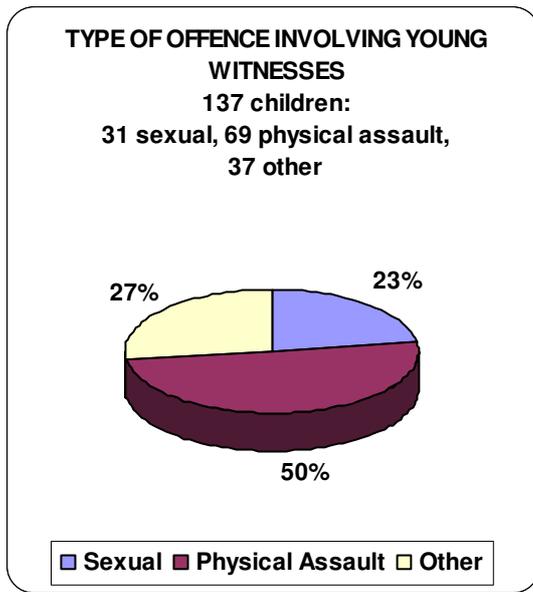
The offences are broken down into three main categories:

1. Sexual offences
2. Physical Assault
3. Other - this category includes public order offences and damage to property/theft

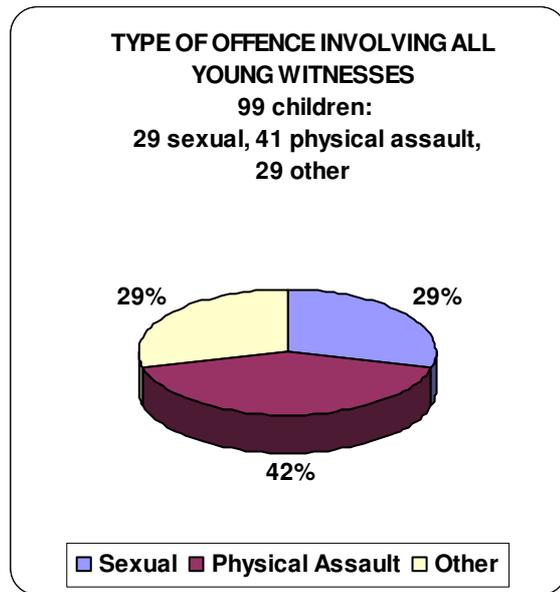


## **Comparison of Offences Involving Young Witnesses** (1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

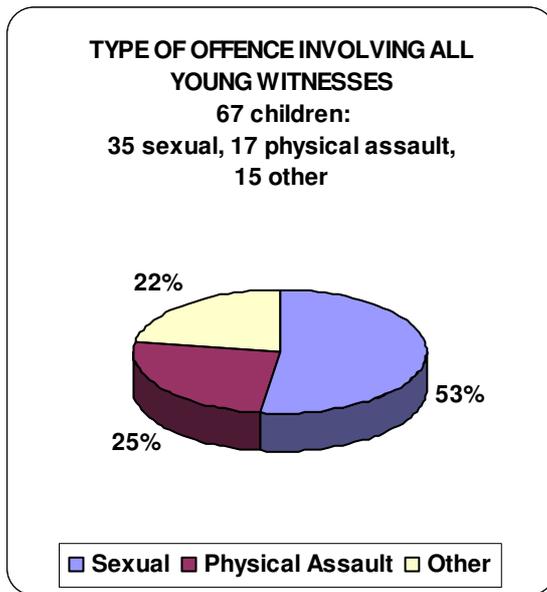
Hull = 137



East Riding = 99

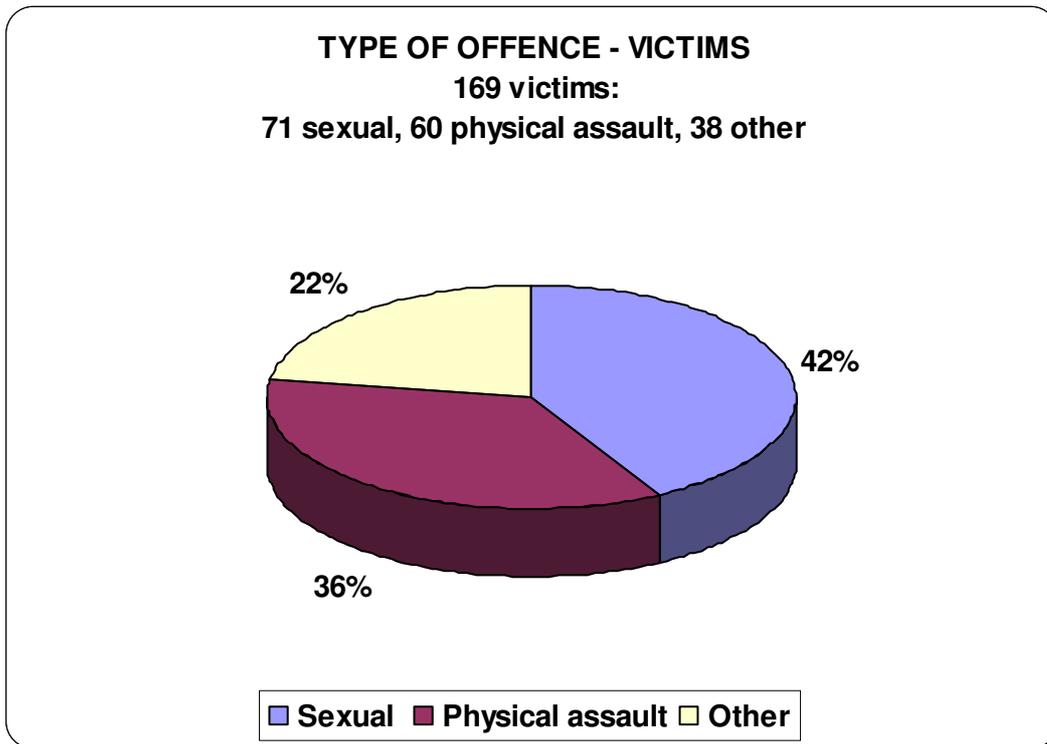


North Lincolnshire = 67

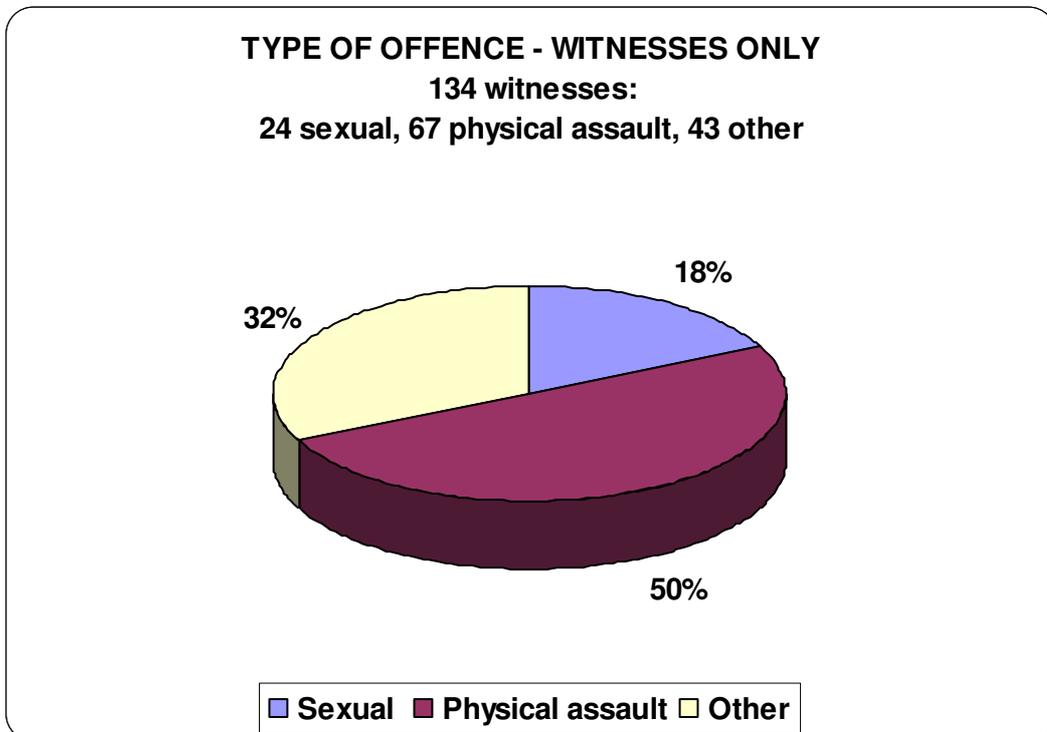


**Victims and Witnesses**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

**Children who were also victims = 169**

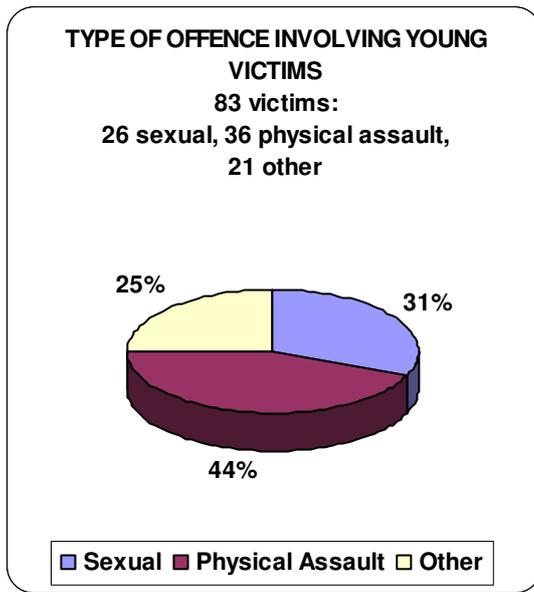


**Children who were witnesses only = 134**

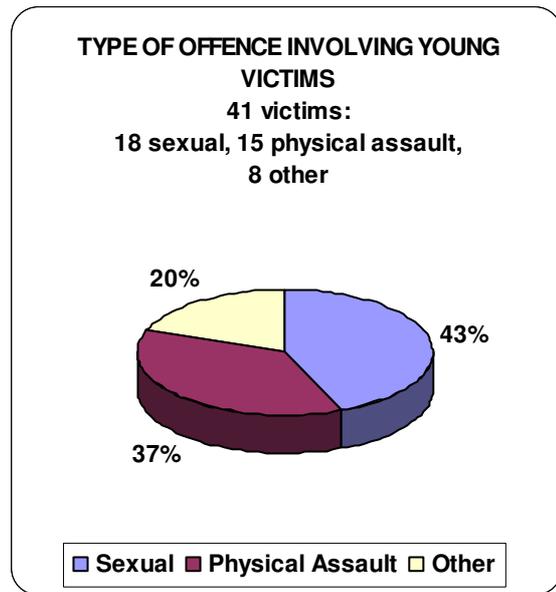


**Comparisons of Young Victims**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

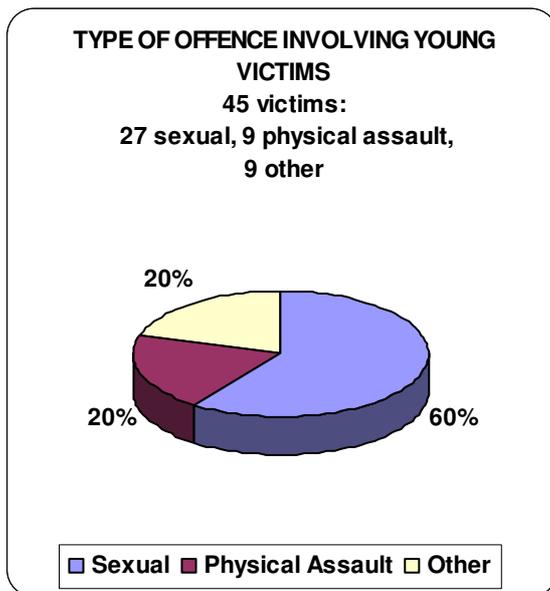
**Hull victims = 83**



**East Riding Victims = 41**

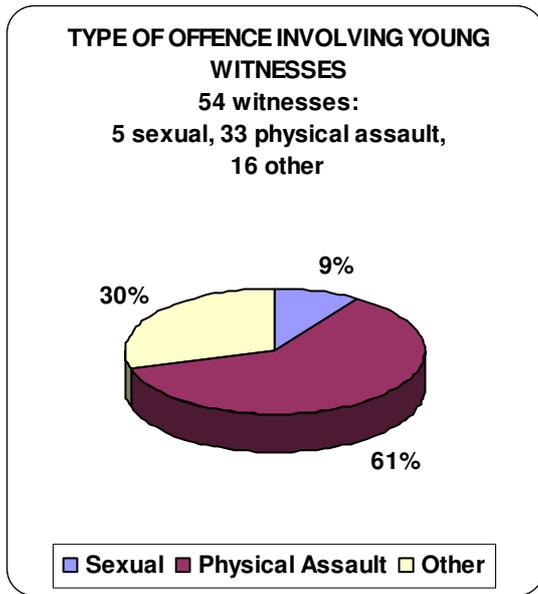


**North Lincolnshire Victims = 45**

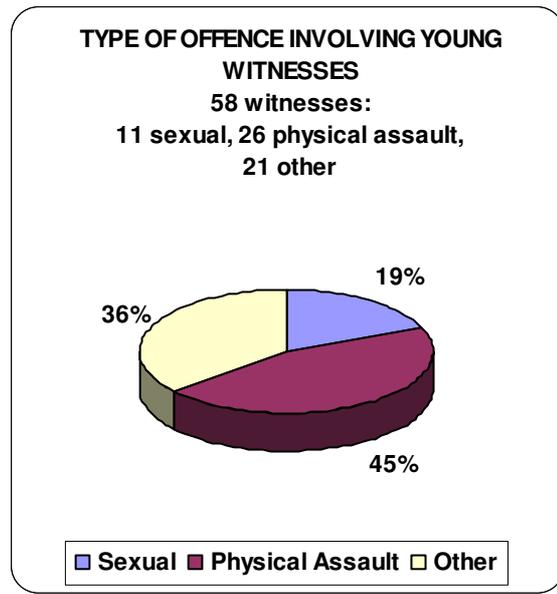


**Comparisons of Young Witnesses**  
(1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013)

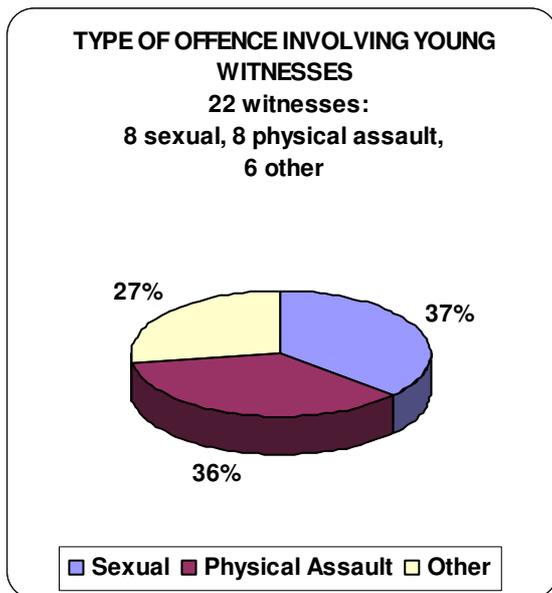
**Hull Witnesses = 54**



**East Riding Witnesses = 58**

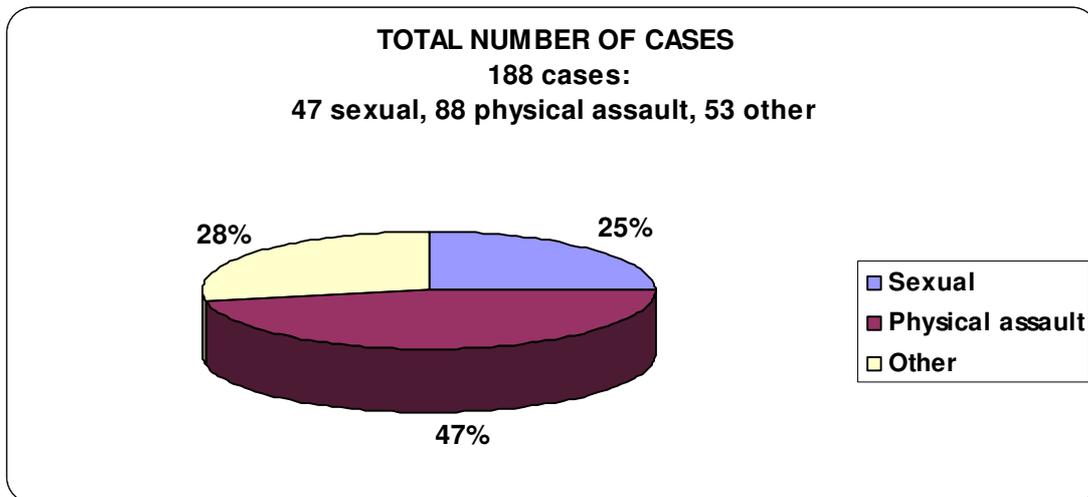


**North Lincolnshire Witnesses = 22**

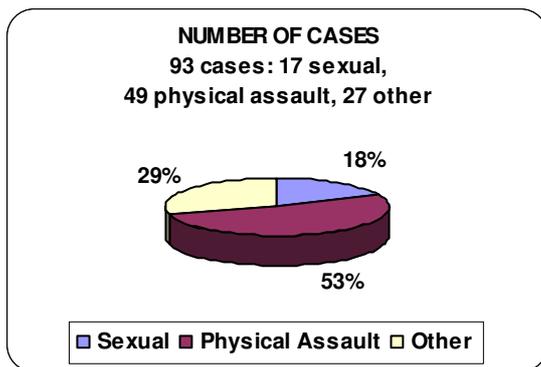


**Total Number of Referred Cases**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)  
**Cases = 188**

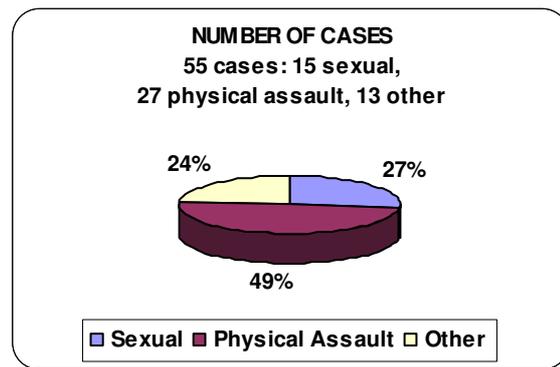
There may be more than one young witness in a case i.e. there were 303 witnesses involved in 188 cases



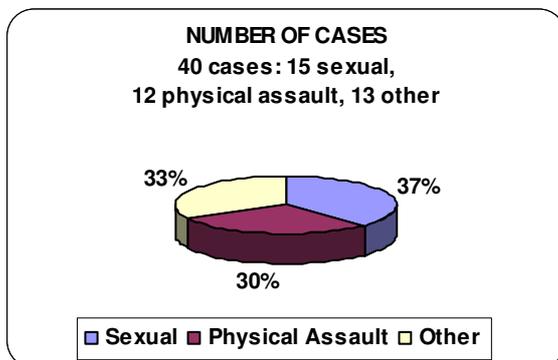
**Hull Cases = 93**



**East Riding Cases = 55**



**North Lincolnshire Cases = 40**

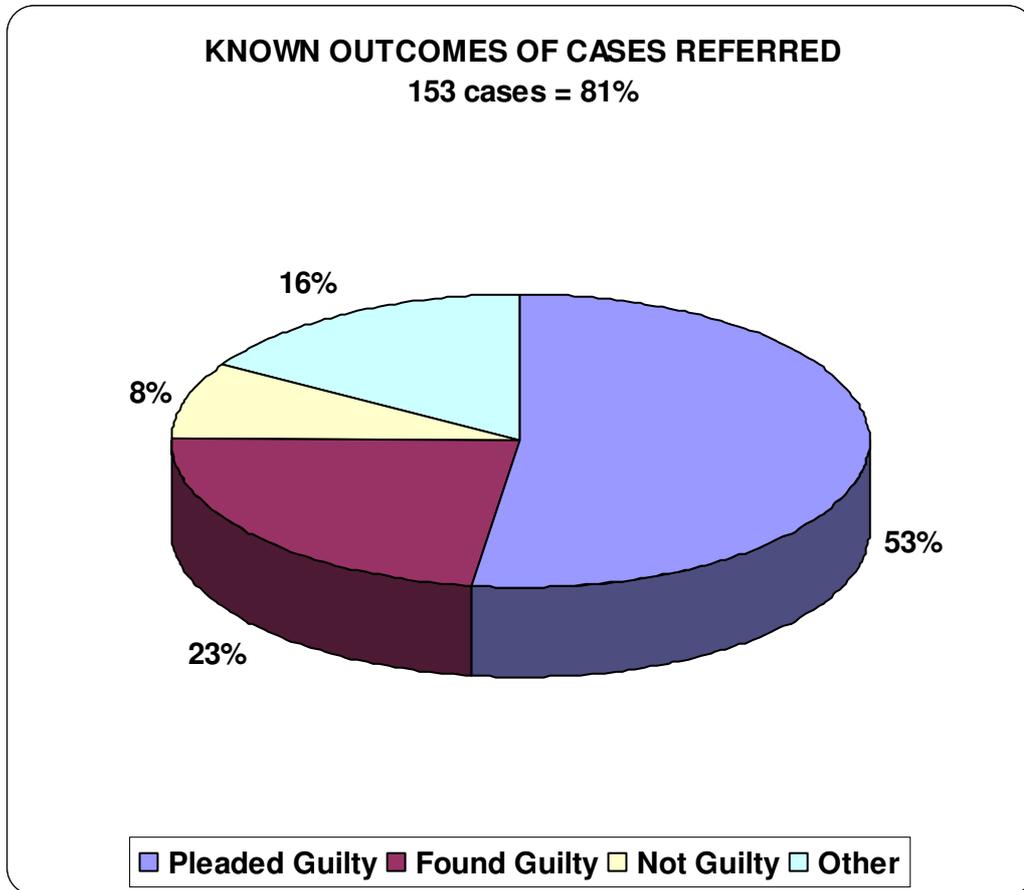


**Known Outcome of Cases Referred**

(1st April 2013- 31st March 2014)

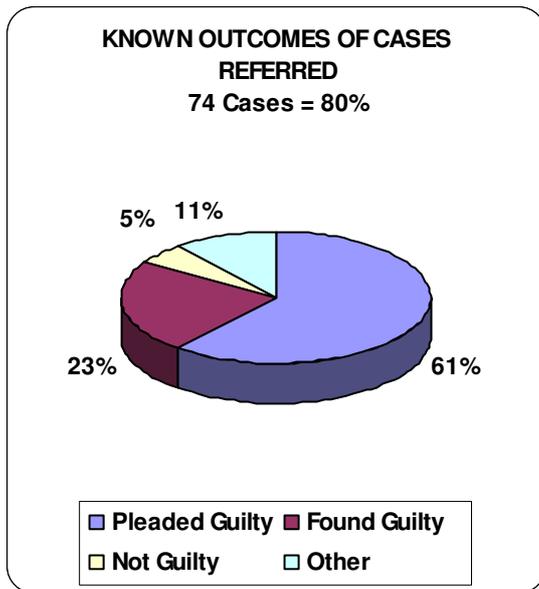
The chart below shows we have outcomes in 153 (81%) of the 188 cases referred.

**1. Known Outcomes of all Cases Referred  
= 153 Cases ( 81% )**

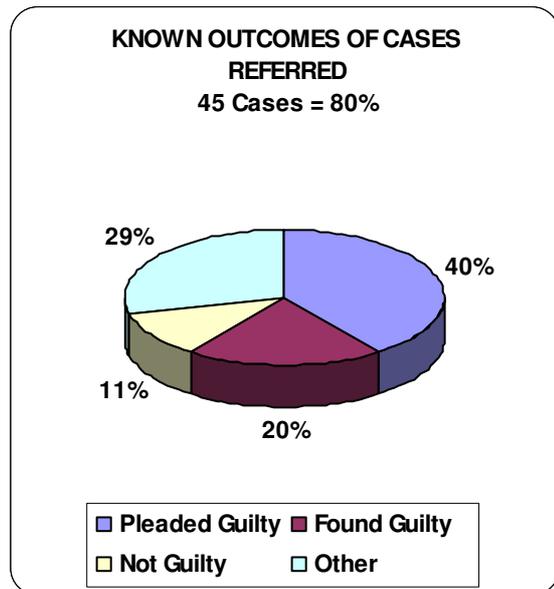


**Comparison of Known Outcome of Cases Referred**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

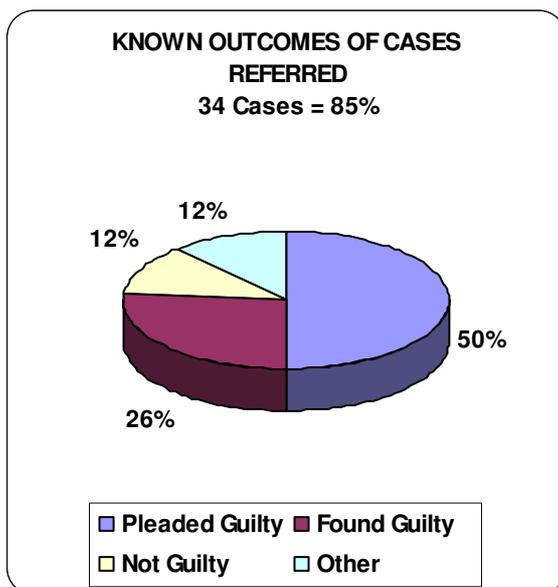
**Hull Cases = 74 (80%)**



**East Riding Cases = 45 (80%)**

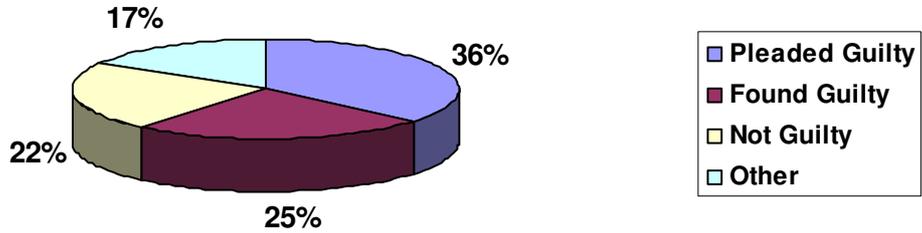


**North Lincolnshire Cases = 34 (85%)**



**2. Total Sexual Offences = 36 Cases**

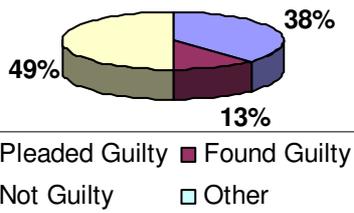
**KNOWN OUTCOMES:  
ALL SEXUAL OFFENCES (REFERRALS)  
36 Cases**



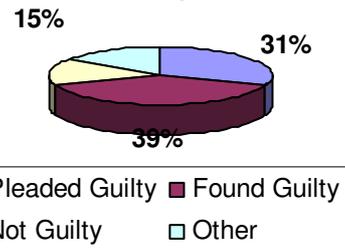
**Hull = 9 Cases**

**East Riding = 13 Cases**

**SEXUAL OFFENCES  
(REFERRALS) 9 CASES**

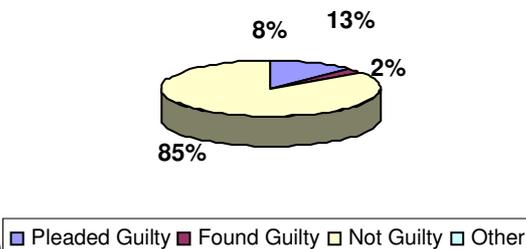


**SEXUAL OFFENCES  
(REFERRALS) 13 CASES**



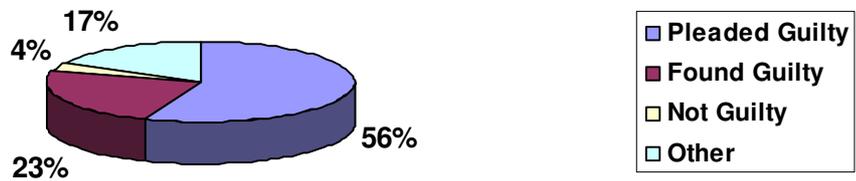
**North Lincolnshire = 11 Cases**

**SEXUAL OFFENCES  
(REFERRALS) 11 CASES**

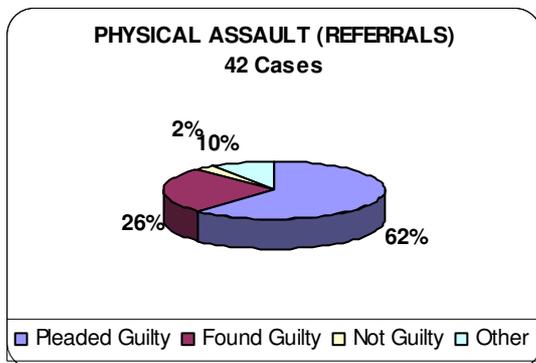


**3. Physical Assault = 77 Cases**

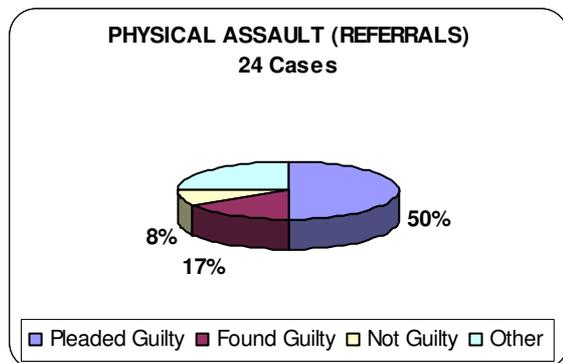
**KNOWN OUTCOMES:  
ALL PHYSICAL ASSAULT (REFERRALS)  
77 cases**



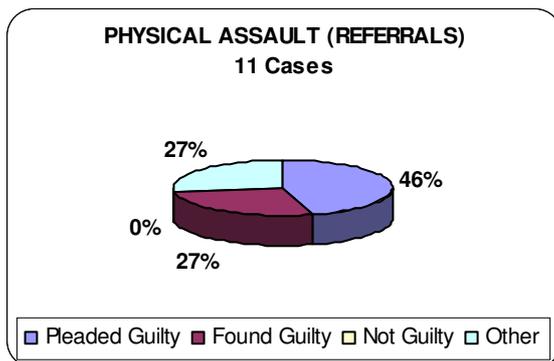
**Hull = 42 Cases**



**East Riding = 24 Cases**

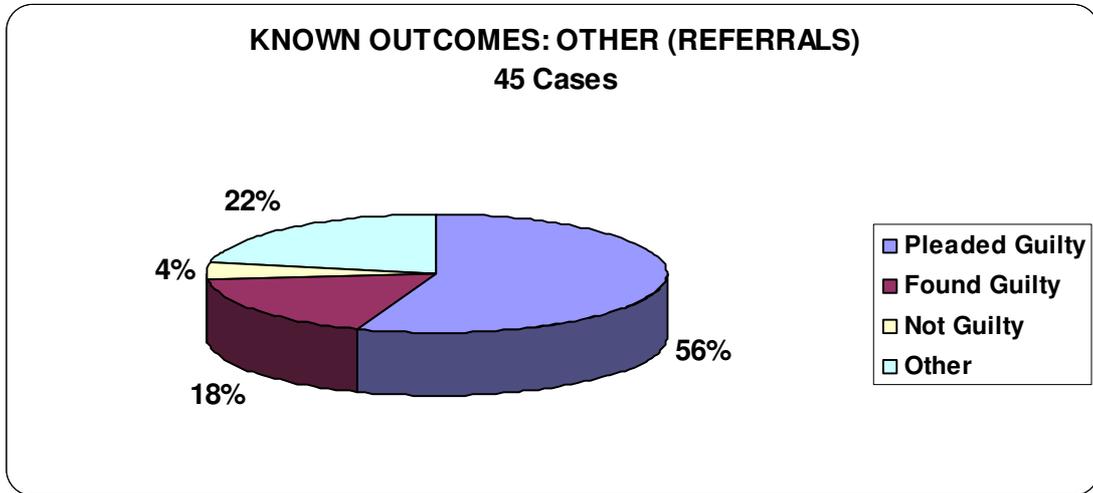


**North Lincolnshire = 11 Cases**



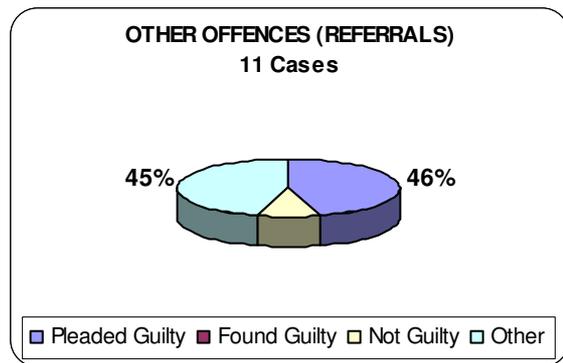
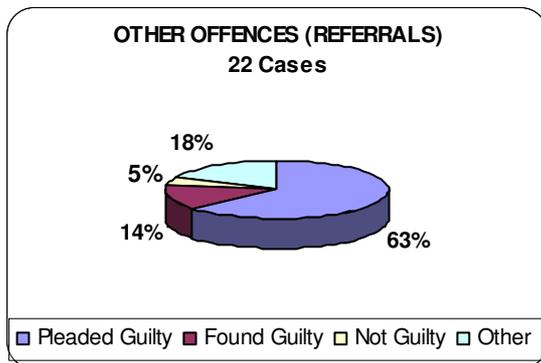
**4. Other Cases = 45 Cases**

(Including public order offences and damage to property/theft)

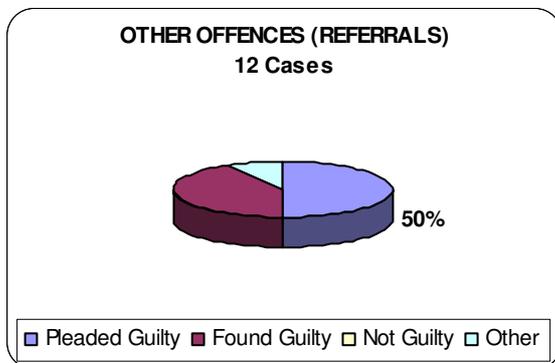


**Hull = 22 Cases**

**East Riding = 11 Cases**



**North Lincolnshire = 12 cases**



# ALLOCATIONS

**These are young witnesses in cases where a defendant has pleaded not guilty at an earlier hearing and where a trial date has been set, requiring the young witness to go to court to testify. All of these young witnesses are allocated a support worker and the full range of support services.**

**N.B. A number of these young witnesses do not then testify as the defendant enters a guilty plea either at a plea and case management hearing (PCMH) or more frequently on the first day of the trial.**

**1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014**

**YOUNG WITNESSES - ALLOCATIONS  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)**

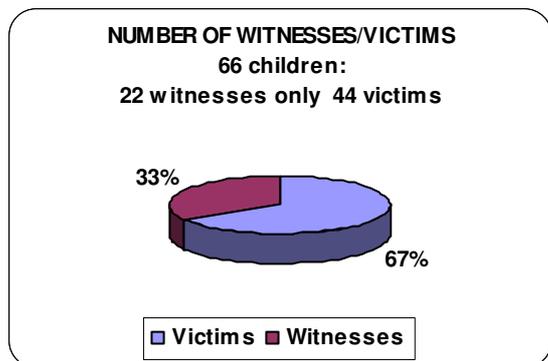
## Allocations

As with referrals, children can be the victims of the crime as well as witnesses. The following charts give this breakdown.

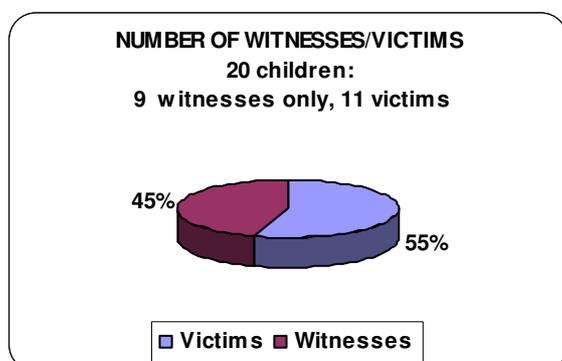


**Hull = 66**

**East Riding = 49**



**North Lincolnshire = 20**



## **Nature of Offences Involving Children**

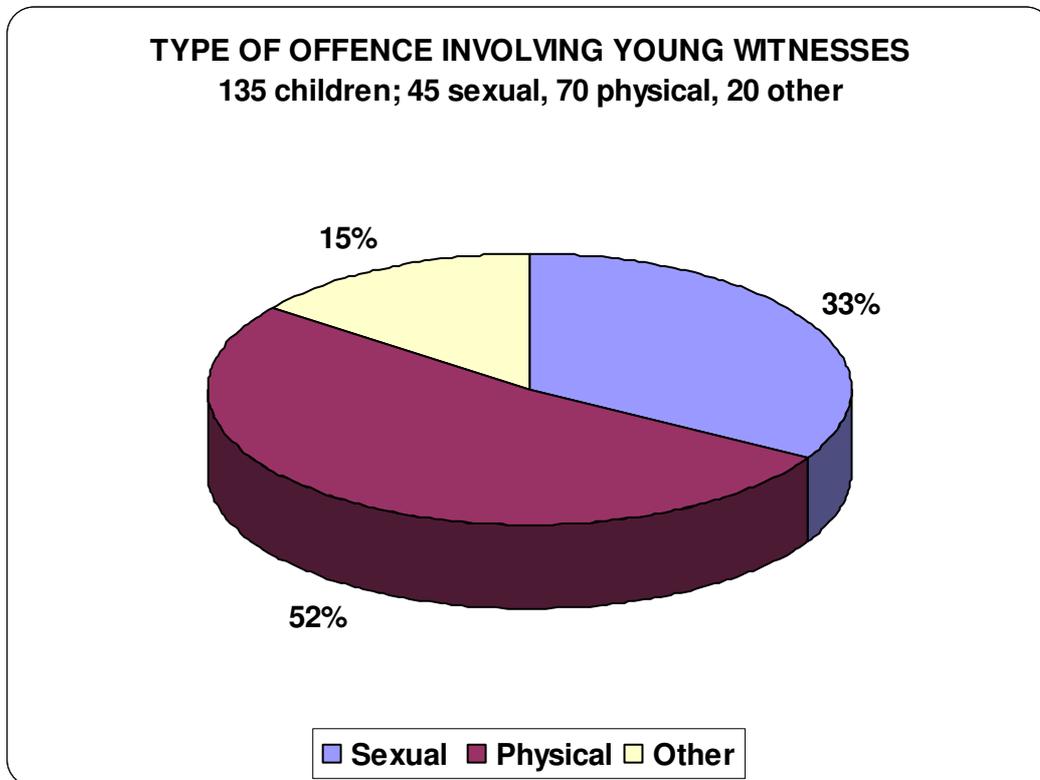
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

## Allocations

The offences are broken down into three main categories:

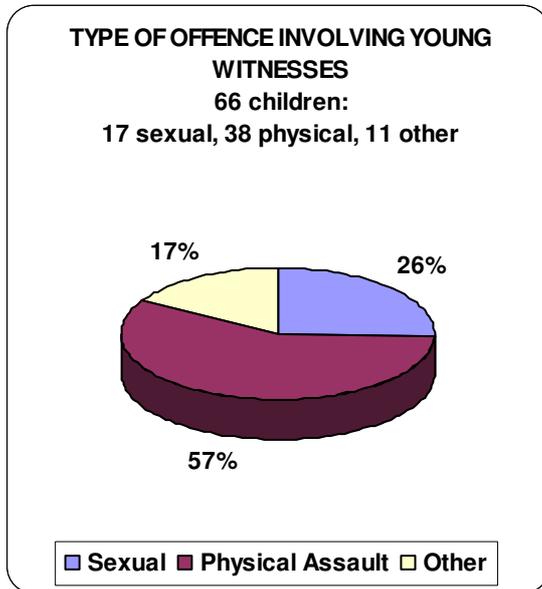
1. Sexual offences
2. Physical assault
3. Other - this category includes public order offences and damage to property/theft.

All young witnesses allocated = 135

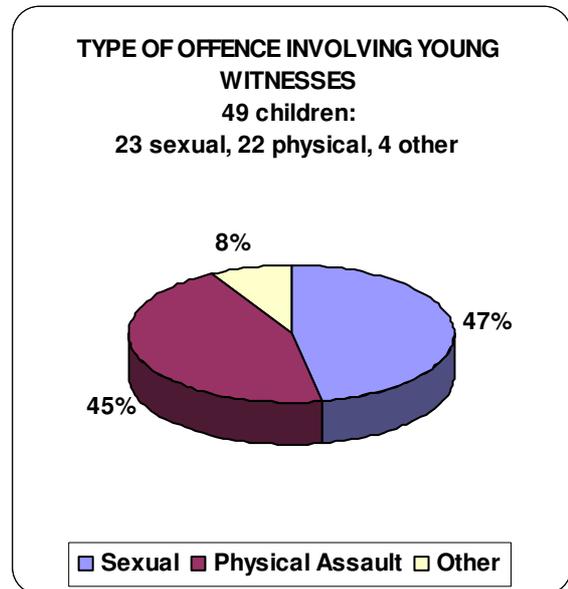


**Comparisons of Nature of Offences**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

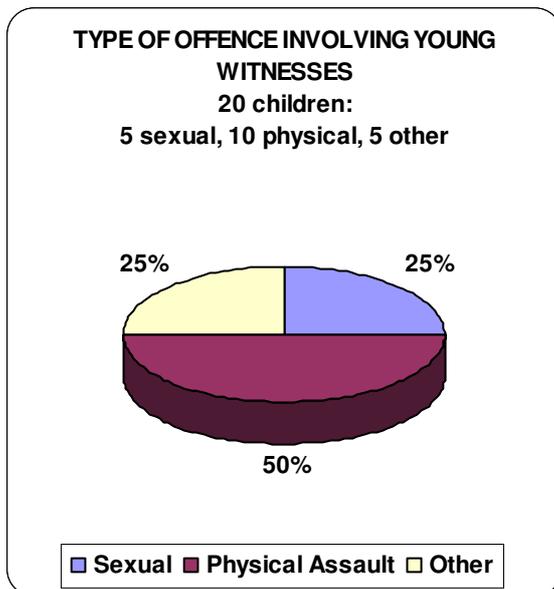
**Hull = 66**



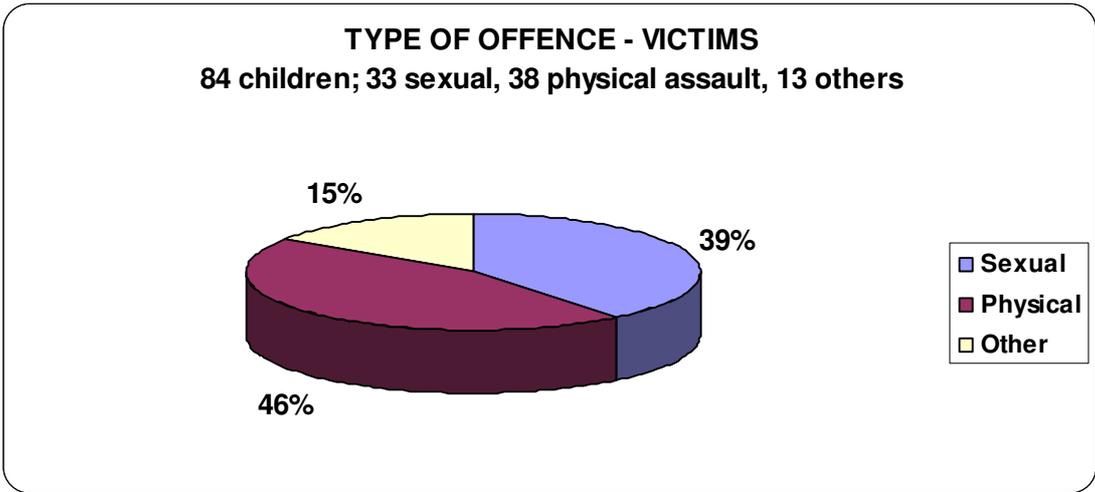
**East Riding = 49**



**North Lincolnshire = 20**

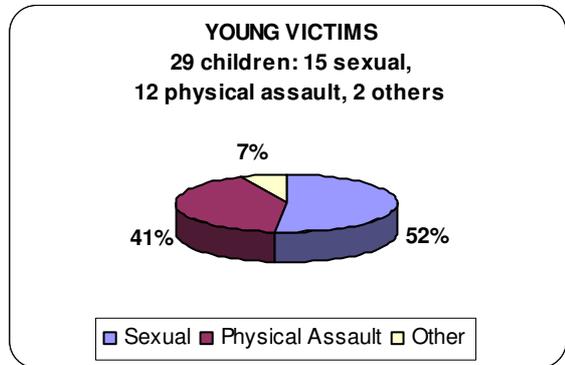
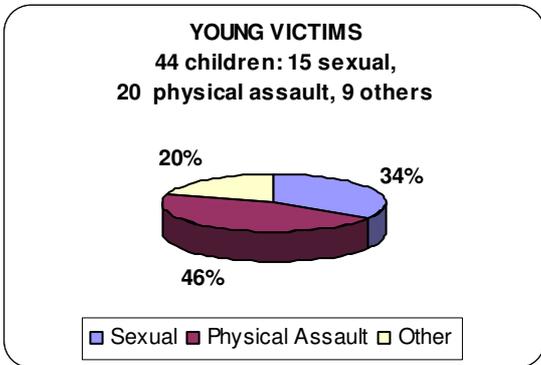


**Children who were also victims = 84**

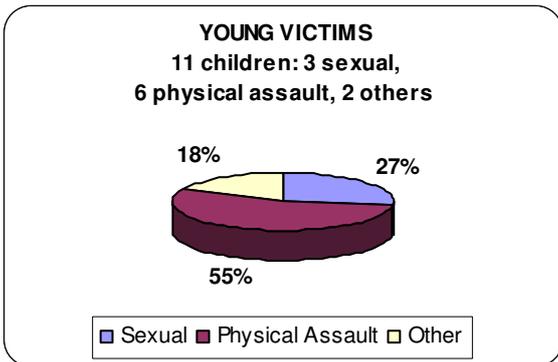


Hull = 44

East Riding = 29

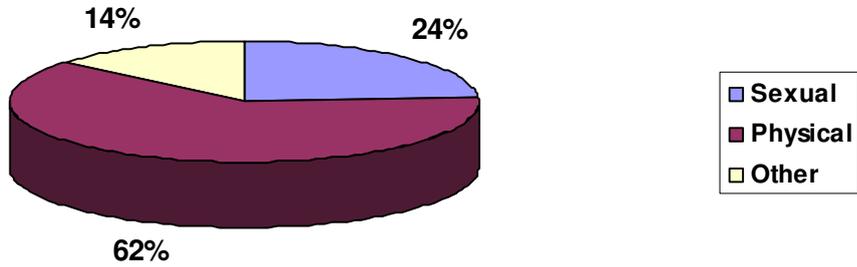


North Lincolnshire = 11



**Children who were witnesses only = 51**

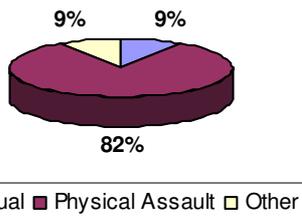
**TYPE OF OFFENCE - WITNESSES ONLY**  
 51 children; 12 sexual, 32 physical assault, 7 other



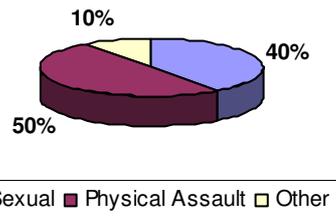
Hull = 22

East Riding = 20

**YOUNG WITNESSES ONLY**  
 22 children: 2 sexual, 18 physical assault, 2 other

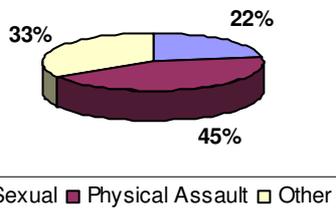


**YOUNG WITNESSES ONLY**  
 20 children: 8 sexual, 10 physical assault, 2 other



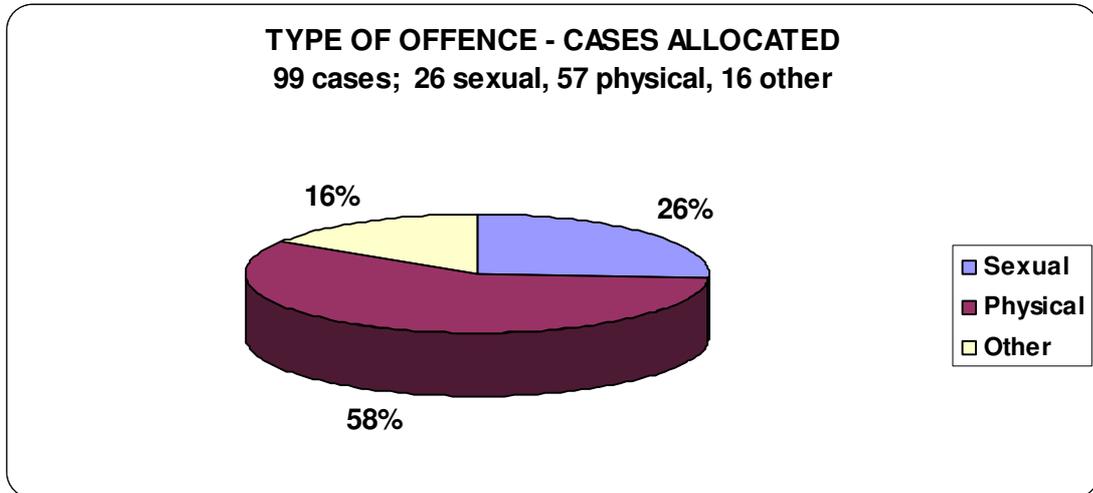
North Lincolnshire = 9

**YOUNG WITNESSES ONLY**  
 9 children: 2 sexual, 4 physical assault, 3 other



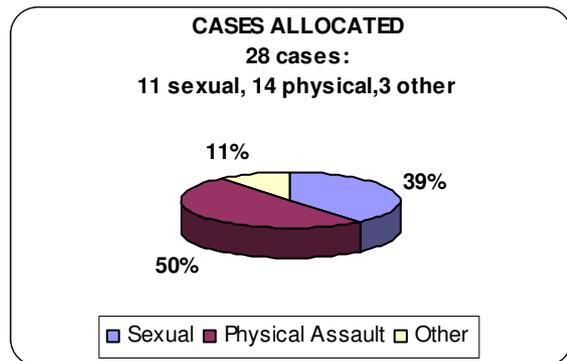
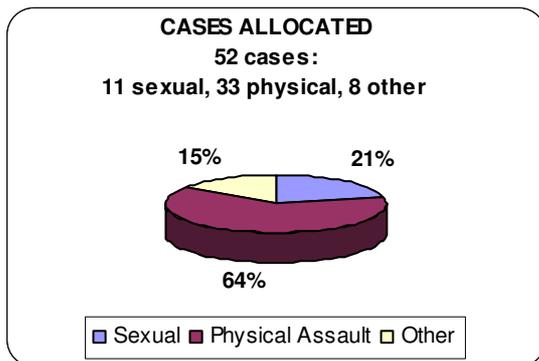
**TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLOCATED CASES = 99**

There may be more than one child witness in a case i.e. there were 135 witnesses involved in 99 cases.

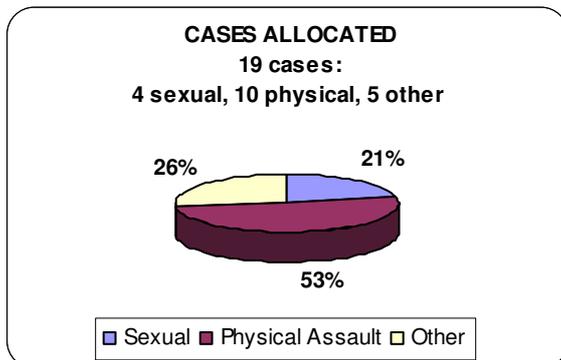


**Hull Cases = 52**

**East Riding Cases = 28**



**North Lincolnshire Cases = 19**



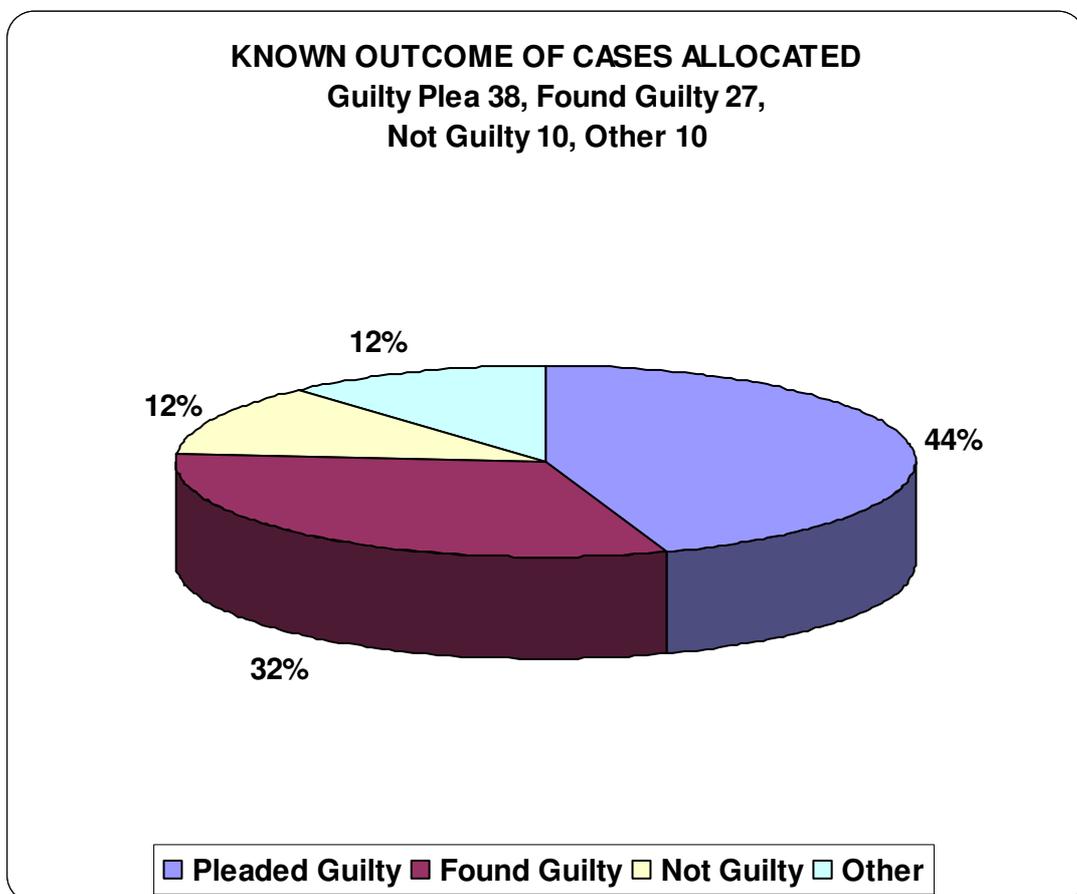
Known Outcome of Cases Allocated  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

We have outcomes in 84 (83%) of the 99 cases involving 135 children which were allocated.

Cases are ongoing and the outcomes information changes on a daily basis as cases come before the court.

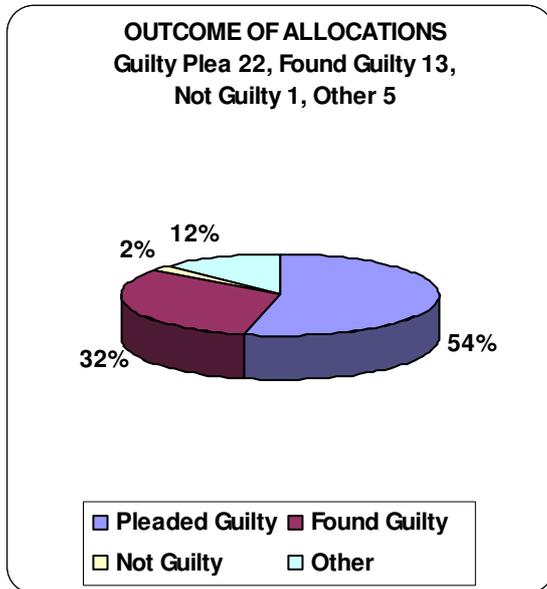
**1. Known Outcomes of all Cases Allocated = 85 Cases (83%)**

**(Other = Withdrawn/discontinued/dismissed cases)**

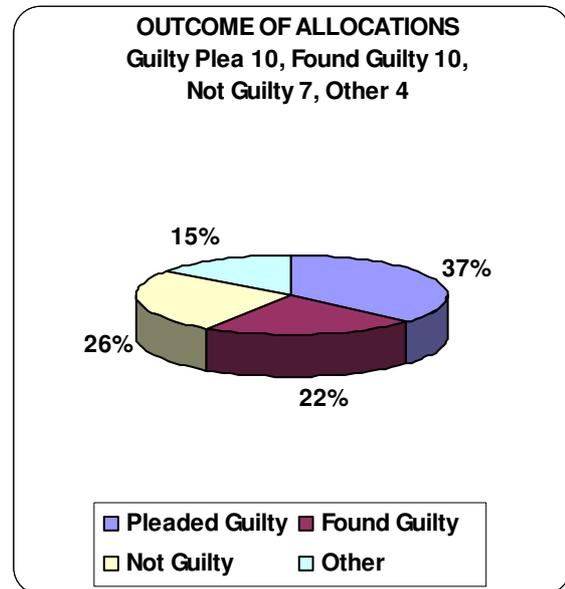


**Comparison of Known Outcome of Cases Allocated**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

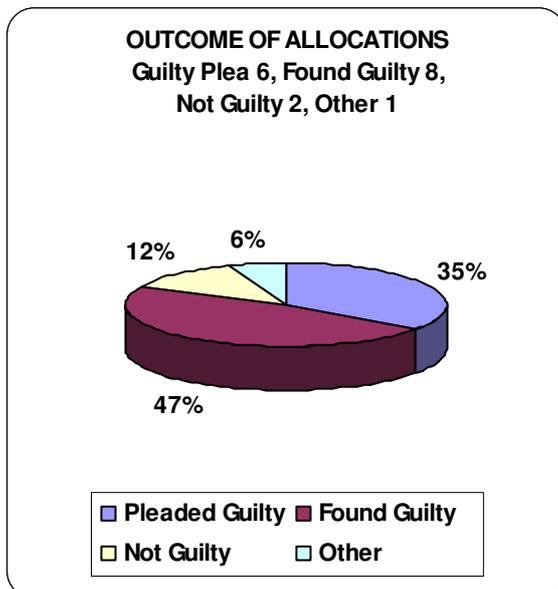
**Hull Cases = 41**



**East Riding Cases = 27**



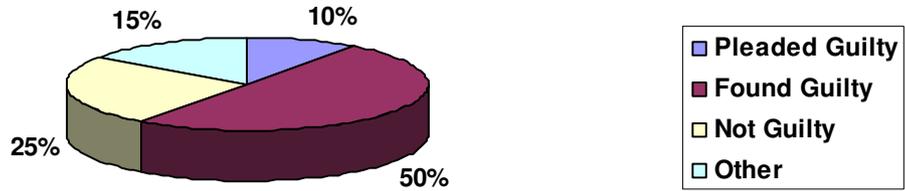
**North Lincolnshire = 17**



**2. Sexual Offences = 20 Cases**

**KNOWN OUTCOME OF ALL CASES ALLOCATED  
SEXUAL OFFENCES**

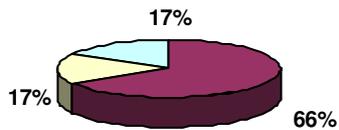
**Guilty Plea 2, Found Guilty 10,  
Not Guilty 5, Other 3**



**Hull Cases = 6**

**ALLOCATIONS - SEXUAL OFFENCES**

**Guilty Plea 0, Found Guilty 4,  
Not Guilty 1, Other 1**

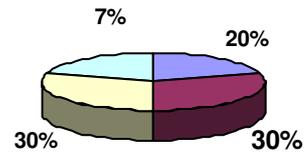


■ Pleased Guilty ■ Found Guilty ■ Not Guilty ■ Other

**East Riding Cases = 10**

**ALLOCATIONS - SEXUAL OFFENCES**

**Guilty Plea 2, Found Guilty 3,  
Not Guilty 3, Other 2**

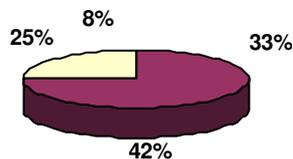


■ Pleased Guilty ■ Found Guilty ■ Not Guilty ■ Other

**North Lincolnshire Cases = 4**

**ALLOCATIONS - SEXUAL OFFENCES**

**Guilty Plea 0, Found Guilty 3  
Not Guilty 1, Other 0**



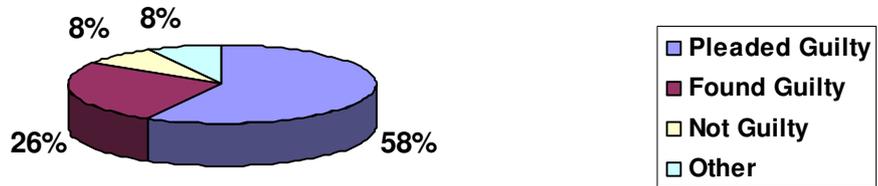
■ Pleased Guilty ■ Found Guilty ■ Not Guilty ■ Other

**3. Physical Assault = 50 Cases**

**KNOWN OUTCOME OF CASES ALLOCATED**

**PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

**Guilty Plea 29, Found Guilty 13,  
Not Guilty 4, Other 4**

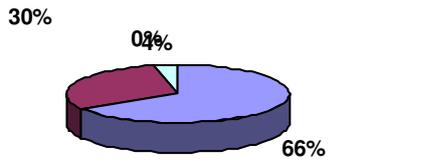


**Hull Cases = 27**

**East Riding Cases = 15**

**ALLOCATIONS - PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

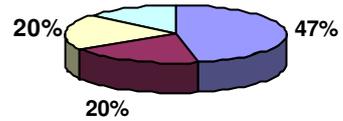
**Guilty Plea 18, Found Guilty 8,  
Not Guilty 0, Other 1**



Legend: Plead Guilty, Found Guilty, Not Guilty, Other

**ALLOCATIONS - PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

**Guilty Plea 7, Found Guilty 3,  
Not Guilty 3, Other 2**

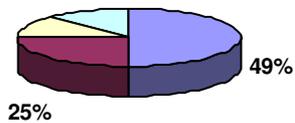


Legend: Plead Guilty, Found Guilty, Not Guilty, Other

**North Lincolnshire = 8**

**ALLOCATIONS - PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

**Guilty Plea 4, Found Guilty 2,  
Not Guilty 1, Other 1**

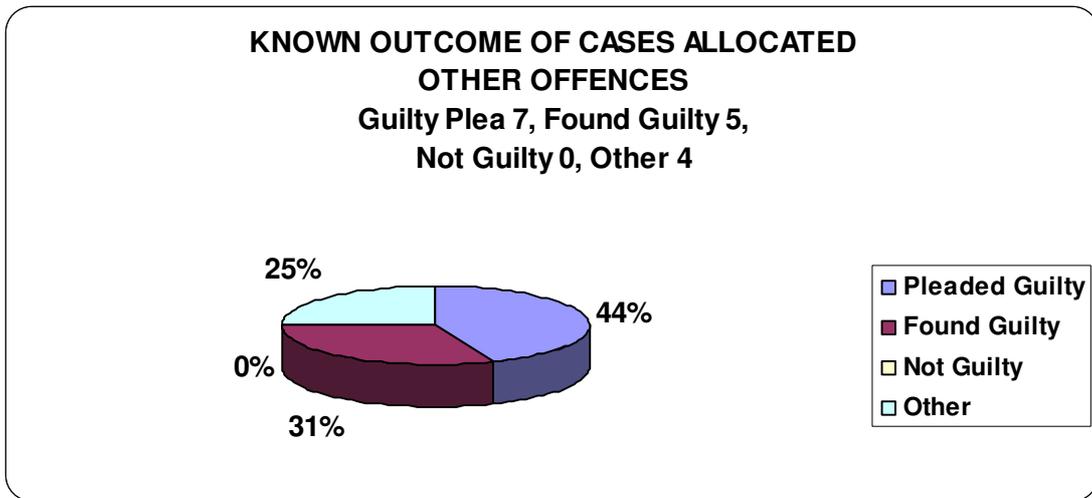


Legend: Plead Guilty, Found Guilty, Not Guilty, Other

**4. Other Cases = 16 Cases**

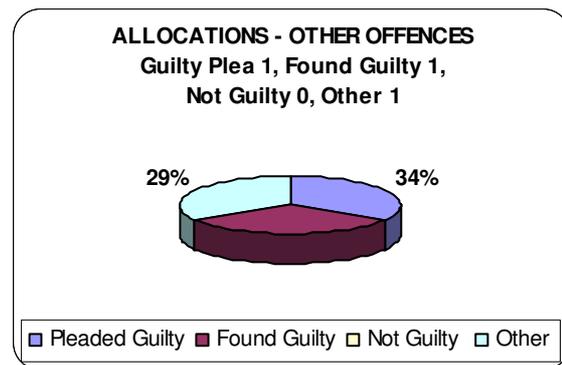
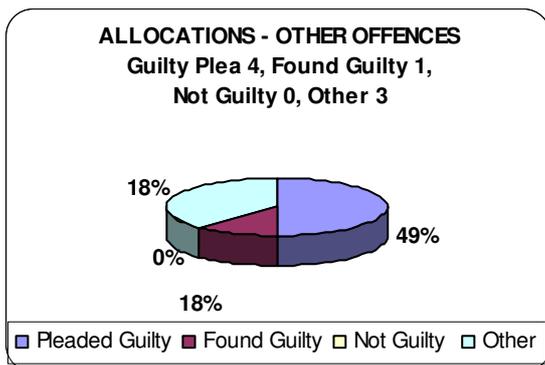
**(including public order offences and damage to**

property/theft)

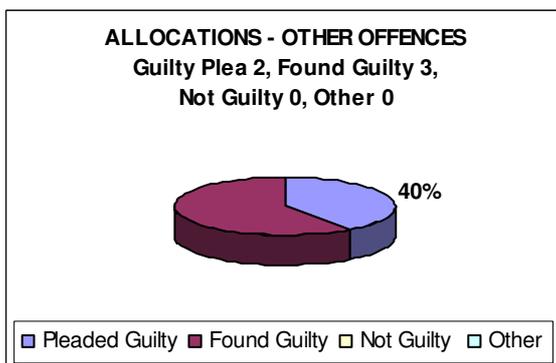


**Hull Cases = 8**

**East Riding Cases = 3**

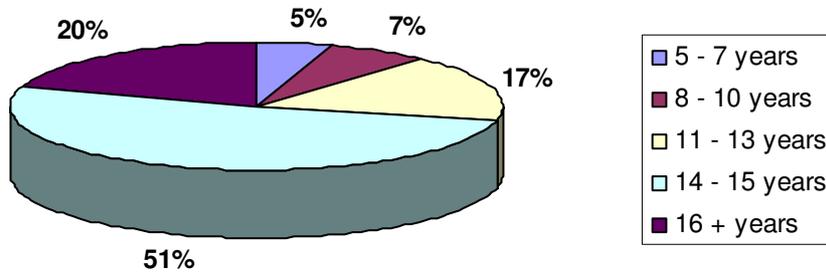


**North Lincolnshire Cases = 5**



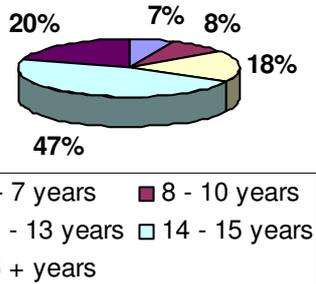
**Age Profile - Referrals**  
(1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

**AGE PROFILE OF ALL CHILDREN REFERRED 303**



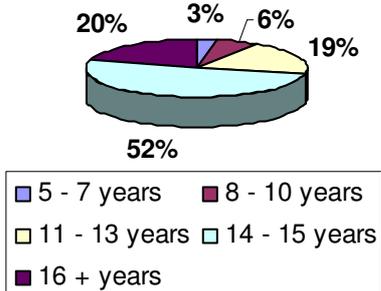
**Hull = 137**

**ALL REFERRALS (137)**



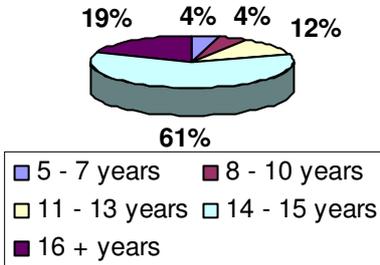
**East Riding = 99**

**ALL REFERRALS (99)**

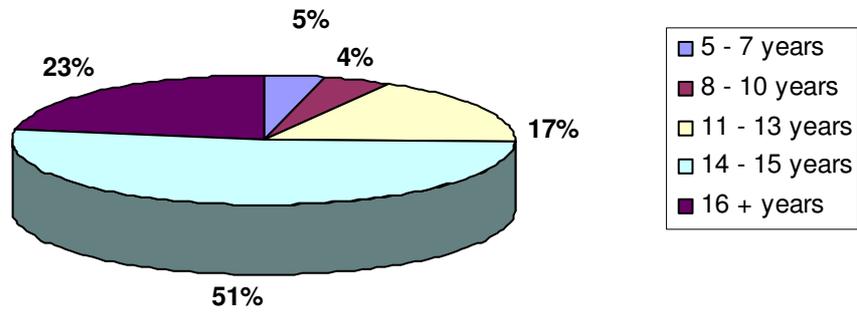


**North Lincolnshire = 67**

**North Lincolnshire (67)**

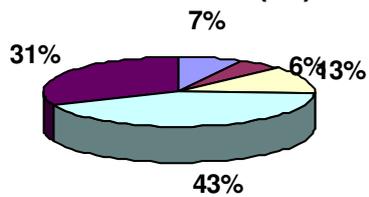


**AGE PROFILE OF WITNESSES ONLY REFERRED  
(134)**



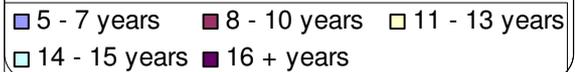
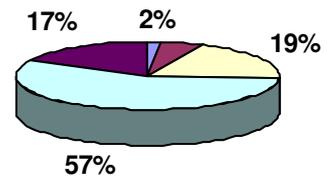
**Hull = 54**

**WITNESS ONLY  
REFERRALS (54)**



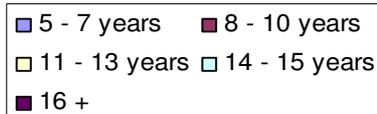
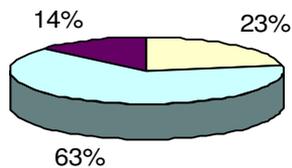
**East Riding = 58**

**WITNESS ONLY  
REFERRALS (58)**

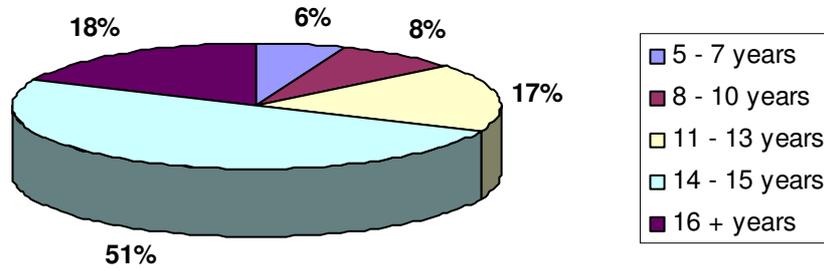


**North Lincolnshire = 22**

**WITNESS ONLY  
REFERRALS (22)**

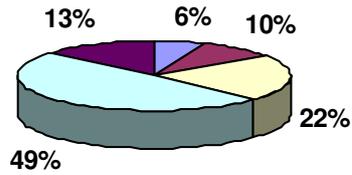


**AGE PROFILE OF VICTIMS REFERRED (169)**



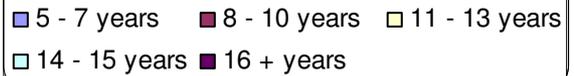
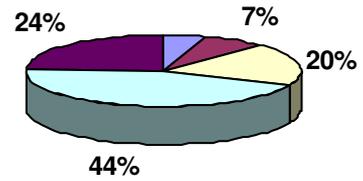
**Hull = 83**

**VICTIMS REFERRALS (83)**



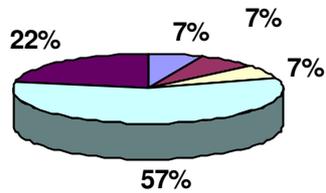
**East Riding = 41**

**VICTIMS REFERRALS (41)**



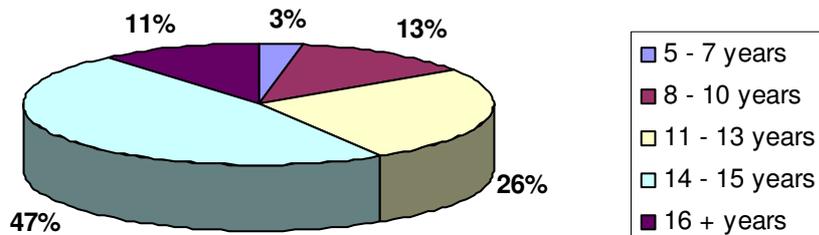
**North Lincolnshire = 45**

**VICTIMS REFERRALS (45)**



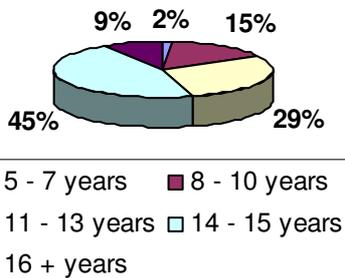
## Age Profile - Allocations (1st April 2013 - 31st March 2014)

### AGE PROFILE OF CHILDREN ALLOCATED (135)



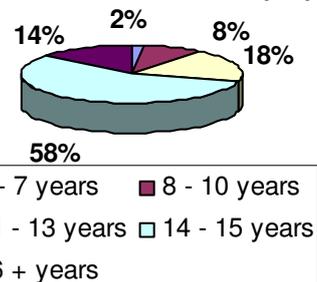
**Hull = 66**

#### ALL ALLOCATIONS (66)



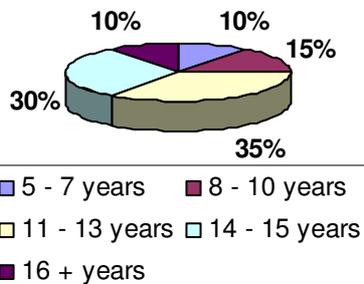
**East Riding = 49**

#### ALL ALLOCATIONS (49)

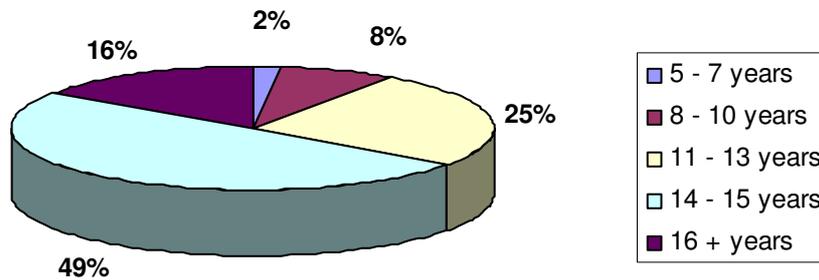


**North Lincolnshire = 20**

#### ALL ALLOCATIONS (20)

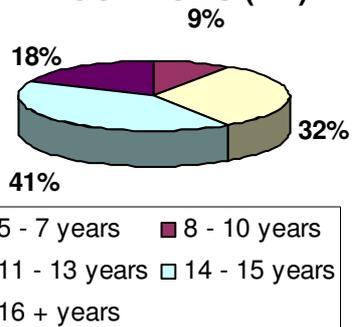


**AGE PROFILE OF WITNESSES ALLOCATED (51)**



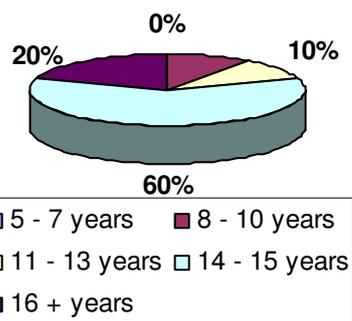
**Hull = 22**

**WITNESSES ONLY ALLOCATIONS ( 22)**



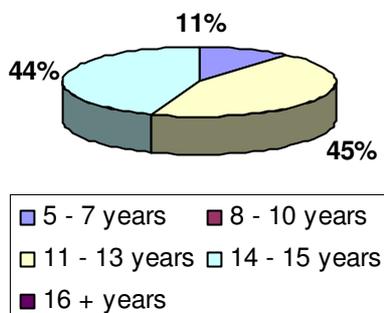
**East Riding = 20**

**WITNESSES ONLY ALLOCATIONS (20)**

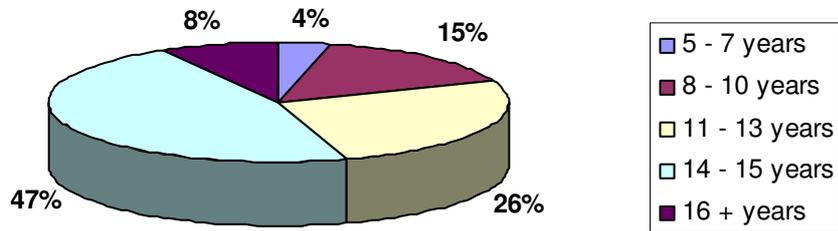


**North Lincolnshire = 9**

**WITNESSES ONLY ALLOCATIONS (9)**

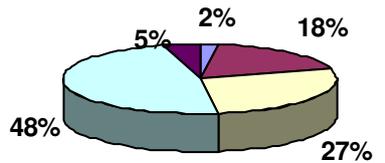


**AGE PROFILE OF VICTIMS ALLOCATED (84)**



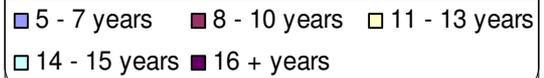
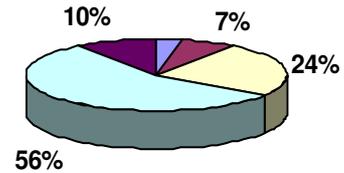
**Hull = 44**

**VICTIMS ALLOCATIONS (44)**



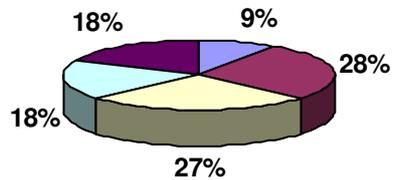
**East Riding = 29**

**VICTIMS ALLOCATIONS (29)**



**North Lincolnshire = 11**

**VICTIMS ALLOCATIONS (11)**





# HUMBERSIDE YOUNG WITNESS SERVICE

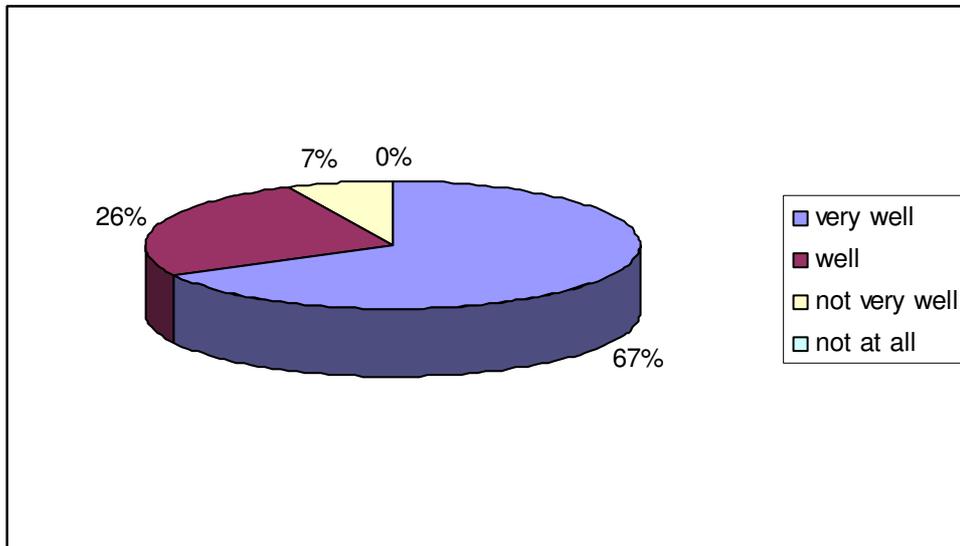
**Evaluation of the Service by  
Hull, East Riding and Scunthorpe Young  
Witnesses**

**April 2012 to March 2014**

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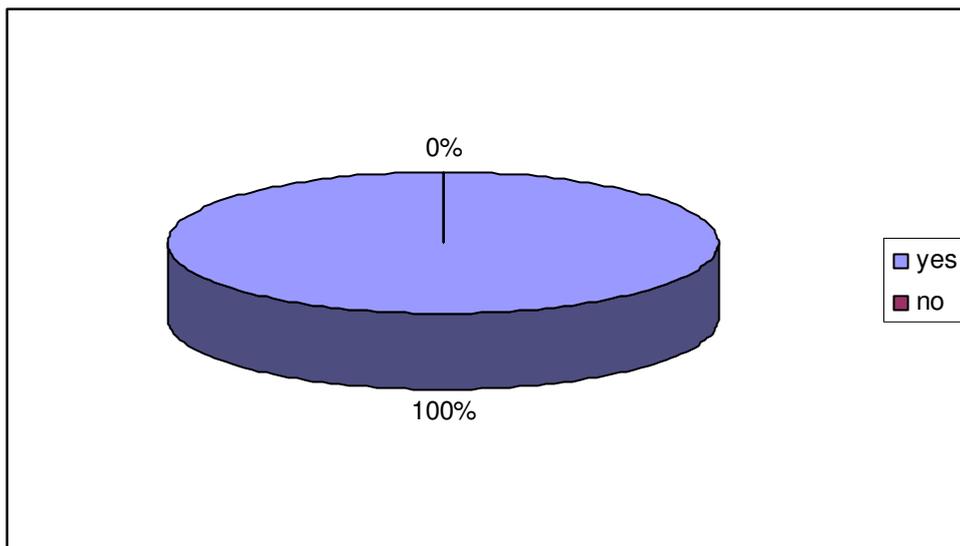
**Q1. How well did the Police Officer explain things to you?**

All of the young witnesses answered this question.



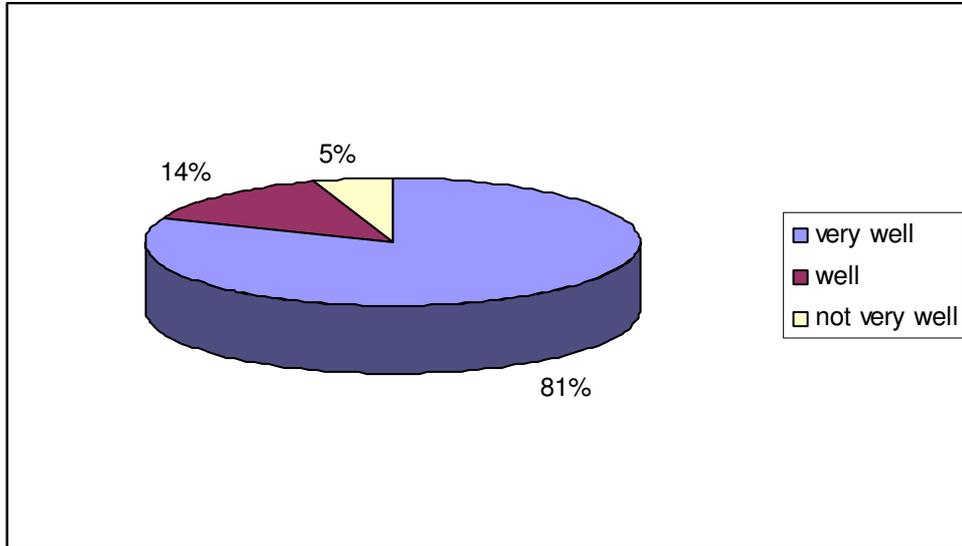
**Q2. Did you feel the Police listened to what you had to say?**

All 58 young witnesses thought that they did.



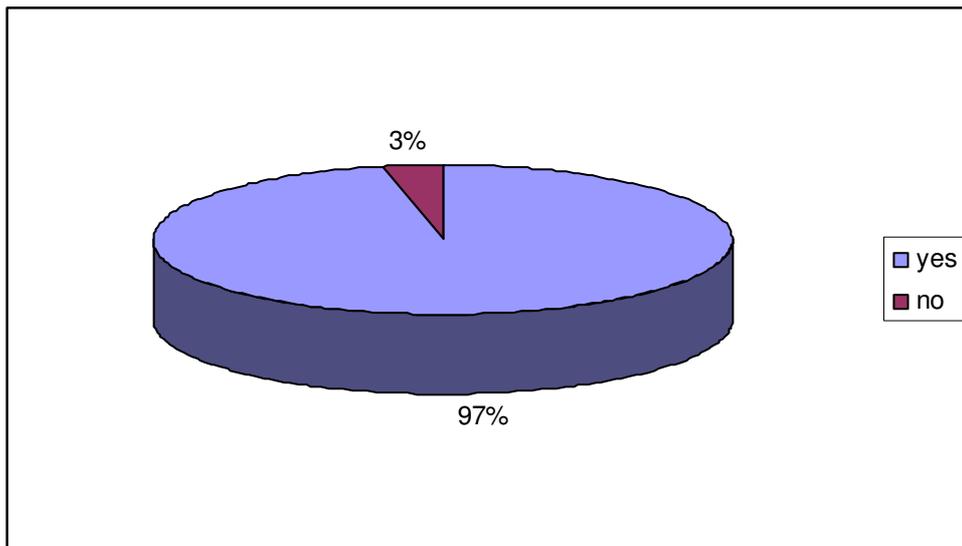
**Q3. How do you feel you were treated by the Police?**

47 of the 58 young witnesses thought they were treated very well.



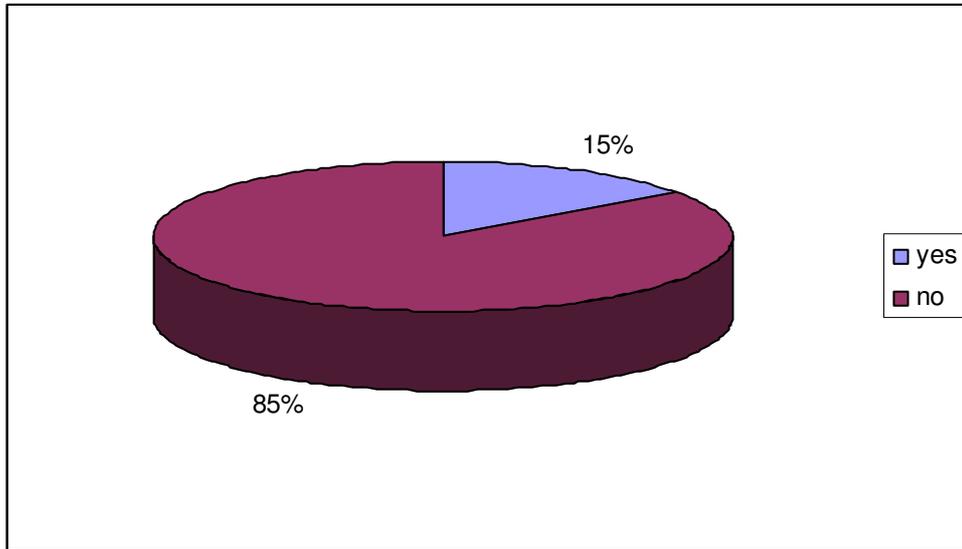
**Q4. Were you given information from the Police to help you understand what would happen next?**

56 of the 58 young witnesses said yes.



### Q5. Is there anything else that the Police could have done that would have helped you?

Only 40 young witnesses answered this question, but of those, 34 said no. 6 young witnesses said yes and their comments are below.



If Yes, please tell us more.

Given me a booklet aimed at my age

Help to get it to court earlier.

Not change the officer so many times

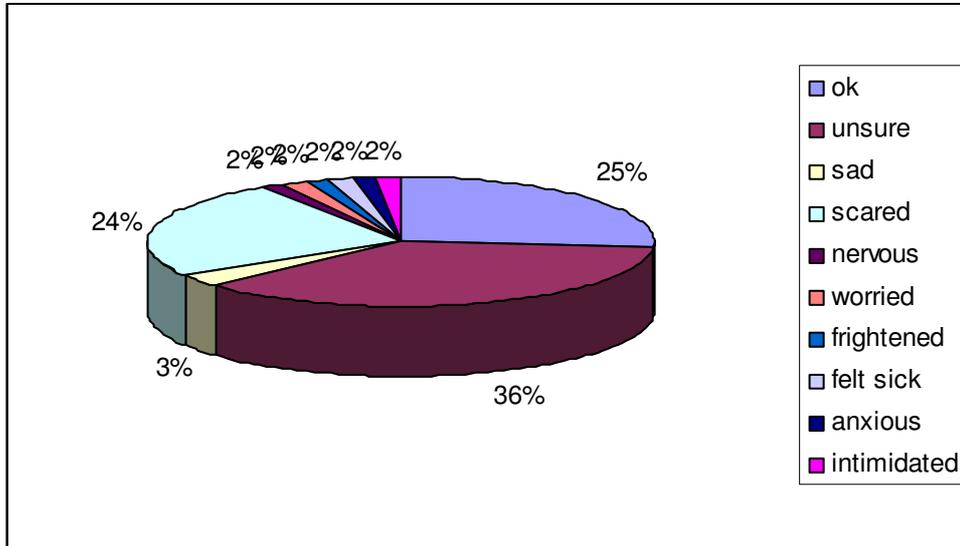
I told them I wanted nothing more to do with it

Help me to move.

Not taken so long!

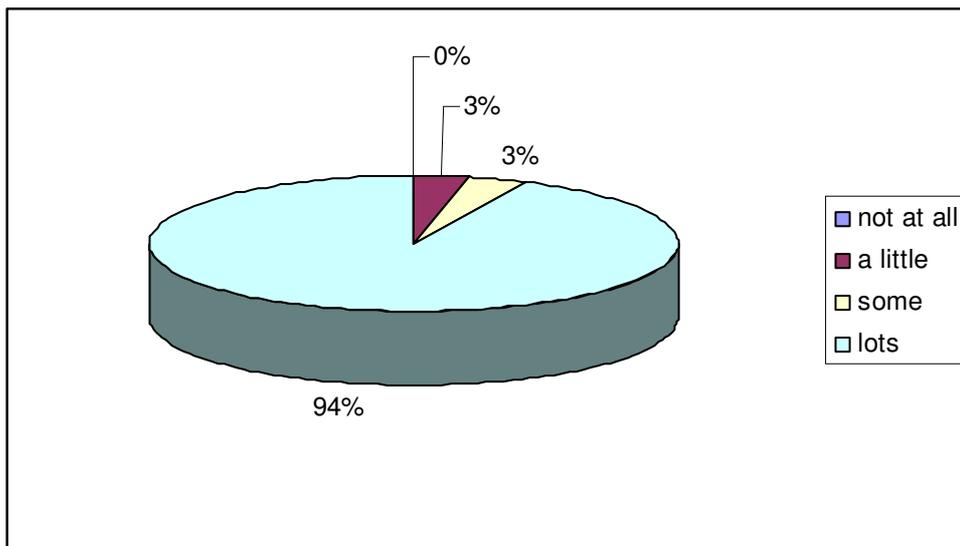
### Q6. How did you feel about having to go to court?

Some young witnesses gave more than one answer, however the majority were concerned about going to court.



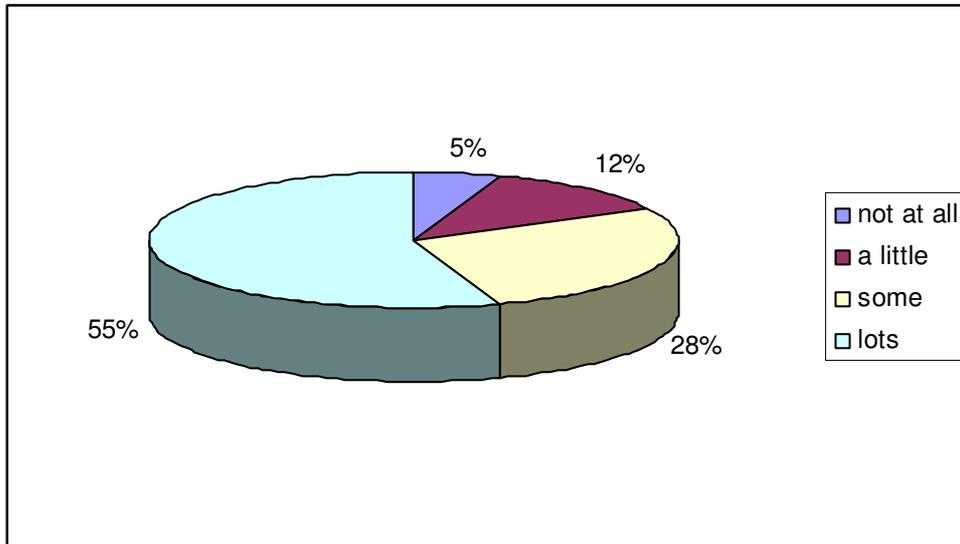
### Q7. Did your worker help you before going to court?

54 of the 58 young witnesses thought that their worker helped them a lot before they went to court, but all thought their worker was of some help.



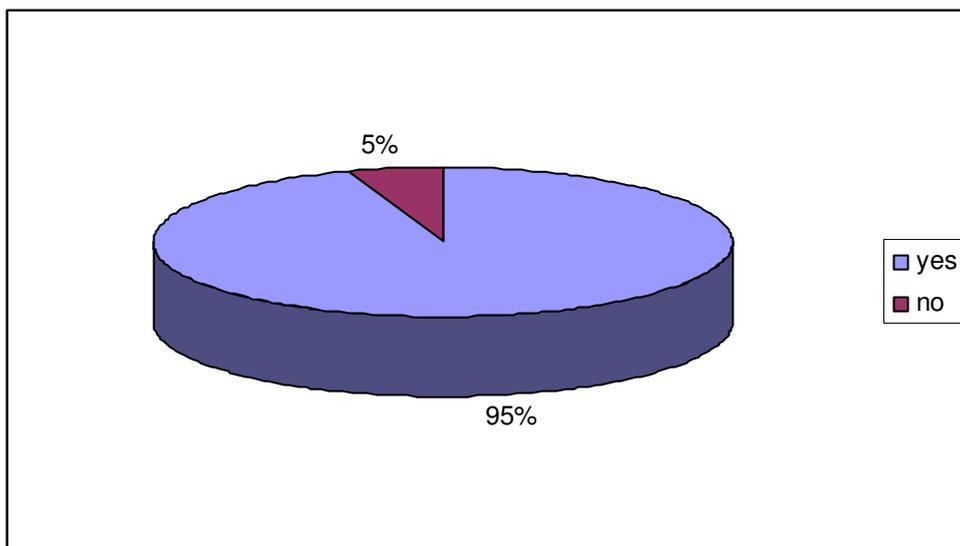
### Q8. How useful were the booklets?

All but 3 of the young witnesses thought that the booklets were of some use; with over half thinking they were very useful.



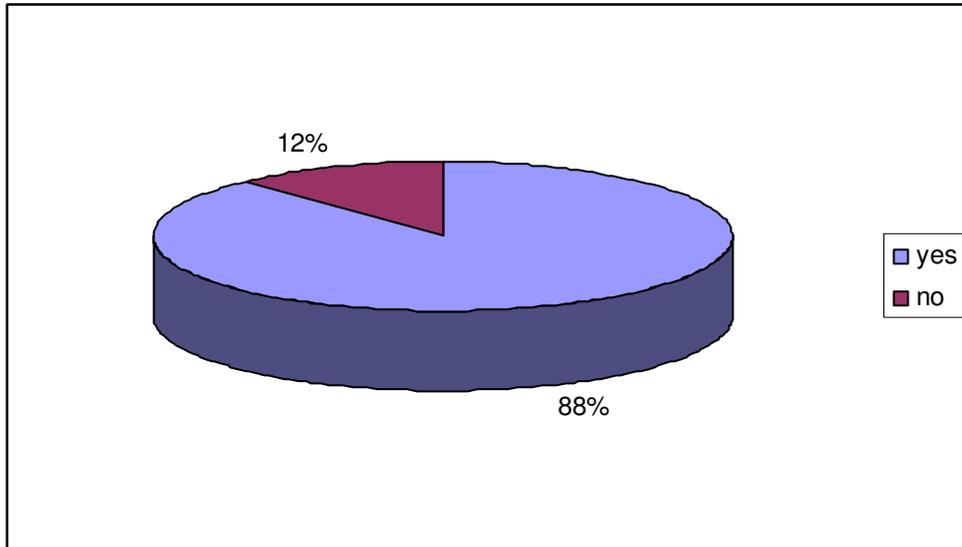
### Q9. Did you have enough time with your worker?

55 of the 58 young witnesses thought they had enough time with their worker.



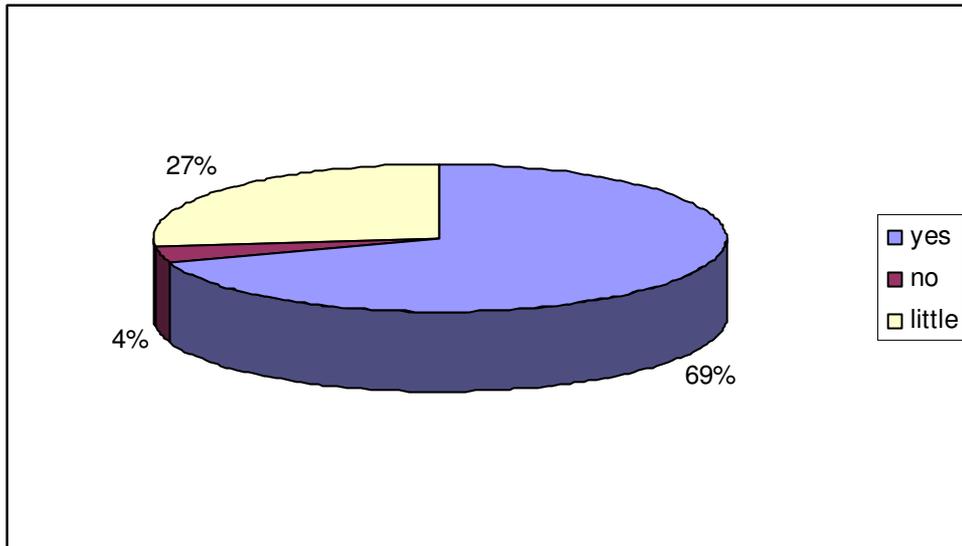
**Q10A. Did you go on a visit before the trial?**

51 of the 58 young witnesses visited the court before the trial.



**Q10B. If yes, did you find it helpful?**

56 of the 58 young witnesses answered this question and of those, only 2 thought it wasn't helpful to visit the court before the trial.



**We then asked the young witnesses why they found the court visit useful. This is some of what they had to say:**

Got me used to the surroundings and made me feel more comfortable.

So I knew what to expect on the day

It gave me a better understanding of what it was like to be a witness

Because I knew where everything was

I could see what was going on the time I was in court.

Insight into where everything was happening

It helped with the experience

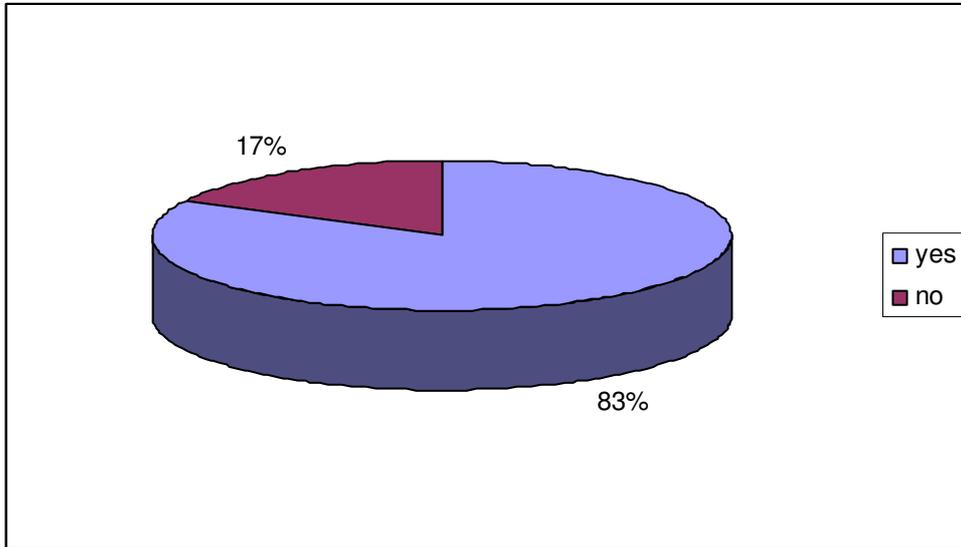
I knew what it would be like and look like. I also knew where to go and I was not so nervous after the visit

I found it helpful that my support worker took me to look around the court so I'd get an insight on the building and would know what to expect.

It helped me feel better about going to court

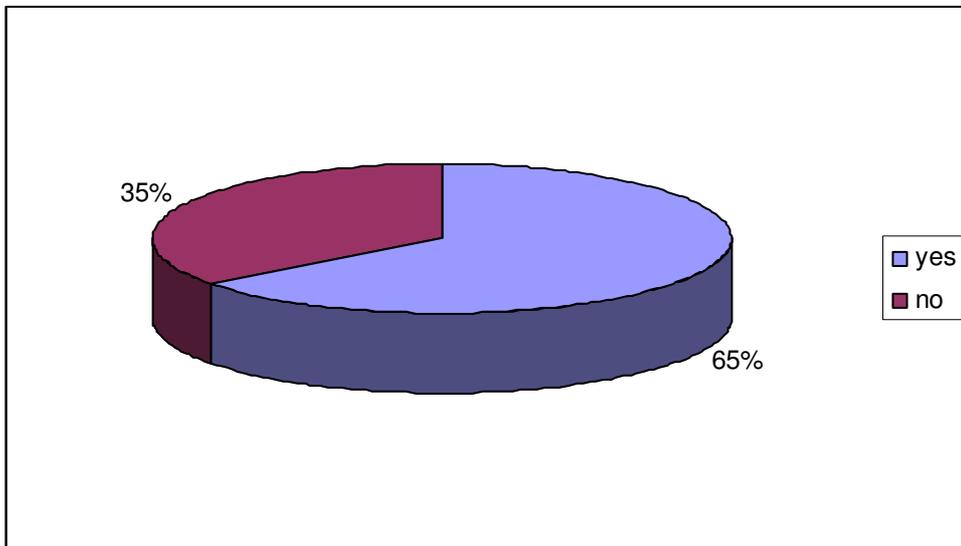
**Q11A. Did you go to court for the trial?**

48 of the 58 young witnesses went to court.



**11B. If yes, Did you give evidence?**

Of the 48 young witnesses that went to court, 31 gave evidence.



### 11C. How did it feel?

Scary but afterwards I felt relieved.

It felt fine, felt a bit nervous at first but everything was explained to me so well I had nothing to worry about

It was fine. All the people were so friendly and helpful and made the day relaxing

ok, was a bit scared

Awful as it really upset me having to uncover what happened.

Stressful

Nervous

Not as bad as I thought

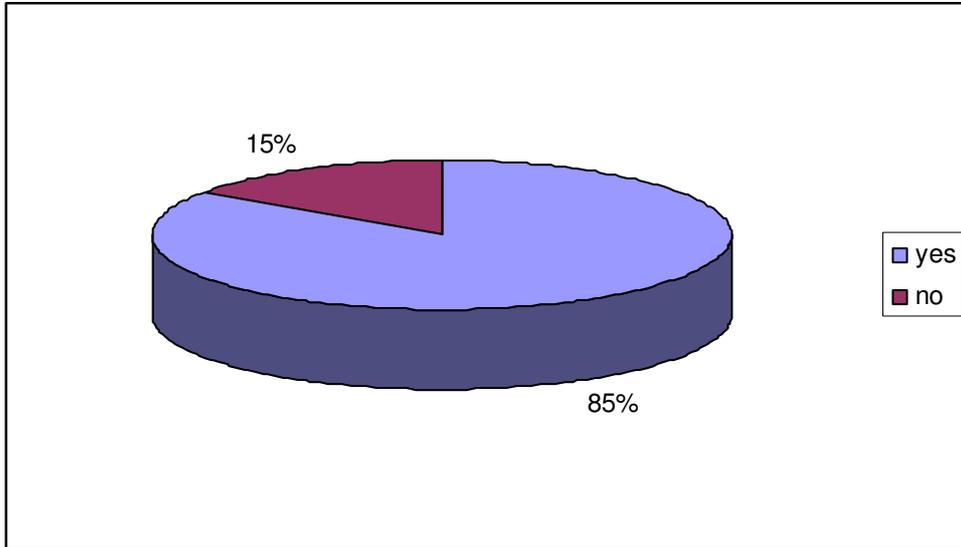
I was frightened because I cannot speak properly

Scary

Ok

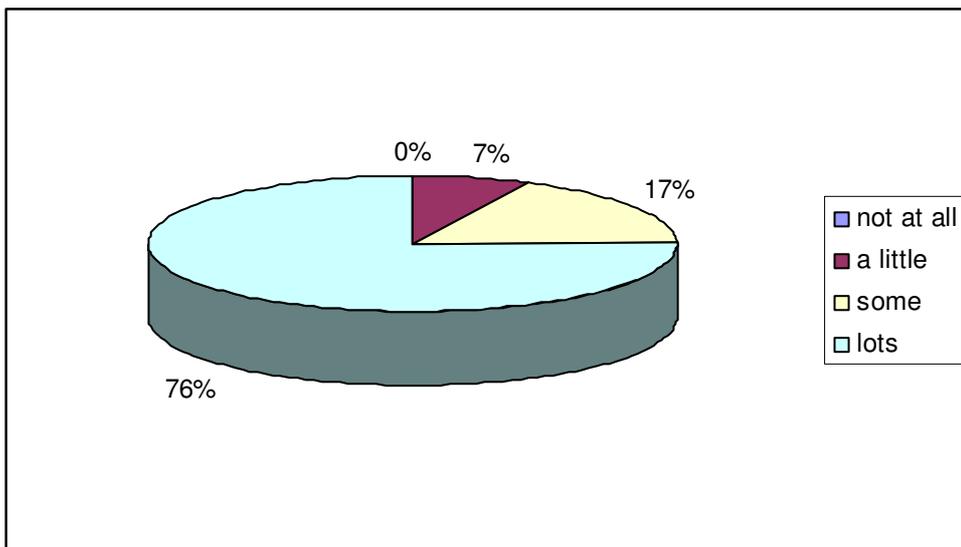
**Q12A. After the court case did your worker get in touch with you?**

52 young witnesses answered this question, with 44 saying that they did.



**Q12B. Was the Young Witness Service of help to you?**

41 young witnesses answered this question; with 31 of them saying the young witness service was 'lots' of help.



**Q13. If you went to court, is there anything else you would like to say about your experience there?**

The people were kind, polite and helpful

Everyone was very nice to me, was very scared but all of them made me feel better

I was very nervous about court. Our worker was excellent, very friendly and committed to putting us both at ease. My honest opinion....he was fab!

Don't be scared as no matter what, everyone around you is supporting you. Don't think the bad things.

Thank you

Found it hard in the video room when I gave evidence.

My support worker was very supportive and she was understanding. She's the best ever :) and so kind

It is all over now

Below are the responses from the parents/carers of their experiences of the process: We had 47 responses.

Q1. What are your feelings about your child being a witness?

I was extremely worried for him as he was very stressed and anxious about it. It was also frustrating as he shouldn't have to suffer this experience

I was scared that she would be too afraid to go through with it all

I was concerned about the anxiety it would cause the children

A bit apprehensive, didn't really know how it worked in court for my son giving evidence

I was frightened for her going through this experience. Once I met the people looking after my daughter my mind was put at rest.

Worried, sad, glad she could have her say.

Very apprehensive

Worried

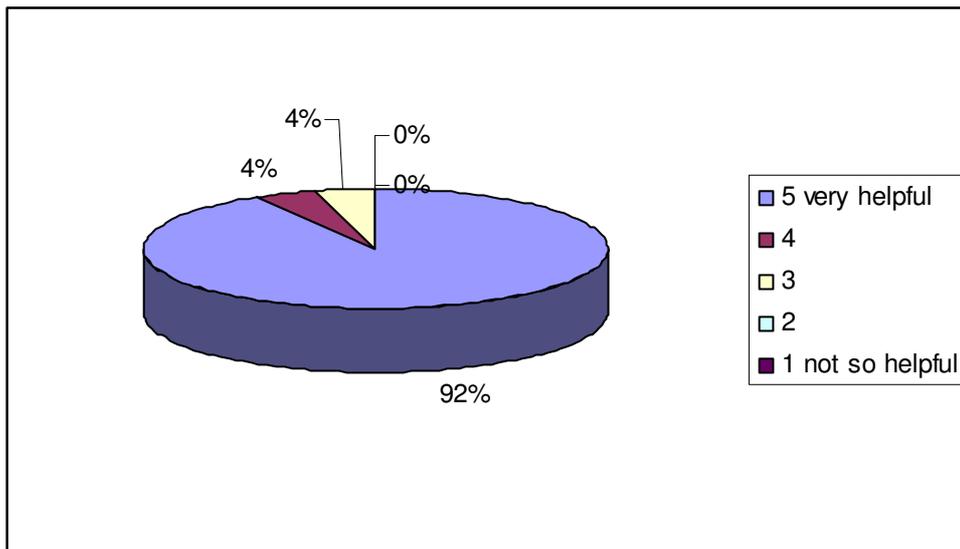
Nervous

Concerned how this may affect her

Q2. What are your thoughts on your child's worker? Scale of 1 – 5 (5 being the highest?)

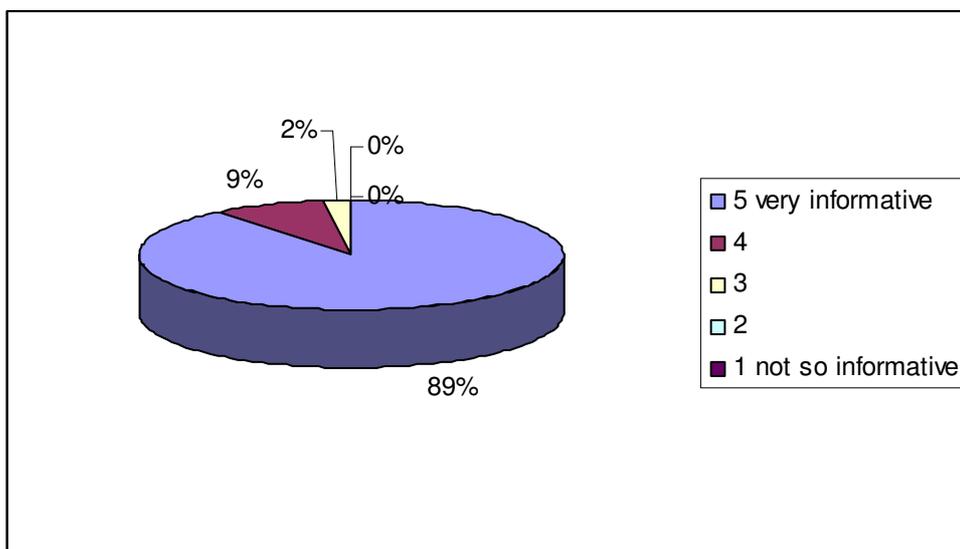
How helpful were they? All 47 parents/carers responded to these 3 questions.

The chart below shows that all 47 responses thought that the child's worker was helpful with the majority (43) rating the worker a 5.



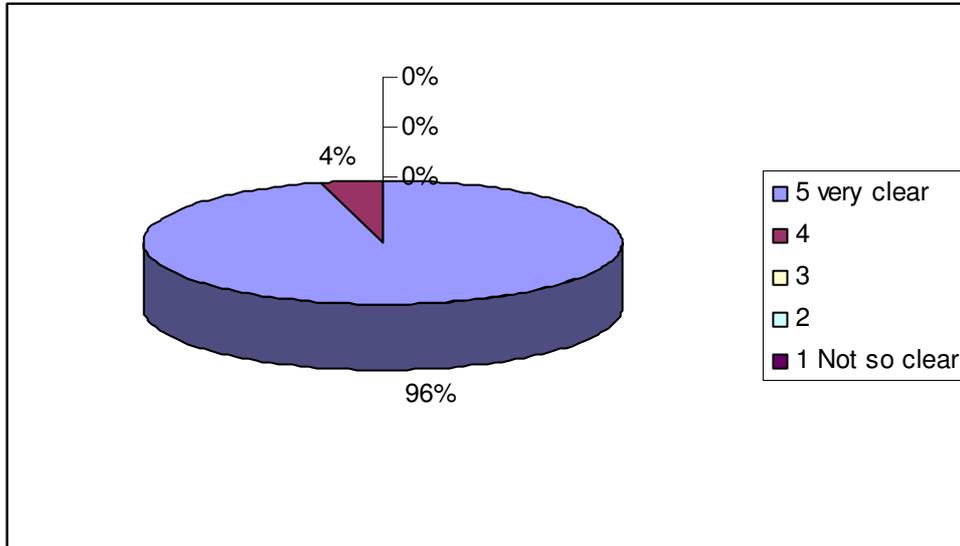
How informative were they?

The chart below shows that all of the 47 responses show that the worker was informative, with the majority (42) rating a 5.



How clear were they?

The chart below shows that all of the 47 responses thought their worker was clear, with the majority (45) rating a 5.



Is there anything further you'd like to say?

The service our daughter received was excellent. Also we couldn't have been as supportive as we were if you weren't involved. You helped us as parents in a big way.

I found the support worker very professional and a good support for me and my son

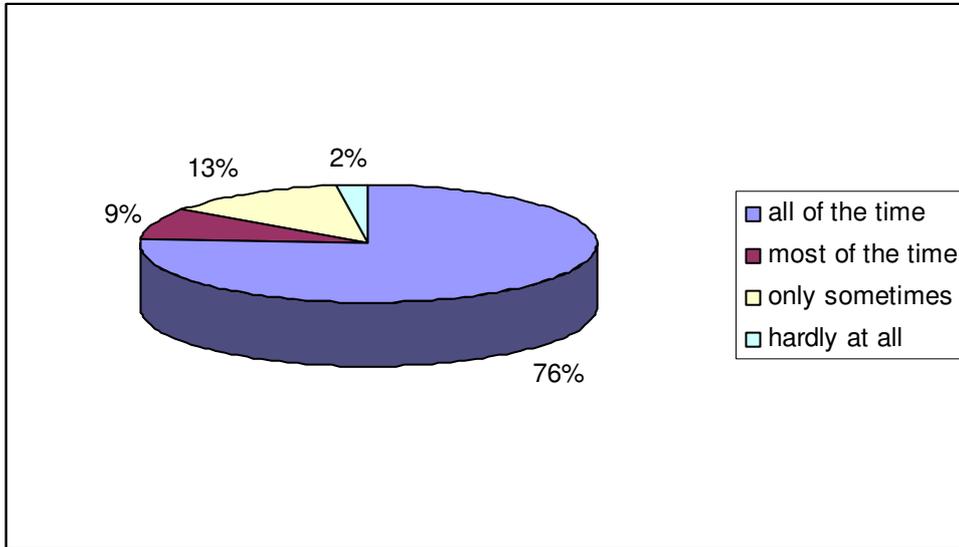
She was very helpful and informative

I would like to say the lady we had with us through our court days was fantastic, what a lovely young lady, fantastic at her job and made us feel at ease.

Helped to clarify the procedure and assisted with providing comfort and reassurance to our son.

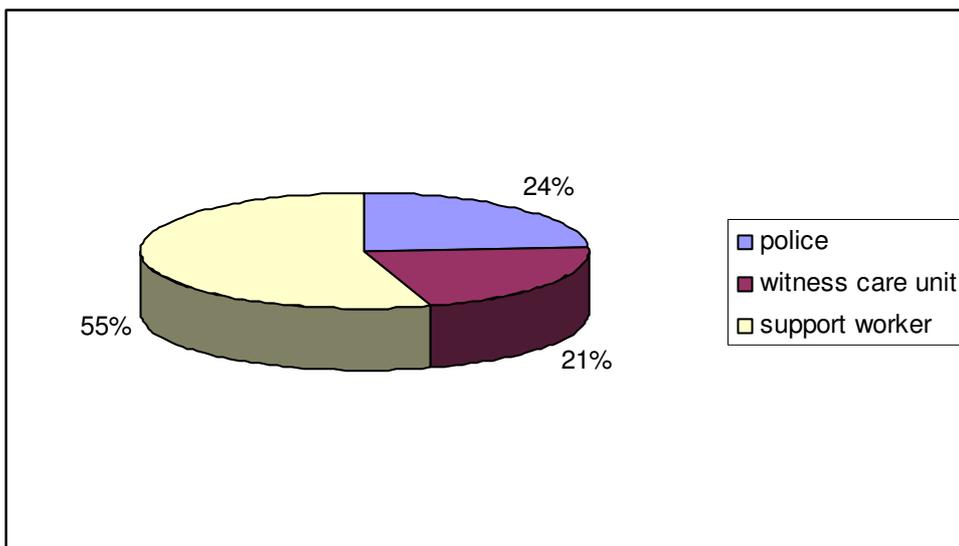
Q3. Were you kept informed of the progress?

We had 46 responses to this question.



By who...

42 respondents answered this question, with most of them stating more than one answer.



Q4a. Is there anything you would like to say about the trial day?

To thank Our support worker for making it far easier for our son to give his evidence as a witness

A huge thank you to our support worker, lovely lady and helped us deal with what was ahead. Answered all questions we asked and made us feel safe and took good care of me and my daughter

I'm glad of outcome and that he pleaded guilty to his crime

Everyone at court was brilliant with her and the young witness service were very encouraging with her

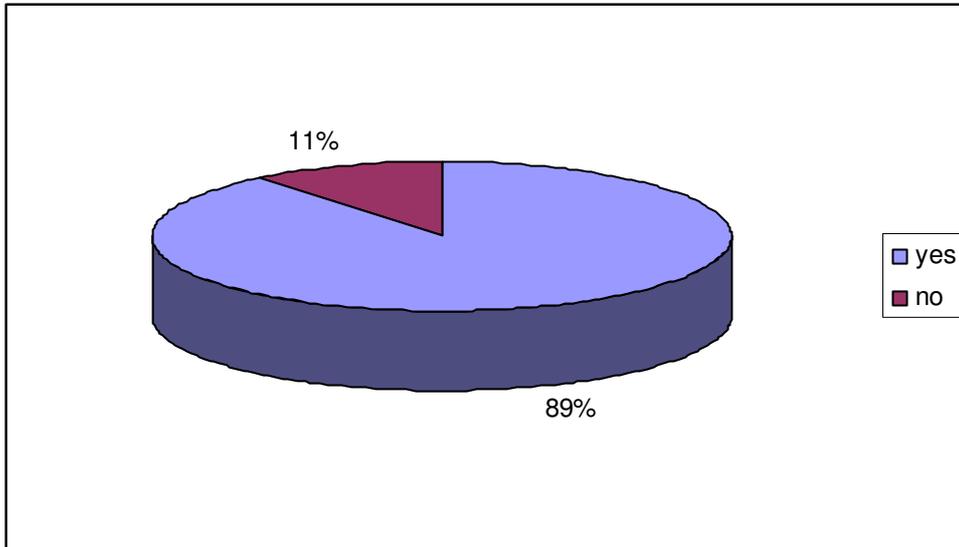
Our support worker was most helpful and supportive of my son, she made the effort to engage with him. I felt that it would have been better if she had been able to sit with him in the room (video) as this was very sensitive and he felt unsupported with a total stranger.

Everything was fine

Q4b. After the trial day were you:

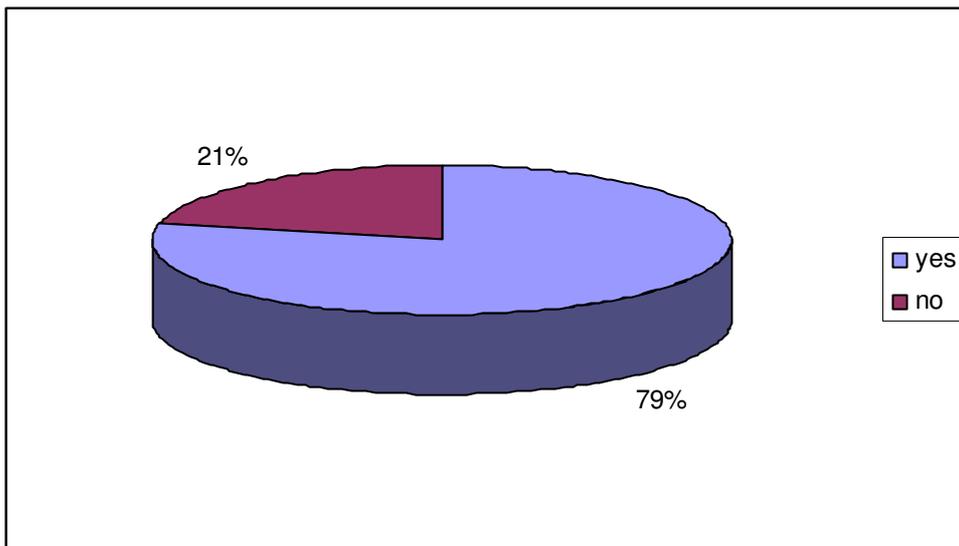
Told what the verdict was:

46 responses were received to this question.



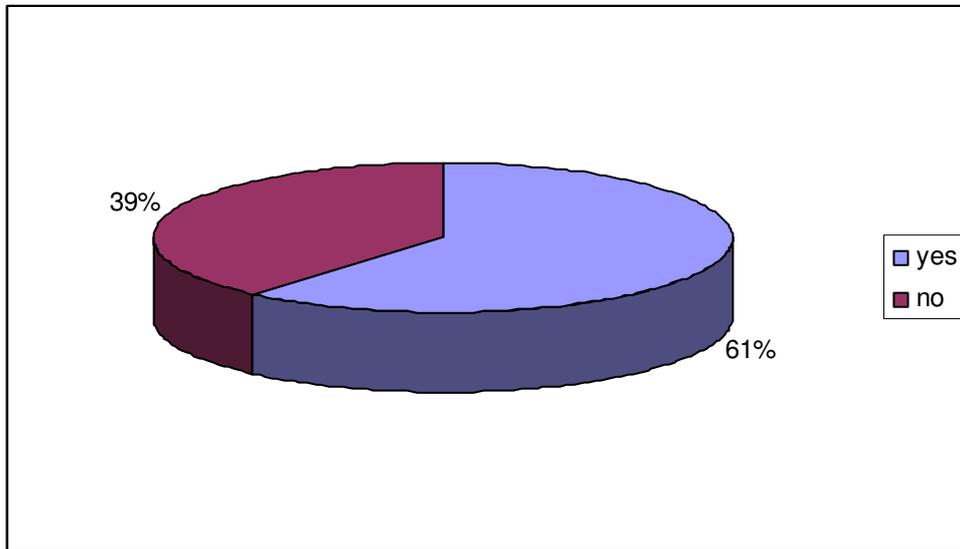
Given any further information you required:

42 responses were received to this question.



Offered any further help for your child:

44 responses were received to this question.



Is there anything else you would like to say?

The ushers and the lady Barrister were really caring and supportive, not only to our daughter but to my husband and I also.

A little messed around by the Police about looking at her evidence again, they had forgot they hadn't seen it

Just a very big thank you for the kindness, support & information given to us from our support worker & the police officers involved in the court proceedings

Thank you for providing myself & my boys with support, knowledge & contact throughout our difficult time. We appreciate all what you have done for us & even family members who you took the time to discuss questions with throughout the trial. Many thanks

Everybody looked after me and my daughter on the day