



**Galway City  
Youth Advocacy  
Service**

**Annual Report**

**January 2013  
to  
December 2013**

## Advocate Profile

The need for intervention with young people who had left school, and were not engaging with any other service, was identified, and provision was made within the 2001-2003 Galway City Partnership Plan. Following from this the Youth Advocacy Service was developed in January of 2002, with initial funding coming from Galway City Partnership, FÁS and City of Galway VEC. FÁS are the sole funding agency of the service, which is located in the Galway City Partnership offices, where day-to-day support for staff is available and where supervision, administration and weekly monitoring of the Service are carried out. The Youth Advocacy Service was set up with the primary aim:

*“to research and develop a tailor-made approach to career path planning within a community setting in order to meet the education, training and employment needs of early school leavers and young people with few or no qualifications”.*

The Galway City Youth Advocacy Service (YAS) is a community based career guidance service for educationally disadvantaged and unemployed young people. The service works primarily with young people who have left school early or who have few or no qualifications and unemployed young people. The service operates within the informal sector and networks primarily with youth organisations, training centres and the school sector.

The definition of early school leavers utilised within the service is

*“that early school leaving can be understood as young people leaving school before the legal school leaving age and/or leaving school with limited or no formal qualifications”*(Cullen, 2000).

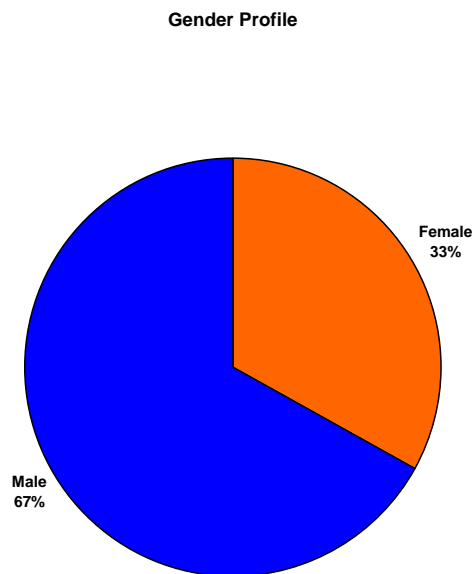
Along with this, the service operates within the **MAGIC** formula and is based on the premise that some early school leavers will require a mixture of Mentoring, Advocacy, Guidance, Information and Counselling.

The Youth Advocacy Service currently employs three advocacy workers, one full time staff John O’Donnell, and two part-time staff Ger McNamara and Mike Haines whose dual stranded approach to service provision is

- i. to meet directly with clients on an individual basis to develop their career path plan and
- ii. to develop a comprehensive database on the target group. The database developed within the service provides information in relation to caseload, geographical distribution of clients throughout the city, source of referrals, the education profile of clients and their progression.

## Client Profile

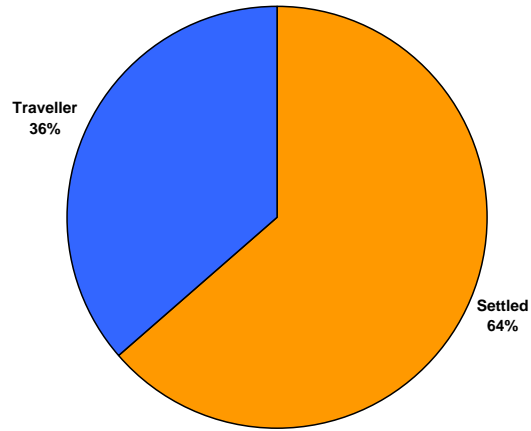
In 2013 the Youth Advocacy Service worked with a total of 212 clients. This total has gradually increased from year to year. The ratio of male to female clients has remained the same throughout the existence of the service, which has been on average 2:1 - two-thirds male to one-third female. This year in 2013 the ratio which is outlined in the following chart is 67% male to 33% female.



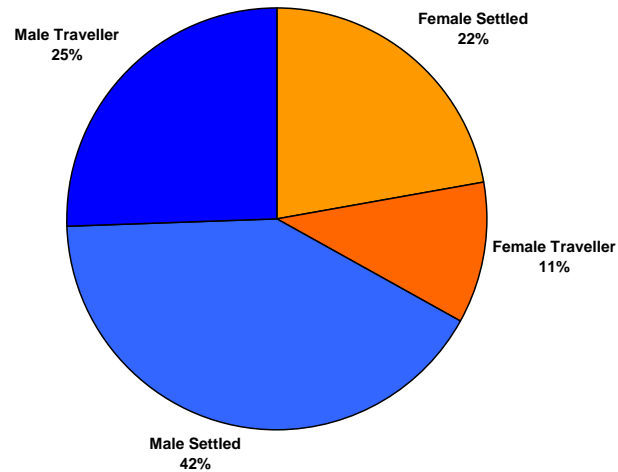
The number of young people from the Travelling community accessing the service is 36%, with a quarter of the total client group being Traveller young men, this trend also has remained the same over the past number of years. The settled community reflects

the largest portion of this group at 64%. The following chart reflects the ethnic profile of the client group.

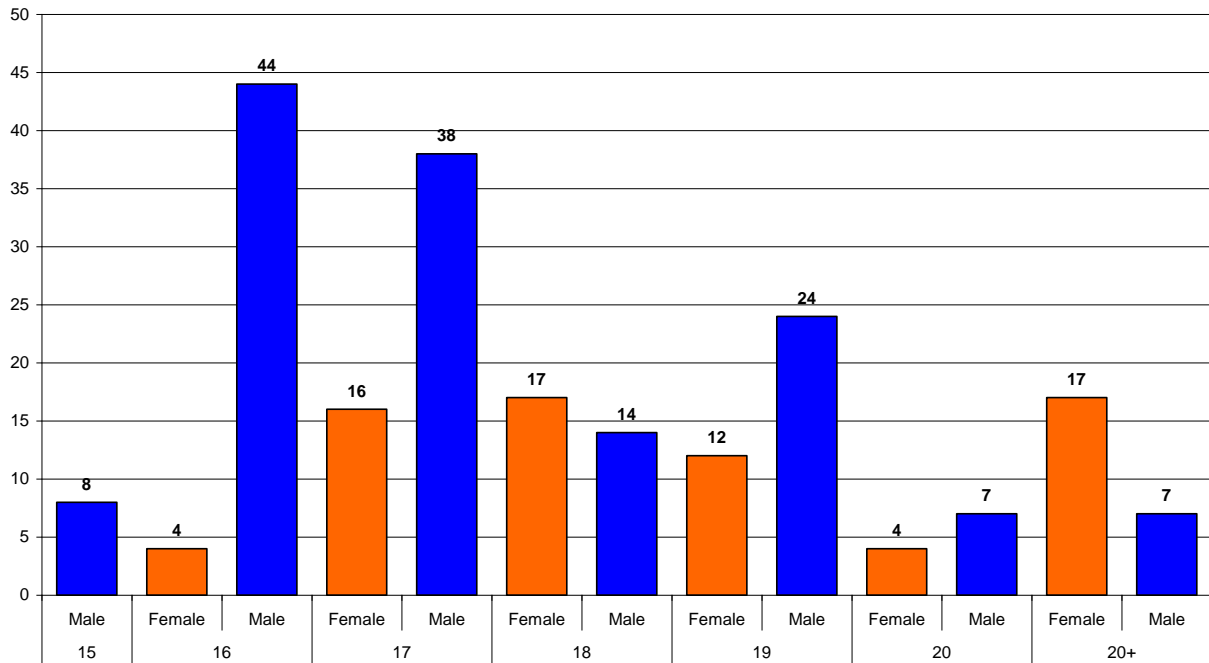
Ethnicity Profile



Gender and Ethnicity Profile



Age and Gender Profile

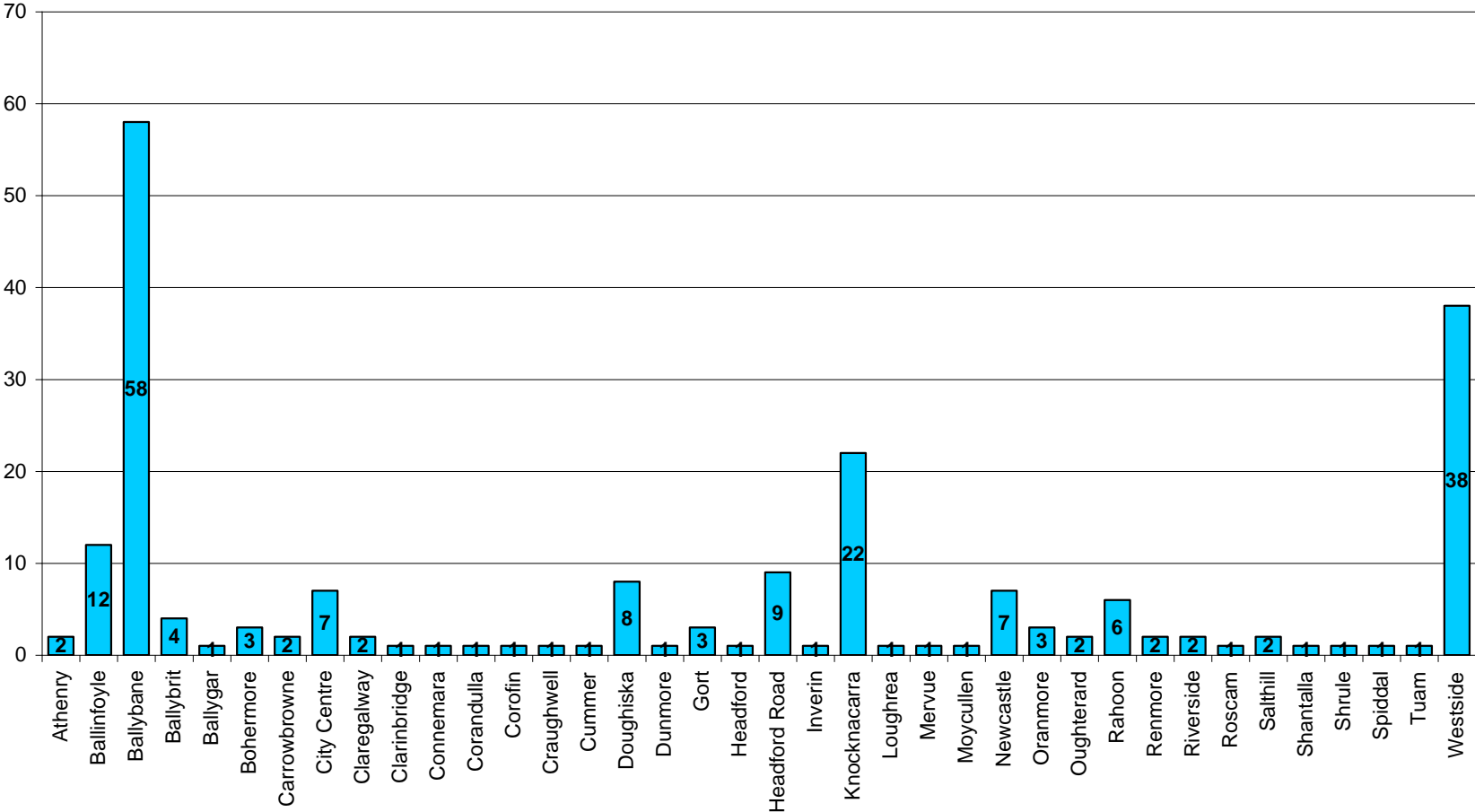


The preceding graph outlines the age profile of the clients of the service. The YAS works primarily with young people age 16-20 which is 85%, the service supported 11% of clients above the target age group in 2013. Clients aged 20+ returned to the service this year, many needing continued support to aid progression due to the current economic climate. This is due to a mix of both service dependency and isolation where social exclusion is a reality for many clients.

## Geographical Location

The office of Galway City Youth Advocacy Service as a community-based organisation is located in the Galway City Partnership offices. The YAS operates a citywide service that can be observed on the following graph. Approximately 48% of clients live in the Ballybane and Westside areas (27% and 21% respectively) this is not surprising as they are both locations of high youth population and designated RAPID areas and accurately reflects previous years data. 12% of our clients live outside the city, some of these young people would have attended second level school in the city and quite often the progression they have made or wish to gain access to is based in the city.

### Geographical Area



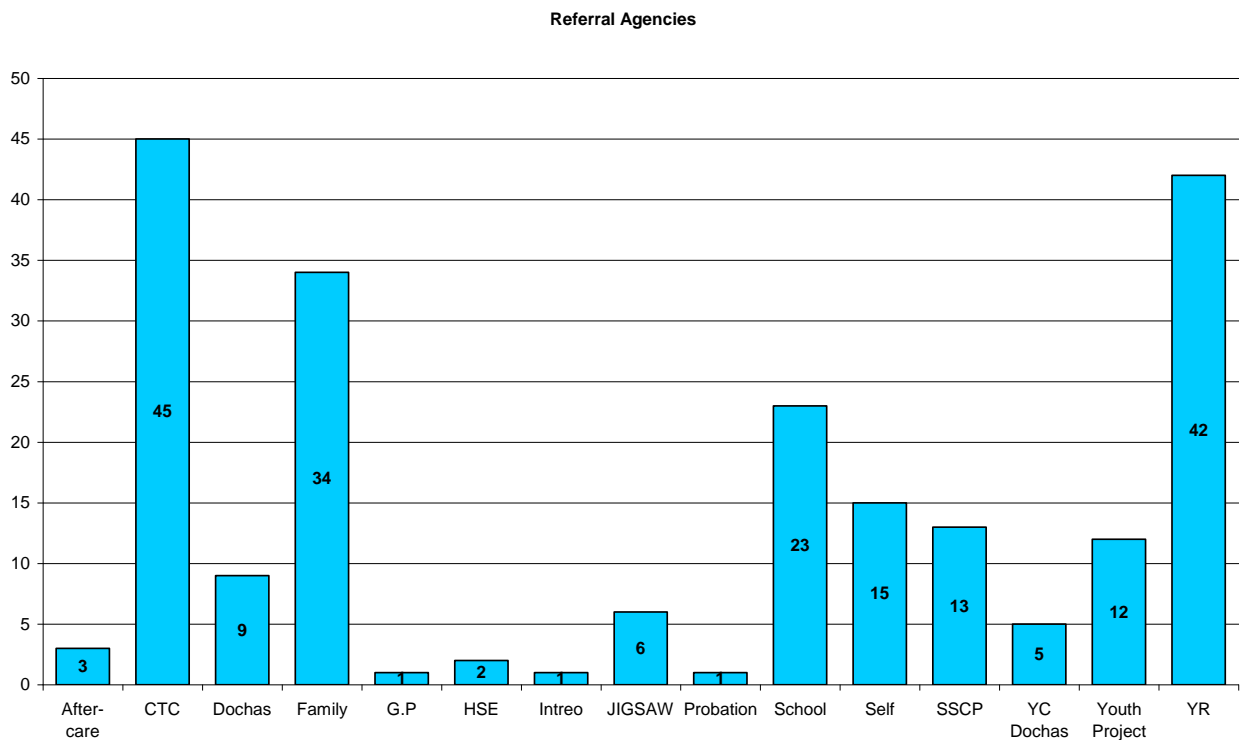
## **Referral Details**

We believe the Service is continuing to penetrate its correct target group and the impact, as a community-based organisation is evident. The evidence to support this is the large number of self-referrals, referrals from family and referrals from peers making a total of 29% source of referrals.

The Youth Advocacy Services decision to link more formally with the education and training sector this has reflected on the number of referrals from each category. The training centres that the Service links with include Youthreach, Community Training Centre and Dochas don Oige (Justice Project). Training centre referrals amount to a total of 45% of clients and within the education sector which includes schools, Home

School Liaison personnel and the Stay in School Completion Programme amounts to 17% of all referrals. The agencies and individuals with whom the Youth Advocacy Service is in contact with, receives referrals from and which are categorised as Youth Organisations are as follows: After Care Service, FÁS Placement Officer, G.P, JLO, LESN, Migrant Service, NEWB, Intreo and HSE personnel.

The subsequent graph summarises the referrals received from each particular agency.



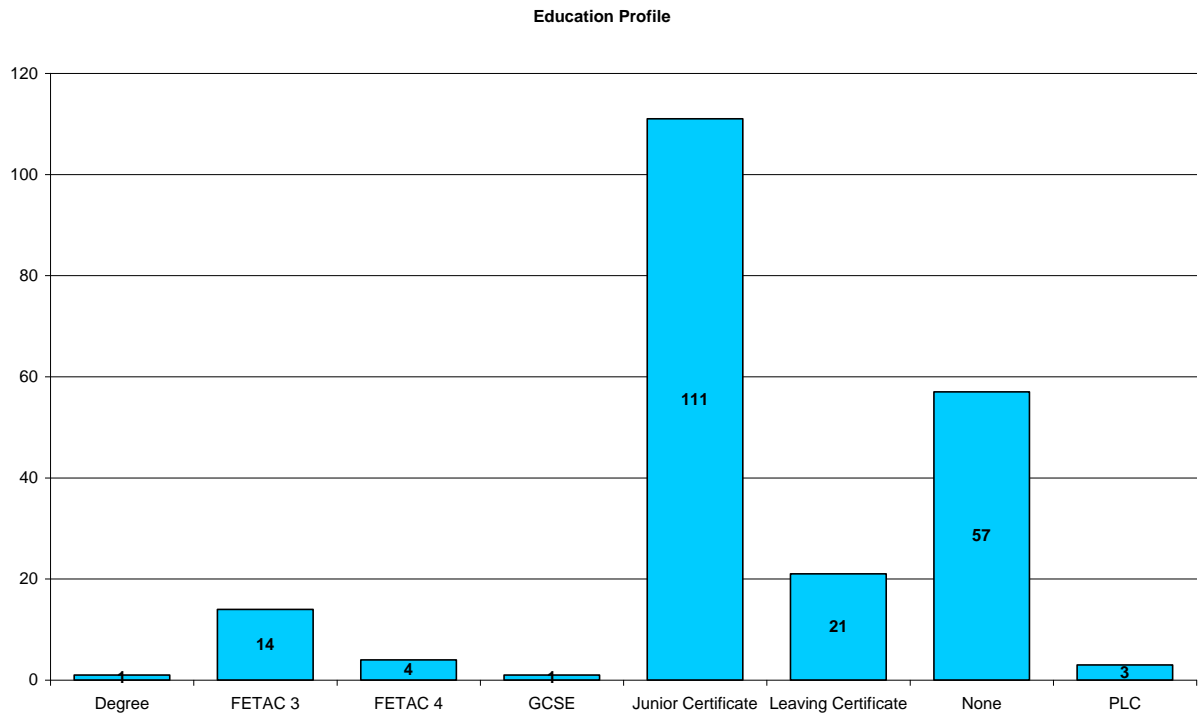
## Education Profile

The total number of clients with qualifications in 2013 is 73%.

- Junior Certificate 52%
- Leaving Certificate 10%
- FETAC Level 3 7%
- FETAC Level 4 2%
- PLC and Third Level 2%
- GCSE .5%



The education profile of clients has greatly improved since the service was established in 2002 with a decrease in numbers of young people with no formal qualifications from 54% to 27%. *Compare WRAT test evidence in relation to poor education standard.*



## Progression Details

The aim of Galway City Youth Advocacy Service is to ensure that every young person accessing the service makes a smooth transition between education and further training and employment. The progression options which the young people involved in the service avail of include the following: Training Centres, Return to School, PLC courses, Employment, Occasional work, Self Employment, FÁS Traineeships, Part-Time and Full Time Education options (accredited and unaccredited).

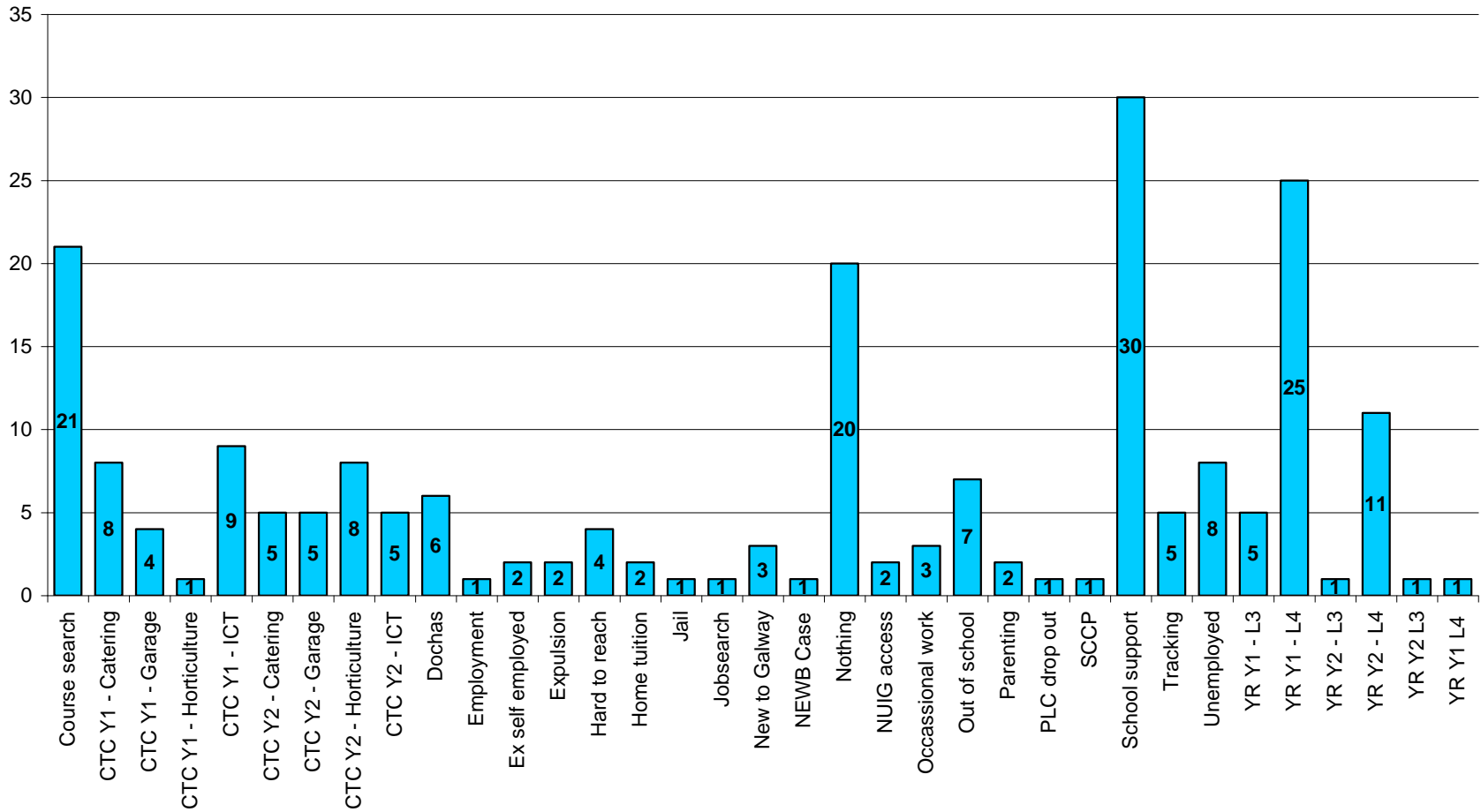
The following table summarises the progression routes of clients:



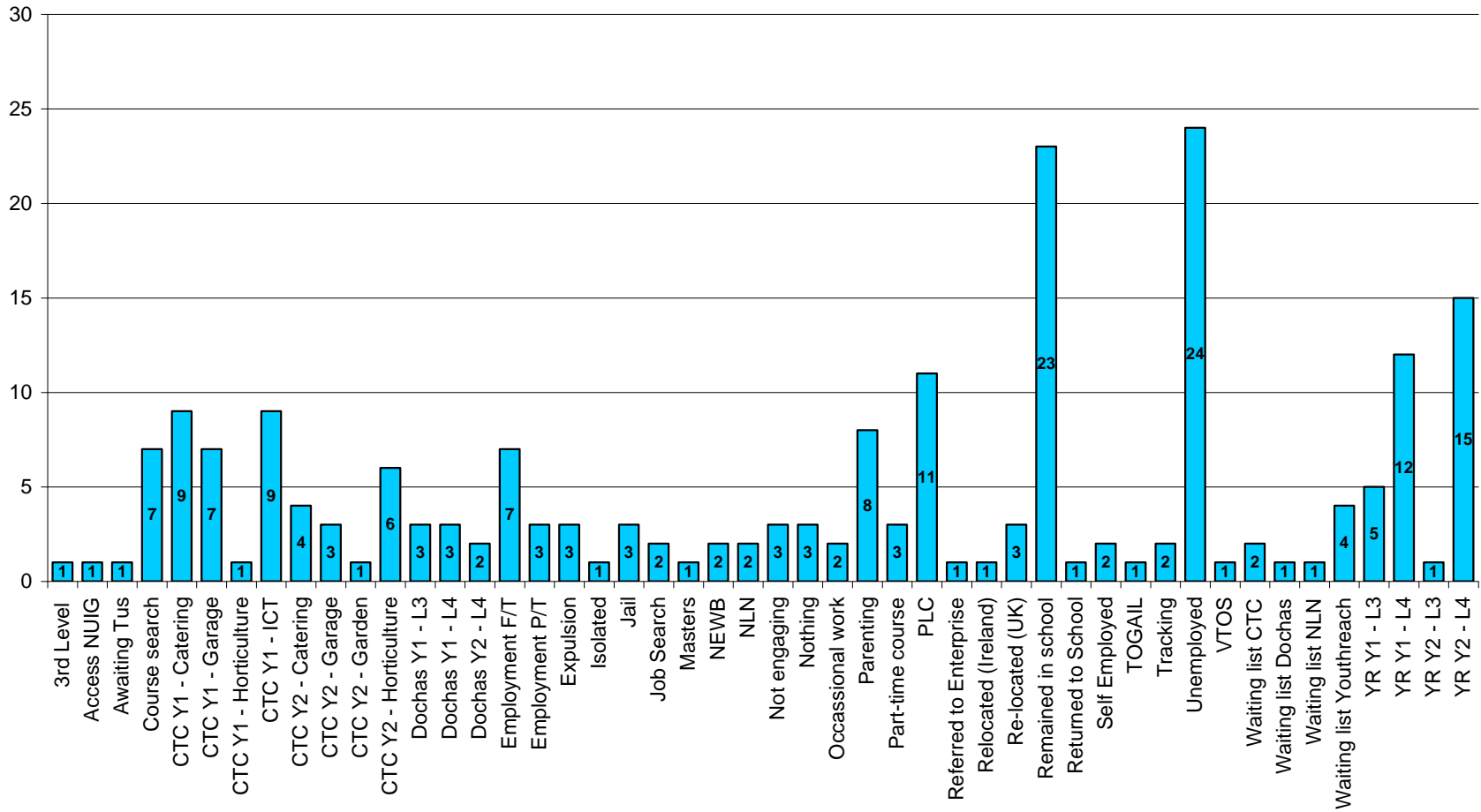
## **Initial and Current Status**

The initial status of each client is recorded as they become involved with the Youth Advocacy Service. The Initial Status Chart outlines each client's original position when they start to link with the Service and the Current Status Chart outlines the status of their present situation as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Each young person is tracked throughout the year and any progression they make is recorded. This enables staff to provide a snapshot of the position of young people at any given time, and is achieved through the various means that staff utilise in tracking individuals.

### Initial Status



### Current Status



<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total</b>
Female	70
Male	142
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>
15	8
16	48
17	54
18	31
19	36
20	11
20+	24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Settled	135
Traveller	77
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Female</b>		<b>70</b>
	Settled	47
	Traveller	23
<b>Male</b>		<b>142</b>
	Settled	88
	Traveller	54
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>212</b>

<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>15</b>		<b>8</b>
	Male	8
<b>16</b>		<b>48</b>
	Female	4
	Male	44
<b>17</b>		<b>54</b>
	Female	16
	Male	38
<b>18</b>		<b>31</b>
	Female	17
	Male	14
<b>19</b>		<b>36</b>
	Female	12
	Male	24
<b>20</b>		<b>11</b>
	Female	4
	Male	7
<b>20+</b>		<b>24</b>
	Female	17
	Male	7
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>212</b>

<b>Education Qualifications</b>	<b>Total</b>
Degree	1
FETAC 3	14
FETAC 4	4
GCSE	1
Junior Certificate	111
Leaving Certificate	21
None	57
PLC	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

Gender	Age	Ethnicity	Total
<b>Female</b>			<b>70</b>
	<b>16</b>		<b>4</b>
		Settled	1
		Traveller	3
	<b>17</b>		<b>16</b>
		Settled	11
		Traveller	5
	<b>18</b>		<b>17</b>
		Settled	11
		Traveller	6
	<b>19</b>		<b>12</b>
		Settled	8
		Traveller	4
	<b>20</b>		<b>4</b>
		Settled	1
		Traveller	3
	<b>20+</b>		<b>17</b>
		Settled	15
		Traveller	2
<b>Male</b>			<b>142</b>
	<b>15</b>		<b>8</b>
		Settled	4
		Traveller	4
	<b>16</b>		<b>44</b>
		Settled	28
		Traveller	16
	<b>17</b>		<b>38</b>
		Settled	25
		Traveller	13
	<b>18</b>		<b>14</b>
		Settled	7
		Traveller	7
	<b>19</b>		<b>24</b>
		Settled	13
		Traveller	11
	<b>20</b>		<b>7</b>
		Settled	6
		Traveller	1



<b>20+</b>		<b>7</b>
	Settled	5
	Traveller	2
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>212</b>

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Education Qualifications</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Female</b>			<b>70</b>
	<b>Settled</b>		<b>47</b>
		Degree	1
		FETAC 3	1
		FETAC 4	1
		GCSE	1
		Junior Certificate	25
		Leaving Certificate	11
		None	5
		PLC	2
	<b>Traveller</b>		<b>23</b>
		Junior Certificate	9
		Leaving Certificate	2
		None	11
		PLC	1
<b>Male</b>			<b>142</b>
	<b>Settled</b>		<b>88</b>
		FETAC 3	6
		FETAC 4	2
		Junior Certificate	53
		Leaving Certificate	7
		None	20
	<b>Traveller</b>		<b>54</b>
		FETAC 3	7
		FETAC 4	1
		Junior Certificate	24
		Leaving Certificate	1
		None	21
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>212</b>

<b>Area</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Athenry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ballinfoyle</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Ballybane</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Ballybrit</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ballygar</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bohermore</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Carrowbrowne</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>City Centre</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Claregalway</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Clarinbridge</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Connemara</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corandulla</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corofin</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Craughwell</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cummer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Doughiska</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dunmore</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Gort</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Headford</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Headford Road</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Inverin</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Knocknacarra</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Loughrea</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mervue</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Moycullen</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Oranmore</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Oughterard</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rahoon</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Renmore</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Riverside</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Roscam</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Salthill</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Shantalla</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Shrule</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Spiddal</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Tuam</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Westside</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Measure of quality of current status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amber	148
Green	15
Red	49
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Measure of quality of current status</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Female</b>		<b>70</b>
	Amber	52
	Green	6
	Red	12
<b>Male</b>		<b>142</b>
	Amber	96
	Green	9
	Red	37
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>212</b>

<b>Referred from</b>	<b>Total</b>
After-care	3
CTC	45
Dochas	9
Family	34
G.P	1
HSE	2
Intreo	1
JIGSAW	6
Probation	1
School	23
Self	15
SSCP	13
YC Dochas	5
Youth Project	12
YR	42
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Initial Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
Course search	21
CTC Y1 - Catering	8
CTC Y1 - Garage	4
CTC Y1 - Horticulture	1
CTC Y1 - ICT	9
CTC Y2 - Catering	5
CTC Y2 - Garage	5
CTC Y2 - Horticulture	8
CTC Y2 - ICT	5
Dochas	6
Employment	1
Ex self employed	2
Expulsion	2
Hard to reach	4
Home tuition	2
Jail	1
Jobsearch	1
New to Galway	3
NEWB Case	1
Nothing	20
NUIG access	2
Occasional work	3
Out of school	7
Parenting	2
PLC drop out	1
SCCP	1
School support	30
Tracking	5
Unemployed	8
YR Y1 - L3	5
YR Y1 - L4	25
YR Y2 - L3	1
YR Y2 - L4	11
YR Y2 L3	1
YR Y1 L4	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
3rd Level	1
Access NUIG	1
Awaiting Tus	1
Course search	7
CTC Y1 - Catering	9
CTC Y1 - Garage	7
CTC Y1 - Horticulture	1
CTC Y1 - ICT	9
CTC Y2 - Catering	4
CTC Y2 - Garage	3
CTC Y2 - Garden	1
CTC Y2 - Horticulture	6
Dochas Y1 - L3	3
Dochas Y1 - L4	3
Dochas Y2 - L4	2
Employment F/T	7
Employment P/T	3
Expulsion	3
Isolated	1
Jail	3
Job Search	2
Masters	1
NEWB	2
NLN	2
Not engaging	3
Nothing	3
Occasional work	2
Parenting	8
Part-time course	3
PLC	11
Referred to Enterprise	1
Relocated (Ireland)	1
Re-located (UK)	3
Remained in school	23
Returned to School	1
Self Employed	2
TOGAIL	1
Tracking	2
Unemployed	24
VTOS	1
Waiting list CTC	2
Waiting list Dochas	1
Waiting list NLN	1
Waiting list	
Youthreach	4
YR Y1 - L3	5
YR Y1 - L4	12

YR Y2 - L3	1
YR Y2 - L4	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Initial Status</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>3rd Level</b>		<b>1</b>
	CTC Y2 - ICT	1
<b>Access NUIG</b>		<b>1</b>
	CTC Y2 - ICT	1
<b>Awaiting Tus</b>		<b>1</b>
	Unemployed	1
<b>Course search</b>		<b>7</b>
	Course search	2
	Nothing	3
	Out of school	1
	Parenting	1
<b>CTC Y1 - Catering</b>		<b>9</b>
	CTC Y1 - Catering	7
	Nothing	1
	YR Y2 - L4	1
<b>CTC Y1 - Garage</b>		<b>7</b>
	Course search	1
	CTC Y1 - Garage	4
	Out of school	2
<b>CTC Y1 - Horticulture</b>		<b>1</b>
	CTC Y1 - Horticulture	1
<b>CTC Y1 - ICT</b>		<b>9</b>
	CTC Y1 - ICT	9
<b>CTC Y2 - Catering</b>		<b>4</b>
	CTC Y1 - Catering	1
	CTC Y2 - Catering	3
<b>CTC Y2 - Garage</b>		<b>3</b>
	CTC Y2 - Garage	3
<b>CTC Y2 - Garden</b>		<b>1</b>
	Course search	1
<b>CTC Y2 - Horticulture</b>		<b>6</b>

	CTC Y2 - Horticulture	6
<b>Dochas Y1 - L3</b>		<b>3</b>
	New to Galway	1
	Nothing	1
	School support	1
<b>Dochas Y1 - L4</b>		<b>3</b>
	Course search	1
	Dochas	1
	Unemployed	1
<b>Dochas Y2 - L4</b>		<b>2</b>
	Dochas	1
	School support	1
<b>Employment F/T</b>		<b>7</b>
	CTC Y2 - Catering	1
	Jobsearch	1
	Nothing	1
	NUIG access	2
	School support	2
<b>Employment P/T</b>		<b>3</b>
	CTC Y2 - Horticulture	2
	CTC Y2 - ICT	1
<b>Expulsion</b>		<b>3</b>
	Dochas	3
<b>Isolated</b>		<b>1</b>
	Out of school	1
<b>Jail</b>		<b>3</b>
	Hard to reach	3
<b>Job Search</b>		<b>2</b>
	Nothing	2
<b>Masters</b>		<b>1</b>
	Unemployed	1
<b>NEWB</b>		<b>2</b>
	Home tuition	2
<b>NLN</b>		<b>2</b>
	Course search	2
<b>Not engaging</b>		<b>3</b>

	NEWB Case	1
	Out of school	1
	YR Y1 - L4	1
<b>Nothing</b>		<b>3</b>
	Hard to reach	1
	Nothing	1
	YR Y1 - L4	1
<b>Occasional work</b>		<b>2</b>
	Occasional work	2
<b>Parenting</b>		<b>8</b>
	Course search	1
	CTC Y2 - Catering	1
	CTC Y2 - Garage	1
	Ex self employed	1
	YR Y2 - L4	4
<b>Part-time course</b>		<b>3</b>
	Course search	2
	Out of school	1
<b>PLC</b>		<b>11</b>
	Course search	2
	Employment	1
	Nothing	1
	Out of school	1
	Tracking	1
	Unemployed	1
	YR Y2 - L4	4
<b>Referred to Enterprise</b>		<b>1</b>
	Ex self employed	1
<b>Relocated (Ireland)</b>		<b>1</b>
	CTC Y2 - ICT	1
<b>Re-located (UK)</b>		<b>3</b>
	CTC Y2 - Garage	1
	Unemployed	1
	YR Y1 - L4	1
<b>Remained in school</b>		<b>23</b>
	School support	23
<b>Returned to School</b>		<b>1</b>
	Nothing	1



<b>Self Employed</b>		<b>2</b>
	Unemployed	1
	YR Y1 - L4	1
<b>TOGAIL</b>		<b>1</b>
	CTC Y2 - ICT	1
<b>Tracking</b>		<b>2</b>
	Parenting	1
	Tracking	1
<b>Unemployed</b>		<b>24</b>
	Course search	7
	Dochas	1
	Jail	1
	New to Galway	1
	Nothing	7
	Occassional work	1
	PLC drop out	1
	Tracking	3
	Unemployed	2
<b>VTOS</b>		<b>1</b>
	Nothing	1
<b>Waiting list CTC</b>		<b>2</b>
	Course search	1
	Expulsion	1
<b>Waiting list Dochas</b>		<b>1</b>
	Expulsion	1
<b>Waiting list NLN</b>		<b>1</b>
	Course search	1
<b>Waiting list Youthreach</b>		<b>4</b>
	New to Galway	1
	School support	3
<b>YR Y1 - L3</b>		<b>5</b>
	YR Y1 - L3	5
<b>YR Y1 - L4</b>		<b>12</b>
	Nothing	1
	SCCP	1
	YR Y1 - L4	8
	YR Y1 L4	1
	YR Y2 L3	1

<b>YR Y2 - L3</b>		<b>1</b>
	YR Y2 - L3	1
<b>YR Y2 - L4</b>		<b>15</b>
	YR Y1 - L4	13
	YR Y2 - L4	2
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>212</b>