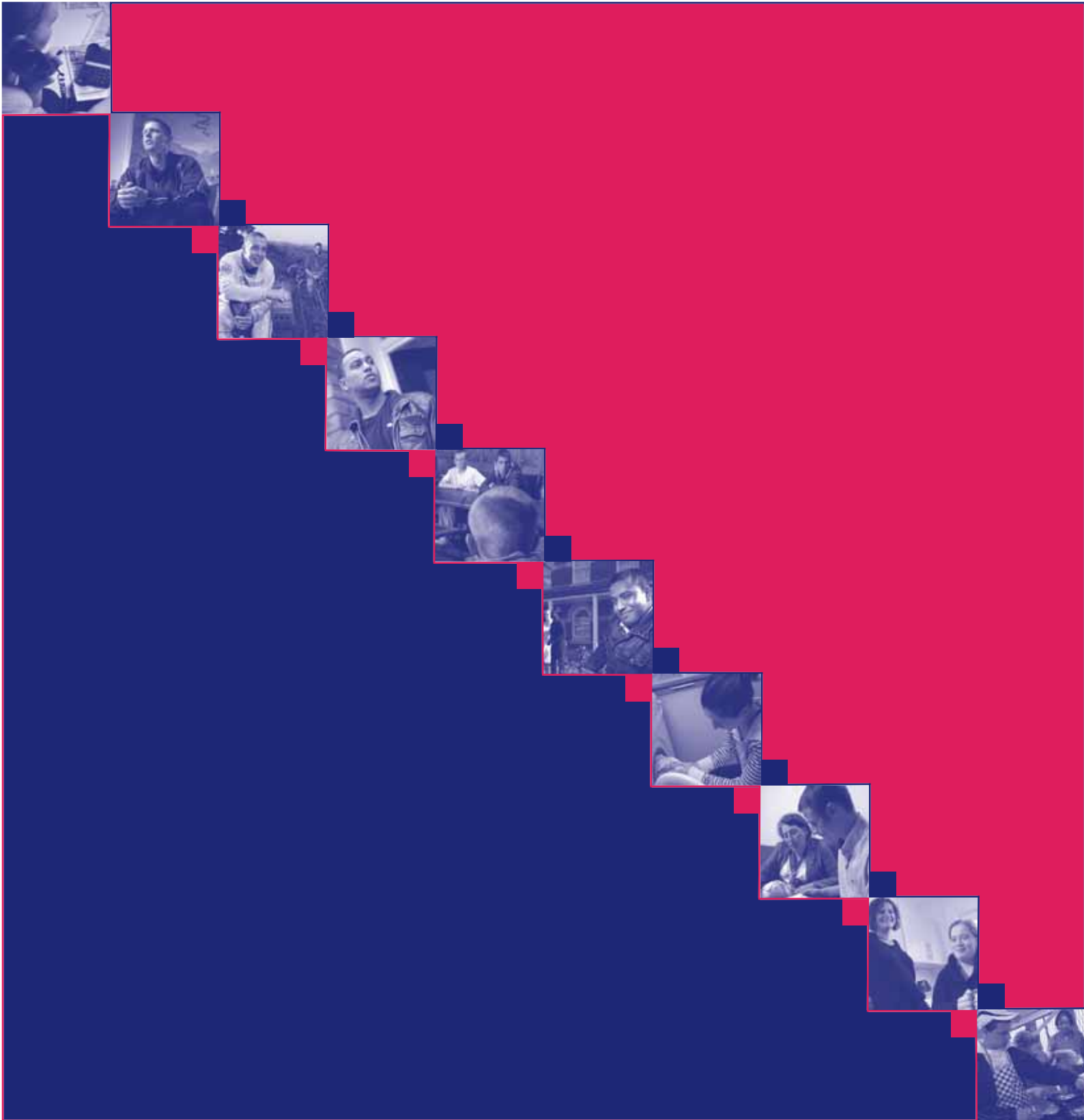




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Youth offending teams, young people and accommodation



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1. Introduction

As part of its work programme with the Welsh Assembly Government, Nacro Cymru has examined a number of issues in respect of the housing needs of young people who offend to assist the Welsh Assembly Government to meet the strategic targets identified in the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy:

- To evaluate the extent to which the needs of young offenders have been addressed within the local homelessness strategies (March 2005)
- To assess the extent to which the needs of young people are addressed in the Supporting People Operational Plans (March 2005)
- To advise the Youth Justice Board and Yots on the setting of appropriate targets for all young offenders released from custody into arranged and suitable accommodation (March 2005)
- To ensure through the Youth Justice Board and local authorities that all Yots are working to identify the housing needs of young offenders in their areas and to ensure that this informs the contribution and involvement with local homelessness and supporting people planning processes (March 2005)

2. Methodology

In order to undertake this work Nacro Cymru has surveyed youth offending teams (Yots) in Wales, to establish:

- How the role of the accommodation officer in Yots is being fulfilled
- Whether Yots have an accommodation strategy
- Whether Yots have received any funding to develop accommodation initiatives
- What provision exists in each area and whether it meets young peoples needs
- The level of involvement by Yots in planning groups relating to Supporting People, in contributing to Local Authority homelessness strategies and involvement in any other accommodation forums.

In order to complete this aspect of the research each Yot in Wales has been visited and a questionnaire completed with them. This is attached as appendix one and those who participated in the research are contained in appendix two. In conjunction with the survey, the accommodation status and needs of all young people who were sentenced to custody in 2004 are also being examined to identify what proportion had specific issues in relation to accommodation or housing, what they were, whether they were highlighted in planning processes and what happened on release. This will be the subject of a separate report.

3. Accommodation officer

3.1 Nominated accommodation officer

All youth offending teams are required to have a nominated accommodation officer, as part of their funding arrangements from the Youth Justice Board¹. In terms of meeting the Youth Justice Boards condition to have a housing or accommodation officer nominated within the team, all Yots met the requirement, although at the time the survey was undertaken two did not have an accommodation officer in post. One (*Cardiff*) was aiming to recruit a full time accommodation officer, with a housing background to undertake a specialist full time role. The other Yot (*Powys*) had previously had two accommodation officers based in the north and south of the county, however one was currently on secondment elsewhere and the other on long term sick leave.

Table One: Accommodation Officers by Yot

Youth Offending Team	Accommodation Officer	Full or Part Time	Percentage of time spent on role
Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly	Accommodation Officer	FT	All
Bridgend	Bail Support and Court Officer	PT	25% to 30% of time
Cardiff	In the process of recruiting		
Carmarthenshire	Parenting Co-ordinator	PT	Very small - 5%
Ceredigion	Acting Team Manager	PT	½ day per week
Conwy Denbighshire	Accommodation Officer (Nacro)	FT	All
Flintshire	Bail Support and Accommodation Officer	PT	Approximately 10%
Gwynedd Mon	Bail and Remand Worker	PT	Variable
Merthyr Tydfil	Operations Manager	PT	Small
Monmouth Torfaen	Social Worker	PT	Very small - 5%
Neath Port Talbot	Probation Officer	PT	Not estimated
Newport	Diversion Officer	PT	An hour per week
Pembrokeshire	Yot Manager	PT	Varies - 10% average
Powys	Not at present		
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Bail Support and Court Officer	PT	25%
Swansea	Deputy Yot Manager	PT	One day a month
Vale of Glamorgan	Bail and Remand Officer	PT	½ day a week minimum
Wrexham	Operations Manager	PT	20%

The Youth Justice Board’s initial guidance stated that the accommodation officer did not have to be a full time post, but the individual needed to be “given time to carry out the work”. In terms of the information provided by Yots, only two of the accommodation officers were full time with the remainder being part time. With regard to the part time roles, the amount of time spent on accommodation related issues varied from 5% to 30% of their time, where an estimate was given. This was generally a crude approximation and almost without exception Yots indicated the role tended to fluctuate and vary, making it difficult to estimate accurately. However, it should be noted that in all instances the priority would be to fulfil the mainstream role and function and not necessarily the accommodation function. A number of Yots commented the nomination was in name only and the accommodation role was not being undertaken as fully as it could be.

Yots were asked why the decision had been made to combine the role of accommodation officer with other functions. The main reason for bringing together the role with that of a bail and remand worker (33% of Yots) was because of the issues they can face in court when young people are at risk of having bail denied because they lack a suitable

¹ Youth Justice Board (2001) Advice note on accommodation for young people. Youth Justice Board.London

address. This was also a similar issue with regard to combining the role with that of the Probation Officer (*Neath Port Talbot*) as this role substantially deals with 16 and 17 year olds who as a group tend to have the greatest accommodation needs. In the case of the social worker (*Monmouth Torfaen*) it was on the basis of developmental interests and the post holder having a community work background. With regard to combining the role with that of the Parenting Co-ordinator (*Carmarthenshire*), it related to the fact that the practitioner was working in the area of family relationships and this was felt to be compatible; they also had a fostering background.

In *Ceredigion*, the role was combined with that of the Acting Team Manager, primarily to provide strategic direction and to be able to negotiate and influence at a senior management level. With regard to the Operational Manager and Deputy Yot Manager roles, in all cases there was an expectation that they would represent the Yot on relevant forums and not deal with practical problems on a day to day basis as this would be dealt with by case holders (*Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea and Wrexham*). Advice and support would however be given if required. With regard to the Yot Manager who was the nominated accommodation officer (*Pembrokeshire*), this was a pragmatic decision, due to the fact there are low numbers of young people with these needs that the Yot deals with. However, there are benefits as the Manager has the ability to directly influence those in Social Care and Housing at a strategic level.

With regard to the full time specialist accommodation officers, one was employed directly by the Yot to specifically support young people (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly*). The other was employed by a voluntary organisation (Nacro). This was because there is a well established partnership in respect of housing matters and the individual concerned manages two accommodation projects in the area; a four bed hostel and floating support project. The Yot (*Conwy Denbighshire*) contributes to the post.

3.2 Primary role and function of the accommodation officer

The Youth Justice Boards initial guidance² suggested the nominated accommodation officer was likely to undertake the following:

- Map local provision
- Identify gaps in housing provision
- Provide information to planning forums

Table two indicates the frequency with which Yots responded to the question asked about the content of the accommodation officer's role. In terms of feedback from Yots the focus of the role appears to be divided between strategic development, assisting other practitioners with accommodation issues and giving advice to young people. The priority given to these issues depends on who is undertaking the role. For example practitioners that are "operationally based" and dealing with young people on a day to day basis are more likely to have practical issues as the focus of their role, whereas those whose primary role is more about managing functions are more likely to be involved at a strategic level.

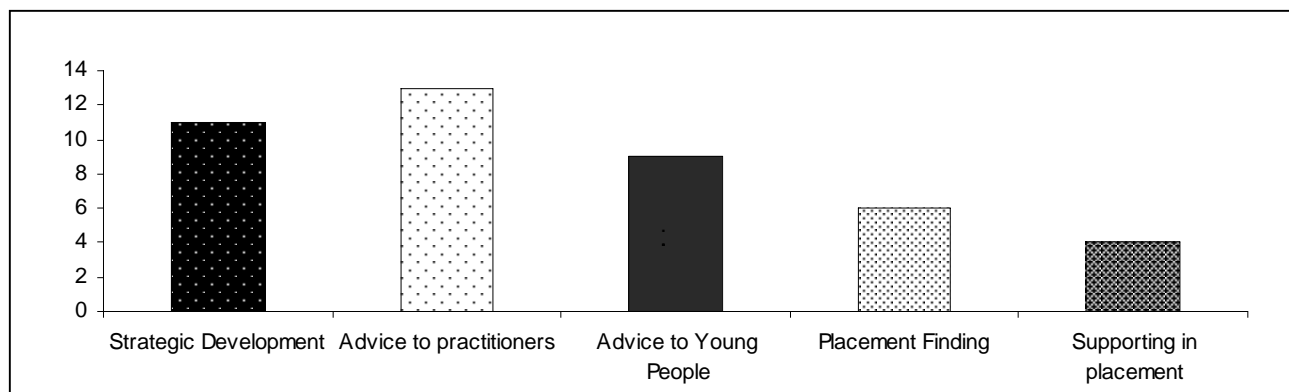
Not all practitioners (63% of accommodation officers) had a strategic brief, but in most cases were expected to liaise with local housing providers and where appropriate represent the Yot on relevant groups (although this did not always include Supporting People strategy groups or Homelessness forums). In some instances There this was a shared role with an Operational Manager, Deputy Yot Manager, Acting Team Manager or Yot Manager.

Where Managers roles also encompassed the accommodation function, the role was primarily about representing the Yot on relevant groups and forums and not necessarily about advising practitioners or young people about accommodation options. This

² Youth Justice Board (2001) Advice note on accommodation for young people. Youth Justice Board. London

suggests that the function is split between a number of individuals in some Yots with the overall responsibility not necessarily falling to the nominated accommodation officer and there being a distinct difference between operational activity that aims to resolve problems at a practical level and one that is more strategic in nature. For example, one Yot saw a very clear distinction between representing the Yot on strategic forums (which was undertaken by the Yot Manager), with the role of the accommodation officer (Diversion Officer) whose primary role in relation to housing matters was intended to analyse the accommodation needs of young people in the Yot (*Newport*).

Table Two: Role of the Accommodation Officer



Yots were asked to give further information about the functions they undertook in an attempt to breakdown what this actually meant:

Strategic development

Where there were strategic responsibilities, the following were indicated:

- Identifying and evidencing need across the Yot
- Forging and strengthening links with accommodation providers to develop a better understanding of the issues facing young people
- Negotiating service level agreements and protocols with providers
- Raising the profile of the Yot and the needs of young people; 16 and 17 year olds specifically
- Developing and maintaining a relationship with Housing Departments in terms of raising awareness of the needs of young people – “*keeping the issue on the agenda*”
- Representing the Yot on local housing and accommodation forums (Supporting People, Homelessness Strategy Groups, Community Safety Partnership and any other groups in which housing issues are discussed)
- Developing resources (for example remand fostering) in partnership with other agencies and identifying funding
- Maintaining contact with other accommodation officers

Advice to practitioners

Aside from dealing with young people on their own caseload, some named accommodation officers provided advice to other case holders. This generally meant providing day to day advice about the existence and availability of local provision and how to access it. This was seen as part of working as a team. One accommodation officer (*Bridgend*) had also taken a lead in organising training for practitioners by liaising with Shelter Cymru.

Advice to young people

Assistance given to young people generally included signposting them to appropriate

accommodation, providing assistance with form filling and making referrals to relevant agencies. One Yot commented this might also involve liaising with advocacy services and solicitors to ensure young people received the support and assistance they required (*Merthyr Tydfil*)

Finding accommodation

With regard to finding accommodation this would involve liaising with the Local Authority where they had statutory responsibilities or directing young people to the most appropriate source of help and support. None of the accommodation officers who indicated this was part of their responsibility did this on behalf of other case workers, but would offer help, support and guidance. They would however be expected to assist young people they were directly coming in to contact with.

Supporting young people in accommodation

Supporting young people in accommodation tended to be undertaken by case holders, as opposed to accommodation officers specifically, unless the young person was one of their caseload. This also related more to maintaining contact and monitoring progress as opposed to offering substantive tenancy support.

The fact the Youth Justice Board have been non-prescriptive about the role of the accommodation officer means that it is being undertaken in a variety of ways, often as a pragmatic response to the numbers of young people presenting with particular difficulties and identification of where efforts are best employed. In many respects the role is still evolving and could be defined and developed further. The issue of whether the role should be operational or strategic in nature presents a dilemma and is in many respects a reflection of the fact that in reality it appears to be a shared rather than singular activity in the majority of Yots. Recent guidance provided by the Youth Justice Board on its website suggests that it should be more strategic in nature. The extent to which Yots have identified gaps in service provision and fed information about requirements in relation to relevant planning forums is addressed in the section entitled liaison with accommodation providers.

3.3 Background and experience

The survey sought to identify what background and experience accommodation officers have in relation to housing and accommodation issues, in terms of whether they had either or both of the following:

- A specific housing advice background
- Specialist knowledge of housing and accommodation issues

Specific housing advice background

With regard to a specific housing advice background, Two Yots (*Bridgend and Conwy Denbighshire*) indicated their accommodation officers had previously worked for housing organisations (Caer Las and Shelter Cymru) in roles that involved providing advice and support to young people. The former is a bail and remand worker and the latter a full time accommodation officer.

Specialist knowledge of housing and accommodation issues

Nine Yots indicated their accommodation officer had specialist knowledge of housing and accommodation issues for young people:

- From a housing advice background (*Bridgend and Conwy Denbighshire*)

- From a background in Leaving Care (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly*); this was one of the full time accommodation officers.
- As a result of receiving training from Shelter Cymru (*Merthyr Tydfil*)
- From experience of dealing with young people (*Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire*)
- From networking and dealing with relevant groups (*Gwynedd Mon*)
- Through involvement in developing the local youth homelessness strategy and from a childcare background (*Swansea*)
- From identifying young peoples needs, sitting on relevant forums and gaining experience through dealing with the issues (*Rhondda Cynon Taf*)

In summary two Yots (13%) have accommodation officers with both a specific housing advice background and specialist knowledge of housing issues (*Bridgend and Conwy Denbighshire*) and nine Yots (50%) indicated their accommodation officer had specialist knowledge of housing and accommodation issues for young people, although this was widely interpreted.

The majority of accommodation officers had been appointed to the role from within the Yot and it was generally commented on that they had acquired any knowledge or experience “*on the job*”. There were few instances of accommodation officers having undertaken any relevant or specialist training. The accommodation officer in *Merthyr Tydfil* specifically had and at the time the survey was being undertaken Shelter Cymru was also providing practitioners in Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend with training.

Shelter as an organisation offers a range of courses in relation to housing and accommodation issues and specifically runs both a one and two day course on young people, housing and homelessness as part of its rolling programme of training. This course aims to give a working knowledge of the legislation and the frameworks that are there to assist young people to access accommodation. The courses are aimed at practitioners and those that advise young people. Either courses are likely to be a useful induction for those newly appointed to this area of work.

Additionally, there is no forum in Wales in which accommodation officers can get together to discuss relevant issues. In view of the varied level of knowledge and experience that exists within youth offending teams the development of such a forum could be useful in bringing practitioners together to network and share information. It could also be used to provide basic training. One recommendation would be for the Welsh Assembly Government and Youth Justice Board to bring accommodation officers together to examine the level of interest in developing an ongoing forum. It is also of note that the issue of accommodation is not addressed in any specific forum of Yot Managers.

3.4 Has the appointment of an accommodation made a difference

Yots were asked whether they thought the appointment of an accommodation officer had made a difference to improving access to accommodation for young people. Three Yots (17%) indicated that it had made a significant impact, twelve (66%) that it had to some extent and three (17%) that there was no change to the pre-existing position. *Cardiff*, which was in the process of recruiting an accommodation officer indicated the intention was to improve access when the appointment was made.

Significant improvement

Of those that indicated there had been a significant improvement, this was noted to be because there was a dedicated role, which eased the pressure on practitioners as they had someone who could assist in negotiating routes and access into accommodation (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly*). *Conwy Denbighshire* indicated there were improved relationships with key agencies. The accommodation officer had identified funding routes, which resulted in the development of a hostel for young people aged 16 to 21

years of age thereby extending available provision. Both these Yots have full time accommodation officers. *The Vale of Glamorgan* also indicated there was a significant improvement because there was now a designated hostel for young people aged 16 to 21 years, which the Yot had been a partner in the development of and could now access.

Improved to some extent

With regard to the Yots that responded accommodation provision had improved to some extent, this was felt to be because there was a designated individual who would raise issues relating to young people in appropriate forums and as a result there were improved links with the voluntary and statutory sector housing providers. In addition there had been the development of protocols with the statutory and private sector, greater awareness of the support needed for young people and improved access to tenancy support. These Yots also indicated the appointment provided a resource for practitioners to access for advice and support and Yot staff found it clearer to identify the process that needed to be gone through to ensure young people got what they are entitled to.

Additional benefits were that the knowledge base had increased by being part of the Homelessness Strategy Group (*Swansea*). There had been significant improvements in terms of better strategic relationships and access to agencies but no improvement in the availability of suitable accommodation for young people, as appropriate housing stock was limited (*Pembrokeshire*). *Monmouth Torfaen* commented that relationships had improved through the Supporting People agenda and Young Peoples Partnership specifically. *Newport* commented the issue has moved on in that it has become higher profile in nature, rather than the profile having been raised through the efforts of a particular individual.

No change to pre-existing position

Three Yots identified there was no change to the pre-existing position. *Gwynedd Mon* noted there was greater involvement in local networks and improved exchanges with relevant agencies and at a local level very positive links to Shelter Cymru (which shared the same building). However the ability to influence and create real change was hampered by the lack of resources locally. The position was described as "dire". That said there were plans to work with the Housing Department to try and encourage private landlords to provide accommodation for young people which could be supported with a bond scheme, which is hoped will improve the range of provision for 16 and 17 year olds.

Merthyr Tydfil also indicated that there was no change to the pre-existing position, despite there being strenuous efforts on the part of the team and ISSP workers particularly in developing good relationships with potential providers so that they would consider taking young people with an electronic tag when there were assurances of additional guaranteed support from the Yot. This had led to a small scale improvement in access to provision. However, relationships with the Housing Department needed to significantly improve in that it was felt they were not providing a service to meet young peoples needs and there was no forum in which to interface and influence the agenda more positively.

Powys also commented there was no change as Yot workers tended to address issues when they arose with the young people they were working with and are best placed to advocate on the young persons behalf. As such it was felt that the appointment of a specialist worker in a team that operates on a generic basis does not necessarily bring any added value.

4. Accommodation strategies

The Youth Justice Board has set out guidance to assist Yots to develop an accommodation strategy, which is currently available on its website. It specifies that the strategy should develop three strands:

- Mapping young peoples needs, which involves auditing the availability of accommodation and identifying any gaps in services
- Implementing structures and systems, involving developing clearly defined protocols and processes for engaging with local partners
- Influencing the local housing agenda, through the Supporting People programme, participating in the development of Homelessness Strategies and linking with other appropriate strategic groups

It is suggested that this might be a written document and that a template will be provided to promote its development. The Youth Justice Board indicates the development of local strategies is part of its overall accommodation strategy and accommodation plans will become subject to monitoring. In addressing this question Yots were asked about whether they had an accommodation strategy and not specifically whether they had one that met the Youth Justice Boards criteria.

Five Yots (28%) indicated that they had an accommodation strategy:

- 1 *Conwy Denbighshire*: Have developed a written document that sets out what the Yot is aiming to achieve at a local level in terms of meeting young peoples accommodation needs. The strategy has been partly implemented in that it was important in identifying that a four bed supported hostel was required for young people in Denbighshire. The strategy has not been fully implemented in that there is still the need for emergency accommodation in the area. The identification of this requirement has led to the exploration of possible partners and an estimation of costs. Other benefits from the production of the strategy have been a greater awareness of the issues facing young people in both boroughs.
- 2 *Powys and Wrexham* commented that their accommodation strategy was encompassed in the youth justice plan³. *Wrexham* added that the local authority has a young peoples accommodation strategy, which the Yot contributes to. The strategic group comprises the Local Authority (Social Services and Housing Departments), the voluntary sector and local housing associations. The strategy aims to address young peoples housing and accommodation needs on a range of levels and has given a momentum and profile to the issue in the area. The main constraint to it being fully implemented has been the lack of available resources.
- 3 *Gwynedd Mon* stated that their accommodation strategy related to addressing identified accommodation needs within the youth justice context but was not a written document.
- 4 The *Vale of Glamorgan* stated they had an accommodation strategy and this related specifically to the placement of young people in a local hostel.

Thirteen Yots (72%) indicated they did not have a specific Yot accommodation strategy in the form of an identifiable document that included relevant partner agencies. However, the following were given as examples of the type of agreements and arrangements that existed in a number of localities:

³ Yots are required to provide quarterly information on accommodation, notably that there is a named accommodation officer and in relation to the percentage of young people subject to relevant community based penalties and custodial sentences that have suitable accommodation to go to. Current requirements can be found in Youth Justice Board Counting Rules dated May 2005 on www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk

- Protocols with Social Services regarding placements, routes into accommodation and leaving care
- Protocols with the Local Authority Housing Department or Homelessness Units
- Protocols with Supporting People
- Protocols with local housing providers (voluntary sector or housing associations) regarding the placement of young people
- Working agreements with courts about what will happen when accommodation arises as an issue
- Protocols regarding anti social behaviour orders, where housing is an issue

Swansea stated they did not have a Yot accommodation strategy but were part of a much wider group, comprising the main housing providers, the City and County of Swansea, the voluntary sector and Supporting People. The needs of young people who offend were specifically addressed in a sub group that was analysing the requirements of young people with high support needs. One of the benefits of being part of this group is that it is well established, has brought the main players together and has helped to define the main pathways into accommodation. It was also noted that Supporting People has been of significant assistance in terms of focusing and driving the agenda.

Ceredigion indicated there was not a Yot accommodation strategy, however there was a plan to develop remand fostering provision in the area that had arisen out of the loss of dedicated bail accommodation (see next section).

Barriers to developing an accommodation strategy were seen as:

- A lack of resources to implement the strategy
- A lack of suitable housing stock and the capital outlay required to refurbish potentially suitable properties
- Social barriers such as negative views of young people and their needs (for example being seen as undeserving) and local opposition to developing new ideas

Merthyr stated that if an accommodation strategy were developed it would need to be linked to resources. *Bridgend* commented that the development of a strategy is difficult for Yots in small areas where resources are limited and it could only work if it were tied into local authority planning mechanisms. *Carmarthenshire* noted it would be helpful if the strategy was linked to mainstream providers, as the Yot needs to have the ability to influence them to meet the needs of young people in the local area. *Pembrokeshire* indicated that a strategy would be helpful in terms of identifying pathways into accommodation and commented that contributing to a vulnerable young persons strategy document had been useful in bringing key agencies together, developing a sense of common purpose and a commitment to roles and responsibilities. Two other Yots (*Bridgend and Monmouth Torfaen*) identified the issue of accommodation should be addressed in Young Peoples Partnerships where it can be given a degree of priority and can also be firmly fixed to the Extending Entitlement agenda.

The indications are that whilst Yots tend to have a clear idea of the type of accommodation they need for young people and what they consider to be suitable and unsuitable (see page 16) they have not tended to articulate these requirements in a written document with the relevant agencies. That said there are a number of examples of protocols and agreements that would clearly form part of an accommodation strategy. What also seems to be important is to be part of the relevant groups and processes which exist in local areas where accommodation issues are discussed and raised and to ensure that the needs of young people who offend are fed into wider planning processes (see section entitled liaison with accommodation providers)

5. Funding for accommodation initiatives

One of the questions asked was whether Yots had received funding to develop accommodation provision in their area. This was likely to have been either through grant funding given by the Youth Justice Board in 2001 for a three-year period as one of the small grants available for a range of different projects of which accommodation was one. The other possible mechanism was likely to have been through Supporting People. In terms of the way in which this question was addressed and answered, it related to whether the Yot had been a partner in any funding arrangements that resulted in resources it was able to access for young people in housing need.

Conwy Denbighshire had received funding from the Youth Justice Board for an accommodation officer's post, which was provided through Nacro Housing. Although that particular grant had come to an end, the Yot continues to contribute to the post. By having an accommodation officer who has a specialist housing background the Yot has benefited in that this role was instrumental in identifying that funding could be obtained through Supporting People and has been for a four bed hostel for young people, which is managed and run by Nacro Housing. Nacro Housing also provide floating support to young people with whom the Yot is working with, which has also been funded by Supporting People.

The *Vale of Glamorgan* were also partners in a Supporting People initiative, which had led to the development of four bed hostel in Barry, in partnership with Ty Trothwy and the Local Authority. The accommodation is not specifically ring fenced to the Yot, however it has the ability to refer young people directly to it and sits on the allocations panel, so in effect helps to gate keep access to it. The hostel was set up in response to direct difficulties in trying to access accommodation for young people aged 16 and 17 years of age.

Two Yots (*Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot*) had received funding from the Youth Justice Board to jointly fund an accommodation post, between 2001 and 2004. Through this a worker, from a specialist housing organisation provided a part time service to both Yots. The role was intended to make links to local strategies and agencies on housing issues and to advise young people and practitioners on the accommodation options available. The post could not be sustained financially when the funding came to an end and had not worked as well in operation as had originally been envisaged. That said it was noted it had been helpful to have a dedicated role to focus on accommodation issues. The accommodation function has now been combined with that of other activity in both Yots, a Probation Officer in one instance and a bail and remand worker in another.

Ceredigion had received funding from the Youth Justice Board to develop and run a fully staffed (two bed) house for young people who required accommodation at the pre trial stage. This provided accommodation for 16 to 25 year olds and was ring fenced to the Yot, however for part of its period of operation was under occupied. The funding has since come to an end and the Yot is now aiming to develop remand fostering as an alternative.

Monmouth Torfaen indicated that the bail supervision and support grant from the Youth Justice Board (2000 to 2003) had included supporting young people with accommodation needs.

Powys Challenge has received funds (although the interviewee was unspecific about the source) to work in partnership with Ty Trothwy to develop single supported accommodation for young people in Llandrindod Wells.

In total seven Yots (39%) indicated that funding had been made available in their area to develop either provision or local services. The schemes financed by Supporting People are still operational, but none of the services provided through Youth Justice Board funds have been sustained. None of the Yots have an accommodation budget, although one has ring fenced funding to develop remand foster care provision (*Rhondda Cynon Taf*) and *Merthyr* indicated that it has a small budget (derived from section 17 of the Children Act 1989) to provide additional support to young people who are in extreme difficulty.

6. Accommodation

6.1 Types of accommodation available

Yots were asked to identify what accommodation was available for young people in their area. Appendix three sets out the responses to this question. In summary:

- **Children's homes:** Seven Yots (39%) have children's homes in their area, which are accessed through Social Services.
- **Foster care:** All Yots have access to foster care, also accessed through Social Services.
- **Remand Foster Care:** Four areas (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and the Vale of Glamorgan*) have a service level agreement with Resolutions, which provides six remand fostering beds for young people from these areas. A further four Yots (*Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Newport and Swansea*) have beds either ring fenced to the Yot or identified within Local Authority provision. Two areas (*Ceredigion and Rhondda Cynon Taf*) were in the process of setting up remand fostering schemes.
- **Probation hostel:** On the whole Yots responded that they did not tend to try and access places in a Probation Hostel, mainly because they are not considered suitable for young people.
- **Hostel accommodation:** The research indicated there are Foyers in six areas (*Bridgend, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Powys, Swansea and Wrexham*), however it was also noted that they tend to have strict entry criteria that often preclude referrals from Yots; they tend not to take young people with high support needs. There are also proposals for a Foyer in *Monmouth Torfaen*. There are YMCAs in four areas; *Cardiff, Merthyr, Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf* A number of areas have access to other types of hostels run by either voluntary organisations or Housing Associations in their area (*Conwy Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd Mon, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea and the Vale of Glamorgan*).
- **Supported lodgings:** The majority of areas have a limited number of supported lodgings. These tend to be small units typically offering four beds, either in the form of shared accommodation or bedsits that have residential staff or support workers attached to them. Local Authorities also provide accommodation for young people leaving care with support attached.
- **Family support:** Yots indicated that efforts would be made to avoid family breakdown and to maintain young people with their families wherever appropriate. This was most frequently referred to in relation to bail supervision and support and when identified as an issue for those on community orders.
- **Rented accommodation:** rented accommodation is accessed through the Local Authority Housing Departments. Local Authorities may also offer tenancy support. A number of areas have Bond schemes.
- **Use of bed and breakfast accommodation:** Bed and breakfast accommodation is widely used and is accessed through the Local Authority Housing Departments. It was noted by two Yots that the placement of young people in bed and breakfast when it occurred would not be within their local area (*Flintshire and Neath Port Talbot*).

- **PACE beds:** Nine Yots indicated that they did not have access to PACE beds. Of those that did they were available through the agreement with Resolutions remand fostering provision (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and the Vale of Glamorgan*), through Hillside Secure Unit (*Neath Port Talbot*), one bed was intended to be available through the developing remand fostering scheme (*Rhondda Cynon Taf*), two through the Local Authority (*Monmouth Torfaen and Powys*) and one through The BAYS project in *Swansea*, which is run by Barnardos. This type of provision is generally accessed through the Local Authority.
- **Out of county placements:** Where commented on Yots indicated that Local Authority policies tended to be to exhaust all local options in the first instance and where possible to maintain young people in accommodation in the area. However, it was also indicated that the expenditure on out of county placements tends to be high, and is orientated towards “welfare” rather than “justice” related placements. The use of out of county placements will depend on the availability of accommodation locally and the specific needs of young people. Yots indicated that if considered, they tended to be for serious sex offenders, for example.
- **Other provision:** The other types of provision that were mentioned were other agencies that provided assistance to homeless people such as *Wallich Clifford which operates in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Swansea*. The provision of advice and support from Shelter in *Bridgend and Gwynedd Mon*, and Nacro Housing which liaises with offenders in custody to try and help them identify suitable accommodation on release (*Gwynedd Mon*). The Local Authority in *Newport* has a family mediation scheme. Ty Hafan in *Wrexham* also has properties available for young women.

6.2 Is the range of provision adequate?

Yots were asked to comment on whether the accommodation they were able to access for young people was adequate. Thirteen Yots (72%) responded that it was inadequate, four (22%) that it was adequate and one (6%) that it was good.

Inadequate provision

Thirteen Yots indicated that the availability of accommodation for young people in their area was inadequate for the following reasons:

Unsuitable accommodation: Young people are often placed in unsuitable accommodation. This includes too much reliance on poor quality bed and breakfast accommodation; placements sometimes being made in unsuitable children’s homes and the location of Local Authority single accommodation is often “on the worst estates with the greatest problems”. It was frequently commented on that it is usually possible to find accommodation for young people, but what is available is often inappropriate, “putting a roof over someone’s head is not necessarily meeting their needs”. On the whole the range of choices were described as inadequate and there needing to be a more focused and structured response to vulnerable young people

Limited provision: Provision on the whole is very limited, in that there is an overall lack of available accommodation let alone suitable accommodation for those aged 16 and 17 years of age, who are homeless or either want or have to live independently. There is a lack of dedicated PACE beds and a lack of emergency accommodation, notably for those appearing in court and being released from custody. What is available requires lengthy referrals and assessments, and as such the system of accessing accommodation is not sympathetic or responsive to young people’s needs. Local Authority provision tends to be used more for those with “welfare” priorities as opposed to criminogenic needs. Additionally, in some Yots the provision that exists is situated in a limited number of areas and does not extend to all centres of population in the county or is largely outside the authority.

Lack of protocols and agreements: There are a lack of protocols regarding homeless young people and their housing needs and a lack of willingness on the part of some Housing Departments to find accommodation or to place young people in independent accommodation. There needs to be more emphasis on upholding individual rights, rather than questioning whether some young people are deserving or not. This is because there are competing demands and different agendas. Additionally, the fact that Yots do not have direct access to accommodation means that they have to continually negotiate about admittance to provision.

Adequate provision

Although provision was described as adequate in a number of areas, it was with varying provisos. *Ceredigion* indicated there were variations in the provision that is available in the north and south of the county and there is a heavy reliance on accessing services from Leaving Care. *Conwy Denbighshire* indicated that although the overall position was adequate the availability of suitable accommodation for homeless 16 and 17 year olds was still inadequate and resources were required to provide emergency accommodation. *Powys* specified that on the whole young people are found something suitable as those presenting with real needs are few in number. However when problems arise, it is always at crisis point and it can be difficult to resolve; those dealing with the issue can quickly run out of options. It was observed that the wrong tenancy can lead to a cycle of problems that becomes difficult to break. The *Vale of Glamorgan* indicated that the position was adequate but noted there was still too much use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Good provision

One Yot (*Carmarthehsire*) indicated that needs were generally met. However there was a continuing necessity to influence Children's Services to move away from the routine response of "no places available" to providing a better response to young people with difficulties in their living arrangements. It was also commented that a rapid response is needed when young people are in crisis and there was too much reliance on the "state of play that day" and "who you are liaising with".

6.3 Ability to access accommodation and meet the needs of young people

Yots were asked to consider how well they had been able to access accommodation to meet the needs of young people in the last three months. One Yot (6%) indicated that they had been able to access accommodation all of the time, seven Yots (39%) most of the time, eight Yots (44%) sometimes and three Yots (17%) rarely

All of the time

The Yots that responded they were able to access accommodation all of the time, based this view on the fact that practitioners work hard to try and find accommodation for a young person, but that said what is found does not always meet identified needs.

Most of the time

Of those that had been able to respond most of the time, there were various comments. Yots indicated they are able to access something most of the time, but it may be less than suitable, however it is usually the case that there is no other option available. It was also observed that this would sometimes only be the case with the intervention of the Yot Manager, which meant that it became an "issue of communication resolution rather than service resolution". It was also noted that most young people are living at home and strenuous efforts will be made to resolve difficulties to try and avoid family breakdown and loss of accommodation. Others commented the number of young people with genuinely nowhere to go in their area was very few, but with significant difficulties and needs, that were always difficult to address. The other problem that was

commented on in this section was that of blacklisting. If young people misbehave in accommodation they are rarely given a second chance, which further diminishes the options available.

Sometimes

Of those that said they had only sometimes been able to access accommodation to meet the needs of young people, this was because there is a lack of suitable provision generally and specifically for those with high support needs. In addition there is a lack of emergency accommodation and too many instances of young people being placed or moved on inappropriately

Rarely

Those that responded they had rarely been able to access accommodation stated this was because there was too much reliance on the use of bed and breakfast and an overall lack of suitable provision for 16 and 17 year olds.

6.4 Types of accommodation most frequently used

Yots were asked to comment on the types of accommodation most frequently accessed for young people with housing or accommodation difficulties. For those 15 year of age or under, this tended to be:

- Supporting the young person in the (extended) family home to avoid breakdown and loss of accommodation
- (Remand) Foster care
- Placement in a children's home

The role and position of the Yot in terms of supporting the young person at home is strictly within the context of the management of pre trial services or a court order. If the young person has wider needs, a referral can be made for joint case management with Social Services to ensure they get the right level of involvement from the Local Authority. Yots commented that for referrals to either foster care or a children's home the situation has to be desperate.

For those 16 years of age or over:

- Use of bed and breakfast accommodation
- Use of hostels that offer a measure of support (where they exist) for 16 and 17 year olds and if there are vacancies

The overall lack of suitable accommodation for those aged 16 and 17 years of age is a significant issue, as there is a lack of supported accommodation for those that want to or have to live independently. It was also reported that it can be difficult to find suitable accommodation for 15 year olds, even though the Local Authority still has statutory responsibilities for young people of this age group.

6.5 Suitable and unsuitable accommodation for young people

Yots were asked to consider what types of accommodation they considered suitable and unsuitable for young people. Suitable accommodation was considered to be:

- Support in the (extended) family home, unless the home environment had been assessed as unsuitable
- High quality foster care (age and needs related)
- Remand fostering
- Lodgings or hostels that offer a good level of support for 16 and 17 year olds that ease the transition to independent living

Types of accommodation that are considered unsuitable are:

- Bed and breakfast accommodation for a number of reasons, namely because it does not meet the needs of young people as there is a lack of structure and support; there can be questions over the suitability of the landlord and other residents; the location can be questionable; it is impermanent and insecure and it is highly unlikely that a young person who is electronically tagged will not be accepted.
- Children's homes may not always be an appropriate environment for various reasons, notably in preventing offending
- Rented accommodation that is poor quality (unfurnished) and/or in unsuitable neighbourhoods
- Unsupported accommodation for those with varying support needs
- Probation Hostels in terms of entry criteria and other residents

6.6 Young people for whom it is difficult to find accommodation for

Yots were asked to comment on whether there are any young people for whom it is difficult to find accommodation for. The following were identified:

Offence type: Young people whose behaviour is risky to others are noted to be difficult to find accommodation for, for example, arsonists, violent offenders and sex offenders, notably schedule one offenders, as there can be issues about where to place them, what to disclose as relevant information to prospective landlords and how to ensure the risks presented are effectively managed. This relates specifically to those that are subject to multi agency public protection arrangements.

Specific problems: Those with persistent offending histories tend to have multiple and interlocking needs and other problems such as substance misuse or mental health issues. Those with learning difficulties have particular difficulties as they may not understand their own needs and what is required of them in terms of living independently.

Those that have experienced difficulties with their living arrangements: This includes those who have broken a tenancy (for example causing damage or disturbance) or those who have been assessed as intentionally making themselves homeless. This can also include young people with a "history" who are well known in the local area. It is also noted that Housing Departments are reluctant to move a young person into an area where they will cause problems. For all of these reasons young people can become blacklisted and the options available to them will diminish. In addition those that have caused problems in the "looked after" system, can be difficult to find accommodation for particularly when a breakdown of placement occurs. It was observed that there have been instances where the Local Authority will allow a young person to go into custody rather than following through a care plan.

Other: It was noted that being a young person can be a problem in its own right as landlords do not like providing accommodation for the younger age group even when their rent is being paid. 16 and 17 year olds who have no-where to go or who are unable to return home following a custodial sentence generally have problems in finding somewhere to live. Those wearing an electronic tag can be difficult to find accommodation for because of the need to make arrangements for the electronic surveillance equipment. In addition those subject to anti social behaviour orders that have been evicted from accommodation or where exclusion zones preclude housing options being considered also present difficulties.

6.7 Type of accommodation required

In examining what provision is available, it is apparent that Yots need an assortment of provision that they can refer young people to, which ranges from access to emergency

accommodation (for those appearing in court or on release from custody) and a variety of options that form a continuum from supported lodgings to semi supported lodgings and ultimately independent living. Yots identified the main types of accommodation that are needed to improve the current position and increase the range of options available:

- Emergency accommodation, that can be directly accessed that offers high levels of support for 16 and 17 year olds
- Remand fostering
- Supported lodgings

It was also commented on that having access to a supportive adult is also important in helping young people to live independently.

Emergency accommodation which would allow access to a placement for a 72 hour period whilst other options are pursued and considered basically does not exist, but would significantly assist those who need a bail address, those in crisis and those leaving custody that have no-where to go. This was described as “bail hostel” type of accommodation that is suitable for young people. Remand fostering, provided by experienced carers who are willing to work with teenagers is also considered necessary for those who may be vulnerable to a custodial remand because of they lack a suitable address. Supported lodgings can take various forms; the Youth Justice Board identifies that this can be placements in a family home⁴, however from the evidence provided within the survey it is more likely to be in the form of some other supported accommodation such as flats or bedsits, which allow for semi independent living, with residential or floating support attached.

Respondents to the survey generally commented they need a range of flexible provision to be able to meet the varying and wide ranging needs of young people. However it is often recognised this is difficult to develop and sustain in areas where Yots are dealing with small numbers of young people who have significant accommodation needs or have widely dispersed geographical areas, where pockets of provision may exist around some but not all centres of population. For example *Carmarthenshire* has in the past explored the viability of establishing remand fostering, however there were concerns about sustainability as the numbers of young people requiring this type of placement were likely to be low, which presents problems in terms of maintaining occupancy and therefore viability. It was only likely to be possible if shared with Social Services, with an ability to access placements as and when required. The other possible approach is through a consortium. The partnership between four Yots in South Wales that provides remand foster care beds through Resolutions is one such example.

⁴ Youth Justice Board (2001) Advice note on accommodation for young people. Youth Justice Board.London

7. Priority given to accommodation issues in the area

Yots were asked what priority was given to accommodation issues for young people in their area. 22% of Yots replied that it was high, 56% that it had average priority, 17% that it was low and 6% that it was very low. A range of comments were made to support these statements:

High priority: These Yots pointed out the fact that accommodation has a high priority does not mean that provision exists. However, two Yots identified positive initiatives in their local area. In *Powys* the Local Authority is starting to renovate housing for single occupancy and a Principal Officer for Accommodation has been appointed to look at housing issues in the *Swansea* area.

Average priority: These Yots indicated that the issue tends to have high priority from their perspective, but not necessarily from the relevant agencies and as a result meeting needs could fluctuate and vary on a case by case basis. These Yots indicated that on the whole relationships and networks were improving and despite the fact there is a lack of quality accommodation, strenuous efforts are always made on young people's behalf. They identified that agencies need to be better informed and needs should be properly addressed in planning processes for any distinct improvements to be made.

Low priority: These Yots indicated the overriding problem is the lack of accommodation and available resources for the young people generally.

Very low priority: The issue for this respondent was the lack of will on the part of statutory housing providers, a culture of saying no and young people being seen as a problem.

All Yots indicated that the priority given to the issue should increase, however it was also recognised that agencies were starting from a low base in terms of being able to fully and comprehensively address the wide ranging needs of young peoples.

8. Liaison with accommodation providers

Yots were asked to describe their working relationships with the main agencies with which they liaised regarding housing and accommodation issues.

8.1 Housing associations and the voluntary sector

67% of Yot indicated that relationships with housing associations and the voluntary sector ⁵were generally good or very good, with 11 % indicating that they were adequate and 6% quite poor. The reason for the positive rating related to the ability of these accommodation providers to give assistance to Yots. Yots commented that overall there were good working relationships and a willingness to try and meet young people's needs. Where they were rated less positively it was due to the fact that access criteria did not always assist young people.

8.2 Social services

In terms of the relationship with Social Services, 67% of Yots assessed the relationship as good or better, 8% as adequate and 25% as below adequate (quite poor and poor).

In terms of what the feedback means relationships were generally described as good, but the ability to respond to young peoples needs as poor, due in the main to the emphasis given to child protection priorities. Those aged 16 and 17 years old generally and young offenders specifically are not seen as a priority groups. It was commented on that there is a general lack of acceptance that a young person the Yot is working with is a child in need and the fact that accommodation is required is undermined by the young person being seen as an offender to be undeserving or not of high enough priority in relation to other cases.

Additionally there is a lack of perception of what Yots do. Senior managers in Social Services assume the role of social workers in Yots is welfare orientated and they are responsible for all aspects of the young persons life including finding accommodation, despite the statutory responsibility of Local Authorities in this respect. This indicates a lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities and meeting young peoples accommodation needs is not seen as a multi agency issue. Yots are not resourced to work to the Children Act 1989 and their position is difficult as it straddles both children's and criminal justice services. One suggestion that was put forward was that if Yots were managed by community safety partnerships, there would be less likelihood of them being seen as a social welfare agency and more of a community safety agency. This could have the potential to access a wider range of resources.

Additionally the demand for accommodation gate kept by Social Services far outweighs the supply and impacts on their ability to provide services; "they won't place because they can not". There is a perceived culture of "protecting resources", which means that need always has to be justified and the process of accessing accommodation was not uncommonly described as a "battle", in which practitioners often needed the intervention of senior managers to achieve the desired result. Yots commented that although protocols are in place, it does not make it any easier to access accommodation and that on the whole a more flexible approach is needed as not every placement can be achieved through a planned approach. There is a desire to look at meeting need in different ways and not to rely on traditional approaches.

Where positive comments were made the common theme that emerged was that participation in related meetings and forums has helped to clarify roles, responsibilities and requirements. One Yot Manager specifically observed that attending the quarterly

⁵ These have been combined as the survey findings for both were the same

Principal Officers meetings has helped to develop relationships and the taking on board of issues.

8.3 Housing departments

Relationships with the Local Authority Housing Department or Homelessness team were rated as good by 46% of Yots, adequate by 38% and poor by 15%. Comments varied across a spectrum from receptive, but restricted in what they could offer, others as totally lacking an understanding of the needs of young people and being unwilling to find accommodation for young people.

Criticisms centred on a lack of understanding of the issues faced by young people and therefore willingness to respond. This manifested itself as a continual problem of getting Housing Departments to accept the issues, "they are pro-active in being difficult, we continually have to fight and challenge". In some authorities it was suggested that a significant change in cultural attitude and approach was required as there was a lack of will and interest to address the issue and a stereotypical view of young people. In one area the relationship was described as "appalling" in that there was a complete lack of interest in discussing issues with the Yot at a strategic level and this left them isolated and only able to respond by being confrontational and using legal assistance to secure services for young people. Other problems that were commented on were that Housing Departments interpret legislation in ways that were counter to Local Authority responsibilities and apply adult criteria to young people.

Where relationships were better this was in part attributed to there being regular meetings that included the Housing Department and the Yot. In a number of instances the position was described as having moved on, in that regular contact has improved relationships and provided a basis for a dialogue. Two of the smaller Yots indicated relationships were good because they were based in the same building and another that staff numbers across the Authority were small and as such there were closer working relationships and good information sharing resulting in more collective responsibility when problems arose.

Suggestions to improve the current position included having agreements with Housing Departments that priority will be given to young people in need. It was also felt that a worker within the Housing Department who was responsible for young people, rather than homelessness generally, would help to foster better relationships with the Yot and ensure greater integration of young peoples needs in planning processes.

The issue for Yots generally in their liaison with the Social Services or the Housing Department is they need to develop robust links and these agencies need to be a receptive and willing to look at how services are provided and be amenable to discussing how needs can best be met. All too commonly the issue that was raised was more about the quality of relationships and problems with individuals rather than the agency as a whole. In these instances the quality of working relationships appeared to directly affect the ability of the Yot to access services.

8.4 Relationship with supporting people

Yots were asked about their relationship with Supporting People. The Supporting People initiative was launched in April 2003 to provide housing related support to assist vulnerable young people to live independently and maintain their tenancies. Ex-offenders and people at risk of offending and imprisonment are one of the specific groups identified that can attract support services. The survey sought to identify the extent to which Yots are involved in planning cycles and the extent to which this has helped to meet young peoples needs.

In summary twelve Yots (67%) indicate they regularly attended meetings regarding the Supporting People initiative, five (28%) do not and one Yot (6%), *Ceredigion* did not

know whether it was represented in any groups or not. 36% of Yots rated their relationship with Supporting People as very good, 27% as good, 27% as adequate and 9% as poor.

In two areas the Supporting People strategy group has been incorporated into other housing forums. In *Swansea*, Supporting People does not have a specific meeting in its own right, however issues relating to housing and homelessness and young people are addressed through the Young People's Partnership and the homelessness strategy group, which the Deputy Yot Manager represents the Yot on. In *Wrexham*, there is an accommodation strategy group for young people, which includes Supporting People issues. The Operations Manager represents the Yot on this group. When the Supporting People plan was updated the Yot was invited to contribute. To date it is felt that the initiative has not really addressed the needs of young people who offend as the criteria has been very specific and it has been difficult to meet from a young person's perspective. There is a local Barnardos initiative (tenancy support) that was funded from Supporting People, to which the Yot can make referrals, but there is no priority access.

Table Three: Involvement with supporting people

Youth Offending Team	Member of Forum	Represented By	Frequency of Meeting	Frequency of Attendance	Contributed data to planning group	Extent needs are met
Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Monthly	Always	Yes	Not known
Bridgend	No local forum					
Cardiff	Yes	Yot Manager	Monthly	Never	Not as yet	Not at present
Carmarthenshire	Yes	Yot Manager	Monthly	Just started to attend	Will do so	Too early to tell
Ceredigion	Don't Know					
Conwy Denbighshire	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Periodic	Always	Yes	Through hostel provision
Flintshire	Yes	Senior Practitioner	Infrequent	Infrequent	Yes	Not Known
Gwynedd Mon	Yes	Yot Manager	Quarterly	Just started to attend	Will do so	No - tends to be adult focused
Merthyr Tydfil	No					
Monmouth Torfaen	Yes	Yot Manager	Bi-monthly	Regularly	Yes	Not as yet
Neath Port Talbot	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	Yes	Not specifically
Newport	Yes	Yot Manager	Monthly	Regularly	Yes	Has potential for the future
Pembrokeshire	No					
Powys	No					
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Bi-monthly	Regularly	Not within last 6 months	Not known
Swansea	Included in other planning groups	Accommodation Officer			Yes	
Vale of Glamorgan	Yes	Operations Manager	Quarterly	Regularly	Yes	Through hostel provision
Wrexham	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Frequently	Always	Yes	No – criteria not focused to young people

The indications are that it is either the Accommodation Officer or a manager within the Yot will attend Supporting People meetings. Eight Yots (67%) attend every meeting or at least on a regular basis and all but one has contributed information about the needs of young people. Two Yots indicated they have just started to become involved (*Carmarthenshire and Gwynedd Mon*).

Those that regularly attend Supporting People meetings and/or who had contributed information about young people were asked whether the initiative was meeting their needs. Nine Yots (75%) indicated that it was not, not known or too early to tell. There were however indications that the initiative had led to the development of provision the

Yot could refer to and it was hoped that by having regular contact the position could be improved and influence exerted.

Other comments made about levels of involvement and engagement either related to a lack of knowledge about the Supporting People initiative and where the Yot could fit in or to issues about its operation. For example, there being limited resources available locally, thereby resulting in a limited impact. *Monmouth Torfaen* Yot had fed proposals in to develop provision for identified areas of need but there had been no development, as there is a lack of resources and therefore limited ability to meet young people's needs. It was also commented on that if any proposed initiatives were not included in the 2005 plan, they were unlikely to be developed as the Supporting People budget is being cut and additional services would not therefore be funded, consequently there was little prospect of accessing any resources from Supporting People funds at this stage, despite the fact there is an annual planning cycle. Others commented the group was adult focused (*Gwynedd Mon*) and the criteria orientated to adults and not specifically to 16 and 17 year olds (*Vale of Glamorgan*) or it being family rather than young people orientated (*Wrexham*). Additionally it was felt to be unhelpful that the access points was through the National Probation Service and not the Yot in its own right.

This suggests that on the whole Yots are not as fully engaged with this agenda as they might be. All Yots were broadly aware that meetings took place locally and representation on these groups tended to be fairly equally divided between managers or the nominated accommodation officer. The overriding question for Yots is whether there is likely to be any real benefit in being part of this initiative at this stage as existing budgets have been reduced, which must diminish the likelihood of partnerships being able to attract funding to develop initiatives for young people as the emphasis is more likely to be on maintaining provision as opposed to developing new services.

Of the five Yots that have not attended meetings, *Bridgend* indicated this was because there is not an active local forum, but the Yot has provided information about young people's needs in the past. *Merthyr* does not attend because of capacity issues, has not contributed any information to the group and as such does not feel the group would meet the needs of young people. *Pembrokeshire* and *Powys* Yots do not attend. In *Cardiff*, the Yot manager was the nominated person to attend, but to date had not attended any meetings as other issues have taken priority.

8.5 Homelessness strategies

Local Authorities are required to develop strategies that set out what they will do to prevent homelessness and to ensure that accommodation and support is available to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in their area. Yots were asked to comment on whether they have attended homelessness strategy meetings, and if so who represents the Yot. In addition they were asked whether they have contributed data about the needs of young people and whether through this process needs were being met. In summary fifteen Yots (83%) have been part of planning groups in relation to homelessness strategies and three (17%) have not. An overview of involvement has been provided in table four.

The indications are that it is more likely to be the Accommodation Officer who attends these meetings rather than the Yot or other manager. Twelve Yots (80%) attend every meeting or at least on a regular basis, one on an infrequent basis and two were unspecified (*Bridgend* and *Merthyr*). In terms of levels of involvement they vary considerably from those that have been significant partners in the development of local strategies, for example *Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly* Yot was an important partner in contributing to the homelessness strategy for *Caerphilly*, but had a lesser input in *Blaneau Gwent*. Whereas *Flintshire* Yot was not consulted about the development of the local strategy and in *Monmouth Torfaen* the Yot was seen as an afterthought rather than a constituent member of the planning group.

Table Four: Involvement in the development of homelessness strategies

Youth Offending Team	Member of Forum	Represented By	Frequency of Meeting	Frequency of Attendance	Contributed data to planning group	Extent needs are met
Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Always	Yes	There is some provision
Bridgend	Yes	Yot Manager	Met to produce plan		Fed into process, but not an ongoing strategic group	Yes – more content re young people’s needs and funding of Ty Cornell
Cardiff	No					
Carmarthenshire	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Not known	Always	By being present	Marginally – not overly helpful
Ceredigion	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	Yes	No section for young offenders: low numbers
Conwy Denbighshire	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Always	Yes	Lack resources to implement
Flintshire	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	No	Yot not consulted
Gwynedd Mon	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	Not formally, but information exchange	Benefit of maintaining contact with core group
Merthyr Tydfil	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Group not meeting		No	No strategy
Monmouth Torfaen	Yes	Operations Manager and Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Infrequently	Yes	None identified
Neath Port Talbot	yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	Should do	Not specifically
Newport	No					
Pembrokeshire	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Not specified	Always	Yes	Now have a sense of direction
Powys	No					
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Yes	Operations Manager	Bi-monthly	Regularly	Not to date	Hope to develop
Swansea	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Bi-monthly	Always	Yes	Yes – issue on the agenda
Vale of Glamorgan	Yes	Operations Manager and Accommodation Officer	Monthly	Regularly	Yes	Good
Wrexham	Yes	Accommodation Officer	Quarterly	Regularly	Not specifically asked	Not well – emergency accommodation needed

Of the Yots that have attended planning meetings eight (62%) have contributed information about the needs of young offenders to the groups. When asked whether providing an input had made any impact on meeting the needs of young people, Yots generally felt that it had not to any significant extent, for the following reasons:

- The impact is the same as for all young people in that there is still scope to more fully support those making the transition to independent living (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly*)

- There are limits on what can be done as things currently stand as there is a paucity of suitable local authority housing stock (*Bridgend*).
- There is no section within the strategy that addresses the issue from the viewpoint of a young person who offends, however the number that this is likely to apply to in the authority is low (*Ceredigion*)
- The needs of young people are written into the strategies in *Conwy Denbighshire* and *Monmouth Torfaen* but there are no available resources to implement what is required
- The group in *Merthyr Tydfil* has become fragmented and is not active at present, as such the Yot has not been able to contribute and young people's needs are not being met.
- The extent to which young people's needs are met depends on how they are classified and the extent the Yot is able to influence this (*Neath Port Talbot*).
- *Wrexham* have not been specifically asked to contribute information about young people and indicate the needs of young people are not being fully met, as there is a continuing need to develop emergency accommodation.

The main benefit that appear to have accrued from attending these planning forums is the opportunity it presents to raise relevant issues and more information has been made available about young people's needs than would otherwise have been the case, attendance is seen as an important part of local networking. However if the groups meet infrequently and the Yot is not seen as a key member, or if the planning process does not include a specific section in which the needs of young people who offend can be addressed it is not seen as overly helpful or useful.

Both *Pembrokeshire* and *Swansea* had positive experiences of being involved in planning groups. The Yot Manager has contributed to the development of a strategy in *Pembrokeshire*, which is now up and running. The group has been active in developing ideas to improve accommodation provision generally. The Yot has contributed, specifically in relation to vulnerable homeless people. It has been identified that to meet the needs of young people, there needs to be a reorganisation of existing housing stock and effective links to Careers Wales, so that benefits can be quickly and easily accessed. *Swansea* has a Youth Homelessness Strategy, which has a sub group to examine the needs of young people with high support needs, in which young offenders fall. They hold an annual development day, which is led by an external consultant, this helps to focus the group on relevant issues. The focusing down has meant that issues are continually raised and young people's interests remain on the agenda.

Three Yots (17%) identifies they had not attended planning groups. *Powys* have not contributed and *Cardiff* were unsure about what groups exist locally. *Newport* have identified this as an area for development, and will be undertaking a review of existing groups to ascertain their relevance to young people and the involvement of the Yot.

The feedback regarding the participation of Yots in contributing to local homelessness strategies suggests varied experiences, ranging from not being consulted to having played a significant role in local arrangements. A number of Yots report that their presence has helped to raise the profile of young peoples needs (although this is not universal), but there is not always specific sections on young people, which may also be one of the reasons why they are not asked for information. This needs to be addressed for future planning cycles. As with Supporting People, Yots comment there is a lack of resources available to provide additional provision, even if it were identified, as such, at present the process is not seen as overly beneficial in addressing and meeting young peoples needs.

8.6 Membership of other strategic groups relating to accommodation

Yots were asked whether there are any other strategic groups they attend that specifically address the housing and accommodation needs of young people and

whether any benefits had arisen from this involvement. One Yot identified there were capacity issues in attending all the relevant groups (*Cardiff*), and another that there was strategically very little to be part of in the area (*Merthyr*). The following is a list of the other responses received:

Strategic groups

- Yot steering group: The group addresses performance measures and in *Flintshire* the Housing Department is part of the group. *Carmarthenshire* has had discussions to determine whether Housing should be part of the group, the outcome being that a stakeholder group is to be set up of which they will become a part
- Community Safety Partnership: in some areas the Local Authority Housing Department is part of the strategic group (*Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly, Flintshire, Pembrokeshire*)
- Young People's Partnerships: in some areas housing has been identified as a priority issue (*Bridgend, Pembrokeshire and Swansea*)
- Children and young people's framework partnership: in *Carmarthenshire* this includes the Yot and Supporting People; existing vehicles could be better used.

Specific housing forums

- Single Housing Forum: meets every two months, although not exclusively about young people (*Bridgend*)
- Dyfed/Powys Homeless Offenders Group: chaired by the National Probation Service
- North Wales Accommodation Forum (*Conwy Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd Mon, Wrexham Yots* attend)
- Young persons accommodation group: Comprising Social Services, Housing, housing providers, the Yot and health (*Newport*)
- Partnership boards: where the Yot is a member of a steering group for a specific accommodation project (for example *Llamau in Newport, Trafford Housing in Powys* and the *217 Hostel in the Vale of Glamorgan*)
- Groups that have been formed to develop protocols at a local level that might include the Yot, Social Services and other housing providers

Accommodation in other forums

- Prevent and Deter Panels and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements that include housing issues as they relate to particular individuals
- Children's Services: for example looked after children's panels and care planning arrangements: different Yot staff may represent the Yot on different groups relating to issues as they affect specific young people

Yots identified a number of benefits from being part of these groups notably, being able to define clear routes for accessing accommodation by specifically knowing how to make referrals to what is available which gives greater clarity to working arrangements. Related to this is the ability to network, share information and bring together relevant agencies and interested parties; getting to know key individuals and contacts. One of the main aims is to ensure that agencies are aware of the issues that are specific and relevant to young people. Other benefits have included being aware of new initiatives and discussing and problem solving around individual cases.

9. Summary and recommendations

The following is a summary of the conclusions and recommendations put forward in relation to the issues discussed:

Accommodation officer

- All Yots met the requirement to have a nominated accommodation officer, although the way in which the function was undertaken varied. Two Yots (11%) had vacancies at the time the survey was undertaken, two (11%) had full time dedicated accommodation officers and the remaining fourteen (78%) combined the role with another function. Nine (64%) of these were practitioners, most commonly bail and remand workers. The time spent dedicated to the role when not full time was between 5% and 30% per week, although in all cases this fluctuated and varied.
- On the whole Yots stated the appointment of an accommodation officer had made a difference to improving access to accommodation for young people, with three Yots (17%) indicating that it had made a significant impact and twelve (66%) that it had to some extent. The main reason for these views was that there was a designated individual who could raise the issues in appropriate forums, had helped to develop improved links to housing providers and could assist practitioners with regard to housing matters. Three (17%) Yots indicated there was no change to the pre-existing position.
- The primary role and function of the accommodation officer varies between operational issues that related to giving advice and support to practitioners and young people in terms of accessing provision and strategic development, which was generally about representing the Yot on relevant groups and raising the profile of young people's needs. Recent Youth Justice Board guidance suggests that the function should be strategic in nature.
- Two Yots (13%) have accommodation officers with both a specific housing advice background and specialist knowledge of housing issues and nine Yots (50%) indicated their accommodation officer had specialist knowledge of housing and accommodation issues for young people, although this was widely interpreted. The fact that most accommodation officers have been appointed internally and do not have a specialist background suggests that they should receive appropriate training to be conversant with basic housing legislation and the pathways into accommodation. This also applies to Yot staff dealing with issues on a day to day basis as it would also help to broaden the knowledge base within the team.
- The establishment of a Wales wide forum should be encouraged and facilitated by the Welsh Assembly Government and Youth Justice Board to promote the exchange of information and to provide support

Access to provision

- Yots were asked whether the accommodation they were able to access for young people was adequate. Thirteen Yots (72%) responded that it was inadequate for reasons of unsuitability, lack of available options and lack of protocols and agreements with housing providers, four (22%) that it was adequate and one (6%) that it was good. 61% of Yots indicated that in the last three months they had only sometimes or rarely been able to meet the needs of young people, indicating that there was a significant difference between putting a roof over someone's head and fully meeting their requirements.

- Yots indicate they require access to a variety of options that form a continuum from supported lodgings to semi supported lodgings and ultimately independent living. The main types of accommodation that are needed to increase the range of options available are emergency accommodation, that can be directly accessed and which offers high levels of support for 16 and 17 year olds (for those in crisis, appearing in court or on release from custody, when young people have no-where to go), remand fostering and supported lodgings. It is however recognised that it is difficult to develop and sustain a broad range of provision in areas where Yots are dealing with low numbers of young people who have significant accommodation needs or operate in widely dispersed geographical areas, where pockets of provision may exist around some but not all centres of population, this suggests that where possible consortium arrangements may be the most pragmatic solution.

Yot accommodation strategies

- Thirteen Yots (72%) indicated they did not have a specific Yot accommodation strategy in the form of an identifiable and agreed document that mapped local provision, identified gaps in services and set out pathways into accommodation and specific arrangements with housing providers. However, the majority had a variety of agreements and arrangements that could comprise some elements of this type of strategy. The Youth Justice Board has indicated the development of an accommodation strategy will become a requirement of Yots and that it is issuing guidance for its development.
- Yots need to be able to accurately assess the level and extent of local need, identify what they consider to be suitable and unsuitable accommodation for young people in order to be able to feed this information into local planning processes, notably Supporting People strategy groups and the groups that relate to Local Authority Homelessness strategies. These planning process should have specific sections in which the needs of young people who offend can be clearly defined and addressed.
- There needs to be greater commitment by partners to tackling and understanding the issues faced by young people in the criminal justice system and more flexibility in the process of making referrals, undertaking assessments and accessing placements that are not planned. This can only be achieved by developing a strategy that has the commitment and support from statutory agencies and private sector housing providers.
- Protocols, and service level agreements with housing providers should try and meet the demands of the criminal justice system. Providers should be encouraged to assess young people at the earliest indication that there is a potential problem, for example in the police cells (remand cases) and prior to release from custody (resettlement cases).
- Irrespective of the type of accommodation young people are placed in, there need to be identified mechanisms for assessing, supporting and assisting young people to successfully live independently. Young people should have a framework of support available to them and access to tenancy, floating or other forms of support in the community, depending on their needs. This is not the primary responsibility of Yots as involvement with the criminal justice system will hopefully be transient, but requires co-ordination and agreement between the relevant agencies in terms of how this might best be achieved.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that young people do not lose available accommodation. For example, support (family mediation and conciliation) needs to be made available to young people and their families to avoid a breakdown in living arrangements and to ensure that duties under section 17 of the Children Act

1989 are being fully met. The discharge of a percentage of the Section 17 funds to Yots could help to strengthen and facilitate this. This could also be linked to parenting and other preventative work being undertaken by Yots. However, where there are issues that are not clearly linked to criminogenic need they must be met by the appropriate agency.

Relationships with strategic groups and agencies

- Yots were asked what priority was given to accommodation issues for young people in their area. 22% replied that it was high, 56% that it had average priority, 17% that it was low and 6% that it was very low. All Yots indicated that the priority given to the issue should increase, however it was also recognised that agencies were starting from a low base in terms of being able to fully and comprehensively address the wide-ranging needs of young people.

Social services

- In terms of the relationship with Social Services, 67% of Yots assessed the relationship as good or better, 8% as adequate and 25% as below adequate (quite poor and poor). The ability of Social Services to respond to the needs of young people was generally assessed as poor, as services are oriented to dealing with child protection issues; young people who offend were not seen as priority groups and the demand for accommodation outweighs the supply, which places enormous pressure on the system.
- This suggests that there needs to be a willingness to accept a change in culture and more imaginative use of existing resources, for example by using out of county placements less and re-directing resources into more supported accommodation and better and increased local options and thereby re-allocating rather than increasing existing budgets.

Supporting people

- In terms of relationships with Supporting People, twelve Yots (67%) indicate they regularly attended meetings regarding the Supporting People planning cycle, five (28%) do not and one (6%) did not know whether or not the Yot was involved in the process. 63% of Yots rated their relationship with Supporting People as good or very good, 27% as adequate and 9% as poor.
- Two Yots (11%) had been involved in partnership arrangements through this initiative that had resulted in improved provision for young people in their area, although it is likely there is provision elsewhere to which Yots refer young people that will have been funded by Supporting People.
- Criticisms of the Supporting People initiative were that local groups are adult focused, the criteria for support is not orientated to 16 and 17 year olds specifically and support is more likely to be inclined to families than individual young people. Additionally there is the issue of whether there is likely to be any real benefit in being part of this initiative as existing budgets have been reduced, which suggests that the current emphasis is likely to be on maintaining provision as opposed to developing new services.
- Yots need to be a named partner in the Supporting People in their own right, as opposed to having their interests represented through the National Probation Service, as the needs of young people are distinct and different to that of adults.

Housing departments

- 46% of Yots rated their relationship with the Local Authority Housing Departments or Homelessness teams as good, 38% as adequate and 15% as poor. Departments varied from those that were considered receptive, but restricted in what they could offer to those that were felt to lack an understanding of the needs of young people and unwilling to find accommodation for them.
- There needs to be more cohesive working arrangements between Housing Departments and Yots, this could be achieved by developing agreements with Housing Departments that priority will be given to young people in need. Other options include Housing Departments identifying a worker to be responsible for young people, rather than homelessness generally or a housing worker could be seconded to the Yot, if the demand for services could be justified. Finally Yots and Housing Departments could explore the options for working more closely together to develop common assessments of young peoples needs and to identify how co-ordinated support can be provided to help young people to successfully maintain tenancies.
- Yots and Housing Departments should have protocols and agreements in respect of anti social behaviours and their impact on young people. Anti social behaviour orders need to be supported, particularly where they will impact on accommodation, to ensure that young people do not become the unintended victims because of by problems and difficulties caused by other family members or because the range of housing options available to them diminishes through the application of exclusion zones.

Homelessness strategies

- In terms of Yot involvement in the development of homelessness strategies fifteen (83%) had been part of planning groups and three (17%) have not. Of the those that have attended planning meetings eight (62%) had contributed information about the needs of young people who offend. When asked whether providing an input had made any impact on meeting the needs of young people, Yots generally felt that it had not to any significant extent, the main reasons being that there is a paucity of suitable Local Authority housing stock; there being no section within the strategy that addresses the issue from the viewpoint of a young person who offends and no resources being available to implement what is required.
- Ensuring that there is a section in the homelessness strategy that relates to vulnerable young people and specifically those that offend in future planning cycles is clearly important, as this could help to make sure that Yots are seen as constituent members of the planning process, would raise the profile of young people who offend and ensure that Yots have the opportunity to feed information into the planning processes.

Other

- Young People's Partnerships and the links to Extending Entitlement present an opportunity to give priority to housing and accommodation issues at a local level and as a potential means of developing services

Funding and resources

- In total seven Yots (39%) indicated that funding had been made available in their area to develop local services. The schemes financed by Supporting People are still operational, but none of the services provided through Youth Justice Board funds have been sustained. This suggests that there needs to be defined funding streams that would allow the development of sustainable provision and specific

types of accommodation required by each local area. These need to be linked into Local Authority planning cycles and longer-term strategies for crime reduction.

- Not all Yots were in favour of having an accommodation budget and the ability to purchase places directly, as they felt this was not their primary responsibility however most identified a need to develop local ring fenced provision in collaboration with other agencies, which would require more investment and priority being given to young people. The lack of provision for 16 and 17 year olds suggests that Local Authorities should have ring fenced funding to provide suitable accommodation for this age group.
- Yots are not resourced to work to the Children Act 1989 and their position is difficult as it straddles both children's and criminal justice services. If Yots were managed by community safety partnerships, there would be less likelihood of them being seen as a social welfare agency and more of a community safety agency, which could have the potential to access a wider range of resources, however this would also have major impacts in other respects.

WAG and central Government

- One of the main problems in terms of finding accommodation for young people is that there is an over reliance on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation because there is a lack of other forms of accommodation nationally for young people. This suggests that the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and central government need to develop directions and incentives for Local Authorities to be better equipped to respond to the needs of 16 and 17 year olds, by providing suitable accommodation for this age group. Social landlords need to be encouraged to provide better quality accommodation; vacant properties where they exist need to be developed and family accommodation refurbished to make available more single units. Developing options through the buy to rent sector is a further consideration for providing low cost rented homes.
- Housing legislation needs to be strengthened and made more "young people friendly" and the benefits system needs to be reviewed, in particular the single room rent allowance, which places restrictions on young people being able to access private rented accommodation within their means.
- WAG should encourage all areas to have available Rent Bond Guarantee Schemes, which can assist those looking for accommodation in the private sector and can help to secure accommodation for young people. These schemes vary in detail but generally offer assistance for the first month's rent, which can help those who are not able to pay it in advance. Additionally if the tenant leaves the property damaged or there has been theft or loss of property or its contents a claim can be made by the landlord to the scheme. Such schemes are generally available to those aged 16 years or over who are homeless, threatened with homelessness or in need of housing.

Sue Thomas
September 2005

- Are there any plans to appoint one (*timescale*)
- Is there currently anyone responsible for accommodation issues
- What is their job title and what other duties do they perform

12. Do you have an accommodation strategy?

YES NO

If NO: Go to question 13.

If YES: Go to next question

- Is this a written document? YES/NO
- Who produced the strategy? (*Job title or position*)
- What are the main aims of the strategy?
- Has the strategy been implemented?

Yes, fully Yes, partly Not yet

Please briefly explain your answer.

- How effective has the strategy been in terms of accessing suitable accommodation?
- Has the production and / or implementation of the strategy had any other positive benefits?
- What, if any, obstacles have diminished the effectiveness of the strategy?

13. Have you received funding specifically to deal with accommodation issues?
YES /NO

If NO: Please answer question 14

If YES: please answer next question

- Who did you receive the funding from?
- When did you receive the funding?
- How much did you receive and to cover what period?
- What was it designated for?
- Has the funding been used for its designated purpose? YES/NO

If no, please explain what it has been used for.

- Has the project(s) for which funding was received been successful? YES/NO

Please briefly explain your answer

14. What types of accommodation do you have access to?

Type	Yes/No	Provider	Number of Places
Secure Accommodation			
Residential Remand Unit			
Children's home			
Foster care			
Remand foster care			
Bail/Probation Hostel			
Other Hostel			
Supported lodgings			
Support in family home			
Extended Family			
Rented accommodation			
Bed and breakfast			
PACE beds			
Out of County			
Other, please specify			

15. Do you perceive the provision of accommodation by your Yot to be (please circle):

Very Good Good Adequate Inadequate

Please give reasons for your answer.

16. In the past three months have you been able to access accommodation to meet the needs of young people?

All of the time Most of the time Sometimes Rarely

Please indicate what you have based this view on

17. Which types of accommodation do you most regularly use?

(i) For under 16 year olds.

i) For 16-17 year olds.

18. Are there any particular types of accommodation that you consider more *suitable* than others for young people?

19. Are there any particular types of accommodation that you consider *unsuitable* for young people?

20. What measures need to be taken in order to increase the use and availability of accommodation for young people (*if provision is viewed as less than adequate*)?
21. Are there any young people for whom it is difficult to find accommodation (*for example where offence type may be relevant*)

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

1. How would you describe your working relationship with the following:

	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Quite Poor	Poor
Social Services					
Housing Department					
Housing Association					
Voluntary Sector					
LA Supporting people team					
Other (specified)					

2. Briefly describe your relationship with social services and ability to access accommodation for young people as required
3. Briefly describe any particular issues, which arise from working with other partners/external agencies.

Supporting People

4. Is the Yot a member of the supporting people forum? YES/NO
5. Who represents the Yot on this group (*job title*)?
6. How frequently does the group meet?
7. Please indicate the frequency of attendance at meetings
 Always Regularly Infrequently Never
8. Does the Yot contribute data to the planning group to assist in determining need locally?
9. To what extent are the needs of young people who offend being met by this initiative?

Homelessness Strategy

10. Is the Yot a member of any groups involved in the development of homelessness strategies? YES/NO
11. Who represents the Yot on this group (*job title*)?
12. How frequently does the group meet?
13. Please indicate the frequency of attendance at meetings
- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Always | Regularly | Infrequently | Never |
|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
14. Does the Yot contribute to the review and development of homelessness strategies (*If yes, please state how*)?
15. To what extent are the needs of young people who offend being met within local homelessness strategies?

Other Strategic Groups

16. Are there any other strategic groups that the Yot routinely attends that address the housing and accommodation needs of young people who offend
17. What tangible benefits have arisen from involvement?
18. In your opinion, what priority is given to accommodation issues in your area?
- | | | | | |
|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
| Very high | High | Average | Low | Very Low |
|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|
19. Should the priority of accommodation issues be:
- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Increased | Stay the same | Decreased |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|

Please give reasons for your answer.

20. Are there any particular types of accommodation, which you need, increased access to?

YES/NO

If YES, please give details

21. In your opinion what is required in order to improve the current situation with accommodation provision:

i) In the short term?

ii) In the long term?

22. Please give any further comments in the space below. Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

Appendix two: **List of respondents to survey**

Youth Offending Team	Respondent
Blaneau Gwent Caerphilly	Ron Boden: Yot Manager
Bridgend	Mal Gay: Yot Manager
Cardiff	Ingrid Masmeyer: Yot Manager
Carmarthenshire	Richard Summers: Yot Manager
Ceredigion	Joy Fereday: Acting Team Manager and Accommodation Officer
Conwy Denbighshire	Keith Thompson: Accommodation Officer and Nia Ellis Williams Yot Manager
Flintshire	Ray Dickson: Yot Manager
Gwynedd Mon	Gareth Hughes Jones: Yot Manager and Helen Mason: Accommodation Officer
Merthyr Tydfil	Alan Elmer: Yot Manager
Monmouth Torfaen	Steve Williams: Yot Manager
Neath Port Talbot	Mike Goldman: Yot Manager and Dave Whitely: Operations Manager
Newport	Andy Wallsgrove: Yot Manager
Pembrokeshire	Paul Brecknell: Yot Manager
Powys	Adam Lighthowler: Senior Practitioner
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Jason O'Brien; Senior Practitioner
Swansea	Lyn Minshall: Deputy Yot Manager
Vale of Glamorgan	Gareth Downes: Accommodation Officer and Simon Newman: Operations Manager
Wrexham	Emma Rathbone: Operations Manager