

## Homelessness and Independent Living Workshops in Schools

The YOT Accommodation Officer, Shirley Dyer, delivered workshops between January and March 2009, on homelessness and independent living to 352 students from the following schools and youth clubs.

- Ryburn Valley High (year 11)
- The Ridings (Year 11)
- Calder High (Year 12)
- The Phoenix Centre –PRU (Year 10 & 11)
- Mytholmroyd Youth Club
- Park Lane High (Year 10)



This has been a joint agency project with staff from CMBC Housing Services and Calderdale Young People's Service Youthworks also facilitating. The workshops aim to give students an overview of homelessness, a realistic look at what accommodation is available for young people and the cost of maintaining a tenancy. The workshops involve the students in group based activities and have been well received. An evaluation sheet / questionnaire distributed at the end of each workshop has researched what proportion of students have ever thought about leaving home, at what age they first thought of doing so and what specific reasons has caused them to want to leave. This research will be collated and fed into a steering group who are meeting to develop the first Calderdale Youth Homelessness Strategy.

## 2008/9 Academic Year –Homelessness/ Independent Living Workshops Questionnaire Findings

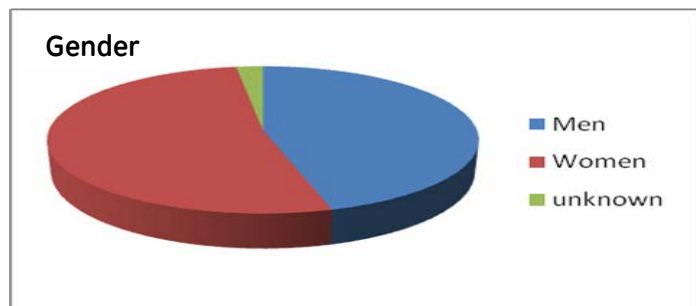
**Number of Students** – 352 people

Gender

Male 160

Female 184

NB 8 not completed



**Ethnicity** – 352 people

White British 252

White Irish 6

White other 3

Pakistani 24

Indian 3

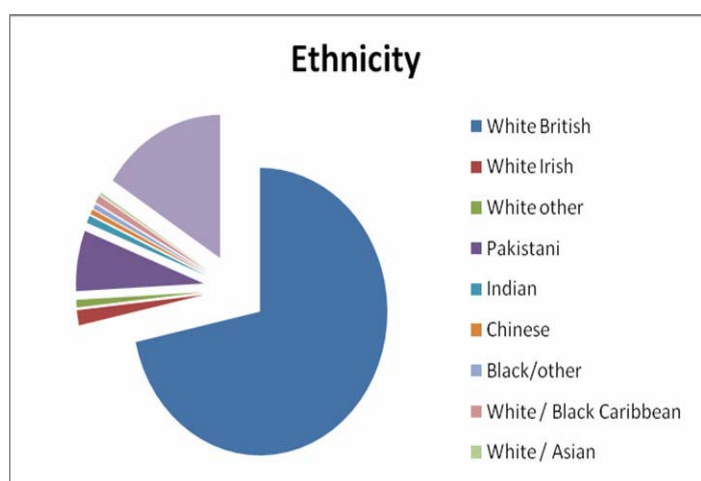
Chinese 2

Black/other 2

White / Black Caribbean 3

White / Asian 1

NB 56 not completed



Number of students who have thought of leaving home / running away -87 students - almost 25% (88 = 1 quarter) – Breakdown as follows:

Age 1 <sup>st</sup> thought of Leaving	Number of Students
5 years	2
6	1
7	2
9	2
10	6
11	11
12	9
13	17
14	22
15	10
16	1

NB 4 ticked Yes to having thought about running away but did not complete details

Reasons given for wanting to leave home as follows:

Reasons for Wanting to Leave Home	Number of Students
General Arguments	18
Step Father problems	7
Nothing stated	7
Family Problems	6
Problems with Mum	6
Siblings (brothers)	5
Parents arguing (money /illness)	5
Re Going Out	4
Treated unfairly	4
Separation/Divorce	4
Abuse	3
Drugs Use	3
Alcohol/Party	3
Own attitude	2
Problems both Parents	2
Offending behaviour	2
Being bullied	1
Homophobia	1
Getting in with the wrong crowd	1
Excluded from school	1
Problems with Dad	1
Pregnancy	1

Shirley Dyer - The Youth Offending Team Accommodation Officer found the workshops to be a success.

“All those who facilitated in the school workshops felt the work was important in terms of preventing future homelessness and in educating students on the reality of independent living.”



Young people quotes from the written evaluation feedback questionnaires

“

***Realising what causes homelessness***

***The prices of housing for future reference and where to go for advice***

***Everything – IT WAS FUN!***

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