

St Giles

Turning a past into a future

Age and vulnerability in county lines



DEMOGRAPHICS FOR R&R REFERRALS AND LONDON INDIVIDUALS LINKED TO COUNTY LINES

2020/2021

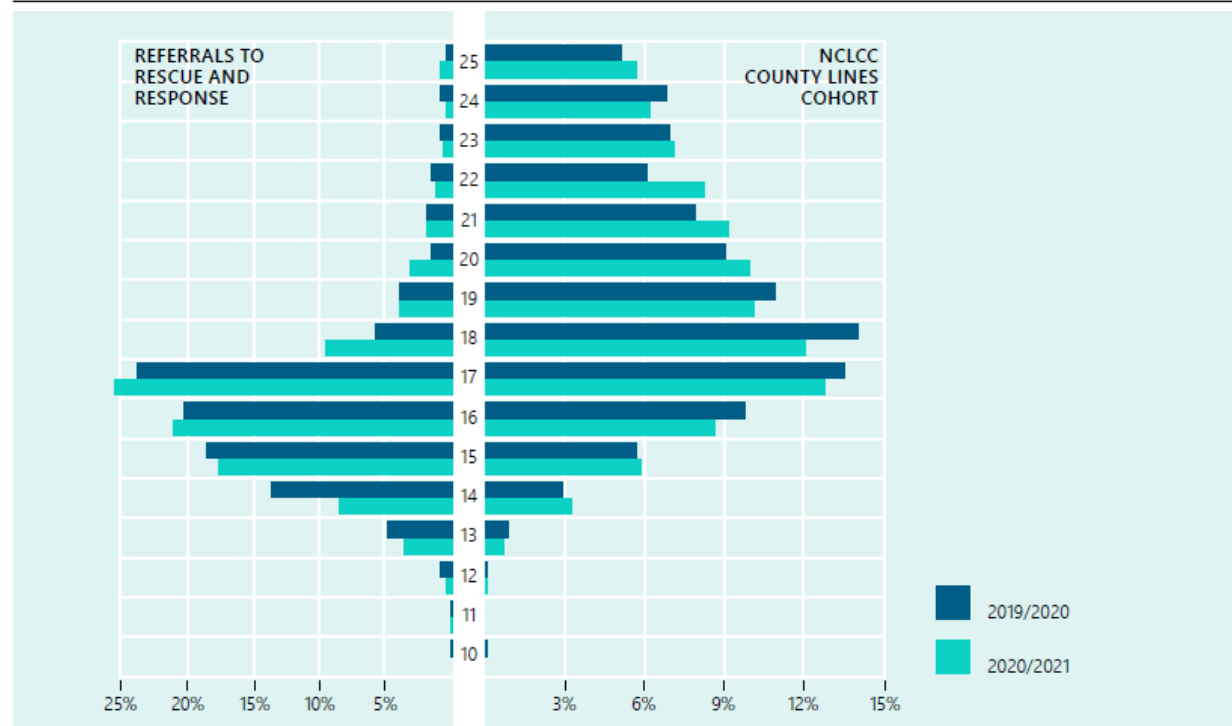
AGE

Referrals into R&R are significantly younger than the overall NCLCC County Lines Cohort. The graph shows that only 22% of R&R referrals are aged 18-25 years, whereas 69% of all individuals up to 25 years of the County Lines cohort are aged 18-25 years.

Factors contributing to a decline of referrals for 18-25 year age group:

- Young adults are not viewed as possible victims of exploitation due to their age, instead they are presumed to be perpetrators.
- Children have more services around them, so there is more oversight around risk, safety and vulnerability. This is an issue of transitional safeguarding, where the 18+ cohort experience services dropping away and less responsibility for services to advocate on their behalf as they reach adulthood. We believe that many young adults are having their vulnerability overlooked, resulting in the cliff-edge drop in R&R referrals for 18 year olds.

Individuals aged 25 and under account for 76% of the total number of individuals identified as being linked to County Lines.



Contacts and References

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Rescue and Response Strategic Assessment 2021

<https://modgov.lbbd.gov.uk/internet/documents/s154776/Item%206%20-%20Rescue%20and%20Response%20Strategic%20Assessment%202021.pdf>