

Youth Access' initial analysis of Legal Services Commission Not for Profit contract data on benefits, debt, housing and employment broken down by age

1. Numbers of cases:

17-24s accounted for higher proportion of LSC cases overall than would be expected given their representation in population of E&W

17-24 cases as %ge of all nfp cases

Benefits	7%
Debt	14%
Housing	20%
Employment	21%
Total	13%

2001 Census data shows 16-24s account for 10.9% of the total population of England & Wales (source: Table KS02 Age Structure, Census 2001 data, Office of National Statistics)

2. Comparison of numbers of LSC cases with data on need:

However, when compared to 2001 LSRC data from English & Welsh Social & Civil Justice Survey, young people are significantly under-represented in LSC nfp stats in relation to benefits and housing and over-represented in relation to debt

LSRC data on prevalence of different problems

	%ge 18-24s reporting problem	%ge 25+ reporting problem	Summary of relative prevalence
Benefits	2.8%	2.2%	18-24 year olds were slightly more likely to have experienced a problem than rest of pop.
Debt	7.4%	8.4%	18-24 year olds were slightly less likely to have experienced a problem than rest of pop.
Rented Housing	11.3%	3.0%	18-24 year olds were far more likely (nearly 4 times as likely) to have experienced a problem than rest of pop.
Homelessness	2.8%	0.4%	18-24 year olds were far more likely (about 7 times as likely) to have experienced a problem than rest of pop.
Employment	10.4%	5.7%	18-24 year olds were significantly more likely to have experienced a problem than rest of pop.

3. Average case times:

Case times where client is aged 17-24 were significantly lower than average in all 4 categories

Av. case times by category & age

	17-24	All	Difference	%ge difference
Benefits	218 mins	278 mins	-60 mins	-22%
Debt	258	312	-54	-17%
Housing	197	232	-35	-15%
Employment	354	446	-92	-21%

4. Depth of intervention:

Cases involving young clients were more likely to go no further than a first meeting and less likely to lead to representation in court or tribunal

LSC data on age and end point 3: Stage case had reached when the matter ended

	Clients aged 0-24	All clients
Benefits		
First meeting	18%	15%
Further work	34%	34%
Putting case for the client	38%	38%
Representation at court-tribunal	9%	13%
Debt		
First meeting	9%	8%
Further work	28%	26%
Putting case for the client	58%	60%
Representation at court-tribunal	5%	5%
Housing		
First meeting	19%	14%
Further work	31%	30%
Putting case for the client	38%	40%
Representation at court-tribunal	12%	15%
Employment		
First meeting	14%	13%
Further work	30%	30%
Putting case for the client	47%	46%
Representation at court-tribunal	8%	11%

5. Outcomes:

Case outcomes were significantly worse than average for young people

LSC data on age and end point 1: Matters concluded/not concluded

	%ge clients aged 0-24 where matter not concluded	%ge all clients where matter not concluded
Benefits	36%	28%

Debt	44%	36%
Housing	47%	41%
Employment	40%	34%