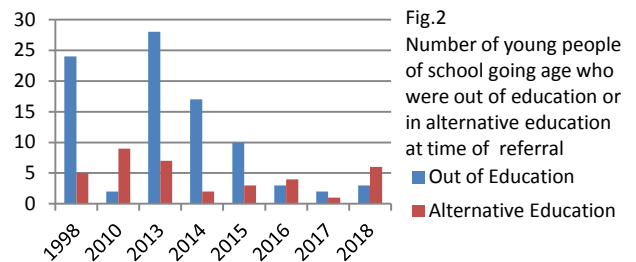


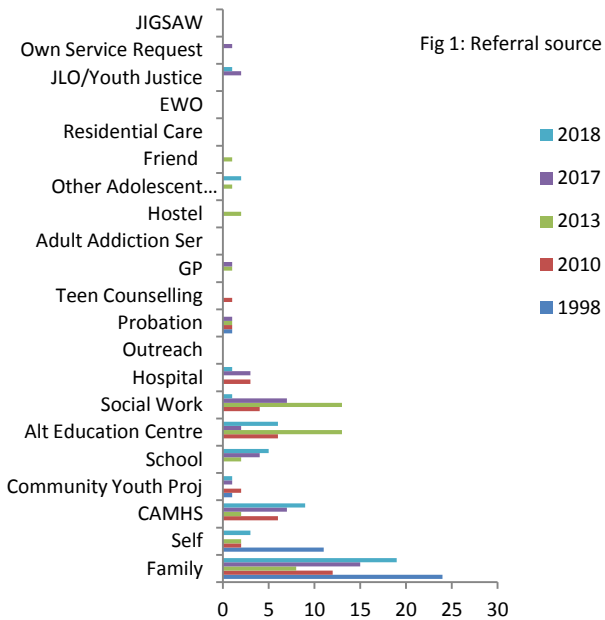
Adolescent Addiction Service Report 2019

In 2018 the Adolescent Addiction Service worked with 43 young people and their families with a mean age of 15 years (range 13 - 18 years), comprising new referrals, re-referrals and continuances. The majority (93%) were male and 11% were Non-Irish Nationals. Referrals were received from a broad range of services and included some from outside of catchment area. See Fig.1 and Fig.3 for a comparison with previous years. In addition to direct work with young people and families the service engaged in consultations with other professionals and services about young people for whom there were concerns in relation to substance misuse.

63% in 2017. But there were young people who had deceased parent. In terms of referral areas, the greatest numbers of referrals were from Clondalkin, followed by Lucan, Ballyfermot, Palmerstown, and Inchicore, with three referrals from outside of catchment area. See Fig.3 for comparison with previous years.



Cannabis/Weed continues to be the primary substance of use at 72% with an overall use rate of 97% while Alcohol featured among 70% of attendees. Other substances of use included Cocaine 36%, Amphetamines 30%, Benzodiazepines 12%, Ketamine 7% and LSD 5%. Opiates, solvents or and Head Shop type products did not feature among young people's substance use in 2018. The biggest shifts concerning secondary drug use related to decreases in Alcohol by 25%, Benzodiazepines 12% and Amphetamines 9%. Other issues presented related to indebtedness and absconding. Additionally three young people (7%) had Social Work involvement and fourteen (32%) had been assigned JLO at some stage. The service submitted four Child Protection Notifications and worked towards convening Meitheal for one young person who subsequently ceased attending service. Of those who exited treatment 73% had planned discharge, 22% declined further treatment and 5% moved out of community or returned to community of origin. Of those who had planned discharges two had onward referral to residential treatment but dropped out and re-referred to service.



The numbers of young people attending the service of school going age, who were out of education/training at time of referral shows a slight increase upon 2017, see Fig.2 for comparison with other years. Poor school attendance at 16% is an issue that requires attention showing a rise of 7% on 2017. The number of young people who had previous/current contact with CAMHS was also slightly higher than 2017 at 48% but lower than at any other stage over the previous twenty two years. This may be influenced by introduction of JIGSAW Service within catchment area and where some parents confirm receiving referral information. All attendees were known to a number of agencies and on average the service worked with three other agencies on behalf of young people (range=1-7) in addition to other concerned persons. The extent to which substance misuse featured within families was slightly lower at 52% compared to 57% in 2017 and incidence of parental separation was also lower at 56% compared to

The majority of young people 93% were seen by Family Therapist only, with 7% having Psychiatric Assessment and no young person was prescribed medication. As in previous years most young people had established patterns of substance use prior to referral and as a consequence some struggle to maintain drug free status but most achieve stability and several remain abstinent. As such the challenge within community is for parents and non-parental adults to identify young people within risk groups at early stage and to elevate concern for them.

