

# Youth Prevention and mediation

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# Background NAC

- Increase in homelessness
- Increase in youth homelessness
- Increase in repeat youth homelessness
- Reason for homelessness

# Service structure

- Decentralised homeless service
- 2 Supported accommodation projects
- No additional dedicated youth homeless resources
- Support could only be accessed at the point of homelessness

# Response

- Appoint independent mediation service
- Review and develop our support provision
- Develop intervention projects
- Have available duty youth prevention workers

# Criteria

- Initially all 16-19 year olds
- Extended to all < 25
- Must be single coming from friends/family home
- No risk of violence or abuse

# Staff brief

- Reality of youth Homelessness
- Need for prevention
- Where possible the family unit is the best place for a young person to be
- Return home is not the end of the process

# The Aim

- Get Young person home !

*If not possible*

- Get parent to agree 28 day notice period with support input

# Youth prevention

- Process
- Interview
- Liaison with parent & reality check
- Refer to mediation

# The assessment

- What are the issues
- How do we find a resolution
- Is there a need for respite
- Is there a need for follow up work

# Staff feedback

- Parents easy to engage with
- Few parents want to evict their children
- Lack of communication
- Many support needs identified
- Financial advice

# Follow up work

- Housing application forms completed
- Housing Advice /options offered
- Private sector advice given / referral
- Supported accommodation identified
- Referral to tenancy support if required

# The Pilot

- November 2003- Feb 2004
- Age Group 16-19
- Referrals 37 (of which 7 inappropriate)
- Outcome 27 returned home
  - 01 Withdrew
  - 02 Supported accommodation

***Success Rate 100%***

# Extended Pilot March-September

■ Age Groups	Presentations
■ Aged 16	35
■ Aged 17	29
■ Aged 18	17
■ Aged 19	19
■ Aged 20	13
■ Aged 21	13
■ Aged 22-25	13
■ Total	139

# Inappropriate referrals

- 17 of 139 were deemed inappropriate
- 6 suffered abuse or violence
- 8 Violent tendency or extreme behaviour
- 1 Following Throughcare negotiation
- 2 Part of Couple or pregnant

# Prevention Outcomes

- Of 122 appropriate referrals
  - 100 returned home
  - 9 withdrew
  - 2 Supported accommodation
  - 11 Homeless

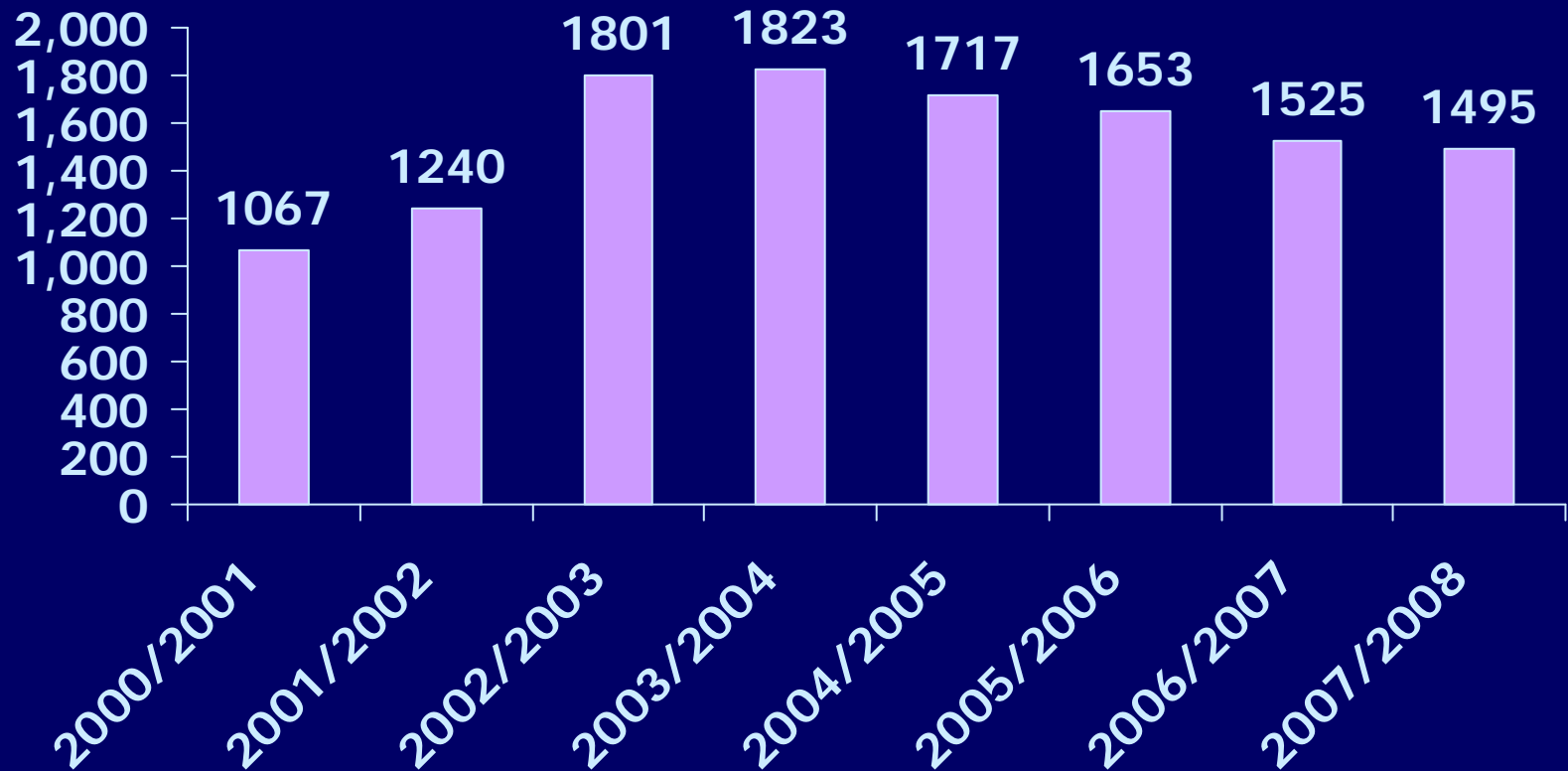
*91% success rate*

# Current statistics

<b>Age</b>	<b>07/08</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>16/18</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>19/25</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>78%</b>

# The wider impact

## Homeless Presentations



# Why does it work from NAC perspective

- The right staff, skills and knowledge
- Reality checking with families
- Support provision and housing options offered
- Robust PMF

# Current Service provision

- Restructure of homeless service
- Entire focus on prevention
- Every case is :-
  - option appraised
  - Identified as potential prevention
  - reality checked

# Over to you

- What is prevention versus gate keeping
- What works and what doesn't
- Impact of mediation – your experience
- How do we measure and monitor prevention activity
- How do we resource prevention and is it really spend to save?