

ymca



Making an **impact**

FACTS & STATS 2020



YMCA is the oldest and largest youth charity in the world, set up in England in 1844. In the 176 years since, YMCA has evolved into a global movement through World Wars, pandemics and financial crises to help more than 64 million people across 120 different countries today.

Throughout England and Wales, we operate as a federation with 101 local YMCAs supporting young people in 132 of the 168 local authority areas across both countries.

We operate in 700 communities across England and Wales, creating supportive environments where young people can belong, contribute and thrive.

The 572,000 young people we help each year are firmly at the heart of what we do, supported by more than 5,400 members of staff and 4,400 volunteers across 847 locations.

This document brings together the work of YMCAs across England and Wales in 2019/20, and highlights the impact they have made on their communities aligned to our five key work areas.

Facts & Stats 2020 features national statistics alongside each work area to highlight why the work YMCAs do across England and Wales is so important for today's young people.

Accommodation

We believe every young person should have a safe place to stay.

Family Work

We believe every family should have the support they need to develop and lead more fulfilling lives.

Health & Wellbeing

We believe everyone should enjoy the benefits of good health and wellbeing.

Training & Education

We believe every young person should be able to fulfil their potential.

Support & Advice

We believe every person should have someone they can trust.

Accommodation

We believe every young person should have a safe place to stay.

YMCA is the largest voluntary provider of supported housing for young people in England and Wales. With **8,800 beds**, our holistic support connects more than **20,000 young people** each year with case workers and provides access to life skills, healthy living activities and budgeting sessions designed to help them to live independently.

This year, YMCAs provided a home to:

866 Care leavers

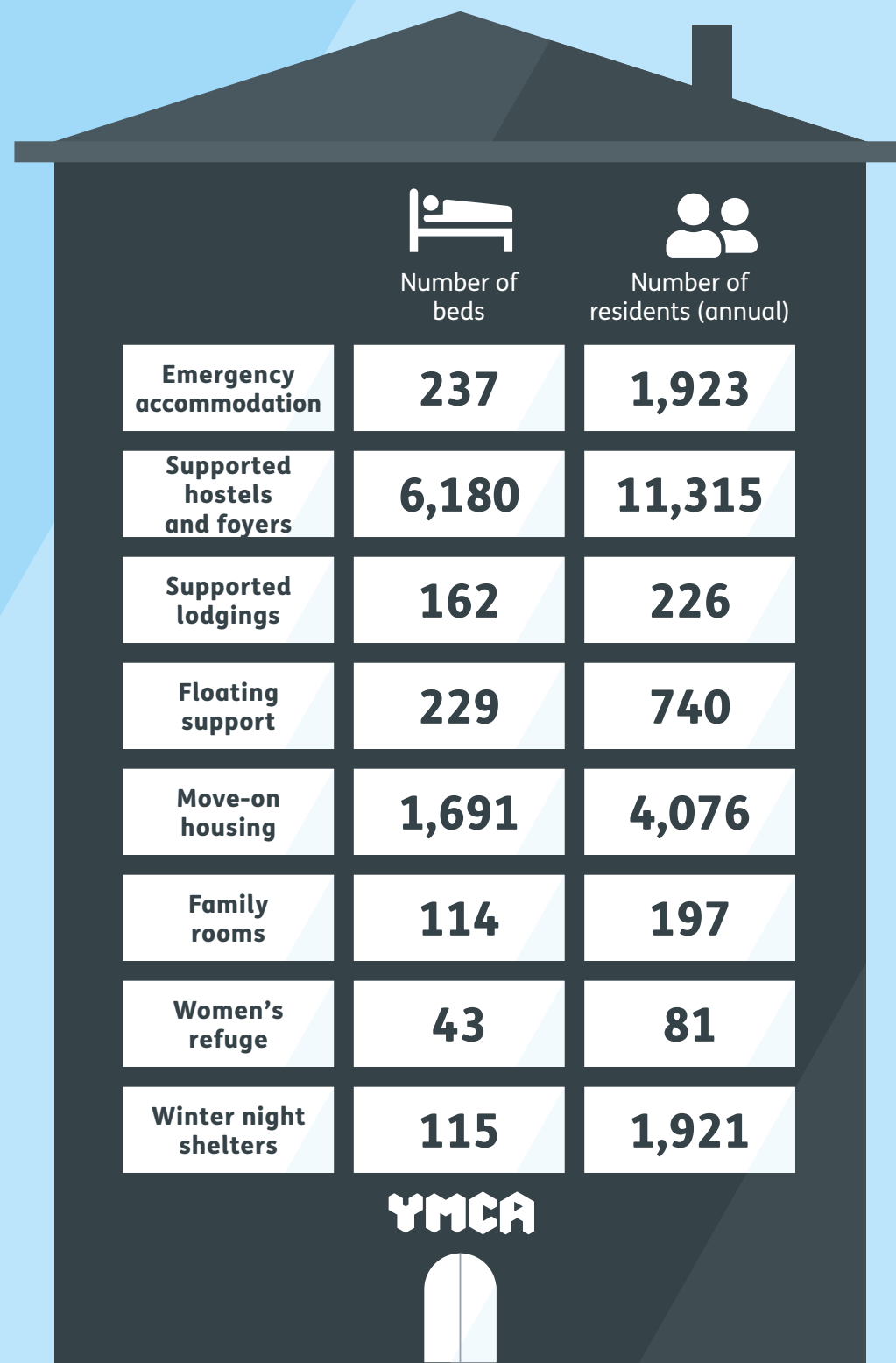
513 Young offenders

299 Asylum seekers / refugees

YMCAs offer thousands of beds to vulnerable people in their time of need, from winter night shelters for rough sleepers to women's refuge rooms.

YMCAs also provide accommodation for young people for education and leisure, with extensive student housing alongside a range of hotels, youth hostels and backpacker beds available for shorter stays.

	Number of beds	Number of residents (annual)
Student beds	356	2,172
Hotel, youth hostel and backpacker beds	931	110,636



In 2019/20, **288,470** people were declared homeless or threatened with homelessness in England. More than **60,000** were aged 16–24.¹

In Wales, **26,943** people were declared homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2018/19, with at least **6,600** aged 16–24.²

This equates to **185** 16- to -24-year-olds declared as homeless or threatened with homelessness, every day across England and Wales.

1 in 5

of all applicants assessed as homeless by local authorities in England in 2019/20 were aged 16–24 (21%).³

1 in 4

of all those assessed as homeless in Wales in 2018/19 were aged 16–24 (27%).⁴



The Government's last review into supported accommodation totalled **20,500** units dedicated to young people aged 16–25 in England and Wales.⁵

One-in-three (35%) single homeless people accessing accommodation in England are young people aged 18–25.⁶

1, 3 UK Government, *Detailed local authority level tables: April 2019 to March 2020*, England, 1 October 2020

2, 4 StatsWales, *Households for which assistance has been provided by outcome, age and gender*, 25 July 2019

5 Department for Work & Pensions, *Supported accommodation review: The scale, scope and cost of the supported housing sector*, November 2016

6 HomelessLink, *Support for people experiencing single homelessness in England: Annual Review 2019*, 29 August 2019



Family Work

We believe every family should have the support they need to develop and lead more fulfilling lives.

YMCA works with **207,000 children**, young people, parents and carers to provide the best possible start in life and support into teenage years and beyond. Our early years provision allows parents and guardians to flourish while helping **20,914 children** to develop and learn in more than **130 nurseries, pre-schools, crèches and children’s centres**.



	Number of facilities	Annual unique users
Nurseries and pre-schools	83	5,389
Crèches	7	373
Children’s centres	37	15,347

9,154* Before and after school activities

13,596* Holiday programmes

We also offer activities and escapism to **22,750 children** as part of our holiday clubs and before and after school provisions.

YMCA works with **749 schools and colleges** to support **83,796 children and young people** through informative talks on topics such as sexual health and bullying, as well as providing in-school youth workers.



	Amount worked in	Pupils supported
Primary schools	345	18,773
Secondary schools	350	59,478
Colleges	54	5,545



8,719*	Parent and toddler groups
1,286*	Parenting programmes
1,178*	Disability programmes
258*	SEN / Autistic spectrum condition programmes
714*	Family mediation
645*	Respite for carers

YMCAs help to create friendships and peer support circles through a range of parent and toddler groups, as well as specialist programmes for children and young people with disabilities, special educational needs and autism spectrum conditions. We also help families through challenging times with experienced family mediation services and our respite for young carers programmes.

YMCAs provide a safe space for **41,960 young people** through our extensive youth services work. We welcome almost **20,000 young people** through our **79 youth centres** throughout England and Wales. Our youth clubs help prevent loneliness and create fun spaces for children and young people to enjoy themselves and feel a sense of belonging, as well as the chance to develop their talents and creativity through our music, arts and theatre programmes.

Youth clubs	19,825*
National Citizen Service (NCS)	2,136*
Music programmes	1,386*
Dance, drama and theatre programmes	496*
Media programmes	352*
Programmes delivered online (pre-COVID 19)	746*

Within their communities and alongside local partners, YMCAs provide a platform for **16,619 at-risk young people**, helping them to find their feet through detached and targeted youth work. Additionally, **34 YMCAs** work with the police as part of their youth work provision.

5,456*

Detached youth work

11,563*

Targeted youth work

* Annual unique users.

In England, **69%** of eligible two-year-olds and **93%** of three- and four-year-olds benefit from funded early education entitlement.⁷

↓ **70%**

decline in real-terms in funding of youth services by local authorities since 2010.⁸

nearly

900

youth workers cut

160

youth centres closed

90%

between 2016 and 2019.⁹

21% of those cautioned or convicted of knife and offensive weapon offences in England and Wales were aged 10–17.¹⁰

11.3% of children (aged 10–15) and **9.8%** of young people (aged 16–24) say that they often feel lonely.¹¹

⁷ UK Government, *Education provision: Children under 5 years of age – Reporting Year 2020*, 29 July 2020

⁸ YMCA England & Wales, *Out of Service*, 19 Jan 2020

⁹ Unison, *Youth Services at Breaking Point*, 3 December 2018

¹⁰ UK Government, *Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics: year ending March 2020*, 10 September 2020

¹¹ Office for National Statistics, *Children's and young people's experiences of loneliness: 2018*, 5 December 2018



Health & Wellbeing



We believe everyone should enjoy the benefits of good health and wellbeing.

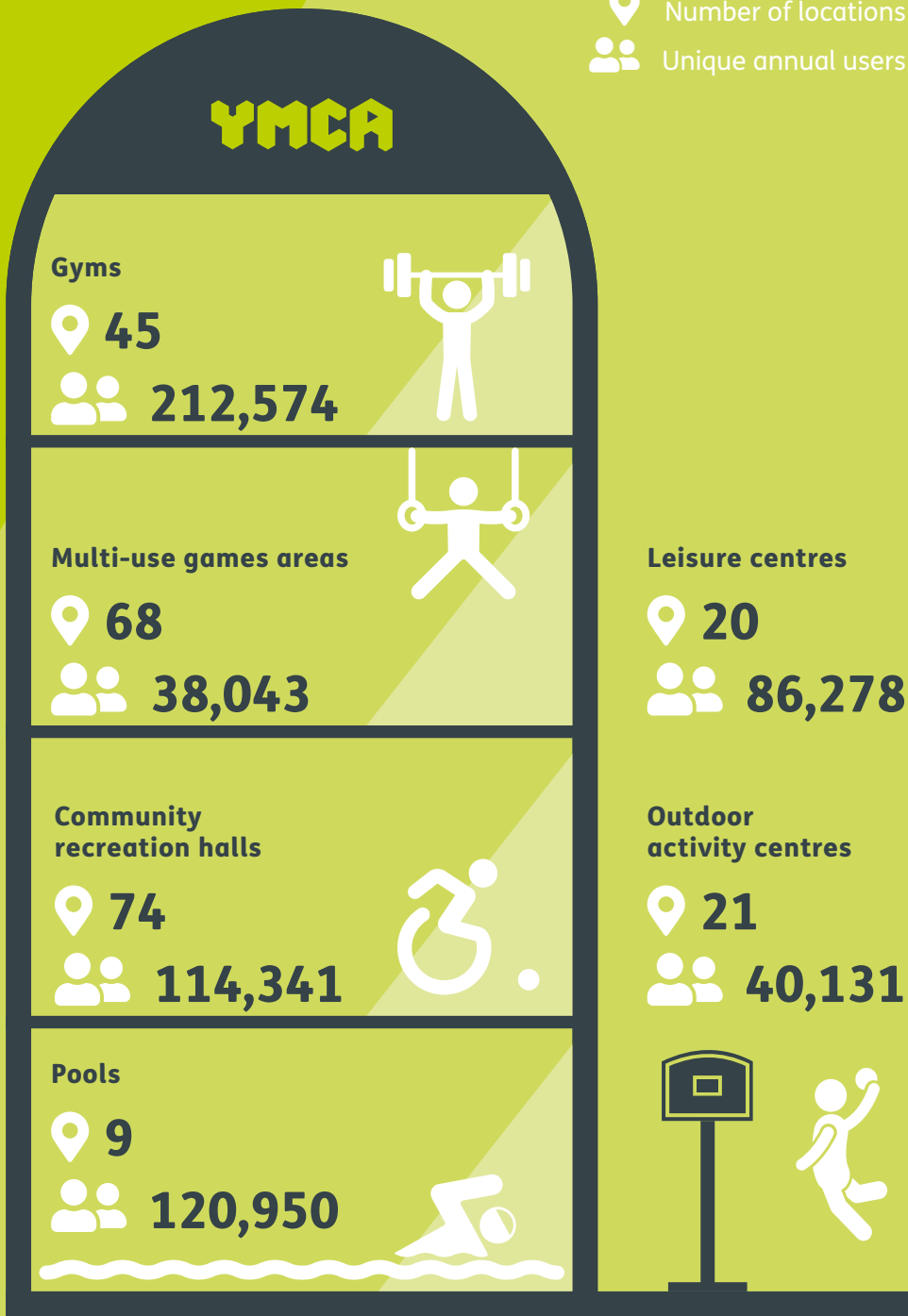
Keeping active is fundamental for good wellbeing. By nurturing mind, body and spirit, young people and the communities we serve are best placed to realise their full potential while strengthening social networks.

From yoga and jiu-jitsu to e-biking and rehabilitative support, YMCAs provide an extensive selection of health and wellbeing opportunities across **225 sites** in England and Wales.

YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of services promoting physical activity in England and Wales, helping more than **132,000 people** of all abilities and experiences to look after their health and wellbeing through healthy living activities.

	Unique annual users
Healthy living activities	11,137
Exercise classes	55,719
Sports (e.g. squash, football, gymnastics)	37,898
Community sports	6,973
Rehabilitative and other special care	1,913
Disability programmes	2,169
Health and fitness courses for instructors	2,537

 Number of locations
 Unique annual users



7 in 10

72.5% of 16- to 24-year-olds in England are active for **150+ minutes** a week.¹²

2 in 10

18.5% of 16- to 24-year-olds in England are active for fewer than **30 minutes** a week.¹³



51%



14-17%

of children aged 3-17 in Wales engage in 60 minutes of physical activity a day.¹⁴

aged 11- to 16 in Wales engage in 60 minutes of physical activity a day.¹⁵

Less than half of children (46.8%) in Years 1-11 in England are active for **60 minutes** or more a day.¹⁶

8% of children aged 5-14 and **10%** of young people aged 15-29 in the UK report having a disability.¹⁷



12, 13 Sport England, *Active Lives*, October 2020

14, 15 National Assembly for Wales – Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, *Physical Activity of Children and Young People*, March 2019

16 Sport England, *Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic year 2018/19*, December 2019

17 Department for Work and Pensions, *Family Resources Survey 2018/19*, 22 March 2020

Training & Education

We believe every young person should be able to fulfil their potential.

Our approach to training and education extends beyond schools and classrooms to place practical skills and hands-on learning at the centre of what we offer to more than **28,456 young people**.

For our residents and local communities, we provided an environment for individuals to learn vital skills and develop confidence to thrive independently.

	Annual unique users
Basic life skills	5,488
Literacy and numeracy skills	2,675
IT skills	2,174
Financial planning and budgeting	3,608
Work and employment skills	4,984

Inside and outside of schools, we support children with specialist needs, specifically those either at risk of exclusion or within YMCA's alternative education provision.

604*

**Alternative
education
provision**

771*

**Support for those
at risk of exclusion
from school**

* Annual unique users.

YMCA

We help young people to carve out new paths in life, offering guidance on how their interests and specialisms could develop into careers, as well as qualifications in both further and higher education.

	Annual unique users
Work experience placements or opportunities	1,102
Foundation programmes	161
Pre-apprenticeships / traineeships	133
Apprenticeships	1,147
Further education (e.g. A-level, GNVQ, BTEC)	2,109
Undergraduate degrees	108
Postgraduate degrees	24

At the end of 2019, **11%** of 16- to 18-year-olds and **15.7%** of 19- to 24-year-olds in Wales were not in education, employment or training (NEETs).¹⁸



In England, **7.5%** of 16- to 18-year-olds and **13%** of 19- to 24-year-olds were NEETs at the end of 2019.¹⁹

26,100

pupils in England were in local authority funded alternative provision in 2019/20, a **12.9%** increase from the previous year.²⁰

2,286

pupils were recorded as being educated other than at school in Wales in 2019/19.²¹

In 2018/19, apprenticeships were taken up by **393,400** people in England²² and **25,945** people in Wales.²³

Participation rates in education and apprenticeships combined are the highest on record among England's 16- to 18-year-olds, with **81.6%** engaged.²⁴

18 Welsh Government, *Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET): April 2019 to March 2020*, 30 July 2020

19 Department for Education, *NEET statistics annual brief: 2019, England*, 5 March 2020, 5 March 2020

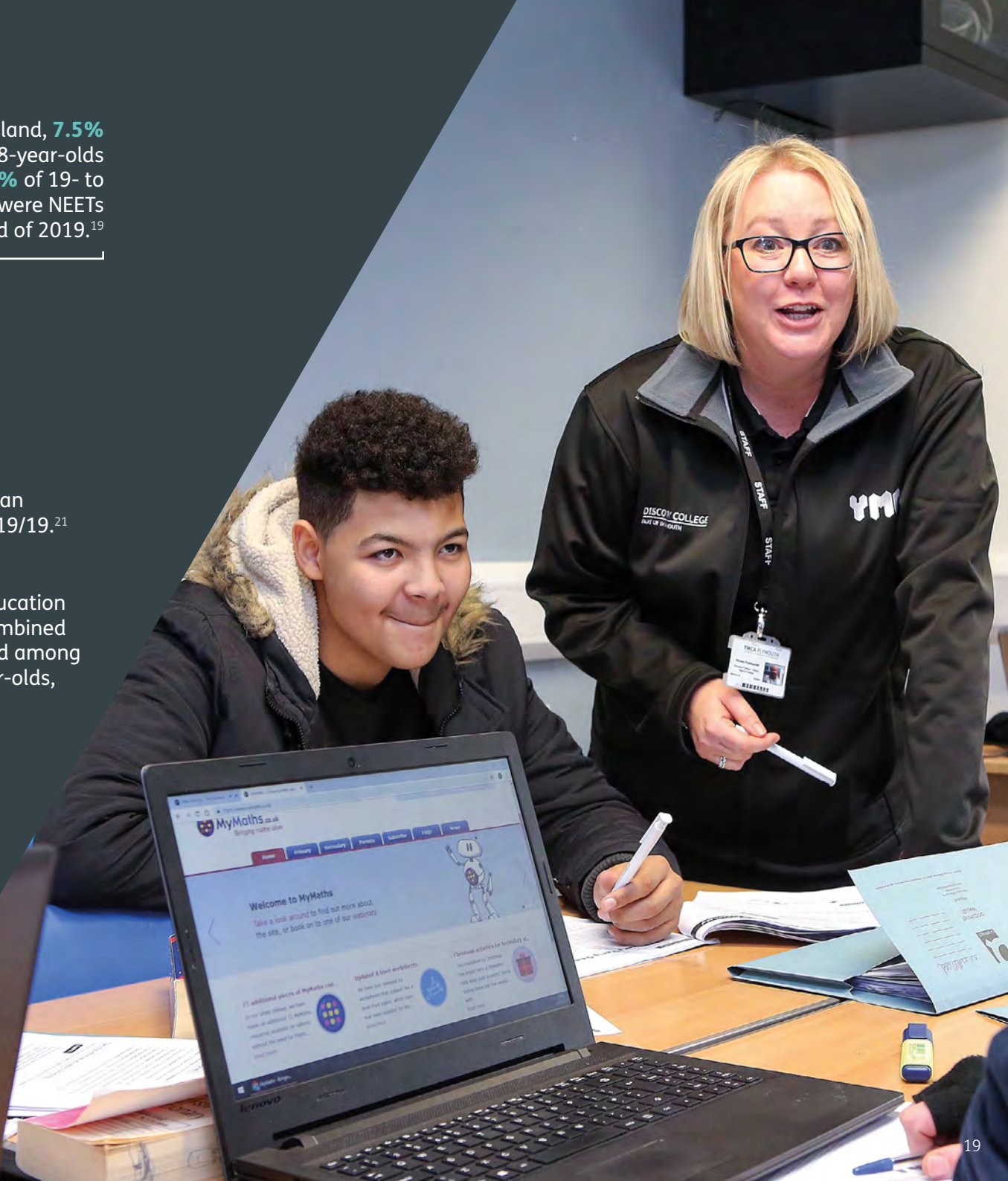
20 UK Government, *Schools, pupils and their characteristics – Academic Year 2019/20*, 25 June 2020

21 Welsh Government, *Pupils educated other than at school: September 2018 to August 2019*, 1 August 2019

22 House of Commons Library, *Apprenticeship statistics for England: Research Briefing*, 27 August 2020

23 StatsWales, *Apprenticeship learning programmes started by quarter, sector and programme type*, August 2020

24 Department for Education, *Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16–18 year olds in England: End 2019*, 25 June 2020



Support & Advice

We believe every person should have someone they can trust.

YMCAs connect almost **72,000 young people** with someone to talk to or a helping hand, offering specialist guidance and practical skills to best equip them to overcome whatever challenges they may face. YMCAs nurture conversations with **27,894 young people** in order to work through their emotional and personal situations, and through careers and mentoring services engage with them to develop their skills and create pathways for the future.

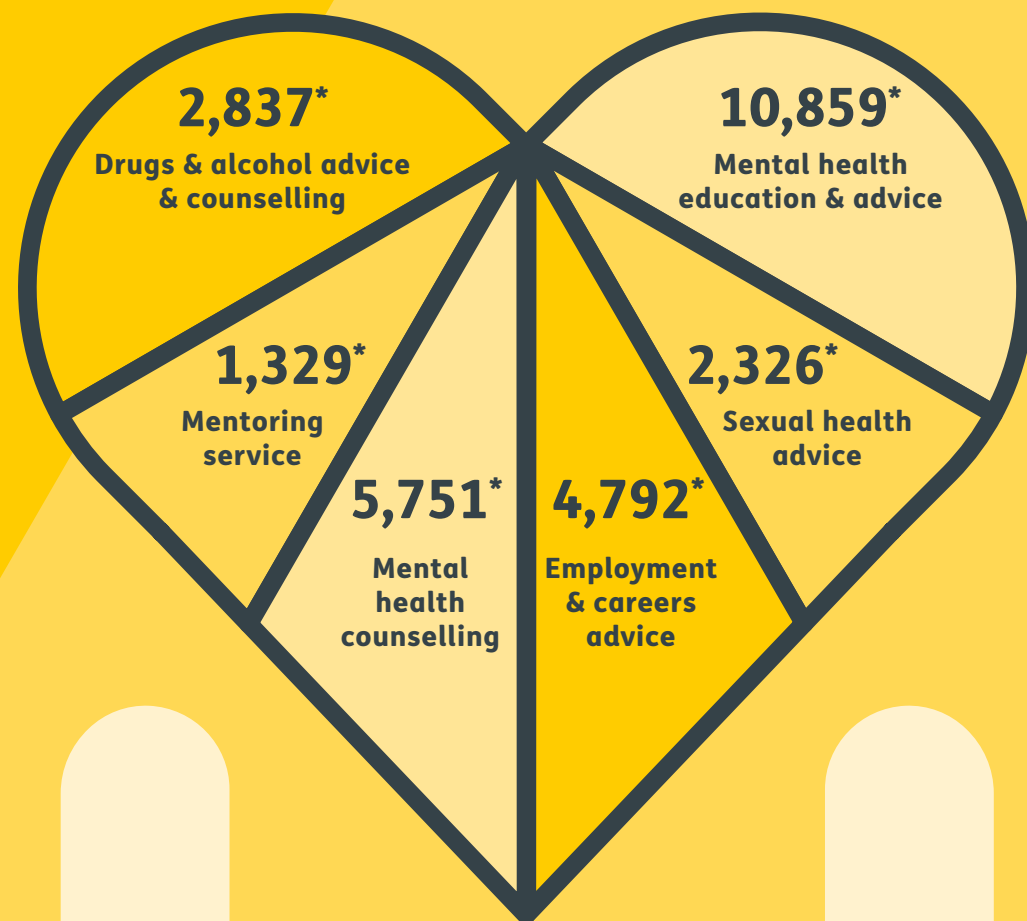
Our communities can rely on us. We provide support when they are most in need, from advice on navigating the welfare system and housing issues to supplying vital food packages to vulnerable families.

4,771* Housing advice
9,022* Welfare and benefits advice
21,515* Food banks

YMCAs are preventative and rehabilitative in our approach: we support individuals in prisons and young offender institutions, while also delivering crime prevention and avoidance programmes to 1,358 individuals.

1,281*
Crime prevention and avoidance programmes

227*
Work in prisons / young offender institutions



* Annual unique users.

In England

1 in 6

children aged 5–16

1 in 5

17- to 22-year-olds

were identified as probably having a mental disorder.²⁵



Wellbeing in children between 10–15 in England²⁶ and 11–16 in Wales²⁷ reduces with age.

One-in-five 16- to 24-year-olds in England and Wales used illegal drugs in 2018/19.²⁸



620,947

emergency food parcels were for children in England and Wales in 2019/20.²⁹

17% of pupils aged 11–16 in England said they usually drink alcohol at least once a month.³⁰

One-in-ten pupils in Years 7–11 in Wales said they had been drunk in the past month.³¹

25 NHS Digital, *Mental Health of Children and Young People in England*, 22 October 2020

26 Department for Education, *State of the Nation 2019: Children and Young People's Wellbeing*, October 2019

27 Statistics for Wales, *Well-being of Wales 2018–19*, September 2019

28 UK Government, *United Kingdom drug situation: Facial Point annual report*, 10 August 2020

29 The Trussell Trust, *End of Year Stats 2019–20*, [accessed 12/11/2020]

30 NHS Digital, *Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England 2018*, 20 August 2019

31 School Health Research Network, *Student Health and Wellbeing in Wales: Report of the 2017/18 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey and School Health Research Network Student Health and Wellbeing Survey*, 31 May 2019



Community Work

YMCA's vision in England and Wales is of an inclusive Christian movement transforming communities so that all young people can belong, contribute and thrive.



31 YMCAs provided a chaplaincy service to young people, working across all five of our work areas to provide spiritual development and support.



YMCAs in England and Wales are one part of a global movement that is internationally engaged: **46 young people travelled abroad** with exchange, placement or volunteer opportunities, and **48 young people were welcomed from overseas**.



Our **26 Youth Ambassadors** – a YMCA programme led by the National Council to train and provide a platform for tomorrow's leaders – engaged at groups, forums, world councils and summits, from parliament to public speaking at international events.



YMCAs welcomed more than **25,000 people** to our community cafes and hosted more than **16,000 people** at our community meals.



More than **70,000 people** joined us in our conference and meeting rooms.



We have ushered hosts of happy customers into our **90 retail outlets**.



Celebrating Young People

YMCA175



In 1844, YMCA began above a draper's shop in St Paul's Churchyard, London. In August 2019, more than **3,000 YMCA young people, staff, guests and volunteers** from **100 countries** gathered at ExCeL London for an anniversary celebration, YMCA175.

Young leaders shared their moving and inspiring stories on stage, urging young people to speak up, to act, to make their voices heard and not to give up. Panels were held on civic engagement, youth movements and what the future may look like in 2044 across delegations' regions of the world.

YOUTH MATTERS



A key event in YMCA's calendar since 2009, YMCA's Youth Matters Awards celebrates the exceptional skills and achievements of young people over the past year. The awards also recognised the vital work YMCAs deliver day in day out to help transform the lives of young people and give them a brighter future.

12 coveted awards are up for grabs across a series of diverse categories during an inspiring night of celebration and recognition in London. Our 10th Youth Matters Awards ceremony was held in November 2019, with six remarkable young people, five projects, and a YMCA and staff member officially recognised and awarded.



Get in touch

For any questions or support,
please get in touch with the team
at YMCA England & Wales via
email at **policy@ymca.org.uk**
or by calling **020 7186 9500**.

ymca.org.uk



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION