

Exploitation of Children in England and Wales: Barriers to understanding child-centred support service outcomes

PROJECT RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY & EVIDENCE CENTRE

Outcomes for children and young people affected by modern slavery

An analysis of Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship service support in England and Wales

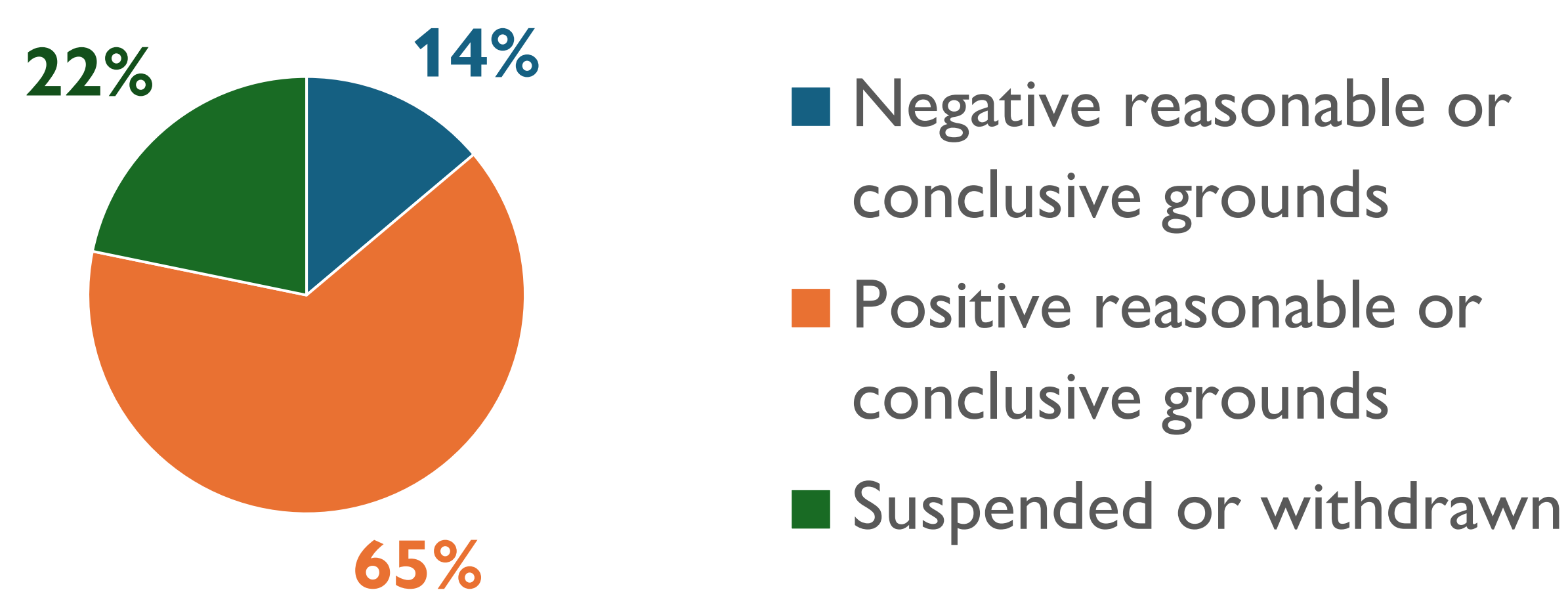
1. What is the nature of modern slavery affecting children in England and Wales?
2. What are the benefits and limitations of the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) service provision on children's outcomes (long-term safeguarding and protection, well-being, and recovery)?
3. How can services, and policies, support the recovery of children with lived experience of modern slavery?

TWO ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES:

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data:

Collected when 'first responders' (e.g. police) suspect there has been modern slavery exploitation and make a referral

Measure: Outcomes of referral where child exploitation is suspected

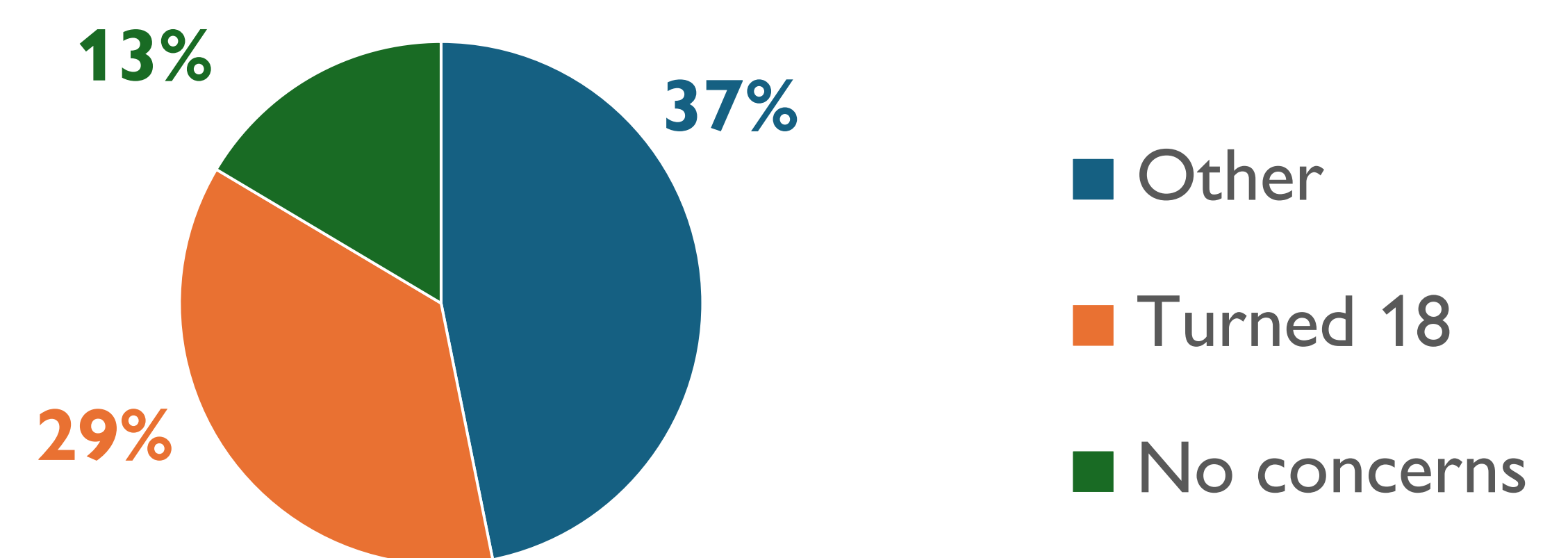


65% of child referrals to the NRM have enough evidence to be referred to support services. However, due to data recording, these child cases may relate to people who are now adults reporting past exploitation.

Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) Service data:

Collected by Guardians during service support, after NRM positive reasonable or conclusive grounds are confirmed

Measure: Reasons for case closure within ICTG support service



Top three responses reveal little about child outcomes:
'Other' – indicates a need for different classifications
'Turned 18' – clients were no longer eligible for support, indicating a need to extend provision to adults
'No concerns' – implies but does not define a positive outcome

THE PROBLEM:

Whilst providing information on the nature of modern slavery experienced by children, the two quantitative administrative data sources provided **very limited information on children's outcomes** related to safety, protection, well-being and recovery resulting from service support.

QUALITATIVE EVIDENCE¹:



A 'pyramid of support': Invaluable support is provided by guardians, who become 'trusted adults' and emphasise children's well-being, rights and best interests. They focus on child-centred outcomes of:

safety, understanding, rights, voice, inclusion, positive experiences and activities, and positive transitions out of the service.



¹Data used to consider child-centred outcomes included: ICTG qualitative case closure summaries; Q-sort with survivors; Practitioner focus groups; and a lived-experience advisory group

PRIMARY DATA RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. There is a need for **more effective recording of child-centred outcomes** within the ICTG service data.
2. The potential of **linked administrative data** to explore longer-term outcomes for survivors of child trafficking and exploitation before, during and after service support, should be assessed. This includes NRM and ICTG data being linked and further linkage to education, health and justice records.

Scan the QR code to read our full report and related materials:



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