Angry, young and over here

Ironically, she did it because he was allegedly violent — throwing something at her son.

The incident left the teacher’s victim traumatised, with nightmares for months.

Going by police statistics, more youngsters aged between 7 and 19 are joining a brutal bunch club.

A police spokesman noted that “due to the need to belong to a group, youths in this impressionable age are susceptible to succumb to negative peer pressure influence”.

The question is: Could these calves have been prevented if these teenagers had received help when they were younger?

Several counsellors The New Paper spoke to confirmed that they have seen more angry young people in the past few years.

Ms Sheena Jebal, 35, founder of Nutife Care and Counselling Centre said eight out of 10 young people she counsels are angry.

She said: “They raise their voices, bang the table, shout and scream when they talk to you. They have a lot of anger in them.”

Ten years ago, those in this age group tended to be more subdued and less inclined to express themselves violently, she said.

One 18-year-old girl she recently counsell had pushed her mother down at Bus- bin interchange and kicked and spat at her.

This is not uncommon for troubled kids who try to browbeat their parents into giving them what they want.

Tantrums

She said parents would often tell her about their kids throwing tantrums, breaking objects at home, quarrelling at school and even physically hitting each other.

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When confronted, he sealed the iPod.

Mr Ng: “When disciplined by the principal, the boy said he hadn’t committed any offence, as he was adding the school’s savings.

“It shows a lack of awareness and insight, resulting from peer pressure and social media.”

Mr Charles Lee, a senior counsellor in his mid 30s, blames the trend mostly on a lack of parental supervision and family guidance.

He added: “It could also be that parents are themselves showing violent behaviour.”

Associate Professor Ngiam Teo Liang, from the National University of Singapore’s social work department of the school that cases tend to be “very complex and hard to generalise”.

In general young people who react in anger have low self-esteem.

Prof Ngiam said this trend was not exclusive to Singapore youth and there have been violent examples all over the region.

In June this year, Japanese Tomohito Ka- tin, 25, a car worker, went on a bloody ramp- age, randomly killing seven and injuring 10 others in Kyoto.

Such incidents are in part a result of the urban environment in which people live in close proximity, with a greater chance of social friction.