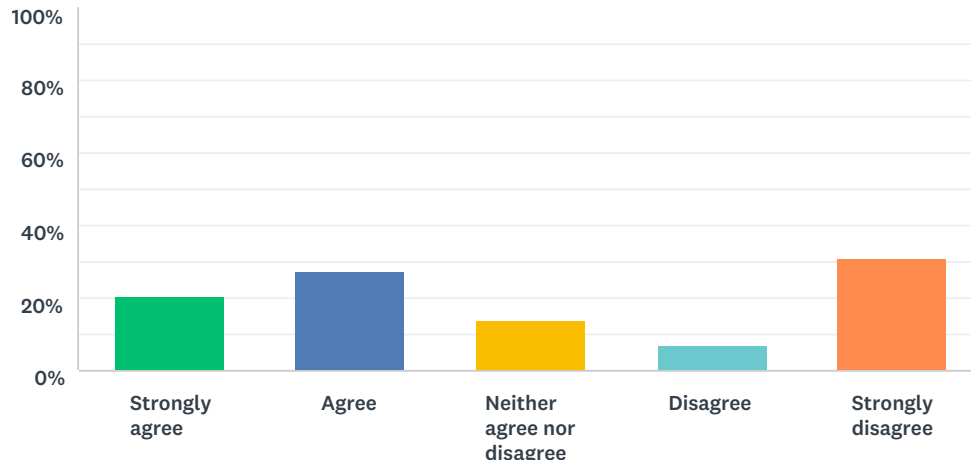


Q1 To what extent do you agree that there should be an annual review of transport arrangements?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	20.69%	6
Agree	27.59%	8
Neither agree nor disagree	13.79%	4
Disagree	6.90%	2
Strongly disagree	31.03%	9
TOTAL		29

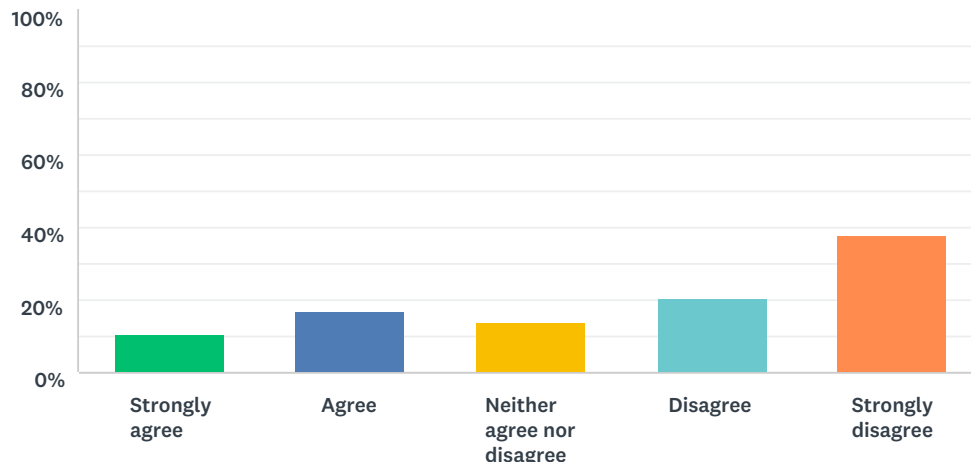
Q2 If you have any comments about the proposal for an annual review please do so here.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Would this form part of the annual ENCP review? If so, and the review were attended by DBC officer, it may be worthwhile, although we would question whether an annual review of travel assistance is relevant in all cases. Otherwise, we would be concerned about creating yet another administrative burden on educators.	12/5/2018 5:39 PM
2	It is likely this will introduce levels of stress to families, if each year support could be removed. This should be considered further in terms of the approach of how the annual review will be undertaken,	11/28/2018 11:36 PM
3	not frequent enough, children with complex needs can change and therefore it needs to be reviewed as and when required	11/28/2018 8:09 PM
4	Annual monitoring makes sense as some people's travel needs may change, increase or decrease	11/26/2018 6:49 PM
5	Just another admin burden for parents. There isn't enough staff to do the job now, it takes weeks and we never find out until half way through the summer holidays.	11/13/2018 7:29 AM
6	This will just be yet another meeting that us parent will have to prepare for and take what little annual leave we have left after looking after the kids during the summer holidays (as there is no affordable childcare for disabled children). The indication that we could lose the service if we are unable to attend is REALLY unfair. What if we or the child is ill or needs to be at a medical appointment. There should at least be another chance given or a warning system rather than losing a vital service for missing one appointment. If the Tories were doing this then Labour would be jumping up and down, this is a Labour council and I voted Labour in a marginal seat. If this goes through you have lost my vote!!!!	11/6/2018 1:32 PM
7	Why is it needed? Things don't change much in a year	11/6/2018 10:25 AM
8	My daughter is autistic and has severe learning difficulties so will never be able to live independently. She is non-verbal and therefore could never use public transport independently. So why is there a need for an annual review? It just adds another layer of administration when administering my daughter's affairs is already approaching a full-time task. There is also no indication that the council has considered or will provide sufficient staff levels to ensure that annual reviews can be completed for all current users. What if (due to council delays) the reviews haven't been completed in time for a new academic year? Will the transport be ended? Has the council considered that this could result in a significant peak in applications/reviews (presumably during the summer months when many council staff members will be on annual leave). The council should commit within the policy that if there is a delay in processing the application/review then the services will not be withdrawn during this time. Quite frankly the lack of any detail around the administration of the annual review is disgraceful, you are asking us to comment on something we know nothing about! An alternative approach would be to have options for the next review which the council administrator could select from (e.g. 12 months, 2 or 3 years and 5 years). This would allow the council to still ensure that the needs of the individual are met but reduce the burden on both the Council and the parents by ensuring that a review is only required where there is likely to be a change in circumstances within the given timeframe.	11/6/2018 9:58 AM
9	As long as the Annual Review is not used to cut transport costs, and is used to make sure transport is thoughtfully worked out to suit the needs of the children and their families.	10/23/2018 7:13 PM
10	Atypically the needs of a child with special needs who requires support does not change significantly enough within a twelve-month time period to warrant the annual review. This would also have a time cost in reviewing each case.	10/22/2018 6:46 PM
11	Parents like myself need the transport to get my children to school. I don't drive and as no one to ask.	10/18/2018 4:06 PM

Q3 To what extent would you agree to a personal travel assistance budget?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	10.34%	3
Agree	17.24%	5
Neither agree nor disagree	13.79%	4
Disagree	20.69%	6
Strongly disagree	37.93%	11
TOTAL		29

Q4 If you have any comments about the proposal of a personal assistance budget please do so here.

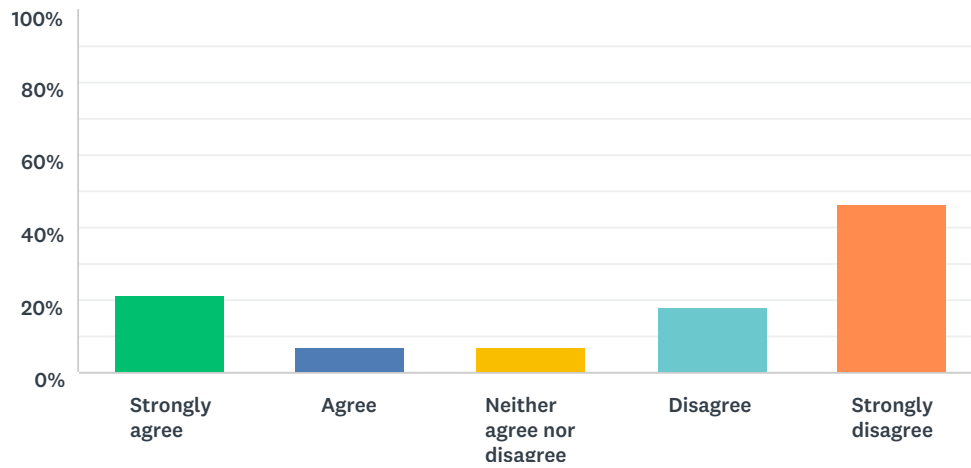
Answered: 13 Skipped: 16

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Would depend what impact this would have on benefits already being received	12/5/2018 5:42 PM
2	The current system works effectively so why change? There is a risk that this might be difficult to manage for vulnerable adults and families and could result in a lack of provision if not budgeted effectively. Seems to add an unnecessary level of complication for families. Is there the infrastructure in place to support this policy locally? There are safeguarding risks in handing over responsibility and should the safeguarding of our vulnerable young people be put in the hand of local travel companies - this is not their job. Serious concerns as also our children who currently use transport provision need continuity and trained/skilled staff who support them when travelling.	11/28/2018 11:44 PM
3	difficult to find employment which will only result in minimum hours to take to/from school. Also if they are poorly no backup plan where if a school bus/transport they will get to school	11/28/2018 8:11 PM
4	It would get spent on other things and the child would be left unable to get to school.	11/13/2018 6:17 PM
5	Stop pushing all the admin burden onto parents. First the personal care budgets and now this. There's also no detail, how can we support something if we don't know the detail. Will it be £1 each way or £10 each way. The amount being offered makes a massive difference!!! Also there is nowhere near enough taxis to accommodate this, also not having multiple children on the bus means more cars on the road.	11/13/2018 7:32 AM
6	The council is able to achieve economies of scale (e.g. by agreeing a contract with the provider at much more favourable terms than the individual parent would be able to) therefore why make the parents do all the work when there is a viable solution already in place. The parents are the ones that do the vast majority of the caring, let's not put anymore onto them else there is a risk it would be the straw that broke the camels back. How many additional kids put into care would it take for any cost savings this plan would achieve? If kids miss school or are consistently late due to the lack of suitable or available transport how much more will it cost schools/the council to try and enforce the unenforceable? This is a short sighted policy that does not consider the impact on families that are working hard to balance their jobs and caring responsibilities. At some point something has to give!	11/6/2018 1:38 PM
7	Why alter something that works? To save money I bet!	11/6/2018 10:26 AM
8	How do you know that families want to make their own arrangements? Have you asked them? There is no question on this here? So where have you got the indication that this is something that families want? There is no indication of how much money will be available so how can I support something that I know nothing about (and which could actually cause me financial hardship if the actual cost of transport is higher than the amount offered in a personal travel budget). Once again (in the same way as it has for the personal assistant budgets) the council is wanting to push the administrative/additional costs onto parents. Has the Council undertaken any research to establish if there is sufficient capacity in the private vehicle hire services in the town to accommodate the potential increased demand this will cause? Are there enough taxis with wheel chair access to accommodate the need? This is a short sighted proposal, the main purpose of this is to save the Council money not to improve the service offered. Why not be upfront about it? Be honest with the service users and actually ask for their thoughts on how the current service could be delivered more effectively. Some of us have experience in these areas and may be able/willing to assist the Council if we were only asked. Instead you put leading questions in the survey and little/no actual detail/figures/costs/analysis into the consultation document. Has the Council considered what the impact will be on attendance rates (e.g. late arrivals due to private hire firms being unable to accommodate increased demands in peak times) and the congestion within the town (due to several vehicles now taking children to schools who were previously all taken in one bus)? This is possibly one of the poorest consultation documents I have ever read with little to no detail included on what the actual impact will be on parents, pupils, schools or even the Council.	11/6/2018 10:19 AM
9	My child would be better off using the current system of using a taxi. His school is on the other of town to us and four buses a day would be too much.	10/29/2018 8:36 PM

10	I would need more information on the choices families would have to agree or disagree	10/25/2018 6:40 PM
11	Surely, to assist all families involved, it will be counter-productive to give separate allowances, and will cost more in the final process?	10/23/2018 7:14 PM
12	This is a blanket approach which does not look at the individual requirements of the young person in respect of their needs. It is significantly more expensive if the child requires an assistant and vehicle with a ramp than a standard taxi.	10/22/2018 6:48 PM
13	Why can't it stay the way it is. The transport works and if there was a shortfall I couldn't afford it.	10/18/2018 4:07 PM

Q5 Should the placement not be the nearest appropriate, to what extent do you agree that transport should not be provided?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	21.43%	6
Agree	7.14%	2
Neither agree nor disagree	7.14%	2
Disagree	17.86%	5
Strongly disagree	46.43%	13
TOTAL		28

Q6 If you have any comments about the proposal to offer assistance for the nearest suitable placement please do so here.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 14

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Would need to be clear on definition of nearest appropriate	12/5/2018 5:43 PM
2	CYPN should be placed in the most appropriate setting to meet their needs, not on the basis of financial expediency	12/5/2018 5:39 PM
3	There needs to be a condition attached, and some flexibility to assess each case on individual merit if there is collective agreement that the nearest placement is appropriate but there are other placements that would better meet the child's needs. There is a risk that the policy will result in high numbers of appeals and cost incurred offset VFM.	11/28/2018 11:49 PM
4	I am aware of incidents already where DBC were determined to keep a child within Darlington and the parent took it to a Tribe Union, who agreed with parent that their child's needs were better met outside of area, Therefore I believe that the suitable placement offer will be more based on keeping spending to a minimum rather than what is best for the individual	11/28/2018 8:16 PM
5	If children's needs to be placed somewhere suitable for their needs, corners can't be cut by taking a 'make do' attitude	11/26/2018 6:54 PM
6	It is not the child or family's fault that suitable provision is not within travelling distance.	11/13/2018 6:18 PM
7	That's not fair on the kids already given an out of town placement, so when they are next up for their annual review they could have their transport withdrawn. Leaving the parents to either pay for it themselves or have to seek alternative placement which would be really unsettling for the child.	11/13/2018 7:36 AM
8	Wouldn't impact me directly but the impact of moving the most vulnerable children from a setting in which they are settled should be considered. Are there even enough spare places available in the town if all current placements were to be ended? The impact of bringing these children back into a Darlington school also needs to be considered. The proposal as it stands provides no details at all on this area, timeframes for implementation nor the impact it could have on the children and the schools they go back to	11/6/2018 1:44 PM
9	It's not fair on the kid, it's not the kid's fault the council is skint	11/6/2018 10:26 AM
10	What if the child is already at a particular provision and you then decide that it's not the nearest suitable placement? Presumably at the next annual review you would withdraw transport. That quite frankly would be a scandal and result in significant negative publicity for the Council. The lack of clarification on this is disgraceful and underhand, if this is going to be the impact then the council should have made this clear to all parents that this could affect so that they could participate in the consultation and at least have their voice heard. Instead the council has buried this in the detail of the document, presumably in the hope that it will be missed by the majority and that this policy can be passed/implemented before anyone realises the impact it will have on the most vulnerable families. If this results in children with the most significant need no longer being able to attend their current setting where would they go? Has the council considered the impact on places within the town and if there is spare capacity within these settings to accommodate children if they could no longer attend their out of town placement?	11/6/2018 10:19 AM
11	All children must be kept safe	10/29/2018 8:36 PM
12	The initial statement is fine. If a placement is offered that is deemed appropriate but is declined by parents/carers then travel assistance should be declined	10/25/2018 6:50 PM
13	We know where the nearest suitable placement is at the moment, unless there are plans to change this? Given the distances the children have to travel to get to a 'central' placement, as at present, then the best assistance is to get them to school safely.	10/23/2018 7:18 PM
14	Not providing transport for any child categorised as SEND is fundamentally wrong and does not consider the child or the family circumstances. How are families with several children supposed to deal with the conflicting requirements of sending children to different schools?	10/22/2018 6:51 PM

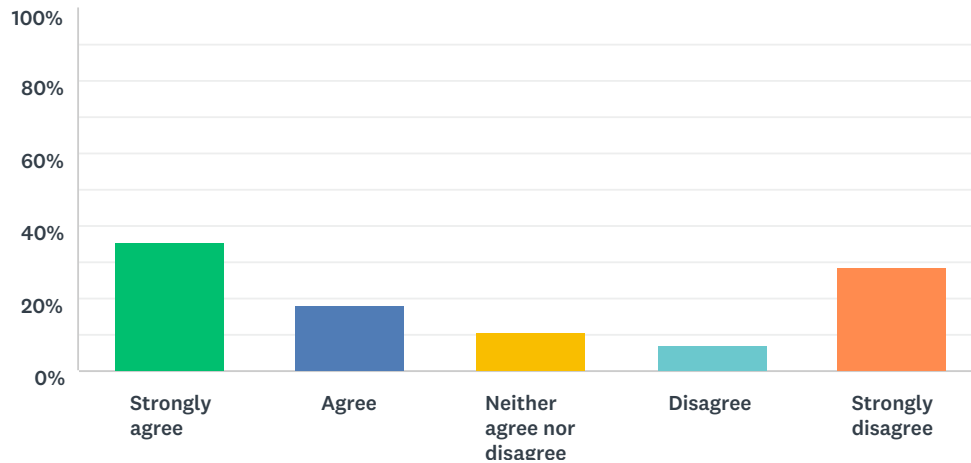
15

if my children didn't have transport they wouldn't be able to go.

10/18/2018 4:09 PM

Q7 To what extent would you agree to independent travel training?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	35.71%	10
Agree	17.86%	5
Neither agree nor disagree	10.71%	3
Disagree	7.14%	2
Strongly disagree	28.57%	8
TOTAL		28

Q8 If you have any comments about the proposal for independent travel training please do so here.

Answered: 17 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Independent Travel training would need to be very individualised and be in place for as long as was required	12/5/2018 5:44 PM
2	Who would provide the training where, when, how? How would it be funded?	12/5/2018 5:39 PM
3	Independent travel might not be realistic for all children and there are concerns that this ultimately shifts responsibility for travel safety of vulnerable young people to travel companies. However there are definitely benefits in having dedicated trainers and that they should also work with local businesses to increase community awareness of issues and support they might be able to provide themselves.	11/28/2018 11:52 PM
4	this would be a massive task, as often our children are vulnerable, yes in an ideal world that is our goal but I would need a lengthy intervention to ensure that this was not compromising my child's safety and not just about saving money	11/28/2018 8:18 PM
5	where appropriate	11/28/2018 12:41 PM
6	There is no guarantee that travel training would provide the child with road or traffic sense	11/26/2018 6:55 PM
7	What a joke, they would be targeted by other children on the bus. I think this is a really unsafe idea unless school is going to stagger their opening times? Has the safeguarding implications of this suggestion been considered?	11/13/2018 7:37 AM
8	What a waste of time. How can you train these kids to use a bus when some of them are in wheel chairs, can't communicate or are exceptionally vulnerable? For me this has significant safeguarding implications that need to be considered. Also there simply isn't capacity in the public transport links in Darlington to accommodate more pupils, the public buses that service my school are full to the brim every day. To add into that the children who currently use the local authority ran bus service for SEND pupils would be a disaster waiting to happen. The SEND pupils would be picked on as they are different to the other children and therefore would be an easy target. No amount of training can prepare a vulnerable child for that.	11/6/2018 1:50 PM
9	Making provision for when things go wrong, especially regarding personal safety	11/6/2018 11:15 AM
10	What a load of cr@p! You can train a child not to be disabled or be different from the other kids on the bus? They would get bullied!	11/6/2018 10:27 AM
11	This is likely to be a waste of money, if the training is given is it then automatically assumed that they will be able to use public transport to attend? Who would make that judgement? How can we be expected to assess if training will be effective when there is no indication as to the nature/length of the training. Will it be an hours desk based training (in which case it will not be representative of the real world) or will it be provided over a number of weeks during the peak usage hours so that it provide the children with a real world experience and therefore allowing an informed decision on their ability to use public transport to be made. Also there is no indication if the training would be compulsory or the consequences if the training is not taken up. For example my daughter would not be able to cope using public transport, the sensory overload would result in her having a melt-down and becoming aggressive to the other users of the service. I know this but to someone administrating the training they wouldn't know anything about her so it should be the parent's decision if the training is suitable to their child and there should be no negative consequences if the training is not taken up.	11/6/2018 10:20 AM
12	There needs to be a "safety net" built in such as an interim review after perhaps 6 weeks to confirm that the student is able to access the public travel system.	11/5/2018 9:23 AM
13	This would be acceptable for year 11 if they can cope.	10/29/2018 8:37 PM
14	I feel that not offering independent travel training to some of our most vulnerable students, especially during transition time is a concern and a gap in the services that you offer	10/25/2018 6:54 PM

15	But not to the detriment of getting the children to school and home again in a safe and timely way.	10/23/2018 7:19 PM
16	In respect of our child this would be of no benefit,however where the individual is able and could benefit from this it is a good idea.	10/22/2018 6:53 PM
17	both of my children are unable to do independent travelling	10/18/2018 4:10 PM

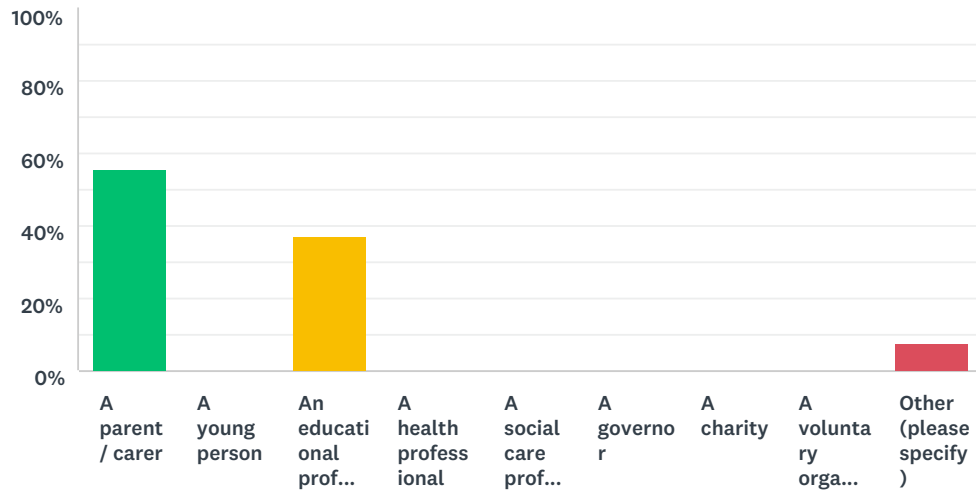
Q9 If you have any other comments, suggestions or feedback on our proposals please do so here.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The most urgent priority to address overspend in respect of SEND transport is to create additional, high-quality local provision.	12/5/2018 5:39 PM
2	The current home to school travel system works well and the travel assistant become a part of young peoples lives. It should not be underestimated the potential impact on social mobility and family income if this provision is taken away or changed. This is likely to result in significant loss of earnings to families and wider consequences of this.	11/28/2018 11:57 PM
3	The times of the consultation events have meant that I wasn't able to attend. Did anyone think what parents would be doing between 4-5pm on a school night (l.e picking their kids up from the drop off point) or on a staff training day at BHA. Did you want anyone to turn up?	11/13/2018 7:40 AM
4	This is a cost saving measure pure and simple. Stop trying to target those who are in the greatest need but least able to defend themselves.	11/6/2018 1:50 PM
5	You you be ashamed trying to take what little the poor kids have. At least let them get to school without the threat of being picked on or hurt.	11/6/2018 10:29 AM
6	Why does the consultation document not mention the finances of this at all? Yet the papers presented to the council members highlight that the main reason for this change in policy is to save money. It is outrageous that the council is yet again looking to save money by reducing the services it offers to it most vulnerable members of society. What you are proposing will limit the ability of children with significant learning and physical disabilities to attend school. That may not be the intention but that will be the outcome. If the Council decides to go ahead with this plan then it should be required to undertake an impact assessment on attendance to establish if the implementation of the plan has had a negative impact. The amounts you are looking to save are negligible but the impact on peoples lives will be immense. Please, from the bottom of my heart, reconsider it!	11/6/2018 10:20 AM
7	I would like to see included exceptional circumstances arrangements for children of nursery age - this is such a critical learning phase that exclusion from this policy may exclude a few children from accessing the high quality provision they need.	11/5/2018 9:24 AM
8	Great care needs to be taken not to disadvantage our children with cost cutting exercises.	10/23/2018 7:20 PM
9	To fully understand the requirements of the individuals and family who utilise these services it would be wise to ensure the families all receive these questionnaires in the post. We were only made aware of this through a family members involvement with local politics.	10/22/2018 6:56 PM
10	I hope my children wouldn't be effect as its very important to get my children to school. The way the travel is at the moment. Works for both children.	10/18/2018 4:11 PM

Q10 In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 2

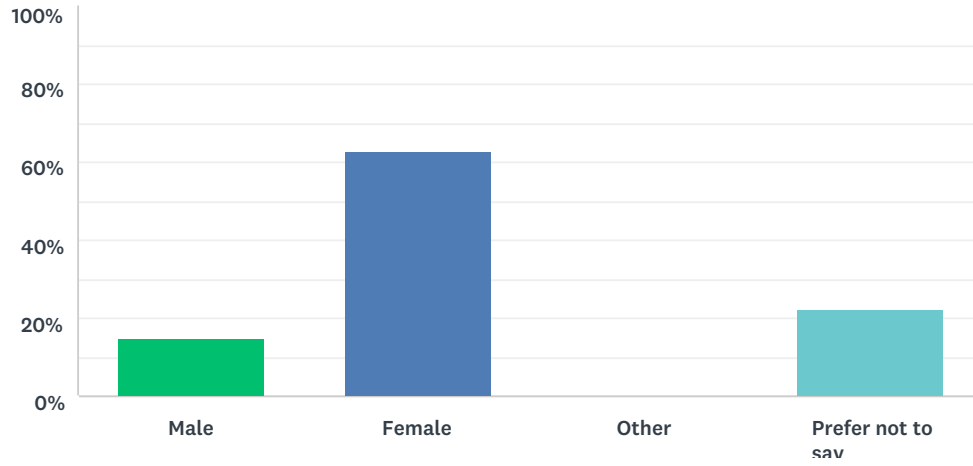


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A parent / carer	55.56%	15
A young person	0.00%	0
An educational professional	37.04%	10
A health professional	0.00%	0
A social care professional	0.00%	0
A governor	0.00%	0
A charity	0.00%	0
A voluntary organisation	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	7.41%	2
TOTAL		27

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Parent, Education Professional and governor	11/28/2018 8:18 PM
2	A grandparent	10/23/2018 7:21 PM

Q11 What is your sex?

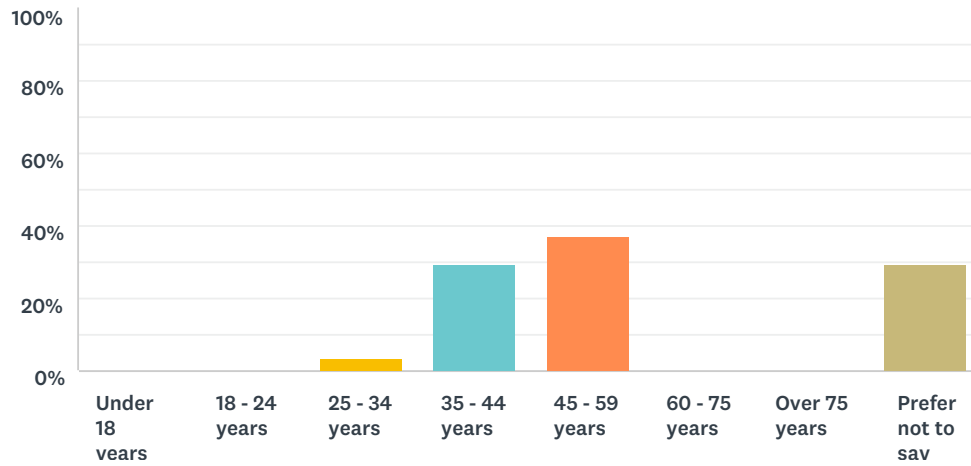
Answered: 27 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	14.81%	4
Female	62.96%	17
Other	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	22.22%	6
TOTAL		27

Q12 What age were you on your last birthday?

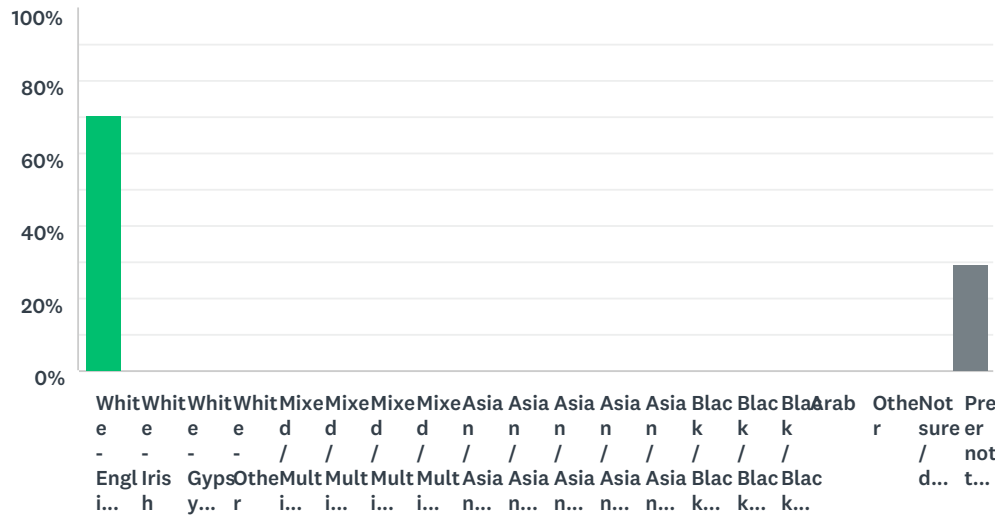
Answered: 27 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18 years	0.00%	0
18 - 24 years	0.00%	0
25 - 34 years	3.70%	1
35 - 44 years	29.63%	8
45 - 59 years	37.04%	10
60 - 75 years	0.00%	0
Over 75 years	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	29.63%	8
TOTAL		27

Q13 What ethnic group do you belong to?

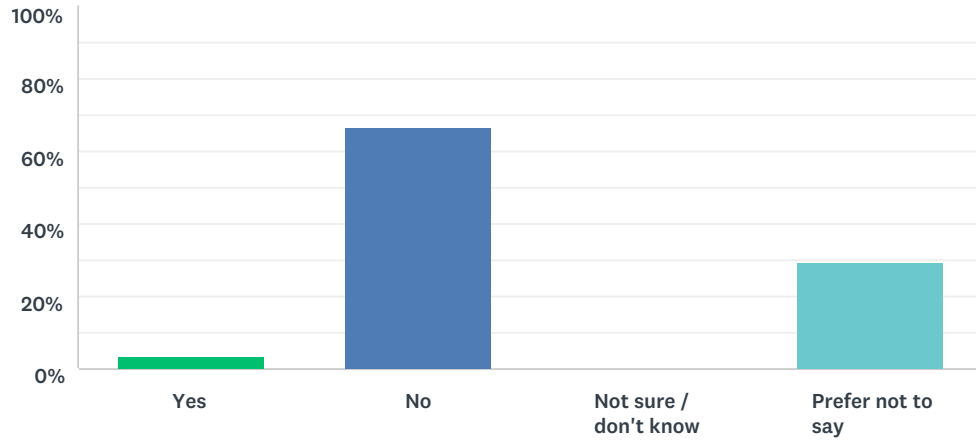
Answered: 27 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	70.37%	19
White - Irish	0.00%	0
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
White - Other	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black Caribbean	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black African	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - Other	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Indian	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Pakistani	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Other	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - African	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Caribbean	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Other	0.00%	0
Arab	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
Not sure / don't know	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	29.63%	8
TOTAL		27

Q14 Do you consider yourself to have a disability

Answered: 27 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	3.70%	1
No	66.67%	18
Not sure / don't know	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	29.63%	8
TOTAL		27