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Wave 2 Research Report

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NatCen Social Research



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List of abbreviations

CiN – Children in Need

CYP – Children and Young People

DCS – Director of Children's Services

DfE – Department for Education

EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan

FSM – Free School Meals

LA – Local Authority

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disability

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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from the second wave of the DfE Children's Services Omnibus Survey. The survey explored senior local authority (LA) leaders' perceptions on, and activities relating to, a range of policy areas. These included children's social care; early years and childcare provision in authorities; and services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The questionnaire comprised a mix of open response questions and fixed category response questions.

The online survey was sent to all 152 upper tier LAs in England. In total, 77 LAs took part, representing an overall survey response rate of 50%. This compares to an overall response rate of 66% to Wave 1.

However, as indicated throughout the report, not all 77 LAs answered all of the survey questions. A total of 68 LAs answered questions on Children's Social Care (45% response rate, compared to 60% in Wave 1); 57 answered questions on Early Years and Childcare (38% response rate, compared to 56% in Wave 1); and 52 answered questions on Special Educational Needs and Disability (34% response rate, compared to 54% in Wave 1).

The profile of LAs which completed the survey is largely in-line with the overall profile, based on the type of authority, region, proportion of pupils eligible for and receiving free school meals, and rates of children in need.

The research was carried out between 30 May and 11 July 2017. The key findings are outlined below. Throughout this report, figures are based on all LAs responding to each question. Please note that the base sizes for some questions are relatively low and therefore the findings should be treated with some caution.

Children's social care

A total of 68 LAs answered questions on children's social care.

Reducing demand

- Edge of Care was seen as the most effective intervention in reducing the number of children who become looked after, mentioned by 72% of all responding LAs. Early Help for Families and Family Group Conferencing were also mentioned as effective by over half of responding LAs (64% and 57% respectively).

Assessment of mental health needs

- Most commonly LAs would assess the mental health needs of looked after children on entry to care (with 67% saying assessments taking place at that stage) and/or annual intervals during care (59%).
- In eight per cent of cases LAs did not systematically assess the mental health needs of looked after children or commission an agency to do so.
- Two in five (39%) responding LAs used tools other than the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to assess the mental health needs of looked after children.
- Those who had used other tools frequently mentioned Outcome Rating Scale or Child Outcome Rating Scale (mentioned by 38% of relevant LAs). Subjective response from the Child and Goals Based Outcome were also used by a third of the LAs (33%). General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) and RCADS were used by one in five (21%).

Campaigns

- Most responding LAs (81%) had conducted communication/publicity campaigns related to child protection in the last 12 months. Most commonly (54%) LAs had carried out between 1-3 communication campaigns, but seven per cent had conducted more than 10 campaigns in the last year.
- The majority of campaigns focused on child sexual exploitation (89%), domestic violence (50%) and how to refer a concern about a child's welfare (41%). Communication campaigns around neglect and online bullying/ cyberbullying had been carried out in the last year by a third of LAs (34% and 32% respectively).
- Campaigns were most often promoted through social media with 86% of responding LAs reporting use of this channel. Leaflets or flyers were also common, used by 82% of LAs.

Care Orders, Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders

- The majority of responding LAs (74%) had seen combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders issued by courts in their areas between April 2016 and March 2017.
- Of these, over a third (37%) had seen between one to three issued during that time period. In 16% of cases, authorities had seen more than three but fewer than 10 issued. In addition, 22% of LAs had seen more than 11 combined orders issued.
- Around two in five responding LAs (38%) expected to see an increase in the number of public law care and supervision order applications in the next 12 months, while 14% expected the numbers to decrease.

Serious Case Reviews

- In the period between April 2015 – March 2016 half of authorities (51%) had initiated and 57% had published at least one Serious Case Review. The following year, between April 2016 – March 2017, half of authorities (50%) had initiated and half (50%) had published at least one Serious Case Review.

Early Years and childcare

A total of 57 LAs answered questions on Early Years and childcare.

Early Years entitlement

- In 79% of responding LAs at least half of childcare providers offered childcare provision outside of the hours 9am-3pm.
- It was much less common for childcare providers to offer childcare outside of the hours 8am-6pm. In 73% of authorities, fewer than half of providers offered provision outside of these hours.
- Around three in five (58%) responding LAs paid providers twice per term for free early education entitlements for three and four year olds. Sixteen per cent made monthly payments and seven per cent made termly payments.
- Most of the LAs had taken action to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement (98%).
- Authorities were confident that they would be able to publish the full range of childcare information required under Section 5 of the Childcare Act 2016¹ on a termly basis from September 2017. Among LAs that responded, 61% were very confident and 39% were fairly confident.
- Nine in ten LAs (89%) said that they would be able to publish this childcare information in an open data format.

¹ The Childcare Act contains provisions which are intended to secure an additional entitlement of childcare support for working parents. Section 5 amends section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 by inserting new subsections allowing regulations to require local authorities to publish information of a prescribed description at prescribed intervals and in a prescribed manner.

Early Years workforce training

- In the financial year running from April 2016 to March 2017, 85% of responding LAs experienced demand for training from childcare providers rated 'good' and 'outstanding'.
- Requests for training covered a wide range of subjects, but demand was particularly strong for safeguarding and child protection (98%), Early Years Foundation Stage framework requirements (96%) and meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (91%).
- When experiencing demand from childcare providers, virtually all responding LAs provided the training requested. While 28% of LAs provided the training free of charge, 70% did charge for the training.

Business sustainability support

- Just under half of LAs measured or assessed the business sustainability of childcare providers (47%) while a further 11% had plans to do so in development.
- Those LAs that did measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers did so in a number of different ways. The most common approach was to review providers' occupancy rates (78% did this).
- The frequency with which LAs measured the business sustainability of childcare providers varied. Most commonly, it was only done on request (39%), but just over a third did so at least once a year (36%).
- A majority of LAs provided business sustainability support to childcare providers. Seven in ten were already providing this support (68%) while a further four per cent had plans to do so in development.
- On average, each LA supported 66 childcare providers in business sustainability.
- Nine in ten responding LAs funded or provided programmes or services to support parents to provide a high quality home learning environment (HLE). The most common programmes provided were Triple P (41%), Every Child a Talker (41%) and Incredible Years pre-school (36%).

Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

A total of 52 LAs answered questions on SEND.

Main challenges to effective delivery of SEN services and provision

- Influencing SEND provision in schools in an environment of increasing school autonomy was seen as the key challenge to effective delivery of SEN services and provision (71%). Securing sufficient high quality school placements for children with SEND was also mentioned by 65%.
- When asked about steps authorities are taking to use their high needs funding as effectively as possible in 2017/18, 90% said they are undertaking a strategic review of supply of specialist provision. Working with mainstream schools and parents to manage demand were mentioned by 89% and 64% respectively.

Introduction

Background

The Department for Education (DfE) is currently implementing a range of policies designed to strengthen and reform children's services. In particular, the commitments set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 signify an ambitious response to the challenges faced by local authorities trying to meet the needs of children and families.

Wide-ranging reforms to services include the expansion of funded early years' provision, workforce development for Early Years' professionals and social workers, testing new approaches through the Innovation Programme, greater integration between services, and the introduction of children's services trusts. Local authorities (LAs) play a pivotal role in these landmark reforms, assessing need, innovating, restructuring and delivering reformed services.

In 2016 the Department commissioned a new Children's Services Omnibus Survey to provide a clear and up-to-date understanding of the key issues facing children's services, and of local authorities' implementation of policy related to children's services.

The Omnibus is a survey of all 152 upper tier LAs in England. It has three aims:

- To gather information from senior leaders and managers in LAs on policy-related activity and explore their perceptions of these activities;
- To gain a greater understanding of the key issues affecting children's services and local authorities' delivery of them; and;
- To consolidate ad-hoc LA surveys into biannual omnibus surveys.

The first wave was undertaken between September and October 2016. The report on findings from the first wave can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-services-omnibus>.

This report presents findings from Wave 2 of the Children's Services Omnibus series, which took place between May and July 2017.

Survey methodology

The first phase of the survey, prior to Wave 1, involved a nomination stage in July 2016. During this stage the Director of Children's Services (DCS) for each LA was invited to nominate a single point of contact in their authority to be responsible for the survey. This approach was successful in obtaining contact details for a nominated point of contact for every higher tier Local Authority in England. In many cases DCSs opted to remain responsible for the survey in their LA, either nominating themselves or their PA to be the point of first contact. In some LAs DCSs nominated other points of contact for example Group Managers, Service Directors and Data and Performance Officers. This sample was used for wave 1 and updated via telephone reminders for wave 2.

For wave 2, a sample of 20 LAs was selected to take part in a pilot survey. These were selected purposively to ensure a good spread of authority type and regions.

The questionnaire for the pilot was designed in stages. First, the relevant DfE policy teams submitted draft questions based on issues of interest. These were then refined into a first draft by NatCen in collaboration with the DfE. This draft was then reviewed by a specially convened independent Advisory Group of local authority staff to ensure the questions were relevant, meaningful and could be answered. Based on feedback from the Advisory Group, the questions were revised into a final draft for testing in the pilot.

As well as the substantive survey questions intended to be included in the mainstage survey, the pilot survey included a number of detailed probing questions that explored how respondents interpreted and went about answering specific questions, and how easy or difficult they found it to complete the survey overall. The pilot fieldwork ran from 3-26 January 2017. In total, 12 authorities took part in the pilot survey.

Following the pilot survey, the questionnaire was refined for the mainstage. All remaining LAs (including those sampled for the pilot who did not take part) were then sent an invitation email. This email included further information about the survey, a link to the web survey and a unique access code for the LA. An Excel spreadsheet copy of the survey questions was also provided to give respondents the opportunity to prepare answers in advance of accessing the online survey. In particular, this enabled the single point of contact for the LA to share the spreadsheet with colleagues within different teams who might help with collating data about the three policy areas.

During the mainstage fieldwork, all non-responding LAs were sent two reminder emails and received reminder calls from NatCen telephone interviewers. Invitation emails were also re-sent to existing and new points of contact upon request. The mainstage fieldwork ran from 31 May to 11 July 2017. In total, NatCen received responses from 77 LAs. This amounts to an overall response rate of 50 per cent. A total of 42 LAs fully completed the survey, and 35 partially completed the survey.

The response to each section varied, as demonstrated in Table 1. The profile of LAs which completed the survey is largely in-line with the overall profile, based on the type of authority, region, proportion of pupils eligible for and receiving free school meals, and rates of children in need. It appears that County Councils were slightly more likely to take part than unitary authorities and those in the East and Midlands were much more likely to take part than those in the North, or London and the South.

A full breakdown of responses can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Response rate by questionnaire section

Section	Complete responses (N)	Partial responses (N)	Response rate
Children's Social Care	52	16	45%
Early Years and Child Care	53	4	38%
SEND	52	0	34%

Presentation and interpretation of data

It should be remembered at all times that a sample, and not the entire population, of upper tier LAs in England, responded to the survey. Further, the total number of LAs is small (n=152), which means that care is required when interpreting the results. In consequence, all results were subject to sampling tolerances, which means that not all differences were statistically significant.

All differences discussed in the report are statistically significant unless stated otherwise. Where differences were not statistically significant, these differences could be caused by chance. Where non significant findings were commented on, this was based on the identification of large or potentially notable differences which were tested but found not to be significant, and are clearly detailed as such.

Minimal changes were made to the survey between the pilot and mainstage fieldwork, and so, where possible, pilot responses have been included in the final data.

In order to maximise analysis opportunities, all responses to each question were reported, meaning that base sizes differ slightly throughout the report. When interpreting the report it is advised to review the base size for each question.

Children’s Social Care

This chapter presents key findings from a series of questions about children’s social care. It begins by looking at the most effective interventions in reducing the demand for children’s social care services in local authorities. It then examines mental health provision and the tools used to assess mental health needs. Following this, the chapter turns to publicity campaigns related to child protection. Next, the chapter looks at combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship orders, and Serious Case Reviews. Finally, the chapter looks specifically at Serious Case Reviews.

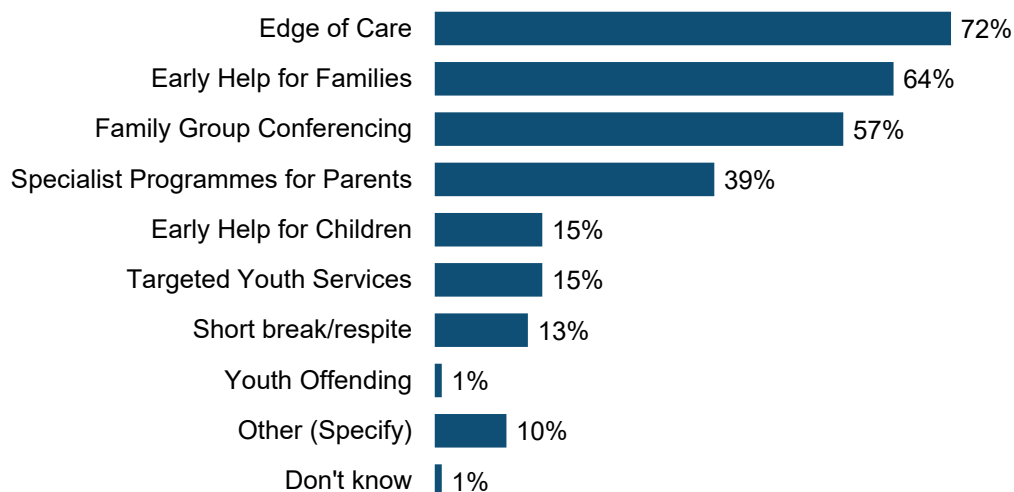
Reducing demand

Most effective interventions in reducing demand

LAs were presented with a list of interventions and asked to name three which they thought to be most effective in reducing the number of children who become looked after. As Figure 1 shows, Edge of Care was seen as the most effective intervention in reducing the number of children who become looked after, mentioned by 72% of all responding LAs.

Figure 1: Most effective interventions in reducing the number of children who become looked after

Q. Which interventions do you think are the most effective in reducing the number of children who become looked after? Please select up to three.



Base: All responding authorities (n=67)

Early Help for Families and Family Group Conferencing were also mentioned as effective by a majority of LAs (64% and 57% respectively). Specialist Programmes for Parents were seen as effective by about two in five (39%). Other interventions, such as Early

Help for Children, Targeted Youth Services, Short break/respice and Youth Offending interventions were mentioned less frequently.

Other answers were also given by 10% of LAs which did not appear in the preassigned list of interventions. These include evidence based interventions, such as Multisystemic Therapy, Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect and Community Fostering, and specialist programmes for those at a higher or more imminent risk of becoming looked after. One LA mentioned that in the longer term tiered approaches should have the most significant impact.

Assessment of mental health needs

Stage at which mental health needs assessed

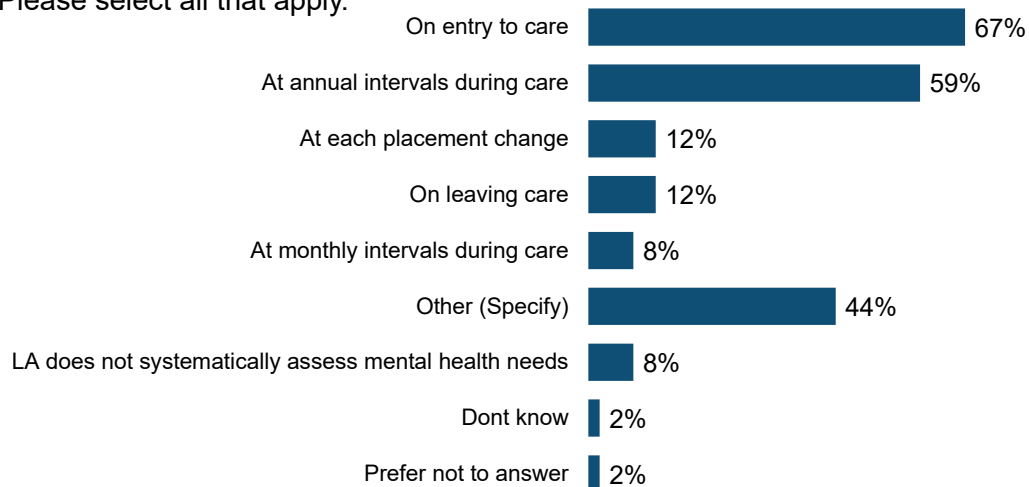
Responding LAs most commonly assess the mental health needs of looked after children on entry to care, with 67% saying assessments take place at that stage. In addition, 59% said that they assess mental health needs at annual intervals during a case.

A range of other responses were also given to this question by a large minority (44%). In many of these responses flexibility was a key factor behind when the authority assesses the mental health needs of looked after children. Assessment would be carried out as and when needed depending on the child's needs and as issues present, not necessarily always following a set approach.

In eight per cent of cases LAs did not systematically assess the mental health needs of looked after children or commission an agency to do so.

Figure 2: Stages at which mental health needs of looked after children assessed

Q. At which of the following stages does your local authority (or another agency commissioned on your behalf) assess the mental health needs of looked after children? Please select all that apply.



Base: All responding authorities (n=66)

When asked whether LAs used any tools other than the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to assess the mental health needs of looked after children, 39% said they did.

Figure 3: Whether other tools used to assess mental health needs

Q. Does your local authority (or another agency commissioned on your behalf) use any tools other than the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to assess the mental health needs of looked after children?

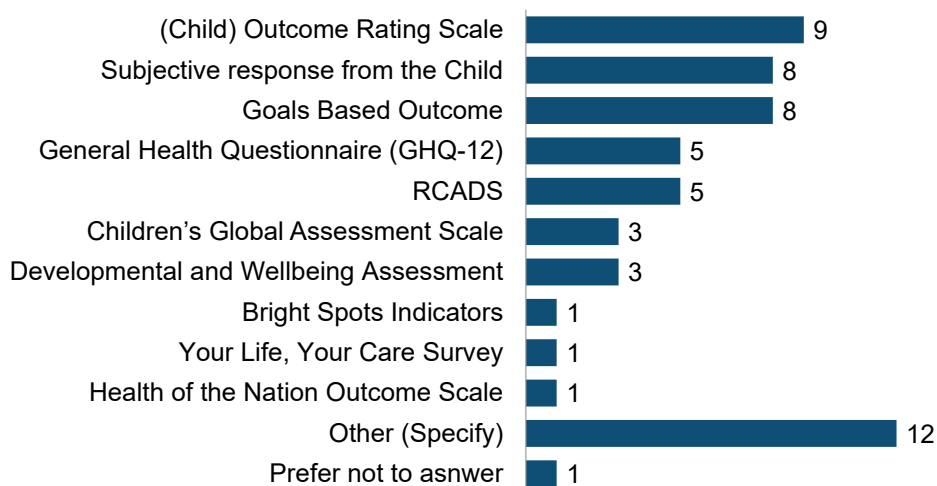


Base: All responding authorities (n=61)

Those who had used other tools to assess needs most frequently mentioned Outcome Rating Scale or Child Outcome Rating Scale (mentioned by nine out of 24 of responding LAs). Subjective response from the Child and Goals Based Outcome were also each used by eight out of 24 responding LAs in assessing mental health needs. General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) and RCADS were used by five out of 24 responding LAs. Other tools were less commonly mentioned.

Figure 4: Tools used to assess mental health needs

Q. Which other tools are used to assess the mental health needs of looked after children?



Base: All LAs which use any tools other than the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to assess the mental health needs of looked after children (n=24)

NB: Due to the small base size at this question, responses are given in numbers rather than percentages

Half of responding LAs (12 out of 24) also mentioned other tools beyond the ones in the existing answer categories. These included:

- Adolescent Wellbeing Tool
- A Primary Mental Health Worker for Children In Care (PMHW-CIC)
- Eating disorders examination questionnaire (EDEQ)
- Session rating scale (SRS)
- Current View
- Parent Stress Indicator (PSI)
- Child Experience of Service Questionnaire (CHI-ESQ)

LAs were also asked to list the mental health and/or wellbeing support or services available to looked after children in their local authority. Altogether 55 authorities listed the services they offer. The most commonly mentioned ones were:

- CAMHS
- Future in Mind
- HeadStart
- Support through Barnardo's
- Challenging behaviour outreach
- LAC nurses or psychologists
- CLA, SGO, CARO, or Kinship Care
- Eye Movement De-sensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR)

- 4 Thought
- In-house therapeutic & emotional support service/clinical service.

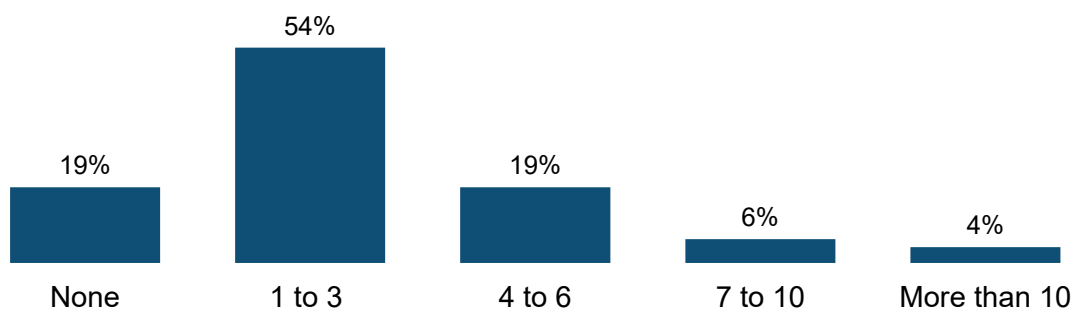
Campaigns

Number of campaigns, topics covered and channels used

A total of 54 LAs answered questions about communication and publicity campaigns related to child protection. Most of these LAs (81%) had conducted campaigns in the last 12 months. Just over half (54%) had carried out between 1-3 communication campaigns. On the upper end, four per cent of LAs had conducted more than 10 campaigns in the last year.

Figure 5: Number of communication/publicity campaigns conducted in the last year

Q. How many communication/publicity campaigns related to child protection has your local authority conducted in the last 12 months?



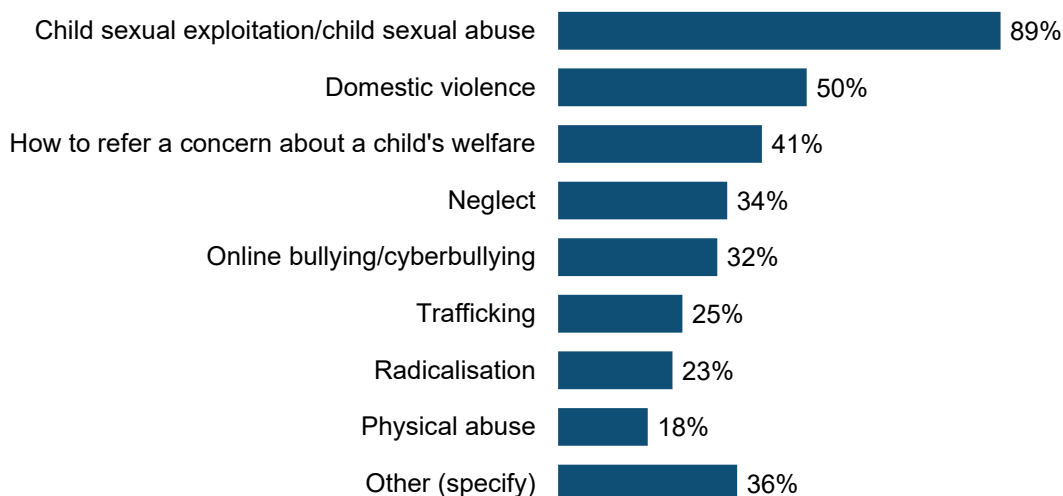
Base: All responding authorities (n=54)

The campaigns most commonly centered around child sexual exploitation (89%), domestic violence (50%) and how to refer a concern about a child's welfare (41%). Communication campaigns around neglect and online bullying or cyberbullying had been carried out in the last year by a third of LAs (34% and 32% respectively).

Campaigns were also carried out across a number other topics not covered by the list of answer categories, such as female genital mutilation, private fostering, safe sleeping and internet safety.

Figure 6: Subjects covered in communication/publicity campaigns

Q. What subject(s) were covered in these campaigns?

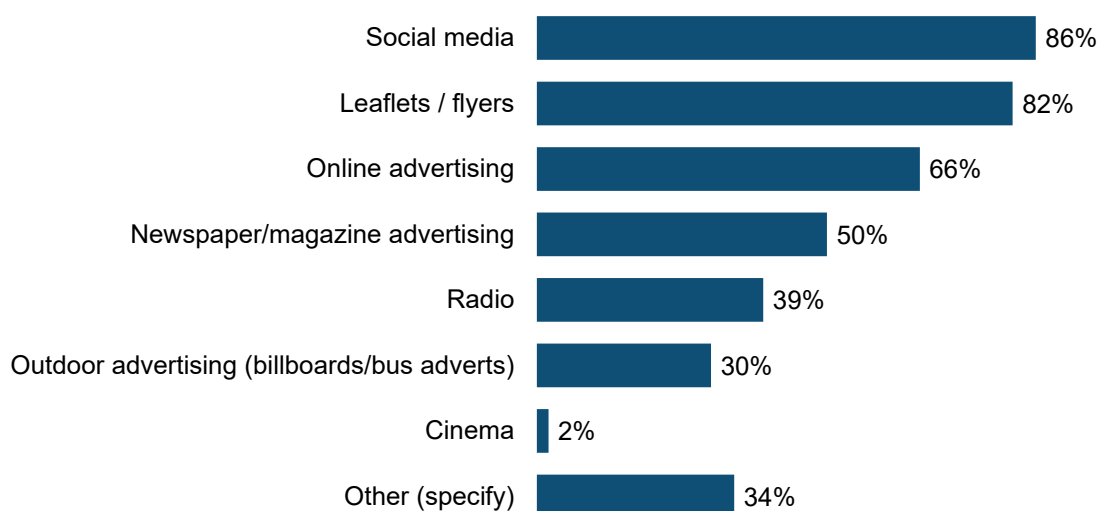


Base: All LAs with at least one communication/publicity campaign related to child protection in the last 12 months (n=44)

Social media was the channel most commonly used to promote campaigns (used by 86%). Leaflets or flyers were also used by 82% of LAs. Online advertising was fairly commonly used for promoting campaigns, mentioned by 66% of LAs. Half of LAs (50%) had used advertising through newspapers or magazines to promote their campaigns.

Figure 7: Channels used to promote campaigns

Q. What channels were used to promote these campaigns? Please select all that apply.



Base: All LAs with at least one communication/publicity campaign related to child protection in the last 12 months (n=44)

Other channels mentioned often included briefings to key elements of the community, workshops, school presentations and other events.

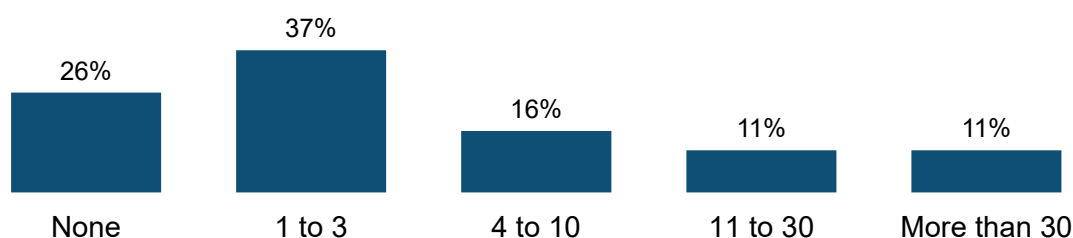
Care Orders, Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders

Number of Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders

Only 38 LAs responded to this question. Three quarters of the responding LAs (74%) had seen combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders issued by the courts in their areas between April 2016 and March 2017. Over a third (37%) had seen between one and three issued during that time period and 16% had seen between four and ten issued. In addition, 22% of the LAs had seen more than 11 orders issued, including one LA seeing as many as 45 issued in the year between April 2016 and March 2017.

Figure 8: Number of Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders issued in the LA

Q. How many combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders were issued by the courts in your local authority area between April 2016 and March 2017?



Base: All responding authorities (n=38)

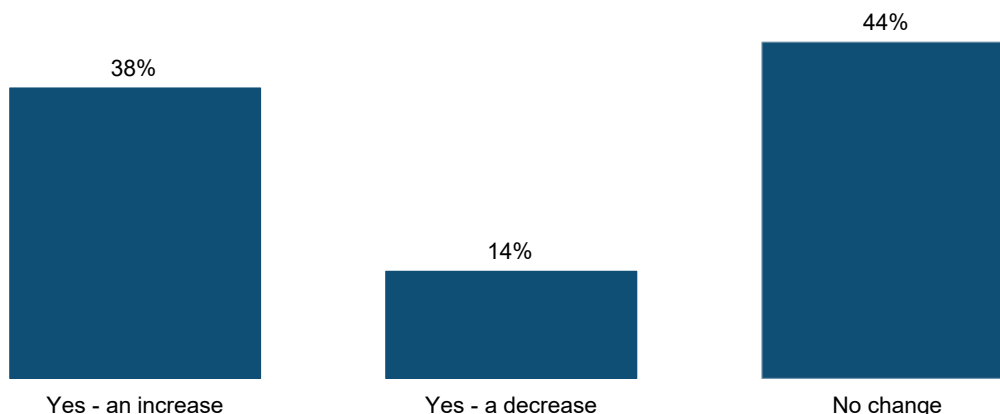
The most common reasons for the courts issuing a combined Supervision Order and Special Guardianship Order in the LAs centred around concerns with a child's safety or complex circumstances.

Expectation of change in Care and Supervision Orders to be applied for

Around two in five responding LAs (38%) expected an increase in the number of public law Care and Supervision Order applications in the next 12 months. At the same time, 14% expected the numbers to decrease. Just over two in five LAs (44%) were not expecting any change in the number of applications.

Figure 9: Expectation of change in the number of public law care and supervision order applications

Q. Do you expect to see a change in the number of public law care and supervision order applications in your local authority areas in the next 12 months?



Base: All responding authorities (n=50)

Those who expected **an increase** often ascribed it to a change in circumstances or types of cases that they anticipated dealing with. For instance, some suggest that the increase is due to a perceived rise in levels of need and deprivation and a rise in cases around domestic abuse and radicalisation. One LA, for example, highlighted that radicalisation and harmful cultural practice, such as forced marriage or female genital mutilation, are complex child protection procedures which are anticipated to increase the volume of applications.

In addition, some highlight the changes in policy that they anticipate will lead to an increase in the number of public law care and supervision order applications in their area.

“Steps to improve proactive safeguarding have resulted in increased numbers which is likely to continue in 2017/18.”

“Changes to S20 cases. Families are increasingly using the court process to engage with LA. Early PLO Planning - timely pre-proceedings work.”

“We are more actively tracking unborn children. We have expanded the criteria of the local Cafcass plus scheme to include all babies where there is a risk care proceedings could be issued. We hope to bring these to Legal Planning Meetings at an earlier point. I expect we will have more assessments completed ready to issue at birth than previously with the input of Cafcass.”

Only seven LAs **expected a decrease** in the number of public law care and supervision order applications. They gave a variety of explanations for the expected decrease, including introducing more family-based care and support for families, as well as focus on early intervention.

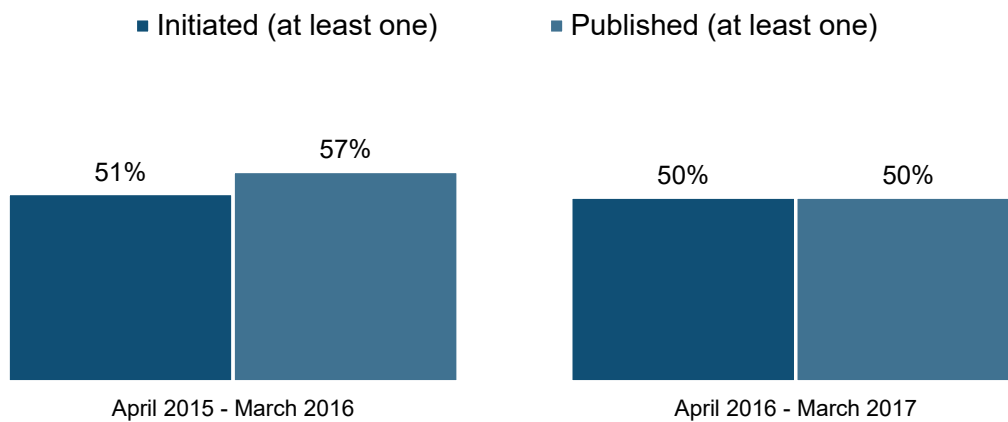
Serious Case Reviews

Number of Serious Case Reviews

LAs were asked about numbers of Serious Case Reviews over two periods of time: April 2015 – March 2016 and April 2016 – March 2017. As Figure 10 shows, in the period between April 2015 – March 2016 just over half of responding authorities (51%) had initiated at least one Serious Case Review. A slightly higher proportion (57%) had also published at least one (perhaps suggesting that they some were publishing reviews from previous years). The following year, between April 2016 – March 2017, half of authorities had initiated and half had published at least one Serious Case Review (both 50%).

Figure 10: Proportion of authorities that initiated or published at least one Serious Case Review

Q. How many Serious Case Reviews did your authority initiate and publish in the following periods?

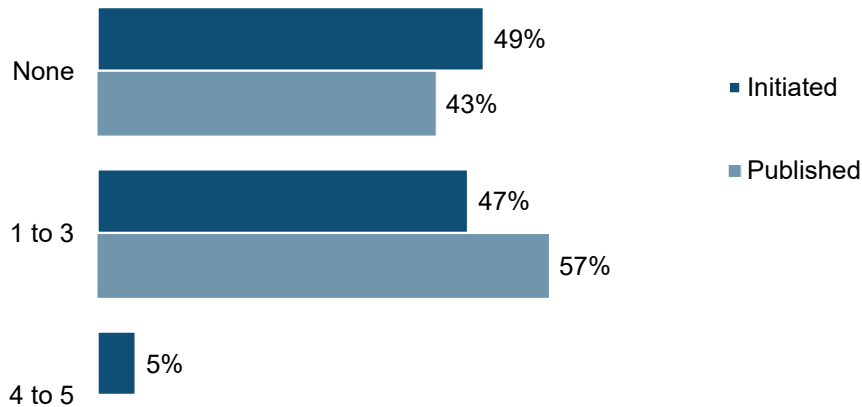


Base: All responding authorities (n=42/43)

Figure 11 shows the number of Serious Case Reviews that were initiated and published between April 2015 and March 2016. In that period 47% of LAs initiated between one and three serious case reviews while five per cent initiated between four and five in the same time period.

Figure 11: Number of Serious Case Reviews initiated and published between April 2015-March 2016

Q. How many Serious Case Reviews did your authority initiate and publish **between April 2015 and March 2016**?

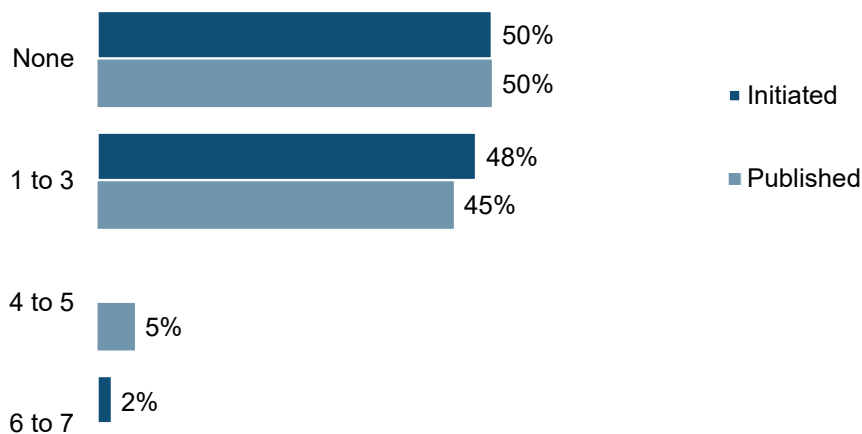


Base: All responding authorities (n=42)

Similarly, in the period between April 2016-March 2017 41% of LAs initiated between one and three reviews.

Figure 12: Number of Serious Case Reviews initiated and published between April 2016-March 2017

Q. How many Serious Case Reviews did your authority initiate and publish **between April 2016 and March 2017**?



Base: All responding authorities (n=42)

Early Years and Childcare

This chapter reports on key findings around Early Years and Childcare. It begins by exploring Early Years entitlement, focusing on childcare provision outside of core hours, how many providers are stretching funded hours over more than 38 weeks, paying for educational entitlements for three and four year olds, and involving childminders in the delivery of free entitlement. It then reports on Early Years workforce recruitment and training, particularly what types of Continuous Professional Development or improvement support to childcare providers LAs offer and the demand for training among childcare providers. Finally, it explores local authorities' role in business sustainability support for childcare providers – whether and how it is measured or assessed, how often it is assessed and what support is in place.

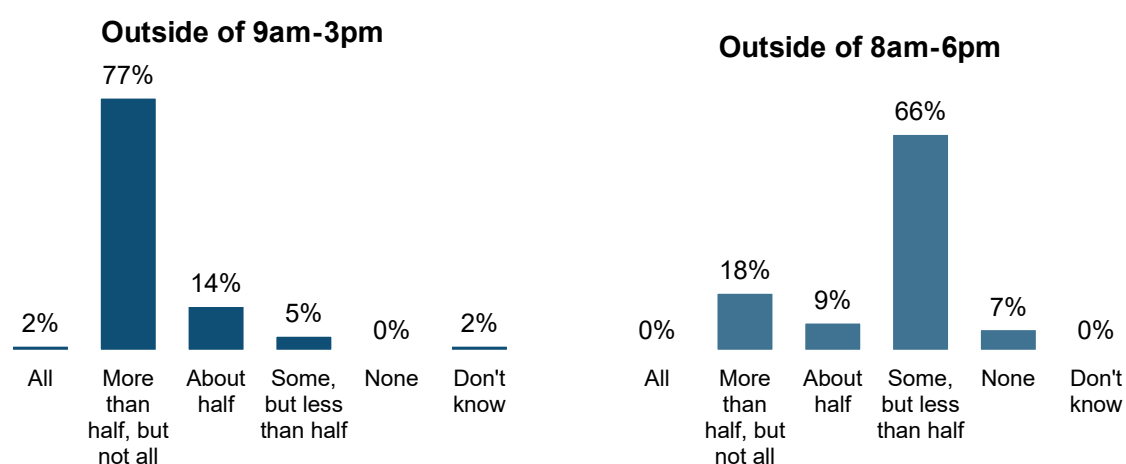
Early Years entitlement

Childcare provision outside core hours

A total of 57 LAs answered at least one question in this section. In most responding LAs the majority of childcare providers offered provision outside of 9am-3pm. As Figure 13 shows, 77% of authorities said that more than half of childcare providers in their area offered childcare provision outside of 9am-3pm, and a further two per cent said that all childcare providers in their authority did.

Figure 13: Proportion of LAs offering childcare provision

Q. What proportion of childcare providers in your local authority currently offer childcare provision... outside of **9am-3pm**/of **8am-6pm**?



Base: All responding authorities (Outside 9am-3pm n=57; Outside 8am-6pm n=56)

However, it was much less common for childcare providers to offer childcare outside of the hours 8am-6pm. In just 18% of LAs did more than half of childcare providers offer provision outside of these hours. In 66% of authorities some childcare providers (but less

than half) offered provision outside of those hours. In seven per cent of authorities no childcare providers offered provision outside of 8am-6pm.

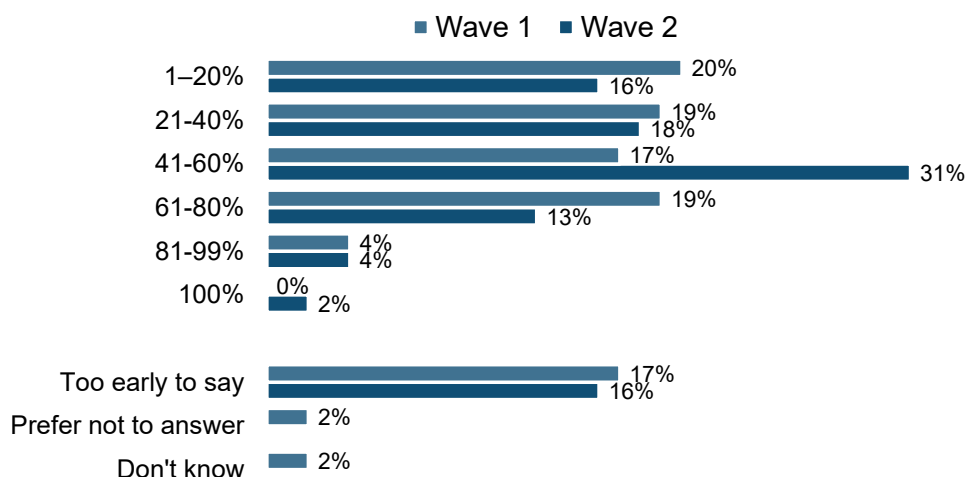
Stretching funded hours

Overall, between Wave 1 (conducted in September – October 2016) and Wave 2 of this research there was relatively little change in the proportion of childcare providers offering to stretch funded hours over more than 38 weeks.

Indeed, as in Wave 1, a notable minority of authorities said that it was too early to say as they had not yet completed their assessment (16%, compared to 17% in Wave 1).

Figure 14: Proportion of LAs offering to stretch funded hours over more than 38 weeks

Q. What proportion of childcare providers in your local authority currently offer to stretch funded hours (the 15 hour entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, and for some 2 year olds) over more than 38 weeks?



Base: All responding authorities (Wave 1 n=81; Wave 2 n=55)

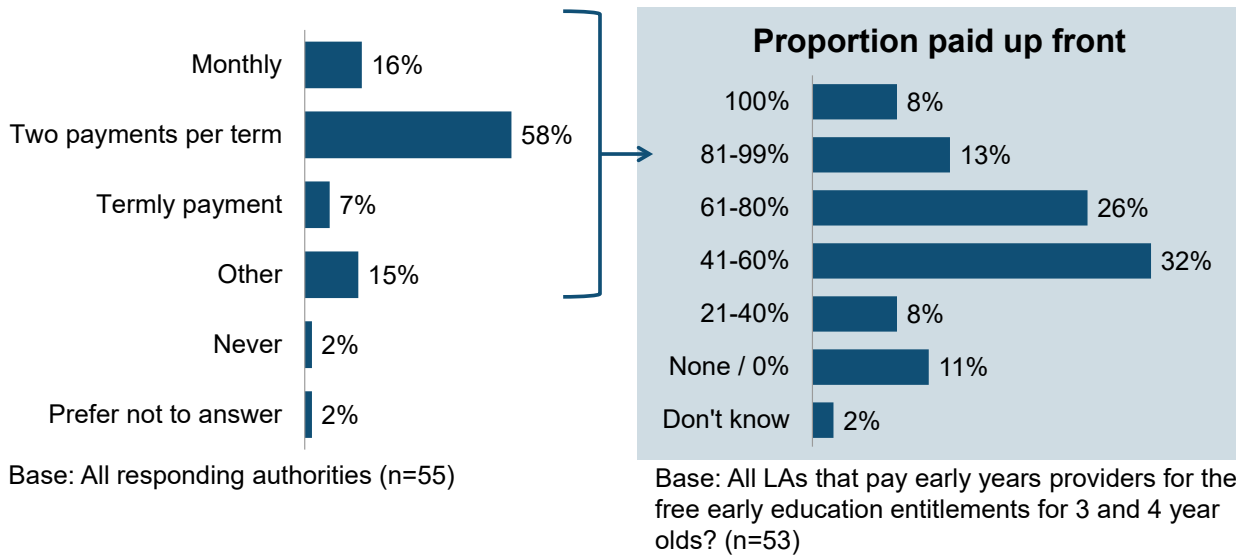
Educational entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds

Payments to early years providers were most frequently made twice per term (58% paid that often). Sixteen per cent of LAs made monthly payments and seven per cent made termly payments. However, 15% of LAs made alternative payment arrangements. Most of these alternatives referred to LAs making three payments per term (equivalent to nine per cent of responding LAs).

Figure 15: Paying early years providers for free early educational entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds

Q. How frequently, if at all, does your local authority pay early years providers for the free early education entitlements for **3 and 4 year olds**?

Q. What proportion of the free early education entitlement is paid to providers up front?



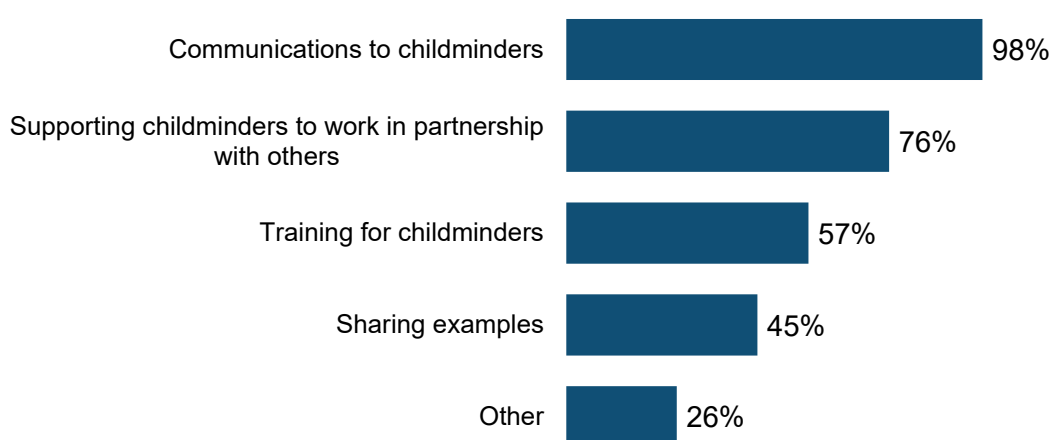
Most LAs made at least some portion of the payment up front (only 11% did not make any payment up front). The proportion of free early entitlement paid up front varied, although was most commonly between 41% and 60% (32% of LAs paid that much up front). Just eight per cent of authorities paid the whole amount up front.

Involving childminders in delivery of 30 hours entitlement

Virtually all of the responding LAs had taken action to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement (98%). The most common actions were sending communications to childminders (98%) and supporting childminders to work in partnership with others to deliver the entitlement (76%). More than half of LAs had provided training for childminders (57%), while 45% had shared examples of childminders already delivering the 30 hours entitlement.

Figure 16: Actions to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement

Q. What action, or actions, has your authority taken?



Base: All LAs that have taken any action to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement (n=53)

Around a quarter of LAs had taken other actions. These include briefing and roll-out sessions to raise awareness and recruitment campaigns.

Publication of childcare information

All responding authorities were confident that they would be able to publish the full range of childcare information required under Section 5 of the Childcare Act 2016² on a termly basis from September 2017. Among LAs that responded, all were confident that they would be able to do so (61% were very confident and 39% were fairly confident).

² The Childcare Act contains provisions which are intended to secure an additional entitlement of childcare support for working parents. Section 5 amends section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 by inserting new subsections allowing regulations to require local authorities to publish information of a prescribed description at prescribed intervals and in a prescribed manner.

Further, 89% of LAs said that they will be able to publish this childcare information in an open data format.

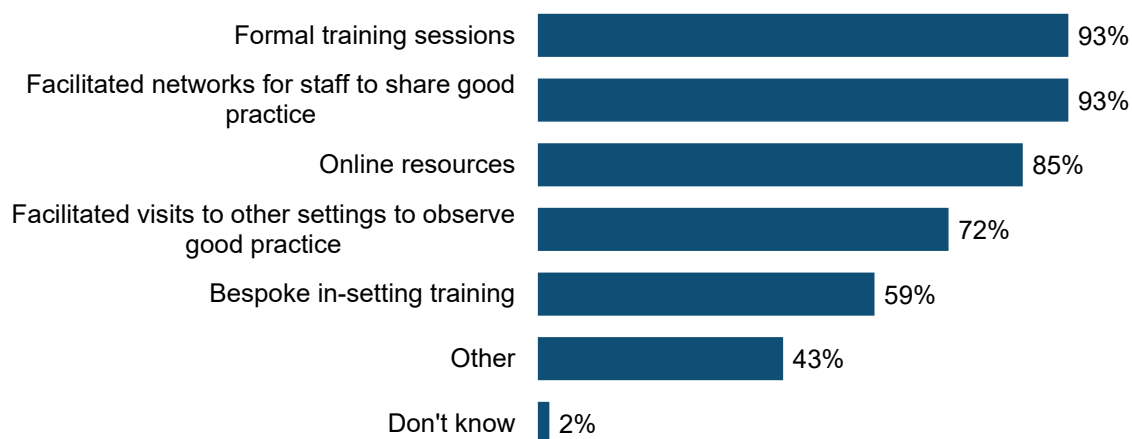
Early Years workforce training

Continuous Professional Development and improvement support

Responding LAs offered a range of Continuous Professional Development or improvement support to childcare providers in the financial year running from April 2016 to March 2017. As outlined in Figure 17, most offered formal training sessions (93%), facilitated networks for staff to share good practice (93%), and online resources (85%). Seven in ten LAs offered facilitated visits to other settings to observe good practice (72%) and 59% gave bespoke in-setting training.

Figure 17: CPD and improvement support provided to childcare providers in FY16/17

Q. Which, if any, of the following types of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) or improvement support did your local authority provide to childcare providers in the last financial year? By last financial year, we mean between April 2016 and March 2017.



Base: All responding authorities (n=53)

Some LAs offered other types of training and support too. These included conferences and setting visits by Early Years Improvement Officers, School Ready Improvement Teams, and Safeguarding experts.

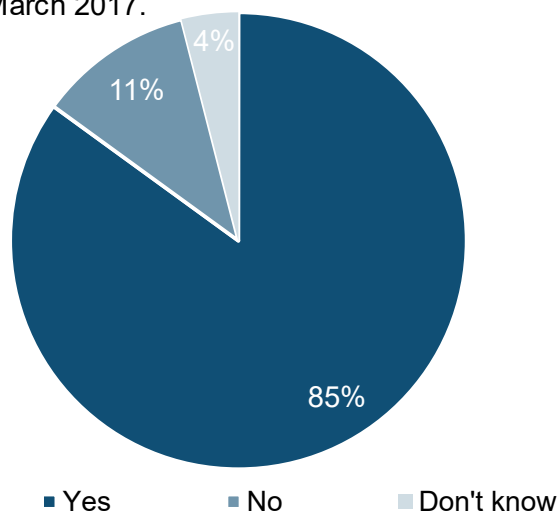
Demand for training from providers

Regulatory changes in 2014 removed the role of local authorities to provide support and training services for childcare providers rated 'good' and 'outstanding', but retained the power to provide such services (and levy a charge) if requested.

In the financial year running from April 2016- March 2017 85% of LAs experienced demand for training from 'good' and 'outstanding' providers.

Figure 18: Demand for training from 'Good' and 'Outstanding' providers in FY16/17

Q. Did your local authority experience a demand for training from Ofsted-rated 'good' and 'outstanding' providers in the last financial year? By last financial year, we mean between April 2016 and March 2017.



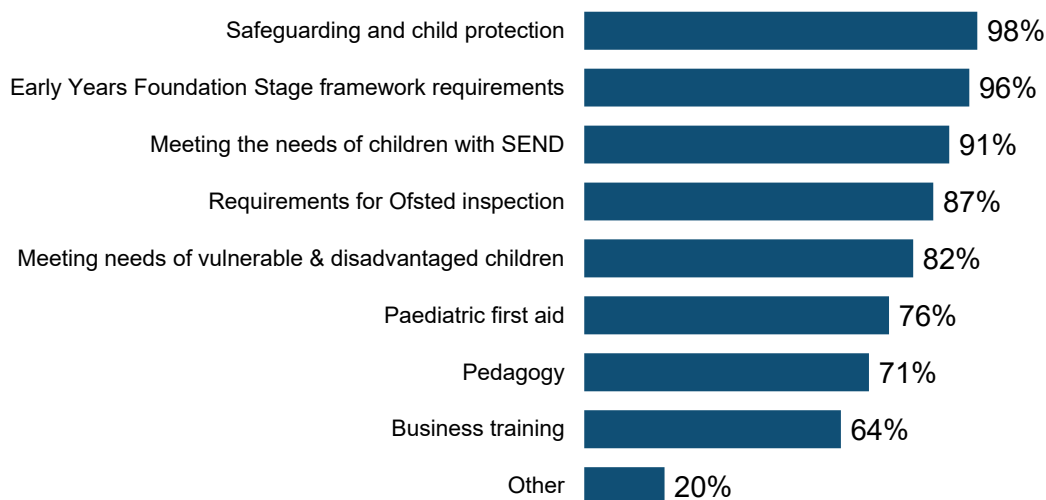
Base: All responding authorities (n=53)

Responding LAs experienced demand for training in a variety of subjects, as demonstrated in Figure 19. Most experienced demand for training in safeguarding and child protection (98%), in Early Years Foundation Stage framework requirements (96%) and in meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (91%).

Other subjects in which demand for training was high included the requirements for Ofsted inspection (87%), meeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children (82%) and paediatric first aid (76%).

Figure 19: Subjects in which LAs experienced demand for training

Q. In which subject areas did your authority experience this demand?

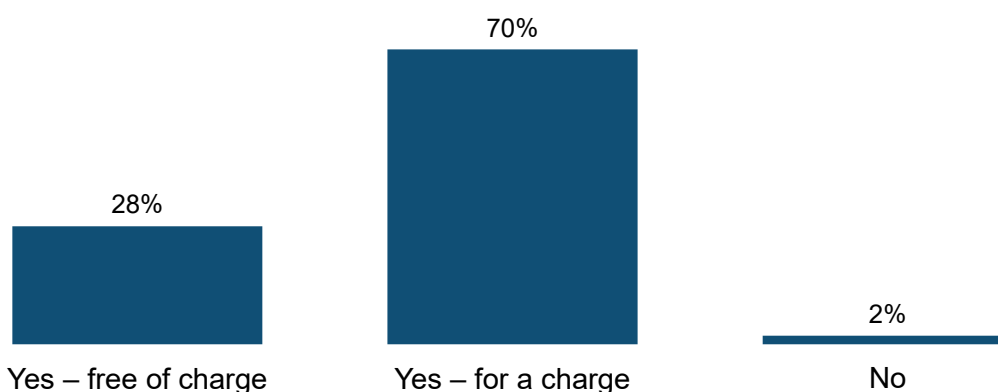


Base: Base: All LAs that experienced a demand for training from Ofsted-rated 'good' and 'outstanding' providers in the last financial year (n=45)

When experiencing demand from childcare providers rated as 'good' and 'outstanding', virtually all provided the training requested.³ While 28% of LAs provided the training free of charge, 70% charged for the training.

Figure 20: Whether LAs provided training requested

Q. Has your authority provided this training for childcare providers rated 'good' and 'outstanding'?



Base: All LAs that experienced a demand for training from Ofsted-rated 'good' and 'outstanding' providers in the last financial year (n=46)

³ Just one responding LA did not provide the training.

Business sustainability support

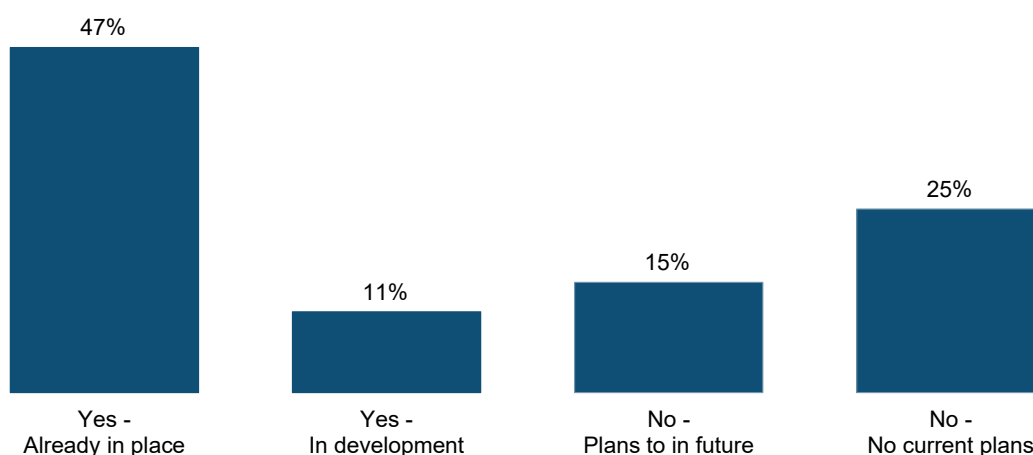
LAs were asked about the business sustainability of childcare providers, with business sustainability defined as operating efficiently and effectively, and continuing to provide quality childcare over the long term.

Assessing business sustainability

Just under half of responding LAs measured or assessed the business sustainability of childcare providers (47%) while a further 11% had plans to do so in development. In addition, 15% of LAs planned to measure childcare providers' business sustainability in the future, but a quarter (25%) did not have current plans to do so.

Figure 21: Whether LAs currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers

Q. Does your local authority currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?



Base: All responding authorities (n=53)

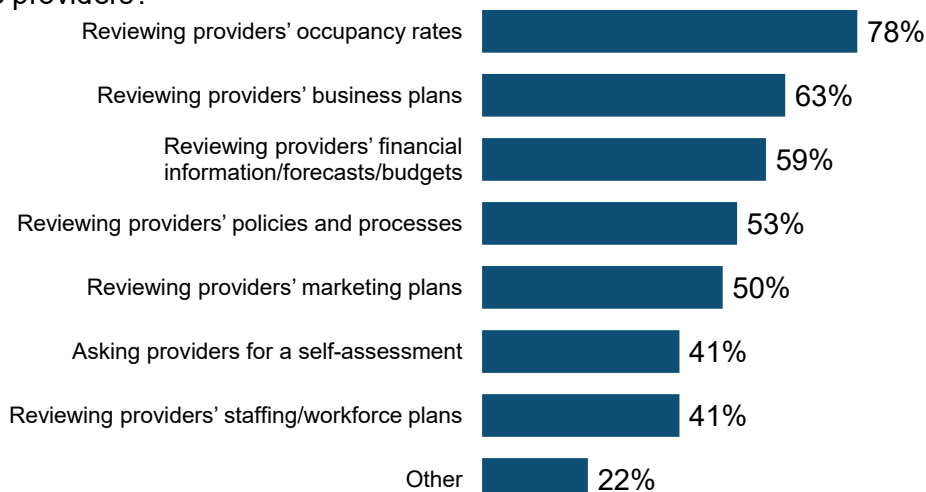
The thirty two LAs that said they did measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers did so in a number of different ways, as outlined in Figure 22. The most common approach was to review providers' occupancy rates (78% did this).

A number of LAs also reviewed providers' plans and policies. For instance, 63% reviewed providers' business plans, 59% reviewed financial information, forecasts and budgets, and 53% reviewed policies and processes. Half reviewed providers' marketing plans (50%).

It was slightly less common for LAs to ask providers for a self-assessment (41%) or to review their staffing/workforce plans (41%).

Figure 22: How LAs currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers

Q. How does your local authority measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?



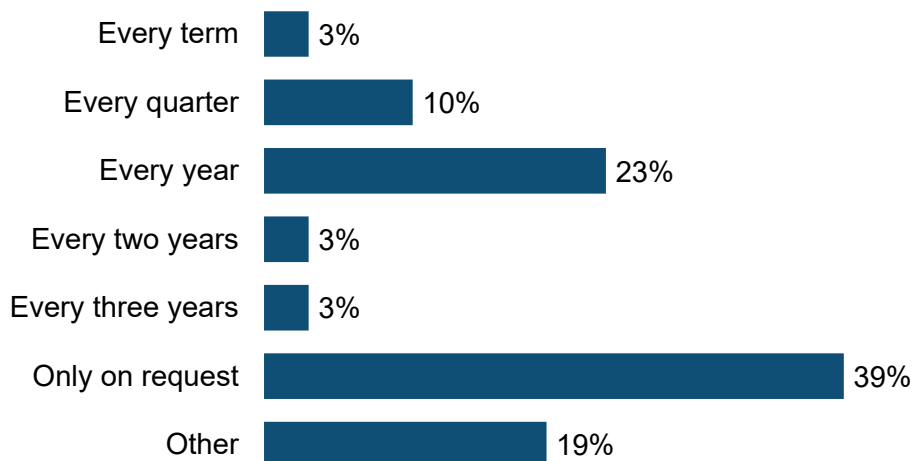
Base: All LAs that currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers (n=32)

Frequency of business sustainability assessments

The frequency with which LAs measured the business sustainability of childcare providers varied. Most commonly, it was only done on request (39%), but around a third did so at least once a year (36%).

Figure 23: Frequency with which LAs currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers

Q. How regularly does your local authority measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?



Base: All LAs that currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers (n=31)

Other LAs only measured business sustainability in special circumstances. For instance, some said that it was measured as part of sustainability grant applications, where there

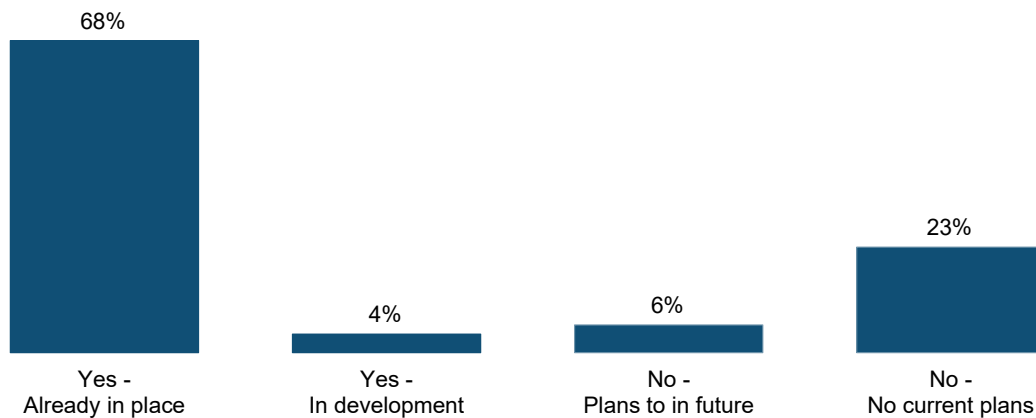
have been issues raised through funding audits, or when new initiatives were being set up.

Provision of business sustainability support

A majority of responding LAs provided business sustainability support to childcare providers. Seven in ten were already providing this support (68%) while a further four per cent had plans to do so in development. Just under a quarter (23%) of LAs did not provide business sustainability support to childcare providers and had no current plans to do so in the future.

Figure 24: Whether LAs currently provide business sustainability support to childcare providers

Q. Does your local authority currently provide business sustainability support to childcare providers?

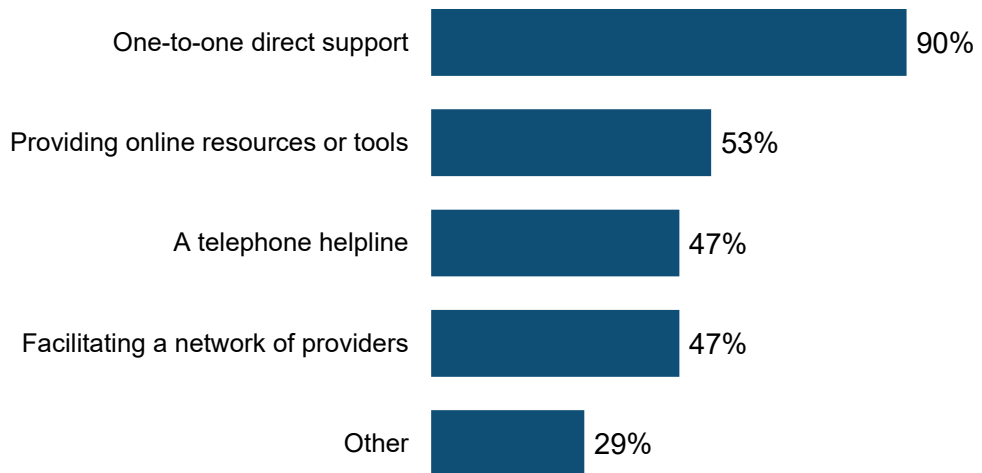


Base: All responding authorities (n=53)

Those LAs that provided business sustainability support to childcare providers most commonly did so through one-to-one direct support (90%). Around half of LAs provided online resources or tools (53%), a telephone helpline (47%), or facilitated a network of providers (47%).

Figure 25: What form business sustainability support provided to childcare providers takes

Q. What form does this support take?



Base: All LAs that currently provide business sustainability support to childcare providers (n=38)

The number of childcare providers that LAs provided business sustainability support to varied quite markedly, ranging from 2 to 700. On average, each LA provided business sustainability support to 66 childcare providers.

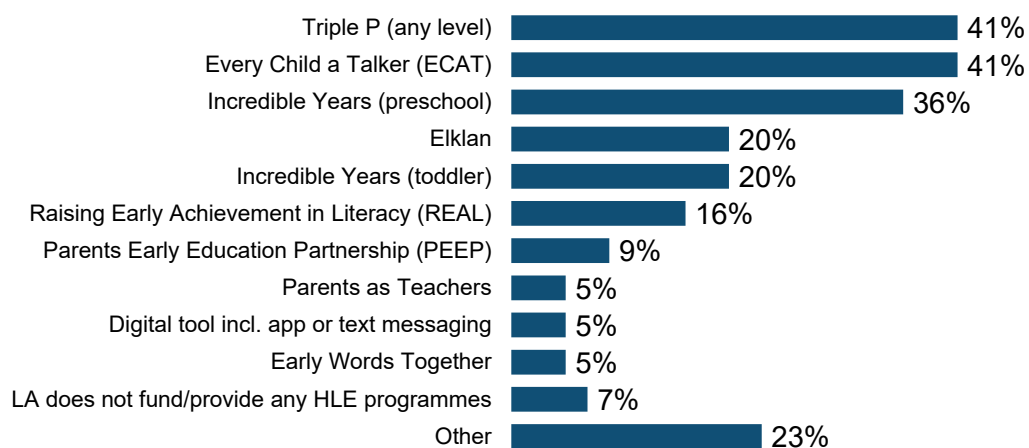
Support for parents to provide a high quality learning environment

Nine in ten responding LAs funded or provided programmes or services to support parents to provide a high quality home learning environment (HLE). The most common programmes provided were Triple P (41%), Every Child a Talker (41%) and Incredible Years pre-school (36%).

One in five LAs provided Elklan (20%) and Incredible Years toddler (20%). Other programmes and services were less common and mainly included local initiatives..

Figure 26: Programmes or services funded/ provided to support parents to provide high quality HLE for children aged 0-5

Q. Does your local authority fund or provide any of the following programmes or services to support parents to provide a high quality home learning environment (HLE) for children aged 0-5?



Base: All responding authorities (n=44)

Special Educational Needs and Disability

This chapter reports on findings from the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) policy area. It begins by reporting on the challenges to the effective delivery of special educational needs services and provision LAs face over the next three years. It then turns to look at the most helpful actions that the government could take to facilitate or remove barriers to the delivery of good SEN services and provision. Finally, it explores the steps LAs are taking to use its high needs funding as effectively as possible in 2017-18.

Main challenges to effective delivery of SEN services and provision

LAs were asked about the main challenges to the effective delivery of special educational needs services and provision in their area over the next three years.

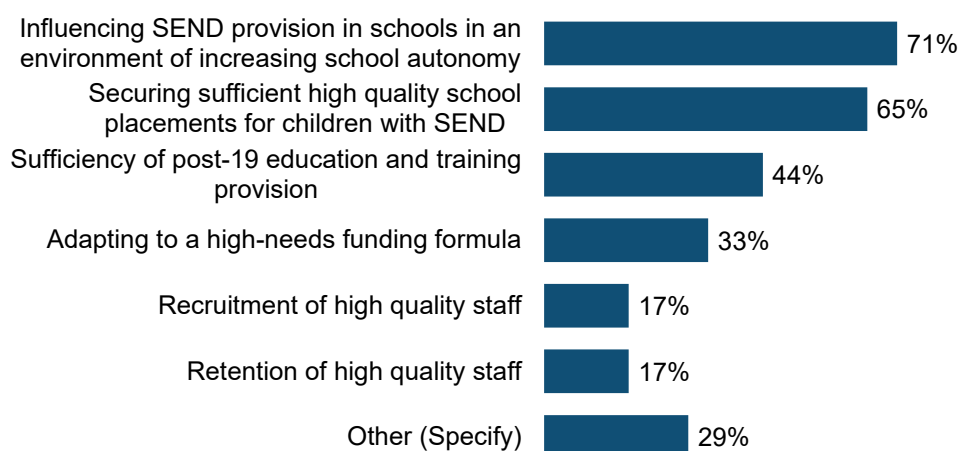
Influencing SEND provision in schools in an environment of increasing school autonomy was seen as a key challenge by 71% of responding LAs. Securing sufficient high quality school placements for children with SEND was mentioned by 65%.

Fewer than half (44%) mentioned sufficiency of post-19 education and training provision to be a challenge. A third (33%) mentioned adapting to a high-needs funding formula.

Recruitment and retention of high quality staff were mentioned less (both 17%).

Figure 27: Main challenges to the effective delivery of special educational needs services and provision

Q. In your opinion, what are the main challenges to the effective delivery of special educational needs services and provision in your local authority over the next 3 years? Please select up to three.



Base: All responding authorities (n=52)

Twenty-nine per cent of authorities also gave answers which did not fit into any of the pre-existing answer categories. These included financial challenges, such as cuts in core funding or insufficient funding, a high rate of referrals for EHCP, and general capacity issues.

Actions the government could take to remove barriers to delivery of good SEN services

Authorities were also asked to name the most helpful actions that the government could take to facilitate or remove barriers to the delivery of good SEN services and provision in LAs.

A particularly common theme highlighted by LAs was the importance of increasing SEND provision and encouraging more inclusion within mainstream schools.

“Expect more of mainstream schools to support children with moderate disabilities.”

“Have an increased emphasis on inclusion within mainstream schools from a central government perspective.”

“Incentivise mainstream schools to view inclusion as positive rather than as a barrier to outcomes.”

“Schools need to understand their duty around the local offer. Schools need to encourage SEN children and be more welcoming in their establishments.”

Some LAs suggested that to enable this to take place inclusion needs to be taken into account during Ofsted inspections. Related to this, a number of LAs say that inclusion needs to be taken into account when assessing school performance data.

“Focus of SEND in school Ofsted inspections including ensuring settings take a share of the SEND population.”

“The government needs to promote inclusion. Schools need to feel confident that their move towards inclusion will be taken into account by Ofsted.”

“Enable success for children with SEND to be judged in terms of added value without schools being fearful of the impact on their performance data.”

“Appreciating that inclusion of children with SEND will impact on GCSE results & support for secondary schools to provide good varied curriculum offer.”

Another common theme is that LAs would like to see greater resourcing and funding to meet the challenges they face caused by changing demographics.

“We need provision and resources to match the significant growth given the 0 to 25 year age range extension.”

“Providing additional financial resources to implement and sustain significant changes in SEND 0-25.”

“Sufficient funding to address a growing cohort and complexity of need which will enable Local Authorities to ensure provision is available locally.”

Steps taken to use high needs funding effectively

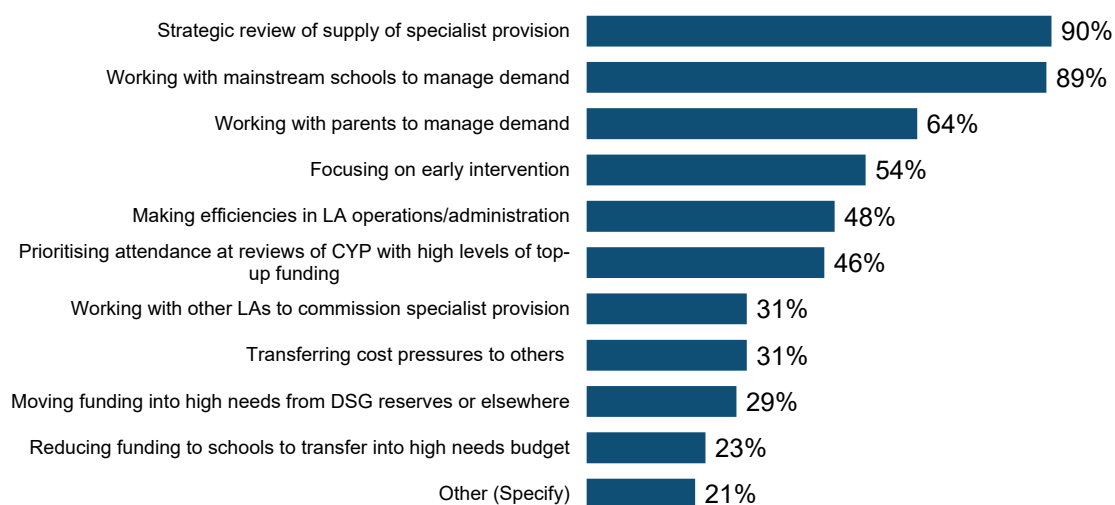
LAs were asked what steps, if any, they have taken to use their high needs funding as effectively as possible in 2017/18. A large majority of responding LAs have undertaken a strategic review of supply of specialist provision (90%).

Working with mainstream schools (89%) and parents (64%) to manage demand were also common strategies to use funding effectively.

Around half of responding authorities said that they are focusing on early intervention (54%) or making efficiencies in operations and administration (48%).

Figure 28: Steps LA is taking to use its high needs funding effectively

Q. What steps, if any, is your local authority taking to use its high needs funding as effectively as possible in 2017-18? Please select all that apply.



Base: All responding authorities (n=52)

In other responses that were given to this question, authorities mentioned prioritising of attendance at reviews, staffing restructures to manage budgets, and working to deliver strong messages on expectations in schools as steps taken to use their high needs funding.

Appendix 1 – Response profile

This survey aimed for a census of upper-tier local authorities in England. As such, all 152 authorities were invited to take part. There were three sections to the survey, with the response rate for each outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Response rate by questionnaire section

Section	Number of complete responses	Number of partial responses	Response rate
Children’s Social Care	52	16	45%
Early Years and Child Care	53	4	38%
Special Educational Needs & Disability	52	0	34%

A total of 44 of LAs fully completed the survey, and 35 partially completed the survey meaning that 77 LAs took part. This amounts to an overall response rate of 50 per cent.

Following the close of the survey, NatCen analysed the sample profile based on four key variables: authority type, region, the percentage of pupils claiming free school meals (FSM), and the rate of children in need (CiN).

To avoid overly small base sizes, LAs were divided into three regional categories (see Table 4). The FSM rate reflects the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for claiming FSM, as per the January 2016 school census.⁴ The CiN rate refers to the number of children per 10,000 assessed as being in need of children’s social services, as per the November 2016 CiN census.⁵

As Table 3 shows, the profile of LAs which completed the survey is largely in-line with the overall profile. It appears that county councils were more likely to take part than unitary authorities, while those in the East and Midlands were more likely to take part than those in the North, or London and the South.

⁴ Children known to be eligible for and claiming FSM, as per the January 2016 school census. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016> Table 3a.

⁵ Children assessed as being in need of children’s social services, as per the CiN census, November 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2015-to-2016> Table B1.

Table 3: Response rate by authority type and region

Variable	Sub-variable	Full sample (N)	Full sample (%)	Took part (N)	Took part (%)	Response rate
Authority type	County	27	17.8%	15	19.5%	55.6%
	Unitary	125	82.2%	62	80.5%	49.6%
Region	North	50	32.9%	20	26.0%	40.0%
	East & Midlands	34	22.4%	33	42.9%	97.1%
	London & South	68	44.7%	24	31.2%	35.3%
% Pupils eligible for and receiving FSM	0-20	10	6.6%	3	3.9%	30.0%
	20-30	24	15.8%	13	16.9%	54.2%
	30-40	37	24.3%	17	22.1%	45.9%
	40-50	37	24.3%	19	24.7%	51.4%
	50-60	24	15.8%	13	16.9%	54.2%
	60+	9	5.9%	6	7.8%	66.7%
Numbers of CiN (Rate per 10,000)	100-300	49	32.2%	23	29.9%	46.9%
	300-400	53	34.9%	27	35.1%	50.9%
	400-500	34	22.4%	18	23.4%	52.9%
	500+	16	10.5%	9	11.7%	56.3%

Table 4: Regional distribution of Local Authorities

Region	Local Authorities
East & Midlands	Bedford Borough Council Birmingham City Council Cambridgeshire County Council Central Bedfordshire Council Coventry City Council Derby City Council Derbyshire County Council Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Essex County Council Herefordshire Council Hertfordshire County Council Leicester City Council Leicestershire County Council Lincolnshire County Council Luton Borough Council Norfolk County Council Northamptonshire County Council Nottingham City Council Nottinghamshire County Council Peterborough City Council Rutland County Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Shropshire Council Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Staffordshire County Council Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Region	Local Authorities
	Suffolk County Council
East & Midlands (cont.)	<p>Telford & Wrekin Council</p> <p>Thurrock Council</p> <p>Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council</p>
London & South	<p>Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council</p> <p>Barnet London Borough Council</p> <p>Bath & North East Somerset Council</p> <p>Bexley London Borough Council</p> <p>Borough of Poole</p> <p>Bournemouth Borough Council</p> <p>Bracknell Forest Council</p> <p>Brent London Borough Council</p> <p>Brighton & Hove City Council</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p> <p>Bromley London Borough Council</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council</p> <p>Camden London Borough Council</p> <p>City of London Corporation</p> <p>Cornwall Council</p> <p>Council of the Isles of Scilly</p> <p>Croydon London Borough Council</p> <p>Devon County Council</p> <p>Dorset County Council</p> <p>Ealing London Borough Council</p> <p>East Sussex County Council</p>

Region	Local Authorities
	<p>Enfield London Borough Council</p> <p>Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Hackney London Borough Council</p>
London & South (cont.)	<p>Hammersmith & Fulham London Borough Council</p> <p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>Haringey London Borough Council</p> <p>Harrow London Borough Council</p> <p>Havering London Borough Council</p> <p>Hillingdon London Borough Council</p> <p>Hounslow London Borough Council</p> <p>Isle of Wight Council</p> <p>Islington London Borough</p> <p>Kensington & Chelsea Royal Borough Council</p> <p>Kent County Council</p> <p>Kingston Upon Thames Royal Borough</p> <p>Lambeth London Borough Council</p> <p>Lewisham London Borough Council</p> <p>Medway Council</p> <p>Merton London Borough Council</p> <p>Milton Keynes Council</p> <p>Newham London Borough Council</p> <p>North Somerset Council</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>Plymouth City Council</p> <p>Portsmouth City Council</p> <p>Reading Borough Council</p> <p>Redbridge London Borough Council</p> <p>Richmond Upon Thames London Borough</p> <p>Royal Borough of Greenwich Council</p>

Region	Local Authorities
	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council Slough Borough Council Somerset County Council South Gloucestershire Council
London & South (cont.)	Southampton City Council Southwark Council Surrey County Council Sutton London Borough Council Swindon Borough Council Torbay Council Tower Hamlets London Borough Council Waltham Forest London Borough Wandsworth Borough Council West Berkshire Council West Sussex County Council Westminster City Council Wiltshire County Council Wokingham Borough Council
North	Barnsley Council Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Blackpool Council Bolton Council Bradford Metropolitan District Council Bury Metropolitan Borough Council Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council Cheshire East Council Cheshire West and Chester Council City of York Council Cumbria County Council

Region	Local Authorities
	<p>Darlington Borough Council</p> <p>Doncaster Council</p> <p>Durham County Council</p> <p>East Riding of Yorkshire Council</p> <p>Gateshead Council</p>
North (cont.)	<p>Halton Borough Council</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council</p> <p>Hull City Council</p> <p>Kirklees Council</p> <p>Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Leeds City Council</p> <p>Liverpool City Council</p> <p>Manchester City Council</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council</p> <p>Newcastle City Council</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>North Lincolnshire Council</p> <p>North Tyneside Council</p> <p>North Yorkshire County Council</p> <p>Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Oldham Council</p> <p>Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council</p> <p>Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Salford City Council</p> <p>Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>Sheffield City Council</p> <p>South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council</p>

Region	Local Authorities
	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Sunderland City Council Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Warrington Borough Council Wigan Council Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

Appendix 2 – Questionnaire

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this important survey on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).

This survey includes questions on your views and experiences of three main policy areas: Early Years & Child Care; Children’s Social Care; and Special Educational Needs & Disability.

You may feel that you can answer all of the questions yourself or may wish to send this link to one or more of your colleagues for them to respond to questions on certain policy areas. At the start of the survey, we will ask you to select the first policy area that you wish to answer about. After you have finished that section of the survey you will be asked whether you wish to complete any other sections.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes in total to complete.

NatCen assures you that all the information we collect will be kept in the strictest confidence and we will not disclose individual responses to the DfE without your permission.

If you have any further questions, or any problems completing the survey, please contact the NatCen research team at childrens-services@natcen.ac.uk or on 0800 652 4569.

To talk to someone at DfE about this research please contact xxxx at xxxx or on xxxx.

QSelect

Please select the policy area you would like to answer questions on.

After completing each section of the survey, you will return to this page to select any other section that you would like to complete. Once you have answered all of the section(s) that you are able to, please simply exit the survey by clicking “stop” and closing your browser.

1. Children’s Social Care
2. Early Years & Childcare
3. Special Educational Needs & Disability

Section 2: Children's Social Care

The following set of questions is about Children's Social Care in your authority.

2.1 Reducing demand

Ask all

MostEff

Which interventions do you think are the most effective in reducing the number of children who become looked after?

Please select up to 3.

1. Specialist Programmes for Parents
2. Early Help for Families
3. Early Help for Children
4. Targeted Youth Services
5. Youth Offending
6. Family Group Conferencing
7. Short break/respite
8. Edge of Care
9. Other (please specify)

2.2 Assessment of mental health needs

Ask all

MHOften

The following questions ask about mental health provision in your authority.

At which of the following stages does your local authority (or another agency commissioned on your behalf) assess the mental health needs of looked after children?

Please select all that apply.

1. On entry to care
2. At each placement change
3. On leaving care
4. At monthly intervals during care
5. At annual intervals during care
6. Other (please specify)
7. LA does not systematically assess/commission an agency to assess the mental health needs of looked after children [exclusive code]

Ask if MHOften <>7

MHSDQ

Does your local authority (or another agency commissioned on your behalf) use any tools other than the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) to assess the mental health needs of looked after children?

1. Yes
2. No

If MHSDQ= 1. Yes

MHtools

**Which other tools are used to assess the mental health needs of looked after children?
Please select all that apply.**

1. Bright Spots Indicators
2. Your Life, Your Care Survey
3. Outcome Rating Scale or Child Outcome Rating Scale
4. General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12)
5. Subjective response from the Child
6. Revised Children's Anxiety and Depression Scale (RCADS)
7. Children's Global Assessment Scale
8. Health of the Nation Outcome Scale
9. Goals Based Outcome
10. Developmental and Wellbeing Assessment
11. Other (please specify)_____

Ask all

MHServices

Please list the mental health and/or wellbeing support or services available to looked after children in your local authority.

Open <150 characters>

2.3 Campaigns

Ask all

Campaign

The next set of questions is about publicity campaigns related to child protection.

How many communication/publicity campaigns related to child protection has your local authority conducted in the last 12 months?

1. Yes – already in place
2. Yes – in development
3. No – but plan to in the future
4. No – no current plans

Ask if Campaign >0

What subject(s) were covered in these campaigns?

Please select all that apply.

1. Domestic violence
2. Child sexual exploitation/child sexual abuse
3. Physical abuse
4. Trafficking
5. Online bullying/cyberbullying
6. Neglect
7. Radicalisation
8. How to refer a concern about a child's welfare
9. Other (please specify)

Ask if Campaign >0

CampaignType

What channels were used to promote these campaigns?

Please select all that apply.

1. Newspaper/magazine advertising
2. Online advertising
3. Radio
4. Cinema
5. Outdoor advertising (billboards/bus adverts)
6. Social media
7. Leaflets / flyers
8. Other (please specify)

2.4 Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders

The following questions are about combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders, and Serious Case Reviews.

Ask all

SOSGO

How many combined Supervision Orders and Special Guardianship Orders were issued by the courts in your local authority area between April 2016 and March 2017?

Numeric <range 0-200>

If SOSGO>0

SOSGOreason

What would you say is the most common reason for the courts issuing a combined Supervision Order and Special Guardianship Order in your local authority area?

Open <150 characters>

Ask all

OrderChange

Do you expect to see a change in the number of public law care and supervision order applications in your local authority areas in the next 12 months?

1. Yes – an increase
2. Yes – a decrease
3. No change

Ask all

OrderChange

What would you say is the one main factor driving your expectation of the future [if SC11=1 'increase'/ if SC11=2 'decrease'] in your local authority area?

Open <150 characters>

2.5 Serious case reviews

The final set of questions in this section is about Serious Case Reviews.

Ask all

SCRini

How many Serious Case Reviews did your authority initiate and publish in the following periods?

	Initiated	Published
April 2015 – March 2016	SCR16ini Numeric <range 0-100>	SCR16pub Numeric <range 0-100>
April 2016 – March 2017	SCR17ini Numeric <range 0-100>	SCR17pub Numeric <range 0-100>

2.5 Social care pilot consent

Ask all

SCContact

The Department for Education would like to be able to link information gathered through this survey to individual local authorities. They might use this information to offer targeted information or support, or to invite authorities to take part in the development of case studies to support sharing of good practice. **The Department will only be given local authority names: they will not know which individual colleagues completed the survey.**

Are you happy for the Department to be able to link answers from this Children's Social Care section of the survey back to your local authority?

1. Yes
2. No

Section 3: Early Years and Child Care

If Qselect=2

These questions concern Early Years and Childcare provision in your authority.

3.1 Work-facilitating features

Ask all

CCninetothree

What proportion of childcare providers in your local authority currently offer childcare provision outside of 9am-3pm?

1. All
2. More than half, but not all
3. About half
4. Some, but less than half
5. None

Ask all

CCeighttosix

And what proportion of childcare providers in your local authority currently offer childcare provision outside of 8am-6pm?

1. All
2. More than half, but not all
3. About half
4. Some, but less than half
5. None

3.2 Early Years entitlement and affordability

The next questions are about the provision of funded childcare hours in your local authority.

Ask all

Over38Week

What proportion of childcare providers in your local authority currently offer to stretch funded hours (the 15 hour entitlement for three- and four-year-olds, and for some two-year-olds) over more than 38 weeks?

1. None / 0%
2. 1–20%
3. 21–40%
4. 41–60%
5. 61–80%
6. 81– 99%
7. 100%
8. Too early to say – not yet completed assessment

Ask all

EntPay

How frequently, if at all, does your local authority pay early years providers for the free early education entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds?

1. Monthly
2. Two payments per term
3. Termly payment
4. Other (please specify)
5. Never

ASK IF EntPay <> 5. Never

EntPayPerc

What proportion of the free early education entitlement is paid to providers up front?

1. None / 0%
2. 1–20%
3. 21-40%
4. 41-60%
5. 61-80%
6. 81- 99%
7. 100%

Ask all

CMSupport

Has your local authority taken any action to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement?

1. Yes
2. No

If CMSupport = 1. Yes

CMSuppYes

What action, or actions, has your authority taken?

Please select all that apply.

1. Communications to childminders
2. Training for childminders
3. Sharing examples of childminders already delivering the 30 hours entitlement
4. Supporting childminders to work in partnership with others to deliver the entitlement
5. Other (please specify)

If CMSupport = 2. No

CMSuppNo

What would you say are the main reasons that your local authority has not taken any action to encourage childminders to be involved in the delivery of the 30 hours entitlement?

Please select all that apply.

1. Few childminders in the area
2. Not enough demand for support from childminders
3. Not enough demand from parents for entitlement hours through childminders
4. Other (please specify)

3.3 Publication of childcare information

The next questions are about publishing childcare information.

Ask all

Sec5duty

How confident are you that your authority will be able to publish the full range of childcare information required under [Section 5 of the Childcare Act 2016](#) on a termly basis from September 2017?

This childcare information includes, but is not limited to, the business name; address; and contact details of childcare providers.

1. Very confident
2. Fairly confident
3. Not very confident
4. Not at all confident

Ask if Sec5Duty = 1. Very confident or 2. Fairly confident

OpenData

Will your local authority be able to publish this childcare information in an open data format?

By open data we mean accessible online; available for free; and free of restrictions on use or redistribution.

1. Yes
2. No

3.4 Early years workforce recruitment and training

The next questions are about the early years workforce in your area.

Ask all

CPDtype

Which, if any, of the following types of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) or improvement support did your local authority provide to childcare providers in the last financial year? By last financial year, we mean between April 2016 and March 2017.

Please select all that apply.

1. Formal training sessions
2. Facilitated networks for staff to share good practice
3. Facilitated visits to other settings to observe good practice
4. Online resources
5. Bespoke in-setting training
6. Other (please specify)
7. Authority did not provide CPD/improvement support to childcare providers [exclusive code]

Ask all

OfstedDemand

Regulatory changes in 2014 removed the role of local authorities to provide support and training services for childcare providers rated 'good' and 'outstanding', but retained the power to provide such services (and levy a charge) if requested. Did your local authority experience a demand for training from Ofsted-rated 'good' and 'outstanding' providers in the last financial year? By last financial year, we mean between April 2016 and March 2017.

1. Yes
2. No

If OfstedDemand = 1. Yes

OfstedSubject

In which subject areas did your authority experience this demand?

Please select all that apply.

1. Safeguarding & child protection
2. Early Years Foundation Stage framework requirements
3. Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities
4. Meeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children
5. Pedagogy
6. Paediatric first aid
7. Business training
8. Requirements for Ofsted inspection
9. Other (please specify)

If OfstedDemand = 1. Yes

OfstedFree

Has your authority provided this training for childcare providers rated 'good' and 'outstanding'?

1. Yes – free of charge
2. Yes – for a charge
3. No – we have not provided the requested training

3.5 Business sustainability support

The final questions in this section on Early Years and Childcare are about business sustainability support for childcare providers. By business sustainability, we mean operating efficiently and effectively, and continuing to provide quality childcare over the long term.

Ask all

SustainAssess

Does your local authority currently measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?

1. Yes – already in place
2. Yes – in development
3. No – but plan to in the future
4. No – no current plans

If SustainAssess = 1. Yes – already in place or 2. Yes – in development

SustainHow

How does your local authority measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?

Please select all that apply.

1. Asking providers for a self-assessment
2. Reviewing providers' business plans
3. Reviewing providers' financial information/forecasts/budgets
4. Reviewing providers' policies and processes
5. Reviewing providers' occupancy rates
6. Reviewing providers' staffing/workforce plans
7. Reviewing providers' marketing plans
8. Other (please specify)

If SustainAssess = 1. Yes– already in place or 2. Yes – in development

SustainOften

How regularly does your local authority measure or assess the business sustainability of childcare providers?

1. Every term
2. Every quarter
3. Every year
4. Every two years
5. Every three years
6. Less often than every three years
7. Only on request
8. Other (please specify)

Ask all

Sustain

Does your local authority currently provide business sustainability support to childcare providers?

1. Yes – already in place
2. Yes – in development
3. No – but plan to in the future
4. No – no current plans

IF Sustain = 1. Yes – already in place or 2. Yes – in development

SustainForm

What form does this support take?

Please select all that apply.

1. One-to-one direct support
2. Providing online resources or tools
3. A telephone helpline
4. Facilitating a network of providers to support one another
5. Other (please specify)

IF Sustain = 1. Yes – already in place or 2. Yes – in development

SustainNum

How many childcare providers has your local authority supported with business sustainability in the last financial year? By last financial year, we mean between March 2016 and April 2017. If you are unable to give an exact number, please give your best estimate.

Numeric <range 0-1000>

Ask all

HLEprog

Does your local authority fund or provide any of the following programmes or services to support parents to provide a high quality home learning environment (HLE) for children aged 0-5?

Please select all that apply.

1. Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL)
2. Early Words Together
3. Every Child a Talker (ECAT)
4. Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP)
5. Triple P (any level)
6. Incredible Years (preschool)
7. Incredible Years (toddler)
8. Parents as Teachers
9. Elklan
10. Digital tool incl. app or text messaging (please specify)
11. Other (please specify)
12. Local authority does not fund/provide any HLE programmes or services [exclusive code]

3.6 Early years pilot consent

Ask all

EYContact

The Department for Education would like to be able to link information gathered through this survey to individual local authorities. They might use this information to offer targeted information or support, or to invite authorities to take part in the development of case studies to support sharing of good practice. The Department will only be given local authority names: they will not know which individual colleagues completed the survey.

Are you happy for the Department to be able to link answers from this Early Years and Childcare section of the survey back to your local authority?

1. Yes
2. No

Section 4: Special Educational Needs & Disability

If Qselect=3

These questions are about Special Educational Needs and Disability provision in your local authority.

SENDchal

In your opinion, what are the main challenges to the effective delivery of special educational needs services and provision in your local authority over the next 3 years? Please select up to three.

1. Recruitment of high quality staff
2. Retention of high quality staff
3. Maintaining or improving the capability of the senior leadership team
4. Securing sufficient high quality school placements for children with SEND
5. Sufficiency of post-19 education and training provision
6. Adapting to a high-needs funding formula
7. Influencing SEND provision in schools in an environment of increasing school autonomy
8. Other (please specify)
9. Local authority does not face any challenges to the effective delivery of SEND provision [exclusive code]

Ask all

SENDgov

In your opinion, what would be the most helpful actions that the government could take to facilitate / remove barriers to the delivery of good SEN services and provision in your local authority?

Open response <150 characters>

Ask all

What steps, if any, is your local authority taking to use its high needs funding as effectively as possible in 2017-18?

Please select all that apply.

1. Strategic review of supply of specialist provision
2. Working with parents to manage demand for special provision
3. Working with mainstream schools to manage demand for specialist provision
4. Working with other local authorities to commission highly specialist provision
5. Transferring cost pressures to others (e.g. by charging mainstream schools for services previously provided for free)
6. Reducing funding to schools through local formula to transfer into high needs budget
7. Moving funding into high needs from DSG reserves or elsewhere (i.e. one-off transfer)
8. Prioritising attendance at annual reviews of CYP with exceptionally high levels of top-up funding
9. Making efficiencies in local authority operations/administration
10. Focusing on early intervention
11. Other (please specify)
12. None of these [exclusive code]

4.1 SEND pilot consent

Ask all

SEContact

The Department for Education would like to be able to link information gathered through this survey to individual local authorities. They might use this information to offer targeted

information or support, or to invite authorities to take part in the development of case studies to support sharing of good practice. The Department will only be given local authority names: they will not know which individual colleagues completed the survey.

Are you happy for the Department to be able to link answers from this SEND section of the survey back to your local authority?

1. Yes
2. No

Section 5: Thank you

Bye

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. Your answers are vital in helping DfE to understand the key issues facing children's services, and local authorities' experiences of implementing different policies in these areas.

This research will take place twice a year, so we will be back in touch in autumn 2017 about the next wave of the survey, and to tell you about the results from this wave.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please visit www.natcen.ac.uk/childrens-services, email childrens-services@natcen.ac.uk or call 0800 652 4569.



Department
for Education

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