Barnardo's Practitioner Survey Full Results

Wave 1 – 24 June – 9 July 2019

Contents

Introduction

This report presents the results for the first quarterly Barnardo's practitioner survey.

The aim of the survey is to capture emerging issues, and impacts on children and families, directly from Barnardo's practitioners.

The survey was open to all staff who work directly with children, young people, parents and/or carers.

Fieldwork was undertaken 24 June to 9 July 2019.

Data analysis was undertaken by Barnardo's Strategic Impact Team (SIT). Open questions were coded, and are presented in tables. For the open questions, respondents could make more than one point, so responses can be coded to multiple categories.

Where percentages do not sum to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding, or multiple answers.

* indicates responses of less than 1%.

For any further queries about the survey or the data presented in this report, please contact joelle.bradly@barnardos.org.uk.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CCE/CE	Child criminal exploitation/Criminal exploitation
CSE, CSA, CSE/A	Child sexual exploitation, Child sexual abuse, Child sexual exploitation/abuse
CYP	Children and young people
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
DA	Domestic Abuse
DV	Domestic Violence
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex +
MHWB	Mental Health and Wellbeing
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
SA	Sexual abuse
SEN	Special Educational Need
SPD	Sensory Processing Disorder
SW	Social Work
UC	Universal Credit

Overview of issues for children, young people and families

Mental health, poverty, changes to the benefit system and the impact of digital were key concerns cited by practitioners working with children, young people and families. Other issues commonly cited across the survey included child sexual exploitation and abuse, substance misuse, violent or challenging behaviour, trauma and adverse childhood experiences, knife crime, and gangs.

In terms of the groups impacted most by the issues cited above, the most common groups mentioned included 'all children', low income families, 'the most vulnerable children', children with disabilities, children in care, teenagers and children aged 16+, children affected by mental health and wellbeing issues, children with additional needs, and care leavers. In terms of families affected by poverty, lone or single parents, and families affected by substance misuse were also commonly mentioned.

Although the vast majority of practitioners (97%) were working with people affected by mental health and wellbeing issues, only 18% stated they were working in a mental health services. Similarly, around three quarters of respondents (76%) were working with those affected by domestic abuse, but only 18% stated that they work in child protection (domestic abuse) services.

Changes to service provision

Cuts to services was a significant concern throughout the survey, particularly in terms of reduced early intervention, rising thresholds, longer waiting lists, and lack of support for children with additional needs.

The vast majority of practitioners (93%) had seen families impacted by cuts to children's services. Commonly cited impacts of cuts included an increased sense of hopelessness/frustration from families, lack of support networks or social isolation, increased risk of harm, and negative impacts on longer term life outcomes.

When asked about cuts to children's services, 'all children', 'all parents', low income families, children with disabilities, children with additional needs, families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues, and children aged 0-5 were also commonly mentioned as being affected.

When asked about changes to domestic abuse services 'all society' and 'families, children and young people affected by domestic abuse' were commonly mentioned as being affected.

When asked specifically about changes to mental health services, children aged 5-16, and 'children and families statutory services struggle to engage' were also commonly mentioned as being affected.

These findings suggest that certain groups of society are more likely to be impacted by specific service cuts.

Some positive improvements were also mentioned throughout the survey. These included: an increased understanding of trauma and mental health, and increased awareness of issues; improved support (e.g. mental health service provision); and, new services being provided (e.g. domestic abuse services).

In terms of what practitioners feel that commissioners and those providing services needed to understand better, many of the ideas were around how support is commissioned and delivered, e.g. a better understanding of the importance of early intervention, long-term funding, and joined-up holistic support.

Practitioners also felt that commissioners and providers of services require a better understanding of needs and lived experiences of children, young people, and families, including on specific issues such as mental health, wellbeing and trauma, and the impact of commissioning processes, lack of resources, and austerity.

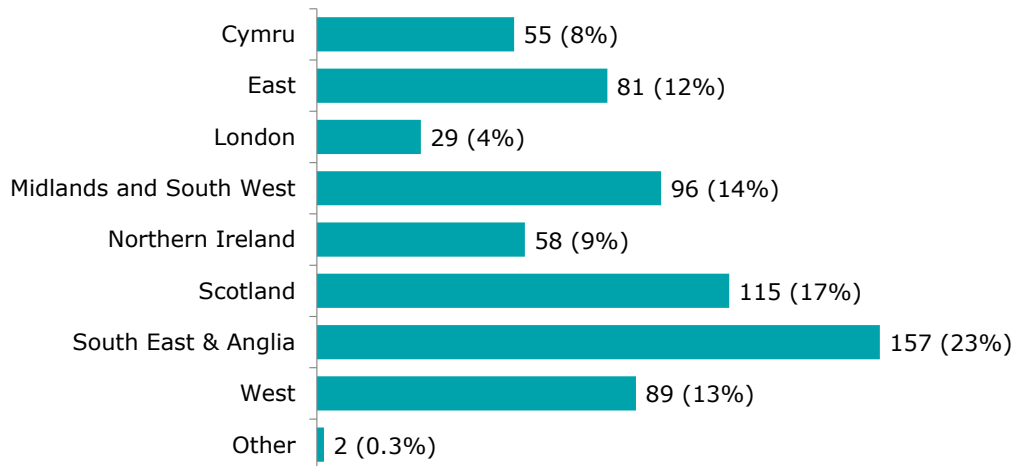| *Sample overview*		
	n	*%*
Service users supported *(n=734)*		
Children/young people	235	32
Parents/carers	75	10
Both	424	58
Region *(n=682)*		
Cymru	55	8
East	81	12
London	29	4
Midlands and South West	96	14
Northern Ireland	58	9
Scotland	115	17
South East & Anglia	157	23
West	89	13
Other	2	0.3
Service type *(n=683)*		
Early Support	247	36
Family Support Services	188	28
Mental Health	125	18
Disability/Health	92	13
Education	102	15
Looked After Children	131	19
Child Abuse and Exploitation	116	17
Child Protection	129	19
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	31	5
Advocacy , Children's Rights and Participation	74	11
Care Leavers/Accommodation support	71	10
Employment Training and Skills (ETS)	27	4
Youth Work	49	7
Length of time working with CYP/families *(n=680)*		
Less than 1 year	76	11
1-2 years	79	12
3-5 years	87	13
More than 5 years	438	64

Q. Do you work directly with...? *(n=734)*

C/YP only, 235 (32%)

Both CYP & parents/carers, 424 (58%)

Parents/carers only, 75 (10%)
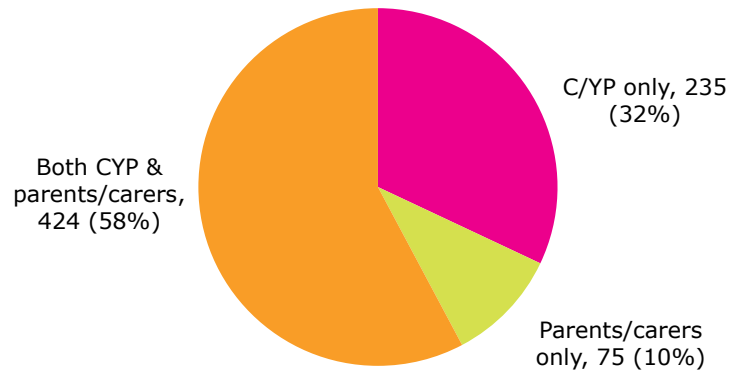
Q. Please tell us which nation or region you work in *(n=682)*

Region	Value
Cymru	55 (8%)
East	81 (12%)
London	29 (4%)
Midlands and South West	96 (14%)
Northern Ireland	58 (9%)
Scotland	115 (17%)
South East & Anglia	157 (23%)
West	89 (13%)
Other	2 (0.3%)

Q. What type of support does your service provide? *(n=683)*

Support Type	Count (%)
Early Support	247 (36%)
Family Support Services	188 (28%)
Mental Health	125 (18%)
Disability/Health	92 (13%)
Education	102 (15%)
Looked After Children	131 (19%)
Child Abuse and Exploitation	116 (17%)
Child Protection	129 (19%)
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	31 (5%)
Advocacy, Children's Rights and Participation	74 (11%)
Care Leavers/Accommodation Support	71 (10%)
Employment, Training & Skills (ETS)	27 (4%)
Youth Work	49 (7%)

Q. How long have you been working directly with children, young people and/or families? *(n=680)*

- Less than 1 year, 76 (11%)
- 1-2 years, 79 (12%)
- 3-5 years, 87 (13%)
- More than 5 years, 438 (64%)
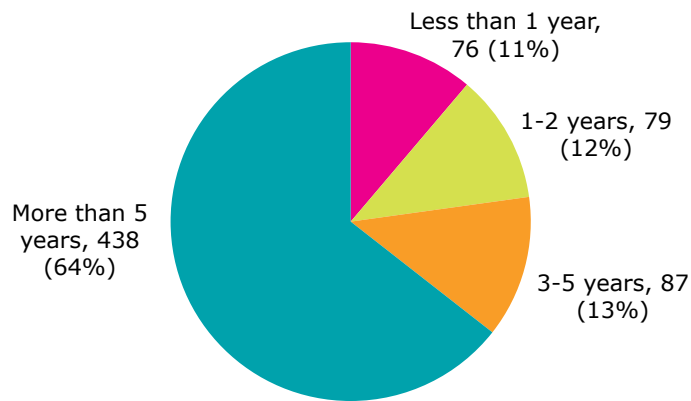
Emerging Vulnerabilities

Summary

Respondents were asked which issues for children, young people and families have changed since they started working as a practitioner.

Just over a quarter of respondents (27%; 110 of 405) said support and resources have changed, with less support and fewer resources available. Other common responses refer to an increase in mental health and wellbeing issues (24%), and austerity (including related issues such as poverty, changes to the benefits system, and housing and homelessness) (18%).

Almost half of respondents (48%; 173 of 363 respondents) said these changes have occurred because of a systemic lack of resources, or stretched or non-existent support. A quarter (25%) stated changes have occurred due to the negative impact of 'digital', while 23% said changes were due to austerity, poverty, and changes to the benefits system.

Respondents' biggest concerns for children, young people, and families were:

- A lack of support and resources (45%; 190 of 419)

- Mental health and wellbeing issues (20%)

- Austerity, poverty and changes to the benefits system (18%).

A third of respondents (33%; 133 of 409) felt 'all children and families' are most affected by these concerns, around a quarter (24%) felt 'low income families' are most affected, and 10% felt 'the most vulnerable children and families' are most affected.

The main issues respondents felt those commissioning and providing services require better understanding of were:

- Mental health and wellbeing (23%; 91 of 390)

- The needs and lived experiences of children, young people and families, and how service provision responds to these (23%)

- The impact of lack of necessary support and resources (15%).

Q. How would you say issues for children, young people and families have changed since you started working with children, young people and families?

Base: All who answered this question (405)	*n*	*%*
Less support/fewer resources	110	27
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	96	24
Austerity (and related issues)	71	18
Increased impact of digital	65	16
Issues worsened/more complex	39	10
Issues are the same, they have not changed	29	7
Lack of early intervention/prevention	27	7
Improved/More child-focused support for CYP, parents, and carers	23	6
More awareness/understanding of trauma (and related issues)	23	6
Increased risk of child abuse/exploitation	22	5
More families affected by substance misuse	20	5
Higher thresholds for support	20	5
Increase in violent/challenging behaviour	20	5
More parenting issues	14	3
Increase in (diagnosis of) ASD & additional needs (incl. SEN & SPD)	13	3
Increase in number of vulnerable children	13	3
Increase in bullying	13	3
More pressure on families/young people	12	3
Reduced sense of belonging, marginalisation, and isolation	12	3
Less support for children with additional needs (incl. SEN & SPD)	10	2
More families, children and young people affected by domestic abuse	10	2
More paperwork/targets	9	2
Increase in waiting times	8	2
Less appropriate support for children/young people with ASD	7	2
Lower self-esteem, lower self-confidence, less resilience	6	1
Less support for children with disabilities	4	1
More of a focus on safeguarding	4	1
Increase in enforced criminal activity/county lines	4	1
Staff under more pressure/struggling to cope with issues presented	4	1
Increase in number of children impacted by trauma	2	*
Lack of joined-up/holistic support	2	*
Gender identity	2	*
Other	5	1

Less support/fewer resources *(n=110)*

"Provision is limited to what can be delivered to the largest number with the fewest staff."

"The issues have changed for children and families through lack of long term support. Lack of sustainable funding limits long term support."

"The issues for children & families are still the same there are just less services/resources to support them."

Increase in MHWB issues among children and families *(n=96)*

"Higher level of mental health support needed, more children seem to be struggling with their emotional regulation."

"There seems to be a lot more diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health issues with parents we are working with, making them more complex."

"More young people seem to be self-harming and experiencing lots of anxiety."

Austerity (including poverty, changes to benefits system, and housing/homelessness issues) *(n=71)*

"The impact of Universal Credit and other changes to housing and homelessness (i.e. homeless re-education act and; austerity which are making lives far more difficult and challenging."

"One thing I have noticed is the change in the benefits system having a knock on effect with sustaining a tenancy, buying basics and mental health."

Increased impact of digital *(n=65)*

"There are more difficulties for CYP in terms of social media use and cyber bullying. This is allowing young male teenagers to exploit young girls and bully them online."

"Social media and technology has grown and exposes children to many risks such as online sexual exploitation and grooming, online bullying, access to pornography etc."

Issues worsened/more complex *(n=39)*

"Issues have become much more serious and complex by the time they reach our services; also multi-faceted."

"Individual family needs are becoming more complex, requiring more intense support from experienced staff who have the knowledge, confidence and resilience to support them."

Issues are the same, they have not changed *(n=29)*

"They have not changed, just the referrals have increased."

"I believe that the issues are pretty consistent but that children and young people are marginalized and excluded in society, by mechanisms and in society we have contradictory expectations of them."

"I don't think the issues have changed much - we just put children into different boxes and give them labels to fit funding criteria."

"Issues are the same just named now; CSE, DA, MFH, HSB, SA we talk about these issues more now so the perception is they are more prevalent but they will have been happening but not as visible."

Lack of early intervention/prevention *(n=27)*

"Early intervention is less readily available, with the closure of local services such as Parent Voice and children's centres having a negative huge impact."

"Cuts in services has meant that children with disabilities and complex needs are not getting as much of the crucial early intervention as before."

"Universal services that have been available in the past that would be preventative and supportive to all are gone and specialist funded services are tightly funded with strict access criteria and sometimes time limited access and/or long waiting times."

Improved/More child-focused support for CYP, parents and carers *(n=23)*

"Support seems to be wrapping around the families, organisations talk to each other more often which improves the service received."

"Services are more child focussed and the child's voice is sought."

More awareness/understanding of trauma (and related issues) *(n=23)*

"I think there is a greater awareness of the complexities of the different needs of children/young people. With the awareness comes empowerment of staff and parents/carers to be able to manage these difficulties."

"We now have a better understanding of how early trauma affects children and families and how it can affect subsequent generations."

Increased risk of child abuse/exploitation *(n=22)*

"Children and YP are exposed to greater risk of CSE/CE and have less access to healthy, protective adults."

"Perpetrators styles have evolved & become more complex. Children are blamed for their abuse. There is greater awareness of CSE but in real terms not a lot is being done to stop it or ensure incarceration of offenders."

More families affected by substance misuse *(n=20)*

"Drug misuse appears to be more widespread, leading to potential poverty & neglect of children."

"Change in substance misuse issues, young people are now being exposed to new emerging substances and substance misusers are now more visible within the community."

Higher thresholds for support *(n=20)*

"Higher thresholds of risk from Local Authorities. This means children have been exposed to more trauma prior to placement in Foster Care."

"The thresholds for social care intervention are a lot higher so family support are holding cases which more complex and serious issues."

Increase in violent/challenging behaviour *(n=20)*

"It seems that there is more child to parent violence."

"I have noticed that a lot more families require support to manage challenging behaviour as a result of an ADHD and/or ASD diagnosis."

"I make more Safeguarding referrals now and peer violence has become more common in their lives."

Q. Why do you think this is [changing]?

Base: All who answered this question (363)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	173	48
Negative impact of digital	89	25
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	82	23
More pressure on children, young people, and families	22	6
Increase in MHWB issues	19	5
Lack of early intervention/prevention	14	4
Increase in waiting times for support	12	3
Better understand the needs of CYP and families	12	3
Due to higher thresholds	11	3
Better understanding of issues (e.g. MHWB and CSA/E)	11	3
Improved support for children, young people, parents and carers	10	3
Increase in anxiety and depression among children	10	3
Increased substance misuse among children and young people	9	2
Reduced sense of belonging, marginalisation and isolation	7	2
Domestic abuse	6	2
Barriers to engagement	6	2
Impact of commissioning processes	5	1
Lack of joined-up/holistic support	4	1
Children impacted by trauma/ACEs	4	1
More awareness of available support	4	1
Low self-esteem, low self-confidence, less resilience	3	1
Gang involvement	3	1
Parental substance misuse	2	1
Other	36	10

Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support
(n=173)

"Lack of services due to funding and other priorities - short-sightedness as will impact services in the longer term, not to mention mental health etc. of individuals."

"Austerity has caused cuts at local council and Local Charities have struggled to raise funds to support the services they provide."

"All of the impacts on services are directly attributable to the fact that Local Authorities are working with reduced funds due to getting less from central government."

"The issues have remained the same because there has been little to no progress on how services are implemented and delivered by Government bodies in NI."

Negative impact of digital *(n=89)*

"Certain issues facing young people are there 24/7 due to social media such as online bullying."

"As a society the internet now forms a large part of our daily lives and the media's portrayal of what is important and what a successful like looks like, is not achievable for most of the population. YP are now more interested in their social media accounts and wanting to have a presence online before their education or even their wellbeing. The need to fit into this virtual world results in many risk taking behaviours."

"Children are allowed on mobile phones a lot. As a result of using a mobile phone they are missing out on meal times together, exercise, connecting with others. Often children are on phones until late at night and then they are sleep deprived - which makes any mental health issue even worse."

Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system *(n=82)*

"Universal Credit has caused a lot of problems for those waiting long periods to be paid. Also paying rent direct to the young person rather than to the landlord has caused more debt for those who struggle to budget."

"Coping with and trying to live within the means tested UC the money they give to live on is unrealistic."

"Austerity and a government that has no clue about the experiences of non-rich middle/upper class families with connections."

More pressure on children, young people, and families *(n=22)*

"There is more pressure on young people and families than 10 years ago."

"This is reflective in the amount of stress that families face in general which has increased from a financial and social perspective."

"Parents seem to be under pressure and seem to lack confidence in their ability to parent and spend time with their children constructively."

"An education system that creates too much pressure through focusing on exam results rather than fostering a desire to learn."

"In terms of mental health issues I think that there has been an increase due to the pressures that young people are under, particularly with the added influence that social media has on young people."

Q. What is your biggest concern now for children, young people and families?

Base: All who answered this question (419)	*n*	*%*
Lack of support and resources	190	45
Mental health and wellbeing issues	84	20
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	77	18
Lack of early intervention/prevention	45	11
Impact of digital	43	10
Trauma/abuse/ACEs	28	7
Waiting times for support	21	5
Thresholds for support	20	5
(Knife) crime/youth violence	18	4
Gang involvement incl. enforced criminal exploitation	16	4
Lack of support for children with additional needs (incl. SEN & SPD)	16	4
Parenting issues	16	4
Child sexual abuse/exploitation	15	4
Children and young people with substance misuse issues	15	4
Isolation	14	3
Parental issues (e.g. MHWB, substance misuse)	13	3
Homelessness and housing issues	11	3
Domestic abuse	10	2
Not listening to CYP/ families/understanding their needs	10	2
Less caring society/communities/politics	8	2
Family life more chaotic/less stable	6	1
Neglect	4	1
School pressures	3	1
Other	17	4

Lack of support and resources *(n=190)*

"Less support for the more vulnerable children in our society. Without proper funding across all services, children are at real risk of being able to bridge the attainment gap between them and their peers. The cuts in services leave more families isolated and unable to access support to enable families to move beyond the poverty trap."

"Families are asking for help but do not seem to be getting it until it is too late and the issue has risen."

Mental health and wellbeing issues *(n=84)*

"Increase of the suicidal thoughts in the CYP and CAMHs are not providing services these CYP require."

"Continued decline in mental health and the impact this has on their future."

Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system *(n=77)*

"Money, we are seeing more people need food banks and essential items to live."

"Poverty continuing to be a barrier for young people and impacting on their ability to achieve their full potential."

Lack of early intervention/prevention *(n=45)*

"With early support being limited, problems are not being addressed until later, when issues become more entrenched and have a long lasting impact for the child's future."

"Focus seems to be more on targeted services and fewer universal services, so there is less seamless early intervention and families who may never have needed support end up having to access when they are at crisis point. Many universal services are being run by volunteers who often do not have the skill set of qualified practitioners & may not be able to recognize when families are struggling."

Impact of digital *(n=43)*

"Technological advances meaning young people are increasingly vulnerable to exploitation."

"Reduction of 'real life' connection with other safe/protective people. Alongside increasing use of technology there is a decrease in opportunities for young people or parents to spend time with peer."

Trauma/abuse/ACEs *(n=28)*

"One of my biggest concerns is children experiencing trauma and adverse life experiences and not having the therapeutic support afterwards to support them and growing up to be really vulnerable adults."

"Breakdown of family or placement due to impact of relational trauma and not enough early therapeutic intervention."

Waiting times for support *(n=21)*

"Long waiting lists for specialist services e.g. CAMHS."

"The amount of support and help to receive help and a diagnosis is so low and therefore there is a huge waiting list for up to 2 years."

Thresholds for support *(n=20)*

"The thresholds are high for SW support and they end up with unskilled workers or nothing."

Q. Which groups of children, young people and families do you think are most affected by the concerns you raised above?

Base: All who answered this question (409)	n	%
All children/families	133	33
Low income families	98	24
The most vulnerable children and families	39	10
Children with disabilities	28	7
Children in care	26	6
Teenagers and children aged 16+	25	6
Children affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	24	6
Children with additional needs (including SEN & SPD)	24	6
Care leavers	21	5
Families, children, and young people affected by domestic abuse	19	5
Children aged 5-16	16	4
Children aged 0-5	15	4
Parental substance misuse	15	4
Lone/single parents	15	4
Children impacted by trauma	11	3
CYP with protected characteristics (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities)	9	2
Families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	9	2
Young carers	8	2
Families who do not have a strong support network	7	2
Families and CYP affected by neglect	6	1
Families and CYP who do not meet the thresholds	6	1
Refugee and asylum seekers	6	1
Children and families affected by homelessness	5	1
Children and young people with substance misuse issues	5	1
Children who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	4	1
Families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	4	1
Children in instable care placements	3	1
Children and young people with ADHD	3	1
Children and families statutory services struggle to engage	2	*
Other	16	4

Q. What issues for children, young people and families do you think need to be understood better by those commissioning and providing services?

Base: All who answered this question (390)	*n*	*%*
Mental health and wellbeing issues (and related issues)	91	23
Needs & lived experiences of CYP & families (& service responses to these)	90	23
Impact of lack of required support/resources	60	15
Importance of early intervention/prevention	43	11
Importance of long term commitment/funding	41	11
Impact of austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	38	10
Trauma (and related issues)	35	9
Importance of joined-up/holistic support	26	7
Impact of commissioning processes	19	5
Impact of digital on children and young people	16	4
Needs of children with additional needs (including SEN & SPD)	14	4
Needs of care experienced CYP	12	3
Needs of children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	10	3
Homelessness and housing issues	10	3
Impact of domestic abuse	10	3
Barriers to engagement	10	3
Needs of children with disabilities	9	2
Staffing issues (e.g. retention, training, mismatch of skills, etc.)	9	2
Needs of children and young people with substance misuse issues	8	2
Criminal exploitation	8	2
Child sexual abuse and exploitation	7	2
Needs of children and young people with ADHD	6	2
Needs of young carers	4	1
Needs of low income families	4	1
Impact of reduced sense of belonging, marginalisation and isolation	4	1
Impact of increase in waiting times on children and young people	3	1
Needs of refugees and asylum seekers	3	1
Needs of CYP with protected characteristics (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities)	2	1
Impact of not having strong support networks	2	1
Other	15	4

Mental health and wellbeing issues (and related issues) *(n=91)*

"Child mental health and ACES, in my opinion need more teaching for practitioners and those at the forefront of commissioning service."

"Mental health and how it can present. This impacts the way young people want to be contacted, treated, worked with, everything."

"Understanding the difference between mental illness and trauma."

"That when YP are struggling with mental health amongst other things then even simple tasks are huge and feel impossible. They cannot simple conform to what is expected e.g. jobcentre and therefore are heavily sanctioned."

Needs and lived experiences of CYP and families (and how service provision responds to these) *(n=90)*

"We cannot begin to understand and to try to make a person's life more bearable and give them the skills they need to participate in life if we have no understanding of what brought them to where they are in their current situation."

"Need to understand underlying causes of issues in order to ensure funding is available so that support can be provided where it will be most effective."

"That in order to make changes for children we must look at the whole family to gain a better understanding of life and the needs of the whole family. Only by doing this will we be able to make long term changes which will impact the child."

"Families know their children best and need to be listened to more and believed in. Work together better in order to pull information for the bigger picture to be able to support families to move themselves forward."

"Make the policies and processes centred around the voice of the families and children themselves. All children are different, what works for one child/family doesn't for another. I think the commissioning services need to take a holistic approach which draws on the difficulties that are being experienced by families and children, and the starting point is gathering their voices and concerns and building on those."

Impact of lack of required support/resources *(n=60)*

"The effects of funding cuts on children and young people who use our service as their only play and leisure service as they are unable to access universal services. If short breaks funding is cut altogether (which is currently proposed) then they will not be able to access any such services."

"The knock on affect that cutting services has on ALL individuals concerned."

Importance of early intervention/prevention *(n=43)*

"That early intervention, although it costs more now, will save in the future."

"That all children and young people are vulnerable and the lack or universal services- youth service, play provision impacts everyone."

Importance of long term commitment/funding *(n=41)*

"There is a need for more longer term therapeutic intervention to happen if they want to positive, lasting outcomes."

"That change takes times and for those who are not caught early you need to commission and provide services that are funded to provide long term intensive support - year on year funding gives no-one security - staff leave due to funding concerns and these families suffer yet another loss, so why would they engage the next time."

Impact of austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system *(n=38)*

"The impact of low incomes on every aspect of a child's life - educational need, nutrition, mental health and wellbeing."

"The reality of living hand to mouth, many families work very hard to provide for their kids but the high cost of living can make it impossible. This puts immense strain on families."

Trauma (and related issues) *(n=35)*

"Trauma - its impacts and how it can present."

"Educating teachers in the impact of trauma and how this affects the children in their care."

"Trauma needs to be better understood as it is often the behaviour which is commented on and reprimanded rather than understanding why the child is presenting in a particular way."

Importance of joined-up/holistic support *(n=26)*

"Working with other agencies to support all vulnerable families. Working in a holistic way, sharing skills and resources."

"Services need to be holistic. An individual's mental health doesn't fit in a box it impacts on physical health etc. We need to not lose the rest of the individual."

"Every family is different. Needs are different. Not one size fits all in terms of support services."

Knife Crime and Criminal Exploitation

Summary

Knife Crime

Over the last year, 15% of respondents (68 of 449) have worked with children and young people who carry knives on a regular basis.

The great majority (90%; 52 of 58 respondents) said that young people tell them carry a knife for protection, because they do not feel safe.

Two thirds (67%; 45 of 67 respondents) felt the number of children and young people carrying knives on a regular basis is increasing. The most commonly cited reason for this increase was that children and young people feel unsafe (47%; 18 out of 38 respondents). Other commonly identified reasons included the perceived glamour, lifestyle, gang culture, and status that carrying a knife can bring (26%), and normalisation and peer expectation of carrying a knife (24%).

Criminal Exploitation

Over the last year, around two in five respondents (38%; 168 of 442) had worked with children and young people who they thought were being criminally exploited.

Around three in five of those who had worked with children and young people they thought were being criminally exploited reported exploitation involving selling of drugs (62%; 113 of 182). Other forms of criminal exploitation commonly identified by respondents included sexual exploitation (60%), and shoplifting (46%).

Thirty percent of respondents (70 of 230) reported that they had seen an increase in the number children and young people being coerced into criminal activity, who would not typically be thought to be involved in criminal activity.

Q. Over the last year, have you worked with children and young people who are carrying knives on a regular basis? *(n=449)*

Don't know, 94 (21%)

Yes, 68 (15%)

No, 287 (64%)
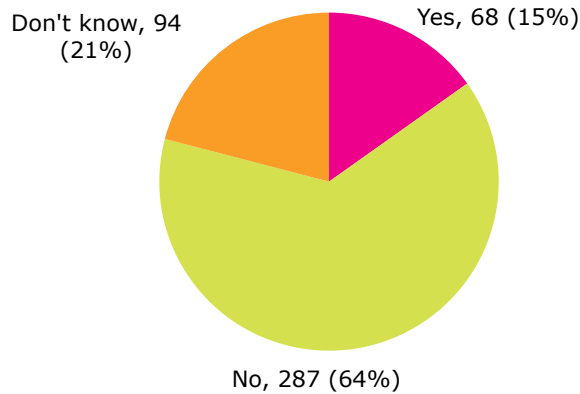
Q. What are young people telling you about why they are carrying knives?

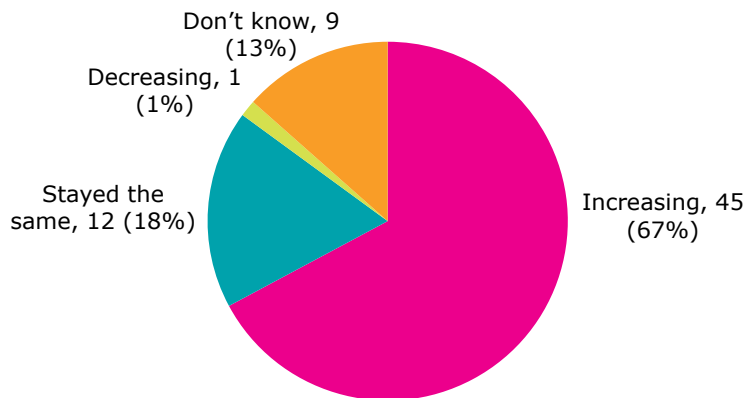| *Base: All who answered this question (58)*	*n*	*%*
Protection as they do not feel safe	52	90
Normalisation and expectation	8	14
Enforced criminal activity	7	12
Other	3	5

"Some carry them for their own protection, others are automatically given them by the people exploiting and trafficking them for criminality including drug running and county lines model. Those carrying them out of fear will sleep with them under their pillow or store them in nearby places. Many children and young people admit they hide them in plant pots and walls in town centres in case it's needed when out."

"I was a Missing Case Worker and teenagers carried them for protection against their drug dealers and those in 'the drug community'."

"Because they don't feel safe, they feel safer with a knife."

Q. Do you think there has been a change in the number of children and young people carrying knives on a regular basis? *(n=67)*

Don't know, 9 (13%)

Decreasing, 1 (1%)

Stayed the same, 12 (18%)

Increasing, 45 (67%)

Q. If increasing, why do you think this is?

Base: All who answered this question (38)

	n	%
Feeling less safe	18	47
Perceived glamour/lifestyle/gang culture/status	10	26
Normalisation/expectation among peers	9	24
Media coverage/reporting	8	21
Drugs related	7	18
Lack of law enforcement/punishment	5	13
Lack of support	5	13
Lack of role models	4	11
Not understanding danger	4	11
Other	2	5

Feeling less safe – (perceived) high crime rate/increased violence/gangs/need to protect self *(n=18)*

"Increasing issues with gangs/ drugs in London- can be dangerous for young people to be involved in and they start to feel that they need to carry a knife to protect themselves."

"I think because of the increase in media coverage of knife attacks in the UK, young people have become more cautious of safeguarding themselves and believe that if they carry a knife that they have more protection."

Perceived glamour/lifestyle/gang culture/status *(n=10)*

"Get drawn into this type of work/ activity due to the perception of high class lifestyle/ money."

"Misrepresentation of the glamour of carrying a knife through popular media."

Normalisation/expectation among peers *(n=9)*

"I think due to normalizing carrying knives. Teenagers thinking their friends are carry them."

Media coverage/reporting *(n=8)*

"I think because of the increase in media coverage of knife attacks in the UK, young people have become more cautious of safeguarding themselves and believe that if they carry a knife that they have more protection."

Q. Over the last year, have you worked with children and young people who you think are being coerced, deceived or manipulated into criminal activity? *(n=442)*

Don't know, 69 (16%)

Yes, 168 (38%)

No, 205 (46%)

Q. What type of activity has this criminal exploitation included? *(n=182)*

| Activity	Value
Selling drugs	113 (62%)
Sexual exploitation	109 (60%)
Shoplifting	84 (46%)
Petty theft	78 (43%)
Violence	78 (43%)
County lines	74 (41%)
Drug cultivation	43 (24%)
Cuckooing	26 (14%)
Burglary	25 (14%)
Fraud	23 (13%)
Pick pocketing	9 (5%)
Other	27 (15%)
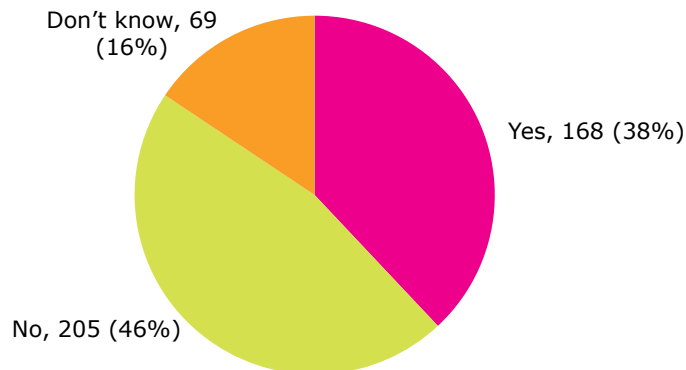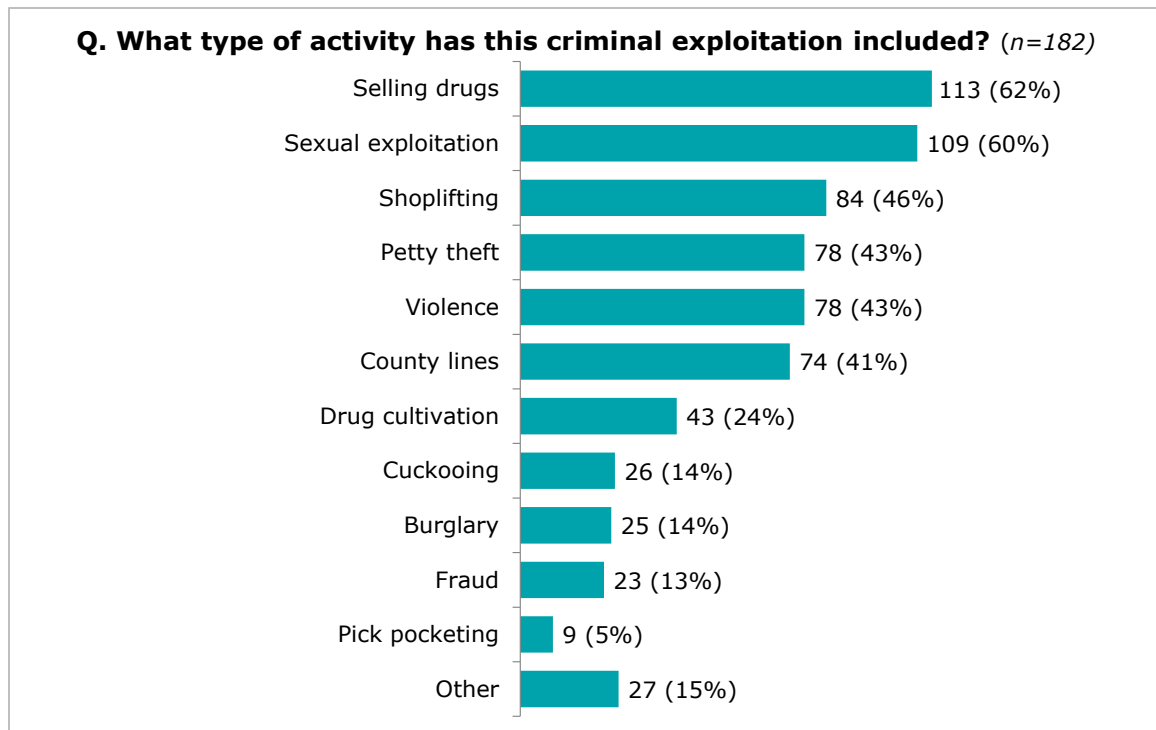
For those who answered 'other' (27), additional examples included:

- Being forced to take drugs
- Damage to property/criminal damage
- Gang membership
- Stealing cars/underage driving
- Recruiting others
- Domestic Violence
- Arson
- Up-skirting
- Social media
- Entering properties
- 'Spaying of houses' - gunshot to the young person's house as a warning
- Exchanging counterfeit notes
- Concealing drugs ('plugging')
- ASB

"Trafficking, groomed into positions where the victim is coerced into becoming a facilitator & made to hurt or recruit other young people. 'Spaying of houses' - gunshot to the young person's house as a warning. Thigh slashing with knives over drug turf or girls, knife slashing girls to force them to have sex / carryout rape drug deliveries / trafficking / concealing (plugging) drugs , stealing cars, underage 'drivers'."

Q. Have you seen an increase in children and young people being coerced who would not typically be thought to be involved in criminal activity? (also known as "clean skins" i.e. young people with no previous criminal records, who are unlikely to be stopped by the police, including from white middle class background) *(n=230)*

Yes, 70 (30%)

Don't know, 98 (43%)

No, 62 (27%)
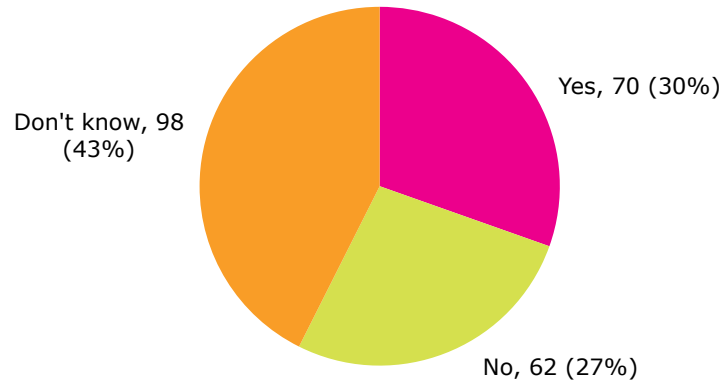
Mental Health and Wellbeing

Summary

Over the last year, almost all respondents (97%; 421 of 436) had supported children, young people, or parents with mental health and wellbeing issues.

- 86% (346 of 403 respondents) had noticed changes in the severity of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing

- 76% (309 of 404 respondents) noticed changes in the types of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing

- 64% (254 of 395) noticed changes in the groups of children and young people who are experiencing mental health problems.

Among those who had noticed changes, the most common change identified was an increase in the number of children and young people with mental health and wellbeing problems. This was identified by 37% (111 of 300) of those who reported having noticed changes. The next most common changes included an increase in anxiety and depression among children (26%), and a systemic lack of resources, or stretched, or non-existent support (21%).

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%; 266 of 409) stated they had noticed changes in the services and support available in their area to address mental health and wellbeing among children and young people.

Fifty five per cent of respondents (146 of 267) said there was a systemic lack of resources or lack of support, and 27% said there was an increase in waiting times, while 23% reported improved support for children, young people, and parents/carers.

Two in five respondents (40%; 95 of 237) reported that changes in the services/support available for mental health and wellbeing had led to a lack of support and resources. Around a third (32%) said that changes had impacted on mental health and wellbeing. Eighteen per cent said changes had led to increased waiting times for services.

Thirty per cent of respondents (65 of 217) said that 'all children' were most affected by changes to support services. One in five (21%) said children aged between 5 and 16 years old were most affected, and 17% said children aged 16+ were most impacted.

Q. Over the last year, have you supported any children, young people or parents with mental health and wellbeing issues? *(n=436)*

No, 14 (3%)

Don't know, 1 (0%)

Yes, 421 (97%)
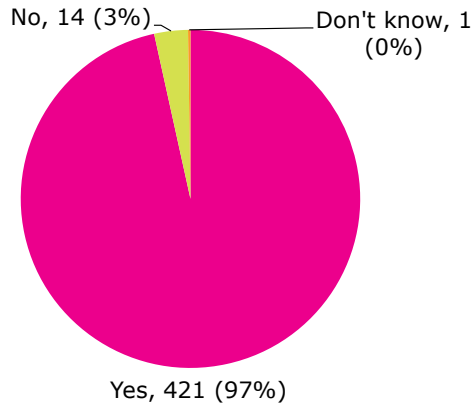
Q. Have you noticed any changes in...?

a. The types of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing *(n=404)*

b. The severity or frequency of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing *(n=403)*

c. The groups of children and young people who are experiencing mental health problems *(n=395)*

95 (24%)

a

309 (76%)

57 (14%)

b

346 (86%)

141 (36%)

c

254 (64%)

Yes

No
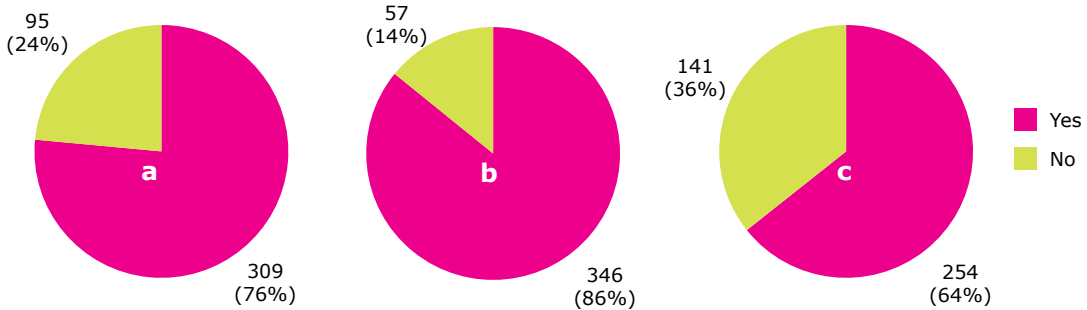
Q. If yes, please explain your answer

Base: All who answered this question (300)

	n	%
Increase in number of CYP with MHWB problems	111	37
Increase in anxiety and depression among children	77	26
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	64	21
Impact of digital	44	15
Primary age children/younger children	40	13
Increased awareness and diagnosis of mental health issues	26	9
Increase in CYP with substance misuse issues	13	4
Increased waiting times and thresholds	13	4
Increase in ASD	9	3
Misdiagnosis of trauma	8	3
Lifestyle changes (pace of life, longer working hours, less time with CYP)	4	1
Improved support for CYP, parents and carers	3	1
Other	19	6

Increase in number of children/young people with MHWB problems *(n=111)*

"There has been a large increase in the number of young people who have been diagnosed as having depression and anxiety and are given medication to help."

"Frequency has increased, and often so has the severity. Young people often present with mental health issues that affect their ability to attend and keep appointments, meet new people, travel etc. This in turn affects their employability prospects and can severely affect their day to day life."

"Increasing numbers of children and young people are experiencing mental health difficulties and the age at which this is presenting is getting lower."

Increase in anxiety and depression among children *(n=77)*

"Mental health problems seem more serious, more young people with severe anxiety who don't want to leave the house and are scared of being around other people, more young people talking about self-harm and thoughts of suicide."

"Younger people seem to be more susceptible to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. I have seen variety of mental health issues being identified more, but this may just be brought about by greater awareness these days."

"A lot of children are suffering from anxiety/depression and this is getting younger and younger."

Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support *(n=64)*

"A vast number of our referrals consist of parents requiring support to help their young children cope with anxiety and behaviour issues, whilst we can offer support to parents through the delivery of evidence-based programmes which can expand into peer support groups, due to our commissioned service we are unable to work directly with children."

"Limited early intervention means crisis is reached before any support is available."

"I think more families are reaching out for help now than ever before, however services are often too stretched to meet those needs."

"More cases as funding and support withdrawn, services no longer in place in the settings to assist with early interventions and Universal Credit has had a bit impact on family poverty."

Impact of 'digital' *(n=44)*

"Social media plays a massive part in the way young people see themselves and feel they have to 'fit in'."

"More children appear to be suffering with anxiety issues and feelings of low self-worth as opposed to a few years ago. This tends to come from social media and sometimes parenting."

"The immense influence and normalization of living through social media has skewed the idea of reality for some families. Unrealistic expectations and the presentation of highly edited messages and images is potentially damaging, as is the amount of time parents spend looking at a screen rather than their child during communication."

Primary age children/younger children *(n=40)*

"Mental health is affecting more and more primary age children than ever. The stresses and strains of what they may be experiencing in their family home and the added pressures of school and the desire to fit in with stereotypes is more prevalent than ever."

"Children are younger when they are presenting with anxiety and self-harm."

"The age of children experiencing mental health problems has got younger."

Increased awareness and diagnosis of mental health issues *(n=26)*

"I have worked with children who are experiencing mental health problems for many years, and I have noticed an increase in awareness and willingness to seek support. Whether this is due to an actual increase, or just more awareness and publicity - I am not sure."

"Mental health is becoming a more recognized thing in children, young people and adults, however there is not enough support out there."

"Mental Health as a whole has grown and awareness has increased. As workers we are more vigilant and look out for early signs."

Q. Have you noticed any changes in the services/support available in your area that address mental health and wellbeing for children and young people? *(n=409)*

No, 143 (35%)
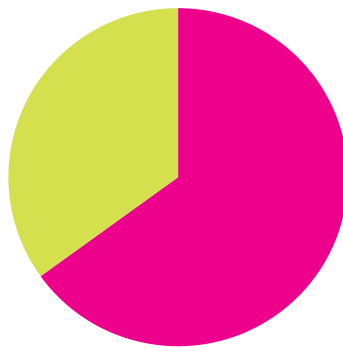
Yes, 266 (65%)

Q. If yes, please explain your answer

Base: All who answered this question (267)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	146	55
Increase in waiting times	73	27
Improved support for CYP, parents and carers	62	23
Higher thresholds	29	11
Staffing issues (retention, mismatch of skills, etc.)	16	6
Lack of early intervention/prevention	8	3
More awareness of available support	6	2
Families now required to pay for support	6	2
More online/less face to face support	4	1
Other	5	2

Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support
(n=146)

"Access to CAMHS has become almost impossible, unless a child is in crisis. Even young people who have made suicide attempts (taking pills) are seen in hospital then discharged with no further follow up."

"Lack of availability to CAMHS services for those who need this - and 'postcode lottery' of other therapeutic services for YP. Experienced YP/families being asked to pay for therapeutic services."

"Ever decreasing support avenues and appointment availability. Harder to get a referral and diagnosis."

"Due to funding cuts, services that cater to young people do not have the resources to adequately provide support in areas like mental health and well-being."

"The services and supports available are decreasing and support is not instant which is what is needed when families are experience a crisis that they have not got the ability to navigate without support."

Increase in waiting times *(n=73)*

"Long waiting times for children to have an initial appointment with CAMHS."

"Waiting lists are at an all time high and many of the young people are referred into mental health voluntary services by the statutory sector. Many are often dismissed all together after initial assessment with no further support given. This leads to our service having to work closely with the family to re-refer or source other agencies to help."

"Longer waiting lists for MH support services or diagnosis. Plus longer waiting or unable to see a GP in times of crisis."

Improved support for CYP, parents and carers *(n=62)*

"I think the area is more aware of it, there are more services available, but it's not also easy for them to access it."

"There is an increase in services that centre on mental health, as well as increased training for professionals."

"More professionals are aware of mental health and appear better at spotting the signs."

Higher thresholds *(n=29)*

"Thresholds for mental health support increasingly appear to be raised, leaving many children and young people unable to access direct mental health and emotional wellbeing support."

"Services are sparse and increasingly hard to access, due to high thresholds and long waiting lists."

"The services are there just that waiting lists are so long and the thresholds are so high that lower level MH is not being addressed as much."

"Higher thresholds for more specialised supports. Children not meeting criteria and then a gap in services or limited support for children.

Q. What impact is this having?

Base: All who answered this question (237)	n	%
Lack of support/resources; CYP & families do not get support	95	40
Impacts on mental health and wellbeing	77	32
Increase in waiting times	42	18
Positive Impact	38	16
More pressure on families	27	11
Increased awareness and diagnosis of mental health issues	16	7
Lack of early intervention/prevention	14	6
Impacts on educational attendance/attainment	11	5
Impacts on practitioners (e.g. low morale, burnout, stress, sickness, etc.)	10	4
Families not trusting services	7	3
Schools/charities trying to cope with issues presented	7	3
Other	9	4

Lack of support/resources; CYP and families do not get support *(n=95)*

"Services are struggling meet the needs of the children due to the high demand, parents are getting frustrated and losing faith in services due to the length of wait and then not always receiving the support after the wait."

"Families being unsupported which causes risk in terms of stability and likelihood of disruption."

"Young people and their families are suffering due to lack of resources. What could be contained in childhood becomes life-long in adulthood."

Impacts on MHWB *(n=77)*

"Deterioration in mental health and increase in vulnerabilities, meaning young people's problems can escalate into something much worse rather as preventative action is not in place in time."

"Mental health problems are going without treatment or specialist support and therefore getting worse or YP are self-medicating with alcohol or drugs."

"Children are presenting with more serious entrenched mental health issues. They then wait up to 8 months for appointments with clinically trained staff and then "fail to engage" as the support does not meet their need."

Increase in waiting times *(n=42)*

"Services are struggling meet the needs of the children due to the high demand, parents are getting frustrated and losing faith in services due to the length of wait and then no always receiving the support after the wait."

"Longer waiting times for some services (i.e. support for parents experiencing addiction, mental health, domestic abuse, counselling which has an impact on their children). Social services are running with a high level of risk due to the lack of social workers, foster carers and support services."

"Children feel that no-one cares because they have to wait so long for help. This can impact on their behaviour and family life."

"Longer waits, symptoms are getting more severe."

Positive impact *(n=38)*

"Positive impact. More people are able to identify when young people need support for mental health."

"I think the very fact that mental health is becoming so public is positive as people are becoming less scared, embarrassed or nervous to tell people they are struggling."

"Families understand the issues better and are more prepared to take on a child with mental health in the background. They also welcome strategies around dealing with Mental Health issues in children."

More pressure on families *(n=27)*

"Families having to manage with no support."

"Families are not having the support and input at critical times when they are struggling and therefore they are suffering relationships breaking down and are under massive stress."

"Issues may get worse due to not being addressed promptly and pressures on vulnerable families are increased."

Q. Which groups of children and young people do you think are most affected by changes to support services?

Base: All who answered this question (217)	n	%
All children	65	30
Children aged 5-16	46	21
Children aged 16+	36	17
Low income families	33	15
Children affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	20	9
Children with additional needs (including SEN & SPD)	18	8
The most vulnerable children and families	18	8
Children aged 0-5	17	8
Children in care	17	8
Children and families statutory services struggle to engage	14	6
Families affected by MHWB issues	12	6
Care leavers	9	4
Children with disabilities	8	4
Families with no/limited support network	8	4
Families affected by substance misuse	7	3
Families and CYP affected by domestic abuse or neglect	6	3
Children in instable care placements	5	2
Lone/single parents	4	2
Young carers	4	2
Families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	4	2
Other	1	*

Poverty

Summary

Over the last year, 70% of respondents (296 of 421) said they had worked with young people or families who had been referred to a food bank or community kitchen, or had applied for welfare provision grants.

The majority of respondents (85%; 253 of 297) reported the number of young people and families needing food banks/welfare provision to be increasing.

The most common reasons given for this increase were:

- Austerity, poverty and changes to the benefits system (69%; 160 of 231)

- Increased living costs (32%)

- Low income and changes to employment (32%).

Forty five per cent of respondents (98 of 220) said an increase in the number of young people and families referred to food banks/community kitchens was impacting on the mental health and wellbeing of young people/families. A third (34%) said it was impacting on school attendance and attainment, and similar proportions that it was impacting on confidence, self-esteem, embarrassment, and shame (31%), and diet (31%).

Half of respondents (50%; 105 of 212) felt low income families were the group of young people and families most affected, followed by 'all children' (24%).

Q. Over the last year, have you worked with any young people or families who have been referred to a food bank/community kitchen or applied for welfare provision grants? e.g. for household appliances and items, applied for emergency loans/payments for essential items (such as shoes, clothing and school uniform) or travel *(n=421)*

Don't know, 48 (11%)

No, 77 (18%)

Yes, 296 (70%)
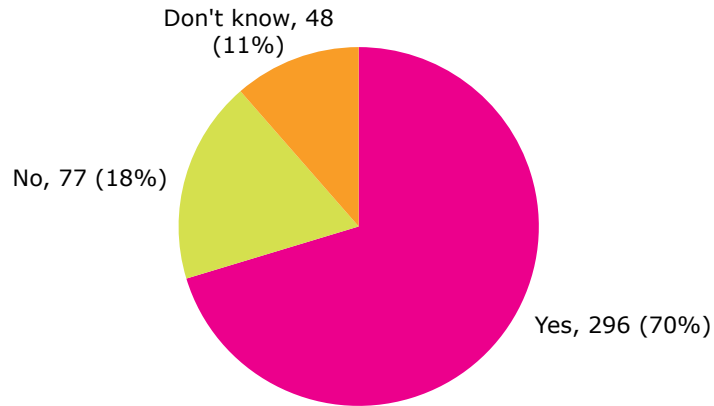
Q. Do you think there is a change in the numbers of young people and families needing food banks/welfare provision? *(n=297)*

Decreasing, 0 (0%)

Don't know, 23 (8%)

Stayed the same, 21 (7%)

Increasing, 253 (85%)
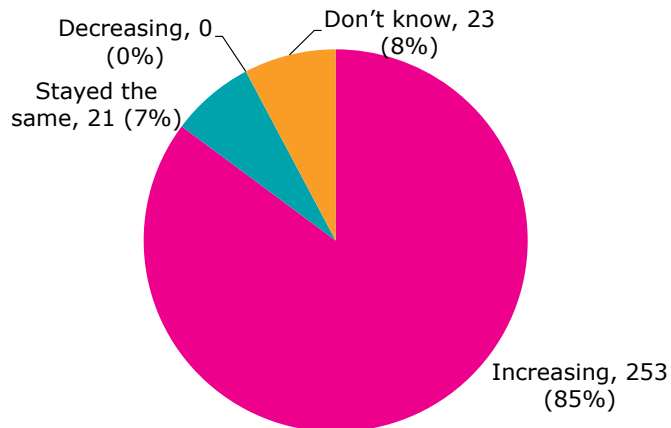
Q. If increasing, why do you think this is?

Base: All who answered this question (231)	n	%
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system (including UC)	160	69
Increased living costs	75	32
Low incomes, incl. employment changes, zero hours contracts, low wages	74	32
Poor budgeting	29	13
Delays in benefit payments	25	11
Debt	15	6
Families affected by substance misuse	15	6
Families are unable to access financial advice	14	6
Increase in mental health and wellbeing issues	9	4
Increased homelessness	5	2
Increase in domestic abuse or neglect	4	2
Lack of support services	2	1
Other	7	3

Austerity, poverty and changes to benefit system (incl. Universal Credit) *(n=160)*

"Austerity, impact of Universal Credit- huge gaps for families where they have nothing to work with. The growing apathy of local government to rely on food banks, when in fact they should be a national shame that families have to even use them. The move towards food banks being adopted by large corporations such as Tesco, when in fact that is moving dangerously toward the US model of food poverty welfare."

"Universal Credit is having a negative impact - easier to be sanctioned and longer waits for payments. Wages are not meeting the increases in cost of living. College bursaries are lower and less accessible."

"The change in benefits structure to Universal Credit has been mentioned by service users. The cost of living is higher than low wages. Low wages and 'borderline' middle incomes make it preferable for some to accept benefits in preference to work."

"Universal Credit and sanctions. People are living in poverty."

Increased living costs *(n=75)*

"People are becoming poorer due to cost of living and receiving no pay rise for years."

"Predominantly price rises (in food etc., public transport, fuel costs, household bills) and benefit cuts/poor system of assessment and payment."

"The cost of living is increasing but wages and benefits are not."

"The cost of living has increased, rent, bills, transport, school uniform costs etc., food and furniture is something readily available to be given to support families. Support for bills and rent arrears are more difficult to obtain."

Low income, changes in employment, zero hours contracts and low wages *(n=74)*

"The change in employment has made a devastating impact in the way families manage their home. Zero hours, as and when hours and non-contracted hours are making a huge contribution to the breakdown in family life."

"Less opportunities for promotion less opportunities for funded education provisions."

"I think people are struggling financially and things are more expensive. Less people in employment and in some cases mental health is a barrier to work."

"Lower paid jobs, zero hours contracts, cost of living increasing."

Poor budgeting *(n=29)*

"Sometimes families are genuine in their need but budgeting and managing the family income is a big concern when we live in a society where it appears you can have it all."

"Families are not able to manage money with Universal credit, bills used to go directly out and now families are expected to manage their own money."

"People not being able to plan for the future as they are constantly in 'survival mode' therefore budgeting becomes increasingly more difficult. Bedroom tax means that people are having to pay more and aren't offered alternative appropriate options."

Delays in benefit payments *(n=25)*

"Benefits being sanctioned, the change to Universal Credit resulting in families waiting for payments."

"Where their Universal Credit payments have either been too low, sanctioned, or delayed."

"Accessing advice and support regarding welfare rights and the amount of time it takes for benefits to be put in place."

Q. What impact is this having on the young people and families that you support (e.g. health, wellbeing, education)?

Base: All who answered this question (220)	n	%
Impacts on mental health and wellbeing	98	45
Poor school attendance/attainment	74	34
Low self-esteem/low self-confidence/shame/embarrassment	69	31
Poor diet	69	31
Impacts on physical health	57	26
Reduced sense of belonging/purpose/hope/motivation	25	11
Negative impacts (generally/all areas)	19	9
Increased isolation and marginalisation/poor social engagement	19	9
Increase in violent, challenging and risk taking behaviour	12	5
Debt	11	5
Increase in domestic abuse or neglect	9	4
Unable to afford clothes	8	4
Children and young people with substance misuse issues	5	2
Criminal exploitation	4	2
Fuel poverty	3	1
Other	11	5

Impacts on MHWB *(n=98)*

"Their mental health, aspirations and ambitions. Lack of drive to get move out of benefit support Due to mental health issues, I have noticed more young people not completing education."

"It affects everything, their whole life, and their opportunities. Their health can decline, they leave education to get a job, and their wellbeing is affected as they are under stress and develop mental health problems."

"Negative impact on mental health, more children not receiving a healthy diet which has an impact on physical and emotional wellbeing."

Poor school attendance/attainment *(n=74)*

"Children are not being able to concentrate fully in school."

"The child is going to school unkempt, hungry and this is affecting her education/learning within school."

"Many young people are missing school this can be due to them falling behind in work. Are teachers not recognizing "bad behaviour" can be a young person in distress?"

Low self-esteem/low self-confidence/shame/embarrassment *(n=69)*

"Overall, a big impact- creates a culture of shame, many families do not wish to accept hand-outs or charity."

"Feeling of loss of hope and humiliation also becoming normalized."

"CYP feeling embarrassed about not being able to afford things. CYP not able to engage in social activities, impacting on relationships with peers."

Poor diet *(n=69)*

"Parents are struggling and it has a negative effect on their wellbeing. Health wise, they cannot afford to eat healthily or cook healthy meals to give to their children."

"More children appear to be living in poverty & requiring support via food donated to children's centres by supermarkets, their health is at risk of being affected due to lack of nutrition."

"More families being hungry and in need of nutrition, this affects their self-esteem, health and education as they are less likely to achieve."

Impacts on physical health *(n=57)*

"Having a major impact on health and wellbeing. This can be seen through children's emotional regulation and responses, damaging health issues which will carry through into their future and lack of at least one nutritional meal per day."

"Families are far more stretched financially, having to scrape back where they can which in addition is increasing stress levels, effecting both physical and mental health."

"They are going without gas/electricity to get food instead. The food is not of a high nutrition value so they are becoming ill."

Reduced sense of belonging to society/purpose/hope/motivation *(n=25)*

"Lots of YP I work with are NEET. They have no healthy motivational factors because of this and therefore their vulnerability of grooming is increased."

"There is a cycle of neglect and economic poverty which is now beginning to form. Some children as a result now have little or very low ambitions for themselves and will often self sabotage as they cannot manage failure nor stepping out of the social morns within their community and peers."

"Low morale and individuals turning to alternatives to keep up with others."

Q. Which groups of young people and families do you think are most affected?

Base: All who answered this question (212)	n	%
Low income families	105	50
All children	51	24
Lone/single parents	15	7
Children with disabilities	14	7
Families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	14	7
Families affected by substance use	12	6
The most vulnerable children and families	12	6
Care leavers	10	5
Migrants, asylum seekers and new communities	8	4
Families and CYP affected by domestic abuse or neglect	7	3
Families who do not have a strong support network	7	3
Families with multiple children	6	3
Children aged 16+	6	3
Children aged 0-5	6	3
Young people who are living independently/young parents	6	3
Children affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	5	2
Children and families affected by homelessness	3	1
Children with additional needs (incl. SEN & SPD)	3	1
Children in care	2	1
Children aged 5-16	2	1
CYP with protected characteristics (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities)	2	1
Young carers	2	1
Children impacted by trauma	2	1
Other	3	1

Funding Cuts to Children's Services

Summary

The majority of respondents (83%; 348 of 420) felt that children's services funding cuts have affected the children, young people, and families they work with.

Funding cuts were viewed to have had greatest impact on:

- A lack of available support (26%; 81 of 310)

- A lack of early intervention and prevention (17%)

- Service quality (11%)

- Support not being available at the right time (11%).

A third of respondents (33%; 91 of 278) said 'all children, young people, and families' were most affected by funding cuts to children's services. Twenty three percent viewed low income families to be most impacted, and 6% viewed children with disabilities; children with additional needs; and, families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues to be most affected.

Q. Have the cuts in funding for children's services affected the children, young people and families that you work with? *(n=420)*

Don't know, 62 (15%)

No, 10 (2%)

Yes, 348 (83%)
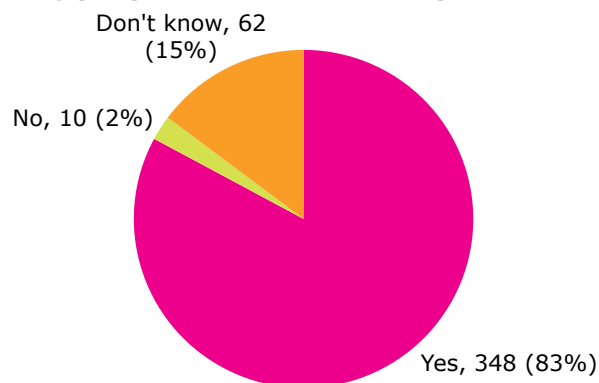
Q. What impact are cuts having on the children, young people and families that you support?

Base: All who answered this question (310)	*n*	*%*
Lack of support (non-specific)	81	26
Lack of early intervention/prevention	54	17
Reduced quality of service (e.g. less time to spend with CYP & families)	34	11
Support not available at right time (delays/waiting lists)	33	11
Increased sense of hopelessness/frustration from families	30	10
Lack of support network/social isolation	27	9
Families, children, and young people who do not meet the thresholds	21	7
Lack of parenting/early years support (incl. closing Children's Centres)	21	7
Higher levels of risk	19	6
Impacts on life outcomes (crime/health/education)	18	6
Increase in mental health and wellbeing issues	16	5
Impacts access to basic needs (access to food, housing, benefits, etc.)	16	5
Pressure on staff	15	5
Lack of support for mental health	14	5
Lack of activities/clubs for young people	14	5
Families cannot afford to pay for activities	13	4
Reduced respite/placements/support for foster carers	13	4
Lack of specialist support	13	4
Lack of universal services	10	3
Other	3	1

Lack of support (non-specific) *(n=81)*

"Not enough services to support families."

"Families are reaching breaking point as the services available are limited. They have children and young people who are difficult to manage and there is no support out there for them."

"Less resource and what resource is left is heavily over subscribed."

"Lack of support or service to refer to that offer the support the family need. As well as family not getting the amount of visits and help they need."

Lack of early intervention/prevention *(n=54)*

"Lack of early intervention provision is having an impact. We are seeing a number of children staring school who have not been potty trained and who have speech and language difficulties. Problems within families are not being picked up early enough due to restricted funding of children's services. Social workers have huge caseloads and are very often unable to provide the support that families need."

"Lifeline services have been cut early intervention work has been cut meaning more families going into crisis."

"Reduced provision in services and facilities and the time to listen to concerns and provide early interventions."

Reduced quality of service (e.g. less time to spend with CYP & families) *(n=34)*

"The amount of support they get from their social worker or PA is reduced. The social worker/PA has a large caseload so therefore cannot spend time with them doing small tasks (e.g. registering with a GP, attended appointments, etc.). My caseload all have no extended family for support to do these things."

"Staff has limited time to do a lot. When working with a large group of parents and only one staff to support this group. The parents who may need more support may not be picked up."

"We do not have the staff or the time to be able to support the families in a way that we want to."

Support not available at right time (delays/waiting lists) *(n=33)*

"Support is reduced, often leaving families without a social worker for prolonged periods of time."

"Longer waiting times for help, higher thresholds for help."

"Families are finding waiting lists longer especially with the NHS, paediatricians, speech and language. All areas are affected by the cuts the government is making."

Increased sense of hopelessness/frustration from families *(n=30)*

"Longer wait for services. Increasing feelings of isolation and hopelessness."

"Higher levels of frustration, feelings of helplessness for parents/carers, problems escalate."

"They feel unsupported and lost."

Lack of support network/social isolation *(n=27)*

"Families are exhausted, children/ young people being isolated."

"Not able to provide the support we used to, lost experienced staff due to lack of funding. Unable to provide collaborative group interventions in communities where parents are isolated."

Families and CYP who do not meet the thresholds *(n=21)*

"Thresholds for services going up leading to the threshold for social services getting higher leading to services at a preventative level having to try and manage cases that may be beyond what they would usually be expected to deal with."

"Only those who are really high up on threshold get a service - for Youth Justice (whom we work with) it means only high rated offenders get a service whereas it used to include some who needed the service more on a welfare basis."

"There are stricter guidelines and thresholds in place which mean that people who need low-level or intermittent support are not able to access this as they don't meet the criteria for services which can now only afford to support people with high-needs/frequent crises occurring."

Lack of parenting/early years support (including closing Children's Centres) *(n=21)*

"The fact that we have closed down community children's centre, means that some families find it hard to access support."

"Very limited support services available, lack of drop in groups/stay & play facilities."

"Lack of services, especially the cuts to local children's centres have meant that there are areas where people have no access to support services, nothing in a walkable 'pram pushing' distance. We talk about Early Intervention but take away funding, but increase the expectations of what those services left will deliver."

Q. Which groups of children, young people and families do you think are most affected?

Base: All who answered this question (278)

	n	%
All children/parents	91	33
Low income families	65	23
Children with disabilities	18	6
Children with additional needs (incl. SEN & SPD)	18	6
Families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	18	6
Children aged 0-5	15	5
The most vulnerable children and families	13	5
Care leavers	12	4
Children impacted by trauma and by ACEs	11	4
Children in care	11	4
Families with limited/no support network	10	4
Children affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	9	3
Children and families statutory services struggle to engage	9	3
Families affected by substance misuse	9	3
Children aged 5-16	6	2
Refugee and asylum seekers	6	2
Young carers	6	2
Families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	4	1
Children who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	2	1
Other	19	7

Domestic Abuse

Summary

Over the last year, three quarters of respondents (76%; 312 of 413) supported children, young people and/or parents who have experienced domestic abuse.

- 93% (270 of 290) supported people who experienced domestic abuse in their families

- 79% (211 of 266) supported people who experienced domestic abuse in intimate relationships.

Three quarters of respondents (76%; 223 of 293) work as part of a multi-agency approach to domestic abuse in their area.

Two in five respondents (42%; 124 of 295) reported noticing changes in availability of the provision of specialist support services for domestic abuse in their area. The most commonly noticed changes included:

- Less support (30%; 36 of 122)

- Reduced funding (20%)

- New services offered (10%)

- Longer waiting lists (10%).

Respondents felt that change in the provision of domestic abuse services had resulted in:

- No or less support for children and young people (45%; 45 of 100)

- Increased risk of domestic violence and/or ongoing violence (24%)

- Improved lives for children, young people and parents (20%).

A quarter of respondents (24%; 20 of 85) said that 'all of society', and 'families, children and young people affected by domestic abuse' (24%) are most affected by changes in provision of services, and 15% said 'all children' are most affected.

Q. Over the last year, have you supported children, young people and/or parents who have experienced domestic abuse? *(n=413)*

Don't know, 45 (11%)

No, 56 (14%)

Yes, 312 (76%)
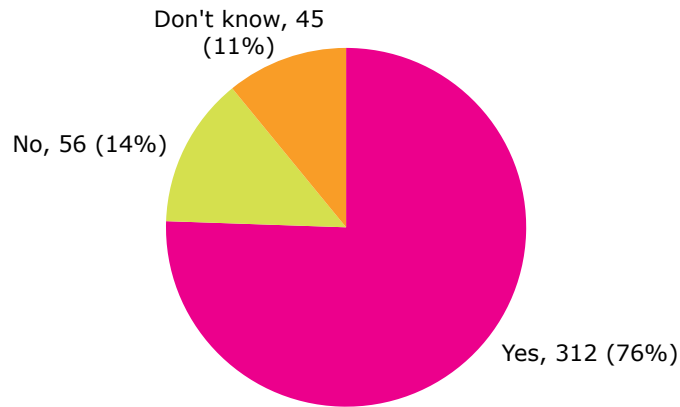
Q. Was this supporting people who experienced domestic abuse...?

a. ... in their families *(n=290)*

b. ... in intimate relationships *(n=266)*

20 (7%)

a

270 (93%)

55 (21%)

b

211 (79%)

■ Yes
■ No
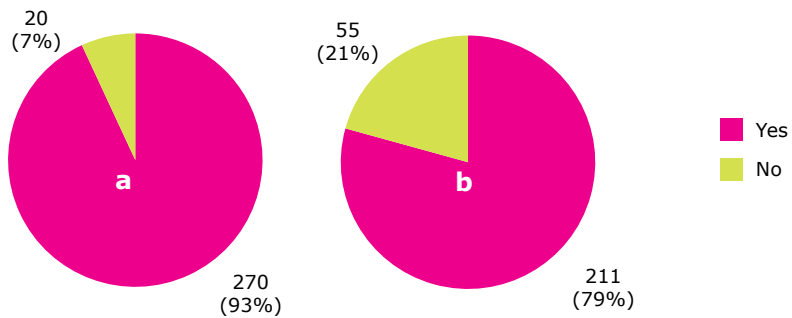
Q. If yes, do you work as part of a multi-agency approach to domestic abuse in your area? *(n=293)*

No, 70 (24%)

Yes, 223 (76%)
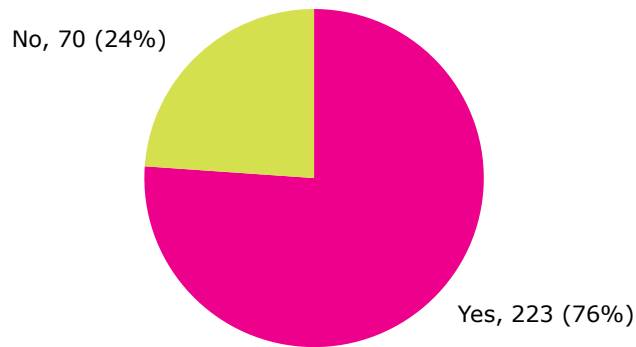
Q. Have you noticed any changes in availability of the provision of specialist support services for domestic abuse in your area? *(n=295)*

Yes, 124 (42%)

No, 171 (58%)

Q. If yes, please explain your answer

Base: All who answered this question (122)	n	%
Less support/less services	36	30
Reduced funding	24	20
New services are offered	12	10
Longer waiting lists	12	10
Decrease in staff	9	7
Less support to children and young people	9	7
Improved/better services	7	6
Less programmes for perpetrators	4	3
Less support to male victims	4	3
No partnership	3	2
Less housing/housing support	2	2
Lack of post-abuse support	2	2
Domestic abuse not taken seriously/acted on	2	2
Lack of early intervention	2	2
Other	10	8

Less support/less services *(n=36)*

"GDASS have stopped running their program in our area and many people can't or won't travel to the service."

"Local Women's Aid closed which impacted on adults and children significantly."

Reduced funding *(n=24)*

"Lack of funding for specialised intervention services, Children's Services often unable to get funding requests approved for referrals."

"Us as a service in conjunction with a domestic abuse charity use to offer a support group to victims of domestic abuse. However this charity has lost it funding so no longer able to support this group and it had to be cancelled. Leaving us nothing to offer at this present time."

New services are offered *(n=12)*

"Our in-house service has developed and continues to develop."

"Very recently in Hampshire the support services have been reviewed and a new model is being tested."

Longer waiting lists *(n=12)*

"Women's Aid has expanded but don't appear to be keeping up with demand, i.e. waiting list for Safe As is 8-12 months."

"Specialist services have longer wait times."

Q. What impact do you think change in provision re domestic abuse services is this having on the children, young people and parents that you support?

Base: All who answered this question (100)	n	%
No or less support for children/young people	45	45
More at risk of domestic violence/ongoing violence	24	24
Improved lives for children, young people, and parents	20	20
Increase in mental health and wellbeing issues for CYP	13	13
Lack of early intervention/prevention	6	6
Lack of expert support	5	5
Inability to build trusting relationships	2	2
Other	6	6

No or less support for children/young people *(n=45)*

"Although attitudes are changing there are still nowhere near enough services or support for young people who are experiencing DV at home or who find themselves in coercive relationships."

"With there only being two workers I feel that a lot of children and young people in domestic violence are being missed. In reality this then will have a knock on effect for young people coming into care later. Again early intervention will help to combat this."

"There are no DA services in our area that support children."

More at risk of domestic violence/ongoing violence *(n=24)*

"Issues are not being addressed, therefore are likely to recur. Families are being uprooted and having to move because of risk within the community and victims have nowhere safe to go, so stay where they are. Children have absolutely no voice in most local authorities as there are no specific DA support services for children."

"Increases isolation of living with DA. Increases the risk of harm from DA now and in the future. Increases the likelihood of future harm to YP and vulnerabilities to being exploited."

Improved lives for children, young people, and parents *(n=20)*

"Improving lives. Giving support and raising awareness. Healthy Relationships teaching in schools being delivered is helping too."

"Hopefully positive as more parents are having the opportunity for support."

"The increase in provision is helping to build self-esteem and confidence in parents who have been affected by Domestic Abuse. This will have a positive effect on the whole family by increasing their resilience."

Increase in mental health and wellbeing issues for CYP *(n=13)*

"A lack of support is having a negative effect on the emotional wellbeing of the children"
"Children and young people in these situations are often being raised without a stable home which can have a spiralling effect on their behaviour (school and community) and mental health."

Q. Which groups do you think are most affected by changes in local support?

Base: All who answered this question (85)	*n*	*%*
All society	20	24
Families, children and young people affected by domestic abuse	20	24
All children	13	15
All families	11	13
Low income families	10	12
The most vulnerable children and families	7	8
Women/mothers	7	8
Isolated families	4	5
Teenagers and children aged 16+	4	5
Children in and leaving care	4	5
Children with disabilities	3	4
Families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	3	4
Young parents	2	2
Young carers	2	2
Lone/single parents	2	2
Refugees and asylum seekers	2	2
Children aged 0-5	2	2
Other	1	1

School Holiday Concerns for Families

Summary

A little over half of respondents (53%; 216 of 406) stated they are working with families who are worried about the school holidays.

Four in five respondents (79%; 169 of 214) felt families' main concerns were around money, 64% felt families' main concerns were around lack of support services, and 62% felt main concerns were around childcare.

Forty five per cent of respondents (85 of 189) said low income families are most affected by concerns around the school holidays, 21% said all families are most affected, and 12% said families with children with disabilities are most affected.

Q. Are you working with families who are worried about the school holidays? *(n=406)*

Don't know, 85 (21%)

Yes, 216 (53%)

No, 105 (26%)

Q. What are their main concerns? (*n=214*)

Concern	Value
Money	169 (79%)
Lack of support services	137 (64%)
Childcare	133 (62%)
Nothing to do	131 (61%)
Lack of routine	128 (60%)
Loneliness	59 (28%)
Other	36 (17%)
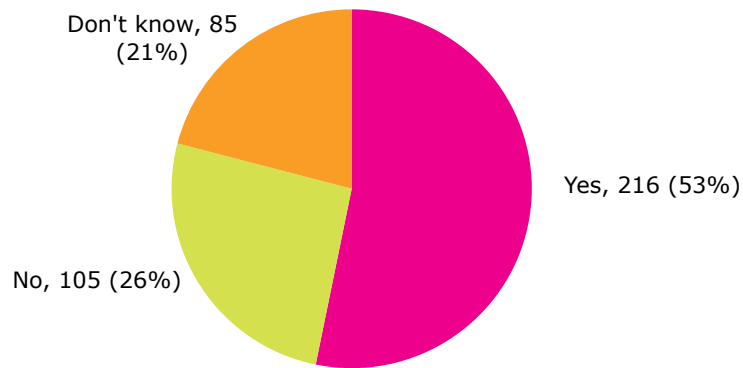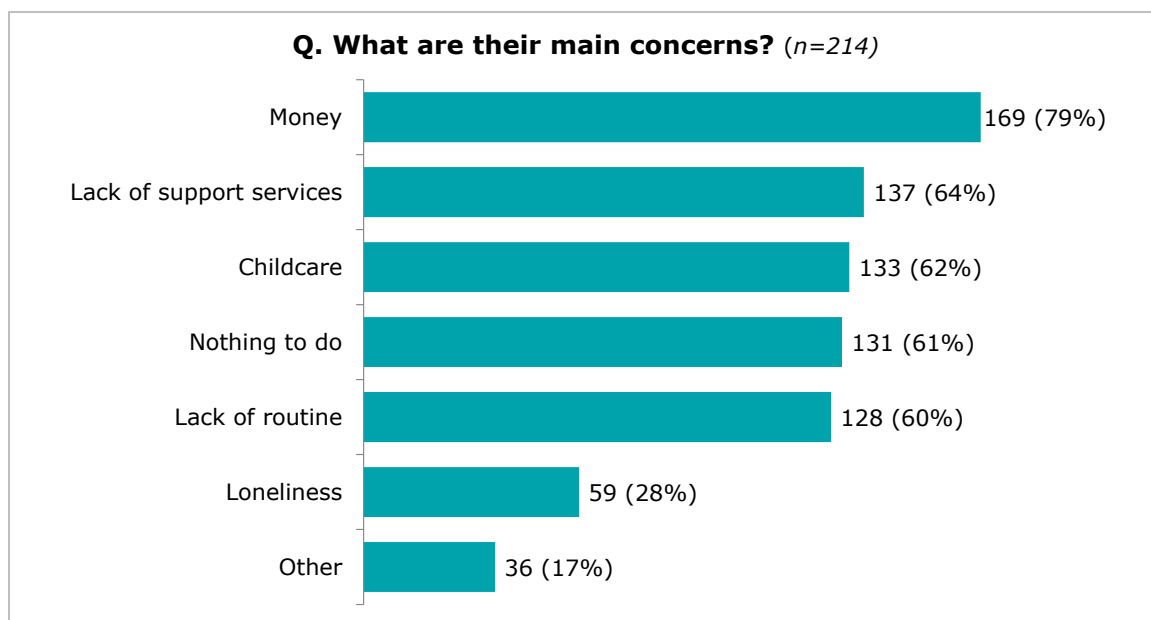
'Other' responses to 'concerns' include...

Base: All who answered this question (37)	n	%
Parents struggling to manage children's behaviour	14	38
Children struggle without routine/structure to the day	6	16
No activities or care for children with additional needs	6	16
Insufficient money to feed children/family	6	16
Concerns about safety	4	11
Insufficient money to access activities	4	11
Juggling work and childcare/unable to take time off work	4	11
Lack of space/facilities for children and young people	2	5
Stress/Mental Health	2	5
Other	3	8

Parents struggling to manage children's behaviour *(n=14)*

"Behaviour becomes a lot more challenging over the holidays and parents can struggle to cope."

Children struggling without a routine/structure to the day *(n=6)*

"Many of the children we support respond well to routine and structure. School holidays disrupt this and many children struggle to cope with the lack of routine."

No activities or childcare for children with additional needs *(n=6)*

"Struggle to get childcare or school activities for children with SEND."

Insufficient money to feed children/family *(n=6)*

"Families struggling to feed children the meals that they would usually get at school."

Concerns about safety *(n=4)*

"Concerns over where their children will be during the hours they would normally be in school - families are concerned that their children will be at more risk as they have nowhere safe to 'play out'."

Insufficient money to access activities *(n=4)*

"Summer holidays can be a stressful time for families as they have no extra money in their budget and often state there is nowhere to take children that doesn't cost money."

Juggling work and childcare/unable to take time off work *(n=4)*

"No child care for working parents ... this proves a huge strain on the whole family and often leads to parents leaving their place of work adding to financial, emotional and mental burden of the family."

Q. Which families do you think are most affected?

Base: All who answered this question (189)	n	%
Low income families	85	45
All families	39	21
Children with disabilities	22	12
Children with additional needs	19	10
Families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	18	10
Lone/single parents	18	10
Working parents	17	9
Families who do not have strong support network	15	8
Families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	11	6
Families with young children	8	4
Unemployed families	7	4
Adoptive/foster carer families/children in care	7	4
Those living in rural areas	6	3
Young carers	3	2
Families with older children	3	2
Care leavers	2	1
Other	2	1

"Those families who are on low incomes are increasingly vulnerable during periods of school holidays due to having to provide additional meals for children who would normally receive free school meals. There is also pressure on families to take children on holidays, to activities or outings all of which have a financial impact on their budgets."

"Families with children who have additional needs find the holidays particularly challenging in terms of childcare and finding suitable activities for their children, as they are unable to access regular holiday clubs etc."

"Single parent and lower income families mostly affected. However, all working families raise concerns about child care provision and support over the holiday periods."

APPENDIX A: Regional Breakdowns – Emerging vulnerabilities

Q. How would you say issues for children, young people and families have changed since you started working with children, young people and families?

Cymru *(n=26)*	n	%
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	7	27
Increased impact of digital	6	23
Less support/fewer resources	6	23

East *(n=57)*	n	%
Less support/fewer resources	17	30
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	12	21
Issues worsened/more complex	11	19

London *(n=17)*	n	%
Less support/fewer resources	5	29
Issues worsened/more complex	4	24
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system/ housing/homelessness	2	12
Increased impact of digital	2	12
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	2	12
Increasing CSE/A	2	12

Midlands and South West *(n=60)*	n	%
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system/ housing/homelessness	14	23
Increased impact of digital	12	20
Less support/fewer resources	11	18

Northern Ireland *(n=36)*	n	%
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	19	53
Increased impact of digital	12	33
Less support/fewer resources	6	17

Scotland *(n=56)*	n	%
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system/ housing/homelessness	16	29
Less support/fewer resources	15	27
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	11	20

South East and Anglia *(n=93)*	n	%
Less support/fewer resources	35	38
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	22	24
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system/housing/homelessness	14	15

West *(n=57)*	n	%
Increase in MHWB issues among children and families	15	26
Less support/fewer resources	15	26
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system/ housing/homelessness	14	25

Q. Why do you think this is changing?

Cymru (n=22)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	10	45
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	7	32
Negative impact of digital	6	27

East (n=53)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	28	53
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	13	25
Negative impact of digital	10	19

London (n=17)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	9	53
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	3	18
Negative impact of digital	3	18

Midlands and South West (n=59)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	28	47
Negative impact of digital	17	29
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	12	20

Northern Ireland (n=33)	n	%
Negative impact of digital	18	55
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	8	24
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	4	12

Scotland (n=47)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	24	51
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	12	26
Negative impact of digital	8	17

South East and Anglia (n=79)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	41	52
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	17	22
Negative impact of digital	16	20

West (n=52)	n	%
Systemic lack of resources, stretched or non-existent support	29	56
Negative impact of digital	11	21
Due to austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	10	19

Q. What is your biggest concern now for children, young people and families?

Cymru (n=29)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	11	44
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	8	32
Impact of digital	4	16

East (n=59)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	23	39
Increase in MHWB issues	11	19
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	10	17

London (n=18)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	7	39
Increase in MHWB issues	4	22
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	4	22

Midlands and South West (n=65)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	31	48
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	10	15
Impact of digital	8	12
Increase of MHWB issues	8	12

Northern Ireland (n=37)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	11	30
Increase in MHWB issues	10	27
Impact of digital	8	22

Scotland (n=57)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	32	56
Increase in MHWB issues	14	25
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	13	23

South East and Anglia (n=94)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	47	50
Increase in MHWB issues	17	18
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	17	18

West (n=58)	n	%
Lack of support and resources	27	47
Increase in MHWB issues	16	28
Austerity/poverty/changes to benefits system	11	19

Q. Which groups of children, young people and families do you think are most affected by the concerns you raised above?

Cymru *(n=24)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	11	46
Low income families	5	21
Children with disabilities	2	8
The most vulnerable children and families	2	8
Young carers	2	8
East *(n=57)*	*n*	*%*
Low income families	16	28
All children/families	15	26
Children affected by MHWB issues	7	12
London *(n=18)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	4	22
Low income families	4	22
Young carers	2	11
Midlands and South West *(n=63)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	24	38
Low income families	14	22
Children aged 0-5	10	16
Northern Ireland *(n=37)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	16	43
Low income families	7	19
Parental substance misuse	4	11
Scotland *(n=55)*	*n*	*%*
Low income families	21	38
All children/families	14	25
Children affected by MHWB issues	5	9
Children in care	5	9
Teenagers and children aged 16+	5	9
South East and Anglia *(n=94)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	32	34
Low income families	21	22
The most vulnerable children and families	12	13
West *(n=57)*	*n*	*%*
All children/families	16	28
Low income families	10	18
Care leavers	6	11
The most vulnerable children and families	6	11

APPENDIX B: Regional Breakdowns – Knife crime and criminal exploitation

Q. Over the last year, have you worked with children and young people who are carrying knives on a regular basis?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	6	20	16	53	8	27	30
East	7	11	37	60	18	29	62
London	4	21	14	74	1	5	19
Midlands & South West	11	16	45	64	14	20	70
Northern Ireland	4	11	27	71	7	18	38
Scotland	8	13	38	61	16	26	62
South East & Anglia	14	14	73	71	16	16	103
West	13	21	36	57	14	22	63

APPENDIX C: Regional Breakdowns – Mental health and wellbeing

Q. Over the last year have you supported any children, young people or parents with mental health and wellbeing issues?

Region	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	30	100	0	0	0	0	30
East	57	92	5	8	0	0	62
London	17	89	2	11	0	0	19
Midlands & South West	68	99	1	1	0	0	69
Northern Ireland	35	95	1	3	1	3	37
Scotland	57	97	2	3	0	0	59
South East & Anglia	94	97	3	3	0	0	97
West	61	100	0	0	0	0	61

Q. Have you noticed any changes in... The types of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	20	71	8	29	0	0	28
East	40	74	14	26	0	0	54
London	12	71	5	29	0	0	17
Midlands & South West	45	69	20	31	0	0	65
Northern Ireland	30	88	4	12	0	0	34
Scotland	40	73	15	27	0	0	55
South East & Anglia	70	77	21	23	0	0	91
West	51	88	7	12	0	0	58

Q. Have you noticed any changes in... The severity or frequency of mental health problems children and young people are experiencing?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	21	75	7	25	0	0	28
East	46	85	8	15	0	0	54
London	13	76	4	24	0	0	17
Midlands & South West	55	85	10	15	0	0	65
Northern Ireland	32	97	1	3	0	0	33
Scotland	42	79	11	21	0	0	53
South East & Anglia	82	89	10	11	0	0	92
West	53	90	6	10	0	0	59

Q. Have you noticed any changes in... The groups of children and young people who are experiencing mental health problems?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Cymru	16	59	11	41	0	0	27
East	33	62	20	38	0	0	53
London	10	59	7	41	0	0	17
Midlands & South West	40	65	22	35	0	0	62
Northern Ireland	29	88	4	12	0	0	33
Scotland	29	56	23	44	0	0	52
South East & Anglia	58	64	33	36	0	0	91
West	39	67	19	33	0	0	58

APPENDIX D: Regional Breakdowns – Poverty

Q. Over the last year, have you worked with any young people or families who have been referred to a food bank/community kitchen or applied for welfare provision grants?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Cymru	24	83	4	14	1	3	29
East	42	71	9	15	8	14	59
London	10	53	6	32	3	16	19
Midlands & South West	54	82	9	14	3	5	66
Northern Ireland	25	69	7	19	4	11	36
Scotland	36	63	14	25	7	12	57
South East & Anglia	60	65	19	20	14	15	93
West	45	75	7	12	8	13	60

APPENDIX E: Regional Breakdowns – Funding cuts to children's services

Q. Have the cuts in funding for children's services affected the children, young people and families that you work with?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	27	96	0	0	1	4	28
East	47	80	1	2	11	19	59
London	18	95	0	0	1	5	19
Midlands & South West	54	83	3	5	8	12	65
Northern Ireland	28	78	2	6	6	17	36
Scotland	39	68	2	4	16	28	57
South East & Anglia	80	85	0	0	14	15	94
West	53	88	2	3	5	8	60

APPENDIX F: Regional Breakdowns – Domestic abuse

Q. Over the last year, have you supported children, young people and/or parents who have experienced domestic abuse?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*
Cymru	24	86	0	0	4	14	28
East	43	73	11	19	5	8	59
London	12	67	4	22	2	11	18
Midlands & South West	53	85	6	10	3	5	62
Northern Ireland	22	63	6	17	7	20	35
Scotland	44	77	7	12	6	11	57
South East & Anglia	68	74	13	14	11	12	92
West	44	73	9	15	7	12	60

APPENDIX G: Regional Breakdowns – School holiday concerns for families

Q. Are you working with families who are worried about the school holidays?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total Responses
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
Cymru	12	43	9	32	7	25	28
East	23	39	15	25	21	36	59
London	10	56	4	22	4	22	18
Midlands & South West	39	64	15	25	7	11	61
Northern Ireland	17	52	7	21	9	27	33
Scotland	30	53	19	33	8	14	57
South East & Anglia	52	58	20	22	18	20	90
West	33	57	14	24	11	19	58