

Barnardo's Practitioner Survey Full Results

Wave 4: 6 April – 21 April 2020

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Introduction

This report presents the results for the fourth 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 6 – 21 April 2020.

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 0.5%

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

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCE	Child criminal exploitation
CP	Child protection
CSA/E	Child sexual abuse/exploitation
CYP	Children and young people
DA	Domestic abuse
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FSM	Free school meals
GP	General practitioner
LA	Local authority
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex +
MH	Mental health
MHWB	Mental health and wellbeing
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
PA	Personal adviser
PPE	Personal protective equipment
SEN	Special educational needs
SPD	Sensory Processing Disorder
UC	Universal Credit
YP	Young people

Overview of Issues for Children, Young People and Families

The most common concerns during this period were around mental health, lack of support and resources, isolation and loneliness, and poverty/changes to benefits. These were mentioned both with regards to Covid-19, and without mention of Covid-19. Loneliness was mentioned more frequently than in previous waves of the survey, as well as education concerns and boredom as a result of Covid-19. There were also more concerns about 'violent or challenging behaviours', rather than youth violence or child criminal exploitation, compared to previous waves. Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families, and 'access to technology' were also frequently mentioned as key concerns. For the groups affected by key concerns, low income families, and children with additional needs such as autism and ADHD were frequently mentioned. Families affected by domestic abuse and families with mental health issues were also more likely to be mentioned than in previous waves.

In terms of impact of Covid-19 specifically, practitioners frequently said that children wanted 'things to do' and more social contact, whereas parents were asking for activities for children, and financial support. Practitioners said that their main concerns specifically as a result of Covid-19 were the impacts on mental health and wellbeing, isolation & loneliness, financial concerns, risks of increase in domestic abuse, lack of direct professional contact with children and young people, family conflict, and educational concerns. This again highlights that domestic abuse has become much more of a concern for practitioners, as this does not usually feature within the top 10 concerns. Children, young people, and families affected by domestic abuse were also most commonly mentioned as a 'hidden' group affected by Covid-19.

In terms of what can be done by decision makers, funding for mental health support was most frequently mentioned. Ensuring people have 'basic essentials' (e.g. food), improving financial support for children, young people and families, clear guidance/information, and a plan for support for post-lockdown were also frequently mentioned. Relaxing restrictions and tougher lockdown measures were mentioned almost equally. In terms of what Barnardo's could do, the most frequent responses were to continue to support children, young people and families, provide support remotely, influence government and decision-makers, better partnership working, advertise services more, and signposting or sharing of information and resources for families.

There were also examples of positive ways families were dealing with the crisis including having more family time, keeping active, home learning, playing, and supporting each other and their community.

This report also includes the findings from more detailed questions with regards to schools, children in care, care leavers, mental health, safeguarding and poverty, highlighting the importance of working with partners and parents to mitigate risks, and understanding the specific concerns of different groups, such as those in care who are unable to have face to face contact with their birth families, carers struggling to reinforce government restrictions, and accommodation concerns for care leavers. The final section of the report presents findings on what services are doing differently – primarily focusing on maintaining levels of service within the restrictions of face to face contact, and the impact of this change (both positive and negative).

Key stats:

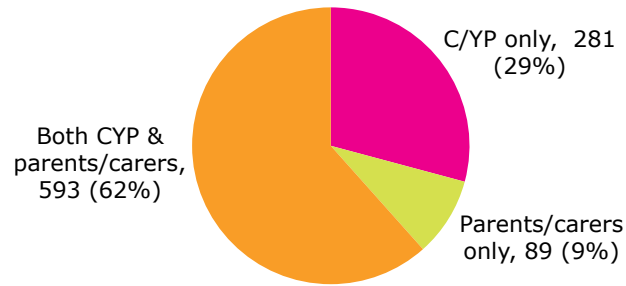
- 23% of practitioners (148 of 637) are supporting someone who has symptoms suspected to be associated with Covid-19
- 83% of practitioners (512 of 617) who told us what children and families are concerned about cite 'reduced social contact' as a concern, followed by 'boredom' (76%; 471 of 617), and 'impact on mental health' (75%; 464 of 617)
- On a scale of 1-10, in terms of the risks to children and families, 20% of practitioners (98 of 498) rate the direct impact of getting Covid-19 as 9 or 10, out of 10 (where 10 is significant threat). However, 37% (191 of 517) report the indirect impacts, such as lockdown as 9 or 10, out of 10
- 71% of practitioners (417 of 589) are supporting someone with regards to their **mental health** – 54% (314 of 589) report supporting children with regards to their mental health, and 47% (278 of 589) report supporting parents
- 35% of practitioners supporting someone with regards to their mental health (141 of 339) feel they do *not* have the support/resources to support children, young people, and families with their mental health at this time
- 69% of practitioners (425 of 615) are providing support to someone reporting an *increase* in mental health issues due to the Covid-19 crisis – 48% (296 of 615) report supporting children in this regard, and 54% (330 of 615) report supporting parents

- The most commonly cited issues increasing as a result of Covid-19, relate to anxiety and sleep dysregulation – for children, while for parents, the most commonly cited issues are around anxiety and stress
- The single biggest concern in terms of the effect of Covid-19 on mental health is 'reduced social contact' (cited by 26% of practitioners; 152 of 589), and concerns about 'getting Covid-19' (15%; 89 of 589), followed by reduced ability to access support available (14%; 81 of 589)
- 35% of practitioners (208 of 596) are supporting someone they have **safeguarding** concerns about
- 27% of practitioners supporting someone they have safeguarding concerns about (54 of 197) say they do *not* feel they have the support/resources to support CYP/families where there are safeguarding issues at this time
- 48% (226 of 473) of those reporting changes in casework relating to safeguarding report young people or families refusing contact due to self-isolation, and 47% (223 of 473) report increased issues around parenting concerns, while 45% (213 of 473) report a decrease in referrals due to schools and health services having less contact
- 8% of practitioners (50 of 589) know of children/young people being turned away from support they are entitled to
- 47% of practitioners (273 of 585) are supporting someone in, or at risk of being in, **poverty**
- 35% of practitioners (88 of 254) supporting young people or families in or at risk of poverty say they feel they do *not* have the support/resources to support families experiencing poverty at this time
- 75% of those reporting issues around poverty say they are supporting young people or families who have experienced reduced income due to job losses/reduced hours (302 of 405), 45% report increased need for financial support/grants (183 of 405), and 40% are supporting young people or families with difficulties accessing foodbanks (163 of 405)
- 26% of practitioners (131 of 499) report considering **making long term changes** based on how services are currently being run differently

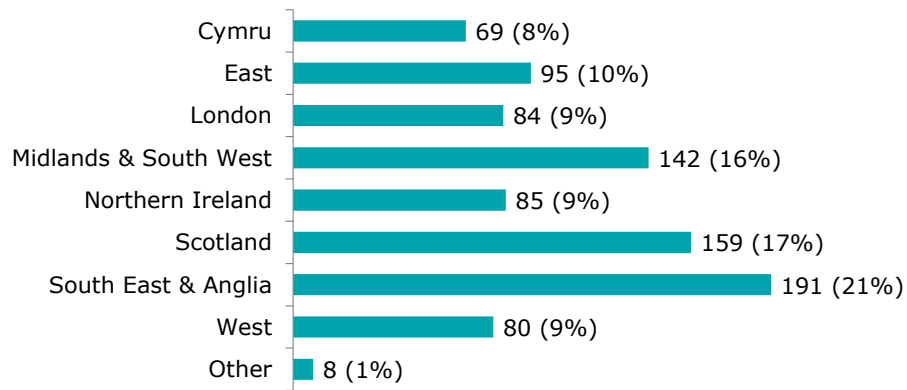
Sample Overview

Sample overview		
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Service users supported (<i>n</i>=963)		
Children/young people	281	29
Parents/carers	89	9
Both	593	62
Region (<i>n</i>=913)		
Cymru	69	8
East	95	10
London	84	9
Midlands & South West	142	16
Northern Ireland	85	9
Scotland	159	17
South East & Anglia	191	21
West	80	9
Other	8	1
Service type (<i>n</i>=912)		
Youth Work	79	9
Employment, Training and Skills (ETS)	31	3
Care Leavers/Accommodation Support	86	9
Advocacy, Children's Rights and Participation	115	13
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	38	4
Child Protection	189	21
Child Abuse and Exploitation	155	17
Looked After Children	177	19
Education	136	15
Disability/Health	131	14
Mental Health	223	24
Family Support Services	242	27
Early Support	333	37
Other	6	1
Length of time working with CYP/families (<i>n</i>=907)		
Less than 1 year	112	12
1-2 years	104	11
3-5 years	115	13
More than 5 years	576	64

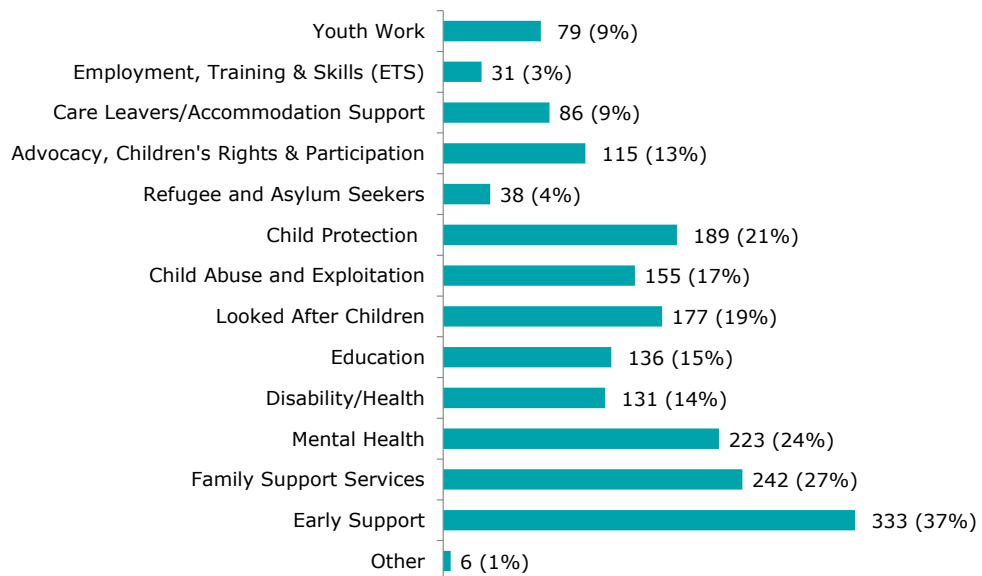
Q. Do you work directly with...? (n=963)



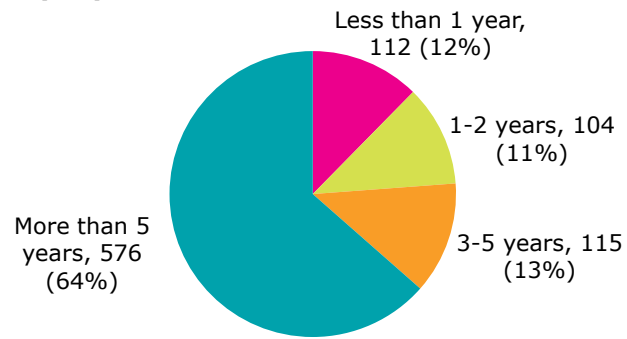
Q. Please tell us which nation or region you work in (n=913)



Q. What type of support does your service provide? (n=912)



Q. How long have you been working directly with children, young people and/or families? (n=907)



Emerging Vulnerabilities

Summary

Respondents were asked whether they have seen any new issues emerging, or heard new things, from children, young people and families, over the last few months. The most commonly cited issues relate to an 'increase in mental health and wellbeing issues' (cited by 16% of practitioners; 99 of 625), followed by a 'lack of support and resources', 'poverty and changes to the benefits system', and an 'increase in mental health and wellbeing issues due to Covid-19' (each cited by 9% of practitioners).

The biggest concern now for children, young people and families is mental health and wellbeing (cited by 17% of practitioners; 120 of 695), followed by a lack of support and resources (15%), and an increase in mental health and wellbeing issues due to Covid-19 (12%).

Approximately a quarter of respondents (26%; 174 of 674) felt 'all children and families' are most affected by these concerns, followed by 'low income, workless and families reliant on benefits' (14%), and 'the most vulnerable children and families' (10%).

Q. Are there any new issues you are seeing emerging, or new things you are hearing from children, young people or families, over the last few months?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (625)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Increase in MHWB issues among CYP and families	99	16
No change/nothing new	87	14
Lack of support and resources	59	9
Poverty/changes to benefits system	58	9
Increase in MHWB issues due to Covid-19	57	9
Covid-19 (non-specific)	48	8
Increase in isolation & loneliness due to Covid-19 measures	41	7
Less support/fewer resources due to Covid-19 measures	34	5
Increase in poverty/financial issues due to Covid-19	31	5
Increased impact of digital	29	5
Reduced sense of belonging, marginalisation and isolation	27	4
Financial issues	26	4
Pressure/stress relating to education due to Covid-19 measures	18	3
More pressure on CYP/families due to Covid-19 measures	14	2
Increase in violent/challenging behaviour	14	2
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP due to Covid-19 measures	13	2
Difficulties with accessing 'basic essentials' due to Covid-19 measures	12	2
CYP & families struggling to adhere to/understand government restrictions	11	2
Impact of Covid-19 and the lack of access to digital technology	11	2
More CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	11	2
Worry about the future due to Covid-19	10	2
Increase in enforced criminal activity/county lines/gang involvement	10	2
Increase in waiting times for support	10	2
CYP & families struggling with lack of/changes to routine due to Covid-19 measures	9	1
Increase in CYP and families affected by substance misuse	9	1
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP	8	1
Concern about contracting/family contracting Covid-19	7	1
Increase in CYP & families affected by DA due to Covid-19 measures	7	1
Increase in number of children impacted by trauma	7	1
Increase in housing issues due to Covid-19	6	1
More parenting issues	6	1
Increased impact of digital due to Covid-19 measures	5	1
CYP/families affected by homelessness	5	1
Increase in housing issues	5	1
Higher thresholds for support	5	1
Lack of access to digital technology	5	1
Reduction in MHWB issues due to school closures	4	1
Increase in violent/challenging behaviour due to Covid-19 measures	4	1
Impact of Covid-19 on education	4	1
Lack of/changes to routine	4	1
Lack of communication/planning between agencies	4	1
Increase in waiting times for school/nursery placements	4	1
Managing contact with birth families	4	1
Increase in safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families	3	*
Increase in CYP & families affected by substance misuse due to Covid-19	3	*

Increase in bullying	3	*
Increase in CYP impacted by CSA/E	3	*
Difficulties with accessing health care	3	*
Lower self-esteem	3	*
Lack of motivation	3	*
Lack of foster carers/adopters	3	*
Increase in number of vulnerable CYP & families due to Covid-19	2	*
Increase in enforced criminal activity/county lines/gang involvement due to Covid-19	2	*
Increase in identity issues (gender)	2	*
Decrease in school attendance and an increase in exclusion	2	*
More pressure on CYP & families	2	*
Rise in safeguarding issues (non-specific)	2	*
Schools not meeting CYP's needs	2	*
Increased resilience	2	*
Language barriers to accessing support/resources	2	*
Other	38	6
Don't know	1	*

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

<i>Base: All who answered this question (695)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
MHWB issues among CYP and families	120	17
Lack of support and resources	101	15
Increase in MHWB issues among CYP and families due to Covid-19	81	12
Lack of support and resources due to Covid-19 measures	63	9
Isolation (incl. loneliness)	57	8
Increase in isolation & loneliness due to Covid-19 measures	50	7
Poverty/changes to benefits system	49	7
Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families	45	6
Increase in CYP & families affected by poverty/financial issues due to Covid-19	43	6
Covid-19 (non-specific)	41	6
Domestic abuse	39	6
Increase in CYP & families affected by DA due to Covid-19 measures	35	5
Financial issues (incl. debt)	35	5
Increased impact of digital	32	5
Increase in trauma/abuse/neglect due to Covid-19	29	4
More pressure on CYP/families due to Covid-19 measures	29	4
Education (incl. attainment, exclusion & lack of support)	20	3
Worry about the future due to Covid-19	19	3
Concern about contracting/family contracting Covid-19	16	2
CYP/families affected by substance misuse	16	2
CYP & families struggling to adjust to lack of/changes to routine due to Covid-19 measures	14	2
Trauma/abuse/neglect	13	2
Impact of Covid-19 on education	12	2
Safeguarding	12	2
CYP & families struggling to adhere to/understand government restrictions	11	2

Increase in CYP & families affected by substance misuse due to Covid-19	10	1
Homelessness and housing issues	10	1
Increased impact of digital due to Covid-19	9	1
Difficulties with accessing 'basic essentials' due to Covid-19 measures	8	1
Waiting times for support	8	1
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP due to Covid-19 measures	7	1
CCE/criminal activity/county lines/gang involvement	7	1
Keeping safe (non-specific)	7	1
Increase in housing issues due to Covid-19	6	1
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP	6	1
Bereavement/loss due to Covid-19	5	1
Lack of/changes to routine	5	1
Uncertainty about the future	5	1
Low self-esteem/low aspirations	4	1
Family/relationship/placement breakdown	4	1
Increase in number of vulnerable CYP	4	1
Increase in number of vulnerable CYP & families due to Covid-19	3	*
Lack of early intervention/prevention	3	*
Parenting issues	3	*
Exploitation (non-specific)	3	*
CCE/criminal activity/county lines/gang involvement due to Covid-19	2	*
Increase in CYP impacted by CSA/E	2	*
Increase in violent/challenging behaviour	2	*
Thresholds for support	2	*
Lack of opportunities/access to opportunities	2	*
Lack of access to digital technology	2	*
Other	55	8

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

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Base: All who answered this question (674)</i>		
All children/families	174	26
Low income families/workless/reliant on benefits	97	14
The most vulnerable children and families	69	10
CYP & families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	63	9
CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	45	7
Children with additional needs (incl. ASD, SEN & SPD)	43	6
Teenagers and children aged 16+	39	6
CYP & families with disabilities	37	5
Children in care	31	5
Care leavers	28	4
CYP & families affected by substance misuse	26	4
CYP & families with limited/no support network	24	4
Lone/single parent families	23	3
Those from disadvantaged/deprived backgrounds/dealing with deprivation	13	2
All CYP our service/Barnardo's works with	13	2
Refugee and asylum seekers/migrants	11	2
CYP & families living in unsuitable housing	11	2

Young carers	10	1
CYP & families impacted by trauma	9	1
CYP & families not known to services/not under social care	9	1
Children aged 0-5	8	1
Children aged 5-16	8	1
CYP & families with ESOL	8	1
CYP & families who require support/services	8	1
CYP with protected characteristics (incl. ethnic minorities)	7	1
CYP & families affected by homelessness	7	1
Those living independently/alone	7	1
Bereaved CYP & families	7	1
Primary school aged children	7	1
New parents	5	1
Those in deprived areas	5	1
Young parents	5	1
CYP & families with health conditions	5	1
Parents with no/little education	5	1
CYP & families of key workers	5	1
CYP affected by parental/familial offending	4	1
CYP & families where parents/carers are self-employed	4	1
Larger families	4	1
CYP & families with no/limited access to digital technology	4	1
CYP living with older relatives/grandparents	4	1
CYP due to leave school (primary & secondary)	3	*
Secondary school aged children	3	*
Children who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	2	*
CYP where the perpetrator is a family member/family friend	2	*
Girls/women	2	*
CYP & families who do not meet thresholds	2	*
CYP & families statutory services struggle to engage	2	*
Those socially distancing	2	*
Those with caring responsibilities	2	*
CYP aged 10+	2	*
Other	57	8
Don't know	2	*

Covid-19 Concerns

Summary

A quarter of practitioners (25%; 141 of 559) told us children and young people most need 'things to do', followed by 'social interaction and contact with family and friends' (22%), and 'ongoing support and contact with professionals' (10%), during the Covid-19 crisis.

Around a fifth of practitioners (21%; 123 of 589) told us parents most need 'activities or activity ideas for children and young people', followed by 'money and financial support' (17%), and 'access to support and contact with professionals' (15%), during the Covid-19 crisis.

The biggest concern in terms of the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on children and families is the impact on mental health and wellbeing (cited by 43%; 265 of 611 practitioners), followed by isolation and loneliness (16%), and financial concerns (15%). Thirty per cent of respondents (174 of 582) felt 'all children and families' are most affected by these concerns, 12% felt 'low income, workless and families reliant on benefits' are, while 11% felt 'the most vulnerable children and families' are.

Nine per cent of practitioners (48 of 525) said the government or decision makers could 'increase funding and availability for mental health support' to address these issues, followed by 'ensure people have basic essentials', 'improve financial support for children and families' and provide 'clear guidance and information' (each cited by 6% of practitioners).

Forty-four per cent of practitioners (240 of 548) said Barnardo's could 'continue to support and have regular contact with children and families' to address this issue, 12% said Barnardo's could 'provide support remotely and digitally', while 10% said Barnardo's could 'influence and lobby the government and decision makers'.

When asked whether there are any 'hidden' groups that Covid-19 affects, or any 'hidden' issues that are not being recognised, 12% of practitioners (56 of 465) cite 'children and families affected by domestic abuse', 8% cite children and families affected by mental health issues', and 7% cite 'children and families not known to services'.

Twenty three per cent of practitioners (148 of 637) are supporting someone who has symptoms suspected to be associated with Covid-19. Approximately two thirds of these practitioners (67%; 99 of 148) are providing support remotely, 22% are providing non-contact deliveries of basic essentials, and 14% are increasing the frequency of remote contact.

Thirty eight per cent of practitioners (213 of 558) report children and families are dealing with the Covid-19 crisis in a positive way by 'having family time',

followed by 'exercising and keeping active' (16%), 'home learning' and 'playing' (each cited by 12% of practitioners).

Eighty-three per cent of practitioners (512 of 617) who told us what children and families are concerned about cite 'reduced social contact', followed by 'boredom' (76%; 471 of 617), and 'impact on mental health' (75%; 464 of 617).

Q. In your role as a practitioner, what are children and young people telling you that they need the most during the current Covid-19 crisis?

Base: All who answered this question (559)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Things to do	141	25
Social interaction/contact with family & friends	124	22
Ongoing support/contact with professionals	54	10
MHWP support	49	9
Routine/structure	43	8
Access to food	42	8
A listening ear/someone to talk to	37	7
Reassurance	35	6
Access to open space	30	5
Money/financial support	25	4
Access to digital technology	23	4
A nurturing environment	15	3
Factual/age appropriate advice and guidance on Covid-19 and restrictions	14	3
To be at school	14	3
Nothing/not raised any concerns/they're ok/ they're happy/coping well	13	2
(Own) space	12	2
Help with school work/learning	10	2
For people to stay home/follow government restrictions	9	2
'Normal life' to return/normality	9	2
To know support is still available	7	1
Understanding about the situation	6	1
To know when it will end/a timescale to work towards	6	1
To feel safe	6	1
Practical support	5	1
Face to face support	5	1
Exercise	5	1
Stability	4	1
Freedom	4	1
Suitable accommodation	4	1
Less pressure to complete school work	3	1
Minimum/less contact with professionals	3	1
Support with managing children	3	1
Support for educational transitions post summer	2	*
Respite	2	*
1:1 support	2	*
To know they/their case hasn't been forgotten about	2	*
Clarity on grades/exams	2	*
Things to look forward to (when can meet people face to face again)	2	*
Other	27	5
Don't know	27	5

Q. In your role as a practitioner, what are parents telling you that they need the most during the current Covid-19 crisis?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (589)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Activities/activity ideas for CYP	123	21
Money/financial support/finances/access to money	101	17
Access to support/contact with professionals	87	15
MHWB advice/support	83	14
Access to food	83	14
Support with managing CYP/parenting support	64	11
A listening ear/someone to talk to	53	9
Routine/structure (incl. support to maintain)	37	6
Support with home schooling	34	6
Respite	34	6
Reassurance	19	3
Social interaction (incl. contact with family & friends)	18	3
Practical support (incl. help with shopping)	18	3
To be/feel safe (incl. self and CYP)	15	3
Clear and accessible info/guidance on Covid-19 and related restrictions	14	2
Access to outdoor space	13	2
'Basic essentials' other than food (incl. gas, electric, baby supplies, domestic appliances, toiletries)	13	2
Access to digital technology	12	2
Knowing support is available, if required	12	2
Information/guidance/advice (non-specific)	11	2
Contact with their children	11	2
For people to adhere to government restrictions (to stay safe)	8	1
Access to health support	8	1
Advice on services available/to know where to get support	7	1
Contact with other adults	7	1
Suitable accommodation/housing support (e.g. allowing for more space, privacy, etc.)	6	1
Access to school/nursery (support from education)	5	1
Nothing (yet)/not heard of anything/they are managing	5	1
Contact	5	1
Advice on what/how much to share with their children	4	1
Patience	4	1
For certainty and clarity about the situation (e.g. how long lockdown will last)	3	1
Stability	3	1
'Normal life' to return	3	1
Domestic abuse support	3	1
To be able to attend to both work and family needs	3	1
To be able to work	3	1
Support with CYP returning to school/transition support	2	*
Housing advice	2	*
Face to face support	2	*
Understanding of their situation	2	*
To be/feel listened to	2	*
To remain positive	2	*
Support for those affected by familial offending	2	*
Other	11	2
Don't know	4	1

Q. What is your main concern about the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on the children, young people and families that you support?

Base: All who answered this question (611)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Impact on MHWB	265	43
Isolation & loneliness	100	16
Financial concerns	91	15
Risk of increase in domestic abuse	74	12
Lack of direct professional contact with CYP	72	12
Family conflict	43	7
Educational concerns	40	7
Limitations of non-face to face support	36	6
Risk of increase in abuse/exploitation (non-specific)	33	5
Lack of/changes to routine	31	5
Impact of contracting Covid-19 (bereavement, illness)	31	5
Concern about end of lockdown	29	5
Safeguarding concerns (non-specific)	25	4
Lack of respite/pressure on parents	24	4
Ability to adhere to government restrictions/advice	22	4
Lack of access to 'basic essentials'	20	3
Lack of (own) space	17	3
Increase in challenging behaviour	17	3
Uncertainty of the situation	15	2
Access to open space/outside	13	2
Placement breakdowns or interruption	12	2
Lack of stimulation	12	2
Loss of protective environments/people	11	2
Increased substance misuse	10	2
Family contact issues	10	2
Too much time online	6	1
Positive impacts	6	1
Physical health	5	1
Keeping safe (general)	5	1
Risk of increase in sexual abuse/exploitation	4	1
Lack of access to digital technology	3	*
Risk of increase in criminal exploitation	2	*
Other	14	2

Q. Which groups of children, young people and families are most affected by this concern?

Base: All who answered this question (582)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
All children/families	174	30
Low income families/workless/reliant on benefits	72	12
The most vulnerable children and families	62	11
CYP & families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	45	8
Children with additional needs (incl. ASD, SEN & SPD)	35	6
CYP & families with disabilities	35	6
CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	32	5
Teenagers and children aged 16+	26	4
Children in care	25	4
All CYP our service/Barnardo's works with	25	4

CYP & families affected by substance misuse	24	4
Lone/single parent families	22	4
Care leavers	21	4
CYP & families with limited/no support network	13	2
CYP & families living in unsuitable housing	13	2
CYP & families who require support/services	12	2
CYP & families with health conditions	10	2
Refugee and asylum seekers/migrants	9	2
CYP & families impacted by trauma	8	1
Those from disadvantaged/deprived backgrounds/dealing with deprivation	8	1
Children aged 5-16	6	1
New parents	6	1
Young carers	6	1
CYP & families not known to services/not under social care	6	1
Children aged 0-5	5	1
CYP with protected characteristics (incl. ethnic minorities)	5	1
CYP & families affected by homelessness	5	1
Large families	5	1
Young parents	4	1
CYP & families of key workers	4	1
Those in deprived areas	3	1
CYP & families where parents/carers are self-employed	3	1
Those living independently/alone	3	1
CYP due to leave school (primary & secondary)	3	1
Bereaved CYP & families	3	1
CYP with challenging behaviour	3	1
Parents with no/little education	3	1
CYP & families with financial difficulties (incl. debt)	2	*
CYP affected by parental/familial offending	2	*
Children who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	2	*
CYP in families statutory services struggle to engage	2	*
Birth families	2	*
CYP & families who do not meet thresholds	2	*
Adoptive families	2	*
Other	70	12
Don't know	2	*

Q. What do you think the government or other decision makers could do to address this issue?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (525)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Increase funding for/availability of MHWB support (incl. counselling)	48	9
The government is doing a good job/doing what it can	41	8
Ensure people have 'basic essentials' (e.g. food)	34	6
Improve financial support for CYP & families	32	6
Nothing/little at the moment	31	6
Clear guidance/information	31	6
A plan & support for post-lockdown	28	5
Increase provision of support for CYP & families	28	5
Financial support for charities/third sector	27	5
Financial support (non-specific)	26	5

Provide telephone support/helplines	26	5
Increase resources/activities for CYP & families	22	4
Increase amount of PPE for staff	21	4
A plan & support for CYP re-entering education post-lockdown	20	4
Ensure people have access to digital technology	20	4
Publicise/raise awareness of available support	20	4
Relax some of the restrictions	16	3
Increase testing for Covid-19	13	2
More support to address domestic abuse	12	2
Tougher lockdown measures	11	2
Ensure schools continue to support CYP	11	2
More social workers/more support for social workers	10	2
Financial support for public sector/local authorities	7	1
Raise awareness about needs of CYP & families	7	1
More support for carers/parents	7	1
More partnership working	7	1
Share positive messages	7	1
Improve/increase benefits (UC)	6	1
Listen to charities/front line workers/public	6	1
Ensure vulnerable children can still attend school	6	1
Technology/other equipment for staff	6	1
Support NHS/health sector	6	1
Increase use of video calls etc.	6	1
Provide support to CYP and families more quickly	5	1
Don't change pre-existing plans and processes (e.g. contact arrangements etc.)	5	1
Ensure people adhere to government restrictions/advice	4	1
Address pre-existing issues (inequality, housing, education)	4	1
Other	7	1
Don't know	55	10

Q. What do you think Barnardo's can do to address this issue?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (548)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Continue to support/have regular contact CYP/families	240	44
Provide support remotely/digitally	64	12
Influence/lobby government/decision-makers	57	10
Better partnership working/communication	39	7
Advertise services more	24	4
Signposting/sharing of information/resources (for families)	24	4
Increase provision of support to CYP/families	20	4
Continue identifying risks for CYP/CYP at risk	18	3
Continue supporting staff (with MHWB)	16	3
Provide food/care packages to families	16	3
Provide more resources/guidelines (for staff to support families)	15	3
Better digital technology for staff	14	3
Provide financial support/advice for YP & families	12	2
Provide PPE for staff	12	2
Provide digital technology to CYP & families	10	2
Fundraising	9	2
Develop plan for after lockdown	9	2
Provide testing for Covid-19 for staff	7	1

Ad campaigns/publicise impacts on CYP of substance misuse, domestic abuse, relationship breakdown, Covid-19	7	1
Nothing	7	1
More training for staff (e.g. counselling)	6	1
Enable face to face support	6	1
More staff/less furloughing	5	1
Set up a helpline for CYP	4	1
Continue communications to/from staff/managers	4	1
Provide more funding for services	3	1
Work with schools/nurseries to provide childcare/support	3	1
More support for CYP/families on Barnardo's website/social media	3	1
Provision of parenting programmes	2	*
Guidance on the use of digital technology for staff	2	*
Develop bereavement service for Covid-19	2	*
Other	55	10
Don't know	24	4

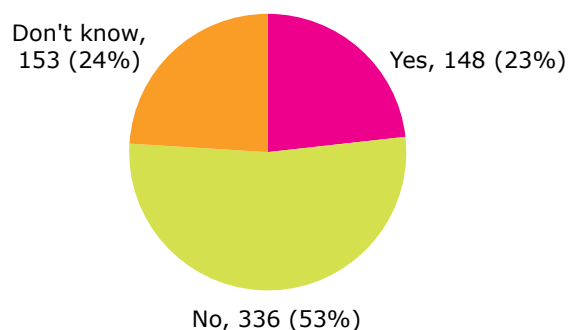
Q. Do you think there are any 'hidden' groups that Covid-19 affects, or any 'hidden' issues that are not being recognised?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (465)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	56	12
No	41	9
CYP and families affected by MHWB issues	38	8
CYP & families not known to services/not under social care	32	7
Children with additional needs (incl. ASD, SEN, SPD)	24	5
The most vulnerable children and families	24	5
CYP & families affected by substance misuse	20	4
CYP & families with disabilities	19	4
Low income families/workless/reliant on benefits	18	4
CYP/families affected by homelessness	16	3
CYP & families of key workers	16	3
Families who do not have a strong support network (incl. loneliness)	15	3
All children/families	14	3
CYP vulnerable to exploitation (incl. online)	14	3
Yes	10	2
Young carers	9	2
Refugee and asylum seekers/migrants	7	2
CYP & families with ESOL	7	2
CYP & families with health conditions	7	2
CYP with protected characteristics (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities)	7	2
Lone/single parent families	6	1
CYP & families not adhering to government restrictions/advice	6	1
Older/elderly people	6	1
Teenagers and children aged 16+	5	1
CYP & families living in unsuitable housing (incl. overcrowded/temporary/unsafe)	5	1
CYP & families who do not meet thresholds	5	1
Care leavers	4	1
Children in care	4	1
New parents	4	1
CYP & families who will struggle with the return to normality	4	1

Families trying to home-school CYP	4	1
Carers	3	1
CYP & families where parents/carers are self-employed	3	1
Bereaved CYP & families	3	1
CYP & families with no/limited access to digital technology	3	1
Practitioners	3	1
CYP affected by parental/familial offending	2	*
CYP due to leave school (primary & secondary)	2	*
Pregnant women	2	*
Travelling communities	2	*
Other	64	14
Don't know	31	7

Q. In your role as a practitioner, are you supporting anyone who has had symptoms suspected to be associated with Covid-19?

(n=637)



Q. Yes – please tell us how you are changing the support you provide

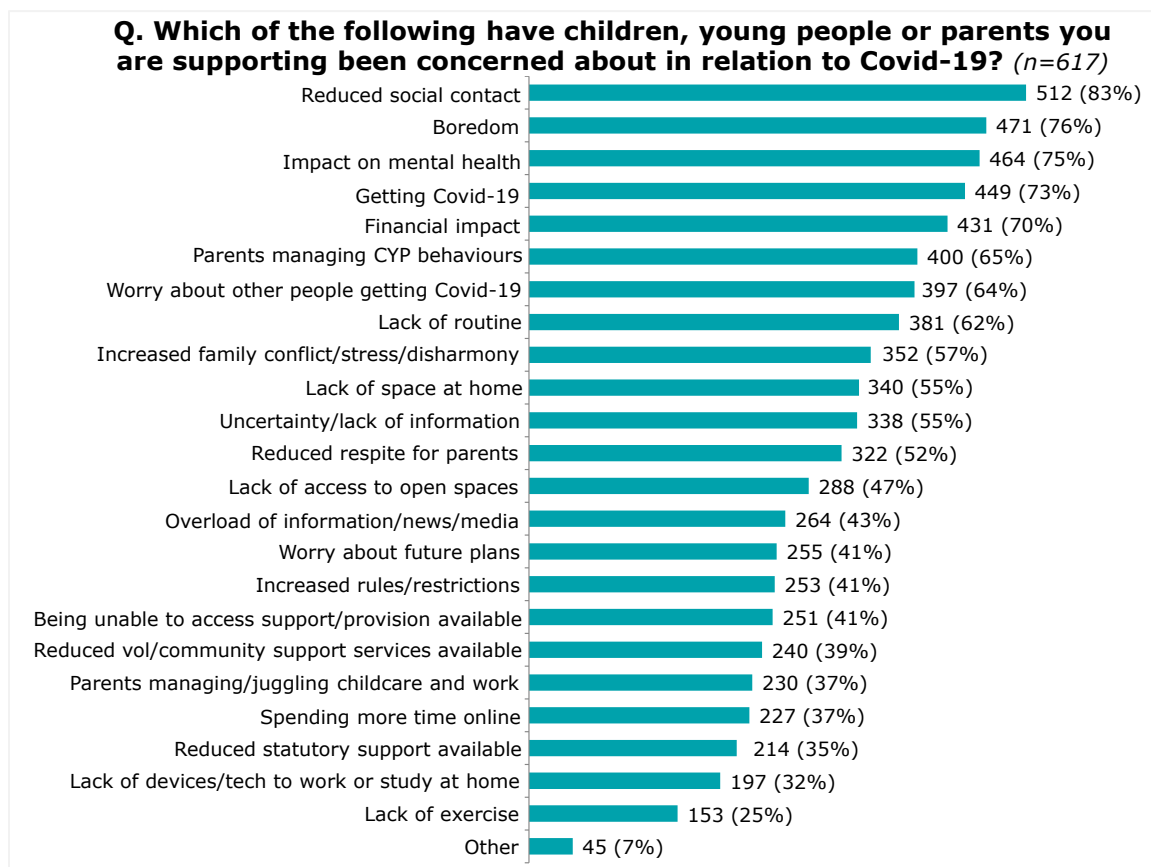
Base: All who answered this question (148)

	n	%
Providing support remotely	99	67
Providing/offering/arranging non-contact deliveries of 'basic essentials'	33	22
Increased frequency of remote contact	20	14
Supporting with MHWB	7	5
Stopped/limited physical contact	7	5
Signposting/referring to other support	6	4
Providing info/advice on health	6	4
Observing social distancing	4	3
Providing resources/activities for children	4	3
Using PPE	4	3
Through liaising/working with other professionals	3	2
Increased hygiene/cleaning practices	2	1
Postponing support until they feel better again	2	1
Other	8	5
Don't know	1	1

Q. What positive ways are children, young people and families dealing with the Covid-19 crisis?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (558)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Having family time	213	38
Exercising/Keeping active	92	16
Home learning	67	12
Playing	66	12
Supporting each other/local community	57	10
Arts and crafts	48	9
Accessing remote support from professionals	48	9
Adhering to government restrictions	47	8
Cooking/baking	43	8
Keeping connected with friends and family	40	7
Establishing routine/structure	36	6
Being creative/inventive/imaginative	35	6
Doing/providing activities	33	6
Accessing online resources	24	4
Taking advantage of the outdoors	23	4
Learning new skills/taking up new hobbies	22	4
Being positive!	21	4
Engaging in activities being sent out/posted online by Barnardo's	21	4
Making rainbows	17	3
Using social media	17	3
Keeping busy/entertained	15	3
Using digital technology to communicate and socialise	15	3
Enjoying not having the stress/pressure associated with school environment	13	2
Engaging in online groups/forums	12	2
Taking less for granted/Seeing what's important/appreciating the simple things/reflecting	11	2
Adopting flexible routines/less structured way of living/slowing down	9	2
Practicing self-care	8	1
Gardening	8	1
Talking about what's happening	7	1
Home improvements/home decorating	6	1
Becoming more independent/less reliant on services/demonstrating resilience	6	1
Reading/storytelling	5	1
Looking for the positives of the current situation	5	1
Making memories	5	1
Clapping for the NHS	5	1
Getting on with it/adjusting to it	5	1
Parents sharing online the activities they have been doing with children	4	1
Thinking about/planning for the future	4	1
Reaching out for support when they need it	4	1
Children are helping out at home	3	1
Practicing techniques they've learned (e.g. parenting skills, coping strategies)	3	1
Continuing to attend school	2	*
Trying to balance exposure to media/avoid fake news	2	*
Taking one day at a time	2	*
Accessing support from schools	2	*

Keeping children safe/following safety plans	2	*
Stopping/reducing substance use	2	*
Other	14	3
Don't know	7	1



Q. Other (please specify)

Base: All who answered this question (45)

	n	%
Young people going missing	11	24
Impact on education/school work	5	11
Reduced contact with parents/relatives	5	11
Readjusting post-lockdown	5	11
Uncertainty about/delays to care processes	3	7
Not adhering to government restrictions/advice	2	4
Difficulty completing essential tasks e.g. shopping	2	4
Access to food	2	4
Worry about others/family members	2	4
Delays in legal processes	2	4
Other	21	47

Schools and Covid-19

Summary

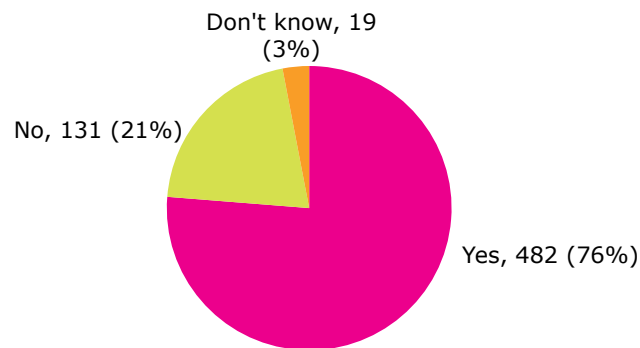
Approximately three quarter of practitioners (76%; 482 of 632) are supporting families affected by school closures.

A third of practitioners (33%; 149 of 456) who told us what children and families are concerned about in terms of school closures cite 'parents struggling to implement school work' as a concern, followed by 'disruption to routines' (25%), and 'disruption to children and young people's learning' (18%).

Around two fifths of practitioners (38%; 238 of 624) are supporting families where children can still attend school.

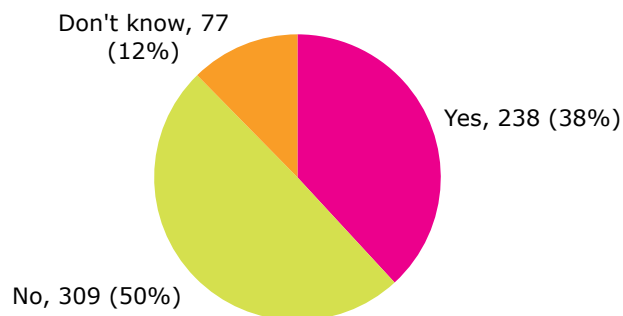
Approximately two thirds of practitioners (65%; 134 of 207) who told us what children and families are concerned about where children can still attend school cite the 'spread of Covid-19' as a concern, followed by 'children and families not taking up places offered' (9%), and 'children refusing to/not wanting to attend' (6%).

Q. Are you supporting families affected by school closures? (n=632)



Q. What are the main concerns of families affected by school closures?		
<i>Base: All who answered this question (456)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Parents struggling to implement school work	149	33
Disruption to routines	114	25
Disruption to CYP learning	81	18
Keeping children occupied/stimulated	70	15
Reduced social interaction	55	12
Worries about CYP falling behind/being unable to catch up with education	49	11
Balancing work/home schooling/parenting/childcare	49	11
Managing CYP behaviour	39	9
Financial impact of CYP being home all day	36	8
Worry about grades/disruption to exams	34	7
Reduced respite/breaks from each other	33	7
The uncertainty of the situation (e.g. when schools will reopen)	30	7
Accessing food/keeping CYP fed (incl. lack of FSM)	28	6
School transition concerns	24	5
Impact on MHWB	24	5
Concerns regarding CYP adjusting back to school	21	5
Increased family conflict/stress	21	5
Lack of access to digital technology required to do school work	21	5
Lack of support	11	2
Some have been offered places but chosen not accept them due to concerns relating to contracting Covid-19	8	2
Lack of access to educational resources other than tech (e.g. books, printers, specialist equipment, art materials)	8	2
Managing needs of different children	8	2
CYP having little/no contact with professionals	8	2
Lack of space at home	8	2
CYP being at home all day	8	2
No concerns	6	1
Lack of positive aspects of school other than education or FSM (e.g. pastoral, sports clubs, positive role models, etc.)	5	1
Losing protective environment of school	3	1
Lack of access to open spaces	3	1
Increased likelihood of abuse/neglect due to lockdown	3	1
Some children going to school when their friends aren't	2	*
Keeping CYP safe	2	*
Other	22	5
Don't know	3	1

Q. Are you supporting families where children can still attend school (e.g. vulnerable children or children of key workers)? (n=624)



Q. What are the main concerns of families where children can still attend school?

Base: All who answered this question (207)

	n	%
Spread of Covid-19	134	65
They don't take up places offered	19	9
No concerns	17	8
Children refuse/don't want to attend	13	6
Concern the placement will not meet the needs of the child	9	4
Disrupted routines	8	4
Places not made available	7	3
Children not being in usual peer group	7	3
Whether it is sustainable	3	1
Stress	3	1
Disruption to education/unstructured work	3	1
Children not having familiar teachers	3	1
Finding childcare support for out of school hours	3	1
Transport	3	1
Other	21	10
Don't know	5	2

Children In and Leaving Care and Covid-19

Summary

Approximately a quarter of practitioners (26%; 163 of 621) are supporting someone in care, of whom 34% (55 of 161) are working with a young person preparing to leave care 'in the next 12 months'.

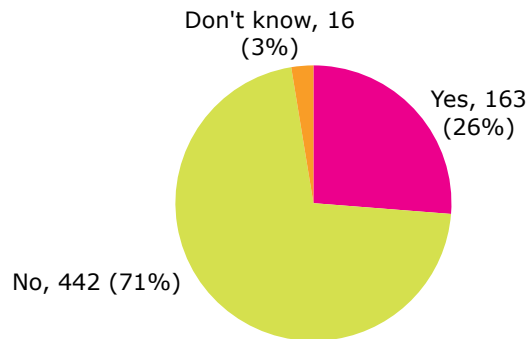
Thirty per cent of practitioners (41 of 137) who told us what children and young people in care are concerned about, in relation to the Covid-19 crisis, cite a 'lack of social interaction', as a concern followed by a 'lack of face to face contact with their birth family' (28%), and 'not being able to go out' (12%).

Sixteen per cent of practitioners (20 of 127) said the main concerns of children's carers, in relation to the Covid-19 crisis, were 'the spread of Covid-19', a 'lack of available support' (11%), and 'children and young people not adhering to government restrictions' and 'mental health and wellbeing concerns' (each cited by 10% of practitioners).

When asked about the main concerns of those preparing to leave care, in relation to the Covid-19 crisis, 28% of practitioners (14 of 50) cite a 'lack of support', followed by 'concerns about delays in being able to leave care' (16%), and 'the uncertainty' (14%).

Fourteen per cent of practitioners (85 of 617) are supporting a care leaver. Of these practitioners, 38% (29 of 77) said care leavers' main concerns, in relation to the Covid-19 crisis, were a 'lack of social interaction, isolation and loneliness', 'financial concerns' (31%), and 'their mental health and wellbeing' (23%).

Q. Are you supporting anyone who is currently in care? (n=621)



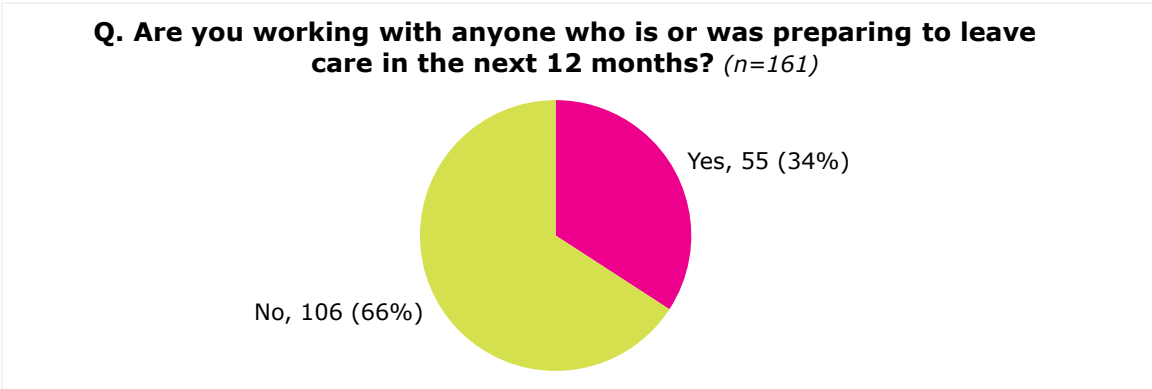
Q. What are the main concerns of children or young people in care in relation to the Covid-19 crisis?

Base: All who answered this question (137)

	n	%
Lack of social interaction	41	30
Lack of face to face contact with birth family	39	28
Not being able to go out/having to stay in placement 24/7	17	12
Lack of services/support	14	10
Their MHWB	14	10
Boredom	11	8
Disruption to routine/Lack of structure	11	8
Worry about others	11	8
The uncertainty of the situation	9	7
Not being in school	9	7
Concerned about contracting Covid-19	8	6
Extended care proceedings/delayed decision making/transitions on hold	7	5
Same as other CYP	5	4
Unhappiness in placement	5	4
Lack of access to digital tech	5	4
They are confused/have a lack of understanding of the situation	4	3
Adhering to government restrictions/keeping to lockdown	4	3
Other CYP not adhering to government restrictions and bringing Covid-19 into unit	4	3
Placement breakdowns	3	2
Concerns about impact on their future (e.g. employment, accom)	3	2
No respite/no break from parents/carers/other CYP	3	2
None	3	2
Managing substance use issues	2	1
Lack of face to face support	2	1
Financial concerns	2	1
Conflict/tension within home	2	1
Other	13	9

Q. What are the main concerns of their carer(s) in relation to the Covid-19 crisis (e.g. foster carers, kinship carers, residential carers, birth parents, etc.)?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (127)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Concerns about spread of Covid-19	20	16
Lack of available support	14	11
CYP not adhering to government restrictions/lockdown	13	10
MHWB concerns	13	10
Lack of birth family contact for CYP	10	8
Keeping CYP occupied/entertained	10	8
Lack of respite	9	7
Isolation	9	7
Managing CYP behaviours	9	7
Disrupted routines/lack of normality	8	6
Educational concerns	7	6
Delayed/extended care proceedings/transitions not going ahead/lack of care planning	7	6
Sustaining placements/placement breakdown	7	6
Having to keep CYP at home 24/7	6	5
CYP 'running away' or 'going missing'	4	3
Financial impact	4	3
The uncertainty (of the current situation)	4	3
Increased conflict/stress in home environment	4	3
Keeping CYP safe/Managing risk	4	3
Managing the needs of different children within home	3	2
Creating a nurturing environment	3	2
No concerns	2	2
Same as other parents/carers	2	2
Impact on CYP not being able to attend education/work	2	2
Lack of space in home	2	2
Lack of information from workers	2	2
Other	10	8
Don't know	8	6

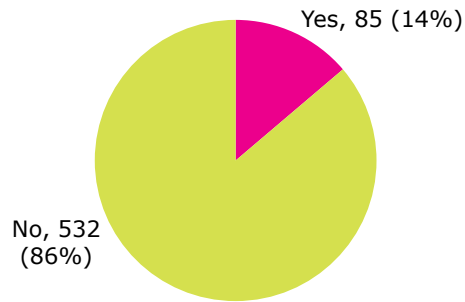


Q. What are the main concerns in relation to the Covid-19 crisis of those that are preparing to leave care?

Base: All who answered this question (50)

	n	%
Lack of support	14	28
Concerns about delays in being able to leave care	8	16
The uncertainty	7	14
Concerned they will not receive the support they need when due to leave care	6	12
Financial concerns (incl. difficulties accessing benefits)	5	10
No concerns	3	6
Isolation & loneliness/not being able to see friends	3	6
Limited accommodation options	3	6
Uncertain educational prospects/outcomes	3	6
Concerns about placement breakdowns/homelessness	3	6
Decisions being delayed/put on hold	2	4
Housing concerns/difficulties (non-specific)	2	4
Other	8	16
Don't know	2	4

Q. Are you supporting anyone who is a care leaver? (n=617)



Q. What are the main concerns of care leavers in relation to the Covid-19 crisis?

Base: All who answered this question (77)

	n	%
Lack of social interaction/isolation & loneliness	29	38
Financial concerns	24	31
Their MHWB	18	23
Lack of access to support	16	21
Accommodation concerns/issues	13	17
Worry about contracting Covid-19	9	12
Lack of access to food	8	10
Boredom	6	8
Lack of access to digital technology	4	5
Not being able to go outside	4	5
Educational concerns	4	5
The uncertainty of the situation	3	4
Lack of face to face support	3	4
Lack of exercise	3	4
Uncertainty about the future (e.g. housing moves/options, finances)	2	3
Worry about the impact of Covid-19 on others	2	3
Other	15	19
Don't know	2	3

Mental Health/Anxiety and Covid-19

Summary

Sixty-nine per cent of practitioners (425 of 615) are supporting someone reporting an increase in mental health issues due to the Covid-19 crisis.

- Amongst children and young people, 70% of practitioners (298 of 425) said this increase included issues around anxiety, 50% said issues around sleep dysregulation, and 49% said issues around stress.

- Amongst parents, 73% of practitioners (311 of 425) said this increase included issues around anxiety, 71% said issues around stress, and 49% said issues around depression.

The biggest concern in terms of the effect of Covid-19 on the mental health of children and families is 'reduced social contact' (cited by 26% of practitioners; 152 of 589). Other common concerns include 'getting Covid-19' (15%), followed by a reduced ability to access support available (14%).

Seventy-one per cent of practitioners (417 of 589) are supporting someone with regards to their mental health.

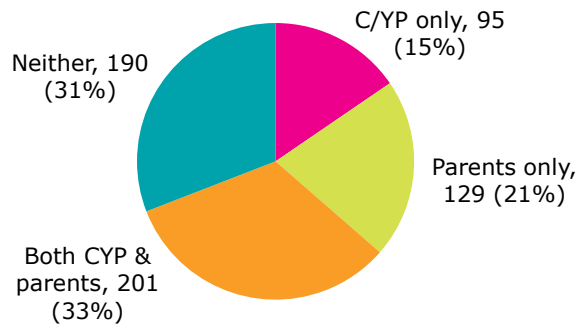
Approximately a fifth of participants (21%; 85 of 396) said GPs are currently supporting children and families with their mental health, followed by CAMHS (21%) and the Local Authority/social care (18%).

Twenty eight per cent of practitioners (91 of 322) said continued support/regular contact with children and families is needed to mitigate risks around mental health issues, followed by increased provision/easier access to mental health support (20%), and the provision of support remotely/digitally (14%).

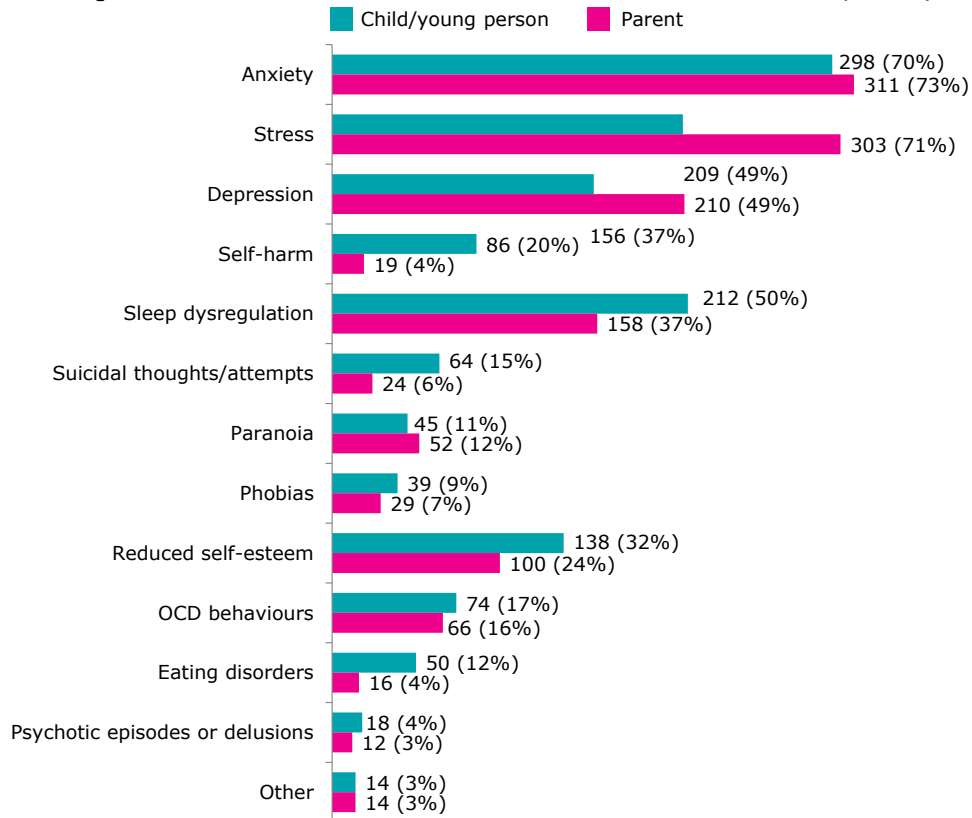
Thirty five per cent of practitioners who are supporting someone with regards to their mental health (141 of 339) feel they do not have the support/resources to support children and families with their mental health at this time. When asked what would help, practitioners most commonly cite

- More support/services (15%; 35 of 230)
- More/access to resources (11%)
- More training (10%).

Q. In your role as a practitioner, are you supporting any children, young people or parents who are reporting an increase in mental health issues due to the Covid-19 crisis? (n=615)



Q. Does this include an increase in issues around...? (n=425)

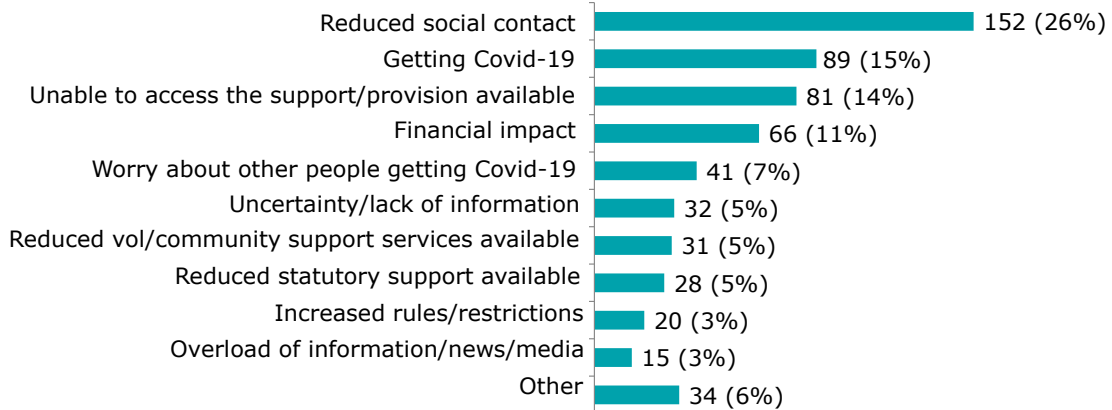


Q. Other please specify

Base: All who answered this question (22)

	n	%
Challenging and dysregulated behaviour	3	14
Substance use	3	14
Isolation & loneliness	3	14
MHWB issues	3	14
Relationship conflict	2	9
Lack of motivation/feelings of low self-worth	2	9
Other	4	18

Q. Which of the following is your biggest concern in terms of the effect of Covid-19 on the mental health of children, young people and families you support? (n=589)

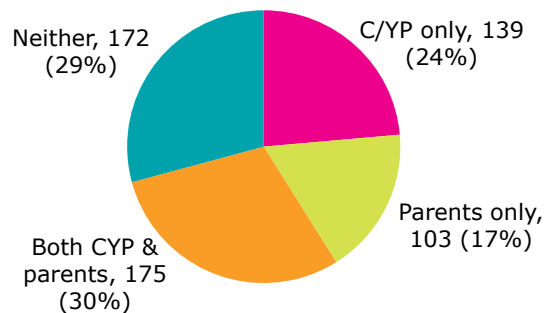


Q. Other please specify

Base: All who answered this question (34)

	n	%
All of the above	8	24
More than one of the above	5	15
Lack of/changes to routine/lack of normality	3	9
Lack of family contact	2	6
Lack of freedom/unable to leave house	2	6
Other	9	26

Q. Are you currently supporting any children, young people or parents with regards to their mental health? (n=589)



Q. Who else is currently supporting them with their mental health?

Base: All who answered this question (396)

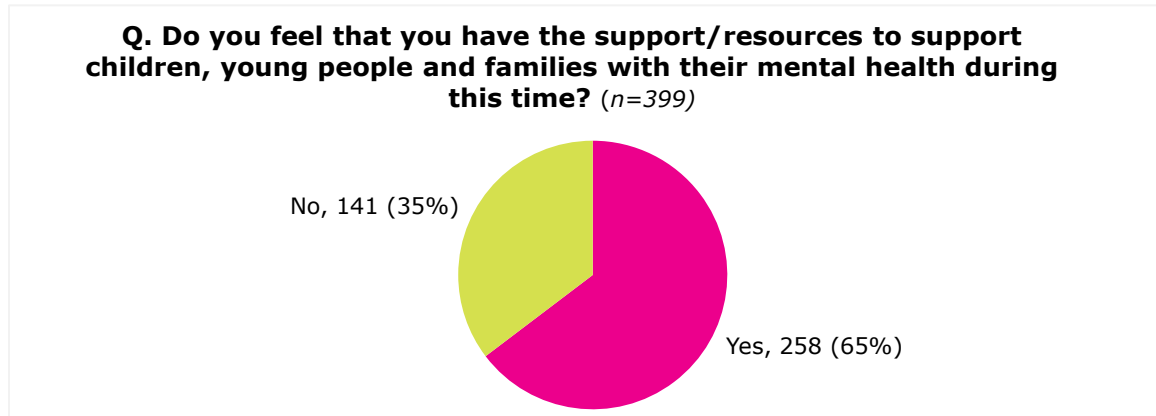
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
GPs	85	21
CAMHS	83	21
LA/social care	71	18
Parents/carers/family members	57	14
No one	40	10
Other voluntary sector support	40	10
Schools/education providers	27	7
NHS	26	7
MH teams	22	6
Health visitors	21	5
Other support workers	18	5
Counsellors	17	4
Psychiatrists	11	3
Perinatal mental health	11	3
Nurses	9	2
Online supports	7	2
Peers	6	2
Crisis teams	4	1
Paediatricians	3	1
Addiction services	3	1
Adult mental health	3	1
Psychologists	3	1
Leaving Care Team/PA	3	1
Chat Health 111 Helpline	2	1
Signposted to other services/supports	2	1
Probation	2	1
Other Barnardo's services	2	1
Residential staff/settings	2	1
Other	17	4
Don't know	9	2

Q. What more needs to be done to mitigate risks around increased mental health issues?

Base: All who answered this question (322)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Continue support/regular contact with CYP/families	91	28
Increased provision/easier access to MH support/services resources	65	20
Provide support remotely/digitally	44	14
Better communication/partnership working amongst professionals supporting CYP/families	17	5
Advertising/signposting of available support/services	15	5
Provide more resources/guidelines (for staff to support families)	12	4
Better health/lifestyle support for CYP/families (exercise, healthy eating, family routines, coping strategies etc.)	12	4
Face to face visits	11	3
Increased funding for provision of MH services	10	3
Training for professionals related to supporting CYP/families	9	3
Early MH intervention/education	8	2
Education/advice for parents	5	2
Better access to health services	4	1

Continue identifying risks to CYP and families/CYP and families at risk	4	1
Nothing	4	1
Planning for post-lockdown	3	1
Tackling stigma	3	1
Better planning of MH services/provision	2	1
Awareness of impacts of Covid-19 on CYP	2	1
Other	43	13
Don't know	36	11



Q. What would help you?

Base: All who answered this question (230)

	n	%
More support/services	35	15
More/access to resources	26	11
More training	24	10
Information on other support services, to signpost CYP to	19	8
More resources/activities for CYP & families	19	8
More digital technology/access to online platforms	18	8
Face to face contact	14	6
Nothing/already well supported	13	6
More joined up working/information sharing	10	6
More support for staff	9	4
More information (non-specific)	7	4
Technical support and clearer guidance on platforms to use	6	3
CYP & families having access to digital technology	6	3
Difficult/not effective to provide support digitally/remotely	6	3
Reduced waiting times for support for CYP & families	5	3
Access to PPE	4	2
More staff/trained specialists	2	1
The end of lockdown/a return to normality	2	1
Reduced hours	2	1
Reassurance/certainty regarding employment	2	1
Other	25	11
Don't know	5	2

Safeguarding and Covid-19

Summary

A little over a third of practitioners (35%; 208 of 596) are supporting someone they have safeguarding concerns about. Approximately a fifth of these practitioners (19%; 37 of 200) cite 'children not being physically seen by professionals' as the biggest concern with regards to the safety of those they support, followed by 'increased mental health and wellbeing issues' (16%) and an 'increased risk of domestic abuse' (11%).

When asked who else is currently keeping those they support safe, 67% of practitioners (133 of 198) cite the 'Local Authority', followed by 'schools/education' (19%) and 'parents/carers/family members' (18%).

Twenty eight per cent of practitioners (42 of 151) who told us what more needs to be done to mitigate risks around safeguarding cite 'continued/better partnership working amongst professionals', followed by 'continued/regular support with children and families' (24%) and 'face to face meeting with children and young people' (10%).

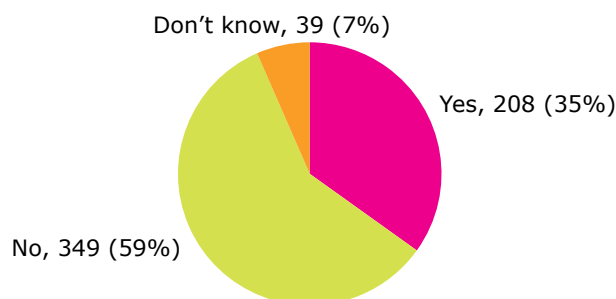
Twenty-seven per cent of those supporting someone they have safeguarding concerns about (54 of 197) feel they do not have the support/resources to support children and families where there are safeguarding issues at this time. When asked what would help, practitioners most commonly cite

- More support/services (12%; 9 of 78)
- More joined up working/information sharing (12%)

Almost half of practitioners reporting changes in casework relating to safeguarding (48%; 226 of 47) report 'young people and families refusing contact due to self-isolation', 47% report 'increased issues around parenting concerns', while 45% report a 'decrease in referrals due to services having less contact with families'.

Eight per cent of practitioners (50 of 589) know of children or young people being turned away from support they are entitled to, including school/nursery support (cited by 11 of 50 practitioners), mental health support (8 of 50) and support from the Local Authority (5 of 50).

Q. Are you supporting anyone who you have safeguarding concerns about? (n=596)



Q. What is your biggest concern with regards to the safety of those you support during the Covid-19 cases?

Base: All who answered this question (200)

	n	%
Children not being physically seen by professionals	37	19
Increased MHWB issues	31	16
Increased risk of domestic abuse	22	11
Lack of access to support	19	10
Increased suicide/self-harm/suicidal ideation	17	9
CP concerns/children not being safe/at increased risk of harm	16	8
Isolation	14	7
Risk of abuse/exploitation	12	6
Online harm	11	6
Risk of neglect	10	5
Increased family conflict/stress/breakdown	10	5
Contracting Covid-19	9	5
Increased substance use	9	5
Parents unable to manage CYP behaviours	8	4
Non-adherence to government restrictions	8	4
Increased violence/physical abuse	6	3
Loss of protective factor of school	5	3
Risk of going 'missing'	5	3
Not enough food	3	2
Being unable to make contact	3	2
Hidden harm	2	1
Not meeting thresholds for support	2	1
CYP harming others due to behaviours	2	1
Disguised compliance	2	1
Child's needs not being met	2	1
Housing/homelessness issues	2	1
Other	17	9

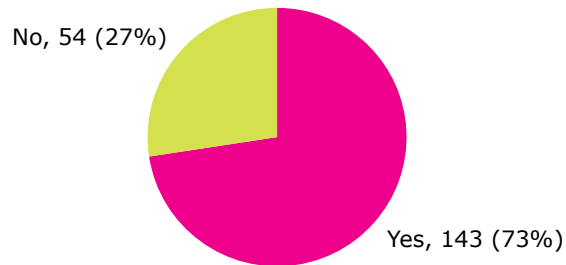
Q. Who else is currently keeping those you support safe?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (198)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
LA	133	67
Schools/education	38	19
Parents/carers/family members	36	18
Other professionals/support workers	16	8
Other Barnardo's colleagues	15	8
Other health professionals	15	8
Health visitors	13	7
Police	12	6
Multiagency/early help/safeguarding teams	10	5
MH support (excl. CAMHS)	10	5
No one	9	5
Leaving care teams (incl. PAs)	8	4
CAMHS	7	4
Youth justice	5	3
Other charities	5	3
Accommodation support	5	3
Addiction workers	2	1
Other	4	2
Don't know	2	1

Q. What more needs to be done to mitigate risks around safeguarding?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (151)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Continued/better partnership working/communication amongst professionals	42	28
Continue support/regular contact with CYP/families	36	24
Face to face meetings with CYP	15	10
Better/increased statutory support/visits	11	7
Increased availability of/access to support	8	5
Provide support remotely/digitally	6	4
Parental awareness/communication/self-care strategies	5	3
Nothing more needed/can be done/doing what we can	5	3
Covid-19 testing/PPE	4	3
Children to remain in school/schools to be vigilant for high risk	3	2
More frontline staff	3	2
Increased policing	3	2
Increased funding for services	2	1
Better access to MH support	2	1
Unannounced visits	2	1
More domestic abuse support	2	1
Better reporting/recording	2	1
Other	9	6
Don't know	13	9

Q. Do you feel that you have the support/resources to support children, young people and families where there are safeguarding issues during this time? (n=197)

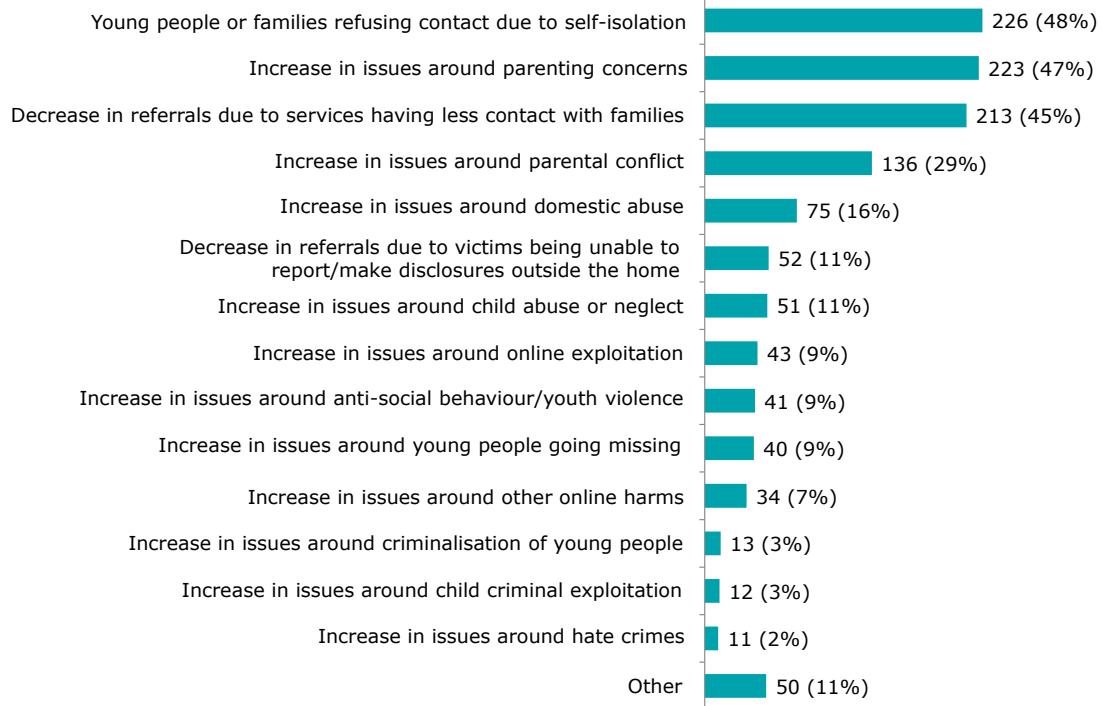


Q. What would help you?

Base: All who answered this question (78)

	n	%
More support/services	9	12
More joined up working/information sharing	9	12
Nothing/already well supported	8	10
More training	5	6
Face to face contact	5	6
Regular remote/digital contact with CYP & families	5	6
Access to PPE	4	5
More digital technology/access to online platforms	4	5
More support for staff	3	4
Better communication/contact/support from statutory services	3	4
Difficult to provide support digitally/remotely & it's not as effective	3	4
More/access to resources	2	3
More staff/trained specialists	2	3
Deterrents for breaching government restrictions	2	3
Designated safe space	2	3
Other	13	17
Don't know	4	5

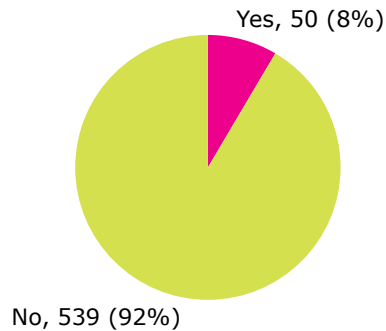
Q. Have you experienced...? (n=473)



Q. Other please specify

Base: All who answered this question (50)	n	%
CYP & families not engaging/being able to engage with support offered	5	10
Poor MH/need for MH support (CYP/parental)	4	8
Substance misuse	2	4
Financial hardship	2	4
Other	16	32
Don't know	1	2

Q. Do you know of any children or young people who are being turned away from support that they are entitled to? (n=589)



Q. Yes – please give details

Base: All who answered this question (50)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
School/nursery	11	22
MH support	8	16
LA support	5	10
Assessments (due not them being undertaken)	3	6
GP/health services	3	6
Respite/short breaks	3	6
Financial support	2	4
CYP unable to access remote support	2	4
Other	8	16
Don't know	1	2

Poverty and Covid-19

Summary

Just under half of practitioners (46%; 273 of 585) are supporting someone in, or at risk of, being in poverty.

The biggest concern for children and families at risk of poverty in relation to the Covid-19 crisis is 'lack of access to food' (cited by 55% of practitioners; 136 of 248). The next most common include concerns about 'access to finances and financial concerns' (39%) and 'lack of access to basic essentials' (11%).

Twenty eight per cent of practitioners (64 of 232) report 'Local Authorities' are helping support children and families around the financial impacts, followed by 'food banks' (23%) and 'the Department for Work and Pensions/Job Centre' (13%).

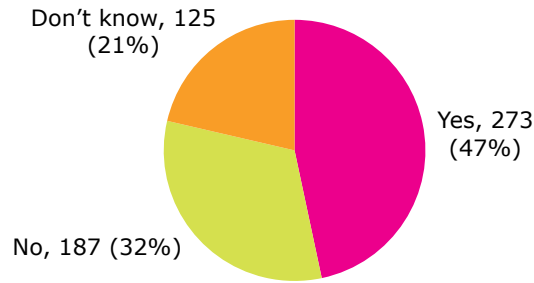
Twenty seven per cent of practitioners who told use what more needs to be done to mitigate risks around poverty (49 of 181) cite 'financial support and advice', followed by 'better access to/better benefits' (17%), and 'increased provision/quicker access to food' (15%).

Approximately two thirds of those supporting children and families at risk of poverty (65%; 166 of 254) feel they do not have the support/resources to support families experiencing poverty at this time. When asked what would help, practitioners most commonly cite

- Resources for/access to basic essentials (17%; 18 of 107)
- Information on other support services, to signpost children and families to (16%)
- Information/advice on how to provide financial support to children and families (10%).

Three quarters of practitioners (75%; 302 of 405) are supporting young people or families experiencing reduced earnings due to job losses/reduced hours, 45% report an increased need for financial support/grants, while 40% are supporting young people or families with difficulties accessing food banks.

Q. Are you supporting anyone who is in, or at risk of, being in poverty? (n=585)



Q. What is your biggest concern for children, young people, or families you support who are in or at risk of poverty in relation to the Covid-19 crisis?

Base: All who answered this question (248)

	n	%
Lack of access to food	136	55
Access to finances/financial concerns	96	39
Lack of access to 'basic essentials' (other than food, e.g. heating, baby supplies, medicines, etc.)	28	11
MHWB concerns	26	10
Housing/homelessness issues	22	9
Lack of access to support	19	8
Risk of exploitation/abuse/neglect	9	4
Lack of access to digital technology	6	2
Family stress/conflict	5	2
Concerns re physical health	4	2
Isolation	4	2
Recovery from financial impacts of Covid-19	2	1
Resorting to criminality in order to survive	2	1
Lack of access to outdoor space	2	1
Access to information	2	1
Not being able to go to work/education	2	1
Other	24	10

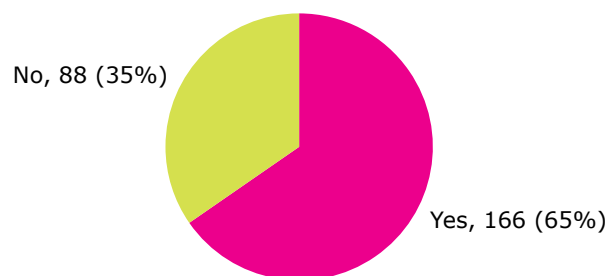
Q. Who else is supporting them around the financial impacts?*Base: All who answered this question (232)*

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
LAs	64	28
Food banks	53	23
DWP/Job Centre	29	13
No one else	29	13
Other third sector orgs	24	10
Local community/volunteer groups	17	7
Citizens Advice	15	6
Schools	14	6
Government	10	4
Family/carers	10	4
Other support workers	8	3
Housing Associations	6	3
Utility companies	4	2
Health services	4	2
Other advice services	3	1
Leaving care service/PAs	3	1
Local organisations/agencies	2	1
MH services/CAMHS	2	1
Other	16	7
Don't know	15	6

Q. What more needs to be done to mitigate risks around poverty?*Base: All who answered this question (181)*

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Financial support/advice	49	27
Better access to/better benefits (UC)	31	17
Increased provision/quicker access to food	27	15
Raising awareness of available services/support/resources	19	10
Better support from utility companies/fuel vouchers	11	6
Rent/mortgage relief/support	10	6
Better job opportunities/job/skills training	8	4
Funding for services/more services	5	3
More support from employers	5	3
Clear/accessible rights based information/guidance	4	2
Access to technology/reduced phone/internet costs	4	2
Continue providing support/regular contact	4	2
Better education opportunities for families	3	2
Access to suitable accommodation/social housing	3	2
Nothing/doing all we can	3	2
Early intervention	2	1
Fundraising/funding	2	1
Lobby/influence Government/decision-makers	2	1
Other	9	5
Don't know	12	7

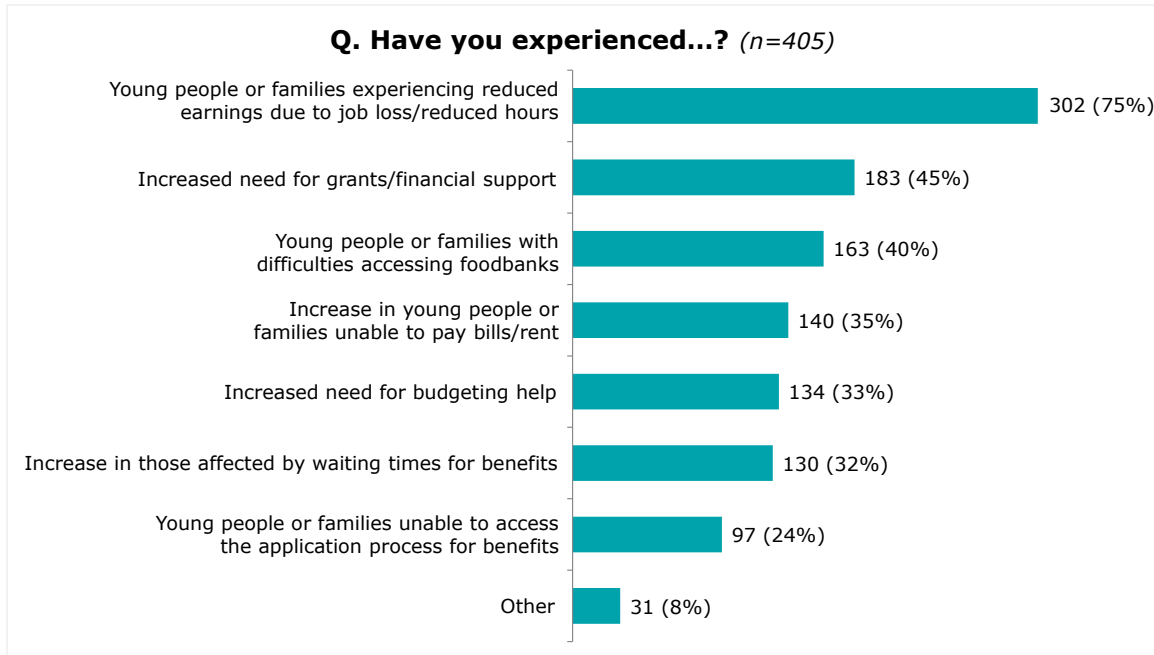
Q. Do you feel that you have the support/resources to support children, young people and families experiencing poverty during this time? (n=254)



Q. What would help you?

Base: All who answered this question (107)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Resources for/access to 'basic essentials' (incl. food)	18	17
Information on other support services, to signpost CYP to	17	16
Info/advice on how to provide financial support to CYP & families	11	10
Access to more support services	9	8
Government funding for benefits/to reduce poverty	7	7
More joined up working/information sharing	4	4
More resources (non-specific)	4	4
CYP & families having access to digital technology	4	4
More training	4	4
Clearer advice/information from government	4	4
More staff/trained specialists	3	3
Identifying families in need	3	3
Nothing/already well supported	2	2
More support for staff	2	2
Testing for Covid-19	2	2
Other	15	14
Don't know	5	5



Q. Other please specify

Base: All who answered this question (31)

	n	%
Difficulties accessing food	5	16
Difficulties in accessing financial support	5	16
Increase in utility costs	2	6
Other	2	6

Service Response

Summary

On a scale of 1-10, in terms of the risks to children and families, a fifth of practitioners (20%; 98 of 498) rate the direct impact of getting Covid-19 as 9 or 10, out of 10 (where 10 is significant threat). Thirty-seven per cent (191 of 517) report the indirect impacts, such as lockdown, as 9 or 10, out of 10.

Eighty seven per cent of practitioners who told us what their service is doing different to adapt during this time (459 of 528) report their service is 'providing support remotely/digitally', 15% report that 'staff are working from home', and 13% report they are 'providing activities and resources for children and families'.

Just over a quarter of practitioners (27%; 130 of 483) said this has led to children and families having access to/feeling supported, 13% said it led to less effective and poorer quality support, and 12% said they have received positive feedback from children and families.

Approximately a quarter of practitioners (26%; 131 of 499) report considering making longer-term changes based on how services are currently being run differently. Of these practitioners, 37% (48 of 131) are considering providing support and contact using digital technology, followed by working from home (17%), and offering a telephone based service (8%).

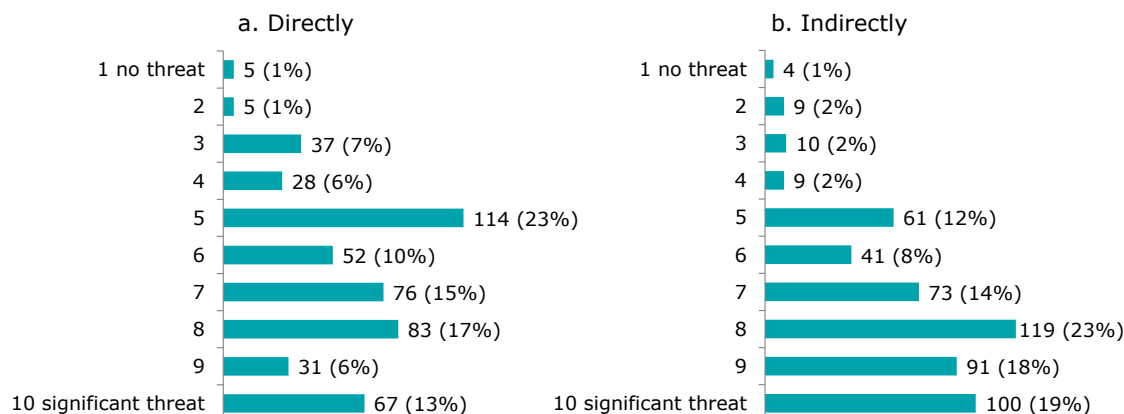
Thirty six per cent of practitioners (157 of 438) report that their service is ensuring the most vulnerable children are prioritised by continuing with support and regular contact with children and families, 16% cite information sharing and coordinating with other professionals, and 10% cite creating priority lists of the most vulnerable.

A third of practitioners (33%; 126 of 387) said they are monitoring issues or impacts by logging and recording, followed by supervision and feedback to managers (22%), and continuing to provide support and regular contact to children and families (18%).

Q. How much of a threat (where 1 = no threat, and 10 = significant threat) do you feel Covid-19 poses to the children, young people and families you support?

a. Directly (i.e. illness) (n=498)

b. Indirectly (i.e. broader impact of extended lockdown/quarantine) (n=517)



Q. What is your service doing differently to adapt during this time (e.g. providing services remotely, adopting additional health measures, etc.)

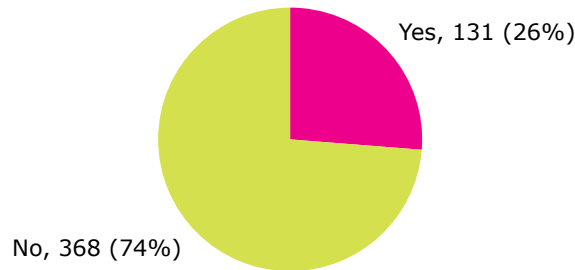
Base: All who answered this question (528)

	n	%
Providing support remotely/digitally	459	87
Staff are working from home/remotely	79	15
Providing activities/resources to CYP & families	70	13
Supporting with 'basic essentials' (e.g. food)	59	11
Adopting additional health measures	47	9
Providing additional/more frequent support	37	7
Adhering to government restrictions by reducing/stopping face to face contact	28	5
Providing financial support	20	4
Working with other agencies to provide joined up support	18	3
Signposting and referring CYP & families to other agencies	16	3
Continuing with face to face contact in exceptional circumstances	13	2
Providing MHWB support	13	2
Providing information (non-specific)	12	2
Increasing risk assessments	10	2
Reducing the number of staff in buildings	9	2
Providing the service/support as normal	9	2
Flexible working to support CYP & families at times that best suit them	7	1
Increasing welfare/child protection checks	6	1
Ensuring CYP & families understand/adhere to government guidelines	4	1
Creating rotas for staff	4	1
Providing additional support to staff/volunteers	4	1
Furloughing/changing staff hours	4	1
Completing learning/training	2	*
Other	5	1
Don't know	1	*

Q. What impact is this having?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (483)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
CYP & families have access to/feel supported	130	27
Less effective/reduced quality of support	61	13
Received positive feedback from CYP & families	56	12
Reduced ability/unable to provide support to some CYP & families	50	10
A positive impact (non-specific)	38	8
Increased levels of anxiety/stress for staff	27	6
Led to reduced engagement in the service	26	5
Engagement/increased engagement	24	5
Don't yet know the true impact	22	5
CYP & families feel reassured	13	3
Varied - remote support works for some, but not all	12	2
Reduced/no face to face contact	12	2
Remote/digital support is not working for some CYP & families	10	2
Increased the level of support available	8	2
No/little impact	8	2
Seems to be ok/no complaints	8	2
Reduced anxiety/stress amongst CYP & families	7	1
Staff gained knowledge/skills	7	1
CYP & families feel more isolated	6	1
Reduced the risk around/the spread of Covid-19	6	1
CYP & families feel less isolated	5	1
Staff feel more isolated	5	1
CYP & families miss face to face, but understand it's necessary	4	1
Led to reduced referrals	4	1
CYP & families experiencing increased MHWB issues	4	1
Improved quality of support	3	1
Difficult to establish a relationship with new referrals	3	1
Reduced anxiety levels in staff	3	1
Disruption to/lack of routine	3	1
Concern about contracting Covid-19	3	1
Led to better/more partnership working	2	*
Improved services' ability to provide support	2	*
CYP & families experiencing increased substance misuse	2	*
Concern about the end of lockdown/return to normality	2	*
Other	11	2
Don't know	3	1

Q. Have you considered making any longer-term changes based on how the service is being run differently? (n=499)



Q. Yes – please give details

<i>Base: All who answered this question (131)</i>		
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Providing support/contact using digital technology	48	37
Working from home/remotely	22	17
Offering telephone based service	10	8
This would be a management decision	7	5
Offering CYP multiple channels of contact	6	5
Using digital technology more	5	4
Using digital technology for meetings/to contact colleagues	5	4
Adapting/reviewing the way support is provided	5	4
Working more flexibly	3	2
Making resources available online	2	2
Continuing with the current support	2	2
Delivering training	2	2
Other	15	11
Don't know	7	5

Q. How is your service ensuring that the most vulnerable children are prioritised?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (438)</i>		
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Continuing support/regular contact with CYP & families	157	36
Information sharing/coordinating response with other professionals	69	16
Creating priority lists of most vulnerable	42	10
RAG rating	35	8
Regular team meetings/contact	29	7
Risk assessment/matrix/register	27	6
Management do this	22	5
Prioritising referrals/allocating referrals according to need	21	5
Putting in additional support/contact	20	5
Through caseload management	20	5
Reviewing/monitoring priorities and need	15	3
Don't prioritise/all receive same support (incl. all are vulnerable)	15	3
Continuing face to face contact where there is safeguarding risk	9	2
Contingency planning	8	2
Regular contact (unspecified who with)	7	2
Following safeguarding procedures	7	2
Prioritising contact for most vulnerable	6	1

Signposting/referring to other support	6	1
Contacting/monitoring those on waiting lists	6	1
Supporting with 'basic essentials' (incl. food & finance)	6	1
Through welfare checks	5	1
Through health visitors	5	1
Already working with/prioritising most vulnerable	4	1
Increasing case loads	3	1
Following government guidelines	3	1
By knowing the service users	2	*
Reporting	2	*
Keeping the service open for CYP of key workers	2	*
Other	13	3
Don't know	8	2

Q. How are you monitoring any of the issues or impacts mentioned?

<i>Base: All who answered this question (387)</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Logging/recording	126	33
Supervision/feedback to manager	87	22
Continuing support/regular contact with CYP & families	71	18
Team meetings/sharing with team	67	17
Information sharing between professionals/organisations	36	9
Regular contact (unspecified who with)	34	9
Management do this	16	4
Feedback/surveys with service users & staff	14	4
Frequent reporting	11	3
Signposting/referring to other support	10	3
Risk assessments	9	2
Following safeguarding procedures	7	2
Sharing reports/updates with commissioners	4	1
Outcomes tools	4	1
Regularly reviewing (unspecified)	3	1
Not monitored	3	1
Other	9	2
Don't know	4	1