

Barnardo's Quarterly Practitioner Survey | Wave Seven | Full Results

- This document presents the findings of Wave 7 of Barnardo's Quarterly Practitioner Survey
- The survey was administered via Survey Monkey, **12 – 26 January 2021**
- The survey was open to all staff who work directly with children, young people, parents and/or carers
- The aim of the survey is to capture emerging issues, and impacts on children and families, directly from Barnardo's practitioners
- In total, **388 practitioners** responded
- Where percentages do not sum to 100, this is due to computer rounding or inclusion of multiple responses
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of a percent, but not zero; a '-' represents a value of zero
- 'All respondents' refers to the total number of respondents who answered a question
- Where open ended questions were asked, illustrative examples of responses (and the codes they have been assigned to) are included after the tables of results
- Wave 7 question areas:
 - About You
 - Emerging Vulnerabilities
 - COVID-19
 - Poverty
 - Online Harms
 - Domestic Abuse – Family Courts
 - Child on Parent/Carer Violence
 - Service Adaptations
- Where relevant, comparisons are made with data from previous waves of Barnardo's Practitioner Survey:
 - Wave 2: 23 Sept – 7 Oct 2019
 - Wave 3: 14 Jan – 28 Jan 2020
 - Wave 4: 6 – 21 April 2020
 - Wave 5: 25 June – 15 July 2020
 - Wave 6: 5 – 27 October 2020
- For any queries about the survey or the data presented in this document, please contact kate.sewel@barnardos.org.uk

Abbreviations used

ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CP	Child protection
CYP	Children and young people
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
EU	European Union
LA	Local authority
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex +
MHWB	Mental health and wellbeing
PPE	Personal protective equipment
SEN	Special educational needs
SPD	Sensory Processing Disorder
YP	Young people

Overview of key findings

Key concerns

Mental health and **wellbeing** issues, **isolation**, and **loneliness** remain the primary concerns of practitioners in relation to the children, young people and families they support.

While concerns about increasing levels of anxiety among children, young people and parents/carers have been raised by practitioners throughout the pandemic, this wave, anxiety is frequently mentioned in relation to **pressure** and **stress** around **education** and **homeschooling**.

Concerns are also raised about the impact of lockdown measures more generally, primarily in relation to **reduced social contact**, access to **support networks**, and **financial pressures**. These concerns are consistent with previous waves.

The impacts of lockdown measures on **education** are mentioned by a higher proportion of practitioners than previously. Concerns focus on children and young people finding it **difficult to engage in homeschooling**, particularly due to a **lack of support** and/or **technology** to complete school work, and parents/carers struggling to balance homeschooling, work, and childcare.

While lack of support and resources remains a concern, a smaller proportion of practitioners cite this than have previously. **Limitations of digital/remote support**, and **high thresholds** for mental health and statutory support are key concerns practitioners express in this regard. Low income families, and the 'most vulnerable' are identified as being particularly affected by these concerns.

COVID-19

More than half of practitioners have now supported someone with symptoms suspected to be associated with COVID-19 (compared to just over a third in Wave 6, Oct 2020).

Practitioners express **more concern than ever about both the direct and indirect impacts** of COVID-19 on children and families. While they continue to be more concerned about indirect impacts (i.e. reduced service provision and extended periods of lockdown) than direct impacts (i.e. contracting COVID-19), a substantially greater proportion of practitioners than in previous waves report concerns about the impact of children, young people and families contracting COVID-19.

More than half of practitioners identify **increasing funding for/availability of mental health and wellbeing** support as the most important response governments and other decision makers can take to address the impacts of COVID-19 on children, young people and families. Ensuring people have access to basic essentials, and listening to charities, frontline workers, and the public are also frequently mentioned in this respect.

Service Provision

The proportion of practitioners reporting an increase in referrals, an increase in the 'level of complexity of need' of service users, and an increase in demand for their service has increased steadily since July 2020.

The vast majority of practitioners report that their service has implemented changes over the previous three months. While smaller proportions report changes leading to increased stress for staff, decreased service reach, and reduced quality of support, there is a slight increase in the proportion of practitioners reporting that changes have led to a **reduced level of engagement**, and still **over half report changes increasing levels of stress for staff**.

Summary

Respondent profile

- 86% of practitioners are working directly with children/young people (334 of 388), and 71% are working with parents/carers (274 of 388)

Emerging vulnerabilities

- 41% of practitioners who told us they have seen new issues emerging, or heard new things from children, young people, and families over the last few months report an 'increase in mental health and wellbeing issues' (127 of 310), while 25% report 'isolation' (77 of 310), 12% report pressure/stress relating to home-schooling (36 of 310), and 11% report financial issues (35 of 310)
- Practitioners' biggest concerns for children, young people and families are 'mental health and wellbeing issues' (cited by 37% of practitioners; 116 of 316), followed by 'isolation' (19%; 61 of 316), education (12%; 37 of 316), and lack of support and resources (10%; 32 of 316)
- 30% of practitioners (96 of 315) report 'all children and families' are most affected by these concerns, followed by 'low income, workless, or families reliant on benefits' (13%; 41 of 315), and 'the most vulnerable children and families' (7%; 21 of 315)
- Practitioners' biggest concern about the impact of Brexit on children, young people and families is the 'financial impact' (22%; 64 of 288). While 11% are concerned about the impact of Brexit on employment and training opportunities (32 of 288), 23% say they 'don't know' (66 of 288) and 14% report having no concerns (40 of 288)

COVID-19

- Over half of practitioners are currently supporting, or have previously supported, someone with symptoms suspected to be associated with COVID-19 (55%; 162 of 297)

The proportion of practitioners supporting, or previously having supported someone with symptoms suspected to be associated with COVID-19 has **increased over the course of the pandemic:**

- Wave 6, Oct 2020 – 36% | 142 of 397
- Wave 5, July 2020 – 31% | 154 of 489
- Wave 4, Apr 2020 – 23% | 148 of 637

- 89% of practitioners who told us what children and families are concerned about cite 'reduced social contact' as a concern (265 of 297), and 79% report 'impact on mental health' (236 of 297)

These concerns are similar to those cited by practitioners in previous waves:

Wave 6, Oct 2020

- 'reduced social contact' – 83% | 276 of 332
- 'impact on mental health' – 79% | 263 of 332

Wave 5, July 2020

- 'reduced social contact' – 88% | 415 of 472
- 'impact on mental health' – 81% | 382 of 472

Wave 4, April 2020

- 'reduced social contact' – 83% | 512 of 617
- 'boredom' – 76% | 471 of 617
- 'impact on mental health' – 75% | 464 of 617

- Practitioners continue to be more concerned about the indirect impacts of lockdown/quarantine and reduced service provision for children and families resulting from COVID-19, than the direct impact. However, there has been a **substantial increase in the proportion of practitioners reporting higher levels of concern about the direct impact** of children, young people, and families contracting COVID-19
 - On a scale of 1-10 (where 10 is significant threat), in terms of the threat COVID-19 poses to the children, young people, and families they support:
 - 43% of practitioners rate the impacts resulting from reduced services as '9' or '10' (126 of 294)
 - 44% rate the impacts of lockdown/quarantine as '9' or '10' (126 of 286)
 - 20% rate the direct impact of getting COVID-19 as '9' or '10' (57 of 282)

Wave 6, Oct 2020

- Reduced services '9' or '10' – 37% | 122 of 329
- Impacts of lockdown/quarantine '9' or '10' – 28% | 92 of 329
- Direct impact of getting COVID '9' or '10' – 11% | 37 of 325

Wave 5, July 2020

- Reduced services '9' or '10' – 34% | 155 of 450
- Impacts of lockdown/quarantine '9' or '10' – 31% | 142 of 453
- Direct impact of getting COVID '9' or '10' – 9% | 42 of 447

- On a scale of 1-10 (where 10 is very compliant), 19% practitioners rate young people's compliance with official guidance about lockdown as '9' or '10' (53 of 286)

Wave 6, Oct 2020

- Compliant '9' or '10' – 13% | 42 of 319

Wave 5, July 2020

- Compliant '9' or '10' – 18% | 81 of 444

- On a scale of 1-10 (where 10 is very influenced), 14% of practitioners rate the impact of factors other than official guidance influencing whether young people stay in/go out as '9' or '10' (39 of 286)

This has remained relatively stable across waves:

Wave 6, Oct 2020

- Influence of other factors '9' or '10' – 14% | 43 of 318

Wave 5, July 2020

- Influence of other factors '9' or '10' – 11% | 48 of 438

- Two fifths of practitioners report young people becoming less compliant with official guidance since lockdown began (39%; 114 of 291), while a similar proportion feel young peoples' compliance has remained about the same (41%; 118 of 291), and 8% feel young people have become more compliant (24 of 291)

Wave 6, Oct 2020

- Less compliant over time – 52% | 170 of 326

Wave 5, July 2020

- Less complaint over time – 34% | 155 of 452

Poverty

- Two thirds of practitioners have given service users food in the last year because they're worried they are hungry or will have nothing to eat (67%; 197 of 296)

This is relatively in line with the proportion of practitioners in Wave 3 (Jan 2020) who reported *ever* giving service users food for these reasons: 66% | 229 of 347

- 43% of practitioners have given service users clothing in the last year because they're worried they will be cold or don't have enough suitable (126 of 296)

The proportion of practitioners reporting giving service users clothing in the last year is a *decrease* on the proportion who reported *ever* having given service users clothes in Wave 3 (Jan 2020): 53% | 184 of 347

Online harms

- 16% of practitioners have supported someone they're aware has had negative experiences of online gaming in the last year (48 of 295), and 22% have supported parents, carers, or other supportive adults in children's lives, to respond to online gaming concerns about their children (64 of 295)

These figures are relatively in line with those reported in Wave 3 (Jan 2020):

- 18% of practitioners had supported someone in relation to negative experiences of online gaming over the previous year (62 of 340)

- 20% of practitioners had supported parents, carers, or other supportive adults in children's lives to respond to online gaming concerns in relation to their child over the previous year (67 of 340)

- 7% of practitioners have supported children under 10 that have been sexually exploited/abused by an adult online over the course of the last year (22 of 295)

This proportion is slightly higher than in Wave 3 (Jan 2020), when 4% of practitioners had supported a child under 10 who had been sexually exploited or abused by an adult online (14 of 339)

Domestic abuse – Family Courts

- In the last year, 36% of practitioners have supported victims of domestic abuse who have been through family courts (105 of 295)
 - 46% of these practitioners feel that decisions made by family courts are in the best interest of children (47 of 102); 24% feel this is not the case (24 of 102)
 - Just 15% of these practitioners feel that victims of domestic abuse are treated fairly in family courts (16 of 104), while 38% feel this is not the case (39 of 104)

Child on parent/carer violence

- Over the last year, 56% of practitioners have worked with children who have been violent towards parents/carers (166 of 294)
- Among these practitioners:
 - 61% feel that child on parent/carer violence has increased during lockdown (100 of 163)
 - Around three quarters feel the main reason for this violence is 'children struggling to manage feelings and behaviours due to increased anxiety or wider mental health issues' (73%; 119 of 164), followed by 'children struggling to manage feelings and behaviours due to Special Educational Needs/Autism/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder' (68%; 112 of 164), and children reacting to parenting approaches (63%; 103 of 164)
 - Almost half report that these children/parents are also being supported by CAMHS (47%; 75 of 161), 38% report support from children's social care (61 of 161), and 37% report support from parenting guidance/support services (59 of 161). Ten per cent report that no other service areas are providing support to these families (16 of 161)
 - On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1=very poor and 5=very good), practitioners are divided on the quality of support in this area – 29% (41 of 143) rate support as poor ('1' or '2'), while 30% (44 of 143) rate support as good ('4' or '5')

Service adaptations

- 46% of practitioners report an increase in referrals to their service over the last three months (137 of 297), while 9% report a decrease (26 of 297), and 22% report number of referrals to their service having stayed about the same (66 of 297)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 42% of practitioners reported an increased number of referrals in the preceding three months (141 of 335), compared to 13% who reported a decrease (43 of 335)

- In Wave 5 (July 2020), 30% of practitioners reported an increased number of referrals to their service since the announcement of lockdown (142 of 471), compared to 27% who reported a decrease (128 of 471)
- A greater proportion of practitioners are reporting an increase in the 'level of complexity of need' of service users than previously – 59% of practitioners report an increase in the 'level of complexity of need' of individual service users over the last three months (176 of 297)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 51% of practitioners reported an increase in the 'level of complexity of need' of service users since lockdown was announced (172 of 335)

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 44% of practitioners reported an increase in the 'level of complexity of need' of service users since lockdown was announced (208 of 471)
 - There is a continuing increase in the proportion of practitioners who feel that demand on their service is increasing – 72% of practitioners feel demand on their service has increased over the last three months (214 of 297)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 63% of practitioners felt that demand on services had increased over the preceding three months (212 of 335)

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 56% of practitioners (265 of 471) felt that demand on services had increased since lockdown was announced
 - On a scale of 1-10 (where 1 is 'can't meet demand', and 10 is 'able to meet demand'), 3% of practitioners rate feeling able to meet demand for services between '1' and '2' (8 of 296)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 5% of practitioners (17 of 325) rated feeling able to meet demand for services between '1' and '2'

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 3% of practitioners (15 of 452) rated feeling able to meet demand for services between '1' and '2'
 - 78% of practitioners (228 of 291) report that their service implemented changes over the last three months (since October 2020)
 - Two thirds of those who report changes being made report the changes being made in order to 'to meet the existing aims of the service within current restrictions', and 'to meet new needs arising as a result of COVID-19', (each reported by 66% of practitioners; 143 of 216), while 18% report service changes being made in order 'to reach more service users than previously' (39 of 216)

- Among practitioners who told us how service changes have impacted on the quality of support (compared to the previous three months, Oct-Dec 2020):
 - 58% report that changes have increased levels of stress for staff (125 of 216)

This figure has decreased over time:

- In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 67% of practitioners (159 of 238) reported that changes increased levels of stress for staff

- In Wave 5 (July 2020), 75% of practitioners (304 of 407) reported that changes increased levels of stress for staff

- While 28% of practitioners report that changes have led to improved quality of support (61 of 217), 37% report a reduction in quality of support (81 of 217), and 18% report quality of support remaining consistent with previously (40 of 217)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 39% of practitioners (118 of 302) reported that changes led to improved quality of support, and 33% reported a reduction in quality of support (99 of 302)

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 10% of practitioners (43 of 418) reported that changes led to improved quality of support, and 56% reported a reduction in quality of support (236 of 418)

- While 27% report that changes have resulted in an increased level of engagement with service users (59 of 216), 42% report reduced engagement (90 of 216), and 19% report no change (40 of 216)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 38% of practitioners (116 of 304) reported that changes resulted in an increased level of engagement, and 36% reported reduced engagement (109 of 304)

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 15% of practitioners (60 of 398) reported that changes resulted in an increased level of engagement, and 50% reported reduced engagement (198 of 398)

- While 29% report that changes have resulted in decreased reach (63 of 214), relatively similar proportions report an increase in reach (26%; 63 of 214), and no change in this regard (24%; 52 of 214)

In Wave 6 (Oct 2020), 30% of practitioners (90 of 305) reported that changes resulted in decreased reach, and 34% reported increased reach (103 of 305)

In Wave 5 (July 2020), 36% of practitioners (144 of 401) reported that changes resulted in decreased reach, and 17% reported increased reach (67 of 401)

ABOUT YOU

Do you work...?

Base: All respondents (388)

	<i>n</i>	%
Directly with children and/or young people	114	29
Directly with parents/carers	54	14
Both	220	57

Please tell us which region or nation you work in...

Base: All respondents (367)

	<i>n</i>	%
Cymru	59	16
England - North	43	12
England - Central	27	7
England - South West	72	20
England - South East	71	19
England - London	17	5
Northern Ireland	20	5
Scotland	57	16

What type of support does your service provide?

Base: All respondents (367)

	<i>n</i>	%
Youth Work (including Youth Justice)	11	3
ETS	10	3
Care leavers/Accommodation support	23	6
Advocacy, Children's Rights and Participation	18	5
Refugee and Asylum Seekers	-	-
Child Protection (e.g. Domestic Abuse)	20	5
Child Abuse and Exploitation (e.g. CSE, Missing, Trafficking, HSB)	25	7
Looked After Children (e.g. Family Placement, Residential Care)	30	8
Education	16	4
Disability/Health	9	2
Mental Health	29	8
Family Support Services (e.g. CAPI, Young Carers)	67	18
Early Support (e.g. Children's Centres, Parenting Programmes)	101	28
Other	8	2

How long have you been working directly with children, young people and/or families?

Base: All respondents (365)

	<i>n</i>	%
Less than 1 year	21	6
1-2 years	52	14
3-5 years	34	9
More than 5 years	258	71

EMERGING VULNERABILITIES

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?

Base: All respondents (310)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Increase in MHWB issues among CYP and families	127	41
Isolation (incl. loneliness & lack of social contact)	77	25
Pressure/stress relating to education/home-schooling	36	12
Financial issues	35	11
Poverty/changes to benefits system (incl. increased need for foodbanks)	23	7
Lack of support and resources	22	7
Impact of COVID-19 on education/attainment	20	6
No change/nothing new	20	6
COVID-19 (non-specific)	19	6
Lack of access to digital technology	16	5
Increased impact of digital	11	4
More CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	11	4
Job loss/employment prospects	9	3
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP	8	3
Reduced family contact	8	3
Access to open space/outside	8	3
Increase in violent/challenging behaviour	7	2
Increase in housing issues	7	2
More pressure on CYP & families	7	2
Lack of/changes to routine	7	2
Child development (incl. impact on social skills)	7	2
Worry about the future (incl. uncertainty)	6	2
Family conflict/relationship breakdown	6	2
Increase in CYP and families affected by substance misuse	5	2
Limitations of digital support	5	2
Frustration	5	2
Tiredness/fatigue (incl. of digital fatigue)	5	2
Concern about contracting/family contracting COVID-19	4	1
Fear of going outside/seeing people	4	1
Fear (of the unknown)	4	1
Increase in sleep disturbance	4	1
CYP/families finding this lockdown more challenging	4	1
Increase in number of vulnerable CYP & families	3	1
Increase in enforced criminal activity/county lines	3	1
CYP & families struggling to adhere to/understand government restrictions	2	1
Exploitation (non-specific)	2	1
Physical health	2	1
Increase in number of children impacted by trauma	2	1
Difficulty with getting school places	2	1
Other	26	8

“Police response to young people being exploited. Putting young people at increased risk from perpetrators by arrest or visible involvement. Children not wanting police involvement as concerned about risk then posed to them or their family”

[Other]

“Lack of post 18 support for care leavers”

[Lack of support and resources]

“Because there are no face to face visits, families are worried about their loved one in prison”

[Reduced family contact]

“Referrals from families who have children with ASD have increased”

[Other]

“Parents are feeling guilty as not spending long on their home schooling each day”

[Pressure/stress relating to education/homeschooling]

“Young people having to 'educate' siblings because of lockdown”

[Other]

“Changes to the demographic of exploited children, increase in numbers from a traveller background”

[Other]

“Fostering families have found the lockdowns hard and are finding this lockdown harder as not all local authorities are allowing their children to attend school and it has been a battle for them in some cases for their school to have their CYP in school despite them being in foster care”

[Difficulty with getting school places]

“A complaint just dealt with where a young person was not visited after three safeguarding referrals were made to the LA. His views or allegations of abuse were not heard”

[Other]

“The disparity between what each LA offers to a trafficked young person and their responses to child victims of MDS - some areas criminalise them and others see them as victims”

[Other]

“Children as young as two are struggling and many of the children are regressing in their development as well”

[Child development]

“That there is no support for parents within the social services and family court arena in regards to advocacy, in regards to the parents feeling like someone is with them or helping them. As this directly impacts on the children, I think it is important for parents to have support provided to them so they are not facing social services alone when they are looking at mental health concerns and capacity to parent. There needs to be support to help families get well, not to just take children into care or threaten this. I can see now that many parents feel under threat when working with Children’s Social Care and yet there is no one supporting them and advocating on their behalf, even more so when mental ill health is part of the issue...”

[Lack of support and resources]

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

Base: All respondents (316)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
MHWB issues among CYP and families	116	37
Isolation (incl. loneliness, loss of social contact/socialisation)	61	19
Education (incl. difficulties with home-schooling, attainment)	37	12
Lack of support and resources	32	10
Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families (incl. hidden vulnerabilities)	19	6
Financial issues	14	4
Poverty/changes to benefits system	14	4
COVID-19/lockdown (non-specific)	13	4
Job loss/employment prospects	11	3
Lack of access to digital technology	6	2
CYP & families struggling to adhere to/understand government restrictions on COVID-19	5	2
Trauma/neglect/abuse	5	2
Lack of opportunities/access to opportunities	5	2
Family/relationship/placement breakdown	5	2
Child development	5	2
Lack of/changes to routine	5	2
Boredom/lack of activities for CYP	5	2
Homelessness and housing issues	4	1
More pressure on CYP/families	4	1
Transition back to 'normality'/adjusting to changes (incl. returning to school)	4	1
Increase in number of vulnerable CYP	4	1
Lack of hope for the future	4	1
Domestic abuse	3	1
Physical health	2	1
Exploitation (non-specific)	2	1
Parenting issues	2	1
Other	23	7
Don't know	1	*

“Without the routine and support of school some young people are becoming isolated and parents do not always see how to manage their YP’s mental health through this, and often their own too”

[MHWB issues; Isolation; Lack of/changes to routine]

“They are not being seen by professionals as much as they usually are - this means vulnerable children and families can go under the radar and a worsening of circumstances can be missed”

[Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families]

“The long lasting effect the pandemic is going to have on the family’s mental health and the children’s learning and development”

[MHWB issues; Child development]

“That low level preventative mental illness escalates in the general public and particularly in deprived families and communities as a whole into longer term enduring and self-harming/violent states”

[MHWB issues]

“Children and young people who fall through the cracks because they don't meet the really high thresholds for statutory support”

[Lack of support & resources]

“New families not knowing who to turn to for support because groups and services have stopped as a result of the pandemic”

[Lack of support & resources]

“Domestic abuse during lockdown with children and young people not in school where this may be 'picked up' as a CP concern”

[Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families]

“How this virus and the associated conditions will affect them long term - especially in respect of exams and school and mental health & wellbeing”

[Education; MHWB issues]

“Lack of access to IT, hardware and IT skills within families. This is a real barrier to us providing remote support”

[Lack of access to digital technology]

“Lack of mental health support, or support being offered virtually, this does not work with the hardest to reach families, or young people with severe mental ill health”

[Lack of support & resources]

“Lack of supports being offered - some supports are still being offered via online but not all young people are using this and there is something lost when not meeting face to face”

[Lack of support & resources]

“Not able to have the same level of FTF contact with young people to pick up signs of abuse/exploitation”

[Safeguarding issues due to services having less contact with families]

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

Base: All respondents (315)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
All children/families	96	30
Low income families/workless/reliant on benefits	41	13
The most vulnerable children and families	21	7
Teenagers and children aged 16+	20	6
CYP & families affected by mental health and wellbeing issues	15	5
Lone/single parent families	14	4
All CYP our service/Barnardo's works with	14	4
Children aged 0-5	13	4
Children with additional needs (incl. ASD, SEN & SPD)	11	3
Children in care	10	3
CYP & families with limited/no support network	10	3
Children aged 5-16	9	3
Care leavers/care experienced YP	8	3
Those from disadvantaged/deprived backgrounds/dealing with deprivation	8	3
Young carers	8	3
CYP & families not known to services/not under social care (incl. those not asking for help)	8	3
CYP & families with disabilities	7	2
CYP with protected characteristics (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities)	7	2
CYP & families living in unsuitable housing	7	2
CYP & families affected by domestic abuse	6	2
New/young parents/families	6	2
Refugee and asylum seekers/migrants/ESOL	6	2
Secondary school aged children	6	2
CYP & families with no/limited access to digital technology	6	2
CYP not attending/engaging with school	5	2
CYP & families with complex needs	5	2
Those in deprived areas	4	1
Working parents	4	1
Primary school aged children	3	1
CYP & families affected by substance misuse	2	1
CYP & families impacted by trauma	2	1
CYP & families who require support/services	2	1
Parents with no/little education	2	1
CYP & families affected by conflict/breakdown	2	1
University students	2	1
Other	14	4
Don't know	1	*

What are your main concerns about the impact of Brexit on children, young people, or families? (please state the specific ethnic background and emerging issue)

Base: All respondents (288)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Financial impact on CYP and families	64	22
No concerns	40	14
Impact on employment and training opportunities	32	11
Increased division/intolerance (incl. racism)	20	7
Erosion of rights/policy/legislation to support & protect	20	7
Reduced/lack of opportunities	15	5
Impacts of restricted movement/freedom of travel	15	5
Loss of EU funding	14	5
Access to/availability of 'basic essentials'	12	4
Impact on settlement/residency status of non-UK citizens	9	3
Economic impact	9	3
Been overshadowed by COVID-19	9	3
The uncertainty	9	3
Impact on MHWB	8	3
Lack of understanding & knowledge about Brexit and (potential) impacts	7	2
Impact on services/access to services	6	2
Homelessness and housing issues	4	1
Safeguarding /Child Protection concerns	4	1
Impact on NHS	3	1
Family breakdown	3	1
Other	24	8
Don't know	66	23

“Young people exploited in Europe for longer as traffickers unable to bring them into the UK on fake EU passports”

[Safeguarding/Child Protection concerns]

“Information not being shared via Interpol so lack of ability to monitor people of concern who could ham our children”

[Safeguarding/Child Protection concerns]

“My main concern in regards to Brexit is an increase in the price of food/household goods which families are already struggling to buy on very limited budgets, especially those families who are on Universal Credit or low income jobs”

[Financial impact; Economic impact]

“The availability of food is also concerning - budget supermarkets have a large import from the EU - will this be affected?”

[Access to/availability of ‘basic essentials’]

“I am unsure if individuals are even thinking about Brexit at the minute due to Covid 19”

[Been overshadowed by COVID-19]

“We're so focused on Covid but I think it'll be an extension of issues like youth unemployment and the knock on effects in terms of mental health, poverty etc”

[Impact on employment and training opportunities; Impact on MHWB; Financial impact]

“There is a lot of bias being taught in schools and spread across social media, plus fear spread by the media; young people take this on board and it causes stress”

[Impact on MHWB]

“Loss of employment rights. No EU government ensuring that UK government upholds existing rights”

[Erosion of rights/policy/legislation to support and protect]

“Loss of funding streams to organisations within the community means closure of services”

[Loss of EU funding]

“That opportunities and services here in Liverpool will be impacted (our buses and many of our inclusion and youth services are supported by EU funding and I'm not convinced that Liverpool will be at the top of the Government's list for funding going forward)”

[Loss of EU funding; Reduced/lack of opportunities]

“Here in Northern Ireland - potential for an escalation in divisions and simmering tensions in communities”

[Increased division/intolerance]

“Carers are moving out of the UK and back to the EU”

[Other]

“Brexit could provoke internal and external conflicts, e.g. around the issues around identity”

[Increased division/intolerance; Other]

COVID-19

In your role as a practitioner, have you supported anyone who has had symptoms suspected to be associated with COVID-19?

Base: All respondents (297)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes - currently	63	21
Yes - but not currently	99	33
No	107	36
Don't know	28	9

Which of the following have the children, young people or parents you are supporting been concerned about in relation to COVID-19? (Select all that apply)

Base: All respondents (297)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Reduced social contact	265	89
Impact on mental health	236	79
Getting COVID-19	214	72
Financial impact	207	70
Boredom	205	69
Worry about other people getting COVID-19	190	64
Increased rules/restrictions	190	64
Lack of routine	190	64
Parents managing children/young people's behaviours	185	62
Increased family conflict/stress/disharmony	178	60
Lack of space at home	166	56
Parents managing/juggling childcare and work	166	56
Reduced respite for parents	165	56
Lack of devices/technology to work or study at home (e.g. laptops or Wi-Fi)	152	51
Uncertainty/lack of information (e.g. how long restrictions will last)	146	49
Being unable to access the support/provision available	145	49
Child development concerns/delays	133	45
Spending more time online	128	43
Reduced voluntary/community support services available	121	41
Job loss	121	41
Worry about future plans (e.g. study/training/jobs etc.)	119	40
Overload of information/news/media	114	38
Reduced statutory support available	106	36
Lack of access to open spaces	94	32
Lack of exercise	84	28
Other (please specify)	20	7

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...?

- Directly (i.e. illness)
- Indirectly as a result of extended lockdown/quarantine
- Indirectly as a result of reduced services/provision

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Base
Directly (illness)	N	4	6	21	17	52	37	35	53	29	28	282
	%	1	2	7	6	18	13	12	19	10	10	
Indirectly (lockdown)	N	1	1	4	5	19	18	39	73	67	59	286
	%	*	*	1	2	7	6	14	26	23	21	
Indirectly (services)	N	-	2	4	6	24	24	45	63	68	58	294
	%	-	1	1	2	8	8	15	21	23	20	

What do you think is the most important thing the Government or other decision makers could do to address impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the children, young people and families that you support? (Select up to three responses)

Base: All respondents (297)

	n	%
Increase funding for/availability of mental health and wellbeing support	150	51
Ensure people have 'basic essentials' (e.g. food)	117	39
Listen to charities, frontline workers and the public	78	26
Provide clear guidance and information	75	25
Provide financial support for charities/third sector	71	24
Improve financial support for children, young people & families	52	18
A plan & support for CYP re-entering education post-lockdown	45	15
Get all children and young people back to school/education	44	15
Ensure people have access to digital technology	39	13
Increase support to address domestic abuse	30	10
Increase testing for COVID-19	26	9
Relax some of the restrictions (e.g. allow face-to-face support)	25	8
Provide funding, support and resources to schools	21	7
Provide support for job security/opportunities, employers and the economy	19	6
Increase support for carers/parents	19	6
Implement tougher lockdown measures	18	6
Improve/increase benefits (e.g. Universal Credit)	11	4
Provide financial support for public sector/local authorities	11	4
Publicise/raise awareness of available support	11	4
Address language barriers to accessing services/support	7	2
Other (please specify)	10	3

To what extent do you feel that the young people you support are currently...?

- Compliant with official guidance (1=Not compliant, 10=Very compliant)
- Responding to other factors (other than the official guidance) influencing whether to stay in/go out (1=Not influenced, 10=Very influenced)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Base
Compliant	n	7	12	23	19	47	38	45	42	35	18	286
	%	2	4	8	7	16	13	16	15	12	6	
Responding to other factors	n	3	17	17	20	68	31	43	48	22	17	286
	%	1	6	6	7	24	11	15	17	8	6	

Has this changed since lockdown began on 23 March 2020?

Base: All respondents (291)

	n	%
More compliant	24	8
About the same	118	41
Less compliant	114	39
Don't know	35	12

Has there been an increase or decrease in the number of referrals to your service over the last 3 months?

Base: All respondents (297)

	n	%
Increase	137	46
Decrease	26	9
About the same	66	22
Don't know	62	21
Not applicable – new service	6	2

Has there been an increase or decrease in the 'level or complexity of need' for individual service users over the last 3 months?

Base: All respondents (297)

	n	%
Increase	176	59
Decrease	2	1
About the same	78	26
Don't know	37	12
Not applicable – new service	4	1

Do you feel that demand on services has increased or decreased over the last 3 months?

Base: All respondents (297)

	n	%
Increase	214	72
Decrease	12	4
Stayed the same	42	14
Don't know	26	9
Not applicable – new service	3	1

To what extent do you feel able to meet demand? (1=Can't meet demand, 10=Able to meet demand)

Base: All respondents (296)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
1 – Can't meet demand	4	1
2	4	1
3	15	5
4	22	7
5	42	14
6	28	9
7	67	23
8	61	21
9	34	11
10 – Able to meet demand	19	6

POVERTY

In the last year, have you given service users food because you're worried they are hungry, or will have nothing to eat?

Base: All respondents (296)

	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	197	67
No	99	33

In the last year, have you given service users clothing because you're worried they will be cold or don't have enough suitable?

Base: All respondents (296)

	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	126	43
No	170	57

ONLINE HARMS

In the last year, have you supported...?

Base: All respondents (295)

	<i>n</i>	%
Anyone who you know has had negative experiences of online gambling	48	16
Parents, carers, or other supportive adults in children's lives, to respond to online gaming concerns about their children	64	22
Neither	214	73

In the last year, have you supported any children under 10 that have been sexually exploited/abused by an adult online?

Base: All respondents (295)

	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	22	7
No	231	78
Don't know	42	14

DOMESTIC ABUSE – FAMILY COURTS

In the last year, have you supported victims of domestic abuse who have been through family courts?

Base: All respondents (295)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	105	36
No	160	54
Don't know	30	10

Overall, do you feel that decisions made by the family courts are in the best interest of children?

Base: All respondents who have supported victims of domestic abuse who have been through family courts (102)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	47	46
No	24	24
Don't know	31	30

Overall, do you feel that victims of domestic abuse are treated fairly in family courts?

Base: All respondents who have supported victims of domestic abuse who have been through family courts (104)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	16	15
No	39	38
Don't know	49	47

CHILD ON PARENT/CARER VIOLENCE

Over the last year, have you worked with children who have been violent towards parents/ carers?

Base: All respondents (294)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	166	56
No	100	34
Don't know	28	10

Do you feel this issue has increased during lockdown? (Since 23 March 2020)

Base: All respondents who have worked with children who have been violent towards parents/carers (163)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	100	61
No	10	6
Don't know	53	33

What do you feel are the main reasons for children being violent towards parents/carers?

(Select all that apply)

Base: All who have worked with children who have been violent towards parents/carers (164)

Children struggling to manage feelings and behaviours due to...

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Increase in anxiety or wider mental health issues	119	73
Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Autism (ASD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)	112	68
Parenting approaches (inconsistent boundaries, high levels of punitive behaviours, physical chastisement of parents)	103	63
Other trauma response	82	50
Impact on child of domestic violence	76	46
Experience and impact of direct child abuse or neglect	65	40
Communication impairment	49	30
Influence of peers or role models	35	21
Impact of bullying by peers	27	16
Impact of child criminal exploitation or sexual exploitation outside of the family	26	16
Other (please specify)	11	7

Are these children/parents being supported around child to parent violence in other service areas? (Select all that apply)

Base: All respondents (161)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	75	47
Children's Social Care	61	38
Parenting guidance/support services	59	37
Early Help	47	29
Special Educational Needs (SEN) support services	39	24
Youth Offending Services (YOS)	30	19
Targeted domestic violence services	28	17
No	16	10
Other	12	7

How would you rate the support in this area? (1=very poor & 5=very good)

Base: All respondents (143)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
1 – Very poor	8	6
2	33	23
3	58	41
4	39	27
5 – Very good	5	3

SERVICE ADAPTATIONS

Has your service implemented any changes over the last 3 months? (Since October 2020)

Base: All respondents (291)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	228	78
No	63	22

Please state the changes

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (211)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Providing support remotely/digitally	107	51
Staff are working from home/remotely	34	16
No/reduction in face to face work/support	33	16
Adopting additional COVID-specific health measures e.g. social distancing, PPE, COVID secure buildings	20	9
Continuing with/restarting face to face/direct work where necessary	20	9
Providing additional/broader/more frequent/longer support (incl. more 1:1 support)	16	8
Adhering to government restrictions/changes in restrictions	16	8
Providing activities/resources (incl. technology)	11	5
Increasing risk assessments	9	4
Adapted session format/size e.g. priority, appointment only, reduced group sizes, to meet needs	9	4
Increasing capacity (incl. recruitment of staff/volunteers, accepting more referrals, developing service)	8	4
Supporting with 'basic essentials' (e.g. food, money)	6	3
Developing/changing support (non-specific)	5	2
Completing learning/training	4	2
Reduction in support	4	2
Providing financial support	3	1
Working with other agencies to provide joined up support	3	1
Creating staff bubbles	3	1
Reducing number of staff in buildings	3	1
Outdoor sessions	3	1
Signposting and referring CYP & families to other agencies	2	1
Providing MHWB support	2	1
Providing additional support/resources to staff/volunteers	2	1
Advertising support/service	2	1
Other	22	10

“Face to face visits for emergencies or dropping money, food, laptops etc. Video calls with young people (which has benefited everyone) increased welfare calls and reminders of government guidelines”

[Providing support remotely/digitally; Providing activities/resources; Supporting with ‘basic essentials’; Providing additional/broader/more frequent/longer support]

“We have increased our capacity for offering everything online, we are linked in more with other organisations to best support our clients locally”

[Increasing capacity; Working with other agencies to provide joined up support]

“Trying to use more tools to support families on a more personal level, offering more one to one support and tailoring programs to suit the parent’s needs”

[Providing additional/broader/more frequent/longer support]

“Since new restrictions in January all not high risk sessions are being delivered over the phone/video. High risk are still being seen face to face however this is always outside and with masks and socially distanced”

[Providing support remotely/digitally; Adopting additional COVID-specific health measures e.g. social distancing, PPE, COVID secure buildings]

“Developing training/learning resources on the virtual recruitment and training of Independent Visitors, to ensure that IV providers are able to continue recruiting and matching statutory befrienders”

[Increasing capacity]

Is the reason for your service change...? (Select all that apply)

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (216)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
To meet existing aims of the service, within current restrictions	143	66
To meet new needs arising as a result of COVID-19	143	66
To reach more service users than previously	39	18
Other	8	4

How does this change in your service impact on the quality of support your service provides? (Compared to the previous three months, Oct-Dec 2020)

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (217)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Reduced quality of support	81	37
Improved quality of support	61	28
No change	40	18
Don't know	29	13
Not applicable - new service	6	3

How does this change in your service impact on the stress levels of staff?

(Compared to the previous three months, Oct-Dec 2020)

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (216)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Increased levels of stress for staff	125	58
Reduced levels of stress for staff	19	9
No change	42	19
Don't know	26	12
Not applicable - new service	4	2

How does this change in your service impact on the levels of engagement with service users? (Compared to the previous three months, Oct-Dec 2020)

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (216)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Reduced level of engagement	90	42
Increased level of engagement	59	27
No change	40	19
Don't know	24	11
Not applicable - new service	3	1

How does this change in your service impact on the number of children, young people or families you are reaching? (Compared to the previous three months, Oct-Dec 2020)

Base: All whose service has implemented changes over last 3 months (214)

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Decreased reach	63	29
Increased reach	56	26
No change	52	24
Don't know	39	18
Not applicable - new service	4	2