

The POET Survey

Lancashire County Council Data Report: January 2018

Parents of Children with Education Health and Care Plans

Introduction

This report presents data collected from parents and carers of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans in Lancashire, using the Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). It also compares the numerical responses of parents in Lancashire with the responses we have from parents in other parts of England. In total, this report presents the responses of 564 parents in Lancashire to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Lancashire data against responses from 323 parents in other parts of England who have used the most recent version of the POET. As people could choose not to complete particular questions within the survey, the totals reported throughout the report are unlikely to add up to the same totals overall. Partially completed responses were removed from the data set if no answer was provided to any of the questions relating to experience of support or the impact of support.

Where provided, percentages are of those people who responded to that question. The target population for the survey was parents of children with special educational needs who had experience of Education Health and Care Plans. Some parents also had experience of Personal Budgets; a section of the questionnaire is dedicated to their experience of these.

Who took part in the survey?

Parents were asked to say why their child needed additional support and what type of support their child received. The graphs in figures 1 to 3 show the main reason children needed support and the types of support being provided. The responses from parents in Lancashire were broadly similar to those of parents from other areas of England in terms of the reason their child needed support. Parents in Lancashire were slightly less likely to report having a personal budget for their child (21%) compared to other parts of England (24%). Nearly all parents from Lancashire (94%) said that their child had an EHCP. They were less likely to report that their child had paid support at school and as likely to report they had paid support to go out and about, compared to responses from other local authorities in England.

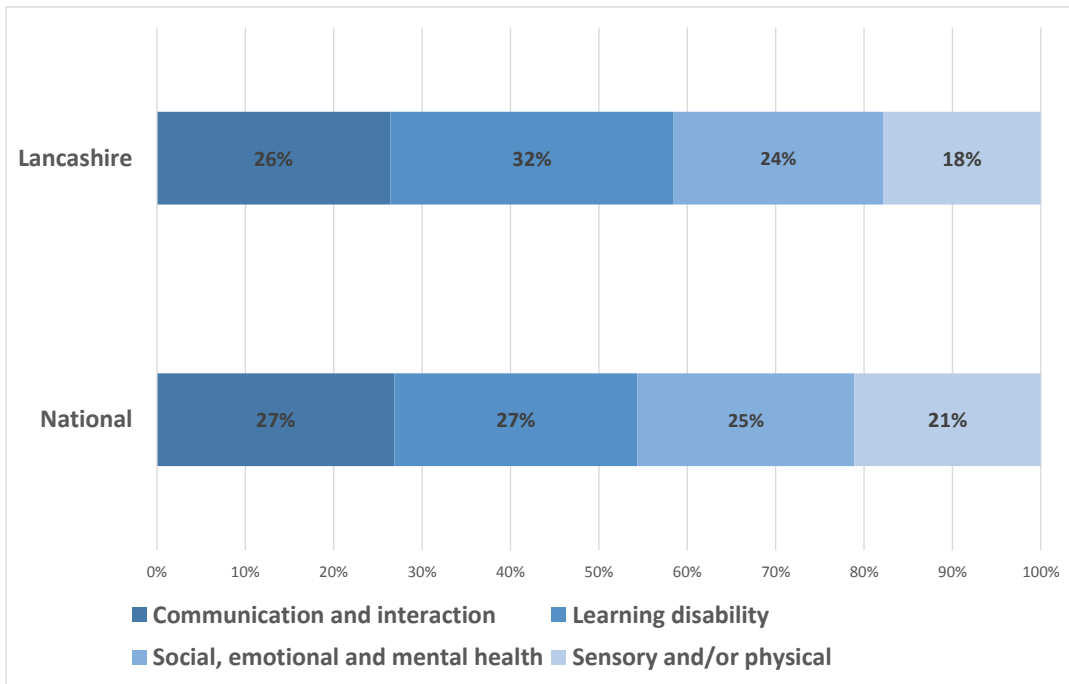


Figure 1. Why do children need support?

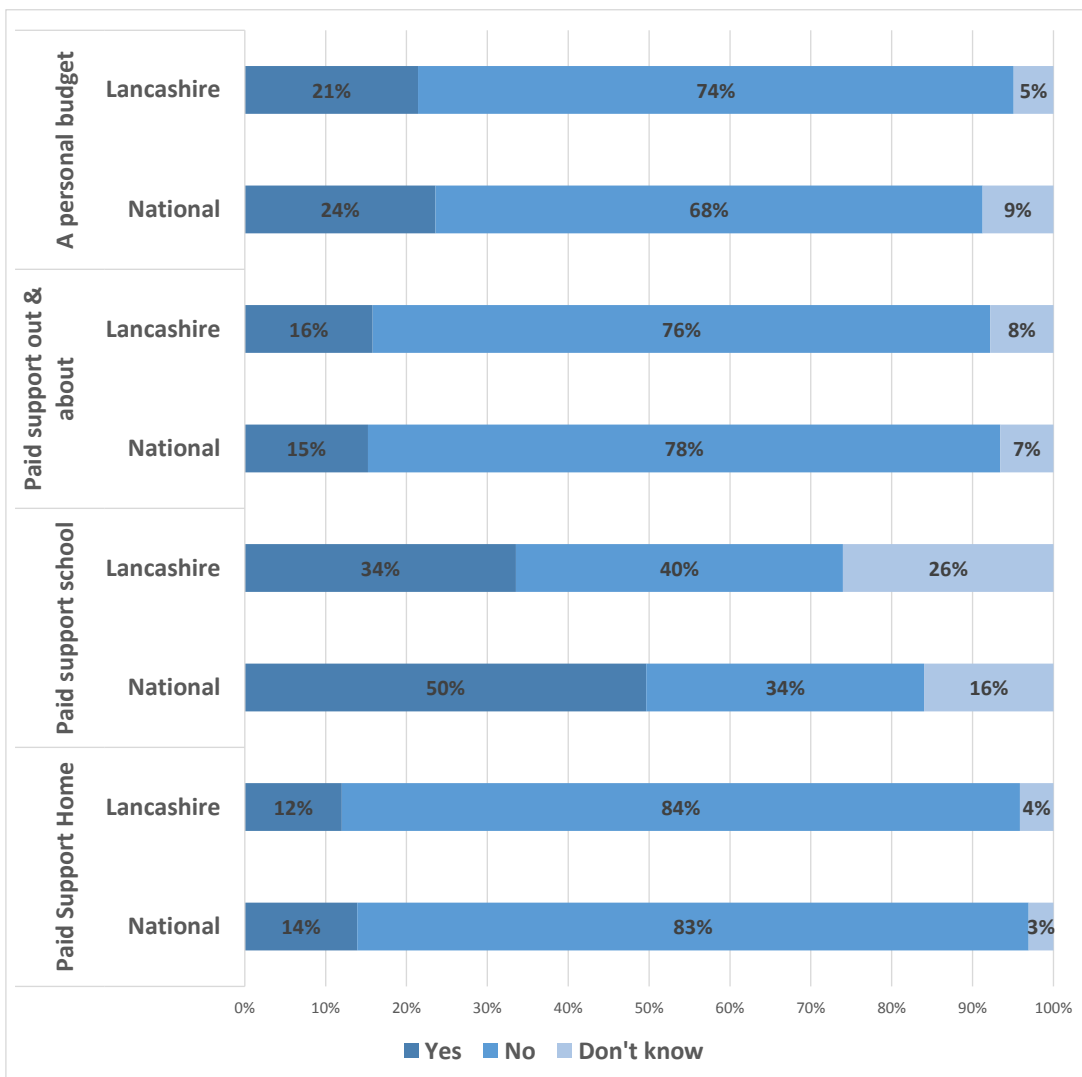


Figure 2. What type of support does your child receive?

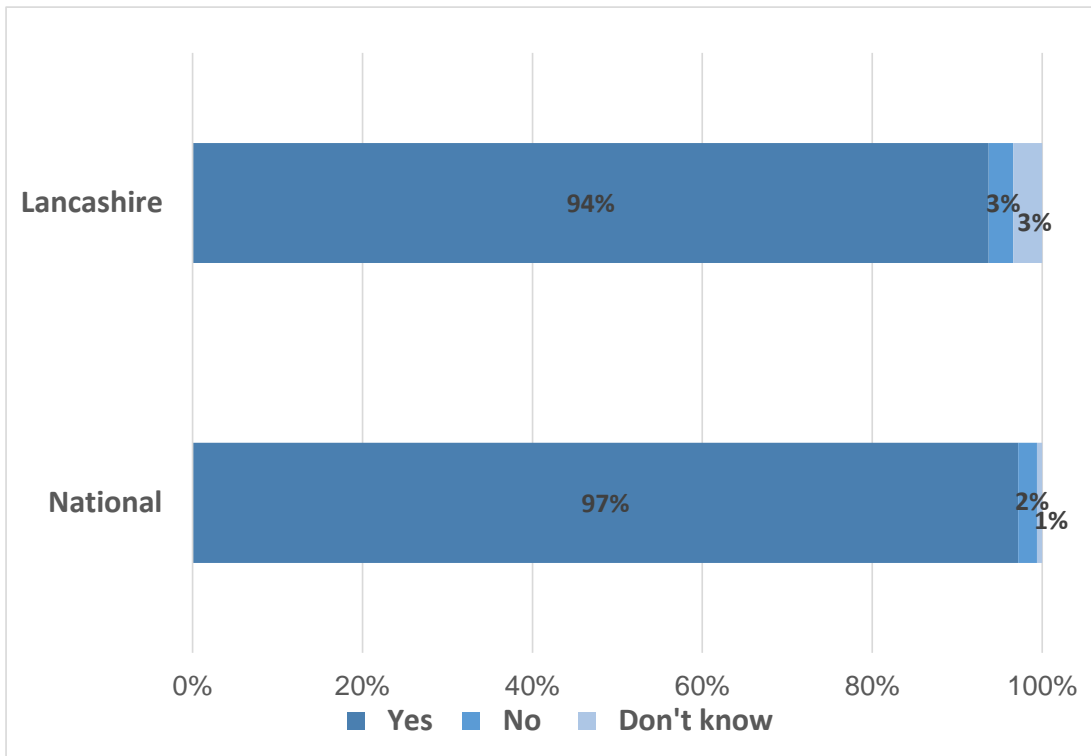


Figure 3. Does your child have an Education Health and Care Plan?

The POET survey asked parents what type of school their child attended; whether this was mainstream or special education. Parents from Lancashire less more likely to report that their child attended a mainstream school (43%) compared to parents responding to the POET survey from other parts of England (62%).

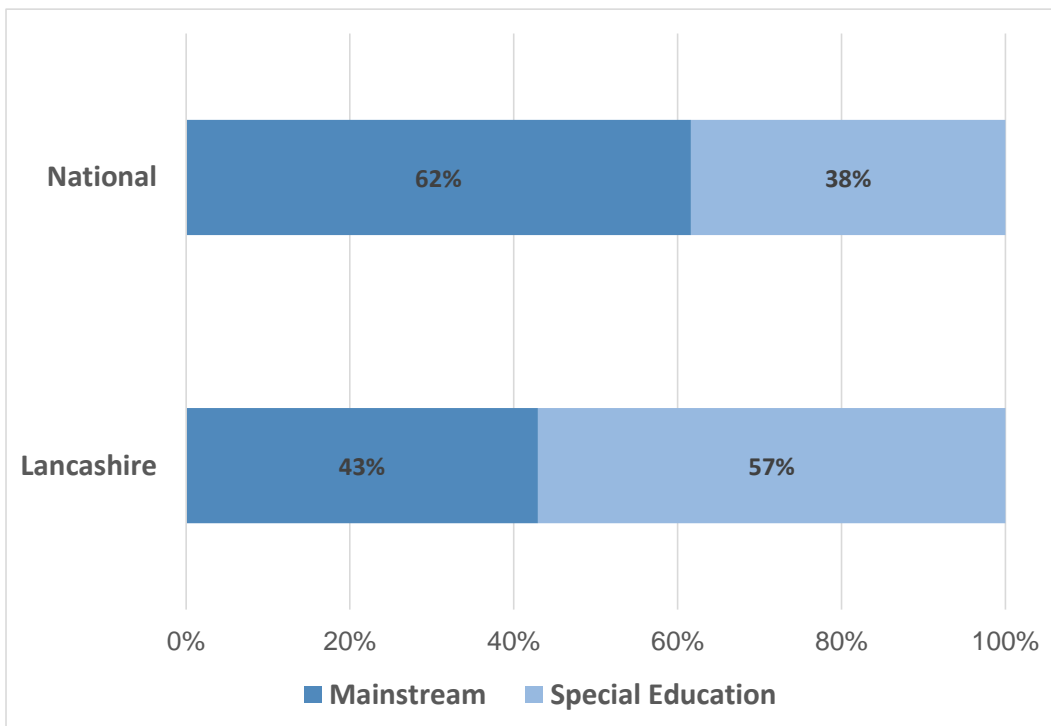


Figure 4. What type of school does your child attend?

The POET survey also asked parents how long their child had had an EHC Plan and whether this was a result of a statement (or learning disability assessment) being converted to an EHC Plan. As figures 5 and 6 show, parents from Lancashire were more likely to report their child having an EHC Plan for more than a year (68%), compared to parents responding from other parts of England (63%), and as likely to report that the EHC Plan resulted from the conversion of a statement or learning disability assessment (69%) compared to parents responding from other parts of England (70%).

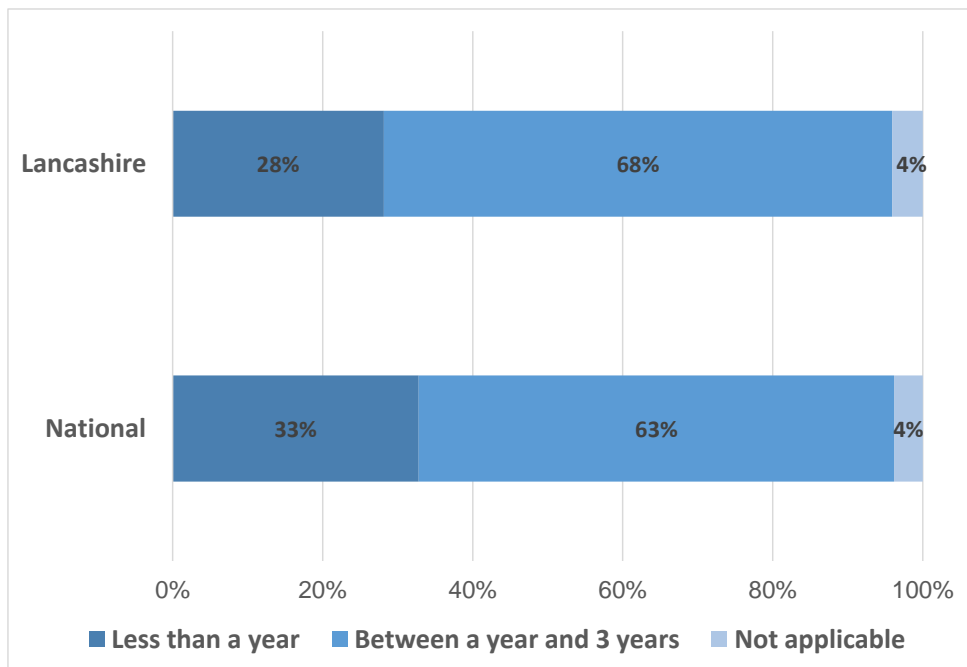


Figure 5. How long has your child had an Education Health and Care Plan?

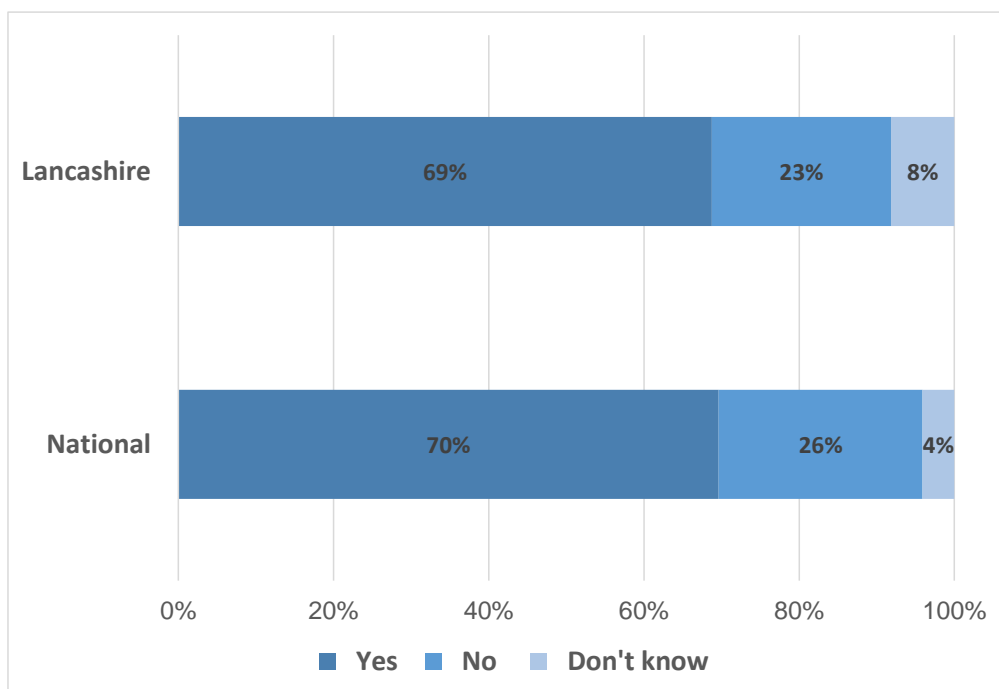


Figure 6. Did your child have a 'statement' (or learning disability assessment) that was converted to an Education Health and Care Plan?

How did parents experience the Education Health and Care Plan process?

The POET survey asked parents to answer several questions about their experience of the Education Health and Care Plan process, including whether they had a personal budget, who was involved in developing the plan and whether they felt their views and the views of their child had been included in the plan. As figure 7 below shows, a wide range of professional people were actively involved in the development of the EHC Plans. Parents in Lancashire were more likely to report the involvement of a classroom assistant (22%) than other areas of England (17%) and slightly less likely to report the involvement of a key worker (9%) than other areas of the country (12%).

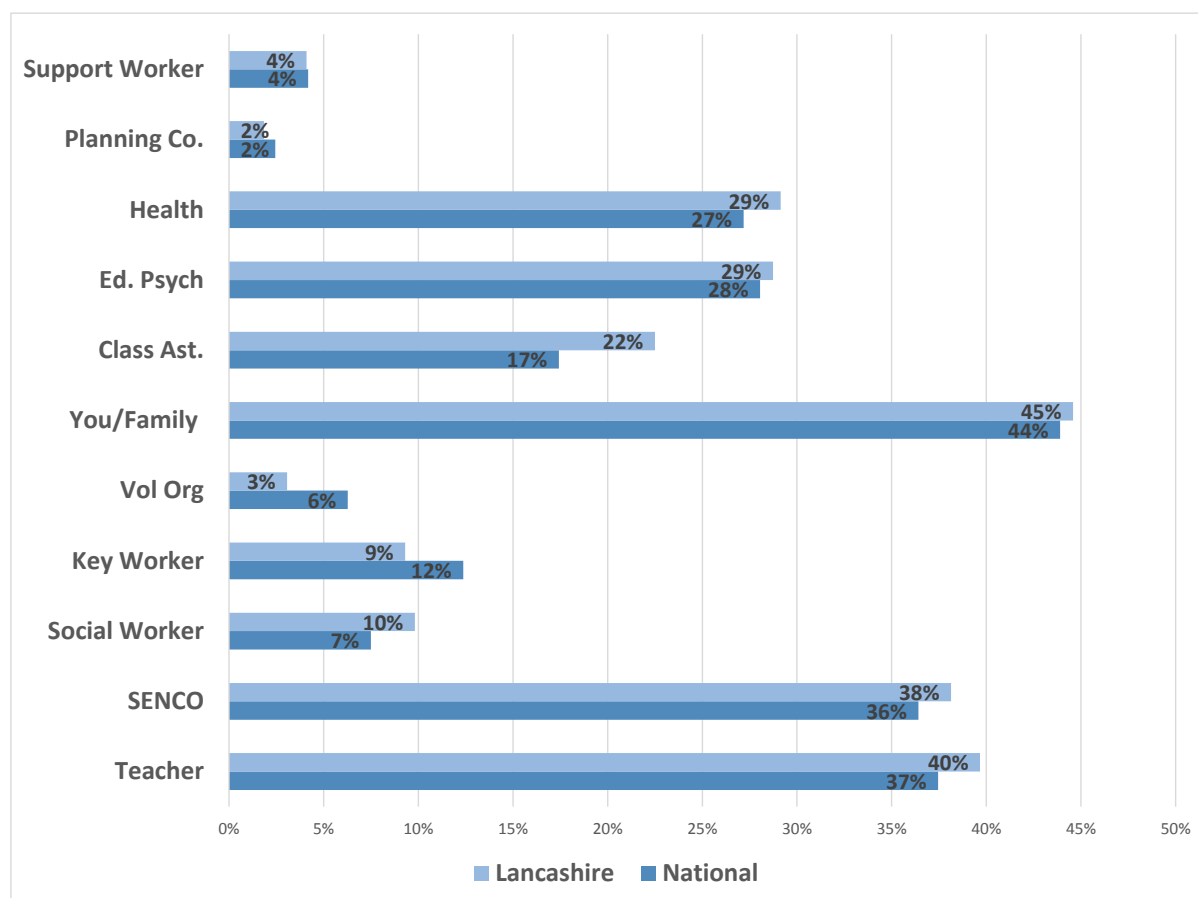


Figure 7. Who was actively involved in developing the Education Health and Care Plan?

The POET Survey asked parents whether and to what extent their views and the views of their child had been included in the development of the EHC plan. Just over two thirds of parents from Lancashire (69%) said their views had been fully included when the EHC Plan had been developed, a lower proportion than parents from other parts of England (76%). Just under a half of parents from Lancashire (48%) reported that the views of their child had been included when the EHC Plan had been developed, similar to 49% of parents from other parts of England.

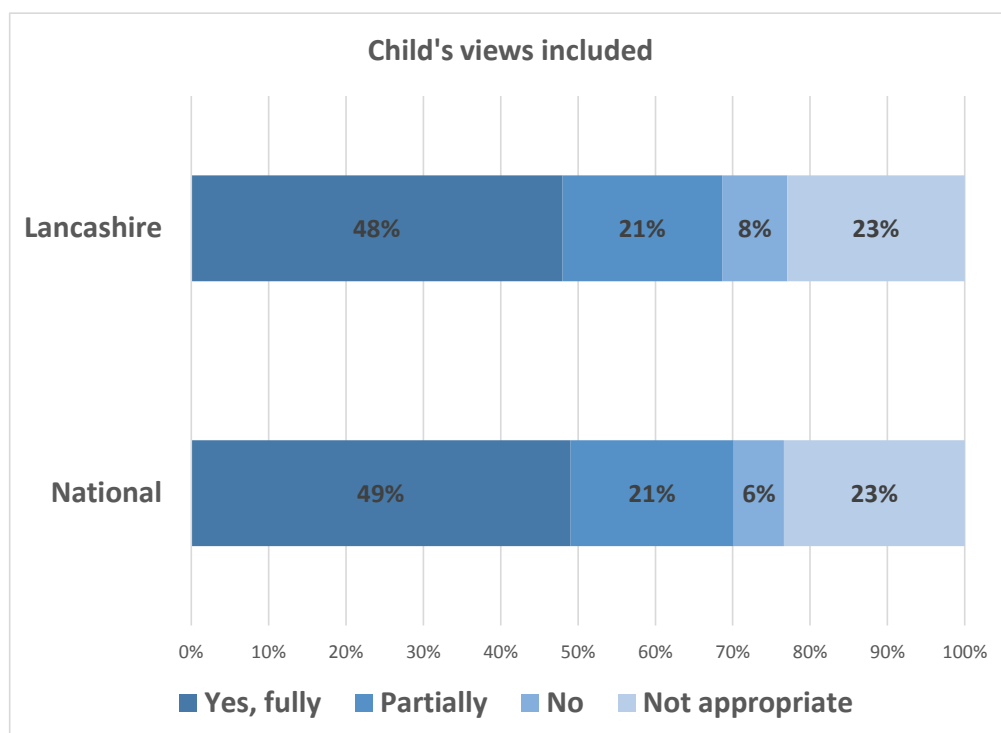
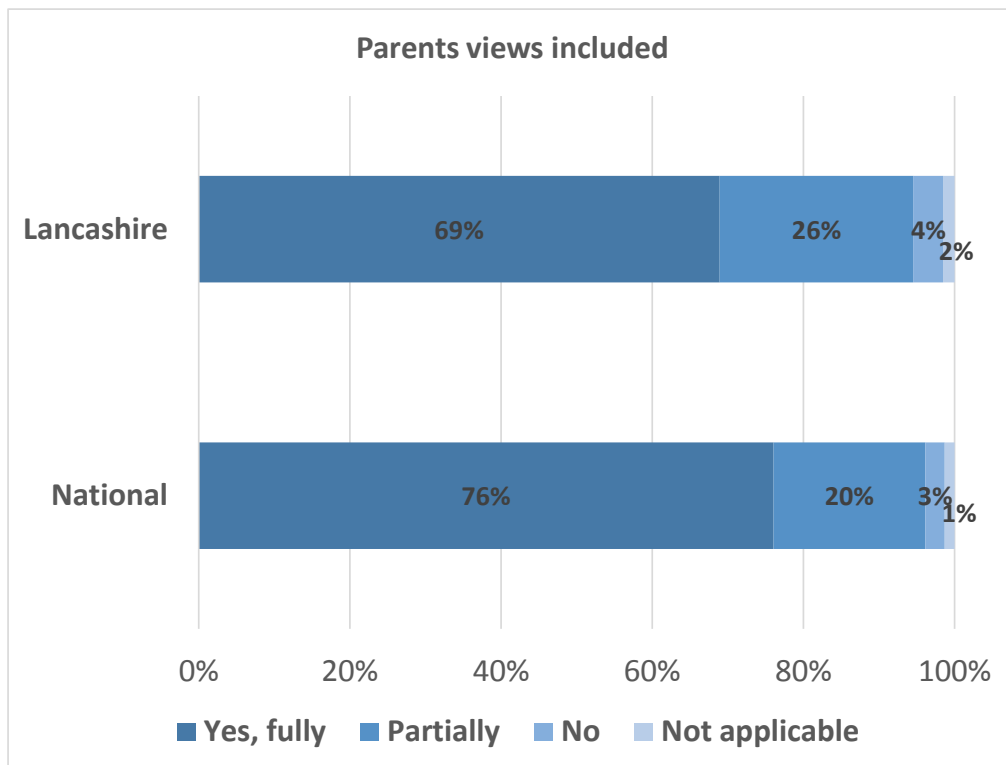


Figure 8. Were people’s views included in the development of the Education Health and Care Plans?

How did parents experience personal budgets?

Parents who said they had a personal budget as part of the EHC Plan were asked additional questions, including how the budget was held, whether they knew the amount of money allocated to the budget, and whether and to what extent they felt able to decide how the money should be spent. As figure 9, 10 and 11 show, parents from Lancashire were less likely to report holding their own personal budget (20%) than parents from other parts of England (33%) and significantly less likely to report they knew the amount of money allocated to the personal budget (27%) compared parents from other parts of England (54%). Under a half of parents from Lancashire (41%) said they could fully or partially decide how the personal budget was spent, compared to 59% from other parts of England.

[Note: Parents from Lancashire formed part of a wider national survey and parents who reported they had a personal budget were a subset of this group; so percentages for Lancashire parents in this section represent only small numbers of actual people.]

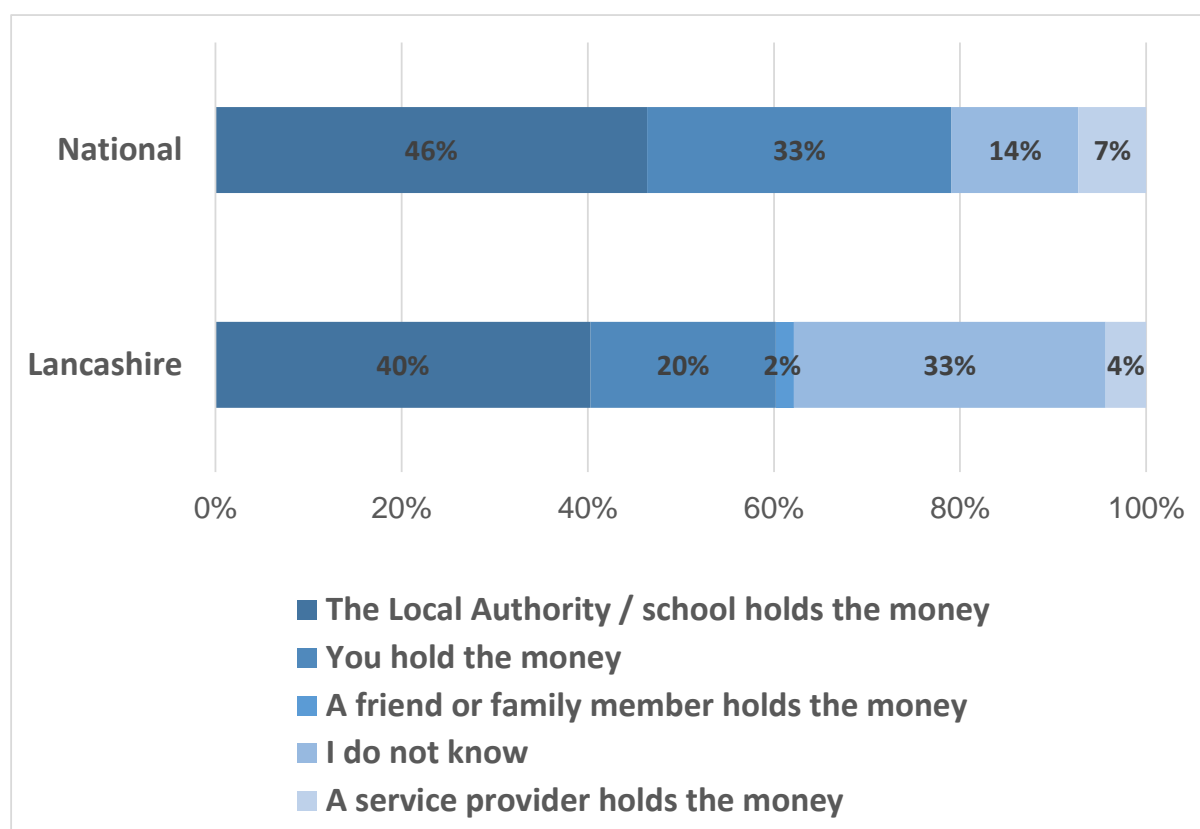


Figure 9. How were personal budgets held?

As figure 10 shows, just over a quarter of parents in Lancashire (27%) said they knew the amount of money in the personal budget, meaning they were a lot less likely to know the amount of money allocated to their personal budget than parents from other parts of England (54%).

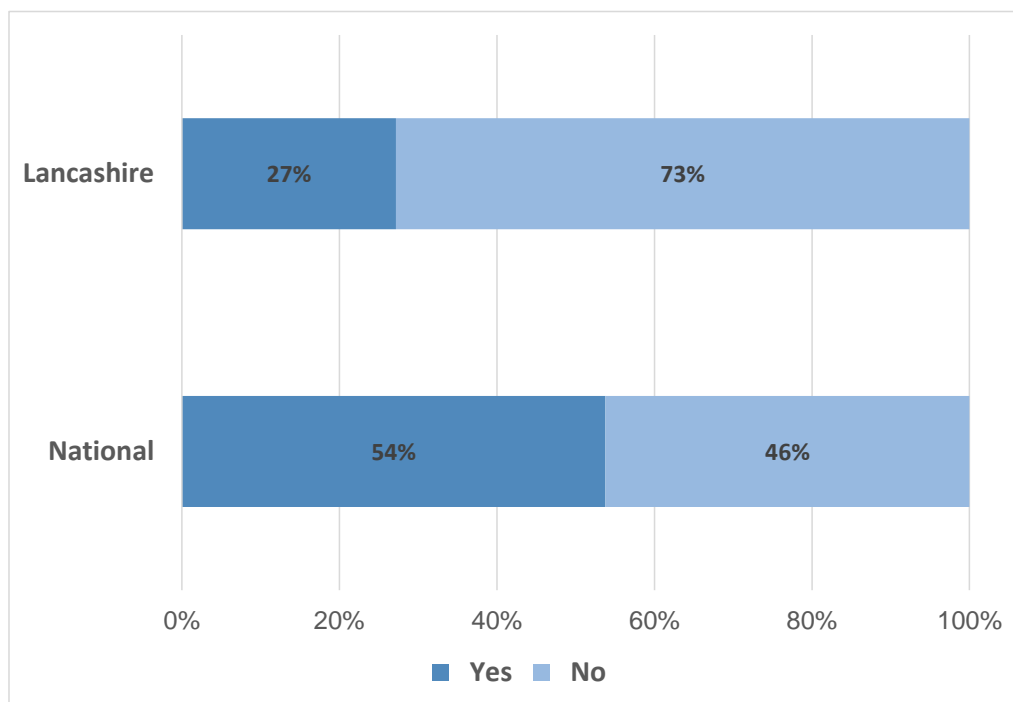


Figure 10. Do parents know how much money was allocated to their child's personal budget?

Over a half of parents from Lancashire (59%) said they could fully or partially decide how the money in the personal budget was spent, compared to under a half of parents from other parts of England (41%).

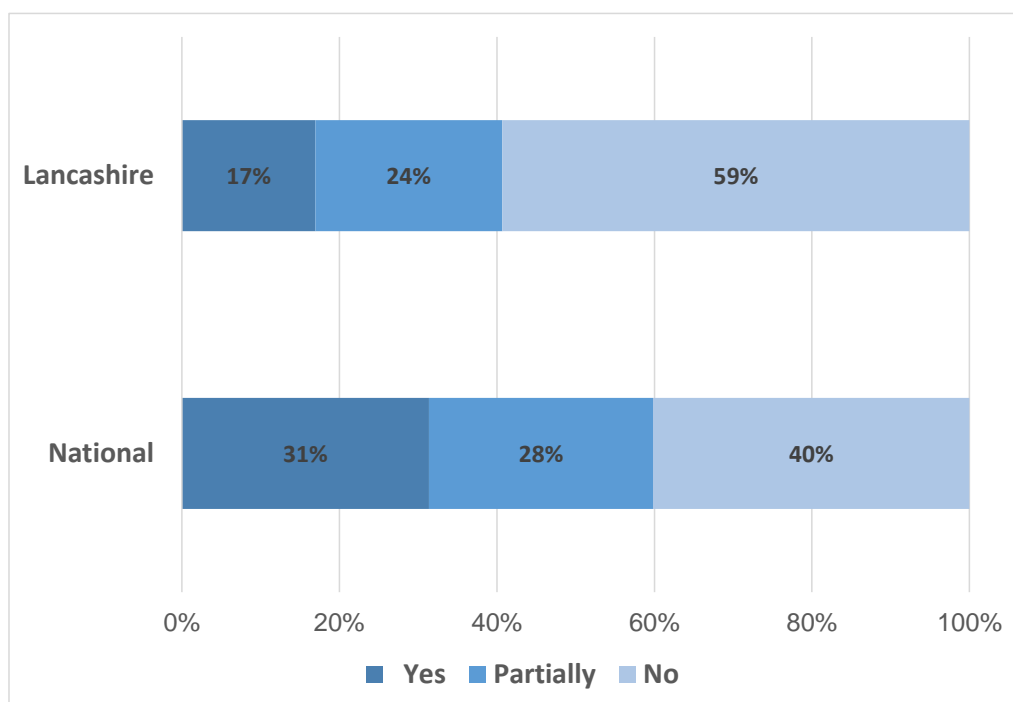


Figure 11. Could parents decide how the money in the personal budget was spent?

The POET survey asked parents who said they had a personal budget how the money in the budget had been used. More parents from Lancashire reported using the person budget for transport (11%) than parents from other parts of England (5%)

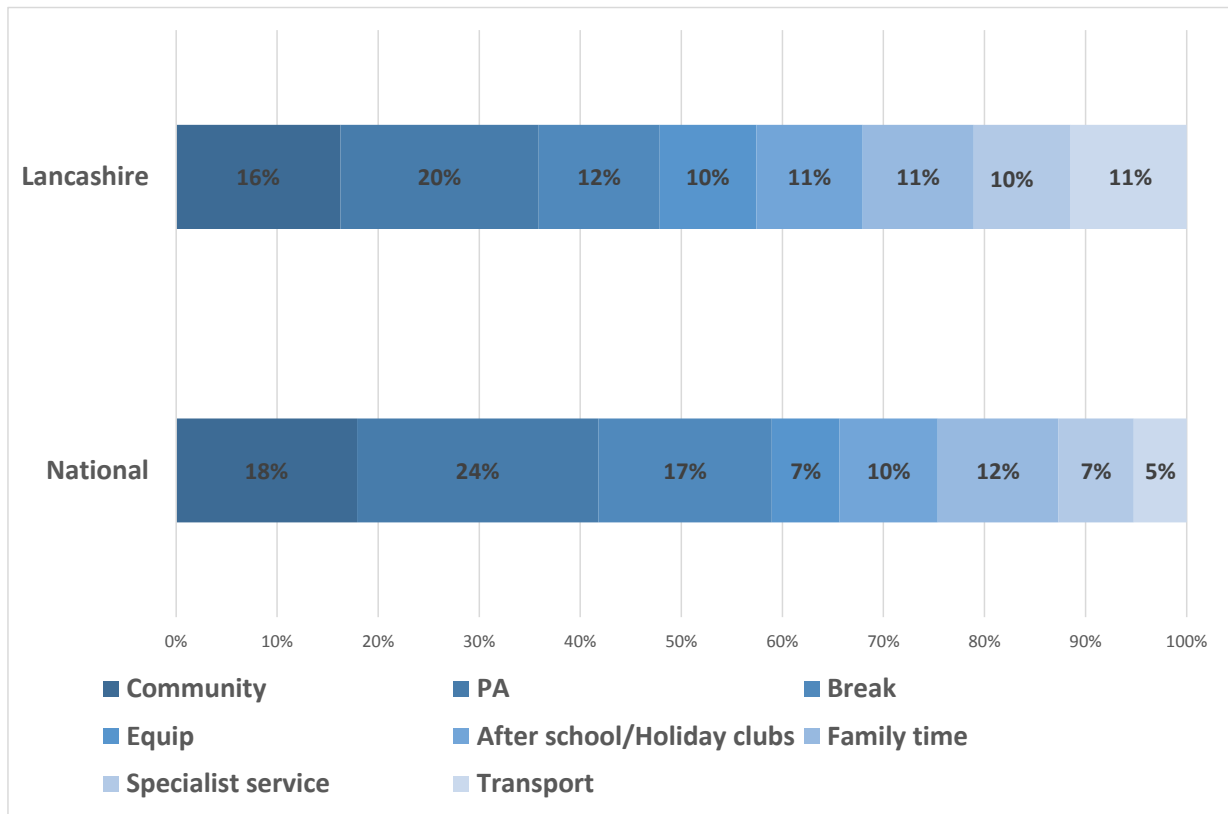


Figure 12. How was money in personal budget used?

What do parents feel about the support their child has received?

The POET survey asked parents to say what they thought about three different aspects of the support their child had received over the past 12 months:

- Choice about support: I could change the support my child gets if I need to.
- Amount of support: My child has the right amount of support.
- Quality: My child is supported as an individual with dignity and respect.

As figure 13 shows, just under three quarters of parents from Lancashire (73%) said the quality of support was good or very good, the same as parents from other parts of England. Over a half of parents from Lancashire (60%) said the amount of support available to their child was good or very good, the same as parents from other parts of England (60%). Less than a half (41%) of parents from Lancashire reported that the degree of choice and control over support was good or very good, slightly less than parents from other parts of England (45%).

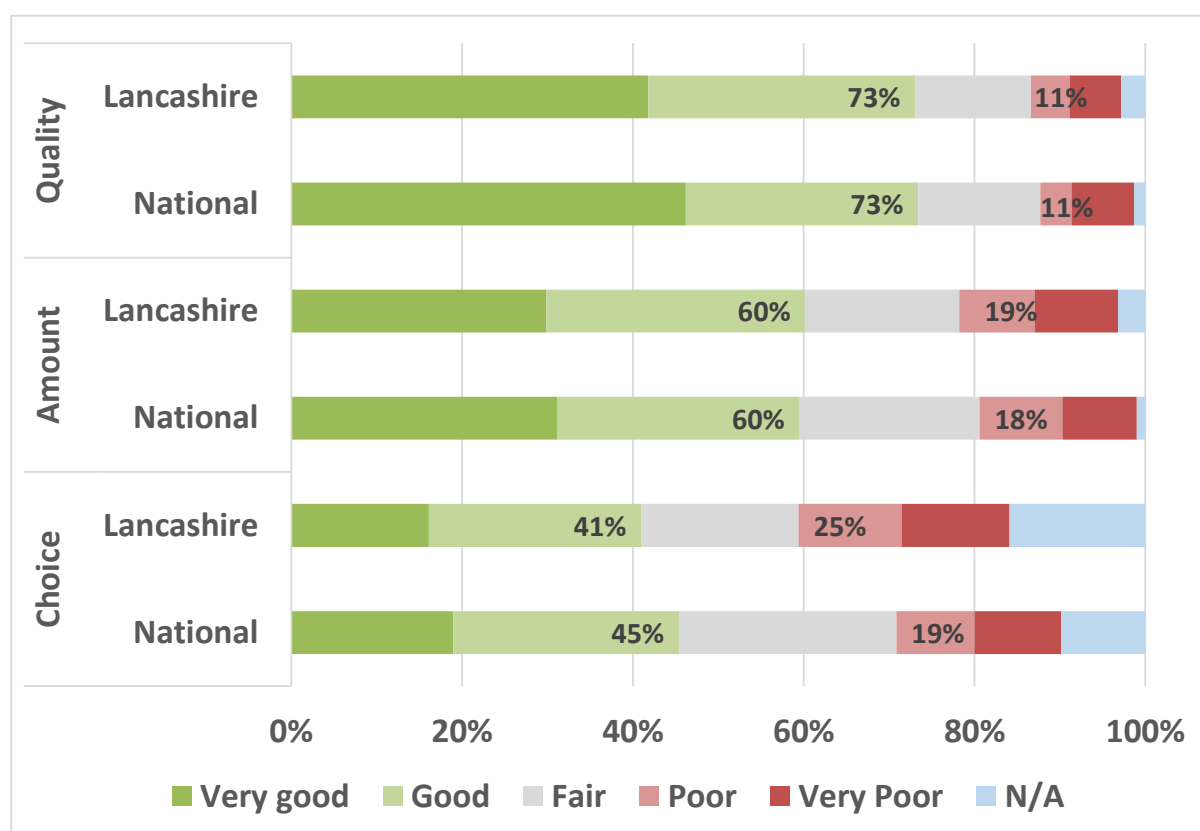


Figure 13. How do parents feel about the support their child receives?

Outcomes for children and young people

The POET survey asked parents to say how well the support their child gets had helped them with seven different areas of their life:

- Being as fit and healthy as they can be
- Taking part in school and learning
- Being part of their local community
- Enjoying friendships
- Enjoying relationships with family
- Quality of life, being relaxed and happy, taking part in activities they like
- Preparing for the future

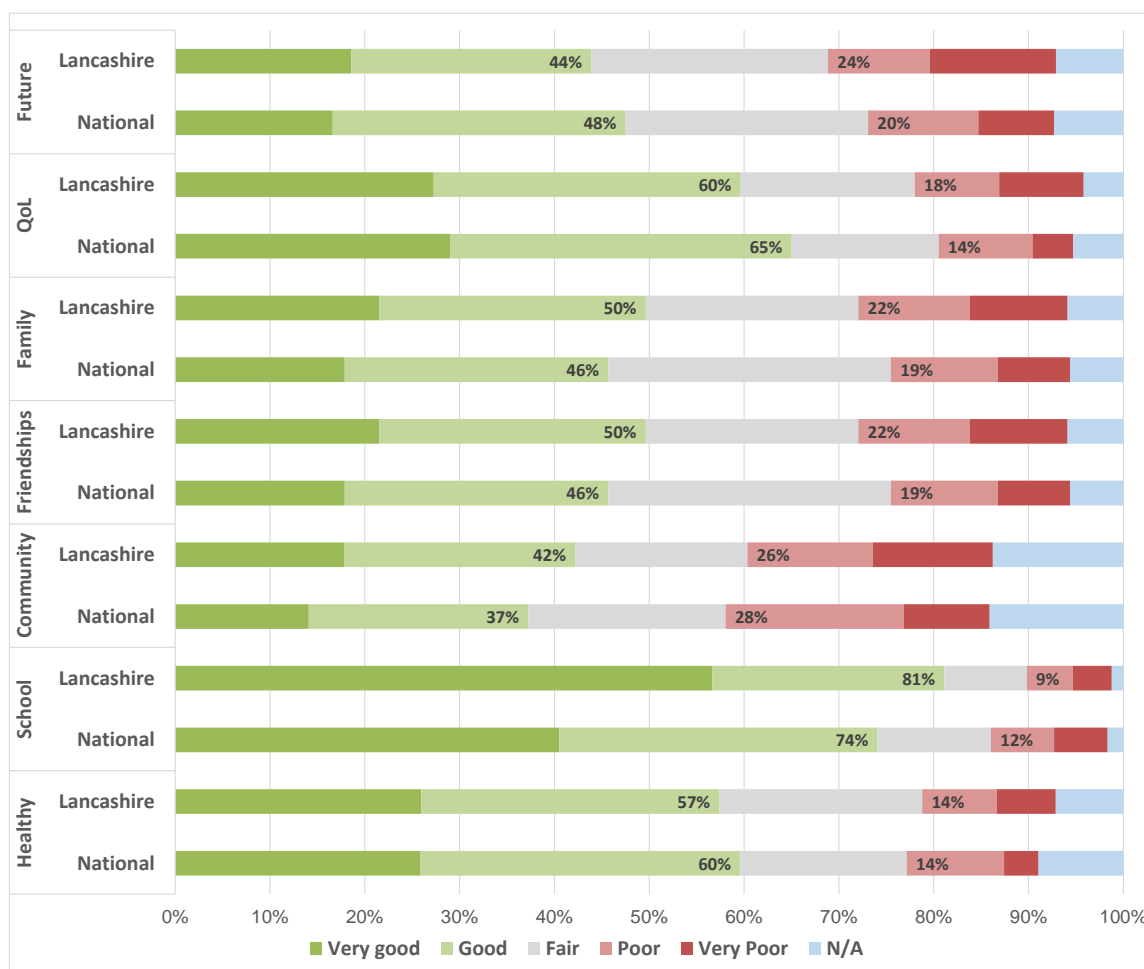


Figure 14. Do parents think the support their child gets has helped them with these different areas of their life?

More than three quarters of parents from Lancashire said the support their child had received was good or very good in helping them in one of the seven areas we asked about: taking part in school and learning (81%). A half or more of parents from Lancashire said the support their child had received was good or very good in helping them in a further four of the seven areas we asked about: quality of life (60%), being as fit and health as they can be (57%), enjoying relationships with family (50%) and with friends (50%). Around a quarter parents from Lancashire said the support their child had received was poor or very poor in helping them in two of the seven areas we asked about: being part of their local community (26%) and preparing for their future (24%).

Outcomes for parents

Finally, the POET survey asked parents whether and to what extent the support their child had received over the past year had made a difference to three aspects of their own life.

- Your quality of life.
- The relationship you have with people who are paid to be involved in the support of your child.
- The relationship you enjoy with your child.

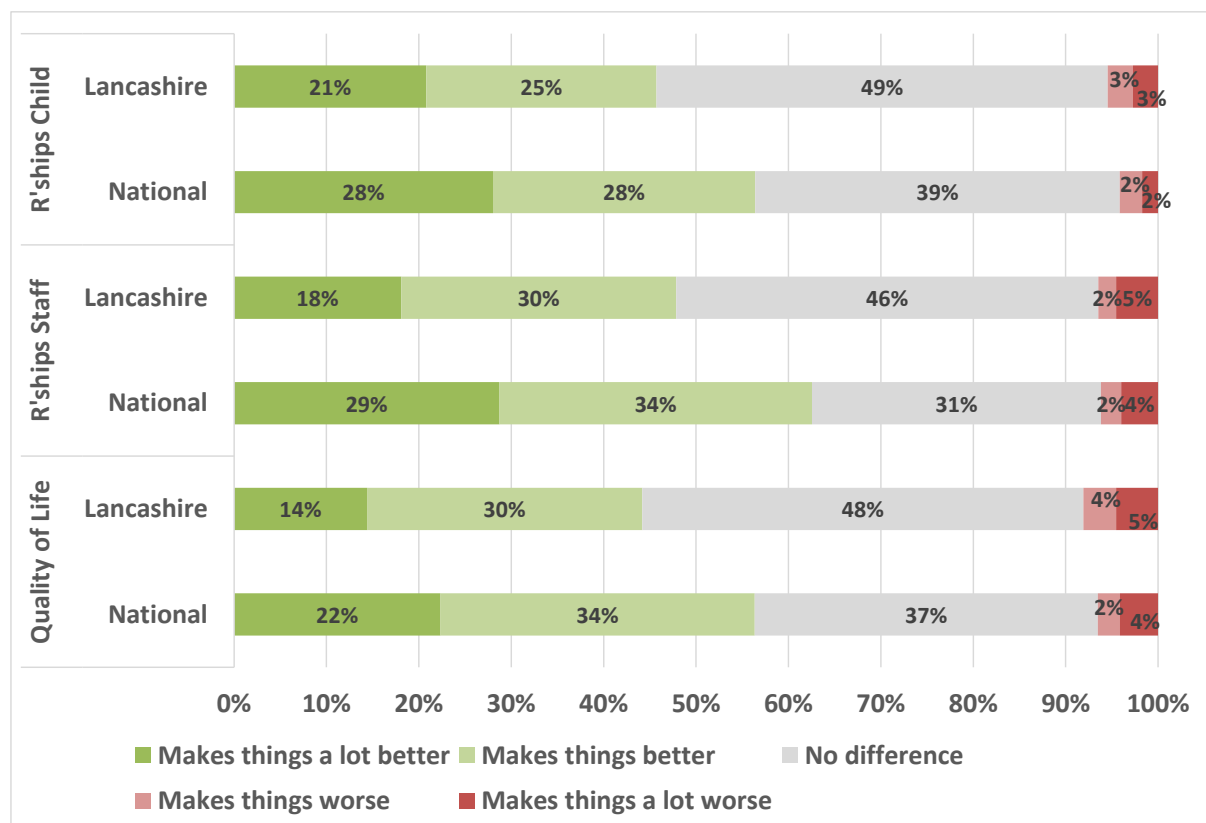


Figure 15. Do parents think the support their child gets has made a difference to aspects of their own life?

Between a half and two thirds of parents said that the support their child receives had made things better or a lot better in all three areas we asked about. Less than 4% of parents said the support their child had received over the past year had made things worse or a lot worse.

The POET Survey

Lancashire County Council Data Report: January 2018

Children & Young People with Education Health and Care Plans

Introduction

This report presents data collected from children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans in Lancashire using the Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). It also compares the numerical responses of children and young people in Lancashire with the responses we have from children and young people from other parts of England. In total, this report presents the 124 responses from Lancashire to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Lancashire data against 304 responses from other parts of England who have used the most recent version of the POET. As people could choose not to complete particular questions within the survey, the totals reported throughout the report are unlikely to add up to these figures overall. Partially completed responses were removed from the data set if no answer was provided to any of the questions relating to experience of support or the impact of support.

Where provided, percentages are of those people who responded to that question. The target population for the survey was children and young people with special educational needs who had experience of EHC Plans.

Figure 16 shows how the children and young people answered the survey. Just under one quarter of children from Lancashire answered the questions on their own (23%) compared to just over one third of children from other areas of England (34%).

Who took part in the survey?

The POET survey asked children and young people their age and why they needed support. The average age of children from Lancashire who took part in the survey was 14, older than children from other parts of England (16). Figure 17 shows the single largest group of children from Lancashire (45%) were between the age of 11 and 16, slightly more than children of the same age group from other parts of England (40%). Figure 18 shows the main reason children needed support both in Lancashire (33%) and in other parts of England (39%) was for help with a learning disability.

The responses from children and young people in Lancashire were broadly similar to those of children and young people other areas of England in terms of the reason they needed support.

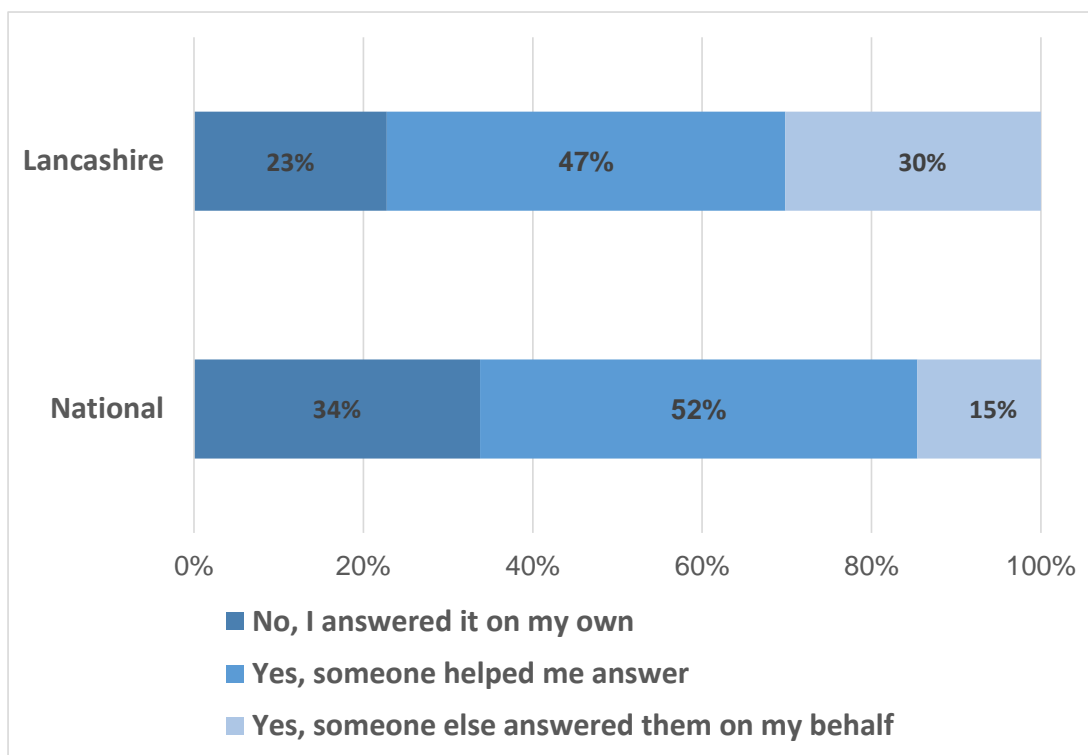


Figure 16. Did you have help to complete the survey?

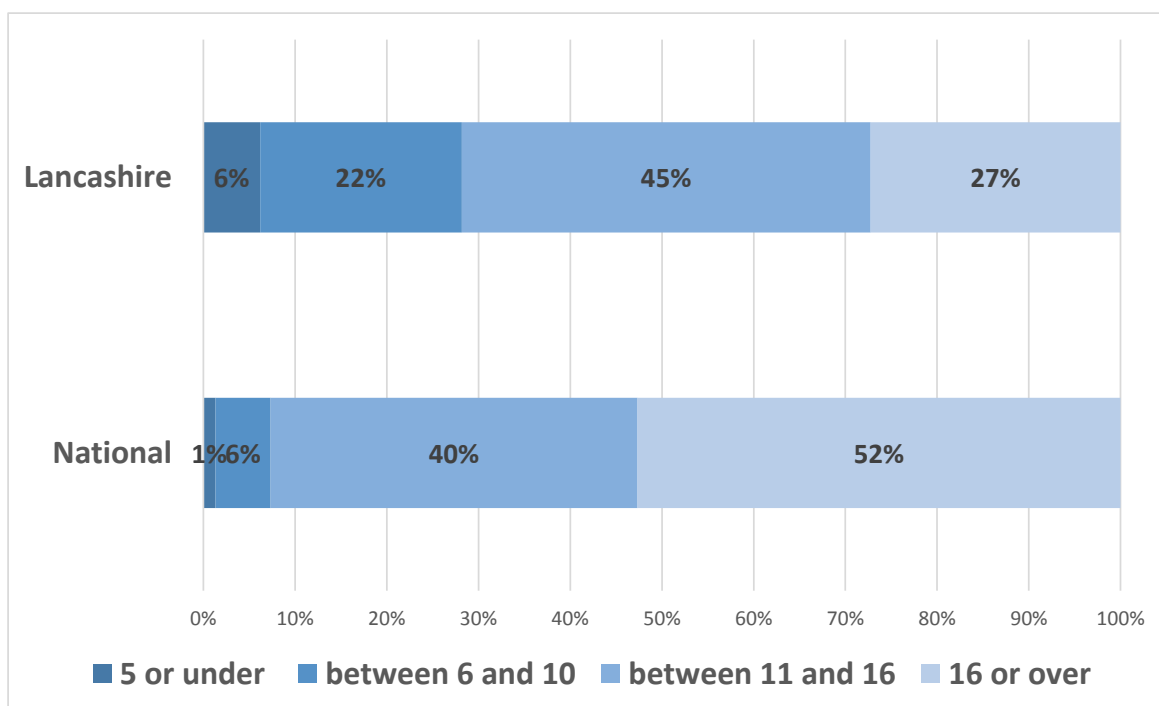


Figure 17. Childrens and young people’s age

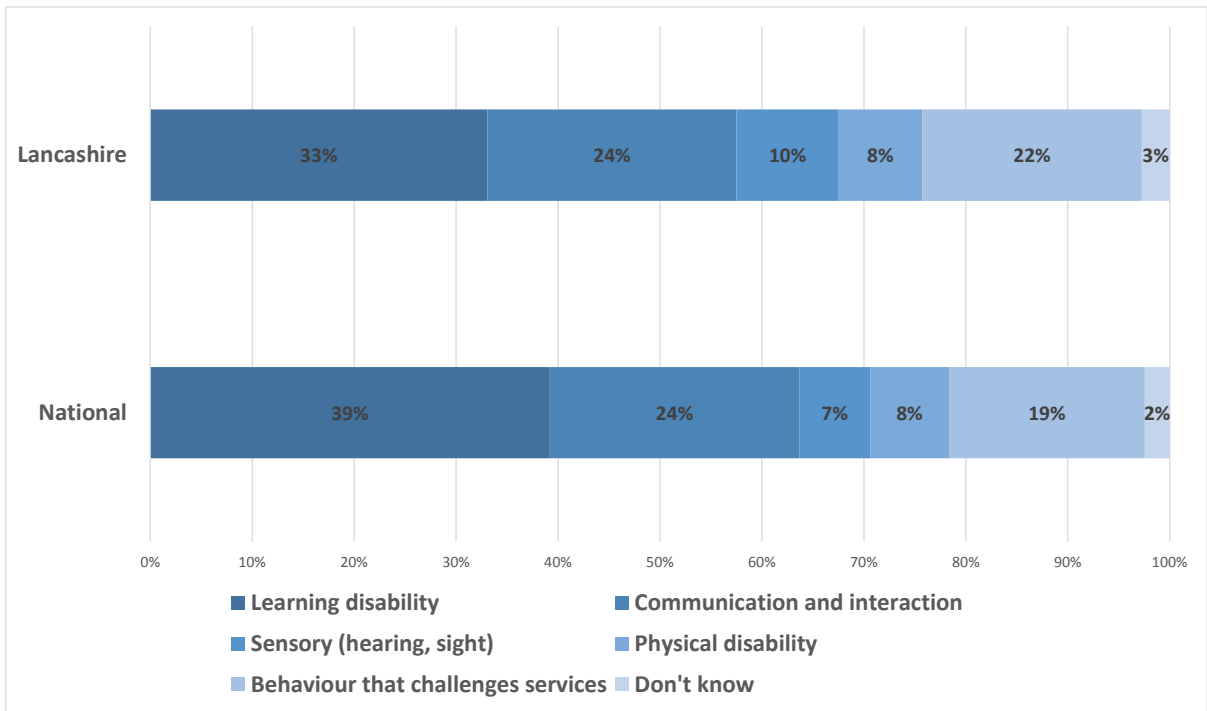


Figure 18. Why do children need support?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say where they received support, whether they had an EHC Plan and whether or not they had a Personal Budget. Children from Lancashire were less likely to say they had support at school (34%) compared to responses from other parts of England (39%). Less children from Lancashire reported having paid support to go out and about (17%) compared to children from other parts of England (25%).

Children and young people responding to the POET survey from Lancashire were as likely to say they did not know if they had an EHC Plan (8%) compared to responses from other parts of England (7%).

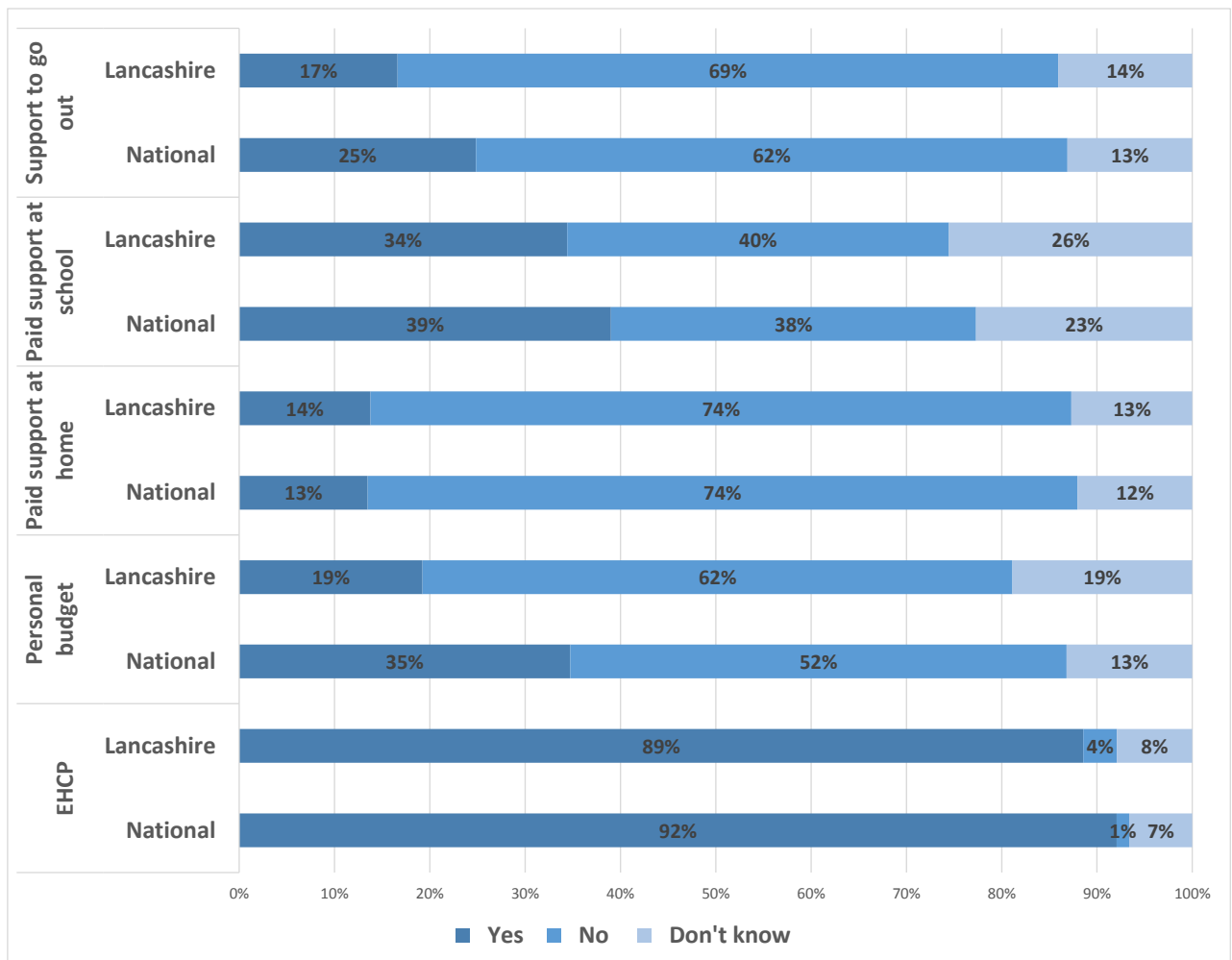


Figure 19. What type of support do children and young people receive?

What do children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans feel about the support they receive?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say whether they were involved in writing their EHC Plan. More than a half of the children from Lancashire that responded to the survey said that they were involved in the writing of their EHC Plan (60%) compared to just over two thirds of children who responded from other parts of England (67%).

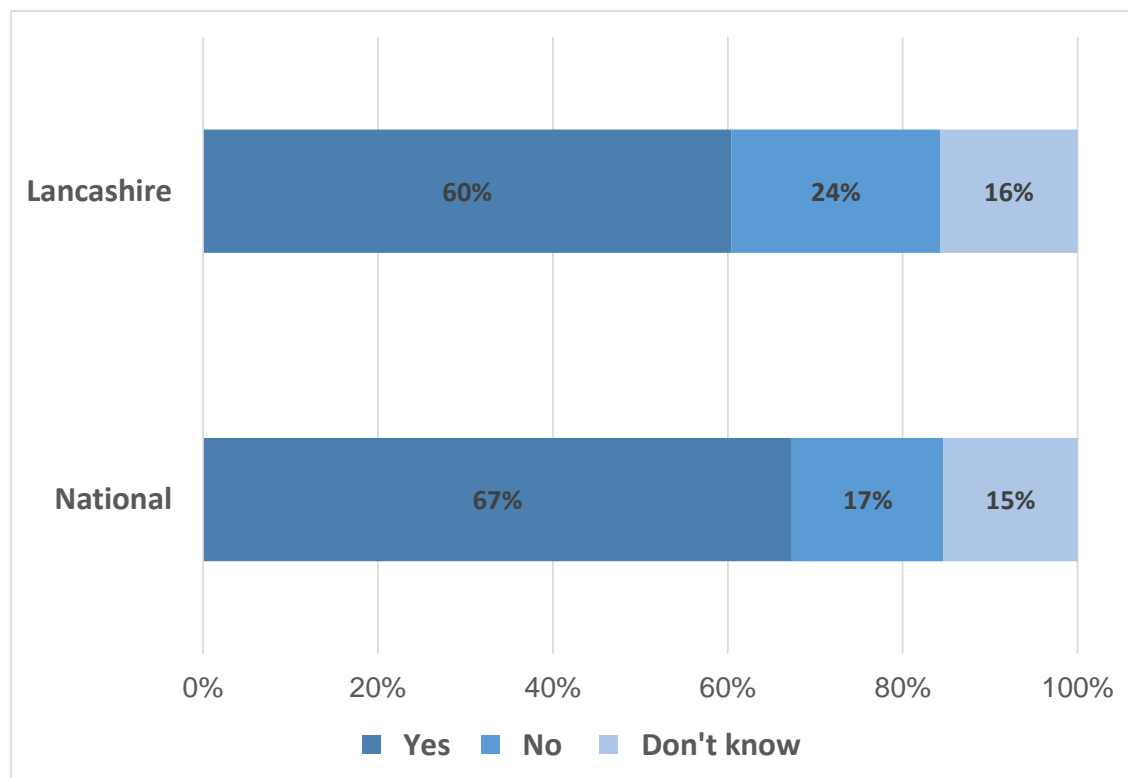


Figure 20. Were you included when your Education Health and Care Plan was written?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say what they thought about six different aspects of the support they had received over the past 12 months:

- **Being heard:** My views are included in my plan.
- **Level of support:** I get the right amount of support.
- **Choice about your support:** I can change my support if I need to.
- **Information:** I have information to make decisions about my support.
- **Dignity:** I am supported with dignity and respect.
- **Looking forward to the future:** The support I get helps me for life in the future.

As Figure 21 shows, more than a half of the children and young people from Lancashire said their support was good in one of the six areas we asked about: dignity (63%). More than a third of children and young people from Lancashire said their support was good in three of the other areas that we asked about; the level of support (47%), looking forward to the future (45%) and their views being included (39%). Just under one fifth of the children and young people from Lancashire said the support they received was poor in two of the six areas we asked about: information to be able to make decisions (17%) and choice of support (15%).

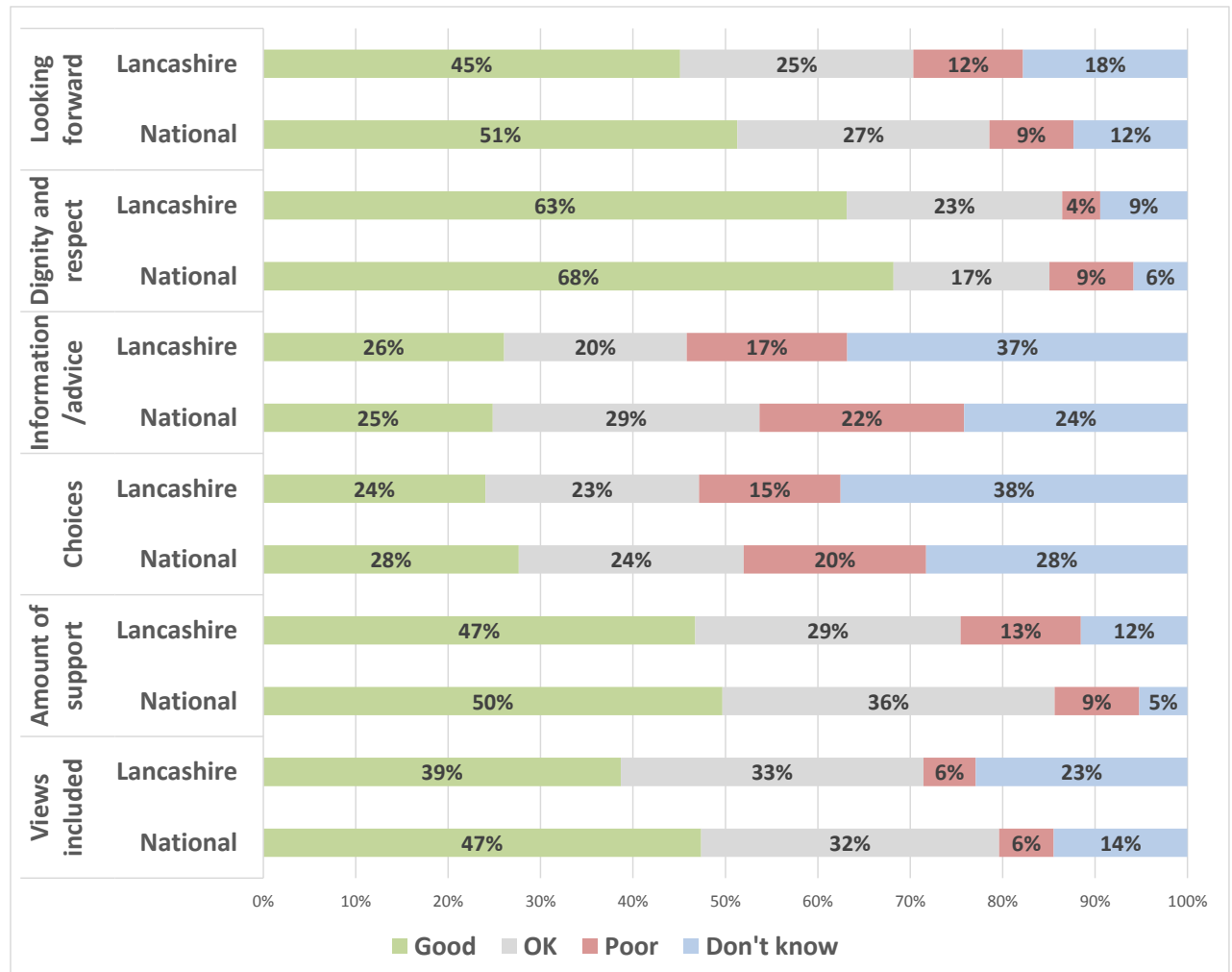


Figure 21. How do children and young people feel about the support they receive?

Outcomes for Children and Young People

The POET survey asked children and young people to say how well the support they get had helped them with eight different areas of their life:

- **Your health:** I am as healthy as I can be.
- **Learning:** I do the best I can at school, college or work.
- **Friendships:** I enjoy time with friends.
- **Your home:** I enjoy my home and family.
- **Feeling safe:** I feel safe at home and out and about.
- **Recreation:** I take part in activities I like.
- **Community:** I can do things in my local area.
- **Your quality of life:** I can enjoy being relaxed and happy.

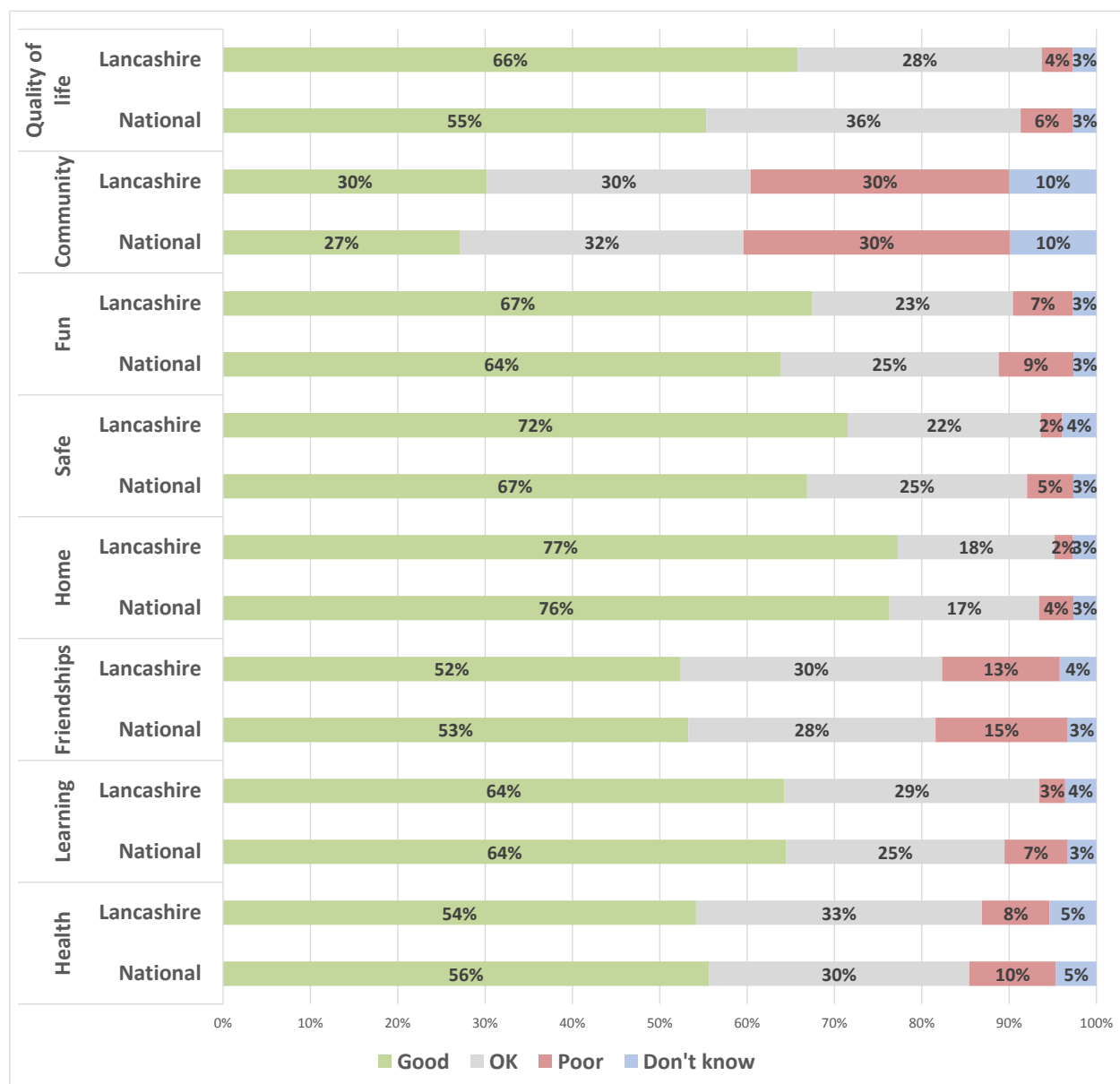


Figure 22. Do children and young people think the support they get has helped them with these different areas of their life?

As Figure 22 shows, more than two thirds of children and young people from Lancashire said the support they had received was good in four of the eight areas we asked about: enjoying home and family life (77%), feeling safe at home and out and about (72%), taking part in activities and having fun (67%) and their quality of life (66%). Just under one third of children and young people from Lancashire said the support they received was poor in one of the eight areas we asked about: being part of their local community (30%).

The POET Survey

Lancashire County Council

Data Report:

January 2018

Practitioners working with children who have Education Health and Care Plans

Introduction

This report presents data collected using the Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET) from practitioners who work with children who have Education Health and Care Plans in Lancashire. It also compares the numerical responses of practitioners in Lancashire with the responses we have from practitioners in other parts of England working with children with EHC Plans.

Not all respondents answered all the questions and some of the questions allowed for more than one answer, so the total number of responses will not necessarily add up to the same total numbers. Where provided, percentages are of those people who responded to that question. The target population for the survey was practitioners working with children with special educational needs who had experience of EHC Plans.

Who took part in the survey?

Nationally, 380 practitioners completed the survey from 6 local authority areas including 145 from Lancashire. A range of practitioners took part from education, social care and health. Around a half of the practitioners who responded to the national survey were involved mainly in providing direct support to children. Others were either involved mainly in the assessment and development of plans or management.

The POET survey asked practitioners a number of questions about their working role and the children they work with, including the type of school they work in, the reason the children they work with need additional support, the age group they work with and the main focus of their work.

As can be seen in Figure 23, the largest single group responding from Lancashire were practitioners that worked mainly within education (81%), a lower proportion than practitioners from other parts of England (87%).

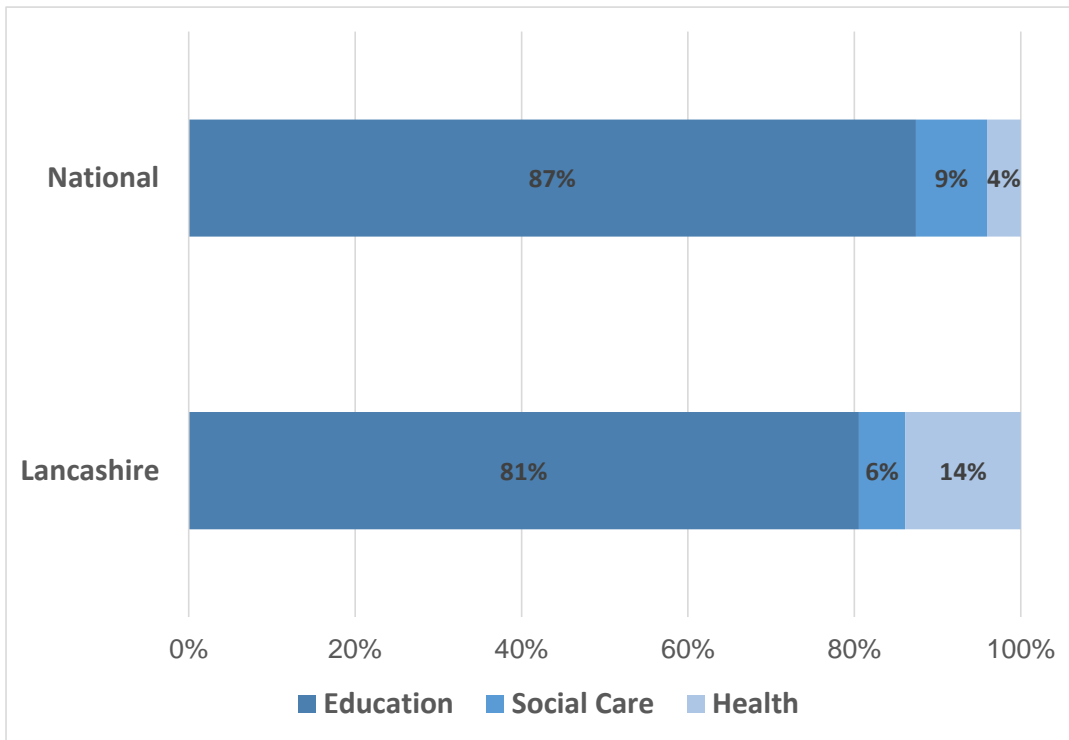


Figure 23. Which area do you mainly work?

Practitioners were asked whether they worked in schools and if so, which type of school they worked in. Practitioners responding from Lancashire were less likely to work within schools (55%) than respondents from other parts of England (70%). Practitioners from Lancashire were less likely to work in a main stream education setting (38%) than practitioners from other parts of England (51%).

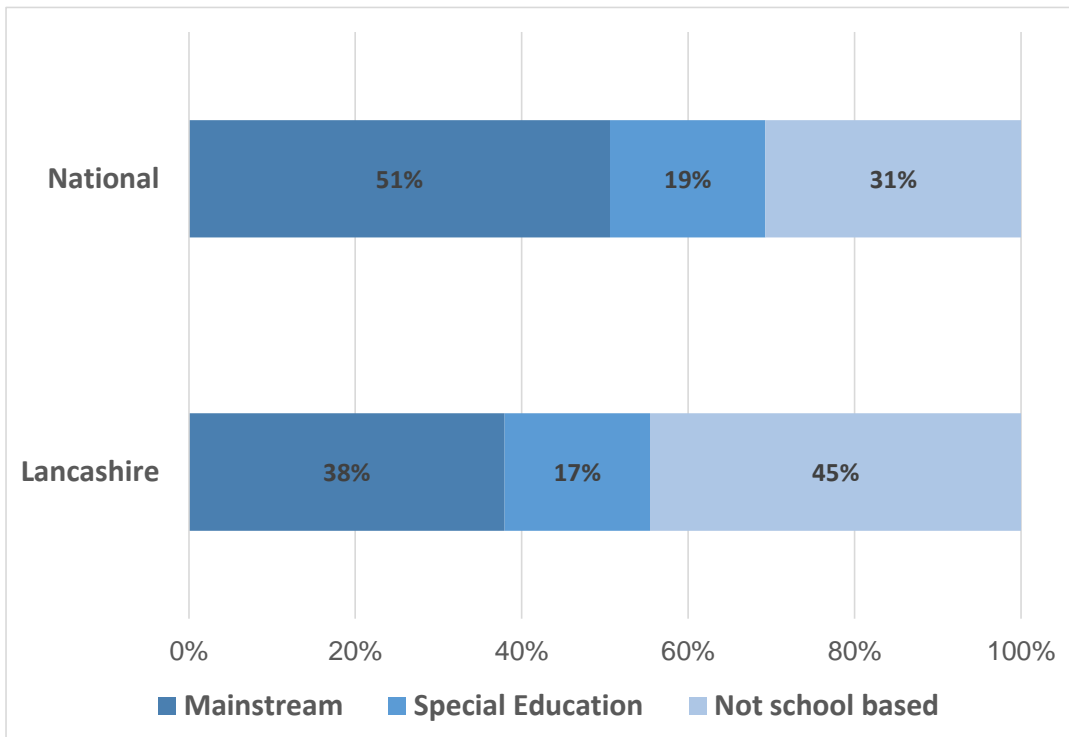


Figure 24. Where practitioners worked

The POET survey asked practitioners to say what tasks their job required of them. Practitioners in Lancashire were less likely to say they were involved in direct support (37%) and more likely to be involved in assessment (48%) when compared to responses from other parts of England, where direct support was 45% and assessment 42% respectively.

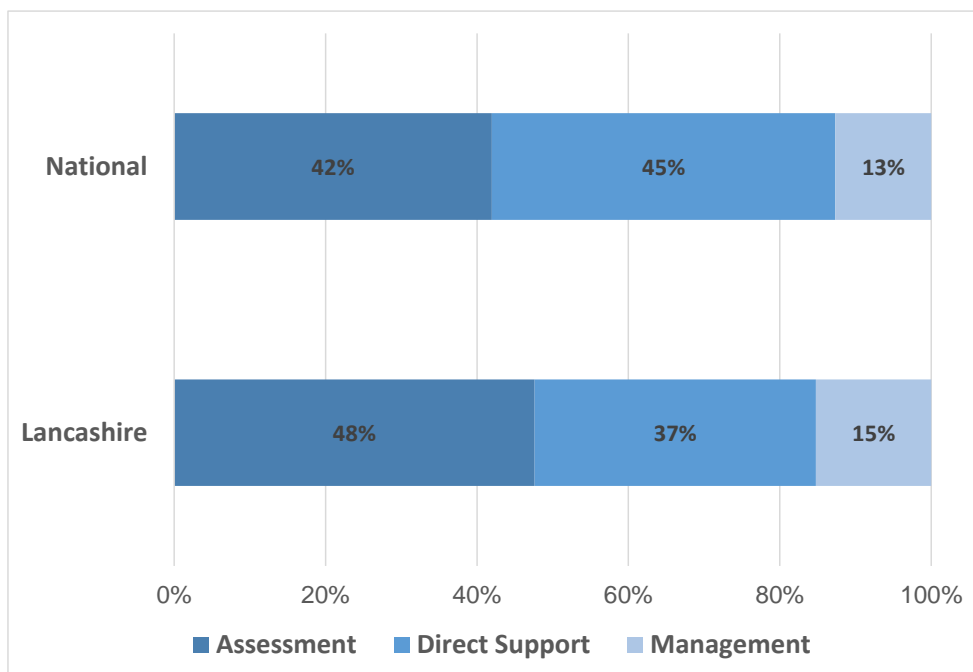


Figure 25. The task practitioners were mainly involved in

The POET survey asked practitioners to say what age group they mainly worked with. The proportion of practitioners working within secondary and post 16 groups were broadly similar in Lancashire and other parts of England, with Lancashire practitioners being slightly less likely to work in primary school.

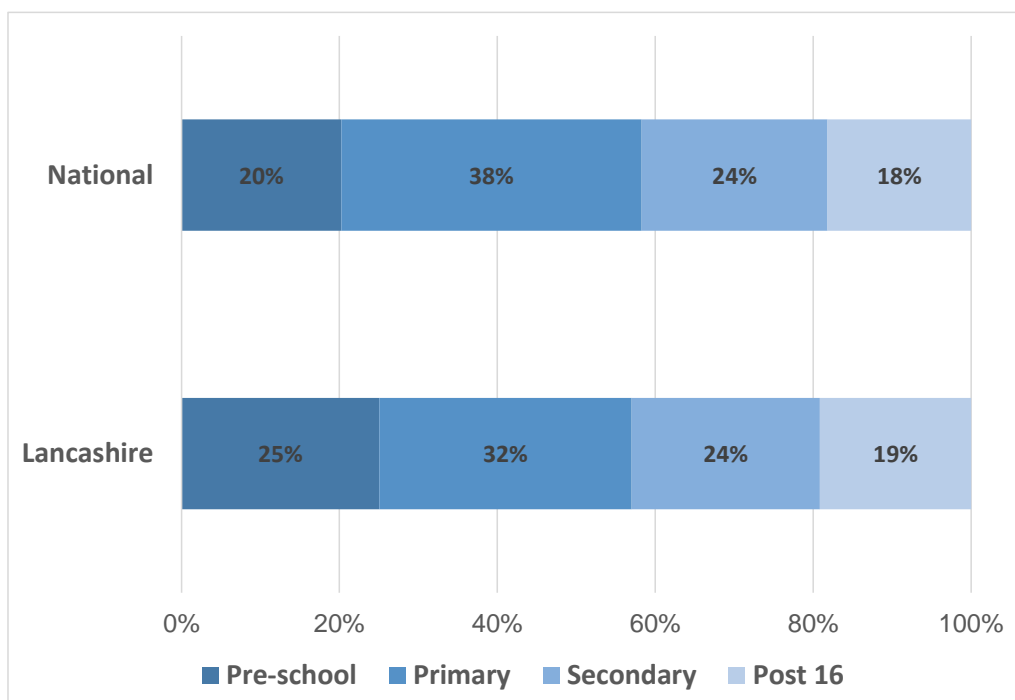


Figure 26. What age group did practitioners work with?

What do practitioners feel about the Education Health and Care planning process?

The POET survey asked practitioners to say how EHC Plans had influenced seven different aspects of their working roles over the past year.

- Put children at the centre of your planning
- Work in partnership with your colleagues from other professions
- Work in partnership with parents/carers
- Provide timely response to the needs of children
- Provide individually tailored support to children
- Provide clear information and advice to parents/carers
- Understand the needs of children in the context of their home, family and school

As Figure 27 shows, 84% of practitioners from Lancashire said that EHC Plans had always or mostly helped them work in partnership with parents/carers. Two thirds or more of practitioners from Lancashire said that EHC Plans had always or mostly helped them in five other areas of their work: providing children with individual tailored support (79%), understanding the needs of children in the context of their home (78%), providing clear information and advice (76%), putting children at the centre of their planning (74%) and providing a timely response to the needs of children (69%). More than a half of practitioners said that EHC Plans had helped them always or mostly in their work over the last year in all seven of the areas we asked about.

None of the practitioners said that EHC Plans had never helped them in four of the seven areas of work we asked about: understanding the needs of children in the context of their home and providing clear information and advice, putting children at the centre of their planning and working in partnership with parents/carers.

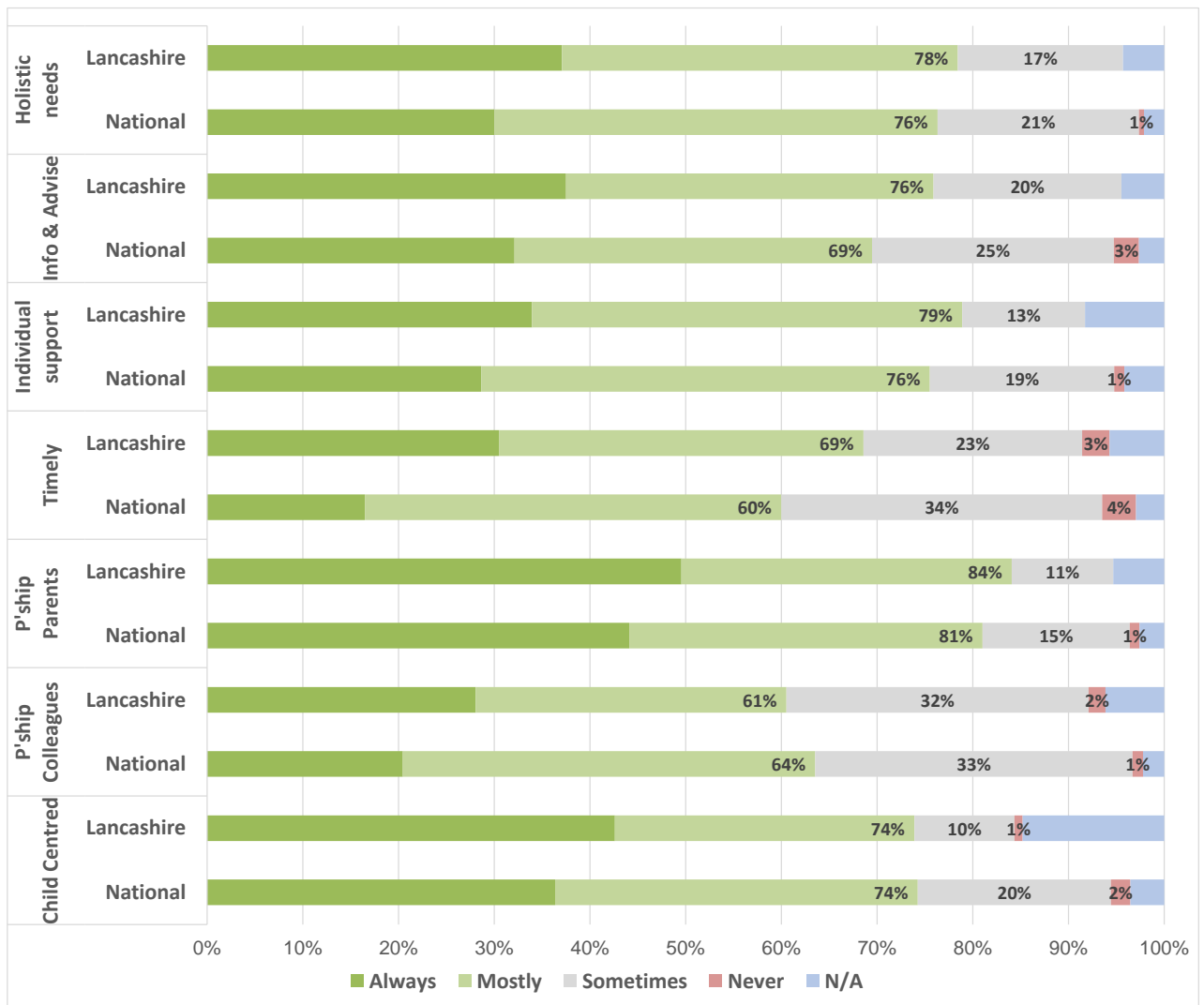


Figure 27. How practitioners feel about how the Education Health and Care Plan has helped them in their role

How helpful do practitioners think Education Health and Care Plans are to the children they work with?

Practitioners were asked how often over the past year EHC Plans had helped children in eight areas of their lives.

- Be as fit and healthy as they can be
- Take part in school and learning
- Be part of their local community
- Enjoy friendships
- Enjoy relationships with family
- Enjoy a good quality of life
- Have a positive transition
- Think about and prepare for the future

As Figure 28 shows, over three quarters of practitioners said that EHC Plans helped children mostly or always with taking part in school and learning (80%), slightly less than respondents from other parts of England (84%). More than two thirds of practitioners said that EHC Plans helped children mostly or always have a positive transition (67%) and prepare for the future (67%), slightly more than respondents from other parts of England, transition (65%) and future (65%) respectively .

6% of practitioners from Lancashire said that EHC Plans never helped children to be part of their local community, the same proportion as respondents from other parts of England.

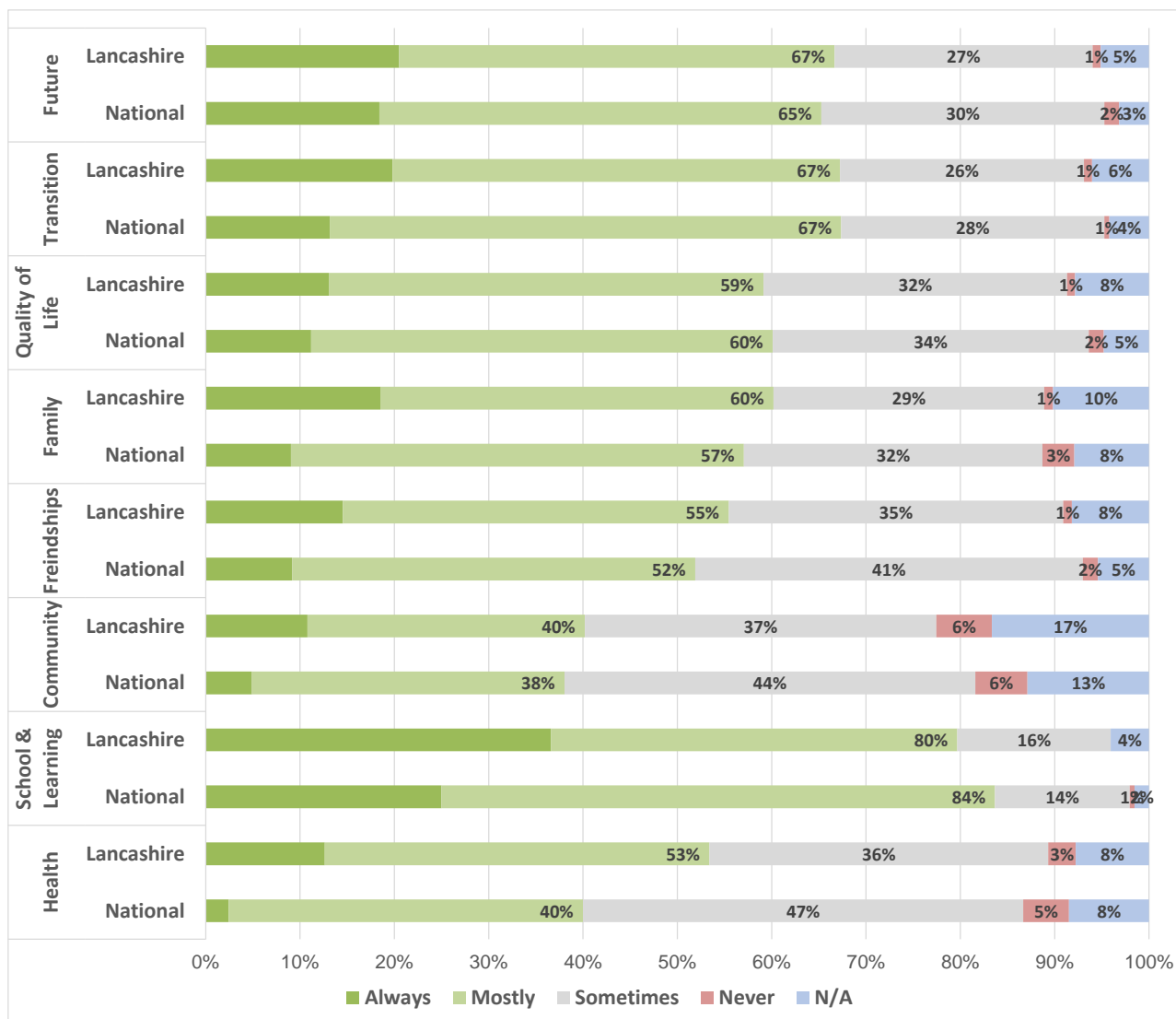


Figure 28. How helpful do practitioners think Education Health and Care Plans are to the children they work with?

Conclusion

Throughout this report local findings have been benchmarked against national data. This is intended to provide an indicative relative position. Care should be taken however when making precise direct comparisons. This is because responses varied greatly across local authorities, levels of satisfaction being spread across a wide range. The national figures here are averages of these ranges. It is not necessarily the case that where scores indicate a less or more positive impact than in other parts of England that this is due to the performance of the council.

Over recent years, In Control has published a number of surveys that found and reported a number of key process conditions that coincided with better or worse outcomes. Where local performance appears to be low, these process factors may be at play and provide a steer where local authorities are seeking to improve in an outcome domain.