

The POET Survey

Lancashire County Council Data Report: July 2019

Parents of Children who have additional special educational needs

Introduction

This report presents data collected from parents and carers of children and young people who have additional support and may have an Education Health and Care Plans (EHC plan) 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 1443 parents in Lancashire to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Lancashire data against responses from 2046 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 (SEN) who may have had experience of Education Health and Care Plans.

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 and 2 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 as likely to report having a personal budget for their child (5%) as other parts of England (3%). Well under a half of parents from Lancashire (41%) said that their child had an EHCP compared to just over one third of parents from other areas of the country (35%). They were less likely to report that their child had paid SEN support and more likely to report they had paid support for transport, compared to responses from other local authorities in England.

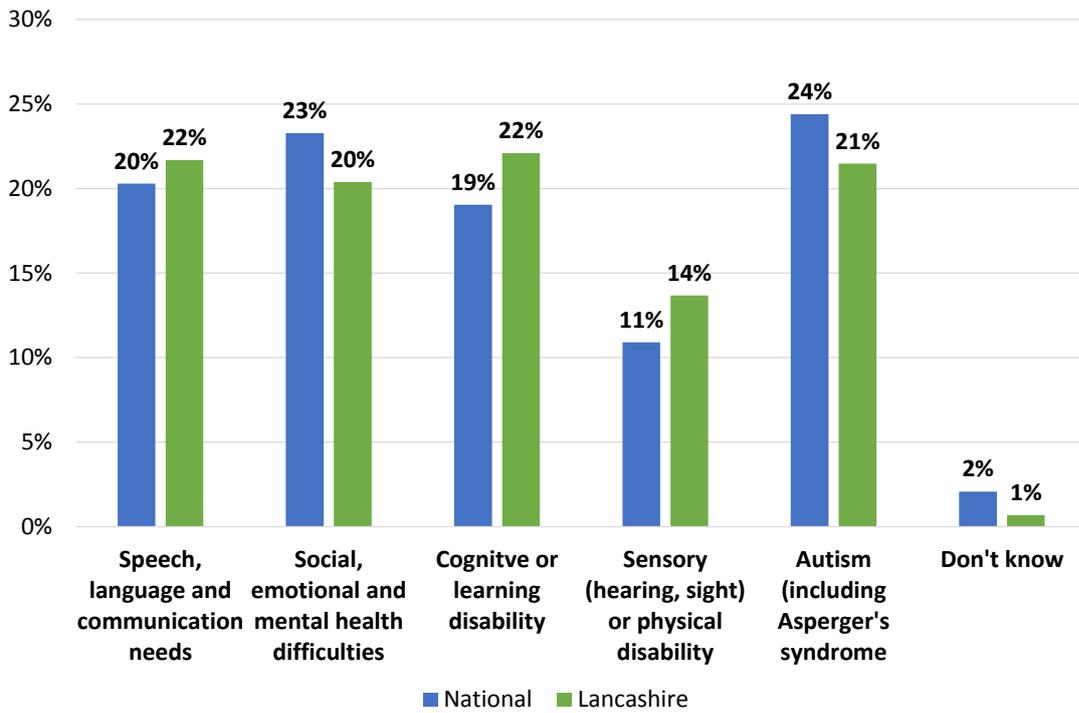


Figure 1. Why do children need support?

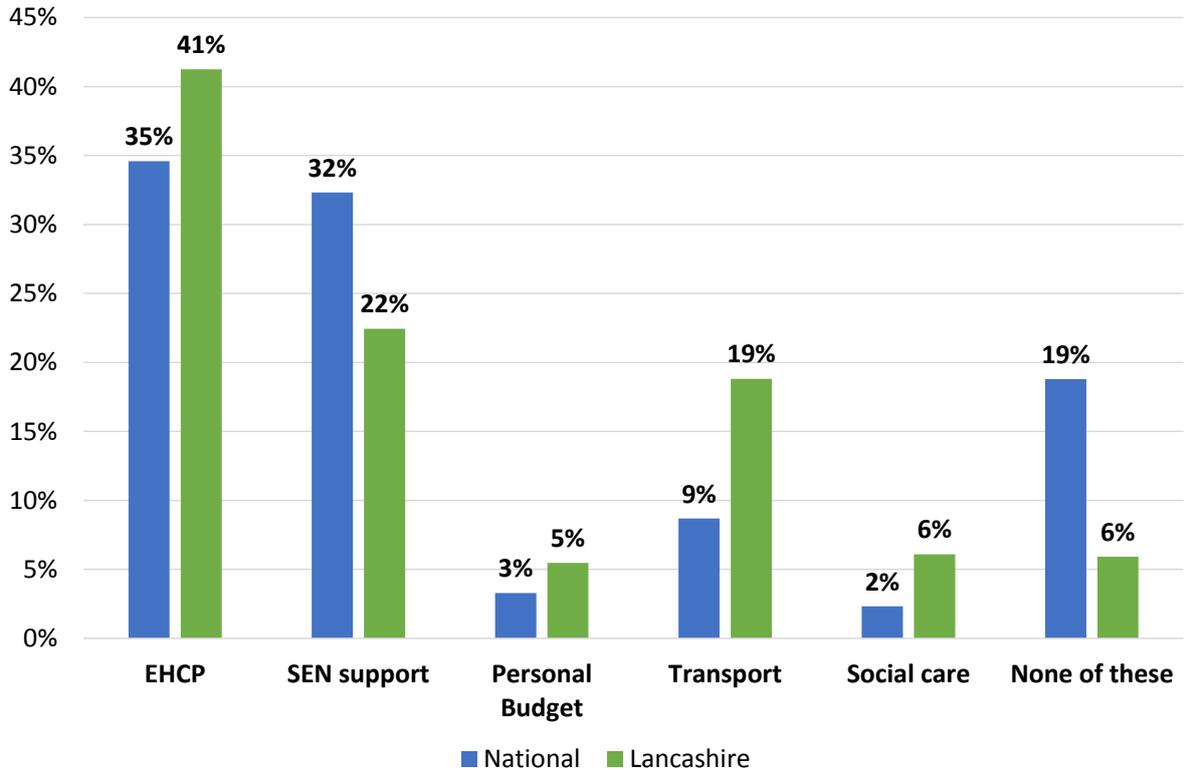


Figure 2. What additional paid support do children get?

POET survey asked parents what type of school, college, work or training their child attended; whether this was mainstream or special education. Parents from Lancashire were significantly less likely to report that their child attended a mainstream school (42%) compared to parents responding to the POET survey from other parts of England (72%).

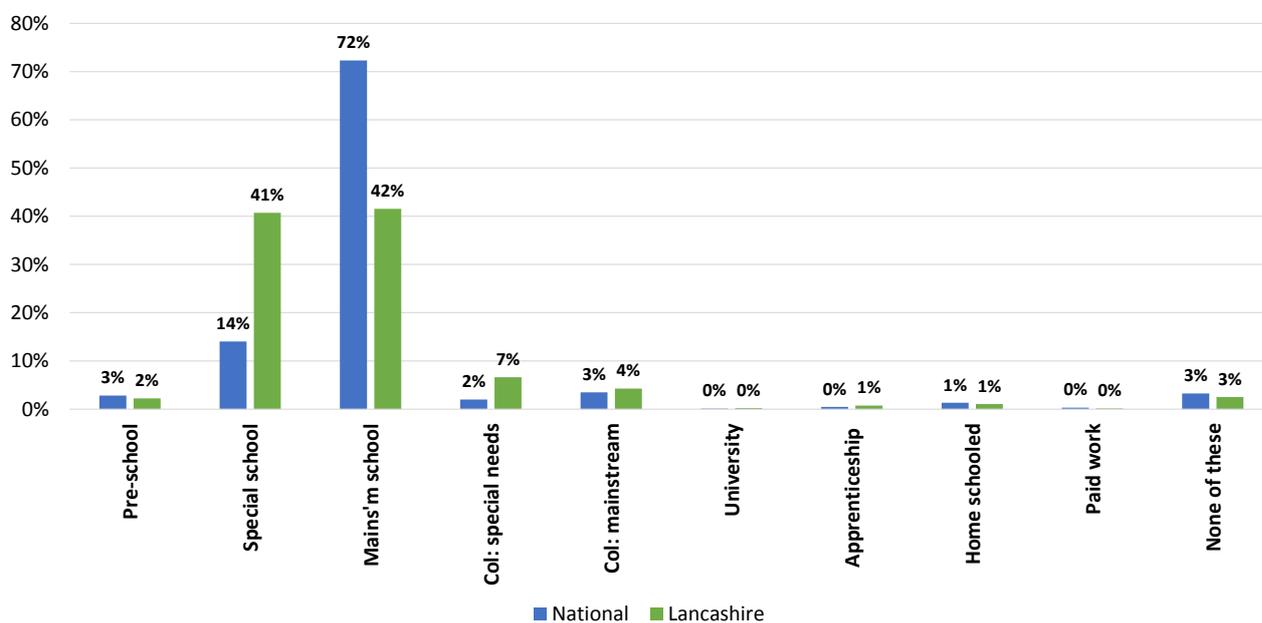


Figure 3. Child’s place of education, work or training.

The POET survey also asked parents how long their child’s support has been in place for and whether they had an EHC plan and a personal budget. As figures 4 to 6 show, parents from Lancashire were slightly more likely to report their child having SEN support for more than 3 year (21%), compared to parents responding from other parts of England (11%). Nearly a half of parents from Lancashire reported having an EHC plan for more than 3 years (43%) similar to other areas of the country (40%). The length of time that parents reported having a personal budget was broadly similar to those parents responding from other parts of England.

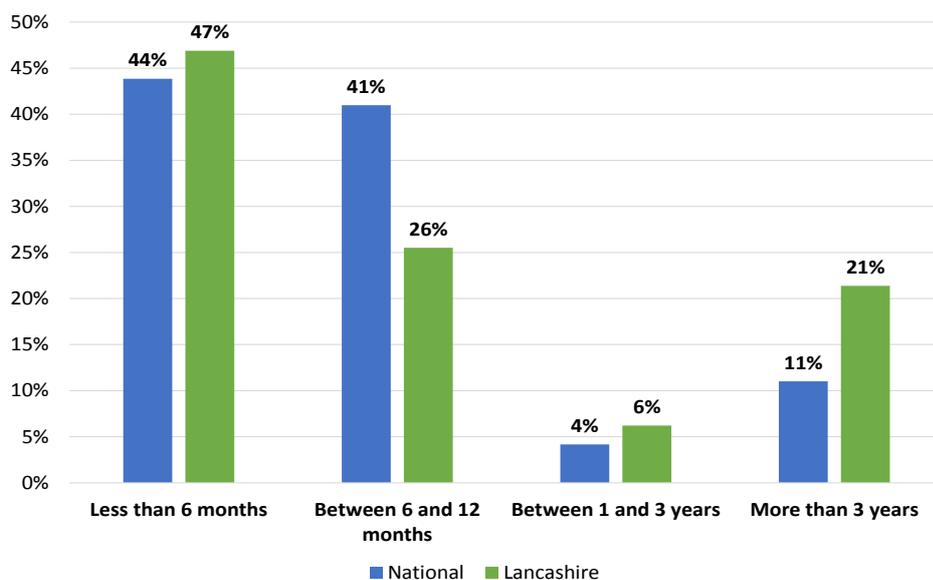


Figure 4. How long childrens’ SEN support have been in place

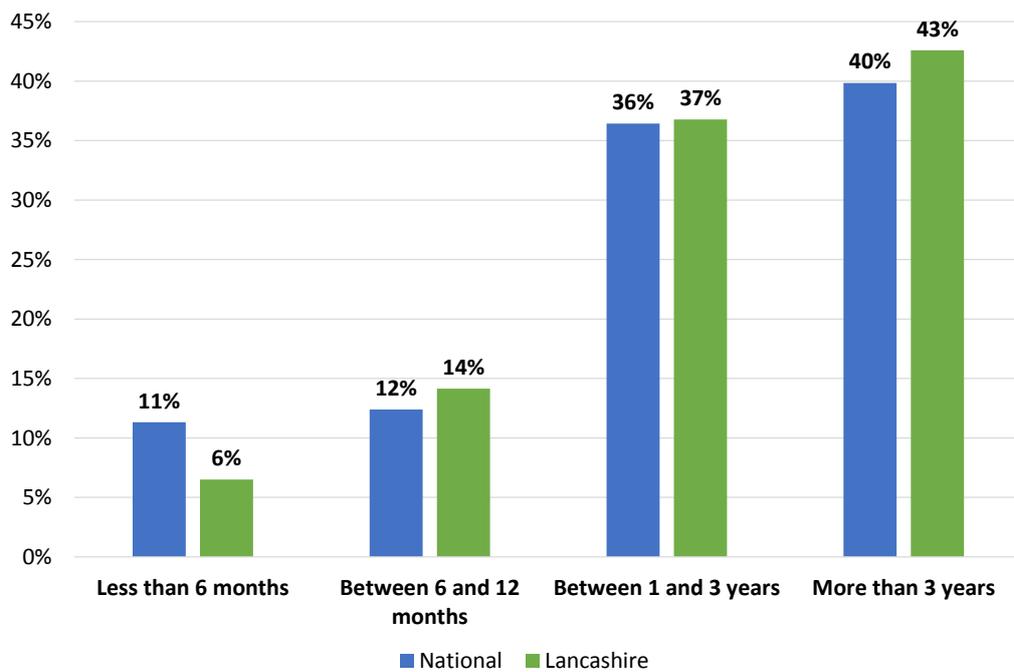


Figure 5. How long childrens' ECH plans have been in place

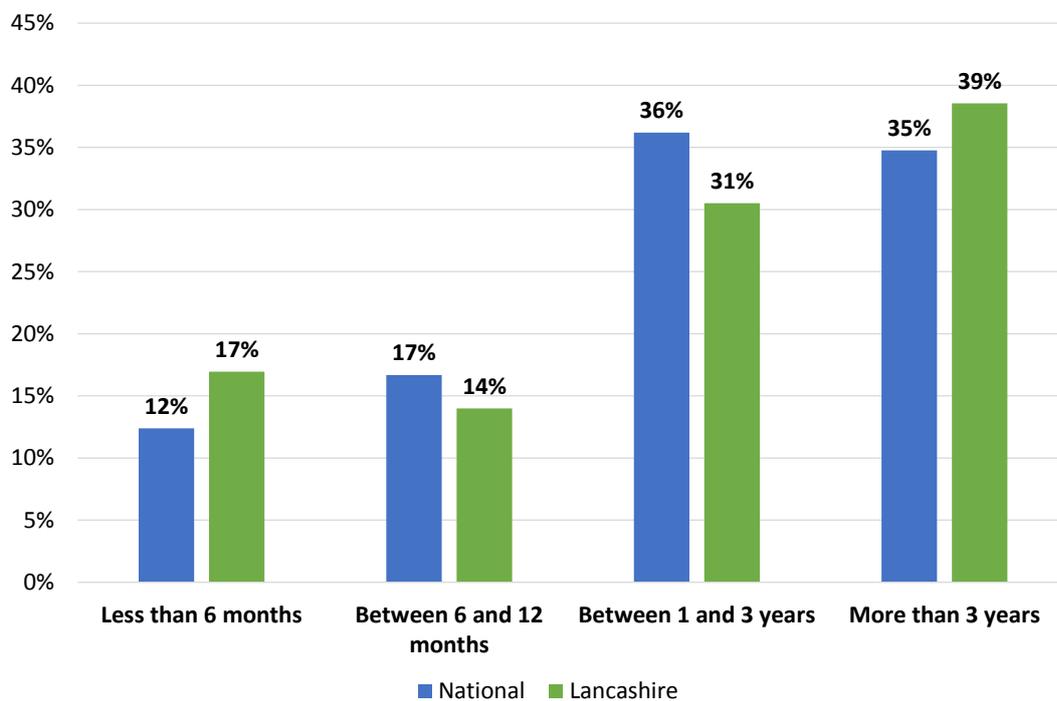


Figure 6. How long childrens' personal budgets have been in place

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

The POET survey asked parents to answer several questions about their experience of the additional support that their child receives and what impact it has had on the child, including whether they had choice and control over the support and flexibility to change it if needed, as well as the quality and if it is the right help and support.

As figure 7 below shows, a half or more of parents from Lancashire said that the support their child receives is good in five out of the eleven areas that we asked about; helping them to take part in school and learning (63%), to enjoy relationships with family and friends (62%), the quality of their support (60%), feeling happy with their quality of life (56%) and being as fit and healthy as they can be (50%). A third or more of parents from Lancashire reported that the help and support that they received was poor in two of the areas that we asked about; Being part of their local community (35%) and choice and control over the support (33%).

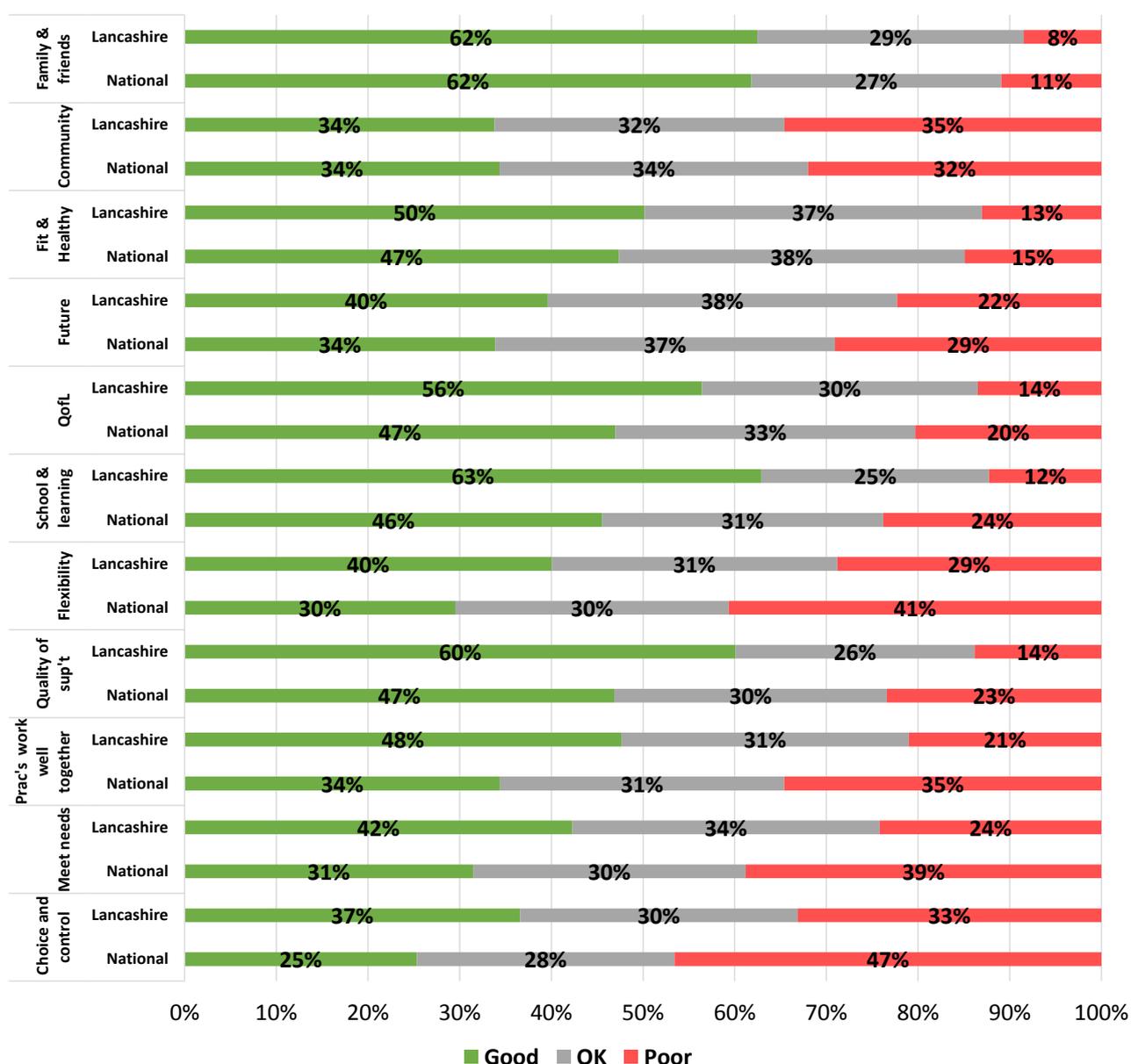


Figure 7. Experience of help and support your child receives and the impact it has had

The POET Survey asked parents whether and to what extent their views and the views of their child had been included in their support plan and who was involved with the planning. As figure 8 below shows, a wide range of professional people were actively involved in childrens support planning. Responses from parents from Lancashire were broadly similar to other areas of the country, with parents in Lancashire less likely to report the involvement of a SENCO (21%) than other areas of England (28%).

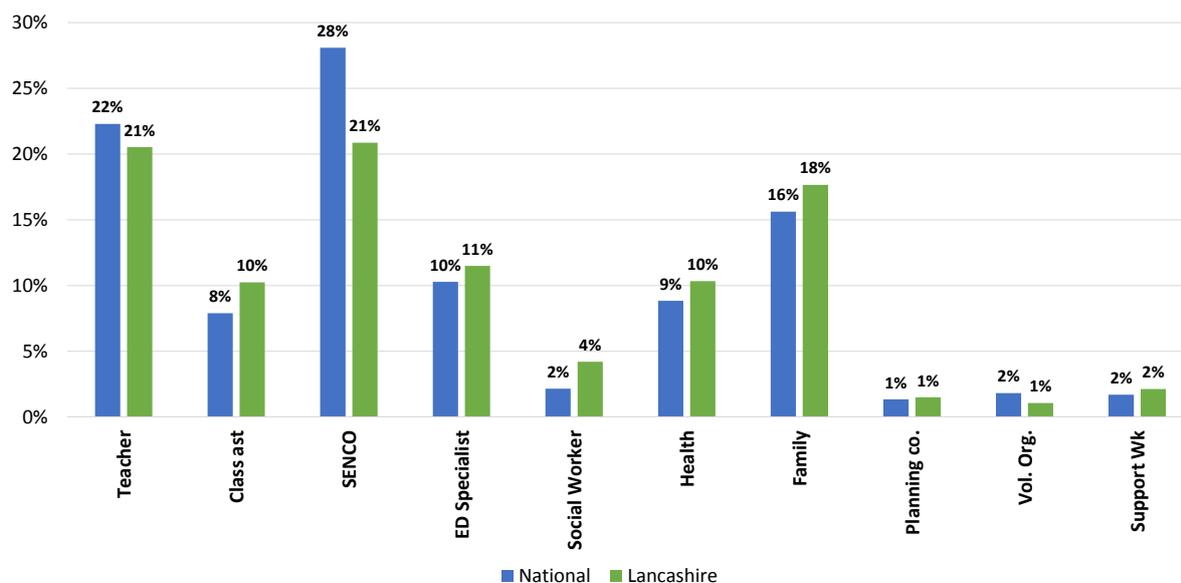


Figure 8. Who was involved in the children’s support planning.

Figures 9 and 10 show that under two thirds of parents from Lancashire (61%) said their views had been fully included when their child’s support was planned, a greater proportion to parents from other parts of England (51%). Just over a third of parents from Lancashire (36%) reported that the views of their child had been included when their support was planned, similar to parents from other parts of England (35%). Parents were asked if they knew what goals their child is trying to achieve with their support, more than three quarters of parents from Lancashire knew what outcomes their child is trying to achieve (79%), a higher proportion than parents from other parts of England (67%).

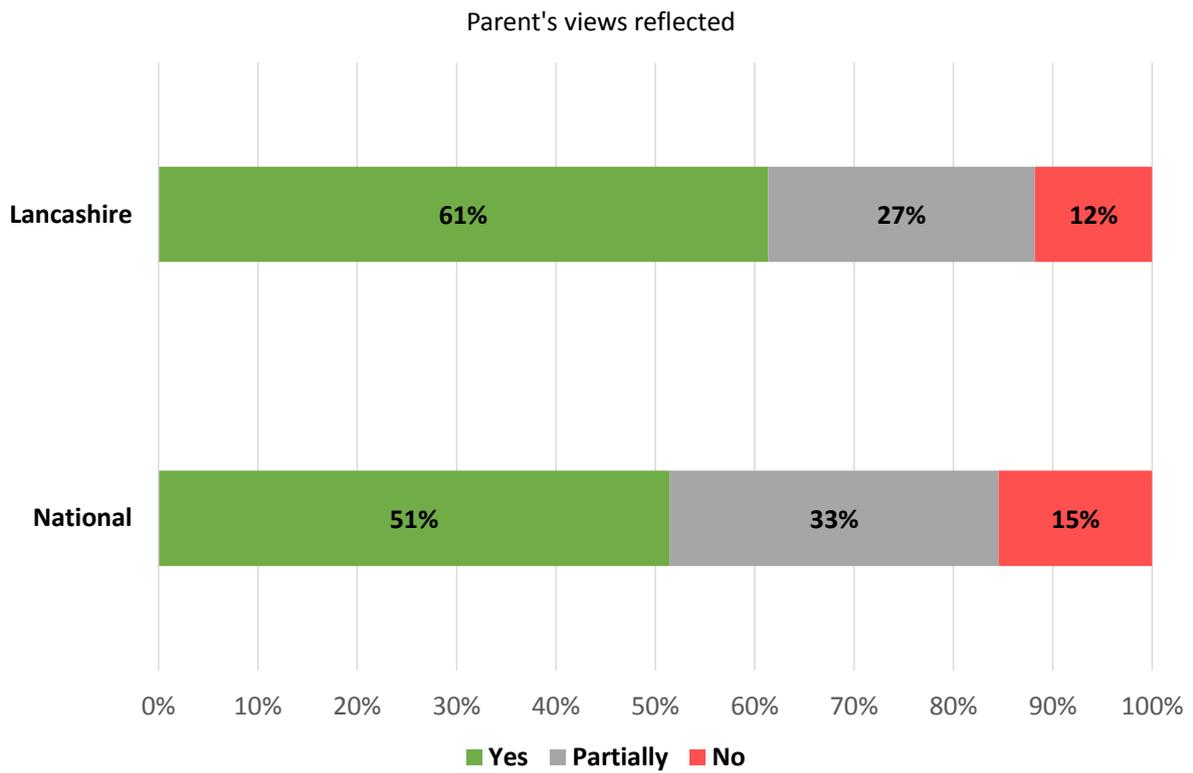


Figure 9. Were parents views included in the support plan?

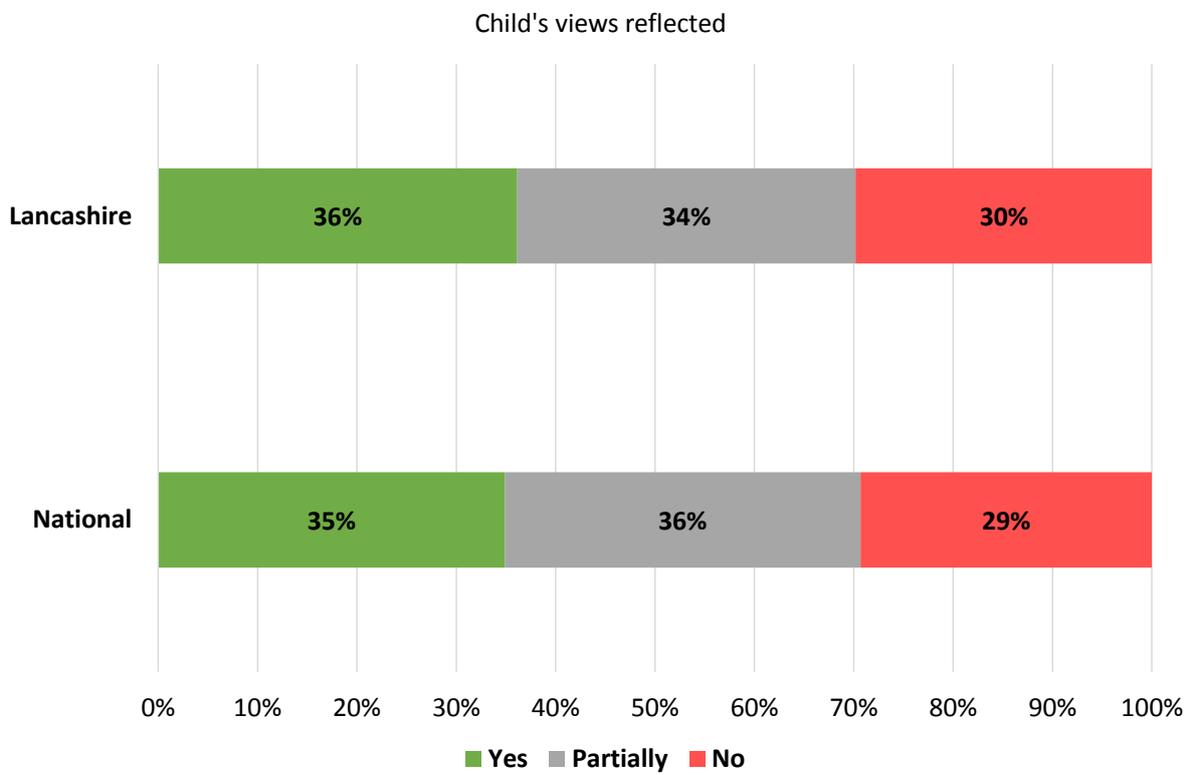


Figure 10. Were child's views included in the support plan?

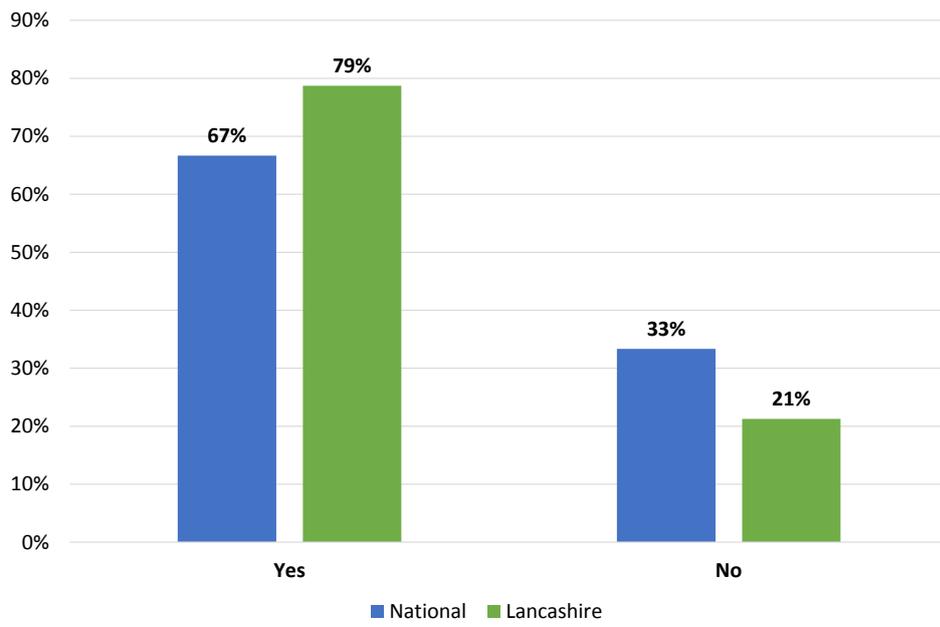


Figure 11. Do parents know what the planned outcomes are with the support their child gets?

The POET Survey asked parents a series of questions about their child’s outcomes, whether and to what extent they knew what outcomes were in their child’s support plan, how they were progressing and if any outcomes had been achieved. Well over three quarters of parents (84%) responded that the people who support their child know what the goals are in their child’s support plan, more than parents from other parts of the country (70%) and just over three quarters (77%) of parents knew themselves what their child’s goals were in their support plan, a higher proportion compared to other parts of the country (64%).

Just under a quarter of parents reported that their children had achieved outcomes within their support plan (22%) though more than a third (40%) reported they were satisfied with the progress they had made, compared to other parts of the country; achieved outcomes (29%) and satisfied with progress (28%) respectively.

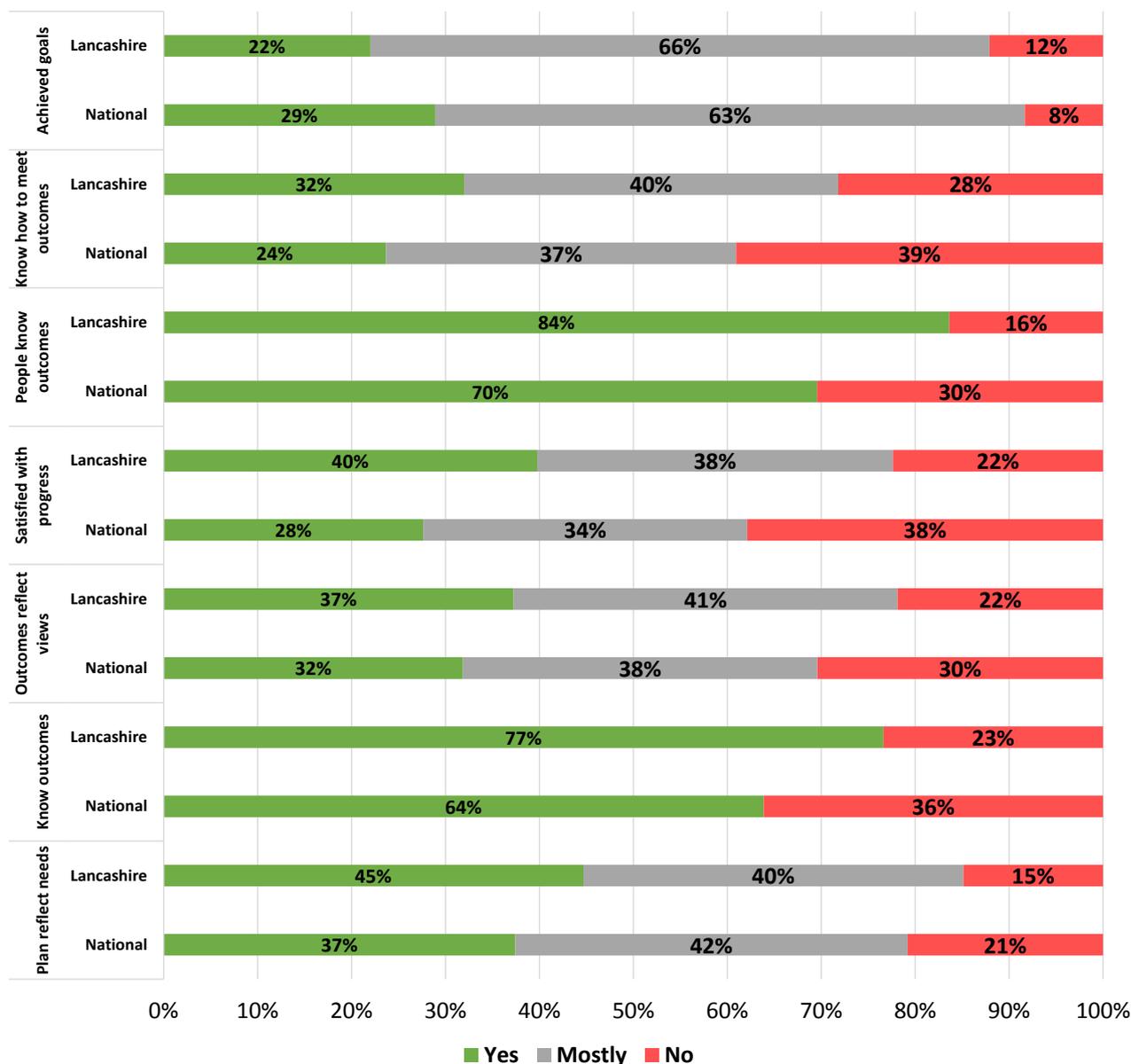


Figure 12. About children’s outcomes.

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.

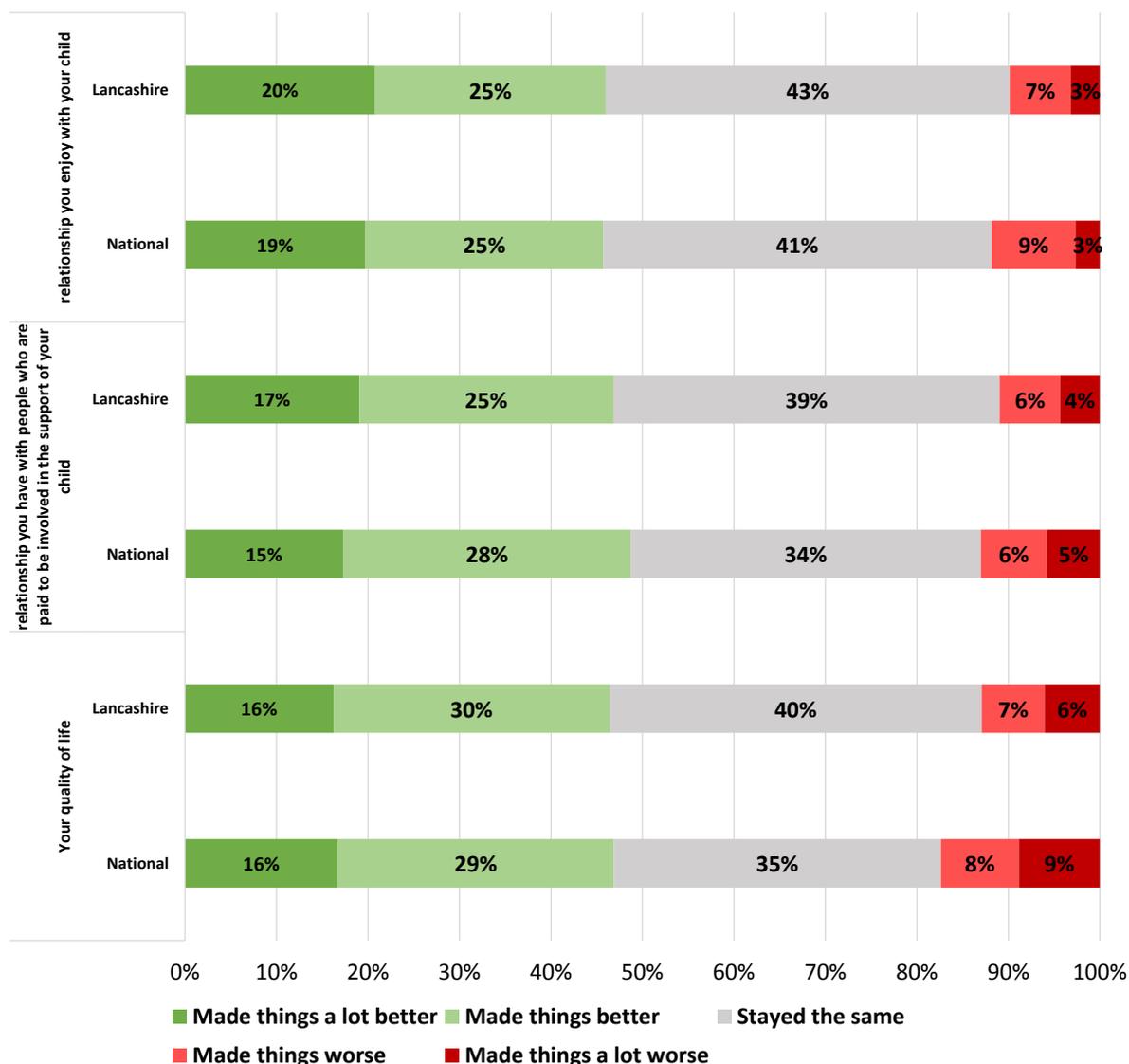


Figure 13. Do parents think the support their child gets has made a difference to aspects of their own life?

Under a half 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 7% of parents said the support their child had received over the past year had made things worse or a lot worse.

How did parents experience personal budgets?

Parents were asked additional questions about their child’s personal budget if they had one, including how the budget was held, whether they knew the amount of money allocated to the budget, whether and to what extent they felt able to decide how the money should be spent and what it was used for. As figure 14 and 15 show, parents from Lancashire were more likely to report holding their own personal budget (30%) than parents from other parts of England (23%) and slightly more likely to report they knew the amount of money allocated to the personal budget (42%) compared parents from other parts of England (39%). A half of parents from Lancashire (50%) said they could fully or partially decide how the personal budget was spent, compared to 62% 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.]

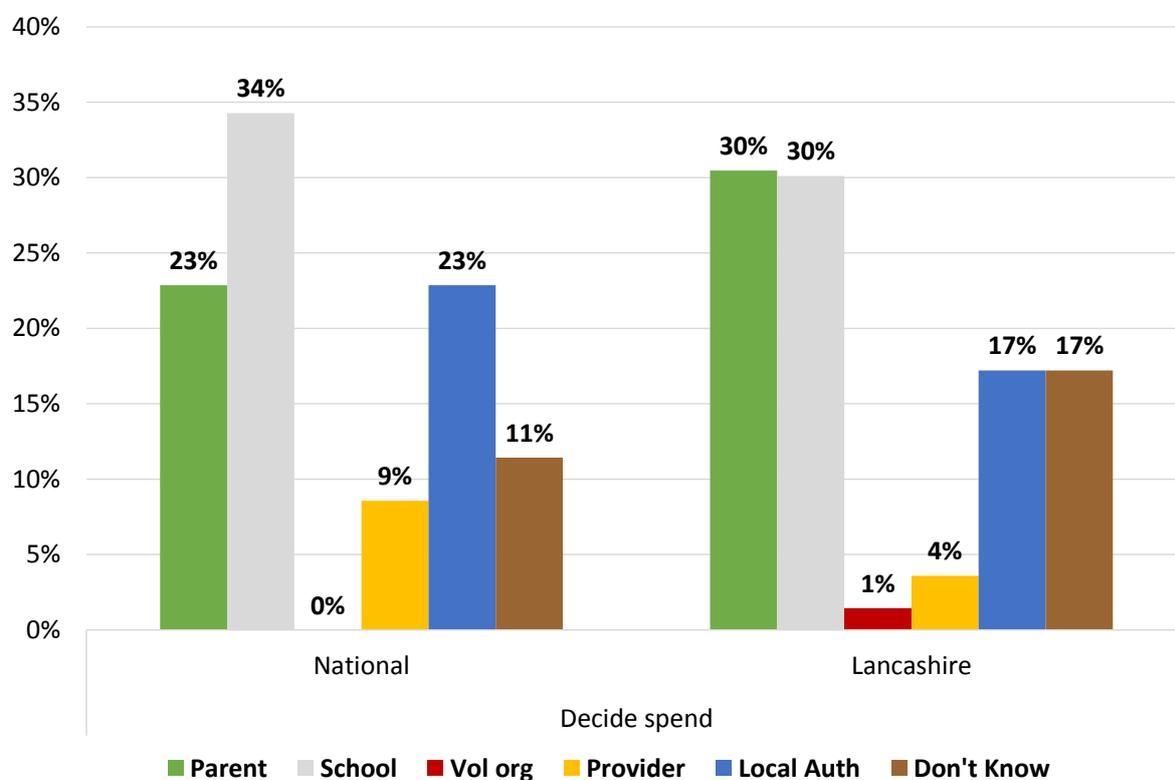


Figure 14. How were personal budgets held?

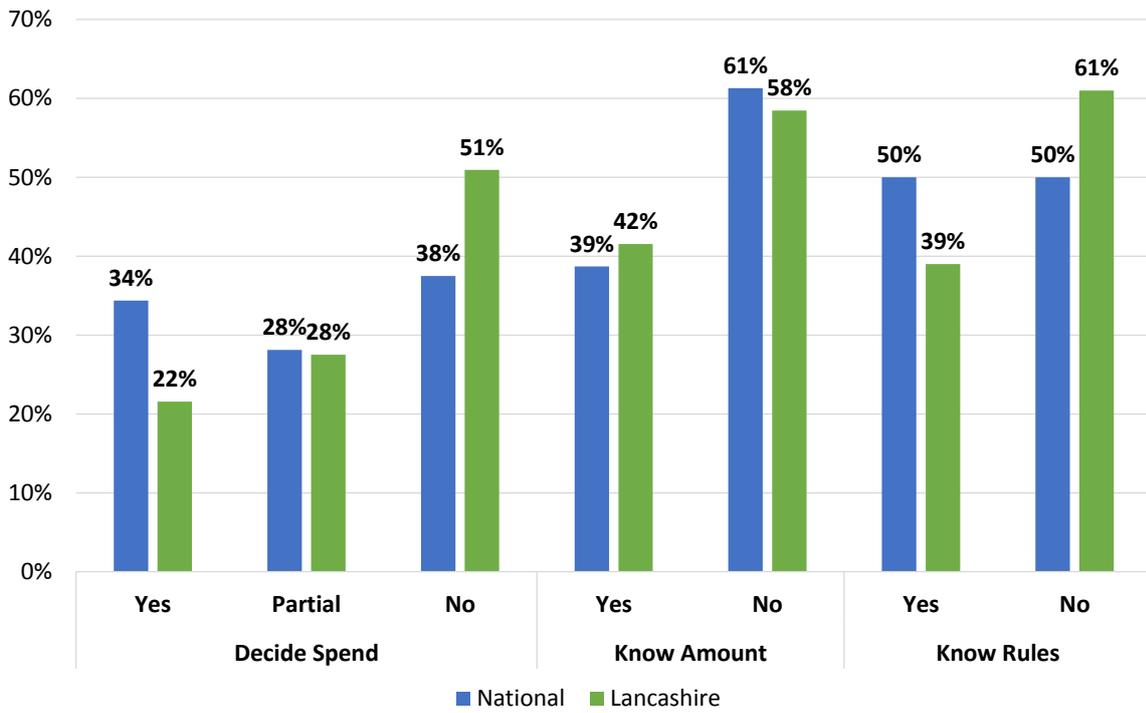


Figure 15. Do parents know how much money was allocated to their child’s personal budget, knew how it could and couldn’t be spent and could decide how it was spent?

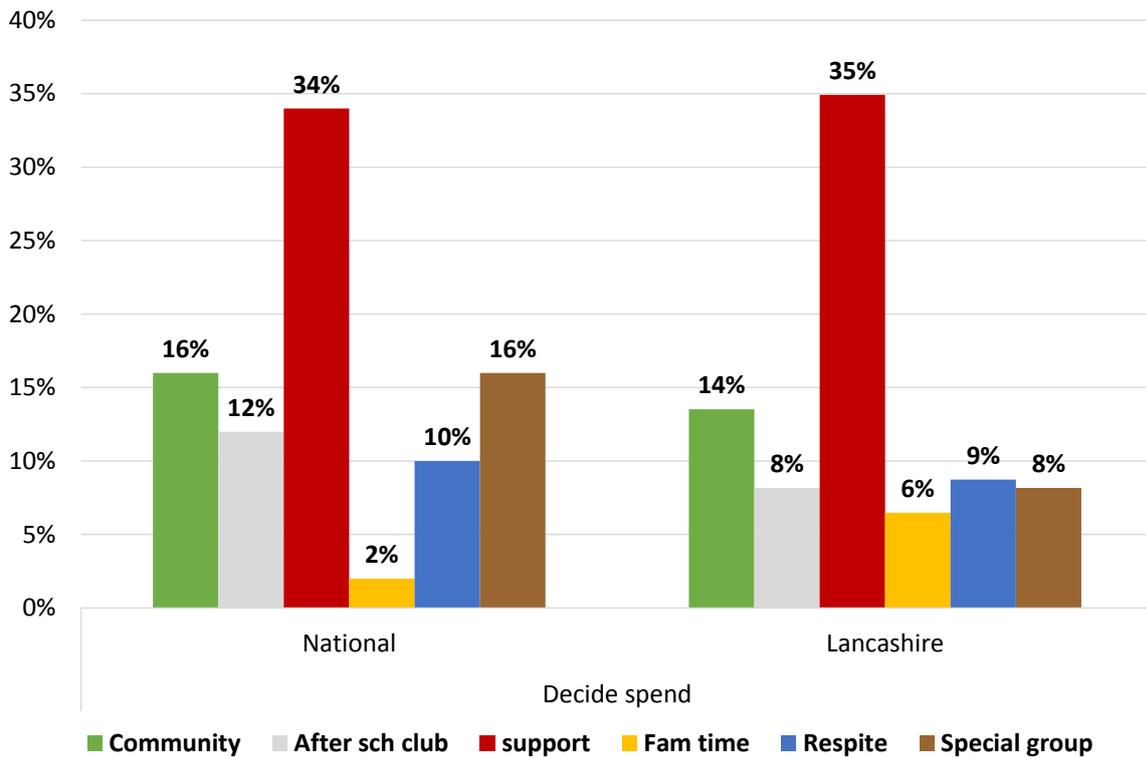


Figure 16. How was money in personal budget used?

Figure 16 shows how the money in the personal budget was used. The responses from Lancashire were broadly similar to those parents from other areas of England with less parents from Lancashire reporting using the personal budget for specialist services like groups of activities specifically for children with disabilities (8%) compared to other areas of the country (16%).

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.