

The POET Survey

Lancashire County Council Data Report: July 2019

Children & Young People with additional special educational support needs

This report presents data collected from children and young people who have additional support and may have Education Health and Care Plans (EHC 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 460 responses from Lancashire to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Lancashire data against 462 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 additional support needs and may have had experience of EHC Plans.

Figures 1 and 2 shows how the children and young people answered the survey. Less than a quarter of children from Lancashire answered the questions on their own (19%), significantly lower than the children from other areas of England (45%). Just under two thirds of the children were male

Who took part in the survey and what support did they receive?

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 13, the same age as children from other parts of England. Figure 3 shows the single largest group of children from Lancashire (50%) were between the age of 11 and 16, similar to children of the same age group from other parts of England (51%). Figures 4 shows the main reason children needed support both in Lancashire (23%) and in other parts of England (22%) 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.

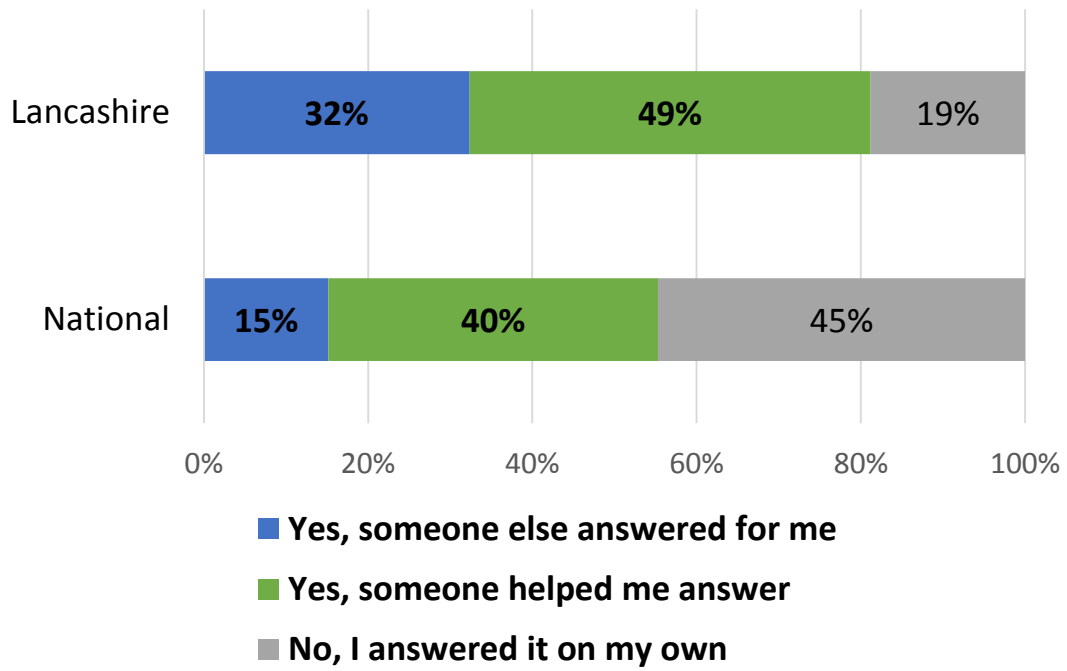


Figure 1. Did you have help to complete the survey?

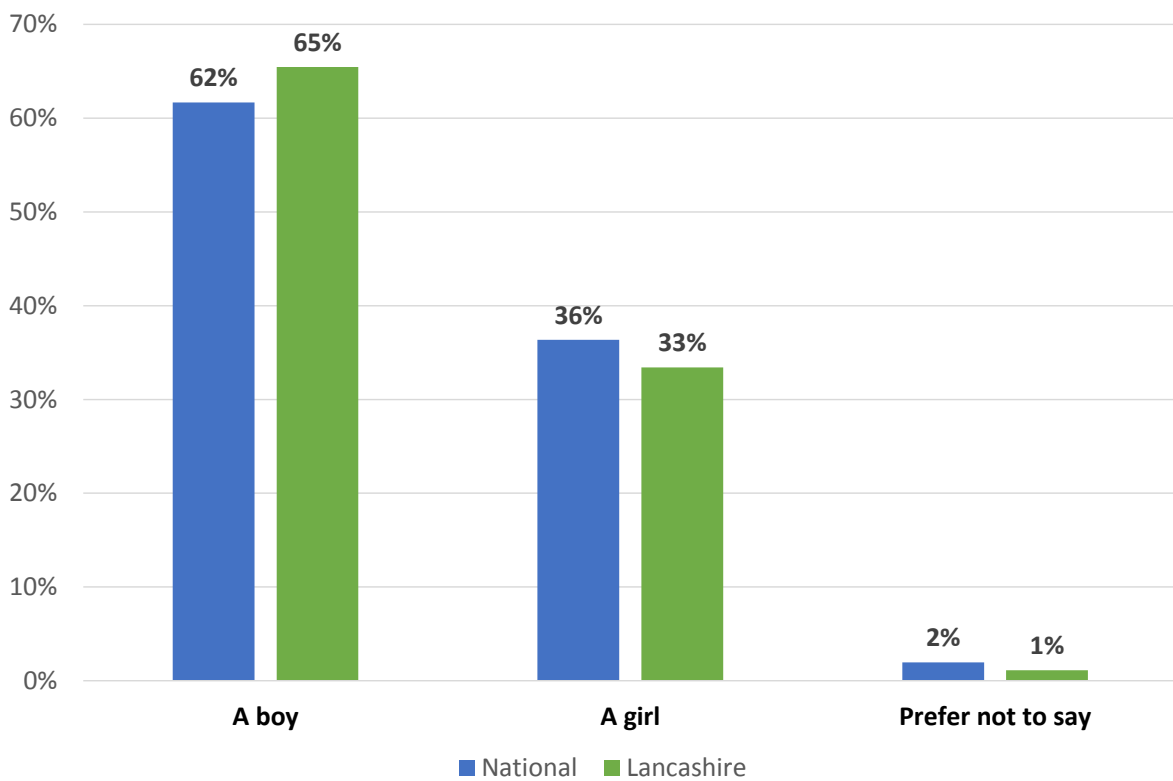


Figure 2. Gender of children and young people?

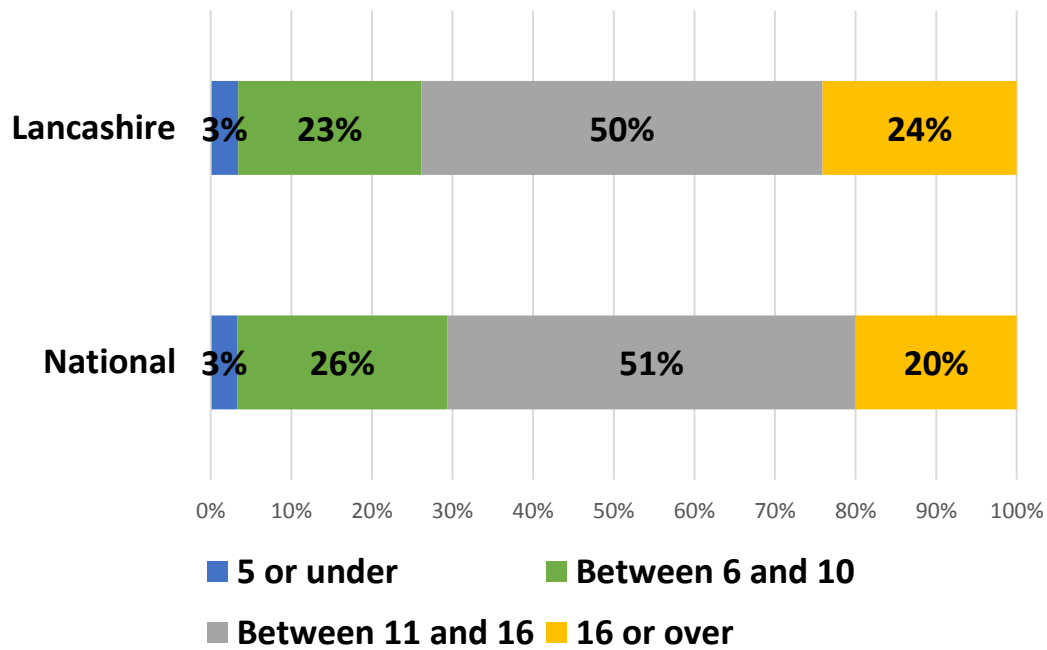


Figure 3. Childrens and young people’s age

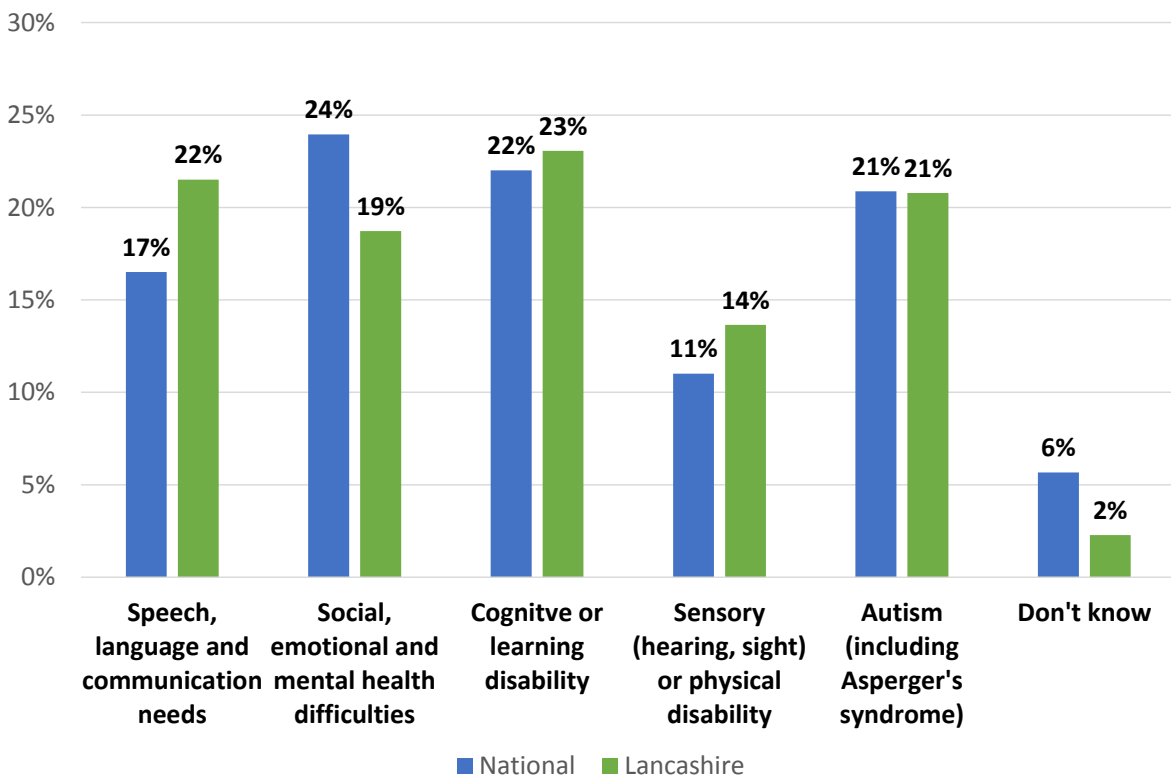


Figure 4. Why do children need support?

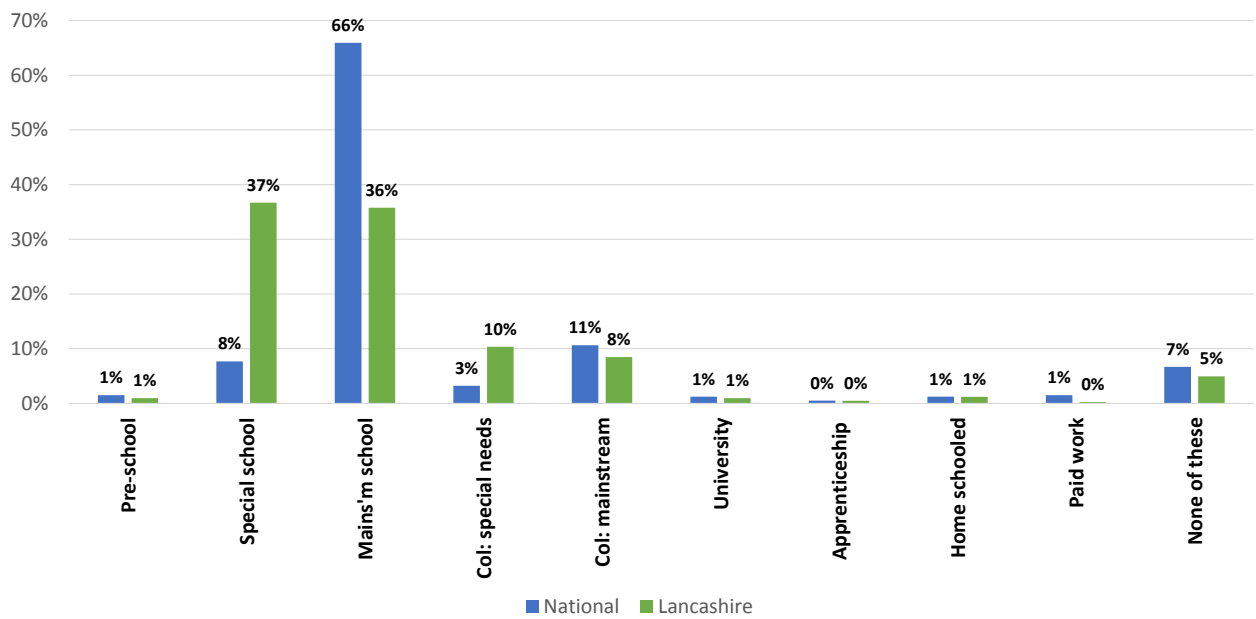


Figure 5. What type of education, work or training do children and young people do

The POET survey asked children and young people what type of school or college they attended or if they were at university, undertaking an apprenticeship or had paid work.

Just over one third of children from Lancashire went to a mainstream school (36%) a significantly lower proportion than children from other parts of England (66%) and more than a third attended a special school (37%) compared to 8% of children from other parts of the country.

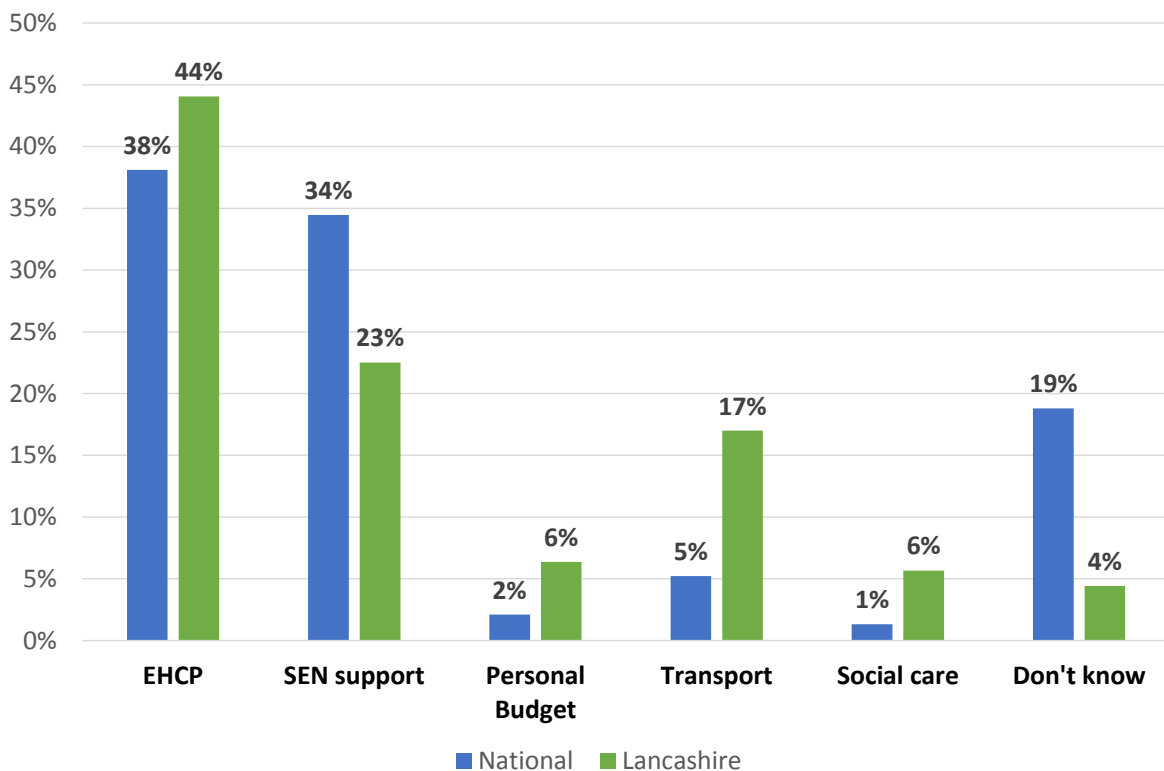


Figure 6. What additional paid support do children and young people receive?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say what they received paid support for, figure 6 shows that children from Lancashire were more likely to say they had support for their Education Health and Care plan (44%) a higher proportion compared to responses from other parts of England (38%). Just under one quarter of children said they had paid support for SEN (23%) compared to just over one third of children from other parts of England (34%).

Children and young people responding to the POET survey from Lancashire were more likely to say they did not know if they had paid support (4%) compared to responses from other parts of England (19%).

What do children and young people with additional needs 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. Under a half of the children from Lancashire that responded to the survey said that their views were included when their support was planned (43%) greater than children who responded from other parts of England (38%).

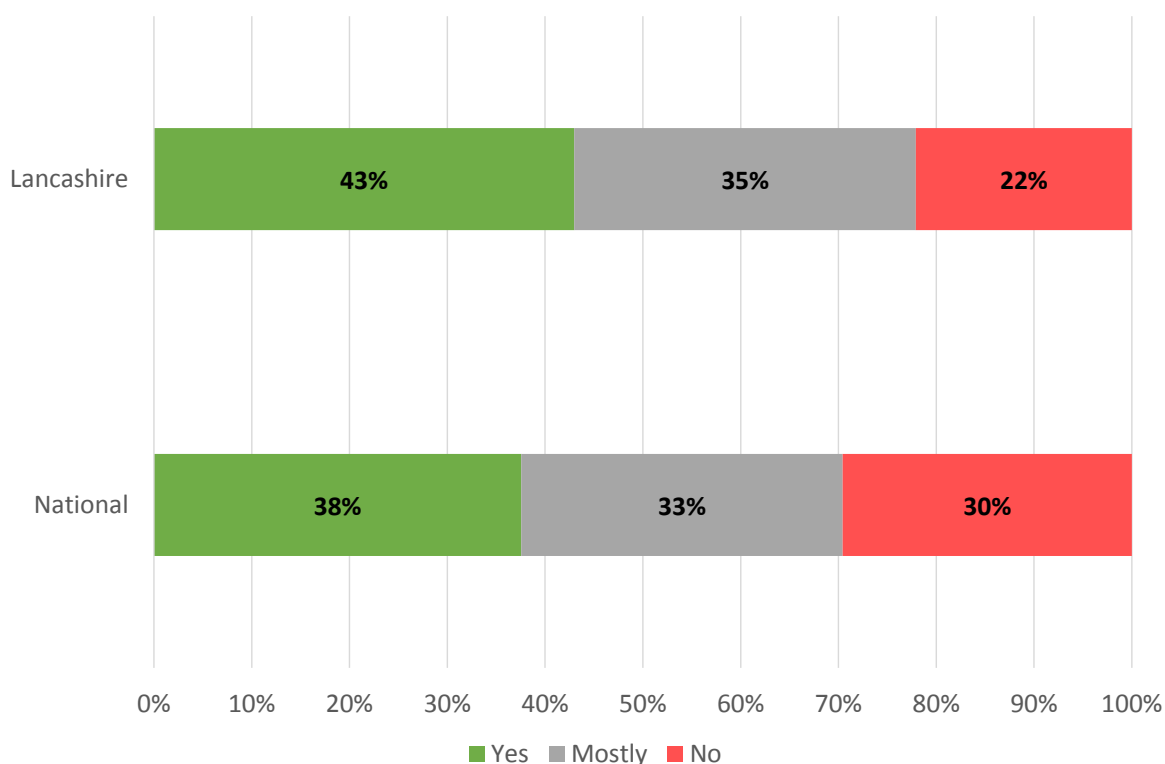


Figure 7. Were children and young people's views included when their support was planned?

The POET survey also sought to find out if the views of the children's close family members were included in the support planning. Just under two thirds of children and young people (65%) reported that their family members' views were included, a higher proportion than children who took part from other areas of the country (55%). See figure 8.

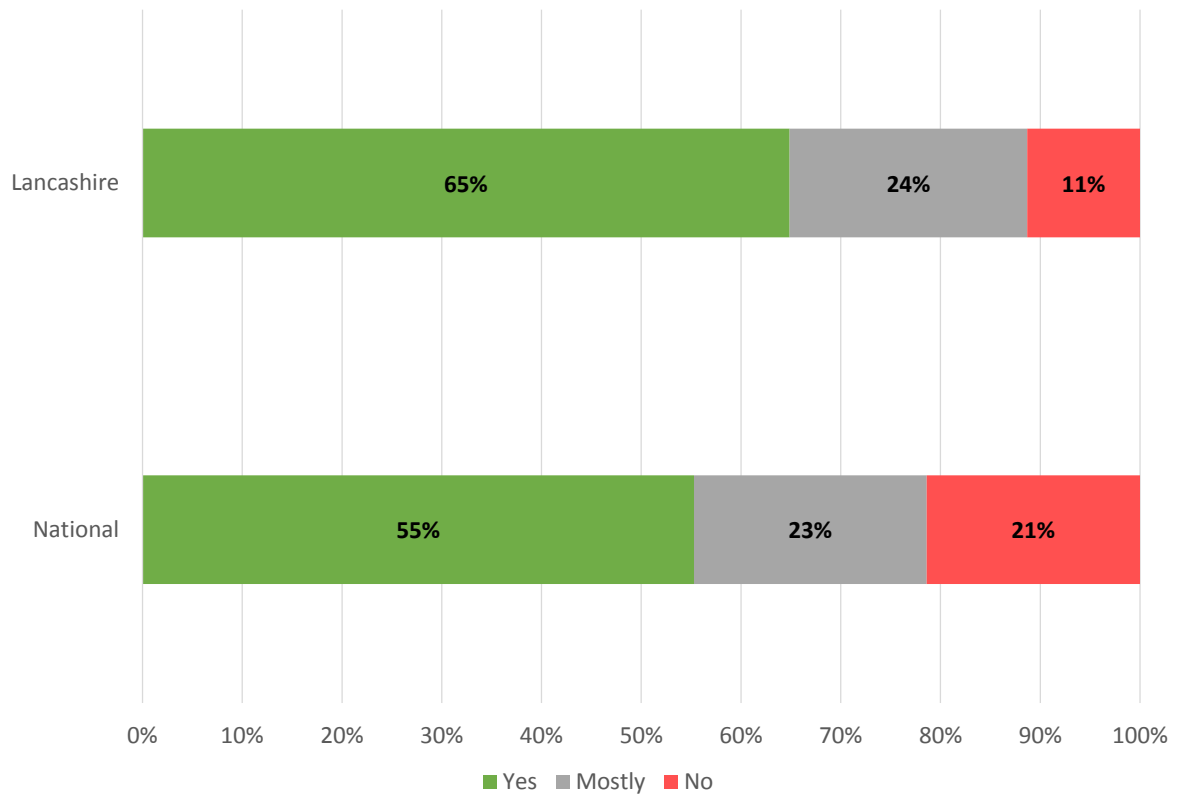


Figure 8. Were the views of close family members included when their child’s support was planned?

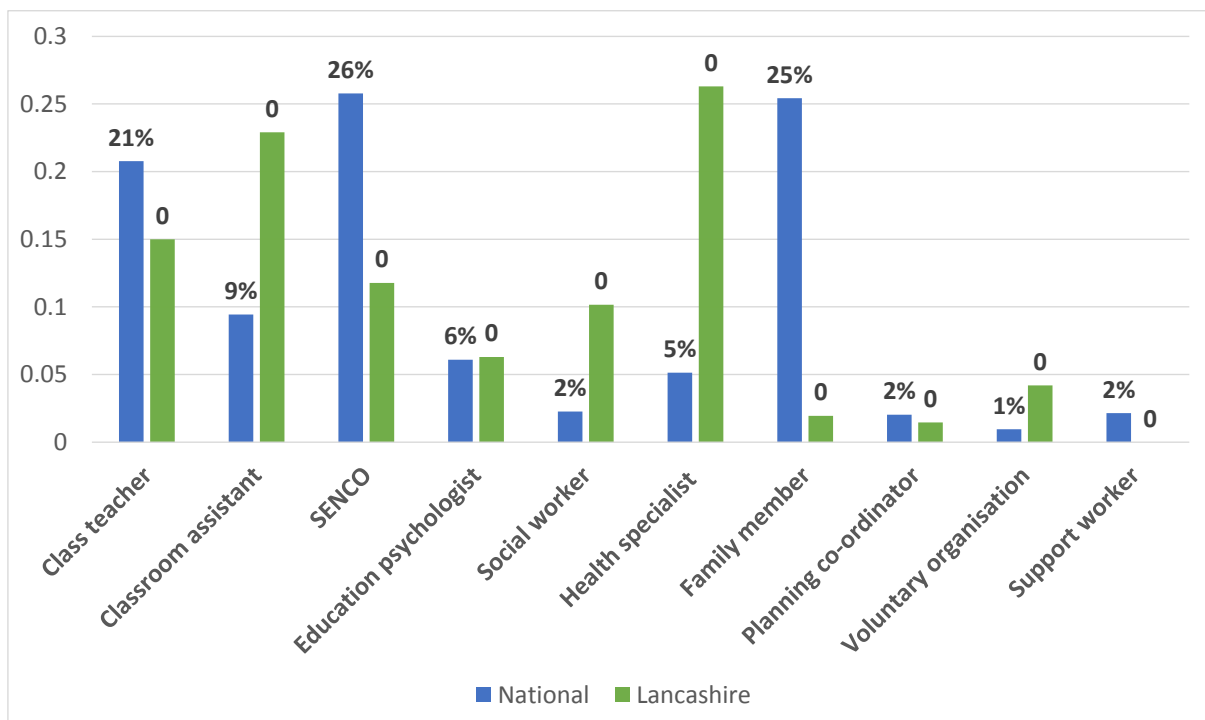


Figure 9. Who was involved in the children and young people’s support planning.

The POET survey asked children and young people to say what their experience had been of the support they received over the past 12 months and how their had support had helped in eleven different aspects.

- **The quality of your support:**
- **Choice and control about your support:** I can choose and change my support if I need to.
- **Having the right help and support to meet my needs:**
- **Practitioners who help and support me work well together:**
- **Flexibility of help and support as my needs change:**
- **Take part in school, learning, work or training:** I do the best I can at school, college or work.
- **Feel happy with your quality of life:** I'm happy and enjoy life.
- **Develop independence and the skills to be ready for the next steps of your future:**
- **Be as fit and healthy as you can be:**
- **Be part of the local community:** I can do things in my local area.
- **Enjoy relationships with family and friends:** I enjoy time with family and friends.

As Figure 10 shows, Just over three quarters (76%) of the children and young people from Lancashire said their support had helped them enjoy their relationships with family and friends compared to just over two thirds of children from other parts of the country (67%). More than a half of the children from Lancashire said their support helped them with seven of the other ten areas we asked about: taking part in school, learning and work (67%), flexibility of support as their needs change (67%), quality of life (64%), quality of support (62%), practitioners working well together (61%), being as fit and healthy as they can be (56%) and having the right support to meet their needs (56%).

Just under a third of the children and young people from Lancashire said the support they received was poor in one of the eleven areas we asked about: being part of the local community (32%). Just under a quarter (23%) said the having choice and control about their support was poor, a lower proportion than children reporting from other parts of the country (42%).

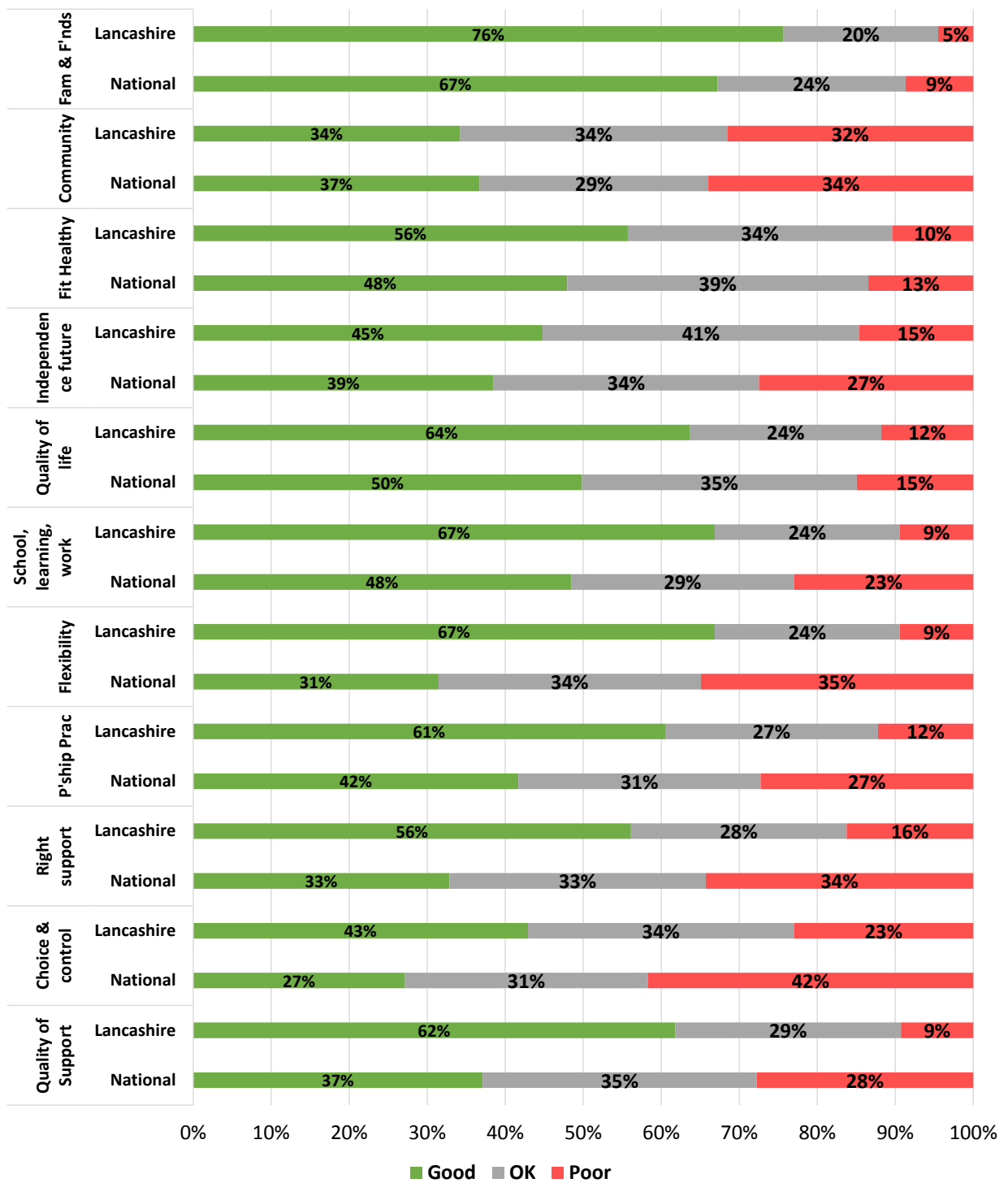


Figure 10. Over the past year, what do you think about these areas of the help and support that you get and how well has the support you get helped you.

Outcomes for Children and Young People

The POET survey asked children and young people to say how well they felt their support plan reflected their needs, if they and the people who supported them knew what the planned outcomes were and if they felt the outcomes planned reflected their views. They were also asked if they knew how they were going to reach their outcomes, if they were happy with the progress made so far and if they had achieved their outcomes with the support they get.

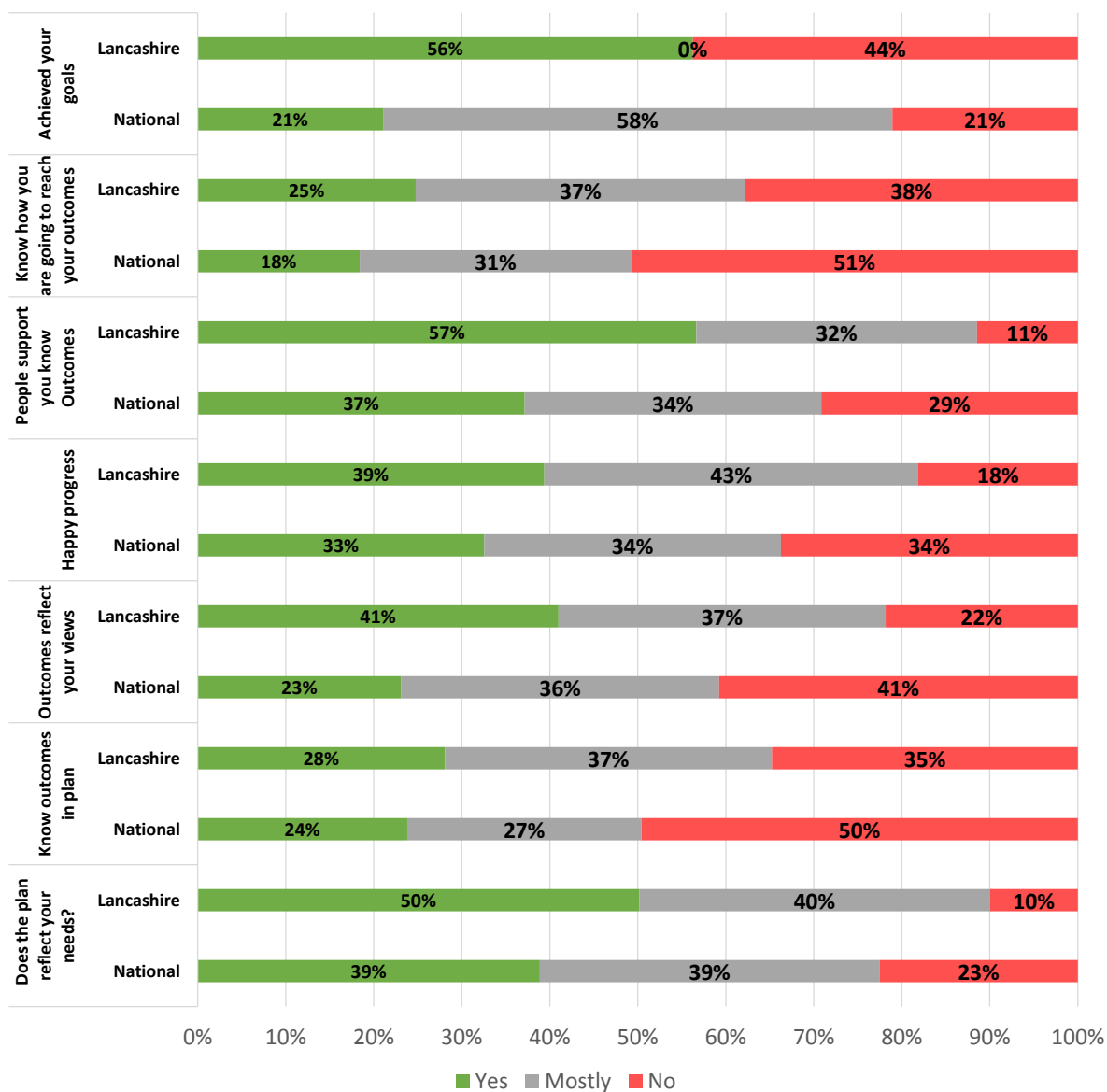


Figure 11. Children and young people's outcomes

A half of the children and young people from Lancashire who took part in the POET survey said that their support plan reflected their needs, a higher proportion than children from other areas of the country (39%). Over a half of the children from Lancashire reported that they had achieved their goals with the help of the support that they get (56%), significantly more than other parts of the country (21%).

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

- **Have fun:** I have fun and enjoy my spare time.
- **Feel safe:** I feel safe at home and out and about.
- **At home:** I enjoy life at home.

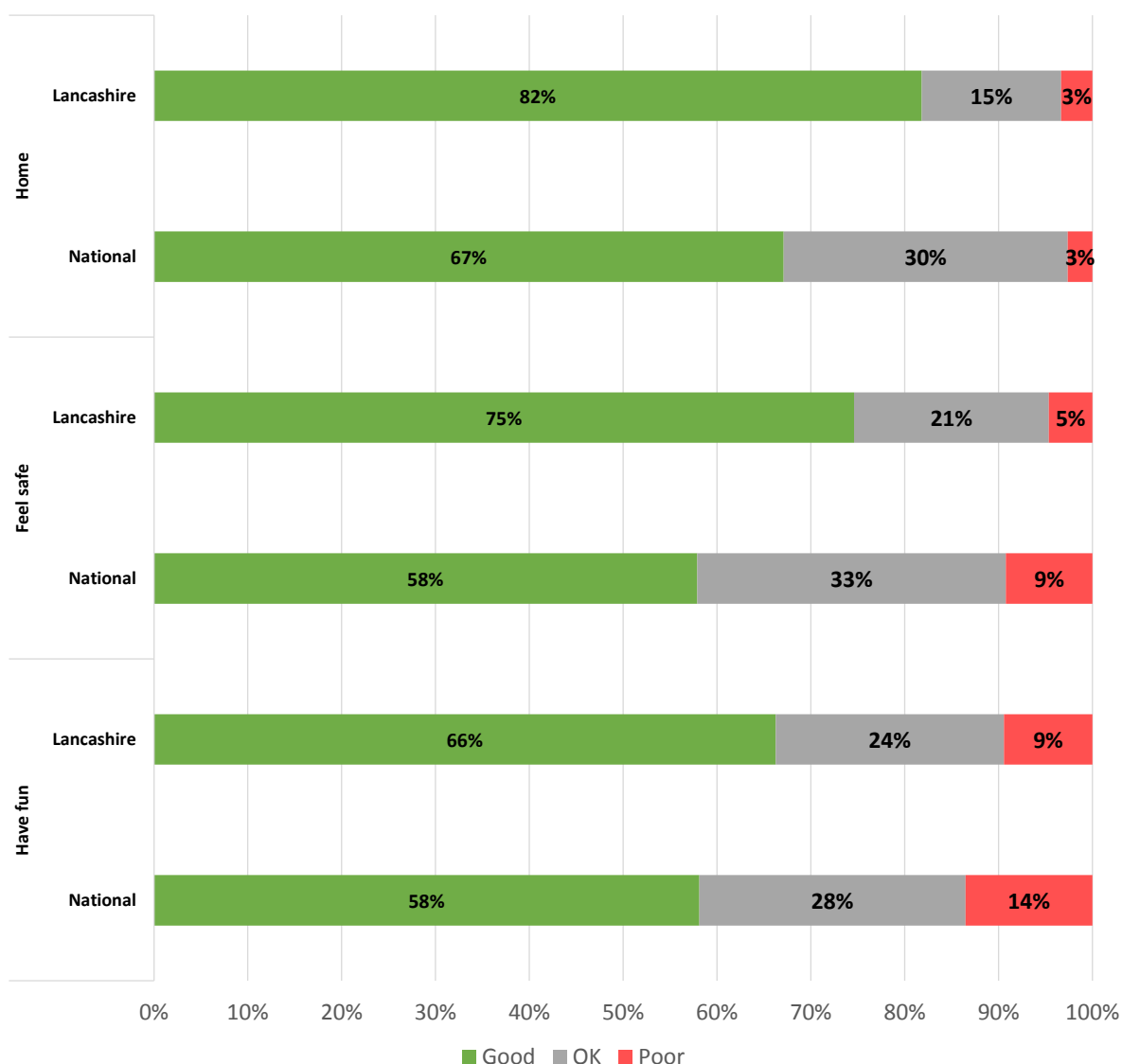


Figure 12. Over the past year, how well has the support you get helped you:

As Figure 12 shows, more than two thirds of children and young people from Lancashire said the support they had received was good in all three of the areas we asked about: enjoying life at home (82%), feeling safe at home and out and about (75%) and having fun (66%).

Questions about personal budgets for Children and Young People

Children and young people who said they had a personal budget were asked additional questions, 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 how their personal budget was used.

As figure 13 shows, children and young people from Lancashire were broadly as likely to report knowing the amount of money (28%), how it could and couldn't be spent (32%) and decide how their personal budget was spent (24%) compared to parents from other parts of England.

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

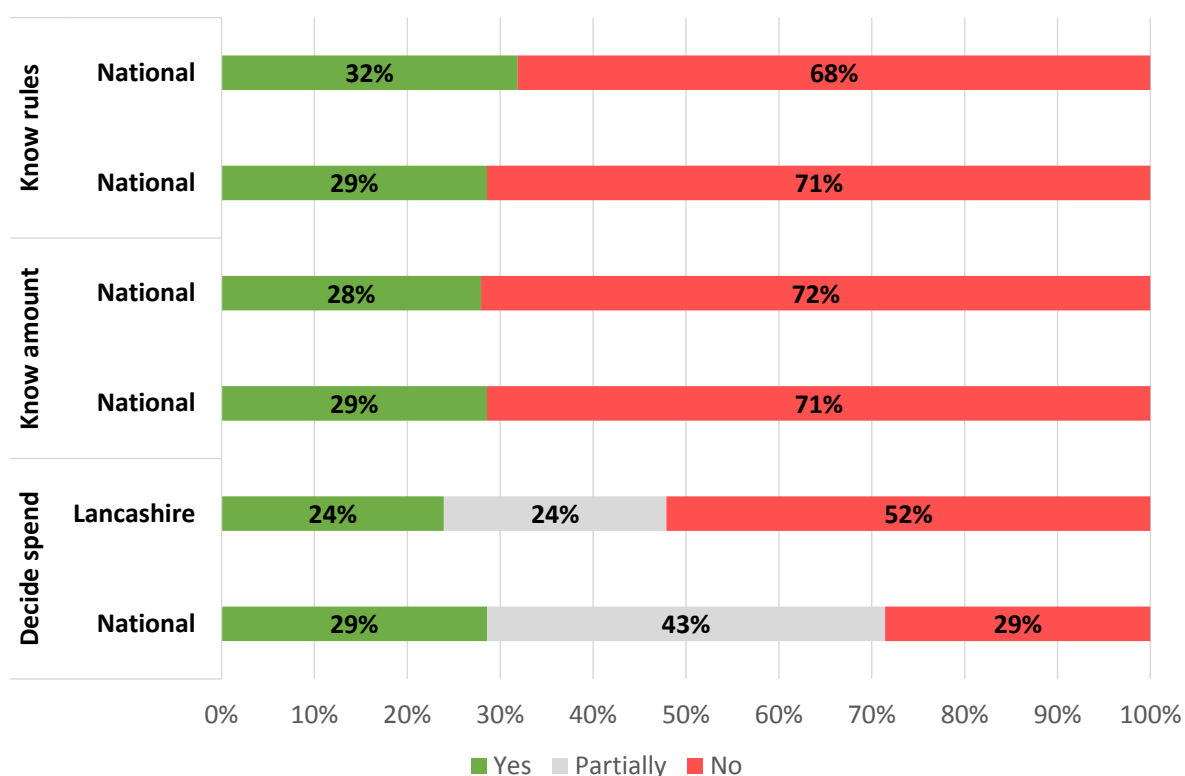


Figure 13. What children and young people know about their personal budget.

The POET survey asked children and young people what they used their personal budget for, figure 14 shows those from Lancashire and other parts of the country reported the largest single use of the budget being for 1:1 support from a paid carer.

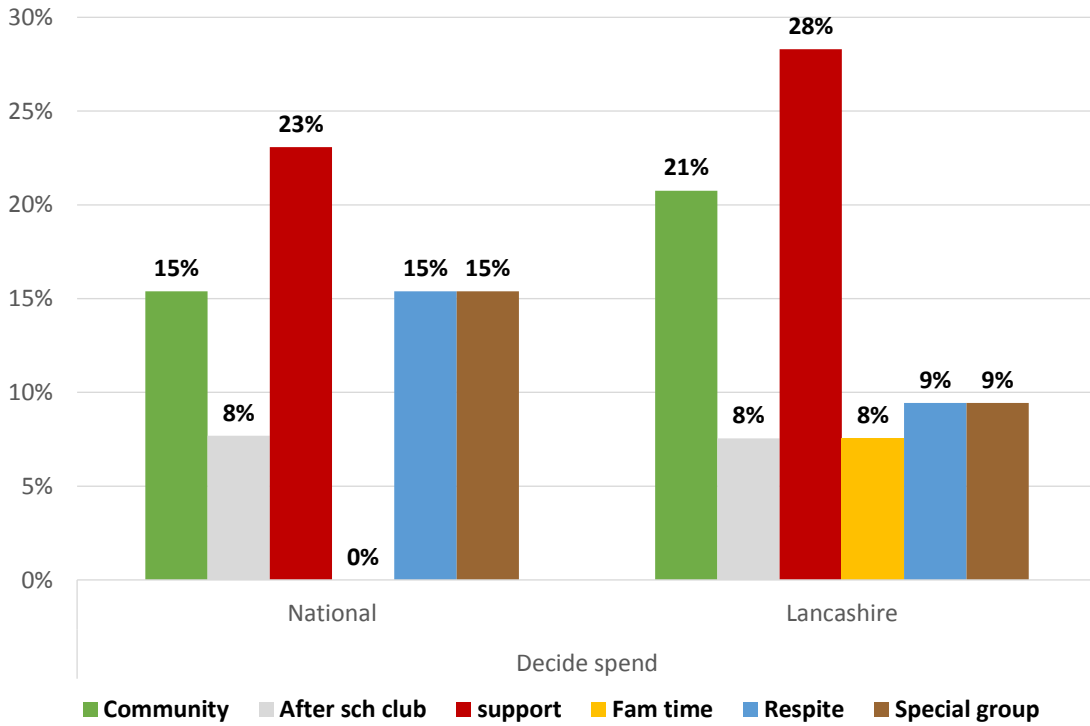


Figure 14. What is the personal budget used for?

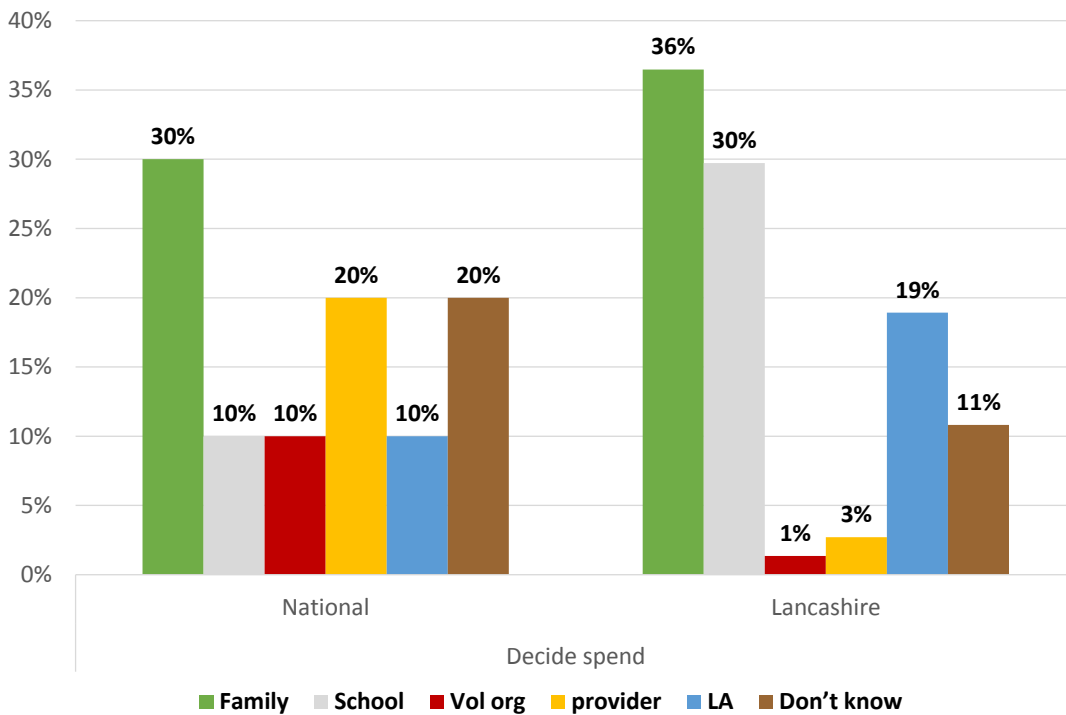


Figure 15. How is your personal budget held?

The POET survey asked children and young people who held their personal budget for, those from Lancashire and other parts of the country reported the largest single holders of the budget was by their family. In Lancashire just under a third (30%) of children said that the school held their personal budget compared to 10% from other areas of England.

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.