

Overview & Scrutiny

Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

All Members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows:

Monday 14 March 2022

7.00 pm

**Committee Room 2 and 3, Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, Hackney. E8 1EA**

**The press and public are welcome to join this meeting remotely via the
livelink below:**

<https://youtu.be/KHUQoXt1h4s>

(An alternative link is provided in the event of technical difficulties)

<https://youtu.be/mx9Jd1L3-aM>

**If you would like to attend in person you will need to give notice (to the
clerk) and note the Covid-19 guidance below.**

Contact:

Martin Bradford

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Mark Carroll

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

Members: Cllr Sophie Conway (Chair), Cllr Margaret Gordon (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr James Peters,
Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Sarah Young, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Lynne Troughton
and Cllr Caroline Selman

Co-optees: Steven Olalere, Shabnum Hassan, Jo Macleod, Ernell Watson and Michael
Lobenstein

**Date of
publication** 4th March 2022

Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Urgent Items / Order of Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Parental Involvement in Education (7.05pm)** (Pages 5 - 12)
The aims and objectives of the new parental engagement programme in Hackney Education.
- 5 School Improvement Partners (7.40pm)** (Pages 13 - 28)
The role of school improvement partners in improving schools in Hackney.
- 6 Cabinet Q & A (8.15pm)** (Pages 29 - 30)
Annual Q & A with Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Children's Social Care.
- 7 Post 16 SEND - Cabinet Response (9.00 pm)** (Pages 31 - 40)
To note the Cabinet response to the Commission's recommendations on the development of the Strategy for Post 16 SEND provision in Hackney.
- 8 Children's Centre Consultation (9.05pm)** (Pages 41 - 100)
To note:
 - (i) Children Centre Consultation Report
 - (ii) Response of Hackney Education to parental concerns about proposed reconfiguration of Children's Centres.
- 9 Work Programme 2021/22 (9.10pm)** (Pages 101 - 114)
To review the work programme of 2021/22 to inform priority setting for the new municipal year.
- 10 Minutes**
- 11 Any Other Business**

Access and Information

Getting to the Town Hall

For a map of how to find the Town Hall, please visit the council's website <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/contact-us.htm> or contact the Overview and Scrutiny Officer using the details provided on the front cover of this agenda.

Accessibility

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Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

Further Information about the Commission

If you would like any more information about the Scrutiny Commission, including the membership details, meeting dates and previous reviews, please visit the website or use this QR Code (accessible via phone or tablet 'app')

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/individual-scrutiny-commissions-children-and-young-people.htm>



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The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

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If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting room. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 4 - Parental Engagement & Involvement	Item No 4
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Outline

Hackney Education established a parental engagement project in 2021 to help develop schools' capacity to work more effectively with parents. A Systems Leader has been appointed to support this work. The enclosed report sets out the aims and objectives of this project together with an update on work completed to date.

Attending

- Debra Johnson, Systems Leader, Hackney Education
- Annie Gammon, Director of Education

Reports

- Hackney Education Parental Engagement Report

Action:

Members of the Commission are invited to review the attached report and ask questions of officers present.

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Report Title:	Parent/carer Engagement
Meeting for:	Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission
Date:	24.02.2022
Produced by:	Debra Robinson
Authorised by:	Annie Gammon

Report Summary

A short summary is required for all reports to the CYP Scrutiny Commission in acknowledgement that scrutiny is a public body and has a number of lay representatives and young people who are members of the Commission.

The main duties and responsibilities of the Local Authority are outlined below - taken from the *Hackney Education Improvement Plan*:

Parents and carers will feel supported, engaged, and valued in Hackney. Through meaningful engagement, such as through events and consultation, we will ensure that Hackney's parents and carers feel that their views are heard. We will work closely with schools and settings to understand parents and carers more closely, and develop innovative ways to connect with them.

The System Leader for Parent/Carer engagement will drive the following:

1. To develop schools' capacity to work more effectively with parents and carers to close gaps in attainment and progress. In particular, to support schools in developing links with less actively engaged parents, helping to remove the barriers to engagement and ensuring all parents have a sense of belonging to their school community
2. To research, develop materials and training for schools - considering increasing parental information and involvement around curriculum, pastoral work and SEND issues
3. To identify and share best practice in promoting parent partnership work in Hackney Schools.
4. To clarify existing processes for communicating with parents and to support Hackney Education and schools in developing coherent communication strategies.
5. To lead on relevant elements of the use of the Under Performing Groups strategy, especially with primary schools.

Work carried out so far/impact:

Research paper:

My initial focus was to understand the scope of parental engagement in Hackney; what it looked like in schools, the communication between Hackney Education and parents, along with how other parts of the council engage with parents. I was curious about what good practice looked like and what the national picture on parental engagement looked like. Therefore, I carried out an extensive piece of research [here](#), which was informed by national reports and data.

Impact: This research informed a comprehensive action plan, which dovetails with Hackney's priorities for parental engagement, [here](#). The action plan is decisive in *how* I will drive parental engagement in my role, going forward. I have presented my action plan to Hackney Education's SLT and subsequent to their comments, I have made amendments.

I have also introduced myself by way of presentation to Hackney Governors, Post-16 meetings and various other groups. In addition, I have met with different sections within Hackney Education, the council and community organisations. My meetings with some of the organisations within Hackney proved insightful as they have direct links with parents. For example, within early years, there is a strong connection with most groups of parents, whilst some groups, for example the Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot (TKTC) community and the Black Caribbean group, tend to trail off in the latter part of the early years and this pattern is echoed within the outcomes among these groups. I have held meetings with groups such as: *The Claudia Jones' Organisation*, *Father2Father*, *The crib*, *Hackney Quest*, *The Pembury Organisation*, *Young Hackney*, *Hackney Independent Forum for Parents/carers of Children (HIP)*

Impact:

The meetings have allowed me to familiarise myself with how parents are reached in a variety of ways, and to gain an understanding with the capacity in which schools and organisations all connect with parents. It was powerful to see what exists and how I could use some of these organisations to support schools in reaching parents. The myriad of organisations and services who communicate with parents is something that schools can be supported with in my role. I will also be meeting with a group of black Caribbean fathers, through *Father2father* to discuss communication, engagement and perceptions.

Self-evaluation Tool:

To ensure that Hackney schools are able to benchmark themselves against parental engagement, I have created a self-evaluation tool. Currently amendments are being made to ensure a more streamlined approach to the Hackney context is reflected in the self-evaluation tool, it will then be shared with schools that I work with as a way of auditing parental engagement.

Impact: An initial draft has been shared with one school; they have found it useful, in guiding what aspects of parental engagement require focus.

School visits:

Having visited over eighteen schools in the Autumn term, all welcomed the need for the parental engagement role in Hackney Education. Many schools did not have a parental engagement strategy. Some saw their parent engagement focus as being embedded in their audit response for the *Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools Project (WAHMs)*. Furthermore, many schools recognise the need for specific groups of parents to have a platform in which their voices could be amplified.

Impact: Guidance on setting up forums:

I have created a guidance document on *Setting up a School Forum*. As a result, I have and will be using it with schools in my work and intend to share with the lead on parental engagement in schools across Hackney. Three schools have set up their forums with my

support and a fourth will do so after Easter.

School Forums:

School 1 (Primary) : SEND School 2 (Secondary) : Parents of boys

School 3 (Primary): Black Caribbean/African parents

School 4: (Secondary): SEND

Further impact: In addition, I have started some background work on a project looking at what we can learn from parents whose children have been excluded from one of our Hackney secondary schools. This will focus on Year 8 pupils, as the exclusion rates have been significant here. This will serve as an informative case study, which will be shared with other schools and going forward, will inform future work and lessons we can take from how the school has interacted with parents in the exclusion process.

Another school has outlined a program of nine sessions - some of which will be tweaked over the next week to consider how community organisations could interact with parents. Many schools are keen on having parents back in schools, especially as Parents' Evenings are being held online for the foreseeable future.

Work with HiP

I have met with the Hackney Independent forum for Parents/carers of Children with Disabilities (HiP). My intention is to ensure that I seek clarity in the needs of this group of parents and a more positive communication and collaborative approach between schools and parents of Special educational needs and disability (SEND) children.

Impact: As a result of my initial meetings, 30 parents came to an online meeting on Monday 21st February to relay their scenarios and experiences surrounding communication with schools, in the first of two sessions. The Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play, was also in attendance and supported the need for a joined up discussion. A wide range of voices were heard at this meeting, which strengthened the need for a reciprocal communication structure between SEND parents and schools. Galvanising Parents, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, (SENCOs) and some of our School Improvement Partners was a key idea resulting from the meeting,

Training:

Having met with various members of staff in Hackney Education, I have identified where some training on how school staff work with parents, could be delivered.

Impact:

The first training session I will deliver is for Deputy Heads, Assistant Heads and aspiring leaders. The training identified is the Leadership Pathway Course, which will be held on Tuesday 22nd March. Additionally, a Middle Leader session in May and a session for Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and Recently Qualified Teachers (RQTs), in July have also been identified, to support staff at different levels in schools with parental engagement. My training will also incorporate Hackney's legacy surrounding education and the possible impact this may have had on them. Feedback from the Parents as Partners Conference will also inform my training.

Under Performing Groups Strategy

Reading Project:

I have met with Rosie Condon and Emma Burton, the literacy and maths consultants. The project 'Jump into a Book Together' workshop will be rolled out in some primary schools after Easter. The workshop is designed to support children in Year 2, who are below age-expectation, with a focus on the Turkish Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot (TKTC) and Black Caribbean heritage (BCRB) and whose parents would benefit from workshops supporting them with reading at home.

Impact:

Delivering the training and observing sessions will support my understanding regarding how schools involve parents in the curriculum.

Parent Champions:

I have researched the role and operations of Parent Champions within Hackney. Having met with members of Young Hackney, CORAM (the Parent Champions National Network), a Parent Champion and representatives from Peabody, I have established that a more coordinated approach is required to pull the Parent Champions together.

Impact: I have pulled together an overview summing up where we are in Hackney regarding Parent Champions.

Post-16:

I have attended the P16 Head of Sixth Form Network Meeting to establish the needs of parents and what partnership looks like at P16.

Impact:

As part of my work with the Senior P16 Advisor, I will devise some guidance to support parents' understanding of destinations at P16.

Transition/Hackney Schools Group Board

Feedback from the Parents as Partners Conference informed Hackney Education that parents still needed clarity on the transition process at each stage: Key Stage 2-3, KS3-4, KS4-5 and Post 16.

Impact:

Several community organisations will feed into this focus on transition.

I met with the following organisations on 02/03/2022:

- Father2Father
- Saquib from Hackney Community Voluntary Services
- The Crib
- Hackney Quest

I held a meeting to discuss parents' thoughts on the transition process. As I also sit on the curriculum panel for the Hackney Schools Group Board, this piece of work dovetails with the current focus on transition. The feedback from this meeting will inform a wider piece of work whereby schools will have the opportunity to invite parents to convey their views on the transition process. This will enable a wider

range of parents to be reached about their experiences on the process so that schools and Hackney Education can look at processes, with a view to making possible alterations.

To set out any questions that you would like the Commission to consider or address

I would welcome feedback from the Commission on this report and any areas to develop further.

Forward Plans:

Continue with school support, ensuring that succinct case studies inform staff across the borough on good practice

Local Parent Forum event in the the Autumn term

Establish a network of school representatives who lead on parental engagement - meet throughout the academic year.

Establish how Parent representatives/champions will work with schools

Explore parent advocacy

Deliver a session at the Headteachers' Conference

Delver training for school staff

Look at how the Hackney Education website supports parents and how schools

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 5 - School Improvement Partners	Item No 5
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Outline

The School Improvement Partner (SIP) Programme assists schools to develop higher standards of leadership and management expertise. Dedicated advisers work with schools to assess and improve:

- How well students are performing;
- The quality of teaching and learning;
- Management and leadership.

Hackney Education has provided an update on the role of School Improvement Partners and their work to support local schools to improve.

Attending

- Stephen Hall, Assistant Director, School Standards and Improvement
- Annie Gammon, Director of Education.

Reports

- Hackney Education School Improvement Service

Action:

Members of the Commission are invited to review the attached report and ask questions of officers present.

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Hackney Education School Improvement Service

What is the role of the school improvement partner?

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Who are School Improvement Partners?



Leadership & Management Advisers:

Cross phases: 2;

Secondary including Special: 2;

Primary: 3 (and three sessional). Practitioner SIPS (Primary) 4 applied through application process.

All experienced Senior school leaders

Other areas include: WAHMS, SEND, Behaviour, Curriculum development, Assessment, Headteacher performance management, Governance, Training and development, Whole school reviews and audits

Traded work including 30 schools in other boroughs

Annual Survey Feedback

Categories of support

<p>Core: The schools have, at least, good sustained capacity to improve and demonstrate ambition for pupils</p>	<p>3 half day School Improvement Partner Visits</p>
<p>Focused: Where it is identified that a school has good capacity to improve but has one or two specific aspects of its work which necessitates support (e.g. specific subject areas), the school will be identified for focussed support.</p>	<p>14 hours over the year additional LaMA/HLT officer time, Termly Trust Action Group Meetings 3 half day SIP Visits Access to additional funding</p>
<p>Enhanced: Schools placed at Enhanced Support can demonstrate sufficient capacity to manage improvement alone. However, with some additional support, targeted to specific aspects, subject or key stages, progress could be accelerated</p> <p>Any school graded 3 or at the risk of being judged as Requires Improvement from an Ofsted inspection will be automatically categorised for additional enhanced support.</p>	<p>14 hours per term additional LaMA/HLT officer time</p> <p>Termly Trust Action Group Meetings</p> <p>3 half day SIP Visits</p> <p>One day review at agreed point in year</p> <p>Access to additional funding</p>
<p>Intensive A/B</p> <p>Intensive A - schools judged by HLT to require improvement because they were graded 3 in previous inspections and there is a high risk of being graded the same in the next inspection, schools that have had a significant decline in performance or schools that cannot demonstrate sufficient capacity to improve.</p> <p>Intensive B: those judged by Ofsted as having serious weaknesses or requiring special measures or schools where HLT has significant concerns about the standards of performance and an Ofsted judgment of good could be at risk.</p>	<p>Minimum 14 hours per term additional LaMA/HLT officer time</p> <p>Termly Trust Action Group Meetings</p> <p>3 half day SIP Visits</p> <p>One day review per term</p> <p>Access to additional funding</p>

Core Programme of SIP Visits 2021 -22 (maintained schools)

SIP 1 Autumn Term	SIP 2 Spring Term	SIP 3 Summer Term
<p>Update on current context and changes and agreement of focus areas for visits two and three.</p> <p>School context, changes and self-evaluation, School Development Priorities. Key aims for 2021-22</p> <p>Three year trends to 2019. Current standards and cohort differences.</p> <p>Identification of vulnerable groups, including LAC pupils, and school actions to remediate learning gaps.</p> <p>Curriculum development and implementation.</p> <p>Pupil perspectives and the role of pupil voice in school development.</p> <p>Agreed areas of focus and related actions for SIP 2 and 3</p> <p>Any concerns regarding safeguarding, buildings, Governance or finance</p>	<p>This visit will look deeper at the quality of education against the priorities agreed at the start of the year.</p> <p>School context, changes to staffing and self-evaluation</p> <p>Progress of key groups and initial impact of pupil catch up premium</p> <p>Impact of stated curriculum intent and implementation including staff development and training.</p> <p>Agreed actions related to school strategy and development focus areas</p> <p>Attendance and exclusions</p> <p>Any concerns regarding safeguarding, buildings, Governance or finance</p>	<p>This visit will evaluate progress and impact against targets and the priorities agreed at the start of the year as well as elements of pupil well-being, Governance and forward planning for 2022-23.</p> <p>Context, changes, leadership structure and staffing for the 2022-23 academic year.</p> <p>Effectiveness of Governance</p> <p>Progress of key groups including LAC pupils, and impact of pupil catch up premium</p> <p>Impact of stated curriculum intent and implementation including staff development and training and any strategic planning for 2022-23</p> <p>What has been the impact of the school's actions against agreed priorities?</p> <p>Attendance and exclusions</p> <p>Pupil behaviour and well being</p> <p>Any concerns regarding safeguarding, buildings, Governance or finance</p>

Discussion Areas:

Overall Performance over time

How effectively are the school identifying vulnerable groups? What is their ambition for these groups?

Vulnerable Groups including:

- Pupils with SEND
- Looked After Children
- Children with a social worker
- Other Groups: e.g. TKC, BCrb



Exclusions

Have there been any exclusions or conclusion of exclusion panels since the last visit?

Number and type of any exclusions including ethnicity and gender.

Are there any pupils at risk of exclusion, what is being done to support these pupils?

N.B. PEX = permanent exclusions, FTE = fixed-term exclusions

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 [YTD]	Hackney 2019-20	National 2019-20
PEX number				24	
PEX rate				0.19	0.13
Black PEX rate				0.26	0.13
Black Caribbean PEX rate				0.53	0.25
FTE number				1617	
FTE rate				11.28	7.43
Black FTE rate				15.48	7.28
Black Caribbean FTE rate				24.55	11.79

Agreed improvement focus for follow up visits

Focus	Rationale	Actions for School/SIP
Improve the quality of the Numeracy curricula so that students' knowledge and skills grow demonstrably over time and impact can be measured and evaluated.	School focus on the impact of the Head of Faculty and a revised curriculum	Deep dive in maths: Meet with lead, visit to classrooms, discussion with teachers
Improve the quality of the Humanities/ Creative Arts curricula so that students' knowledge and skills grow demonstrably over time and impact can be evaluated.	School data School improvement focus	Deep dive in Humanities/creative arts: Meet with lead, visit to classrooms, discussion with teachers
Leaders at all levels systematically evaluate impact using a data led, evidence-based approach and drive sustained improvement	School self-evaluation and improvement aim to develop a faculty led approach to developing classroom pedagogy	Meet with CPD/T&L lead re strategy and impact of school's approach to develop teaching and support from additional staff. Meet with staff/pupils re received offer

Agree three foci for the next visit that are in line with the school development plan priorities and also meet broader school improvement aim that are looked at in greater depth on the second and third visits of the year.

Academies/Free Schools

Academies, Independent Schools, Free Schools are free from local authority control. **However, we regard any child learning within our boundaries as a Hackney learner whether they are attending a maintained school or not. We also hold a safeguarding responsibility for all Hackney children.**

We can play an important role in supporting partnership, developing respect and promoting cooperation between all schools in our borough.

All Academies, Free Schools and Colleges have a named school improvement partner who visits the school twice a year.

Brokered support (including the full SIP programme) also open to these schools..

Schools Receiving Additional Support



The Supported Schools Cycle

School Risk Assessment

Meeting with Headteacher & Chair of Governors

Categorisation

Allocation of LaMA and co-ordination of additional support begins

Termly Team Action Group/Team Around the School meetings

Supported Reviews

Termly HE Risk Assessment (Heat Map)

Exit / Re-categorisation within 2 years



Who makes the decisions?

- Schools are primarily autonomous.
- Budgets are set and owned by the school
- Each school must have an LA Governor
- Curriculum content must meet the same breadth and depth as the National Curriculum
- Policies approved by the Governing body of the school
- Governors performance manage the Headteacher
- Ofsted inspections every 4 years
- Meaningful change is usually only achieved through the school leadership team
- Intervention powers and working through influence



Hackney Education has the following six statutory intervention powers:

1. to appoint additional governors;
2. to suspend the delegated budget;
3. to issue a direction requiring specified actions;
4. to issue a formal warning notice;
5. to appoint an Interim Executive Board subject to approval by the Secretary of State for schools in Ofsted categories; and
6. in extreme cases, to move towards proposals to close the school.

The Secretary of State has the following intervention powers:

1. to require governing body to enter into arrangements;
2. to appoint additional governors;
3. to direct closure of a school;
4. to appoint an interim executive board (IEB);
5. to take over responsibility for an IEB;
6. to make an academy order

Successes

- 96% of schools good or better (London avge 93%; national avge 86%)
- Key groups perform typically better than those nationally
- Continued ambition
- All schools remained open to vulnerable pupils throughout the pandemic. Improved online & remote offers
- Governance support and strategic change where schools are in difficulty
- Diversifying curriculum
- Well Being and Mental Health
- RSE
- Systemic work to reduce exclusions



Challenges

- Central Government policy and vulnerability of maintained sector. Continued reductions in funding.
- Maintaining dialogue with various stakeholders e.g Dfe, RSC, Dioceses
- Ensuring school leaders recognise key issues and weaknesses
- Capacity of smaller schools
- External pressures on schools: Finance, pupil numbers, increasing SEND, Covid





<p>Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission</p> <p>March 14th 2022</p> <p>Item 6 - Cabinet Q & A</p>	<p>Item No</p> <p>6</p>
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Outline

Cabinet members are invited to attend relevant scrutiny Commission's annually to respond to questions within their policy portfolio. Commission's may focus questions on up to three policy areas which are submitted in advance. Cabinet members are required to provide a verbal response to these questions at the meeting.

The Commission has chosen to focus on CAMHS services, and the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Children's Social Care will attend to respond to the following questions:

1. Demand for CAMHS and waiting times in Hackney

Can you provide an update on the volume and nature of referrals to local CAMHS services pre and post pandemic?

There are a number of national standards for waiting times for CAMHS services:

- 95% of young people with an eating disorder to be seen within 4 weeks (1 week if urgent)
- At least 50% young people with a 1st episode of psychosis to get help within 2 weeks of referral
- 75% of young people referred to talking therapies (mental health, depression, anxiety) to start treatment in 6 weeks and 95% in 18 weeks.

Can you update the Commission on how waiting times for CYP in Hackney relate to the above standards? And in general:

- How do waiting times for CAMHS for children and young people in Hackney compare to other similar boroughs?
- How has covid impacted on waiting times?
- What support do young people receive whilst they are on a waiting list?
- Are young people provided with information and/or signposting whilst they are on a waiting list?
- What investments or adaptations have been developed to reduce waiting times for children and young people in Hackney?

2. Improving Access to CAMHS in Hackney

With multiple services and entry points, it is acknowledged that access to local CAMHS services can be complex and difficult to understand not only for young people and their families but also for referring professionals. A local key objective is to have a fully integrated pathway or 'no wrong door' approach for local services set up by/in 2022.

- How far have local CAMHS services progressed with this objective and what have been the key achievements to date?
- What improvement will this bring to the referral process and accessibility of CAMHS?

There is evidence to suggest that '*open access mental health hubs*' might be more acceptable to young people than CAMHS or school based counseling / therapy services which could help more young people to access the support they need. A consortium of children's mental health charities are campaigning for these to be established nationwide.

- What do we know about local young people's preferences for mental health service provision?
- Are there any similar initiatives in existence or planned for Hackney?

3. Mental health support to vulnerable groups

National reports indicate that the mental wellbeing of some groups of children and young people were particularly impacted by the pandemic: children from black and other minority ethnic communities, children with existing conditions, children from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds and children from LGBT communities.

- Given that some of these communities may already experience difficulty in accessing statutory services, how have local CAMHS ensured that mental health support remains accessible?
- What outreach activities take place with local communities to support access to CAMHS?

Attending

- Cllr Antionette Bramble, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Children's Social Care



Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 7 - Post 16 SEND Strategy (Cabinet Response)	Item No 7
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Outline

In 2020/21, the Commission held a consultative session with a wide range of stakeholders to support the refresh of the Post 16 SEND Strategy.

The Commission made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks & Play to inform the strategy development process Post 16 SEND Provision.

The response of the Cabinet member is enclosed for the Commission to note.

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Hackney Education
Hackney Council
1 Reading Lane
Hackney
London
E8 1GQ

Cllrs Conway and Gordon
Chair & Vice Chair, Children and Young
People Scrutiny Commission

23 February 2022

Dear Cllr Conway and Cllr Gordon,

Post 16 Scrutiny Commission Recommendations Letter

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd April 2021 informing me of the recommendations made by the scrutiny committee following the Post 16 scrutiny investigation which took place in March 2020.

Having thoroughly read the report and associated recommendations, firstly I would like to thank the members of the scrutiny committee for the time and effort they committed to undertaking a detailed investigation and subsequent helpful recommendations.

I hope that committee members are assured that Post 16 is a priority area of work across Council and Health services. Much work is currently ongoing to ensure that agencies across education, health and care work together to ensure that young people make good outcomes towards adult life.

I detail below responses to the recommendations made by the Commission:

<p>Recommendation One</p> <p>A comprehensive needs assessment is needed to underpin the refresh of the Post 16 SEND Strategy as this will help to establish current and future needs. This needs assessment should be undertaken alongside a comprehensive mapping of current service provision to help identify current and future service gaps, and help SEND services identify future service priorities and goals. The Post 16 Strategy should also reflect a cumulative forward assessment of local EHCPs in respect of the volume, nature and range of future options needed for children with SEND.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Hackney Education has developed a local needs analysis which is designed to aid the local area in reviewing, developing and planning future post 16 Strategy. This exercise has been extremely useful in analysing current data and trends so that services can be responsive to local needs.</p> <p>This document has now been affirmed by the local area's SEND Partnership Board.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Two</p> <p>That the <u>voice of young people (and their parents)</u> is at the fore and centre in the planning, design and evaluation of education and training options and pathways;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities to <u>move away from institutional or home support</u> into more meaningful and gainful activities which promote young people's independence are maximised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That early, coordinated <u>transitional support</u> is provided to both children and parents to provide them with advice, information and guidance to plan and prepare for post 16 options and pathways; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That commissioning seeks to encourage <u>local</u> post 16 education and 	<p>Response</p> <p>Much work has happened recently to ensure that the voice of young people and their parents is central to planning and developing individual support and wider systems. A progress update is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new young person's forum has been launched and is facilitated by Hackney Education. ● New Pathways are being developed in order to provide opportunities for different types of support for young people so that services across education, health and care are integrated and pathways clear. ● An audit on specialist careers advice is currently underway and planned work to strengthen this offer across Hackney
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<p>training options and pathways (to help improve service accessibility, support local coordination and wrap around service care);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That mechanisms are created that allow for the effective <u>transfer of information</u> between providers and which both informs best practice and develops an effective base for future commissioning; ○ That improved infrastructure is provided to help improve engagement and involvement of local stakeholders with the SEND team in the planning, delivery and evaluation of local Post 16 opportunities. 	<p>In addition to the above, the local area has recently launched a new multi agency panel process (known as the Joint Agency Panel “JAP”). This panel is chaired jointly by Directors from education and Social Care and also has representation from senior leaders from Health and Adult services. The purpose of this panel is to allocate resources and agree placements for the most vulnerable children and young people in Hackney.</p> <p>Colleagues across the partnership are currently working on strengthening the post 16 offer to young people with SEND.</p> <p>A key part of this work is ensuring that staff in settings are aware of the various options available when young people are preparing for adulthood. We have recently commissioned new supported internship programmes and are working with settings in Hackney and beyond to ensure that varied and meaningful post 16 options are in place.</p> <p>Following the helpful recommendation from the Commission we now have processes in place to ensure that key information is passed between settings.</p> <p>A restructure of SEND Services within Hackney Education is due to be in place by the Summer Term, 2022. One of the central aims of this service redesign is to ensure sufficient capacity to meet the needs of pupils at Post-16. A new Post 16 team will have oversight of all Post 16 young people.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Three</p> <p>It also recommended that the refreshed post 16 SEND Strategy also makes additional provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing number, scope and accessibility of supported internships (or other routes into supported employment) available to young people with SEND (both with and without an EHCP) ● Additional information, guidance and support to help parents navigate post 16 options and support decision making with their child; ● An annual Post 16 SEND Fair in which children and parents may assess and discuss possible options in a positive, informative and open environment. 	<p>Response</p> <p>Please see the response to recommendation two.</p> <p>An annual Post 16 fair is now in place. This did not take place fully in the previous two years due to Covid Restrictions.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Four</p> <p>Given the pivotal role that they play in supporting the needs of children with SEND, it is recommended that additional investment is made to ensure that the local administration systems, together with those processes which both compile and review of EHCPs are assessed and conform to best practice (particularly in relation to maintaining up to date plans). Practitioners completing EHCPs should also be trained to ensure that outcomes are stated in terms of the Preparing for Adulthood outcome areas, so that commissioners can assess and plan for provision that will allow the learner to achieve appropriate goals (as detailed in</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>We welcome this recommendation from the Commission. We have taken account of this when looking at service redesign. As detailed above, a restructure of SEND Services and a new SEND Strategy is in process. Part of this work will be to ensure that all staff (including settings) receive a comprehensive training offer focusing on key elements of practice.</p> <p>In addition a formal review of SEND operations is also planned by an external expert so that we can benchmark and further improve our practice in comparison to other local</p>
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Post 16 London Review).	areas.
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<p>Recommendation Five</p> <p>The SEND team and Hackney Education Service should continue to work with local secondary schools and Hackney based colleges to help create additional 6th Form capacity and options to enable more young people with SEND to continue their education in mainstream schools. This approach should aim to identify and extend local best practice and seek innovative ways (e.g. cluster provision) to help extend local 6th Form offer.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Commission will be aware of the Hackney School Estates Strategy. One of the central aspects of this strategy is the creation of sufficient local placements for children and young people with SEND.</p> <p>Currently, there is a gap in provision for young people who do not always reach the required grades for admission into 6th Forms. We are currently working with Secondary settings and 6th Forms to consider how we can create sufficient placements that meet various levels of need and ability.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Six</p> <p>In line with the Mayoral reports on Post 16 education, it is recommended that the local authority actively contributes to the process of establishing sub-regional hubs to coordinate training and share resources between specialist and mainstream providers to upskill the mainstream sector to help them support young people with SEND.</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The Council is currently developing a new role focused on preparing for Adulthood. This will be a strategic position designed to drive the implementation of the SEND Strategy. This will be an area of focus.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Seven</p> <p>It is recommended that there is improved public scrutiny and accountability for implementation and monitoring of the Post 16 Send Strategy and that targets</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>The SEND Strategy that is currently in development has Preparing for Adulthood as one its four key priorities.</p>
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and ambitions set out in the strategy are regularly reviewed by CYP Scrutiny Commission.

Updates on progress are regularly reported to this Board. Officers welcome the opportunity to update the Commission on progress and suitable intervals.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Caroline Woodley

Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 8 - Children Centre Consultation	Item No 8
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Outline

In October and November 2021, the Commission was consulted as part of the consultation on the Early Years Strategy and proposals to reconfigure local Children's Centres. To support its formal response, the Commission heard from officers and from parents of children who attended children's centres earmarked for closure. The Commission formally responded to the consultation which closed on 15th November 2021.

Hackney Education have compiled a consultation report which provides a summary stakeholder feedback on proposals for an Early Years Strategy and the planned reconfiguration of children's centres.

Hackney Education have also submitted a response to concerns raised by parents at a consultative meeting held in October 2021.

Reports

- Children Centre Consultation Report
- Hackney Education Response

Action

The Commission is requested to note the above reports.

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Early Years Strategy and consultation on proposed changes to Hackney's childrens centres

Report Date: December 2021

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Introduction:

The report presents a summary of the responses received from the consultation on the Early Years Strategy and proposed changes to the children's centres.

The consultation was live for nearly 9 weeks from 15 September to 16 November 2021.

879 responses to the questionnaire were received during the consultation period and this report provides a summary of the feedback received. Four public engagement events were also held at children's centres across the borough. 69 emails were received in the consultation inbox consultation@hackney.gov.uk. 68 attended the 4 public meetings held during the consultation period.

What were we consulting on?

- We consulted on the proposal to broaden the role of our six multi-agency children's centres into 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than primarily for families with children aged up to five years old.
- We also sought feedback on the proposal to close two children's centres, Hillside and Fernbank in September 2022. These centres are in the north of the borough, where we already have four other centres within walking distance.
- Feedback was also sought on the development of an early years hub, with the special education needs and disability service in the north and south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan.

For further detail, please refer to the consultation [summary](#) and [questionnaire](#)

Consultation & Engagement Approach

The consultation was live on the consultation & engagement platform from 15 September to 16 November 2021.

The consultation summary explaining the purpose of the consultation and online questionnaire was included on the [Council's online consultation platform](#), Citizen Space. The consultation was also signposted via the [Hackney Education website](#), the [Local Offer website](#) and the Council's social media channels.

Consultees were encouraged to respond online, however, for those that prefer a paper copy, these were available from their local children's centre. Staff at the centres were also able to support service users who needed support with completing the questionnaires or had any questions about the consultation. Staff at the children's centres also sent the link to the consultation via parent communication platforms, ipads were available at stay and play sessions, and family practitioners supported parents with vulnerabilities to have their say.

Posters promoting the consultation were displayed at children's centres and libraries across the borough.

Current users of Hillside and Fernbank

- We wrote to all current users of the two centres proposed for closure, letting them know about the consultation and encouraging them to respond to the consultation. Given the impact of the proposed closures on the users of these centres, events were held so that current users could ask any questions about the proposals. The events were held on:
 - Wednesday 6th October, 5pm to 6pm, Fernbank children's centre
 - Tuesday 7th October, 5pm to 6pm, Hillside children's centre
 - Tuesday 8 November, 5pm to 6.45pm, Oldhill School and children's centre
- The consultation was promoted in the Council's free publications Hackney Today and Hackney Life. Hackney Today and Hackney Life are free publications produced by the Council and distributed across the whole of the borough. Hackney Today is published every quarter and Hackney Life is published 8 times a year. 100,000 copies are delivered to homes and businesses in each publication cycle, and a further 8,000 are available from self-service points across the borough.
 - The consultation was featured in [Hackney Today, September edition \(page 7\)](#) and in the [October edition of Hackney Life, \(page 11\)](#).
- Promotion through the Hackney Council for Voluntary Sector e-bulletin sent out to community, voluntary and faith groups in the borough.
- Community organisations Ezer leyoldos, Bikur Cholim, Interlink, and JuMP, working with residents in the Charedi community were notified of the consultation and sent paper copies of the consultation materials.
- Posters were displayed across the libraries across the borough, encouraging residents to take part in the consultation.

Executive Summary

Profile of respondents

- The majority of respondents (63%) indicated that they are a parent/carer/guardian of a child under 6, who uses children's centres.
- 29% of the respondents lived in the N16 postcode area, followed by 23% in the E5 postcode area.
- There was a good mix of responses across all the centres, with the highest relating to Fernbank children's centre (10%), followed by Ann Taylor children's centre (9%).
- 35% of respondents visit a children's centre a few times a week, followed by 32% who visit a children's centre daily.

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?

- 44% of respondents agree (strongly agree/ agree) with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency "children & family" hubs, in contrast 39% disagree with the proposal.
- A higher proportion of those aged 25 to 34 agreed with the proposal (47%), 49% of those aged 45 to 54 and 50% of those aged 55 to 64. Please note that the under 16 and 65+ age cohorts haven't been referenced due to the very small sample sizes.
- A higher proportion of female respondents 47% agreed with the proposal in comparison to 25% of male respondents. A higher proportion of male respondents 53% disagreed with the proposal in contrast to 36% of female respondents who disagreed with the proposal
- A higher proportion of Black or Black British respondents agreed with the proposal; (45%), in comparison to 40% that disagreed. Similarly, 44% of White or White British respondents agreed with the proposal in contrast to 35% that disagreed.
- A higher proportion of Asian respondents (44%) disagreed with the proposal compared to 38% who agreed. Similarly a higher proportion of respondents of mixed heritage (49%) disagreed with the proposal compared to 35% who agreed.
- There is a greater level of support for the proposal by residents who identified as charedi (100%) and Jewish (65%), (however this should be treated with caution due to the very small sample size). In contrast there was a greater level of opposition to the proposal from residents that identified as Buddhist (72%), (however this should be treated with caution due to the very small sample size).

Question 6: How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?

- 36% of respondents felt that the 'children and family' hubs proposal negatively affects (negatively/ somewhat negatively), the way they currently access services. Similarly, 36% felt that the proposal affected them positively (positively/ somewhat positively). In contrast 28% chose the neutral response option.
- A greater proportion of residents who rent their home from a social landlord - either from Hackney Council directly or from a housing association - feel that the 'children and family' hubs proposal is more likely to impact on them positively, (40%) and (44%) respectively. In

contrast, more than 40% of owner occupiers buying their home on a mortgage and 45% of respondents buying their homes through shared ownership feel that the proposals are more likely to impact them negatively.

- 50% of the male respondents indicated that the proposals impact on them negatively, whilst 19% felt that it impacted on them positively. In contrast 39% of female respondents felt that the proposals impacted on them positively, whilst 33% felt the proposals impacted on them negatively.
- 46% of residents from a mixed ethnic background feel that the proposals impact on them negatively, compared to 21% who feel that it impacts on them positively. In contrast 46% of respondents who chose the 'other ethnic' background felt that the proposals impacted on them positively, whilst 31% indicated that it impacted on them negatively.
- A greater proportion of respondents identifying as Jewish (55%), Sikh (50%) and Muslim (46%) indicated that the proposals would affect them positively. In contrast, 54% of Hindu residents and 44% of residents who identified as "Atheist" felt that the proposals would affect them negatively.
- 42% of respondents that were pregnant or on maternity leave during the last 2 years felt that the proposals would have a negative impact on how they currently access our services, in contrast to 32% who felt that it would have a positive impact.
- 44% of respondents that live in the E2 and N1 postcode area felt that the proposals would impact them positively. In contrast, 38% of respondents in the E8 postcode area and 42% in the N16 postcode area felt that it would impact them negatively. The N16 postcode area covers the North East of the borough, where the two centres proposed for closure are located.
- 65% of professionals working in a children's centre felt that the proposals impacted them positively. 67% of respondents working as a health professional (eg. health visitor, GP, CAMHS professional) were ambivalent, choosing the neutral response option, neither positively or negatively. (this should be treated with caution due to small sample size).
- 46% of respondents who identified themselves as a parent/carer/guardian and have used children's centres felt that the proposals would impact them positively, with 33% of the view that it would impact them negatively.
- The greatest level of concern about the proposals was shown by prospective parents/carers/guardians, with 63% feeling that the proposals would impact them negatively.

Question 7: If the 'children and family' hub proposal was to go ahead, please indicate which services you would like to see continued in the hub? (please tick all that apply)

- The most popular services that respondents would like to see in the proposed 'children and family' hub are: 'Stay and play and music activities', (10%), followed by parenting and family support for children up to 5 years of age (9%) and "Early education and childcare with free places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Question 8: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family hubs’ to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years

- Nearly half of respondents (48%) agree (strongly agree/ agree) with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years.
- There’s broad agreement across housing tenure with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years.
- There’s broad agreement across the different age profiles with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years. 50% of those aged 16-24 agreed with the proposal whilst 23% disagreed. This is followed by 50% of those aged 25-34 agreeing with the proposal, whilst 28% disagreed.
- **52% of female respondents agreed** with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, with 26% disagreeing with the proposal. In contrast **43% of male respondents disagreed** with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, with 27% agreeing with the proposal.
- A greater proportion of respondents agree with the proposal irrespective of their ethnicity.
- A greater proportion of respondents agree with the proposal irrespective of their religious beliefs.
- Nearly half of respondents without a disability (49%) agreed with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, whilst 28% disagreed. In contrast, 39% of those with a disability agreed with the proposal whilst 34% disagreed.
- 49% of those who weren’t pregnant or had been on maternity leave over the last two years agreed with the idea of youth hubs working alongside the ‘children and family’ hubs. Similarly, 48% of pregnant women or those who’d recently been pregnant agreed with the proposal.
- There is a broad level of agreement with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for families with children up to 19 years of age.
- 71% of professionals working in a children’s centre agree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs, whilst 8% disagree. Similarly, 75% of young people that responded agreed with the proposal, with 25% disagreeing (caveat - treat with caution due to small sample size).

Question 9: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?

- 59% of respondents disagree with the principle of closing the two children’s centres, whilst 22% agree with the proposal.
- The greatest level of opposition to the proposal came from those living in the N16 postcode area, with 62% disagreeing with the proposal, whilst 17% were in agreement. The N16 postcode area is indicative of those living closest to the centres proposed for closure.
- There’s a high level of opposition to the proposal irrespective of the interest in the consultation. The highest level of opposition (95%), is from prospective parents/carers/guardians of children who will use children’s centres in future.

- There's a general level of disagreement with the principle of closing the two centres by residents across all housing tenures.
- There is broad disagreement with the principle of closing the two centres across all the age profiles, with the exception of those under 16 where 50% agreed with the proposed closure, whilst 41% disagreed.
- A greater proportion of male respondents (75%) disagree with the principle of closing the two centres, compared with female respondents where 55% disagree.
- There is broad opposition to the proposal across all ethnicity profiles.
- There is a higher level of opposition to the proposal from those that indicated that they have secular beliefs (71%), Charedi(66%) and those that have Atheist/no religious beliefs (63%).
- Respondents with and without disabilities disagreed with the principle of closure, 65% and 57% respectively.
- 57% of the respondents that were pregnant or had accessed maternity services in the last two years disagreed with the proposed closure of the two centres. Similarly 59% of those who weren't pregnant or had been on maternity leave over the two last years disagreed with the proposal to close the two centres.
- 80% of respondents that indicated that they're a 'gay man' disagreed with the proposal and similarly 71% of those that identified as a 'Lesbian or Gay woman' also disagreed with the proposed closures. (Please treat this with caution due to the small sample sizes).
- 71% of respondents that live in the N16 postcode area disagreed with the principle of closing the two centres. The N16 postcode area covers the North East of the borough, where the two centres proposed for closure are located.

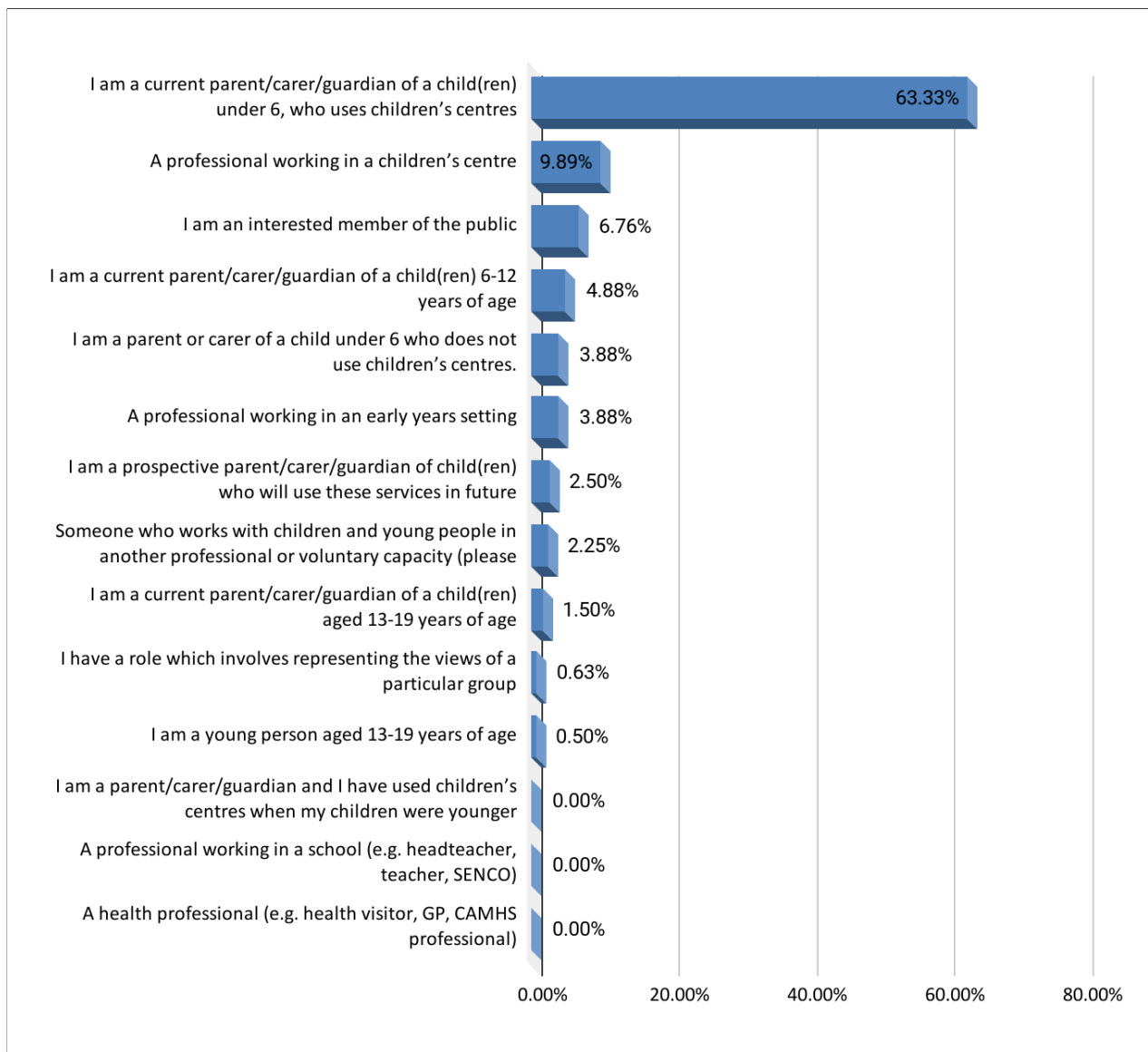
It is worth noting that the proposed closures were generally unsupported by consultees, however the proposed 'early years hubs' had a greater level of support as shown below.

Question 10: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?

- 58% agreed with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', whilst 20% disagreed with the proposal.
- There is broad support by respondents across all housing tenures for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs, with the highest level of support from those that own their homes outright (66%).
- A greater proportion of respondents across all age groups support the proposal to develop two early years hubs. There is a greater level of support by those aged 55 to 74, with 77% of respondents in this age cohort supporting the proposal.
- There is significant support for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs' by respondents across all religious persuasions, with the highest level of support from Charedi (99%) and Jewish (71%).
- There is a high level of support to the proposal to develop two 'early years' hubs, with 80% of those that work in an early years setting agreeing with the proposal, followed by 75% of respondents that indicated that they work in a school
- The greatest support for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs' is from respondents in the N1 postcode area (78%) and the lowest level of support from those in the N16 postcode area (48%).

Overview Results

Question 1: Which of the following best describes your interest in this consultation?

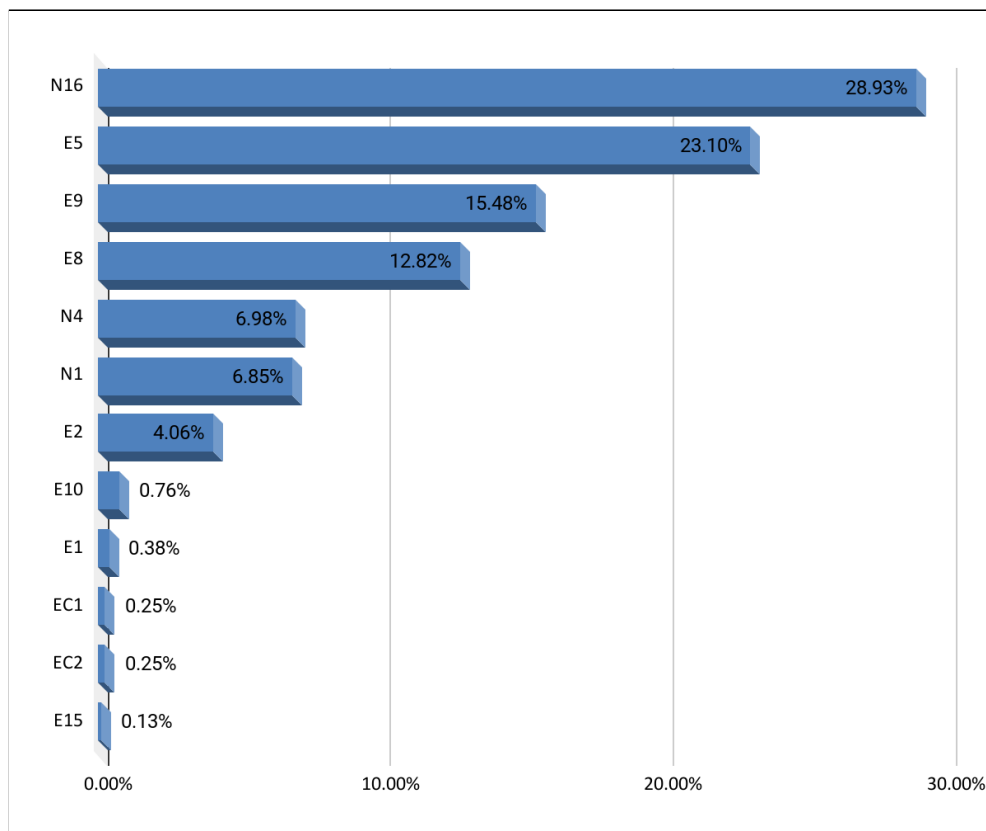


Graph 1: Base (799)

As the graph above shows, the majority of respondents (63%) indicated that they are a parent/carer/guardian of a child under 6, who uses children's centres.

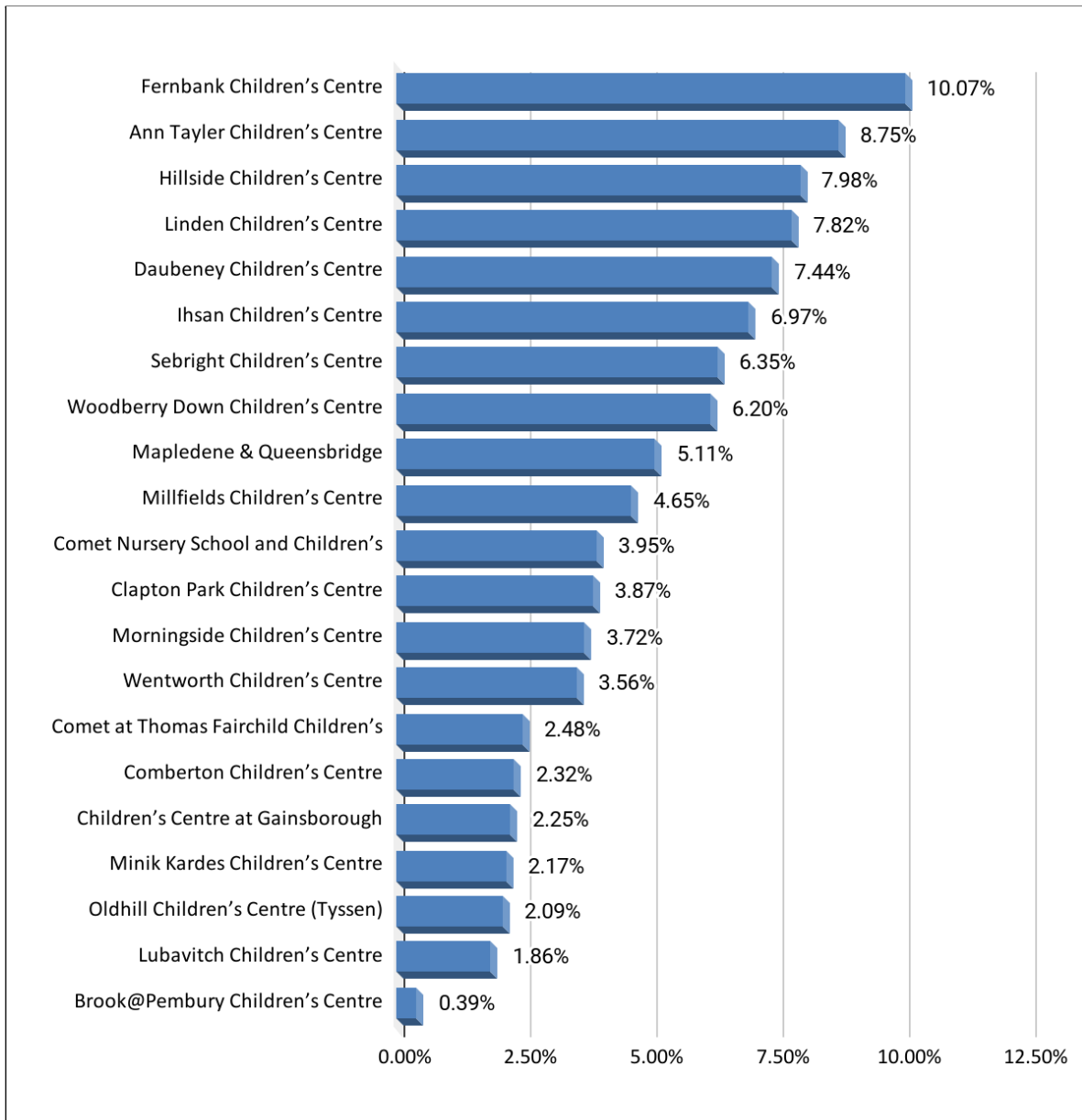
Question 2: Where do you live? (this information will help us to better understand the views of Hackney residents)

As graph 2 shows, 29% of the respondents lived in the N16 postcode area, followed by 23% in the E5 postcode area.



Graph 2: Base (788)

Question 3: Which children’s centre do you usually use? (please select up to 3 options)

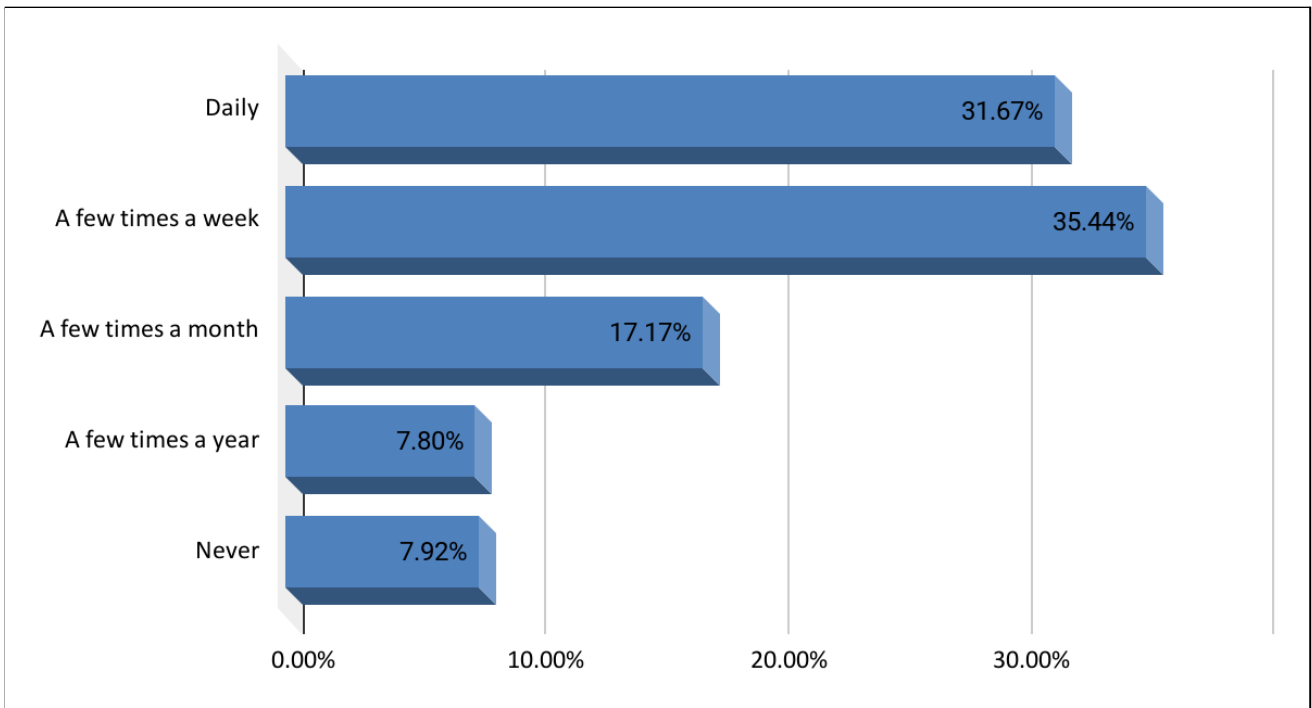


Graph 3: Base (1,291)

As graph 3 shows, there was a good mix of responses across all the centres, with the highest relating to Fernbank children’s centre (10%), followed by Ann Taylor children’s centre (9%).

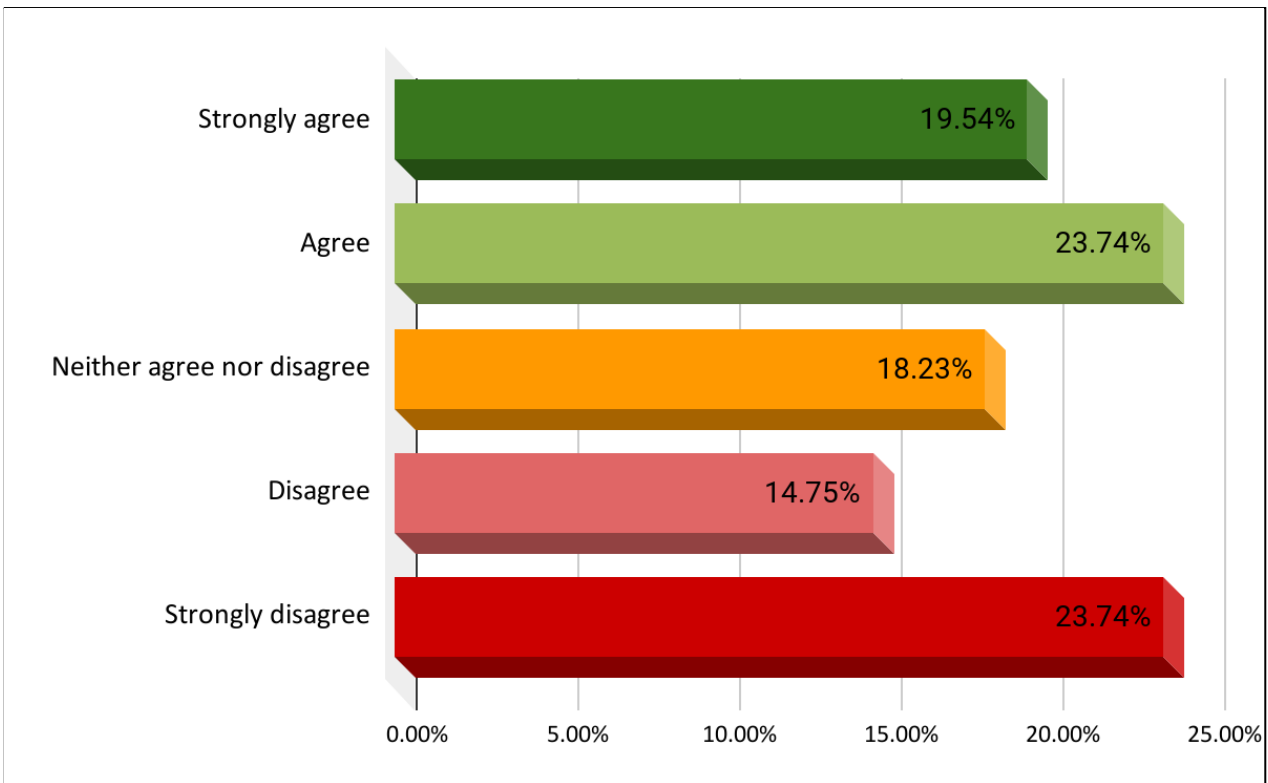
Question 4: How often do you visit the children’s centre(s)?

As graph 4 shows, 35% of respondents visit a children’s centre a few times a week, followed by 32% who visit a children’s centre daily.



Graph 4: Base (821)

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children’s centres into multi agency ‘children and family’ hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?

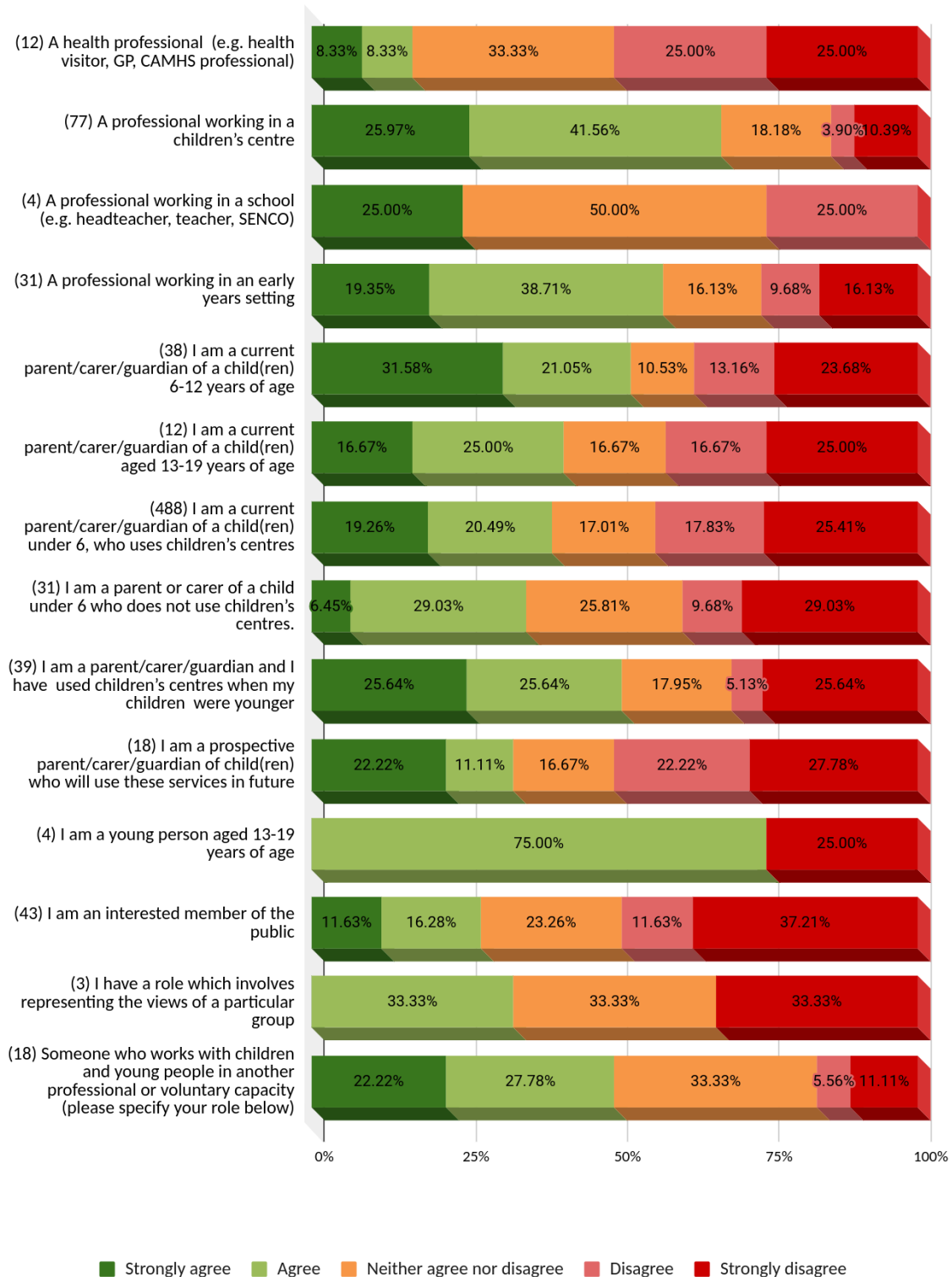


Graph 4: Base (834)

As graph 4 shows, 44% of respondents agree (strongly agree/ agree) with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children’s centres into multi agency “children & family” hubs, in contrast 39% disagree with the proposal.

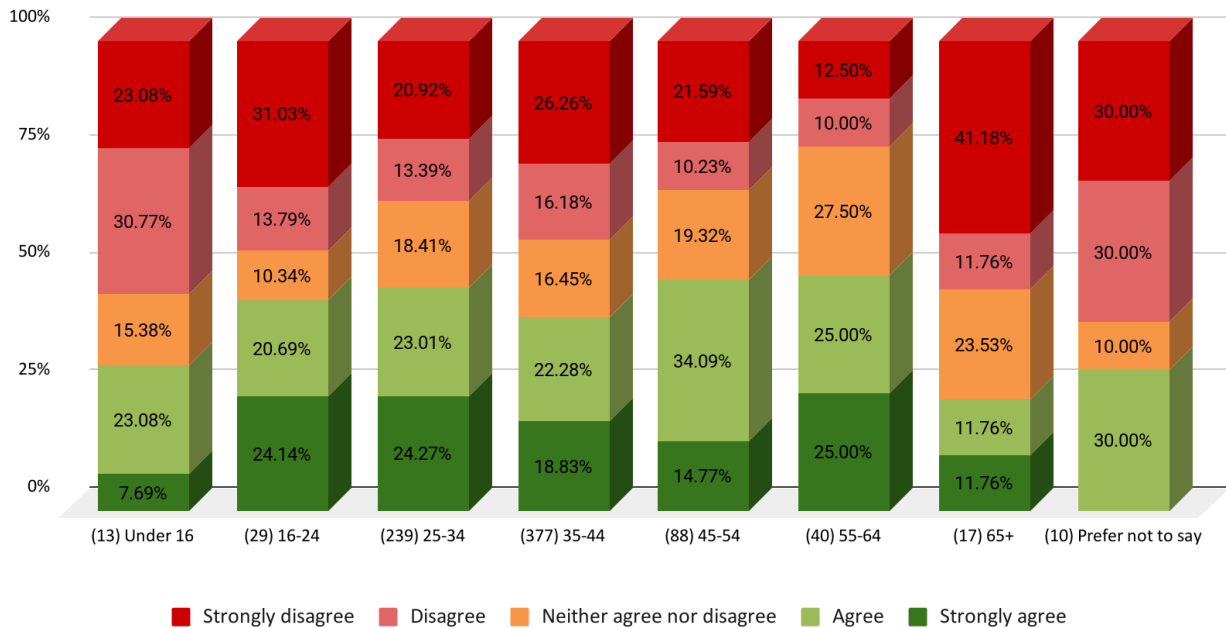
Analysis by interest in the consultation

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?" vs Interest (Base 818)



Analysis by Age

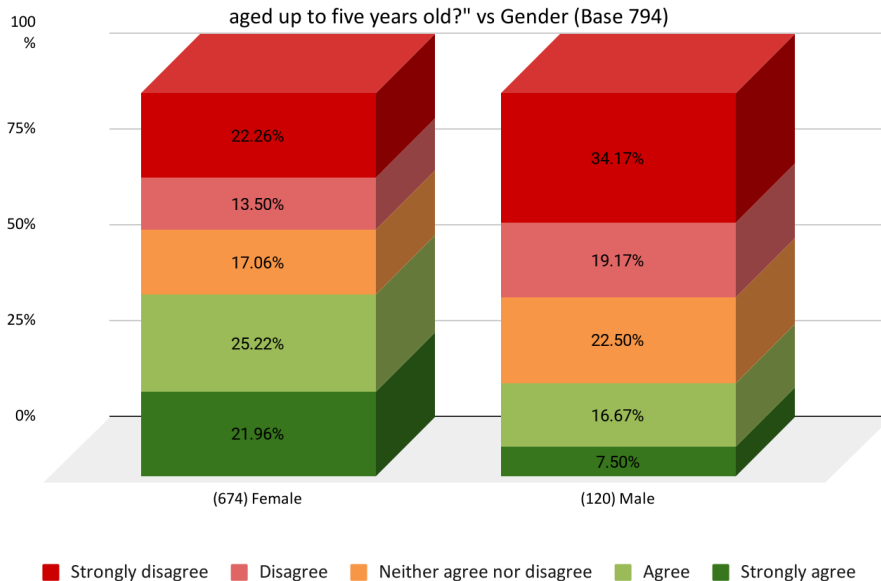
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?" vs Age group (Base 813)



As the graph shows, a higher proportion of those aged 25 to 34 agreed with the proposal (47%), 49% of those aged 45 to 54 and 50% of those aged 55 to 64. Please note that the under 16 and 65+ age cohorts have not been referenced due to the very small sample sizes.

Analysis by Gender

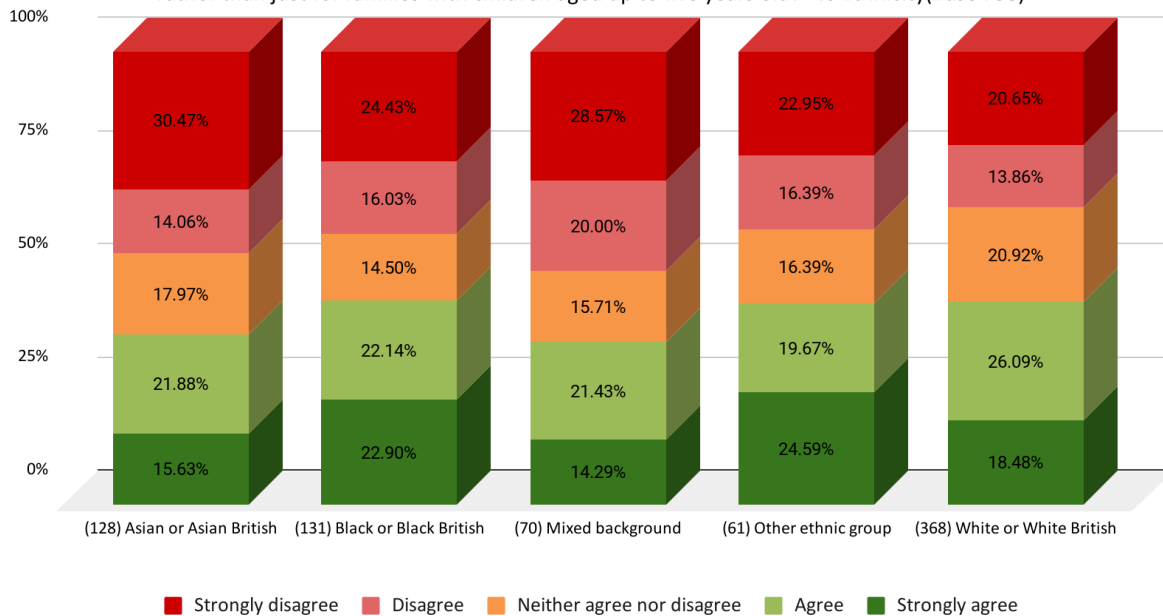
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?" vs Gender (Base 794)



A higher proportion of female respondents 47% agreed with the proposal in comparison to 25% of male respondents. A higher proportion of male respondents 53% disagreed with the proposal in contrast to 36% of female respondents who disagreed with the proposal

Analysis by Ethnicity

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children’s centres into multi agency ‘children and family’ hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?" vs Ethnicity(Base 758)

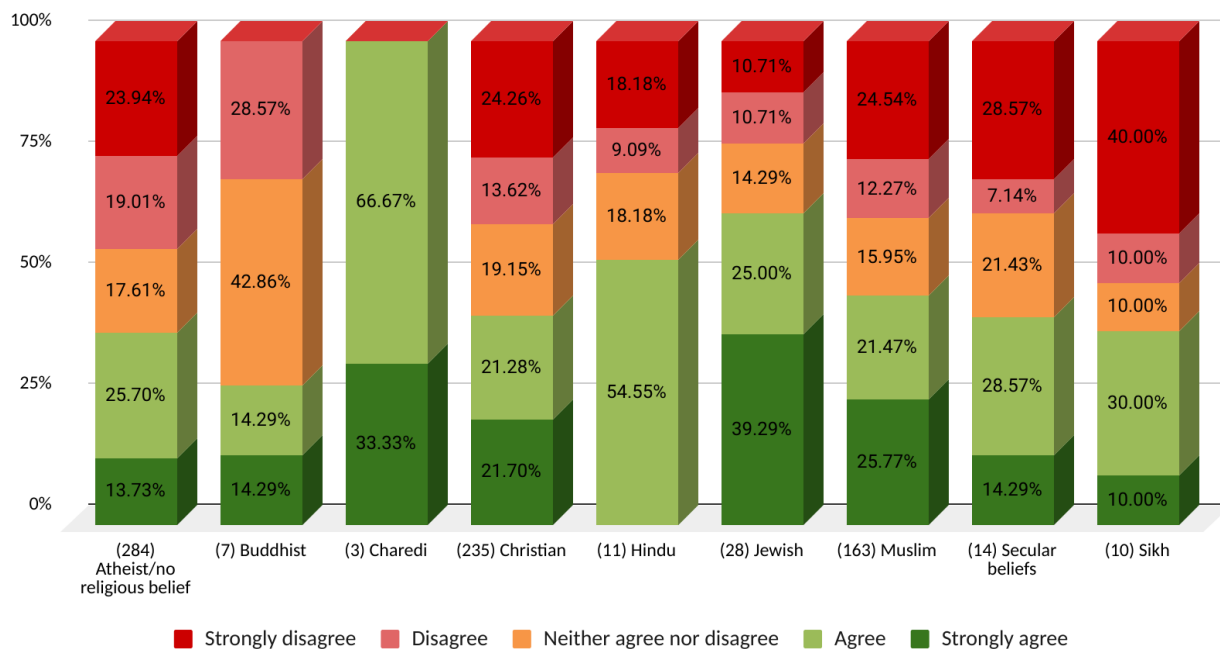


As the previous graph shows, a higher proportion of Black or Black British respondents agreed with the proposal; (45%), in comparison to 40% that disagreed. Similarly, 44% of White or White British respondents agreed with the proposal in contrast to 35% that disagreed.

A higher proportion of Asian respondents (44%) disagreed with the proposal compared to 38% who agreed. Similarly a higher proportion of respondents of mixed heritage (49%) disagreed with the proposal compared to 35% who agreed.

Analysis by religious belief

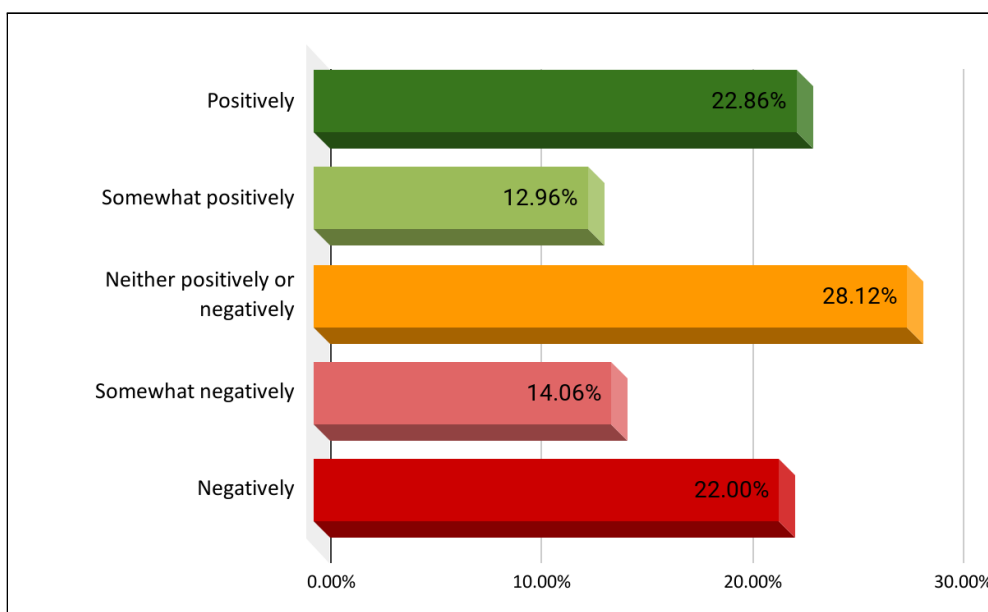
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old?" vs Religion (Base 755)



As the graph shows, there is a greater level of support for the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi-agency 'children and family' hubs by residents who identified as charedi (100%) and Jewish (65%), (however this should be treated with caution due to the very small sample size).

In contrast there was greater level of opposition to the proposal from residents that identified as Buddhist (72%), (however this should be treated with caution due to the very small sample size).

Question 6: How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?

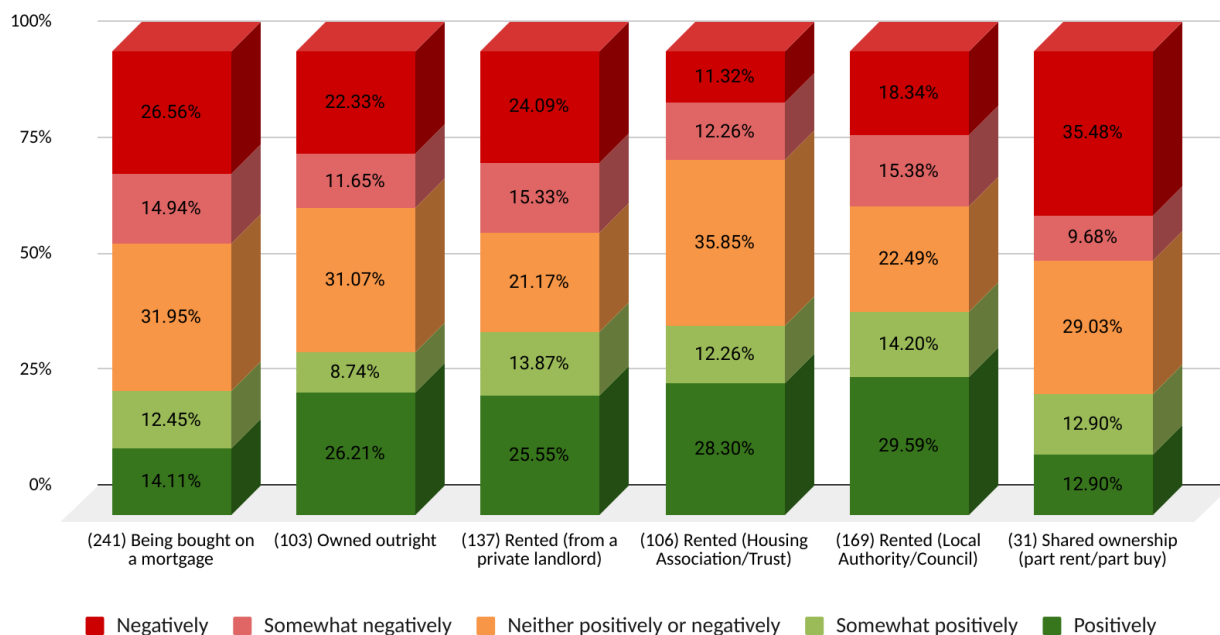


Graph 5 Base (818)

As graph 5 shows, 36% of respondents felt that the 'children and family' hubs proposal negatively affects (negatively/ somewhat negatively), the way they currently access services. Similarly, 36% felt that the proposal affected them positively (positively/ somewhat positively). In contrast 28% chose the neutral response option.

Analysis by Housing Tenure

"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Housing Tenure (Base 794)



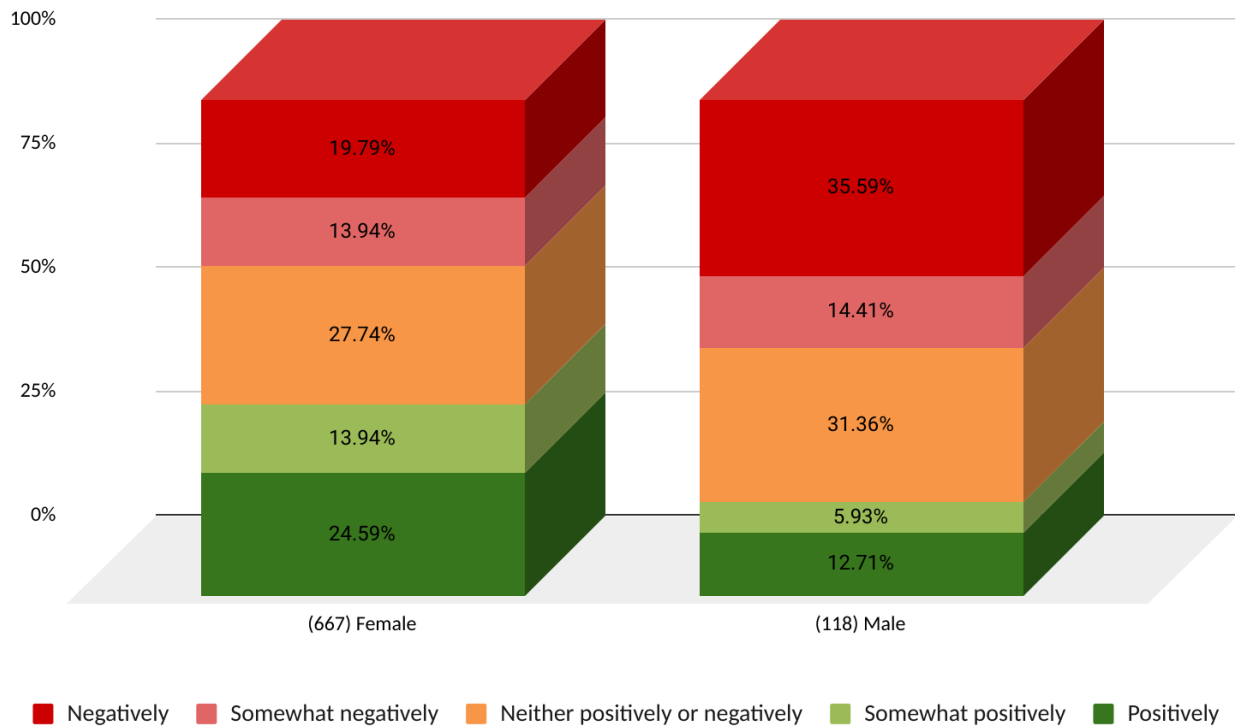
A greater proportion of residents who rent their home from a social landlord - either from Hackney Council directly or from a housing association - feel that 'children and family' hubs proposal is more likely to impact on them positively, (40%) and (44%) respectively. In contrast, more than 40% of owner occupiers buying their home on a mortgage and 45% of respondents buying their homes through shared ownership feel that the proposals are more likely to impact them negatively.

Analysis by Gender

50% of the male respondents indicated that the proposals impact on them negatively, whilst 19% felt that it impacted on them positively.

In contrast 39% of female respondents felt that the proposals impacted on them positively, whilst 33% felt the proposals impacted on them negatively.

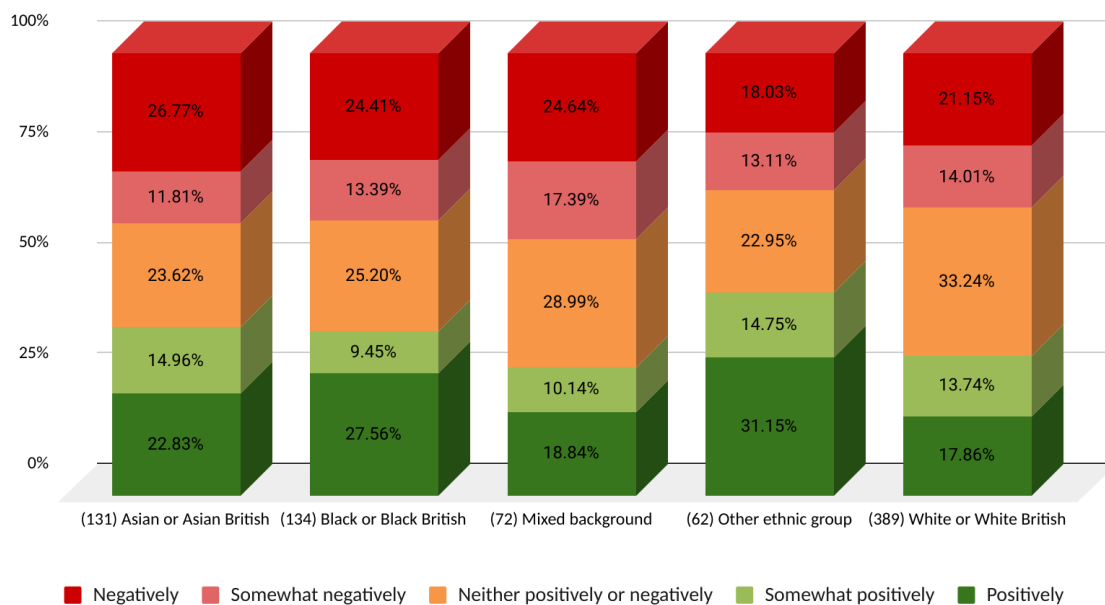
"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Gender (Base 785)



Analysis by Ethnicity

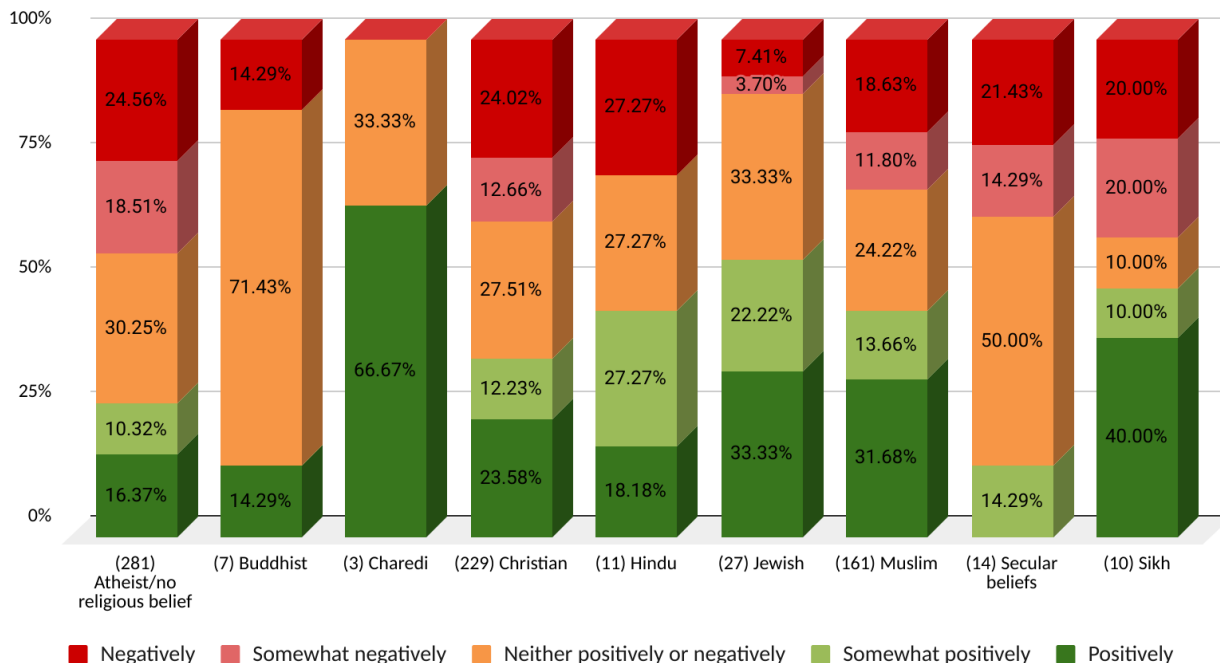
46% of residents from a mixed ethnic background feel that the proposals impact on them negatively, compared to 21% who feel that it impacts on them positively. In contrast 46% of respondents who chose the 'other ethnic' background felt that the proposals impacted on them positively, whilst 31% indicated that it impacted on them negatively.

"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Ethnicity (Base 788)



Analysis by Religion

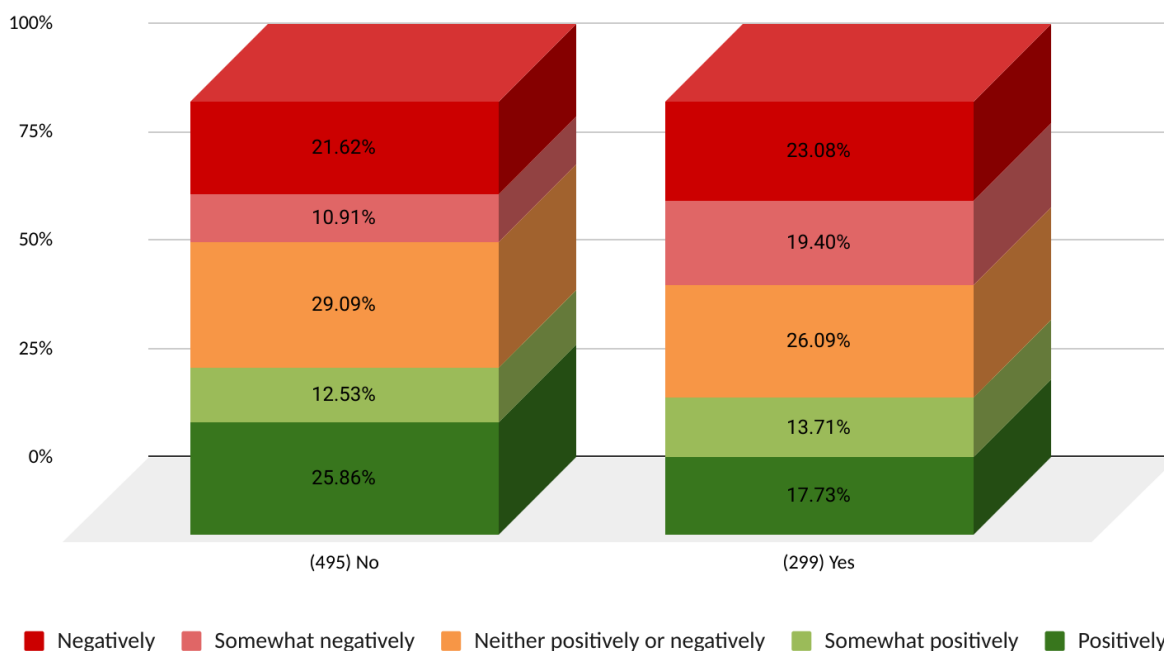
"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Religion (Base 743)



As the graph shows, a greater proportion of respondents identifying as Jewish (55%), Sikh (50%) and Muslim (46%) indicated that the proposals would affect them positively. In contrast 54% of Hindu residents and 44% of residents who identified as "Atheist" felt that the proposals would affect them negatively.

Analysis by pregnancy and maternity status

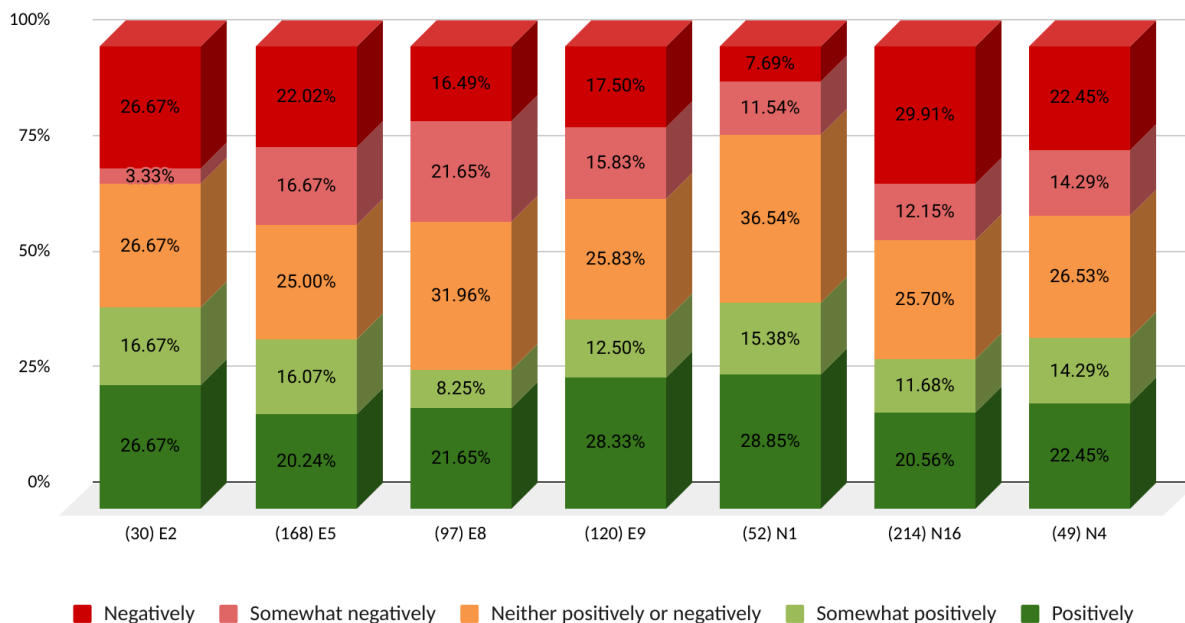
"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Pregnancy/Maternity (Base 794)



42% of respondents that were pregnant or on maternity leave during the last 2 years felt that the proposals would have a negative impact on how they currently access our services, in contrast to 32% who felt that it would have a positive impact.

Analysis by postcode

"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Postcode (Base 730)

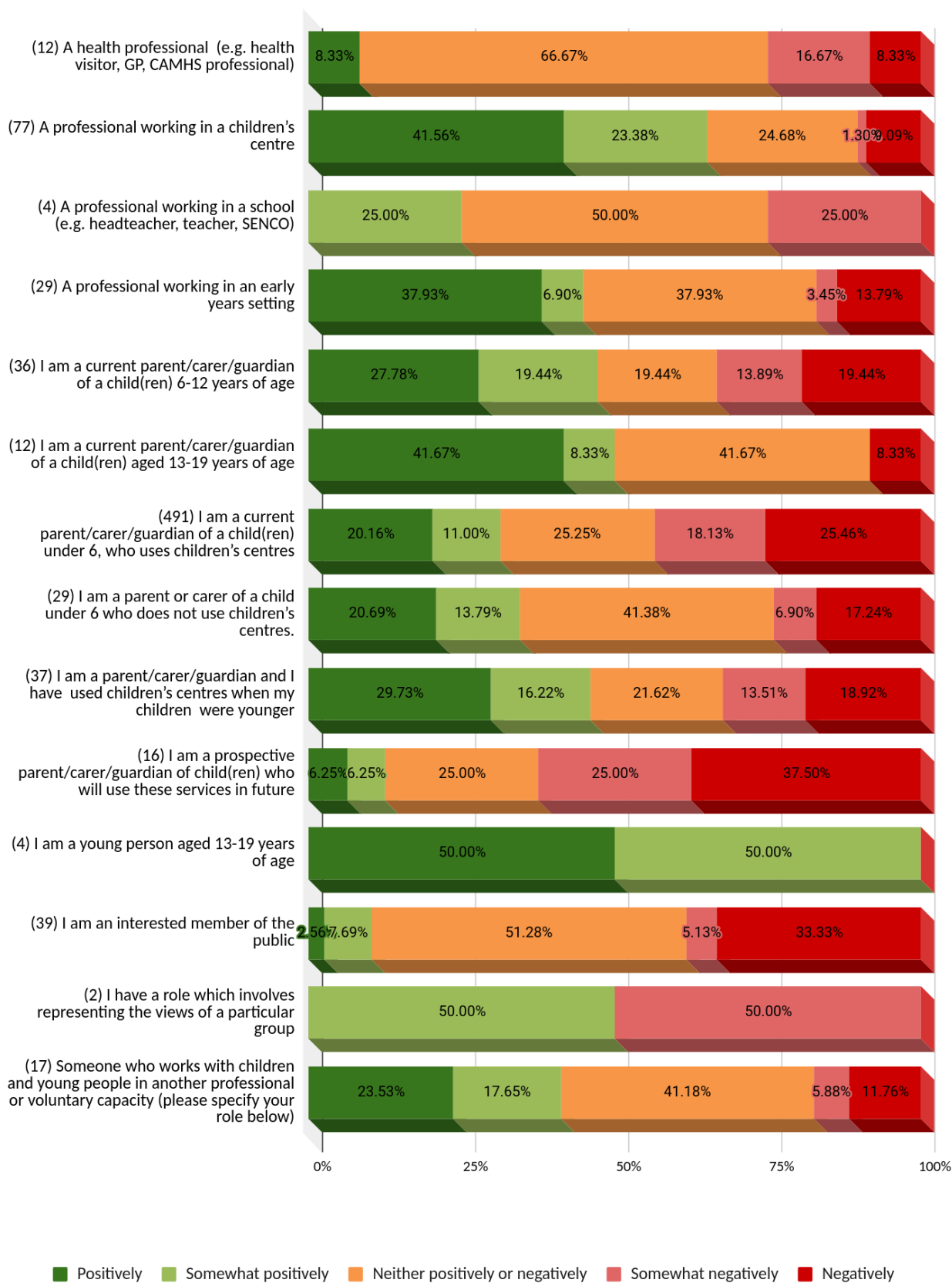


As the graph shows, 44% of respondents that live in the E2 and N1 postcode area felt that the proposals would impact them positively. In contrast, 38% of respondents in the E8 postcode area and 42% in the N16 postcode area felt that it would impact them negatively.

The N16 postcode area covers the North East of the borough, where the two centres proposed for closure are located.

Analysis by interest in the consultation

"How would the 'children and family' hubs proposal affect the way you currently access our services?" vs Interest (Base 805)

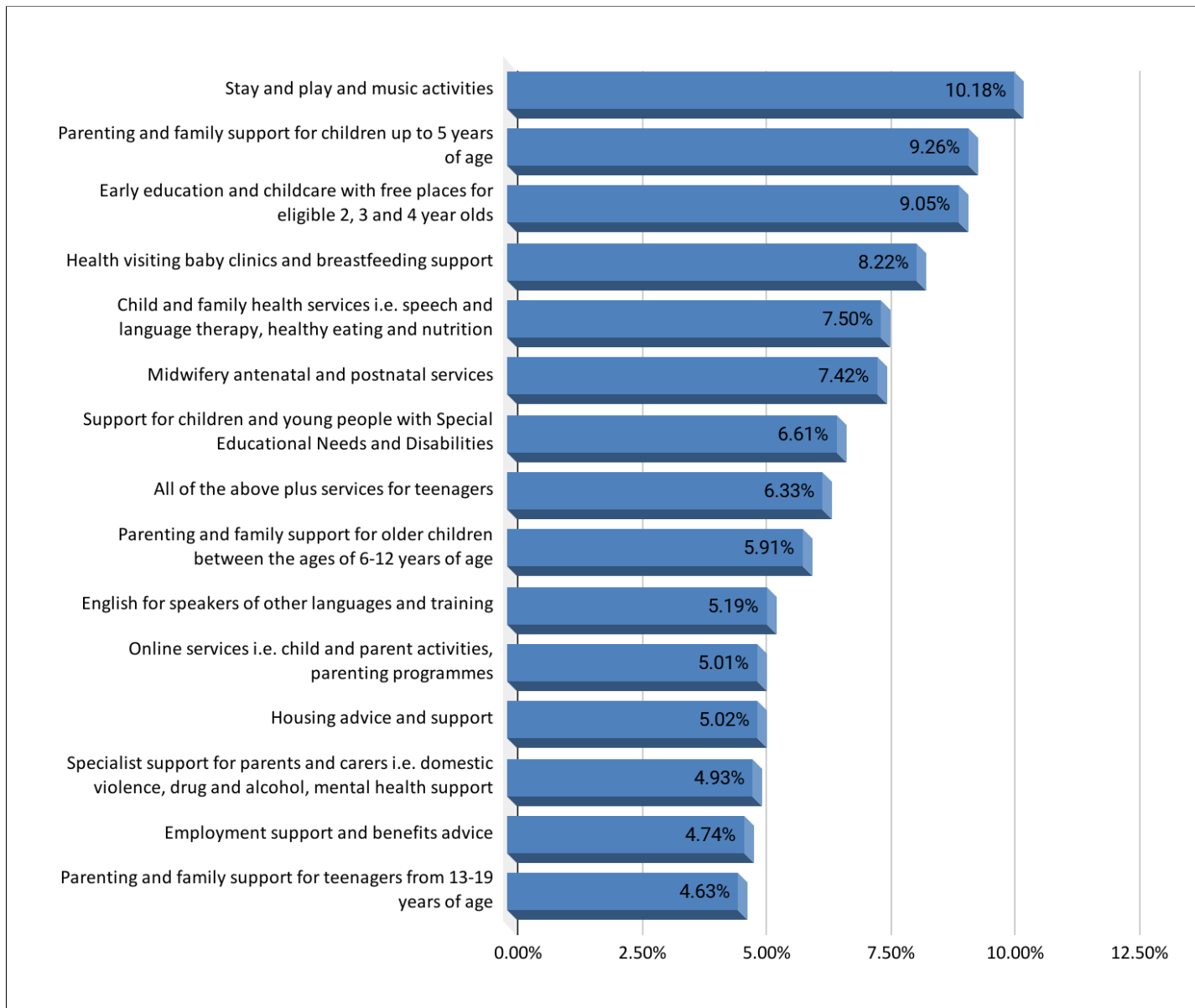


As the graph shows, 65% of professionals working in a children's centre felt that the proposals impact on them positively. 67% of respondents working as a health professional (eg. health visitor, GP, CAMHS professional) were ambivalent, choosing the neutral response option, neither positively or negatively. (this should be treated with caution due to small sample size).

46% of respondents that identified as a parent/carer/guardian and have used children's centres felt that the proposals would impact on them positively, with 33% of the view that it would impact on them negatively.

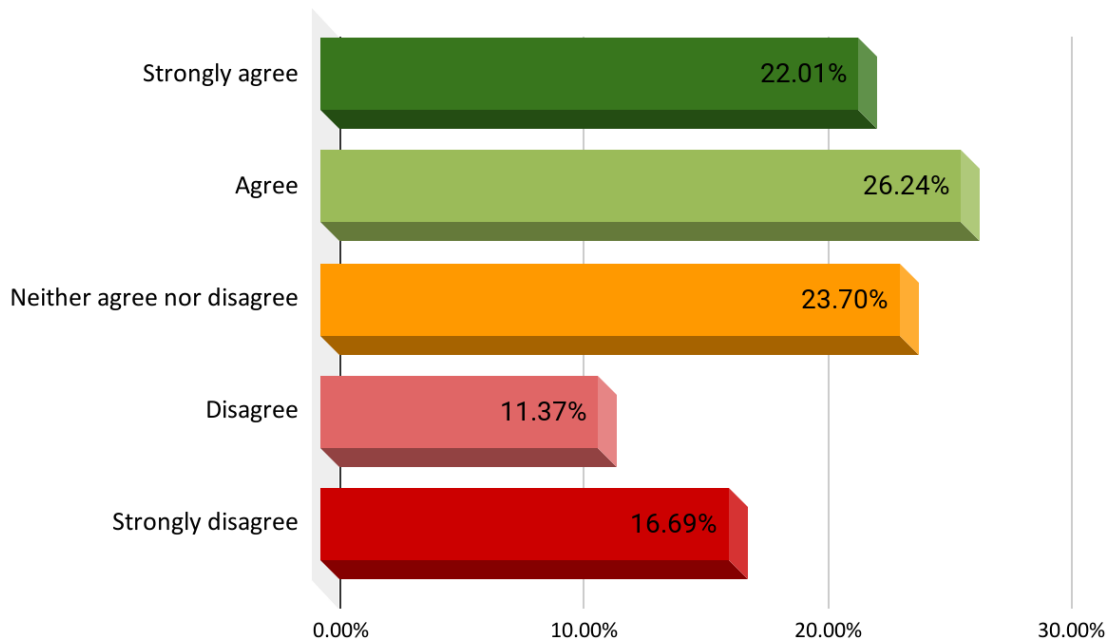
The greatest level of concern about the proposals was shown by prospective parents/carers/guardians, with 63% feeling that the proposals would impact on them negatively.

Question 7: If the ‘children and family’ hub proposal was to go ahead, please indicate which services you would like to see continued in the hub? (please tick all that apply)



As the graph above shows, the most popular services that respondents would like to see in the proposed ‘children and family’ hub are: ‘Stay and play and music activities’, (10%), followed by parenting and family support for children up to 5 years of age (9%) and “Early education and childcare with free places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Question 8: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?

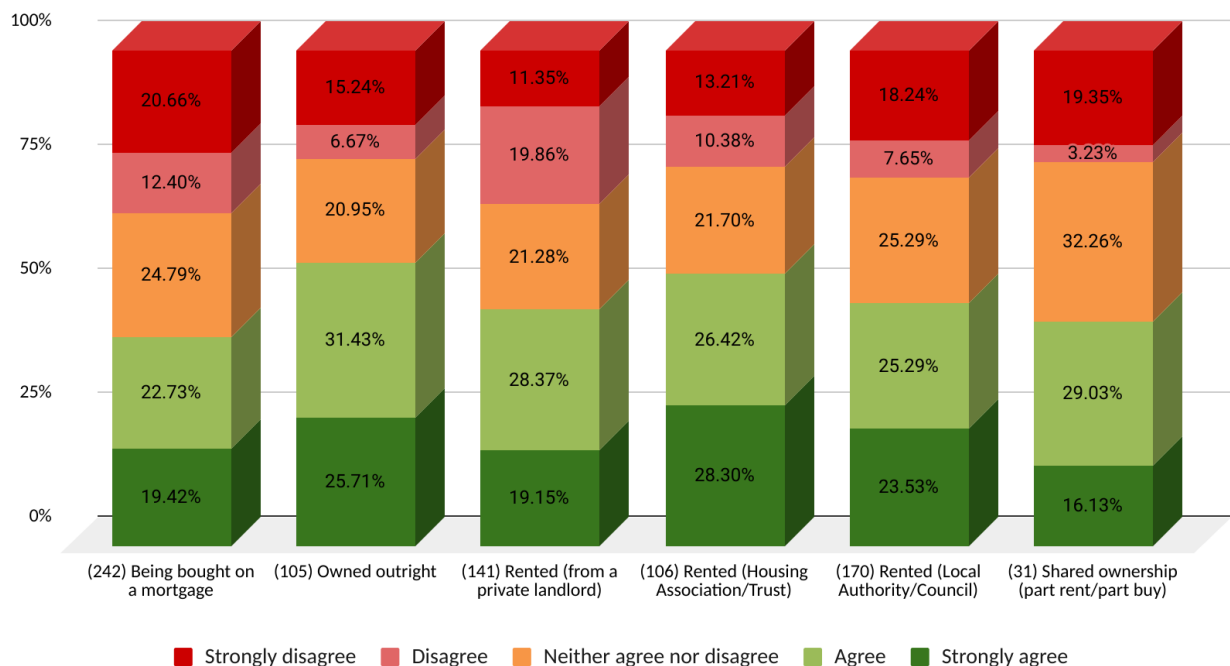


Base (827)

As the graph shows, nearly half of respondents (48%) agree (strongly agree/ agree) with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years.

Analysis by housing tenure

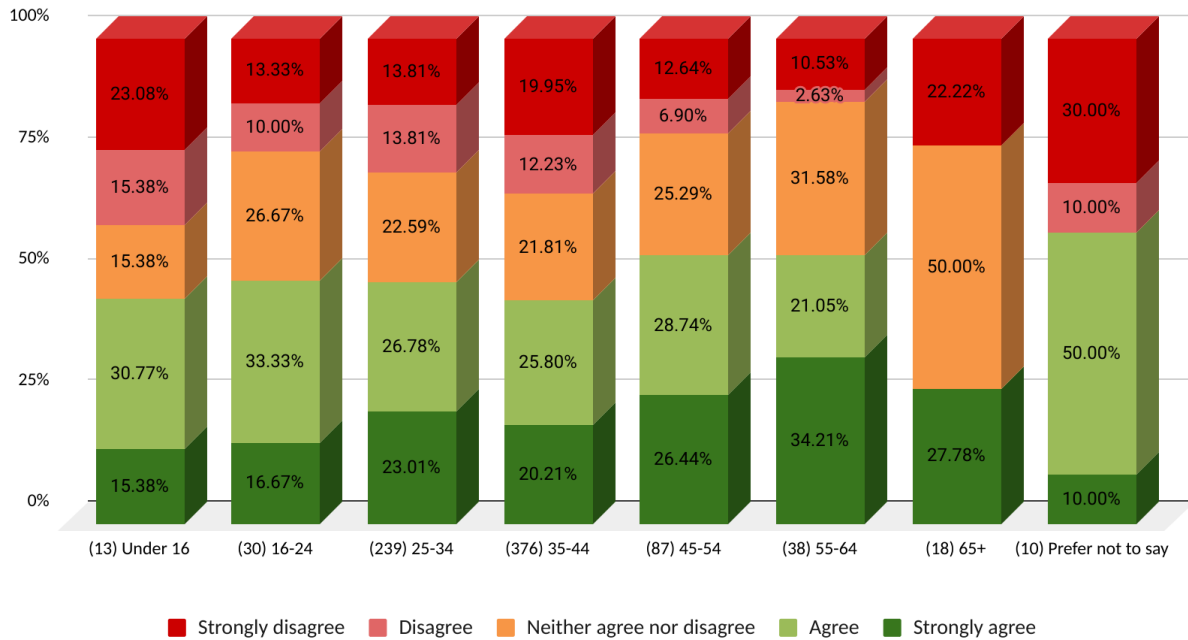
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Housing Tenure (Base 795)



As the graph shows, there's broad agreement across housing tenure with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years.

Analysis by age

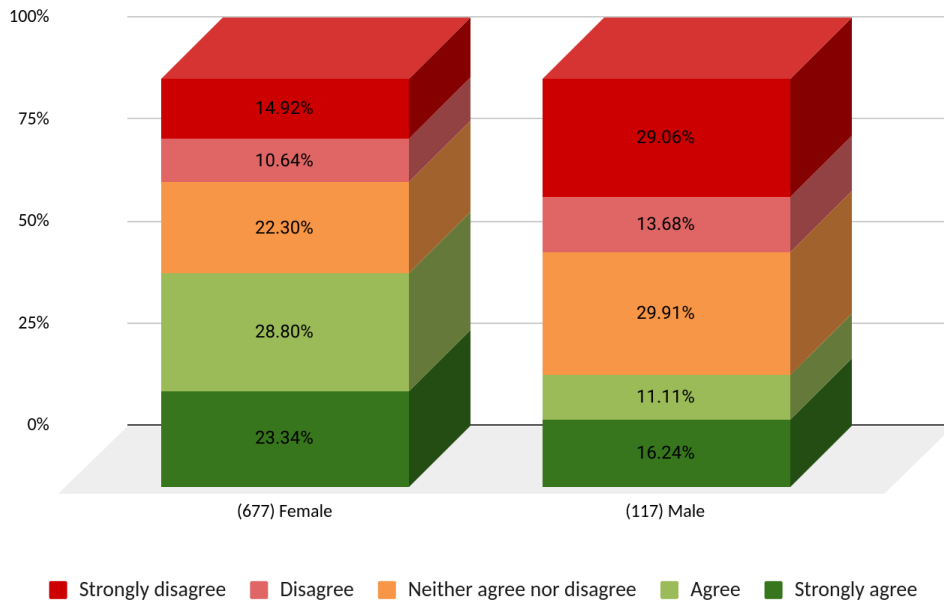
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Age group (Base 811)



As the graph above shows, there's broad agreement across the different age profiles with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years. 50% of those aged 16-24 agreed with the proposal whilst 23% disagreed. This is followed by 50% of those aged 25-34 agreed with the proposal, whilst 28% disagreed.

Analysis by gender

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Gender (Base 794)

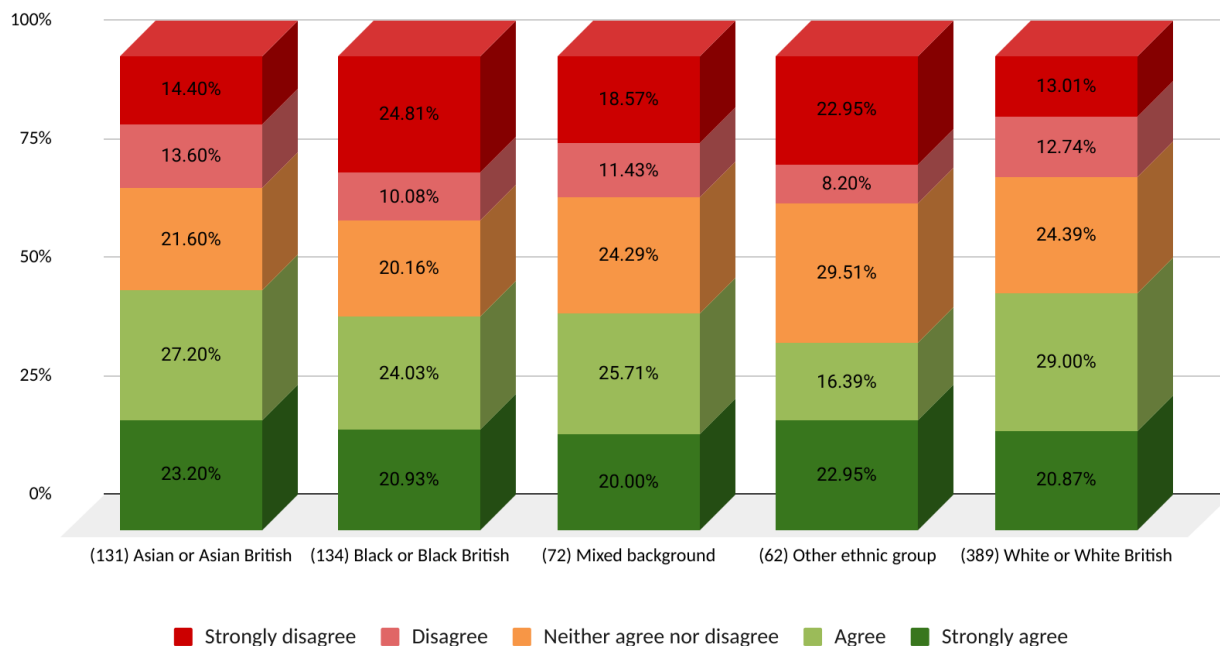


52% of female respondents agreed with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, with 26% disagreeing with the proposal.

In contrast **43% of male respondents disagreed** with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, with 27% agreeing with the proposal.

Analysis by ethnicity

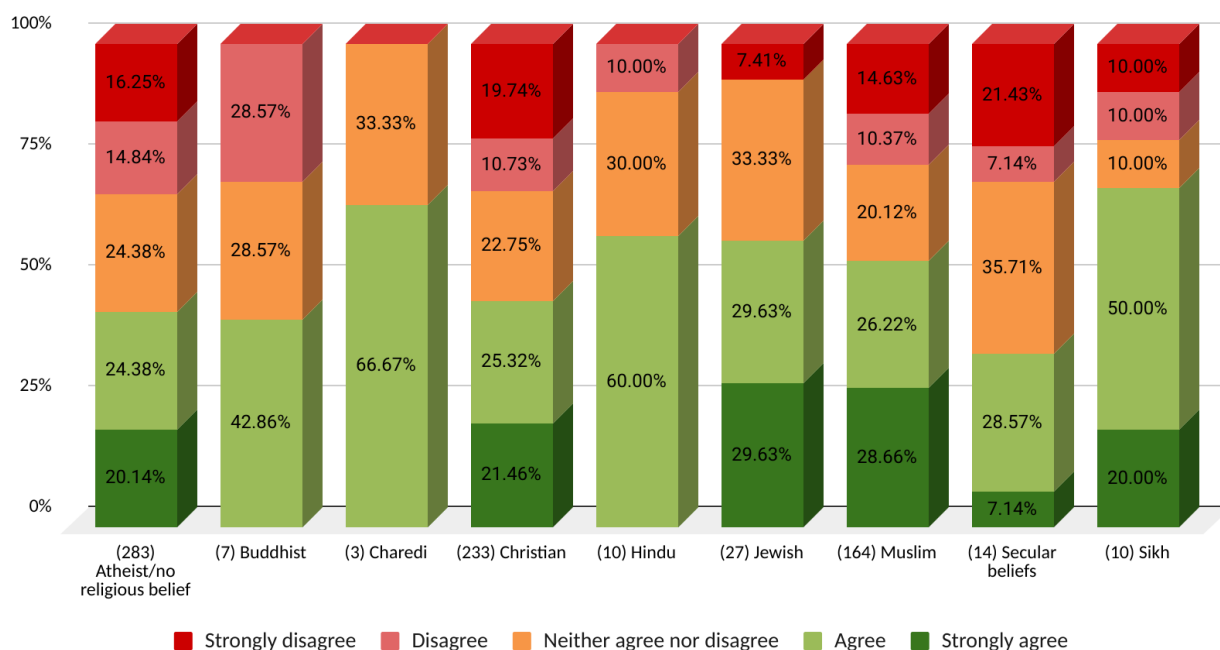
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Ethnicity (Base 788)



As the graph shows, a greater proportion of respondents agree with the proposal irrespective of their ethnicity.

Analysis by religion

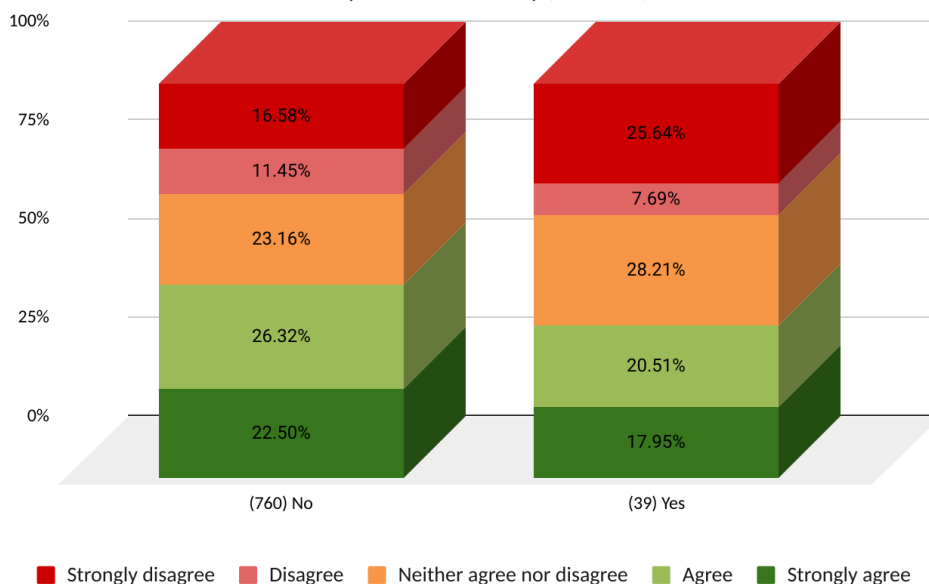
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Religion (Base 751)



As the graph shows, a greater proportion of respondents agree with the proposal irrespective of their religious beliefs.

Analysis by disability

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Disability (Base 799)

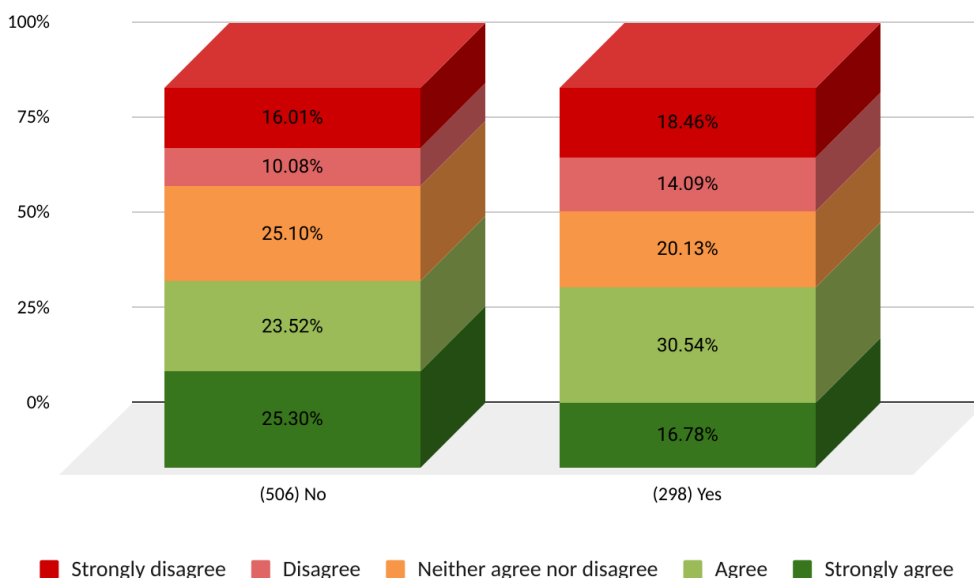


Nearly half of respondents without a disability (49%), agreed with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for families with children 0-19 years of age, whilst 28% disagreed. In contrast, 39% of those with a disability agreed with the proposal whilst 34% disagreed.

Pregnancy/ maternity status

49% of those who weren't pregnant or had been on maternity leave over the last years agreed with the idea of youth hubs working alongside the 'children and family' hubs. Similarly, 48% of pregnant women or those who'd recently been pregnant agreed with the proposal.

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Pregnancy/Maternity (Base 804)

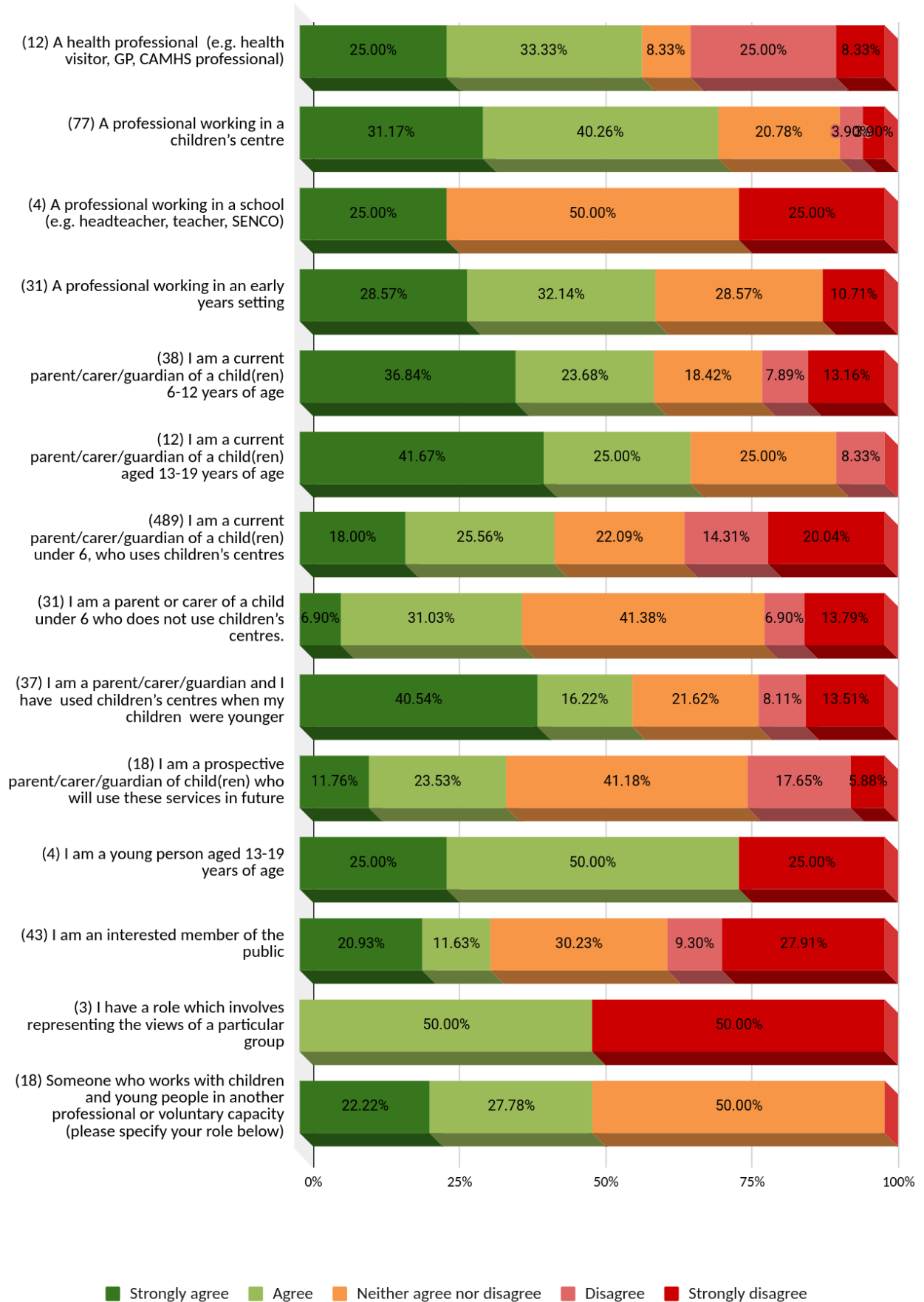


Analysis by interest in the consultation

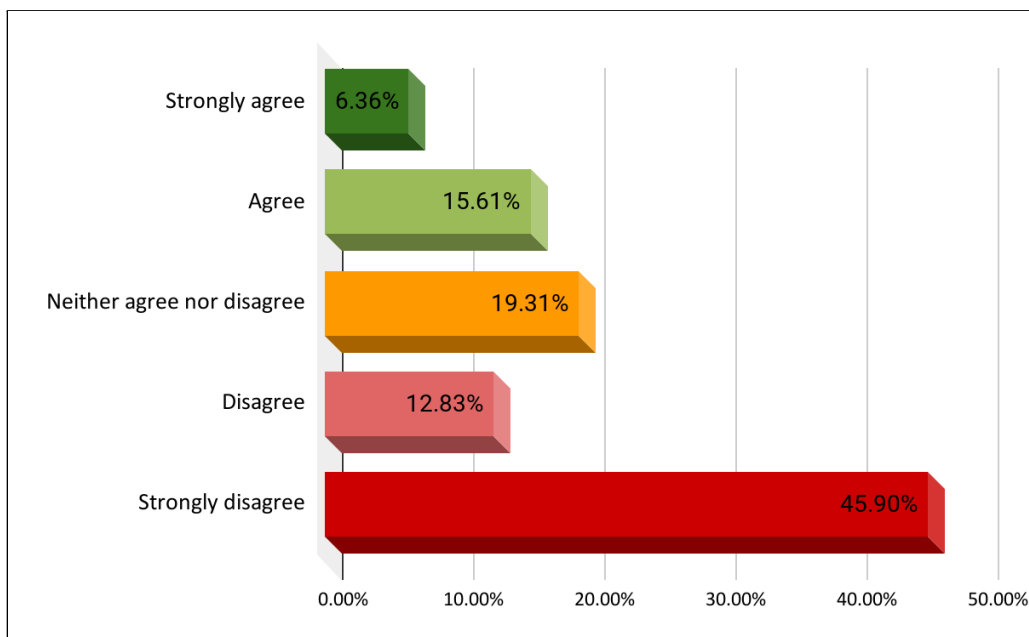
There is a broad level of agreement with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs to provide joined up support for families with children up to 19 years of age.

71% of professionals working in a children's centre agree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family' hubs, whilst 8% disagree. Similarly, 75% of young people that responded agreed with the proposal, with 25% disagreeing (caveat - treat with caution due to small sample size).

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed 'children and family hubs' to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years?" vs Interest (Base 810)



Question 9: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?

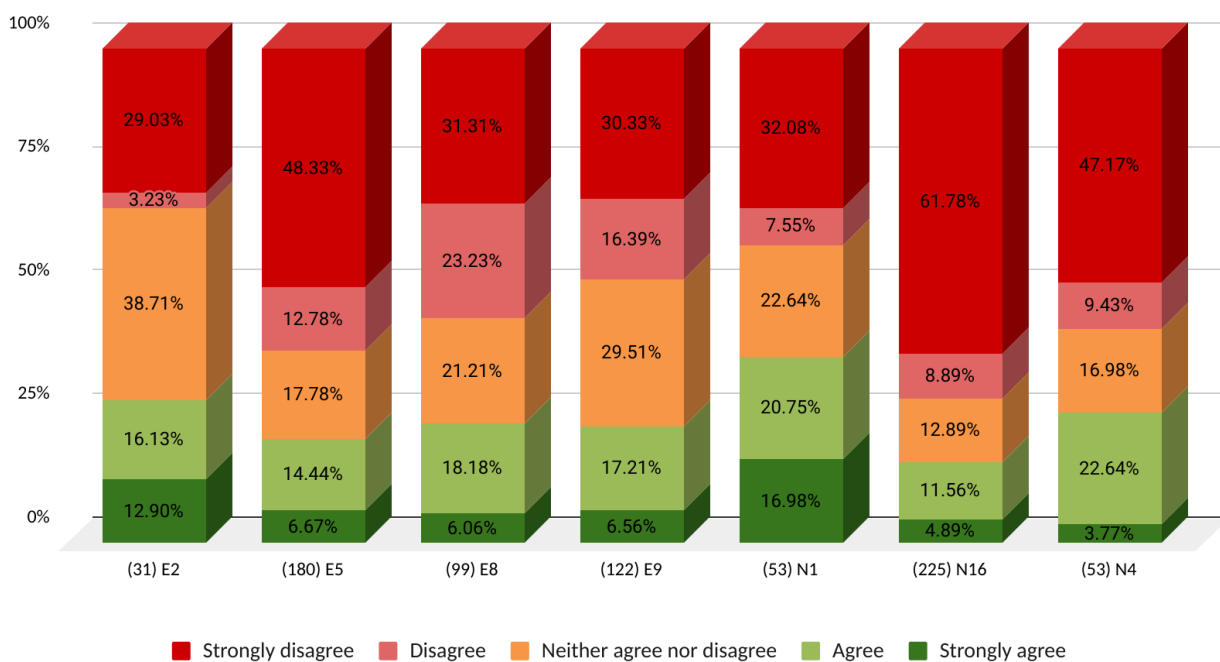


Base (865)

59% of respondents disagree with the principle of closing the two children’s centres, whilst 22% agree with the proposal.

Analysis by postcode

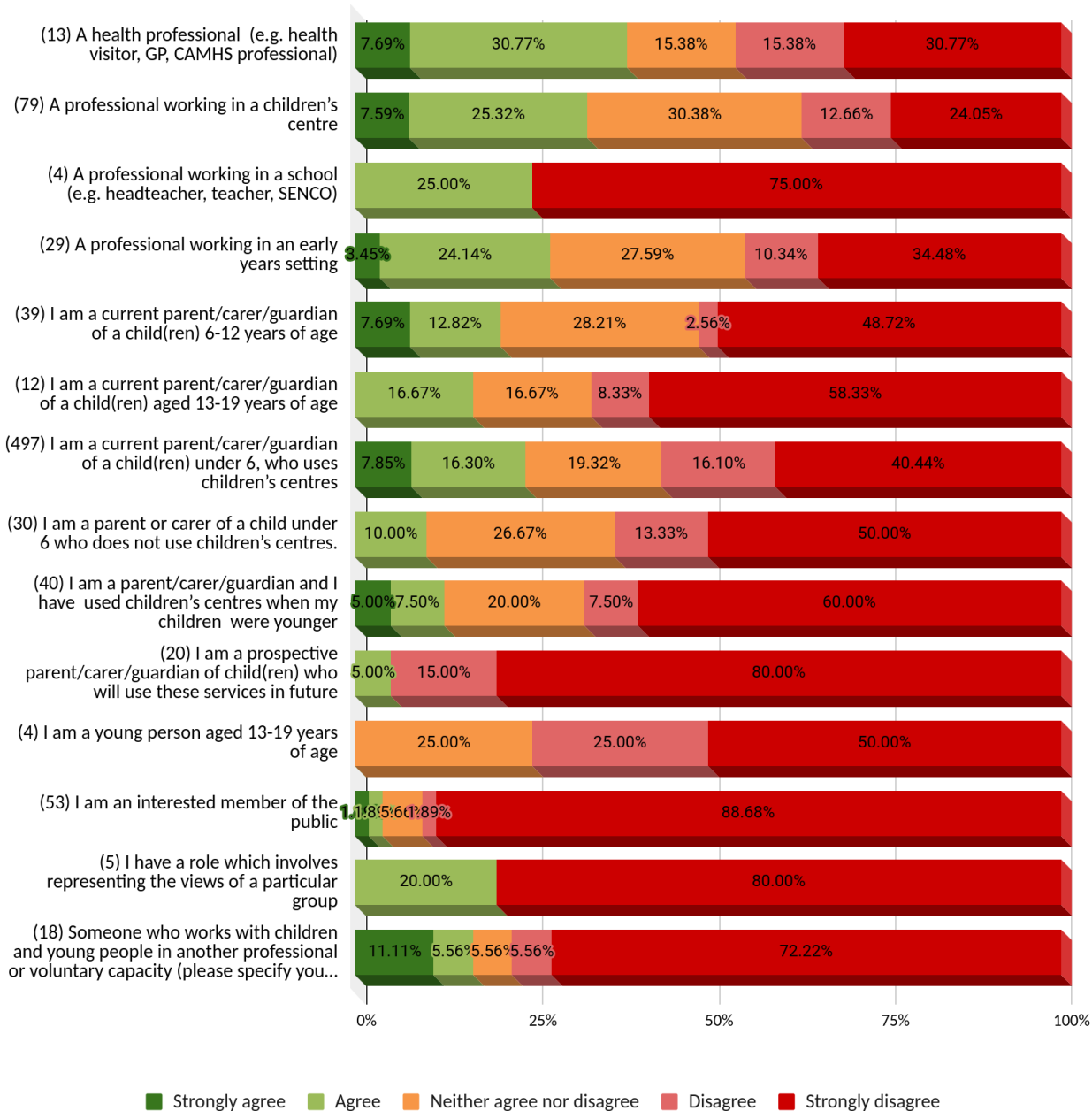
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Postcode (Base 763)



As the graph shows, the greatest level of opposition to the proposal are from those living in the N16 postcode area, with 71% disagreeing with the proposal, whilst 17% were in agreement. The N16 postcode area is indicative of those living closest to the centres proposed for closure.

Analysis by interest in the consultation

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Interest (Base 843)

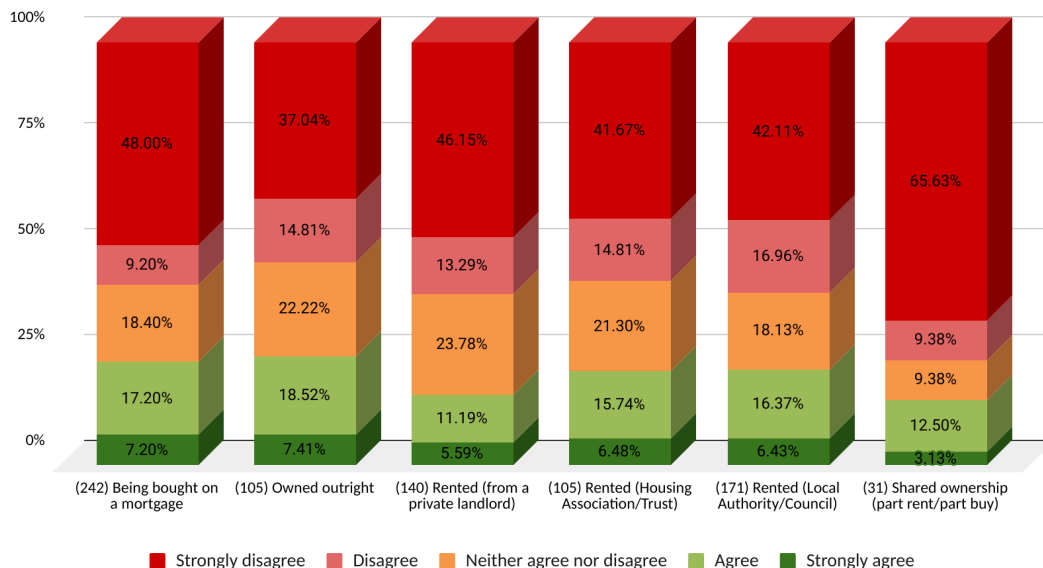


As the graph shows, there's a high level of opposition to the proposal irrespective of the interest in the consultation. The highest level of opposition(95%), is from prospective parents/carers/guardians of children who will use children's centres in future.

Analysis by housing tenure

There's a general level of disagreement with the principle of closing the two centres by residents across all housing tenures.

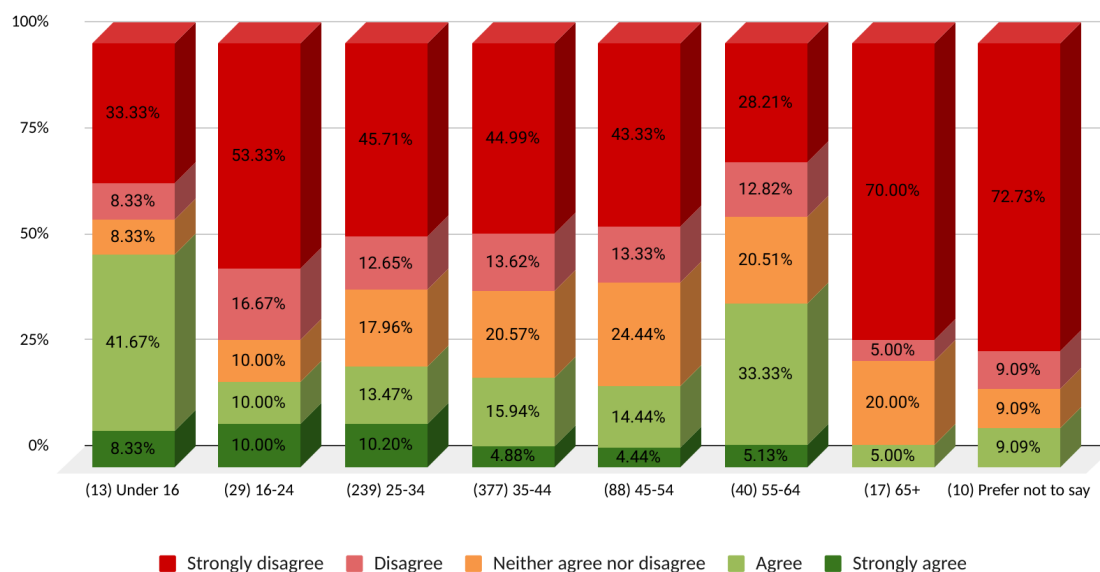
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Housing Tenure (Base 812)



Analysis by age

There is broad disagreement with the principle of closing the two centres across all the age profiles, with the exception of those under 16 where 50% agreed with the proposed closure, whilst 41% disagreed.

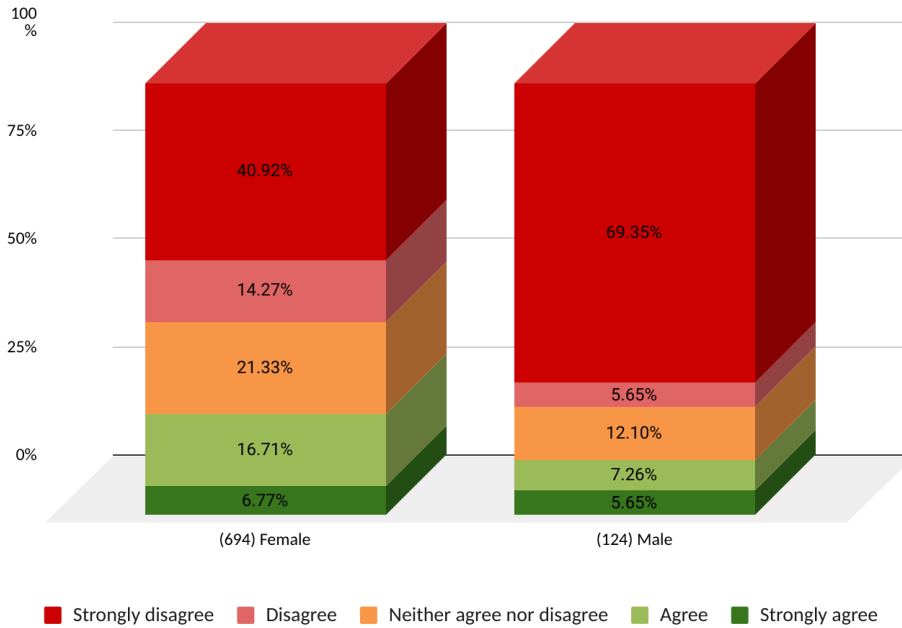
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Age group (Base 836)



Analysis by gender

A greater proportion of male respondents (75%), disagree with the principle of closing the two centres, compared with female respondents where 55% disagree.

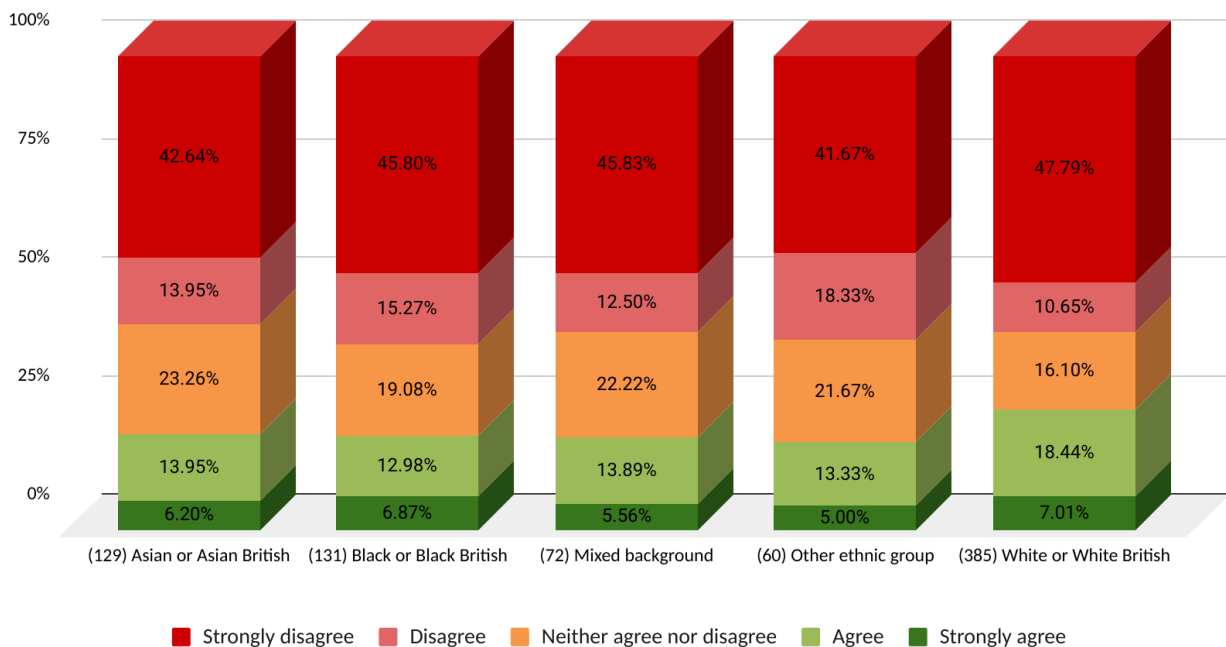
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Gender (Base 818)



Analysis by ethnicity

There is broad opposition to the proposal across all ethnicity profiles.

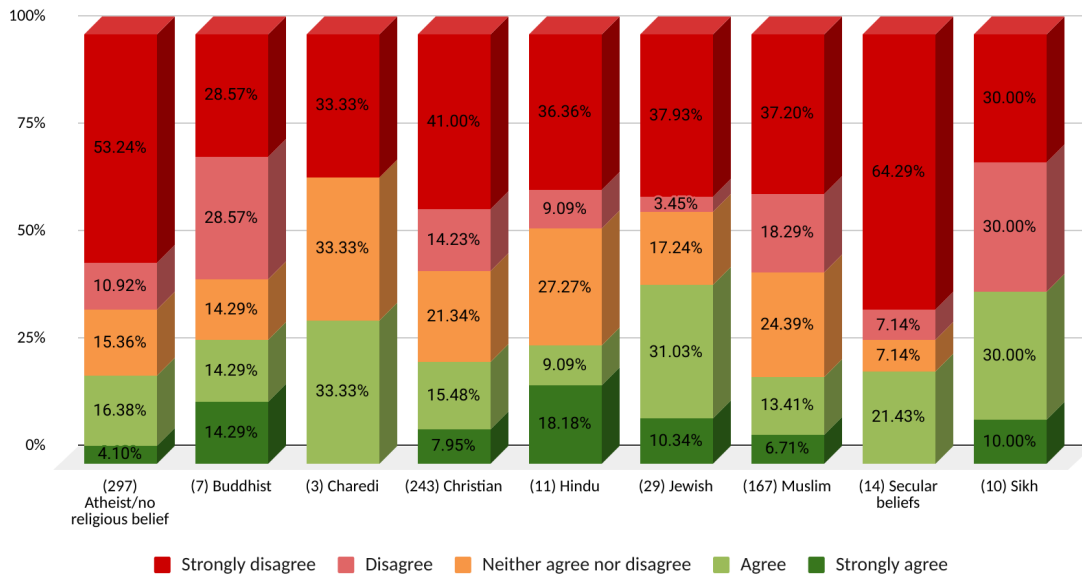
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Ethnicity (Base 777)



Analysis by religion

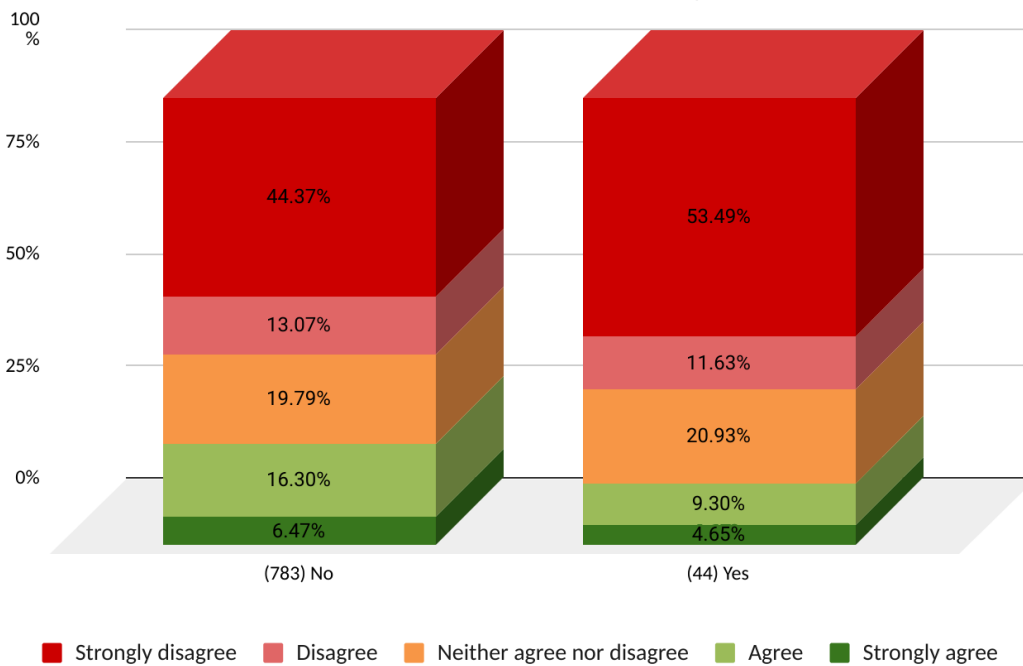
There is a higher level of opposition to the proposal from those that indicated that they have secular beliefs (71%), Charedi (66%) and those that have Atheist/no religious beliefs (63%).

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Religion (Base 781)



Analysis by disability

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Disability (Base 816)

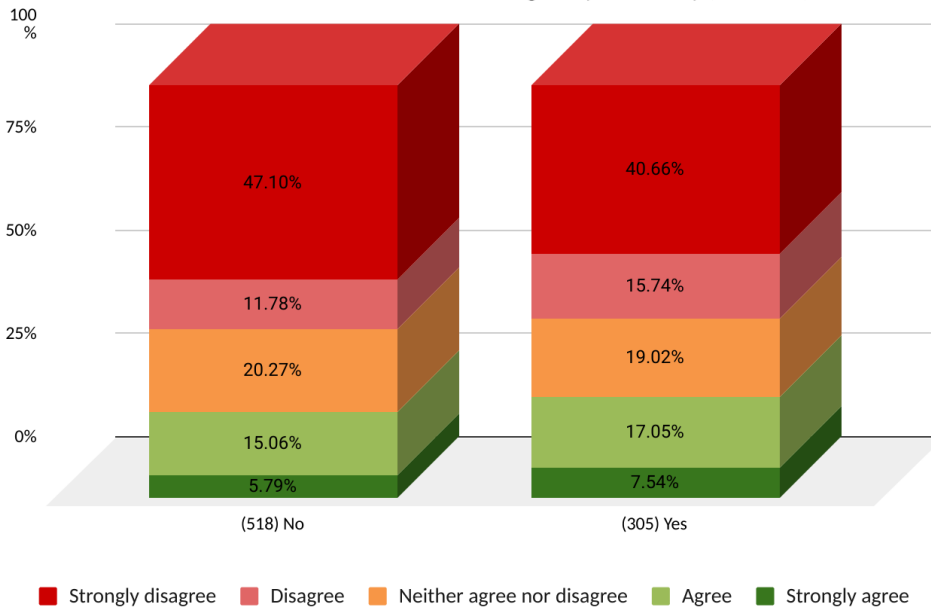


Respondents with and without disabilities disagreed with the principle of closure, 65% and 57% respectively.

Pregnancy/ maternity status

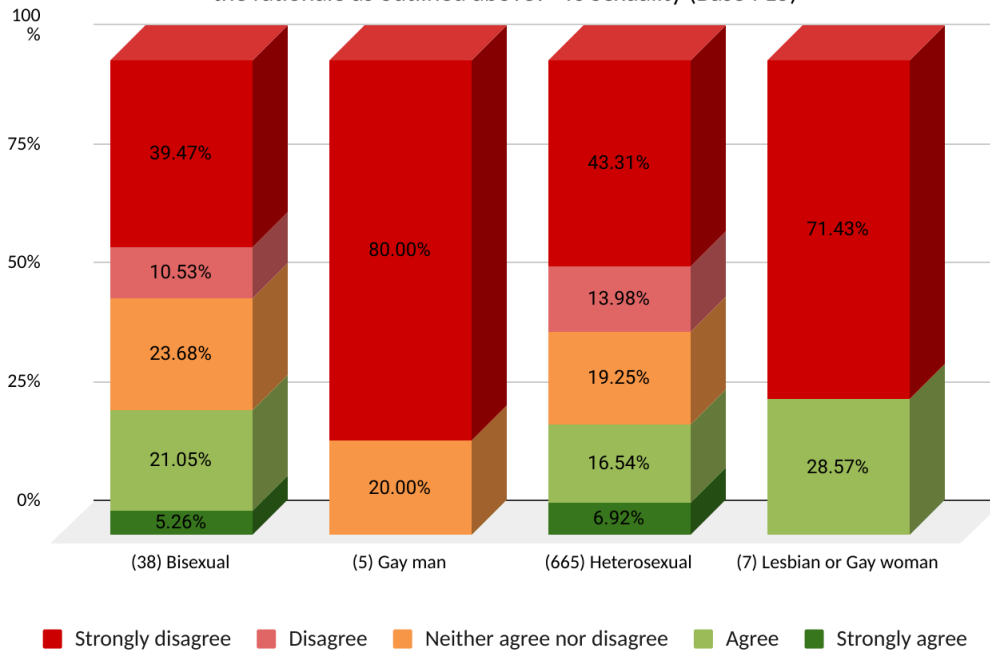
57% of the respondents that were pregnant or had accessed maternity services in the last two years disagreed with the proposed closure of the two centres. Similarly 59% of those who weren't pregnant or had been on maternity leave over the two last years disagreed with the proposal to close the two centres.

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Pregnancy/Maternity (Base 823)



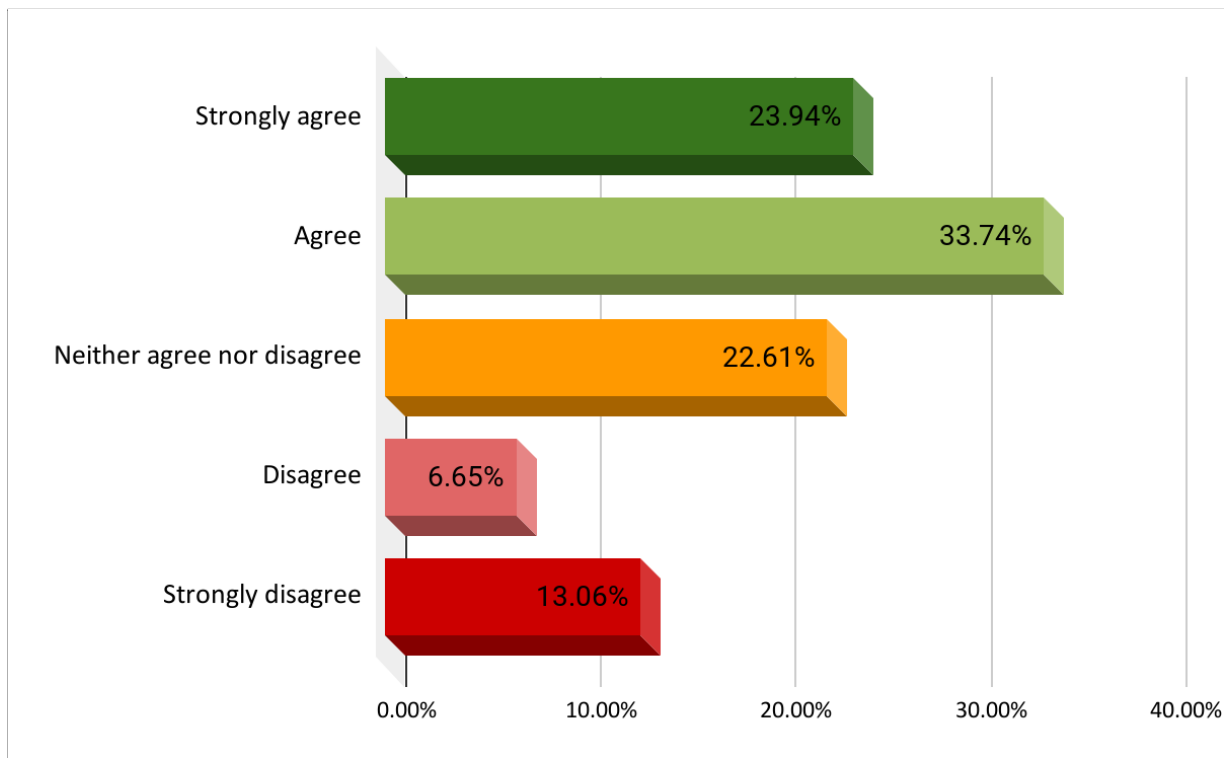
Sexual orientation

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of closing the two centres based on the rationale as outlined above?" vs Sexuality (Base 715)



80% of respondents that indicated that they're a 'gay man' disagreed with the proposal and similarly 71% of those that identified as a 'Lesbian or Gay woman' also disagreed with the proposed closures. (Please treat this with caution due to the small sample sizes).

Question 10: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two ‘early years hubs’, one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?



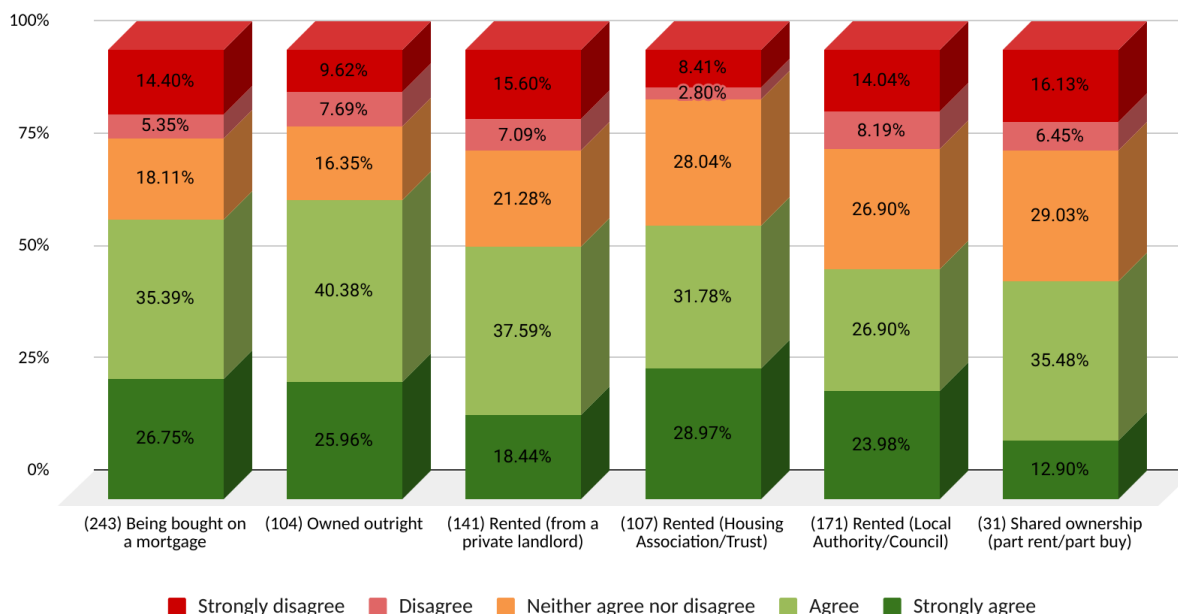
Base (827)

As the graph shows, 58% agreed with the proposal to develop two ‘early years hubs’, whilst 20% disagreed with the proposal.

Analysis by housing tenure

There is broad support by respondents across all housing tenures for the proposal to develop two year 'early years hubs, with the highest level of support from those that own their homes outright (66%).

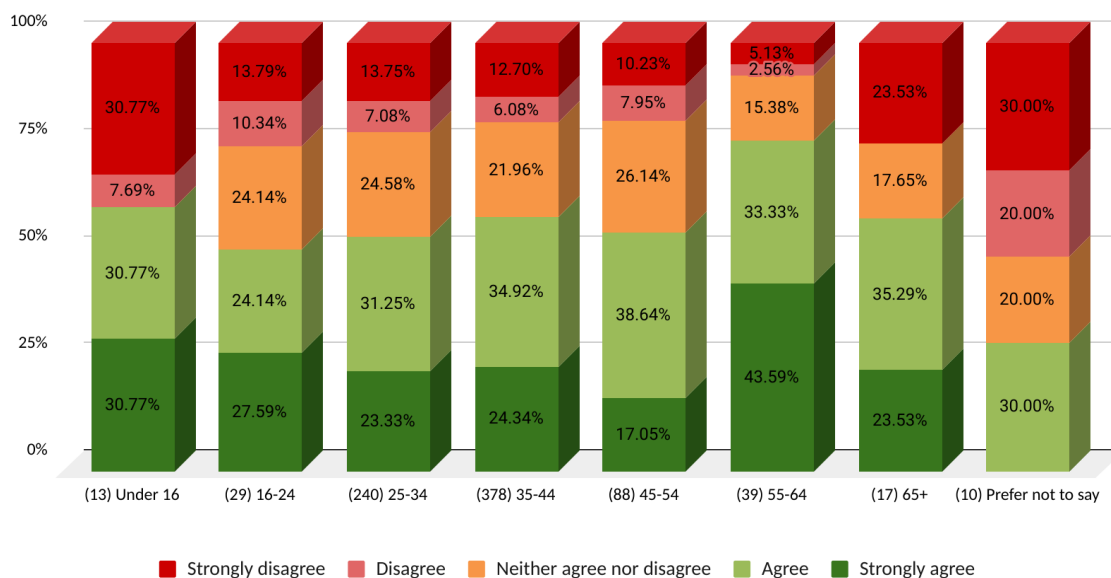
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?" vs Housing Tenure (Base 797)



Analysis by age

A greater proportion of respondents across all age groups support the proposal to develop two early years hubs. There is a greater level of support is by those aged 55 to 74, with 77% of respondents in this age cohort supporting the proposal.

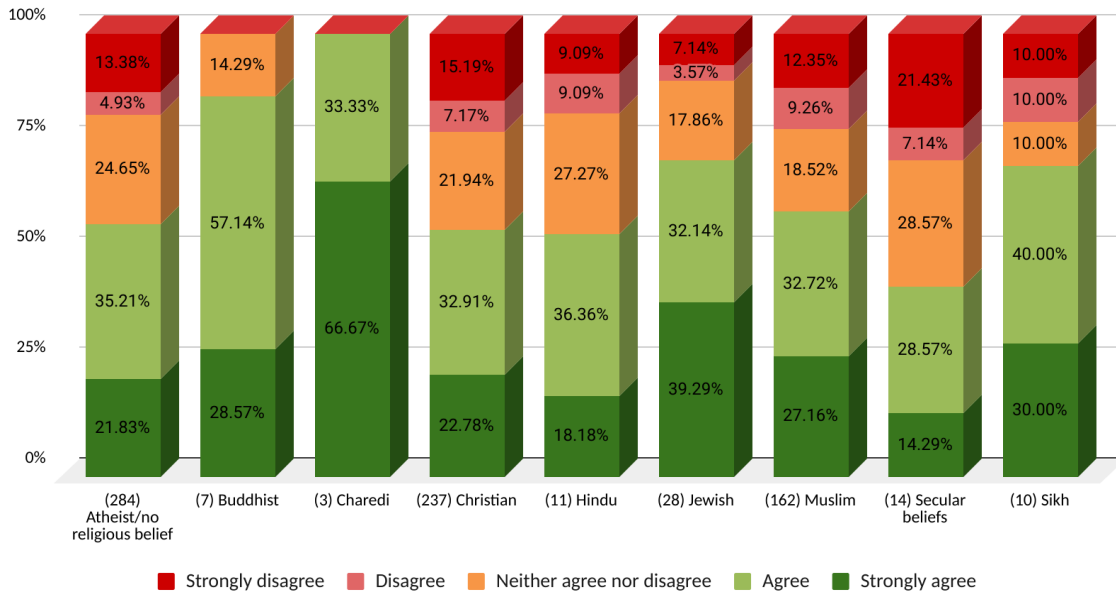
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?" vs Age group (Base 814)



Analysis by religion

There is significant support for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs' by respondents across all religious persuasions, with the highest level of support from Charedi (99%) and Jewish (71%).

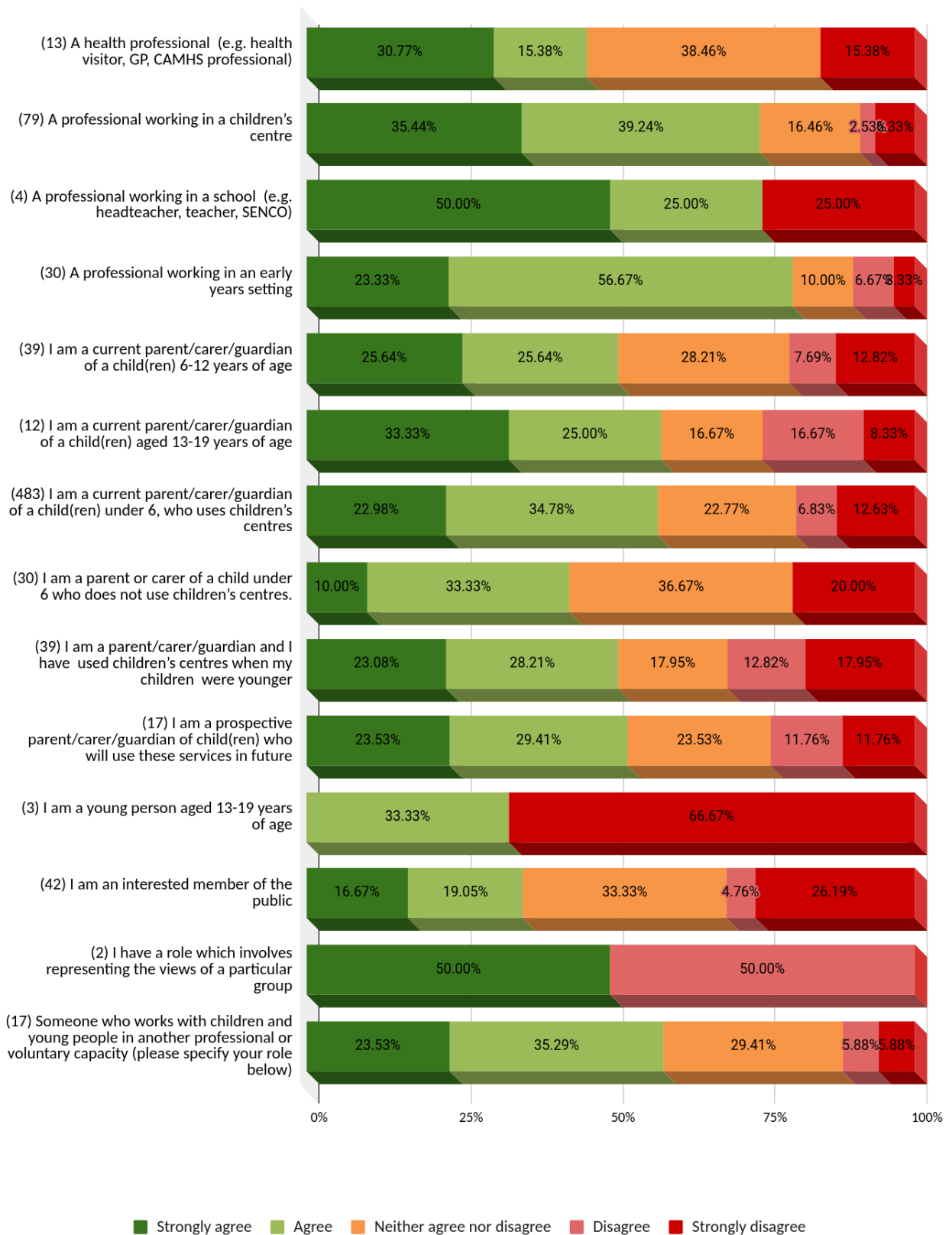
"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?" vs Religion (Base 756)



Analysis by interest in the consultation

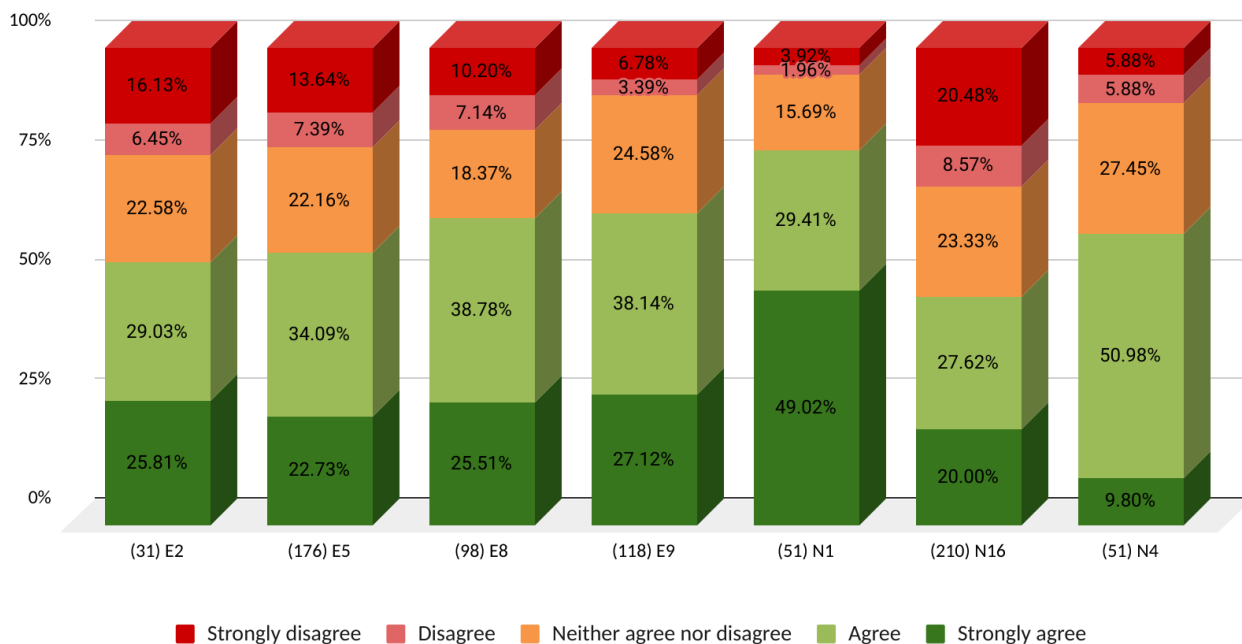
There is a high level of support to the proposal to develop two 'early years' hubs, with 80% of those that work in an early years setting agreeing with the proposal, followed by 75% of respondents that indicated that they work in a school

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?" vs Interest (Base 810)



Analysis by postcode area

"To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', one in the north and one in the south of the borough for children with complex needs to access provision, whilst they undergo assessment for an education, health and care plan?" vs Postcode (Base 735)



As the graph shows, the greatest support for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs' is from respondents in the N1 postcode area (78%) and the lowest level of support from those in the N16 postcode area (48%).

Open ended comments received to the survey

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency 'children and family' hubs, offering support for families with children and young people aged up to 19 years old, rather than just for families with children aged up to five years old? - Please explain your response above:

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments in support of their response.

We received 435 comments in response to the question above.

The majority of comments to the question relates to the proposed closure of Hillside and Fernbank children's centres, explaining why they disagreed with the proposed closures.

The comments received have been analysed thematically and the emerging themes quantified as shown below:

Themes - Disagreement comments	Count
Disagree- Keep facilities separate (for older and young children)	53
Disagree- Change in specific nursery/ early years support- watered down services	48
Disagree - Unsure how changes will work/need more information	35
Disagree- Against any centre closure	26
Disagree - Safety concerns relating to young adults sharing spaces with young babies and children	24
Disagree- Fernbank closure	18
Disagree- Inadequate alternative service provision	16
Disagree- Lack of options for parents	16
Disagree- Impact on early years support/specific support needed for teenagers & older children	15
Disagree- focus on 0-5 years	15
Disagree- Key service in the community	14
Disagree- Alternative solution needed than what is proposed	13
Disagree- Nursery capacity- Extra pressure on existing services	12
Disagree- Increase of inequality & division	12
Disagree- inadequate consultation process	12
Disagree- childcare costs	10
Disagree - impact on nursery staff (at Hillside, Fernbank and other centres)	10
Disagree with proposed Hillside closure	9
Disagree - impact on other centres	7
Disagree- Can't access alternative locations	5
Disagree- more services/ spending on services	5
Disagree- Covid 19- Maintaining safety	3
Disagree- Social-emotional impact on children	3
Themes - Agreement comments	Count
Agree- helpful for families with older children/children of mixed ages	54

Agree- Increased access/ better services for all ages	40
Agree - support suited for older children/ children of mixed ages	28
Agree- Streamline services	14
Agree with proposal	12
Agree-As long as the quality of the current early years service is maintained	9
Agree- Alternative solution needed than what is proposed	7
Agree- benefit community	3
Agree - Opportunity to meet older children/young people	3
Agree - if age-based services are separated appropriately	2

Emails received during the consultation period

Residents were provided with the opportunity to provide additional comments to the consultation by emailing consultation@hackney.gov.uk

We received 69 emails to the consultation inbox. The majority of comments received related to the proposed closure of Hillside and Fernbank Children's centres.

Key stakeholder responses

We received a detailed response from **Overview and Scrutiny**, which is classed as a key stakeholder response and has been linked below. The letter summarised representations Scrutiny has received from parent representatives.

The response highlighted a variety of issues, a synopsis of the substantive points have been summarised below. For greater detail, please refer to the [detailed letter from Overview and Scrutiny](#), which is also appended to this report.

- Parent representatives felt that the consultation timeframe of 8 weeks was insufficient and felt should have been longer - 12 weeks as has happened with other boroughwide consultations
- It was noted that the information provided in the consultation was clear and easy to understand, however information such as the parental survey, childcare sufficiency assessment and the evidence to support the closure of the centres hadn't been included as part of the consultation. Consultees felt that they needed this information to provide meaningful feedback to the consultation.
- Parent representatives also queried the decision to consult on the Early Years' Strategy and the proposed closure of the children's centres at the same time. They felt that as Cabinet approved the Early Years Strategy on 13th September, it was felt that it wasn't noted that this

strategy was in draft format, thus leading to confusion as to why there was a requirement to consult on a strategy that had already been agreed by cabinet members.

- Consultees felt that two separate decision making processes had been conflated by including the strategy and children's centres closures in one consultation.
- Consultees questioned why alternatives to the closure of the children's centres hadn't been included. They felt that mitigations that had been offered for the proposed closure of the two children's centres weren't appropriate because children's centres are unique and aren't comparable to other childcare and nursery settings.

Save Fernbank & Hillside campaign group

A response to the consultation was received from the ["Save Fernbank & Hillside" campaign group, made up of parents and the local community](#) campaigning to stop the proposed closures of Fernbank and Hillside children's centres. The campaign group comments have been highlighted in the summary detailed below:

Emails from residents/ service users

All the emails sent to the consultation inbox related to the proposed closure of Fernbank and Hillside children's centres.

The emails all generally followed a similar format, highlighting the detrimental impact that the proposed closures would have on how they (parents, carers and users) them and their children.

Generally the emails highlighted the fact that the proposed closure would:

Economic impacts/ increased costs for parents

- The centres proposed for closure both include subsidised nurseries providing affordable childcare, thus having a detrimental impact on lower income families and particularly on working mothers, some of whom would be unable to work as a result.
- Respondents felt that the proposed closures would make it impossible for them to have access to the 30 hours free childcare they're entitled to, as these are often over-subscribed.
- Respondents felt that the remaining centres don't have affordable childcare places, leading to them having to pay more per month to access childcare.

Staff in children's centres

- Criticism of the fact that staff working at the centres found out about the consultation through the local press rather than directly from the Early Years' Service.
- Proposed changes could lead to a loss of good quality experience staff, leading to a negative impact on the care that children receive at the centres.

Consultation process

- Residents using the two centres proposed for closure were critical of the fact that they received an email to tell them about the proposals, which they felt was abrupt and without warning
- Criticism of the fact that the consultation did not provide an open ended box for them to provide verbatim comments to the proposed closures; which they subsequently did through emailing the consultation inbox.
- There was a perception by consultees that the questions posed in the consultation were leading respondents to respond in favour of the proposed closures.
- Length of the consultation seen as not long enough, as it is
- 8 week consultation seen as insufficient and should have been 12 weeks in keeping with best practice in public consultation
- Consultees queried the process used to seek the views of relevant stakeholders, beyond the letter sent to parents inviting them to a one hour meeting.
- Criticism of the fact that on 13th September Hackney Today published an article about the proposed closures prior to that evening's Cabinet meeting where the Cabinet approved the Early Years Strategy, with the consultation launching two days later on 15th September. They felt that this led to lack of clarity on the scope to influence the proposals.

Evidence to support the proposed closures

Consultees were felt that there was insufficient evidence presented to justify the proposed closures

- Council's justification that there are 5 centres within walking distance was seen as misleading. They felt that once the two centres closed, there would only remain one secular/ non-faith children's centre remaining
- Consultees felt that it was misleading to use pandemic vacancy rates to justify the proposed closures, as the footfall to those centres would be lower due to safety concerns related to Covid-19.
- Consultees felt that there was no evidence that alternative options to the proposed closures had been explored.
- Consultees also felt that the data and evidence in the rationale for the proposed closures was in-complete and misleading.
- Consultees criticised the fact that an equality impact assessment of the proposed closures wasn't included as part of the consultation

Suggestions/ alternatives to closure

- The option of fundraising to raise money to keep the centres open was suggested by some respondents as an option.
- Halt the proposed closures as the process was seen as unfairly targeting users of those centres
- Consultees suggested that the Council should commit to protecting subsidised childcare places and children's centres

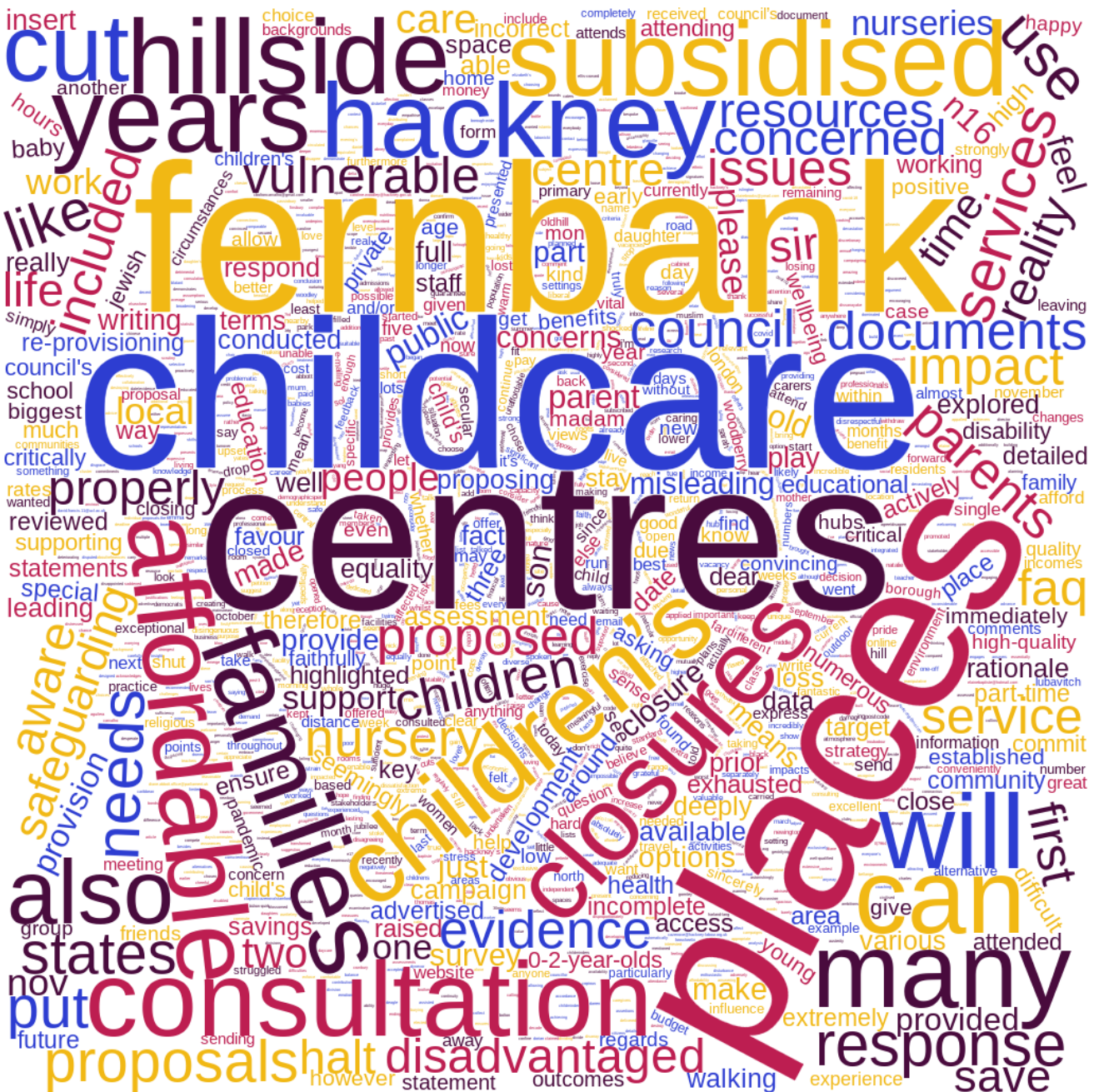
- Advertise available child care places effectively to enable parents who qualify to apply for those places.

Word Cloud

A word cloud has been created representing main words used in the emails we received to the consultation inbox. The size of each word represents their frequency.

As the word cloud shows, words that appeared throughout the emails received related to “Fernbank”, “Hillside”, “affordable childcare”, “consultation documents”, “subsidised nurseries”, “Save, Halt, pause”.

The regularity of words throughout the email submissions is in keeping with the themes highlighted above.



Notes from meetings held during the consultation period

As part of the consultation, the Early Years service wrote to all current users of the two centres proposed for closure, letting them know about the consultation and encouraging them to respond to the consultation.

Meetings were held at Fernbank and Hillside to provide parents of enrolled children the opportunity to raise questions. A third meeting for Fernbank and Hillside parents was held at Oldhill children's centre.

A summary of the common themes raised in all three meetings included:

- Vacancies and falling enrollment.
- Marketing of children's centres.
- 0-2 provision and baby room places.
- Challenges faced by parents searching for providers.
- Criticism of the proposal and consultation.

Fernbank children's centre parents meeting

The Fernbank Children's Centre parents' meeting took place on Wednesday 6th October, 2021. 23 attended the meeting.

The following key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- The deficit affecting children's centre services.
- Vacancies at children's centres in the borough, the occupancy rate at Fernbank and falling enrolment in primary school classes.
- Cost and travel implications for families seeking alternative child-care providers.
- The costs of leasing Fernbank.
- Marketing of Fernbank. Attendees asked whether Fernbank could be marketed more effectively to reduce vacancy numbers. Parents commented that they had previously been unaware of Fernbank.
- Attendees raised criticism of the consultation process.
- Attendees commented on the 0-2 spaces and baby rooms available at Fernbank and Hillside. Parents asked whether baby rooms would be opened at other centres.
- Attendees raised concerns about the impact of centre closures on staff.

Hillside children's centre parents meeting

The Hillside Children's Centre parents' meeting took place on Thursday 7th October, 2021. 19 attended the meeting.

The following key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- The need for savings and the reasoning for the proposal for Early Years Strategy & Children's Centres proposal.
- Falling enrolment and vacancies at children's centres.
- Subsidies. Attendees raised the question of reducing subsidies as an alternative to closing Hillside.

- Attendees commented on the impact of private-nursery costs.
- Re-evaluating the need for 0-2 spaces. Attendees asked whether there were alternative centres with baby room vacancies.
- Attendees commented on the impact of Covid-19 on child-care arrangements.
- Parents raised concerns about the impact of the centre closure on children's social development, how the Council would ensure a smooth transition for children and whether children and staff could be placed at alternative centres together for continuity of childcare.
- Marketing of Hillside and other children's centres. Attendees called for more advertising of centres and alternative options for families on waiting lists.

Oldhill School and children's centre meeting

The third parents meeting at Oldhill children's centre took place on Tuesday 9th November, 2021. 16 attended the meeting.

The following key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- Discussion of the proposal and the impact of the deficit.
- SEND provision.
- Attendees raised criticism of the consultation process.
- Attendees requested clarification on the reduction of enrollment and vacancy rate data.
- The marketing of children's centres, particularly Fernbank.
- Attendees questioned whether there were alternative funding options.
- Parents commented on the difficulty of finding suitable childcare providers, the high cost of private centres, and the benefits of Fernbank and Hillside.
- Attendees praised Fernbank and Hillside staff.

Four of the events were held during the consultation period as shown below:

- [Wednesday 6th October, 5pm to 6pm, Fernbank children's centre](#)
- [Tuesday 7th October, 5pm to 6pm, Hillside children's centre](#)
- [Monday 4th November, 1.30pm to 2.30pm, Shoreditch Trust](#)
- [Tuesday 8 November, 5pm to 6.45pm, Oldhill School and children's centre](#)

Conclusion

The Council's new Early Years Strategy underpinned the consultation and proposed changes to children's centres and launched for 9 weeks from 15th September to 16 November 2021.

879 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire and 69 emails were sent to consultation@hackney.gov.uk. 68 attended the 4 public meetings held during the consultation period.

There was **significant opposition to the proposal to close two children's centres**: Hillside and Fernbank.

- 59% of respondents disagreed with the principle of closing the two children's centres, whilst 22% agreed with the proposal.
- The greatest level of opposition to the proposal came from those living in the N16 postcode area, with 71% disagreeing with the proposal, whilst 17% were in agreement.
- The highest level of opposition(95%), is from prospective parents/carers/guardians of children who will use children's centres in future.
- 57% of the respondents that were pregnant or had accessed maternity services in the last two years disagreed with the proposed closure of the two centres. Similarly 65% of those who weren't pregnant or had been on maternity leave over the two last years disagreed with the proposal to close the two centres

It is worth noting that the proposed closures were generally unsupported by consultees, however the proposed 'early years hubs' had a greater level of support as shown below.

Developing 'early years hubs' in the north and south of the borough for children with complex needs

- 58% agreed with the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs', whilst 20% disagreed with the proposal.
- The greatest support for the proposal to develop two 'early years hubs' is from respondents in the N1 postcode area (78%) and the lowest level of support from those in the N16 postcode area (48%).
- There is a high level of support to the proposal to develop two 'early years' hubs, with 80% of those that work in an early years setting agreeing with the proposal, followed by 75% of respondents that indicated that they work in a school
- A greater proportion of respondents across all age groups support the proposal to develop two early years hubs . There is a greater level of support by those aged 55 to 74, with 77% of respondents in this age cohort supporting the proposal.

Changing a number of children's centres into new 'children and family hubs' that bring together family support for children of ages 0 to 19 years.

- 44% of respondents agreed with the proposal to broaden the role of six of our children's centres into multi agency "children & family" hubs, in contrast 39% disagreed with the proposal.
- A higher proportion of those aged 25 to 34 agreed with the proposal (47%), 49% of those aged 45 to 54 and 50% of those aged 55 to 64. Please note that the under 16 and 65+ age cohorts haven't been referenced due to the very small sample sizes.
- 36% of respondents felt that the 'children and family' hubs proposal negatively affects (negatively/ somewhat negatively), the way they currently access services. Similarly, 36% felt that the proposal affected them positively (positively/ somewhat positively). In contrast 28% chose the neutral response option.
- The most popular services that respondents would like to see in the proposed 'children and family' hub are: 'Stay and play and music activities', (10%), followed by parenting and family

support for children up to 5 years of age (9%) and “Early education and childcare with free places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old

The idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family hubs’ to provide joined-up support for families with children 0-19 years

- Nearly half of respondents (48%) agree (strongly agree/ agree) with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years.
- There’s broad agreement across the different age profiles with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs to provide joined up support for children 0 - 19 years. 50% of those aged 16-24 agreed with the proposal whilst 23% disagreed. This is followed by 50% of those aged 25-34 agreeing with the proposal, whilst 28% disagreed.
- 71% of professionals working in a children’s centre agree with the idea that youth hubs work alongside the proposed ‘children and family’ hubs, whilst 8% disagree. Similarly, 75% of young people that responded agreed with the proposal, with 25% disagreeing (caveat - treat with caution due to small sample size).

As a result of the opposition to the proposed closures of the two centres, the Council has decided to delay any closures until a wider review of boroughwide provisions is carried out. This means the two centres will not close in September 2022.

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

Report Title:	Hillside and Fernbank - Feedback on Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process
Meeting for:	Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission
Date:	28 February 2022
Produced by:	Donna Thomas
Authorised by:	Annie Gammon

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. A letter from Hillside and Fernbank Parents was received at the CYP Scrutiny Commission held on 1 November 2021. The letter raised issues with how Hackney residents were being consulted on the proposed early years strategy.
- 1.2. This report sets out the Council's response to specific questions raised in the letter regarding the proposed closures of two Children's Centres - Fernbank & Hillside.
- 1.3. Since CYP Scrutiny on 1 November 2021, the consultation concluded with the pause of the proposal to close Fernbank and Hillside Children's Centres, in order to complete a wider review of provision with further engagement this year.
- 1.4. The consultation summary has been published on the council website as of 1st March 2022.
- 1.5. Hackney Education will report to Scrutiny later this year on follow up activity linked to the outcomes of this consultation.

2. Response to Questions

- 2.1. **This consultation is only open for 8 and a half weeks (16 September - 16 November) as opposed to 12 weeks which is best practice in public consultation**

Response

In considering how long to run the consultation for, we considered the Childcare Act 2006 and the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. These Acts place a duty on local authorities to consult before making significant changes to children's centres. Local authorities are required to consult those affected by the proposed changes, with particular attention given to disadvantaged families, allowing 'adequate' time to give feedback.

The consultation, though uploaded on 14 September 2021, was launched on 15 September to 16 November 2021. This gave residents and service users affected by the proposed changes 9 weeks to complete the survey which, at the time, we felt was sufficient to collect feedback.

Whilst consideration was given to commencing the consultation in August 2021, it was felt that any consultation during the summer may have disadvantaged individuals due to summer holidays. Also, as children's centres closed in August for two weeks for recess, children's centre staff would not have been available to support families to have their say during that period.

The criticism of the campaign group is acknowledged and we will take this into consideration for any future consultations.

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

2.2. The consultation documents are not clear about the scope to influence through the exercise as is recommended in best practice

Response

The consultation documents were set out on the website inviting residents to have their say. The consultation set out:

- The background and context
- What we are proposing
- Who we want to hear from
- Other ways to take part
- What happens next

We feel that the consultation documents provided the scope to influence, but we accept that further background information would have been helpful.

2.3. A meaningful consultation on a topic of this nature should be proactively seeking views from relevant stakeholders - it is not clear what steps have been taken to reach interested parties beyond a letter to parents in the centres at risk of closure and invitation to a one-off meeting lasting one hour.

Response

The consultation was underpinned by an engagement plan. In addition to uploading the consultation on both the Council and the education service website, with letters and texts to parents registered on the Hackney wide children's centre database, the consultation was also promoted through the following channels:

- An article in the borough-wide newspaper, Hackney Today (see page 7 of the [13 September edition](#) - Children's Centres Consultation - have your say on proposed closures), signposting the consultation to all residents and businesses in the borough.
- A further article in the October Hackney Life council information paper (see [page 11- have your say on proposed closures](#)) also sent to all homes and businesses in the borough
- Promotion of the consultation on the council's social media channels
- Promotion of the consultation in the council's e-newsletters
- Promotion of the consultation on the council's news site
- Promoted through the Hackney Council for Voluntary Sector e-bulletin sent out to community, voluntary and faith groups in the borough.
- Informal consultation meetings were held with staff affected by the proposal.
- Consultation meetings with parents impacted by the proposals were held on 6 October, 7 October, 5 November and 9 November. The meeting on the 5 November took place with parents from Shoreditch Trust. Further drop-ins were held with youth organisations such as Hackney Quest to capture the voice of young people.
- Posters and paper copies of the consultation were sent to all children's centres to make available for parents requiring hard copies. Outreach, stay and play workers and family practitioners also provided 121 support at drop-ins to explain the questionnaire and to help parents & carers who needed additional support to have their say.

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- Briefings circulated to schools, settings, childminders, community organisations, health partners and commissioned providers and agencies working with children and families to assist interested parties to have their say.

2.4. It is not clear whether Hackney has a consultation standard / code of practice and if so, how this exercise complies with it.

Response

Hackney abides by four engagement principles that help to ensure that our consultation & engagement activity is meaningful and effectively engages our audiences. We strive to ensure that engagement with residents and stakeholders is:

1. **TIMELY** - Build time into planning for service changes, savings proposals, and new projects, for meaningful public consultation and service user engagement and that we will allow the maximum time that is practical for consultation and engagement within any project.
 - a. The consultation was carried out for 9 weeks until 16 November and we considered this being extended for an additional 4 weeks until 17 December, which would have given a consultation timeframe of 13 weeks.
2. **MEANINGFUL** - Engage residents, businesses, staff and stakeholders to help them shape proposals that will affect the services they use and deliver, or the areas where they live and work. Involve, where appropriate, people with co-production and user testing.
 - a. In addition to the online mechanisms of engagement, we held face to face meetings across the borough, particularly with service users of the two centres proposed for closure: Fernbank and Hillside. All the feedback received will inform the decision made regarding the proposals.
3. **INCLUSIVE** - Diverse outreach methods, engaging people in their communities, rather than expecting them to come to us. Work to boost engagement with under-represented groups to ensure that we're hearing balanced views and the voices of those most affected.
 - a. As detailed above, we've used a variety of engagement methods to ensure that those affected by the proposals were aware of the consultation and able to take part. The consultation summary explaining the purpose of the consultation and online questionnaire was included on the Council's online consultation platform, citizen space. The consultation was also signposted via the [Hackney Education website](#), the [Local Offer website](#) and the Council's social media channels.
 - b. Consultees were encouraged to respond online, however, for those that prefer a paper copy, these were available from their local children's centre. Staff at the centres were also able to support service users who needed this to complete the questionnaires or had any questions about the consultation.
 - c. Posters promoting the consultation were displayed at children's centres and libraries across the borough.
 - d. The consultation was promoted in the Council's free publication Hackney Today, in the September edition (page 7) and the October edition of Hackney Life (page 11). Hackney Today and Life are distributed to all households and businesses in the borough and are also available through self-service points across the borough. The paper has the widest circulation of all local publications, going to more than 108,000 businesses and households in the borough.

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

4. **DIRECT** - Engage directly with our residents and businesses where possible, not on the mediation of community leaders, representative groups, and the voluntary sector, while still acknowledging what a vital role they can play in helping to facilitate engagement.
 - a. We wrote to all current users of the two centres proposed for closure, letting them know about the consultation and encouraging them to respond to the consultation. Given the impact of the proposed closures on the users of these centres, events were held so that current users could ask any questions about the proposals. The events were held on:
 - i. Wednesday, 6th October, 5pm to 6pm, Fernbank children's centre
 - ii. Tuesday, 7th October, 5pm to 6pm, Hillside children's centre
 - iii. Friday, 5 November, Shoreditch Trust parents meeting
 - iv. Tuesday, 9 November, 5pm to 6.45pm, Oldhill School and children's centre

- 2.5. **On September 13th, Hackney Today published an article regarding the proposed closure of the two children's centres prior to that evening's Cabinet Meeting where Cabinet then approved the Early Years Strategy. The public consultation then only opened two days later on September 15th.**

Response

The consultation proposal article was published in Hackney Today, the Council's newspaper, on the day of the 13 September 2021 Cabinet meeting in order to meet the quarterly paper's distribution timetable. The next edition of Hackney Today was due out in December 2021 -- after the consultation closing date.

Hackney Today has the widest circulation of all local newspapers (going to 108,000 businesses and households) and is an essential broadcast tool in ensuring as many people view the consultation, and have opportunity to comment on it, as possible. It was, therefore, critical that a consultation of this size appeared in it.

The consultation went live two days after Cabinet, following approval of the strategy by councillors. Had the strategy not been approved, the consultation would not have gone live, and a clarification would have appeared on the consultation website, as well as in the next edition of the Council's newspaper.

- 2.6. **The report about the Early Years Strategy which went to cabinet for approval on the 13th September did not contain details of the proposed closures, only about the strategy and loose wording around 'reconfiguration'.**

Response

The savings proposals to close these children's centres at the time of drafting the Cabinet report, were going through the budget process and had not yet been formally agreed. As the budget had yet to be finalised, the report to Cabinet in September did not expressly refer to the proposal. Instead references are made to reconfiguring children's centres and making savings, which all services are expected to make.

- 2.7. **The proposed Early Years Strategy is a standard process by which the Council reviews policy. The closure of the nurseries has to do with the overall budget of the Council, and what it is considering for the upcoming 2022/23 financial year. These two issues are different and should be consulted on separately.**

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

Response

The consultation focused on both proposals affecting children's centres and on the Early Years Strategy. Whilst there was a requirement to consult on children's centres, there was no requirement to consult on the strategy. However both involve key parts of the early years provision across our borough, so consulting jointly was a reasonable approach.

- 2.8. **The online survey does not allow for views to be given as to why respondents agree/disagree with the closure of the two centres (question nine) - only to question five - not allowing residents to give relevant views in relation to this very significant proposal.**

Response

In addition to the survey, the clerked consultation meetings and consultation email address, provided an opportunity to capture resident's views. We accept that it would have been helpful to have included space specifically about the closures for an open response. Notwithstanding this, respondents also had the alternative option of emailing the consultation email address which was widely available.

- 2.9. **The way in which the consultation survey question about the closures is presented is leading - the information presented is highly selective and present the closures of the children's centres and the other plans within the Early Years Strategy as mutually exclusive when they are not. This is misleading and could influence the way in which people respond to the question.**

Response

All of the proposals related to children's centre service delivery. However, the only proposal with a direct financial impact, related to the proposed closure of the children's centres. Although we do not accept that the questions were misleading, we would welcome further information about this.

- 2.10. **It is not clear whether the £1m budget cut to Early Years Services is commensurate with cuts across the whole budget. If it is not, we would like to understand on what basis the decision that cuts were necessary for the youngest and most vulnerable residents of Hackney.**

Response

The finance section of the Cabinet report notes that all Council services are asked to contribute to the Council's deficit. Early Years are considering a contribution of £1 million which is 10% of Early Years discretionary budget. This does not include the ring fenced funding from the designated schools block for the provision of early education for eligible two, three and four year olds.

It should also be noted that Hackney spends considerably more on children's centres in comparison to other local authorities.

- 2.11. **The consultation documents contain insufficient information about/references to the data on which decisions have been based**
- 2.11.1. **The consultation states: "Over the past two years, we've listened to hundreds of residents – parents, carers, those who would like to become mothers and fathers in the future, as well as other professionals who work with families – to ensure this strategy reflects what is most important to them."**

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

How were residents spoken to? Was this representative? On what basis were residents responding to questions about priorities? Were they aware of the potential uses of their views? Is there a write up of this evidence?

Response

1,403 parents responded to the children's centre engagement in 2019. The engagement sought feedback from users of children's centres to find out the services they value most and how they could be improved in the future. Feedback was also sought on childcare subsidies, following changes to the fee structure.

The most popular services used within the last 6 to 12 months of the engagement were stay and play activities (34.79%), followed by family support and parenting programmes (10.18%), childcare (10%) and child and family health - antenatal and postnatal (9.65%).

The summary report is available here:

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/sites/default/files/document/Childrens%20Centres%20Engagement%20Summary%20Report%20August%202019.pdf>

- 2.11.2. **The documents lack any detail on the expected costs and benefits of the proposals or as compared to alternative models explored.**
- 2.11.3. **The consultation survey states: "The centres are situated in an area where increasing numbers of children are attending independent settings, up from 1345 in 2020 to 1446, with fewer children in the community attending mainstream provision" - What is this 'area' referenced? How are the boundaries defined and how does this relate to the location of the proposed closures? How does this relate to vacancies in the same area rather than borough-wide as referenced? The statistic given without this detail is meaningless. Donna Thomas herself, in her evidence to the scrutiny commission on 6th October stated that research showed that families travel from all over the borough to access childcare so the number of children attending independent setting in the immediate area is not entirely relevant.**
- 2.11.4. **The map included in the strategy and consultation is at best, not fit for purpose and at worst, misleading in terms of how it illustrates availability of existing childcare provision across Hackney. For example, it does not include any detail of the ages provided for (e.g. some settings do not offer childcare for under twos), quality of provision, hours of operation (i.e. full time v part time, term-time or year-round), nor the cost of places. In at least one case, provision marked on the map has closed down. Anyone answering the consultation would not necessarily know what this means and could assume there is sufficient provision when agreeing/disagreeing with the proposals to close two centres.**

Response

As set out in point 2 above, we accept that further background information about the options appraisal would have added to the published consultation paperwork.

The map in the consultation document is the current map of provision and was included to show the location of the children's centres.

It is unusual for maps to indicate specific detail about settings as this would considerably increase the size of the map. Specific information about settings is, however, available on the childcare list available on Hackney Education's website and from the Family Information Service. Settings open and close throughout the year, maps are updated less frequently.

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

All of the children's centres which the consultation is concerned with were up to date on the map when the consultation commenced.

- 2.11.5. **The consultation survey states: "There are five centres within walking distance of each other, which would allow children to conveniently attend the remaining 3 centres." This is misleading - there are parents who already travel to Hillside nursery from the North West side of the borough for whom the remaining three centres would not be 'conveniently' located. The statement presents the case as though all affected families live between the five centres which is simply not the case. This could unfairly influence people responding to the survey to agree with closures.**

Response

Children's centre planning is not predicated on where parents live or travel from, nor can it be. Parents travel from across the borough and from out of the borough. Planning is, therefore, centred on the number of centres within a geographical area. In this case, there are 5 centres within pram pushing distance from each other. All, with the exception of one Centre, have vacancies.

- 2.11.6. **No information is shared in the consultation documentation about the criteria for assessment of the two particular centres for closure. This was provided verbally at a one-off meeting for parents only of the two affected centres.**

- 2.11.7. **When a parent who wasn't able to attend requested a copy of the minutes from the Fernbank meeting in a follow up email they were told by Donna Thomas that they didn't exist but that our feedback had been 'captured' by the consultation team. This means there is no way of sharing the information or feedback gathered there with e.g. parents not able to attend or to other local stakeholders.**

Response

The criteria for assessment was discussed at the parents meetings and included in the frequently asked questions. Parents were informed at the beginning of the meeting that minutes would not be available, and that the feedback captured by the clerk would feed into the consultation report which would be made public at the end of the consultation.

- 2.11.8. **No information has been given about the numbers of families affected**
- 2.11.9. **No information has been given about the other options considered in the**
- 2.11.10. **development of these proposals and why these conclusions have been reached.**
- 2.11.11. **It is not clear from the consultation documents whether an equality impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to the new Early Years Strategy and proposed closures and what this has found.**
- 2.11.12. **It is not clear from the documents whether the proposals were developed based on a recent childcare sufficiency assessment or not. The last assessment in the public domain appears to have been conducted in March 2020 - this information is over 12 months old and likely to be out of date, not least because of the impacts of COVID.**
- 2.11.13. **It is not clear if any other comprehensive needs assessments have been undertaken in the development of the new Early Years Strategy and if so, what this has found.**

Response

We accept that further background information would be helpful.

CYP Scrutiny Commission Report: Response to Questions regarding Early Years Strategy & Consultation Process

- 2.12. **The proposal to close two Children's Centres, which currently offer excellent services and care to local families, will make the lives of over 100 families worse and less supported. These centres have been serving local people for decades and are trusted by the community. Closing these centres will increase inequality and division in an area of the borough that is already struggling with these problems.**

Parents at affected settings have been told they will need to send their children further away, to childminders (which is a completely different form of childcare and one which many parents don't want for their children), to private nurseries which are unaffordable, or to provision for under twos which doesn't yet exist at Woodberry Down. These are not reasonable alternatives.

Response

The second paragraph above appears to contradict the earlier statement in point 11.5 above, "*... there are parents who already travel to Hillside nursery from the North West side of the borough for whom the remaining three centres would not be 'conveniently' located*".

The challenge to the Council in 11.5 is that parents travel from all over the borough and from out of borough for childcare. In our engagement with parents and carers, they cited that they may have to travel further. However, parents already travel a distance in order to take up childcare for a number of reasons, such as to access provision on route to work, study, or close to family networks.

Reference was also made about private nurseries being unaffordable. A minority of private nurseries charge less than children's centres such as Phoenix House, some charge roughly the same as children's centres, and others charge considerably more.

A parent at the meeting enquired about whether baby places could be considered as part of the development at Woodberry Down, and was informed that this was a consideration. We also have another children's centre in the N16 area, also considering extending their baby places.

As set out in points 2, 11.4 and 11.12 above, we accept that further background information that underpinned the proposal would have been helpful.



Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 9 - Work Programme 2021/22	Item No 9
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Outline

An update will be provided on the Commission's work programme including its review of adolescents entering care.

As this is the last meeting in this municipal cycle, members of the Commission are invited to reflect on the work programme and identify priorities for 2022/23.

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Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2021/22

One Page Overview

June 14th 2021	July 12th 2021
School Admissions (Standing Item)	Ofsted Action Plan - Progress
Pupil Attainment (Standing item)	CFS Budget Monitoring (Standing Item)
Childcare Sufficiency (Standing Item)	Commissioning Independent SEND
Work Programme Discussion	
October 6th 2021	November 1st 2021
CFS Ofsted Inspection Report (Following focused visit 7/21)	School Estates Strategy (Pre-decision)
HMI Probation Inspection - Youth Justice (Following group inspection 7/21)	Early Help Review (Pre-decision)
Adolescents Entering Care (Scoping Report)	Early Years Strategy - Reconfiguration of Children' Centres - Parents Voice
Early Years Strategy - Reconfiguration of Children' Centres consultation	
December 6th 2021	January 19th 2022
Cllr Woodley Q & A - topics to be agreed (Mid October) (Standing Item)	CHSCP - Annual Report - Outcomes of SCRs and Adulthood
Budget Monitoring HES (Standing Item)	Unregistered Educational Settings - Update
Outcome from school exclusions - Final report of the Commission	Sexual harassment in schools
	Adolescents Entering Care
February 28th 2022	March 14th 2022
Addressing inequalities HFS/HES	Attainment gap - School Improvement Partners
CFS Annual Report (Standing Item)	Children Centre Consultation Report
Parental Substance Misuse	Parental Involvement in Education Project
	Cllr Bramble Q & A - Focus on CAMHS

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Meeting 1	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p>Meeting Date: 14th June 2021</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 1/6/21</p> <p>Publication 4/6/21</p>	<p>School Admissions – to review sufficiency of primary and secondary school places ahead of September 2021 school entry. (Standing item within the work programme)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marian Lavelle, Head of Admissions and Pupil Benefits, HLT • Annie Gammon, Director of Education and Head of HLT 	
	<p>It is a statutory requirement for members to review the sufficiency of childcare in their local authority area and a report is produced every two years. The Commission to review an update for this year 2021 in light of the impact of Covid 19. (Standing item within the work programme)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Well-being • Tim Wooldridge, Early Years Strategy Manager • Annie Gammon, Director of Education and Head of HLT 	
	<p>Pupil Attainment: Annual Review of performance of educational attainment in Hackney. Usual scrutiny is not possible due to the impact of Covid and school closures and use of school assessments instead of exams. Update and overview.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Hall, Head of School Improvement • Annie Gammon, Director of Education and Head of HLT 	
	<p>Development of new CYP Work Programme for 2021/22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission/ Scrutiny officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consult local stakeholders • Meet with service Directors • Collate topic suggestions

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Meeting 2	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p>Meeting Date: Monday 12th July</p> <p>Papers deadline: 29/6/21</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 2/7/21</p>	<p>Ofsted Inspection Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to receive and update on progress to meet the recommendations from Ofsted. - To note changes to the Hackney Unit model of Social Work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children’s Social Care ● Annie Coyle, Interim Director of Children's Social Care 	
	<p>Commissioning Independent SEND Provision to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the commissioning framework for independent SEND provision; - Quality monitoring and outcomes; - Arrangements for financial and contract monitoring. Commissioned; - Costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fran Cox, Head of High Needs and School Place ● Joe Wilson, Head of SEND ● Wendy Edwards, SEND Contracts Consultant ● Annie Gammon, Director of Education 	
	<p>CFS Budget Monitoring: review of CFS budget for year end to March 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Naeem Ahmed, Director of Finance Children, Education, Adults, Health & Integration ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children’s Social Care 	
	<p>CYP Work Programme 2021/22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Martin Bradford, Scrutiny Officer / Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Details of all topic suggestions circulated to members and published in the agenda. ● Arrange meetings with senior officers to scope out work items.

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Meeting 3	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Meeting Date: October 6th 2021 Papers deadline: 12.00 27/9/21 Agenda dispatch: 28/9/21	<u>Outcome of Ofsted Focused Visit July 2021).</u> To review the outcome and service response to the Ofsted focused visit of services for Children in Need Children on a Child Protection Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Education & Children’s Services ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children’s Social Care 	- Publication of report timing in preparation for the meeting - expected 7th September 2021.
	<u>Outcome of HMI Probation Inspection of Youth Justice Services</u> To review the outcome and service response to the HMI Probation Inspection visit in July 2021. Service update to be considered alongside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pauline Adams, Principal Head of Service, Early Help and Prevention ● Brendan Finnegan, Service Manager Youth Justice ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children’s Social Care 	- Publication of report timing in preparation for the meeting.
	<u>Early Years Strategy</u> (and reconfiguration of Children’s Centres). The Early Years Strategy was confirmed at Cabinet in September 2021 and Hackney Education is now consulting on the planned reconfiguration of Children's Centres (to mid Nov 2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annie Gammon, Director of Education ● Donna Thomas, Head of Early Years, Early Help & Well-being 	
	CYP Work Programme 2021/22: updated version from July 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scrutiny Officer / Commission 	

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Meeting 4	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Officers
<p>Meeting Date: November 1st 2021</p> <p>Papers deadline: 19th October 2021</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 22nd October 2021</p>	<p><u>Early Years Strategy & Reconfiguration of children’s centres:</u> To hear from parents and carers of children impacted by the proposed closure of two children’s (Fernbank/Hillside) to contribute to the Commission's formal response to the consultation on the Early Years Strategy.</p>	
	<p><u>School Estates Strategy:</u> a review of how the Council will manage its maintained education estate in relation to projected falling pupil rolls and increased demand for in-borough SEND provision.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the CYP Scrutiny Commission to contribute to this review before its finalisation by the Executive (December 2021) in relation to principles for reform, prospective impact on services and for young people and their families and service budgets.</p> <p>As part of this scrutiny exercise it would be useful to understand the demographic of children with SEND who are currently supported in mainstream educational settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Gammon, Director of Education • Fran Cox, Head of High Needs & School Places • Joe Wilson, Head of SEND
	<p><u>Early Help Strategy:</u> a review of the Council’s early help offer which has incorporated Family Support, Targeted Support, Young Hackney and Children’s Centres.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the CYP Scrutiny Commission to contribute to this review before its finalisation by the Executive (January 2022) in relation to principles for reform, prospective impact on services and for young people and their families and service budgets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Education and Children’s Services
	<p>CYP Work Programme 2021/22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Officer

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Meeting 5	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p>Meeting Date: 6th December 2021</p> <p>Papers deadline: 23rd November 2021</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 26th November 2021</p>	<p><u>Hackney Education Service Budget Monitoring:</u> To review in-year spending within the Directorate. (Standing item)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naeem Ahmed, Director of Finance Children, Education, Adults, Health & Integration • Annie Gammon, Director of Education 	
	<p><u>Cabinet Q & A:</u> Cllr Caroline Woodley Annual Question Time for the Cabinet member for Families, early years, parks and play. (Standing item)</p> <p>Focus is on SEMH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cabinet member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play. 	Topics to be scrutinised to be agreed 6 weeks in advance of the meeting in consultation with CYP SC (25th October 2021)
	<p><u>School Exclusions Final Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To agree and confirm recommendations of the Commission's investigation; - To agree on follow up monitoring arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission 	
	CYP Work Programme 2021/22	- Scrutiny Officer	- To review and monitor progress.

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Meeting 6	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p>Meeting Date: 19th January 2022</p> <p>Papers deadline: 7th January 2022</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 11th January 2022</p>	<p><u>Sexual Harassment in Schools</u>: to receive a report on the nature and level of sexual harassment recorded in local schools and the support provided to young people affected and those efforts to prevent this in the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Gammon, Director of Education • City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership • Local Head Teachers - tbc 	
	<p><u>Unregistered Educational Settings</u>: a brief update from Hackney Education Service and City & Hackney Safeguarding Partnership on previous recommendations of the Commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Gamble, The Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner • Rory McAllum, Senior Professional Leader, CHSCP • Annie Gammon, Director of Education • Chris Roberts, Head of Wellbeing & Education Safeguarding 	
	<p><u>City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Annual Report</u>: With a focused discussion on how to address adultification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Gamble, The Independent Child Safeguarding Commissioner • Rory McAllum, Senior Professional Leader, CHSCP 	Meeting with CHSCP to agree scope and focus of this item
	<p><u>Adolescents Entering Care</u>: to discuss and agree the Scoping Report for the Commission's planned review for 2021/22.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview & Scrutiny Officer/ Members of the Commission 	
	<p>CYP Work Programme 2021/22</p>	Scrutiny Officer	To review and monitor progress

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Meeting 7	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Meeting Date: 28th February 2022 Papers deadline: 15th February 2022	<u>Addressing Racial Inequalities across Children's Services</u> HE and CFS to update on work to address racial inequalities and disproportionality: - Strategies, plans and priorities for CFS & HE - Workforce data - CFS, HE and local schools; - How antiracist strategies inform local practice - Baseline data to assess impact - How LBH leads across local partnerships to address issues like adultification; - Outline of governance / infrastructure on how this work is being overseen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Care ● Annie Gammon, Director of Education ● Jacquie Burke, Group Director Education and Children's Services ● Jo Larkin 	Further clarify focus and reporting requirements with Directors by December 2021
Agenda dispatch: 18th February 2022	<u>Children and Families Services Annual Report.</u> To report on the full outturn of children's social care activity for the year end March 2021 (Standing item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Education and Children's Services ● Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Care 	
	<u>Parental Substance Misuse</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shawn Bent, Substance Misuse Team Leader ● John Hart, Young Hackney Service Manager ● Pauline Adams, Principal Head of Early Help and Prevention ● Piers Henrique, Chief Executive, NACOA 	
	CYP Work Programme 2021/22	Scrutiny Officer	

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Meeting 8	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Meeting Date: 14th March 2022	<u>Parental involvement in education</u> : Hackney Education to report on the project to enable parents to be more involved with local schools, colleges and their children's education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie Gammon, Director of Education Project Worker (TBC) 	
	<u>School Improvement Partners</u> : the role of school improvement partners in improving quality provision and closing the attainment gap between pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie Gammon, Director of Education School Improvement Partners 	<i>Meet school improvement partners ahead of the meeting</i>
Papers deadline: 2nd March 2022	<u>Cabinet Q & A</u> : Cllr Anntionette Bramble, Annual Question Time for the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for education, young people and children's social care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Anntionette Bramble 	<u>Focus on CAMHS</u> Waiting Times Service Access Marginal Groups
Agenda dispatch: 4th March 2022	<u>Work Programme Review 2021/22</u> ; members to feedback on scrutiny work programme for the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the Commission 	
	<u>Children's Centre Consultation Report</u> Outcome of children centre consultation	To note	
	<u>Post 16 SEND Strategy</u> HE response to Commission's recommendations.	To note	
	CYP Work Programme 2021/22	Scrutiny Officer	To review and monitor progress

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Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission (jointly with CYP Scrutiny)

Meeting A	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
<p>Meeting date:</p> <p><u>October 11th 2021</u></p>	<p>Disparities in Maternal Mental Health Outcomes: session to explore the current position in relation to maternal emotional mental health screening, disparities in diagnosis and treatment and the possible problems created downstream when this issue is not adequately addressed early on.</p> <p>(60 mins)</p>	<p>a) Context and background briefing paper - Amy Wilkinson (Workstream Director - Public Health)</p> <p>b) Overview of existing provision (ideally in briefing paper) - Ellie Duncan (CYP&M Workstream in Integrated Commissioning CCG-LBH-Col)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health Visitors Service - ELFT Perinatal Service - HUHFT maternity services? - Family Nurse Partnership (antenatal support for under 25s) - Maternity Voices Partnership (replacement for Maternity Services Liaison Cttee?) including BME subgroup and Charedi subgroup <p>Who else??</p> <p>c) Clinical overview - Clinical Psychiatrist from ELFT Perinatal Service (name TBC)</p> <p>d) Service user/support group lead - Representative from the BME Sub Group of the Maternity Voices Partnership (name TBC) to provide a service user input.</p> <p>e) Q&A led by the Councillors</p>	

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With Skills, Economy & Growth Scrutiny Commission (jointly with CYP Scrutiny)

Meeting B	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Skills, Economy & Growth Commission meeting date: <u>December 15th 2021</u>	Priorities, policies and approach to developing cleaner and greener transport for Hackney for 2022 and beyond.	As part of the session the SEG Commission will aim to hear from CYP about their views of cleaner and greener transport. The Commission to work with HYP to facilitate engagement with young people and conduct other focus groups where necessary.	

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission (jointly with CYP Scrutiny)

Meeting C	Item title and scrutiny objective	Directorate – Division – Officer Responsibility	Preparatory work to support item
Living in Hackney Meeting Date: <u>24th February 2021</u>	Housing support for young people leaving care. What are the housing options for young people leaving (or about to leave) care and seeking accommodation in Hackney and elsewhere? What is the council doing to increase housing supply and options for this vulnerable group of young people?	Local Policy & Practice: Corporate Parenting Team, Housing Supply and Housing Strategy Care Leavers: Focus Group and participants. Site Visits to semi-independent accommodation Comparative assessments: LB Lambeth and LB Islington	Scoping this item: Meeting with Housing Needs and Corporate Parenting (completed) Meeting with Housing supply Prepare brief and agree with Chairs and Officers.

Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2021/22

Long list of scrutiny issues from suggestions (to be added if space develops in the programme or added to next year)	
Supporting children in temporary accommodation, particularly those placed outside the borough. Is there any impact on the consistency or coordination of education, care or support available to such children? What disproportionalities are there in this cohort and how does this impact/ drive delivery?	
Contextual Safeguarding - implementation and embedding of this across the council and partner agencies.	Possible incorporation with review of adolescents in care
Young Futures Commission: implementation of YFC recommendations? The YFC is currently being reconfigured and an update on progress/ plans.	
Integrated Commissioning (CYP and Maternity Services) - usually taken as a joint item on HiH agenda (not scheduled for 2021/22)	
Impact of Covid on the mental health of young people	Possible focus for Cabinet Q & A
Effectiveness of Kickstart in supporting young people back into work -providing high quality opportunities	
Careers guidance and support	
Post 16 selectivity in schools and 6th Forms - intentions.	



Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission March 14th 2022 Item 10 - Minutes	Item No 10
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Outline

The minutes of the meetings held on 19th January 2022 and 28th February 2022 were not available for this meeting and would be presented at the next meeting.

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