

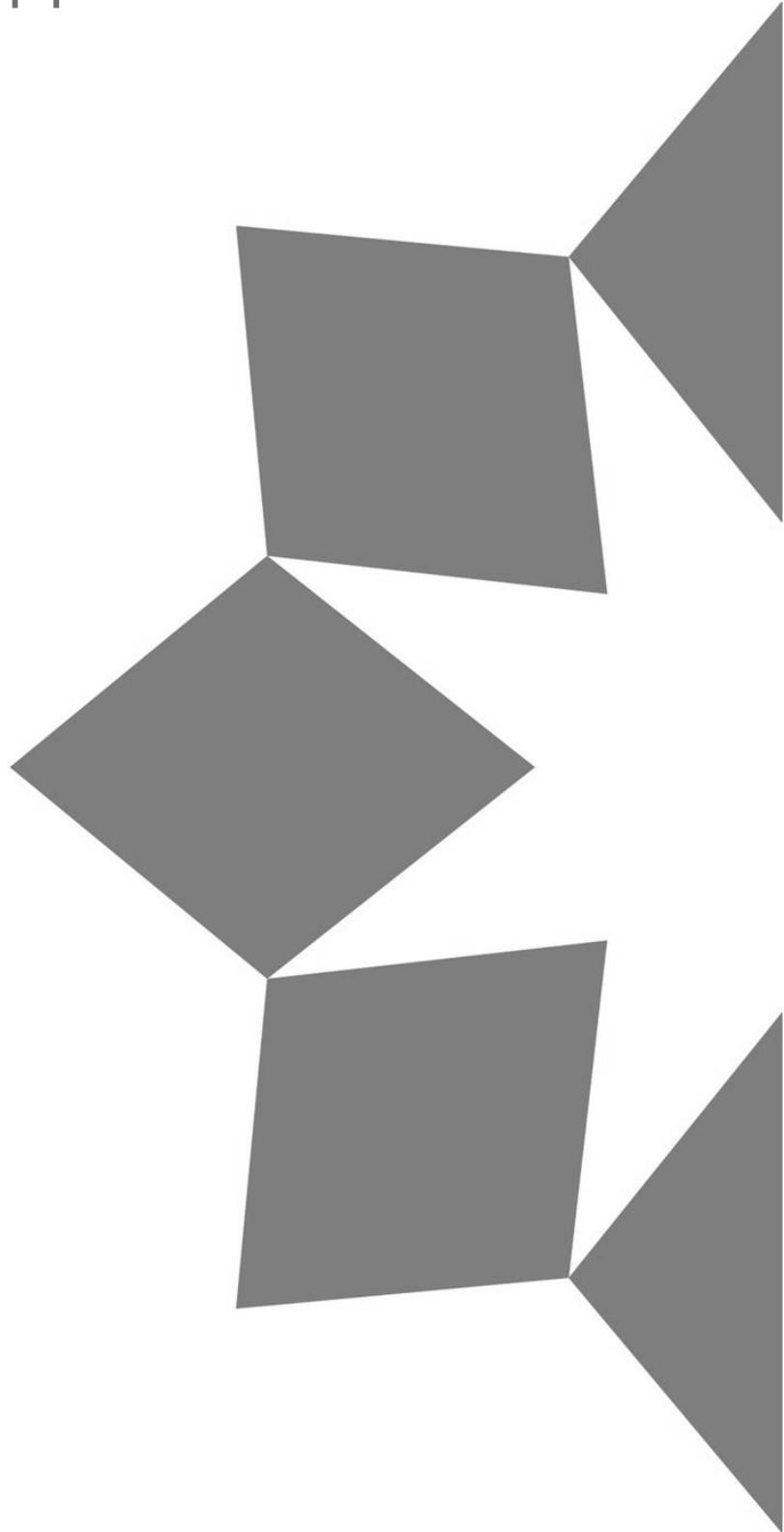


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**Homes to School
Transport Policy**

Kent County Council

**Final report
May 2023**



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Project details

Project details	
Title	Homes to School Transport Policy Consultation 2023
Client	Kent County Council
Project number	22245
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Executive summary

In early 2023 Kent County Council (KCC) sought to consult residents on:

- a transport policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16 to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year, and
- post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

In addition, the consultation was used as an opportunity to gather feedback on the council's Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and/or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The public consultation took place over an 8-week period: 25 January 2023 – 21 March 2023. This report has been produced to provide an overview of the findings and an understanding of the sentiment of interested parties in relation to the policies.

A total of 349 consultation responses were received. 347 respondents completed the consultation questionnaire and two responded by email.

Key headlines

Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 - 16

Just under three quarters (73%) of respondents feel that the Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 – 16 is clear. A minority of one in ten (10%) suggest that it is not clear.

78% of respondents agree with the proposal of automatically approving transport to alternative addresses where there is zero cost to KCC, whilst 7% disagree.

Three quarters (73%) also agree that ensuring full support for pupils where KCC as the corporate parent has responsibility for providing the best possible care, with just 7% in disagreement.

Two thirds (68%) are in agreement that KCC should provide automatic eligibility for younger siblings where KCC members have upheld appeal for an older sibling with the same circumstances, with 15% disagreeing.

71% agree that KCC should formalise the Personal Transport Budget scheme and make it available to eligible mainstream students, with 8% disagreeing.

68% also agree that KCC should provide automatic eligibility for a younger sibling who attends the same school as an older entitled sibling, but otherwise would not be entitled to

free school transport. 15% disagree with this, one of the highest figures from the statements provided.

Finally, 59% agree that KCC should allow schools to support their own entitled pupils more easily by school led transport arrangements, with 15% disagreeing.

Cycle Bursary Scheme

When presented with the details of a potential cycle bursary scheme, 13% of respondents said that this is something that would be of interest to them/their children. However, the majority (71%) stated this would not be of interest to them.

Post 16 Transport Policy statements

Just under half (48%) of respondents commented resistance to provisions being reduced when asked about the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023-24. 22% also stated concerns around affordability or alternatives on offer. It's important to note that there are no proposed changes for 2023/24, so the answers given in this section are likely a reflection of the 2024 proposals

2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

Proposal 1: 25% of respondents agree with the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including those with SEND whilst 68% disagree.

Proposal 2: 28% of respondents agree with the removal of additional drop off and collection times for Post 16 pupils, whilst over half (54%) disagree with this proposal.

Proposal 3: 32% of respondents agree with the introduction of qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new courses started after their 19th birthday, whilst over half (53%) disagree.

Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for Pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND

Around three in ten (31%) respondents agree with how KCC propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services, with 11% strongly agreeing. 23% express disagreement, with 16% strongly disagreeing. Just under half (45%) neither agree nor disagree, which may suggest that this area of service delivery may not be relevant for all consultation respondents.

Introduction

In early 2023, Kent County Council (KCC) sought to consult residents on:

- a transport policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16 to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year, and
- post 16 Transport Policy Statements for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

In addition, the consultation was used as an opportunity to gather feedback on the council's Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and/or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Home to School Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16

KCC's transport policy is currently expressed via a combination of formal statutory duties, Member decisions and parental guidance. KCC have now combined these into a cohesive transport policy, to ensure full transparency and provide a single reference point for decision making.

The draft Home to School Transport Policy explains how KCC will identify who meets the national criteria for free home to school transport for all mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupils aged 4 to 16, and highlights KCC's commitment to provide suitable transport. It also explains what additional transport support KCC will provide and how the council will deliver it. The Policy is planned to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year.

The draft Policy:

- brings together existing guidance and provides information on how procedures work so that KCC are being as transparent as possible
- reinforces the support that KCC provides to children in their care (looked after children), ensuring that KCC fulfil the full extent of their corporate parenting responsibilities
- aims to reduce the administrative burden that parents may face when securing transport for their children, which in turn will help KCC make better use of resources
- incorporates how KCC will fulfil their legal duties to identify pupils aged between 4 to 16 who are entitled to free school transport and provide them with suitable arrangements to get to school, ready to learn
- explains how and where KCC can take a family's personal circumstances into account and how decisions for additional support will be considered
- highlights alternatives to placing entitled children in KCC provided vehicles
- explains the appeals process for when applicants disagree with their child's assessment.

Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

No changes are being proposed for the 2023-24 Statement. However, the Department for Education requires KCC to consult each year, regardless of any changes, to ensure the Statement provides a full picture of the available transport and support.

KCC are also consulting on the 2024-25 Statement, which includes support for 19+ learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) as it proposes a number of changes and KCC want parents and students to be able to consider these when making decisions about education for that year. The main changes proposed are to:

- remove the discretionary provision of wholly free Post 16 transport for learners with SEND
- remove of the discretionary provision of additional drop off and collection times for Post 16 learners to accommodate partial attendance
- introduce qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new education courses started after their 19th birthday.

A full breakdown of the areas covered and proposed changes can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy.

Consultation process

Public consultation

The public consultation took place over an 8-week period: 25 January 2023 – 21 March 2023. M·E·L Research, an independent social research agency was commissioned by KCC to collate, analyse and report on the consultation responses received via KCC's Let's Talk Kent engagement website.

To raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation, the following activity was undertaken:

- Emails to stakeholders including head teachers, FE providers, bus operators and other school transport providers, such as taxis.
- Email/letter to all parents of year 10, 11 and post 16 students with an EHCP.
- Invite on the launch of the consultation to 8,957 **Let's talk Kent** registered users who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of consultation regarding transport, education, young people and children and families and a reminder email to 9,480 users on 13 March.
- Media release - <https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/consultation-opens-on-kccs-home-to-school-transport-policy>
- Reviewed consultation materials and policy with Kent PACT and developed parental engagement strategy through their communication channels
- Promoted by Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) through their newsletter, website and Facebook page.
- Promoted through KCC's resident e-newsletter, SEND newsletter and Kelsi e-bulletin and intranet.
- Posters provided to bus operators to display on buses.
- Posters displayed in libraries and Gateways and feature on home screen of public computers in libraries.
- Promotional banners added to Kent.gov homepage and relevant service pages.
- Social media via KCC's corporate Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Nextdoor accounts and paid targeted Facebook adverts.
- Promotion through KCC's intranet.
- All consultation material included details of how people could contact KCC to ask a question, request hard copies or alternative format.

- A Word version of the questionnaire was provided on the consultation webpage for people who did not wish to complete the online version. A Freepost address was provided for any hard copy responses.
- Large print, easy read and audio versions of the consultation material were available from the consultation webpage and on request.

The Head of Fair Access also attended Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) on 11 March 2023. KYCC members were given an overview of the legislation that informs each Council's formal responsibilities for home to school transport and how this is delivered in Kent. The content and scope of the consultation was then discussed.

Following this session, a number of young people took part in a focus group with the Head of Fair Access to discuss their thoughts in more detail. Suggestions for further changes to KCC's transport policies were explored, including discussions about how legislation limits some potential for adaptation. The delivery of the consultation was also covered, which provided some helpful suggestions on how to encourage more young people to take part. Participants acknowledged that while the proposals had the potential to provide a less generous offer to some families, these changes had been designed to minimise this impact.

A summary of engagement with the consultation webpage, material and social media can be found below:

- 7,510 visits to the consultation webpage by 6,748 visitors.
- 2,018 document downloads, including 1,219 downloads of the Consultation Document, 381 downloads of the Home to School Policy, 192 downloads of the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2023-24 and 97 downloads of the 2024-25 Statement.
- Organic posts had a reach of 21,531 on Facebook and 939 on Instagram. There were 8,572 impressions on Twitter and 1,242 on LinkedIn. Reach refers to the number of people who saw a post at least once and impressions are the number of times the post is displayed on someone's screen. The posts generated approximately 760 clicks through to the consultation webpage. (Not all social media platforms report the same statistics.)
- Paid Facebook advertising had a reach of 27,320, which resulted in 784 clicks on the link to consultation webpage. Post impressions totalled 115,730.

Online questionnaire responses

An online questionnaire was hosted at the consultation page: www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy. The webpage also included:

- Draft Home to School Policy
- Draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25
- Consultation document, providing an overview of the draft policies, including details of the proposed changes

- Easy read, large print and audio versions
- Equality Impact Assessments

A total of 347 respondents gave feedback to the consultation questionnaire, a breakdown of which can be seen below. A full profile of respondents is also provided in the next section of this report.

Table 1: Breakdown of respondents to the online questionnaire by interest group

	Total
Parent/Carer	285
Student	13
Other capacity	49
Total	347

Reporting conventions

Owing to the rounding of numbers, percentages displayed visually on graphs or charts in the report may not always add up to 100% and may differ slightly when compared with the text. The figures provided in the text should always be used. For some questions, respondents could give more than one response (multi choice). For these questions, the percentage for each response is calculated as a percentage of the total number of respondents and therefore percentages do not add up to 100%.

The consultation findings have been reported overall, combining results from the different interest groups, school ages and other demographic information. Base sizes are generally shown in brackets. Please note, any subgroup base sizes lower than 30 should be taken as an indicative result only. Where questions have a sample base that is lower than 15, results have been displayed in numbers rather than percentages as to not mislead the reader about the robustness of these findings.

The response received via a Word copy of the questionnaire has been added to the online responses for analysis. Two responses were also sent to KCC via email. These responses related to proposal 1 for the 2024-25 Transport Policy Statement. They have been analysed alongside the questionnaire responses and included in this report.

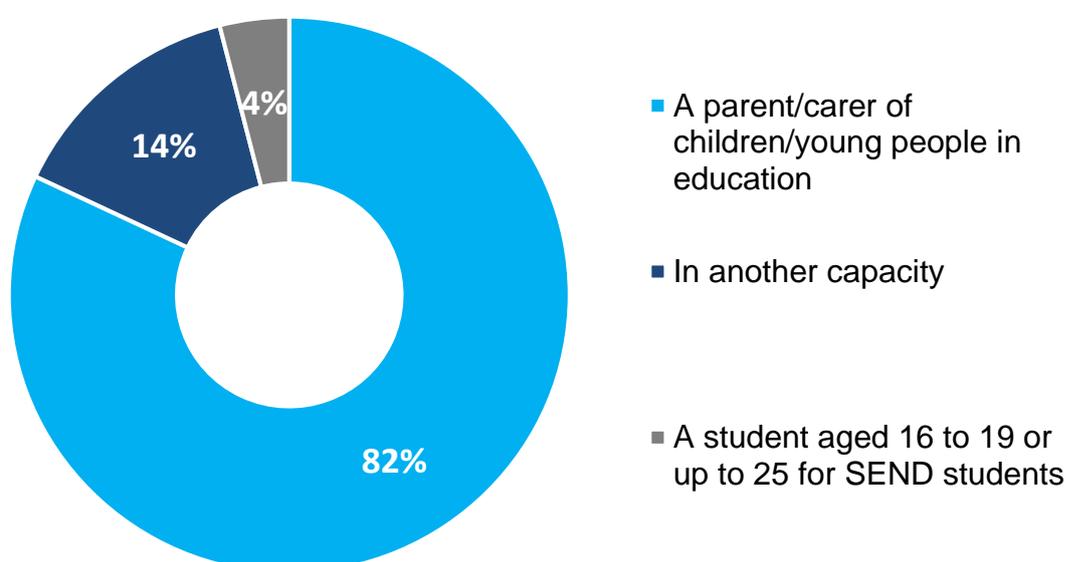
Profile of responses

This section of the report provides a breakdown of respondents as per the first section of the online questionnaire, which can be found in full in the appendix.

Interested groups

More than four in five (82%) respondents to the consultation are parents/carers of children or young people in education, with over one in ten (14%) 'in another capacity'. 4% are students aged 16 to 19, or up to 25 (for SEND students). As such, the views expressed in this report are predominantly from parents/carers.

Figure 1: Q1 - Are you responding as ...? (All responses)



Sample base size: 347

The multi-faceted nature of this consultation and the specific eligibility criteria for some of the policy aspects required us to ask multiple questions about the respondent in order for us to establish their likely perspective and to help ensure that they were asked the appropriate consultation questions. The responses to these questions are provided in full below in order to provide:

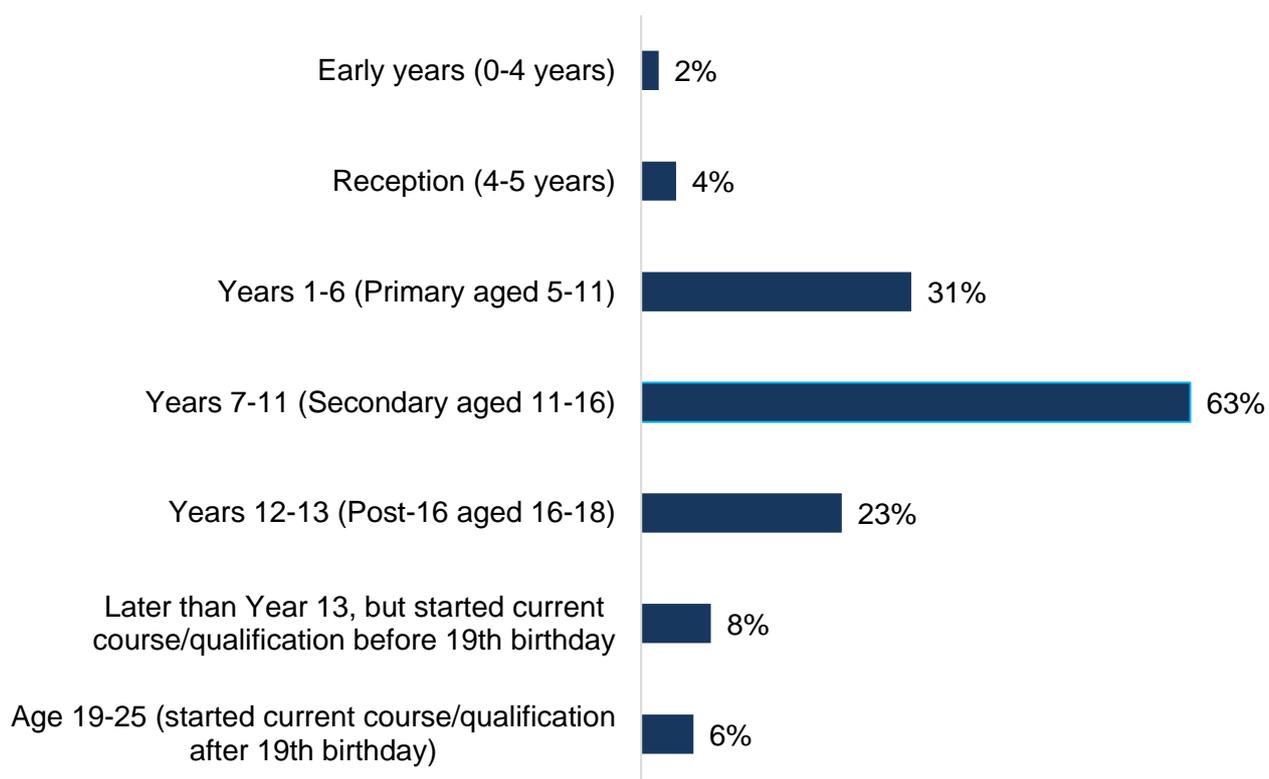
- a) A profile of responding parents and carers
- b) A profile of responding students
- c) A profile of the other stakeholders who have chosen to engage with the consultation.

Parent or Carer response profile

Student age groups

6% of respondents have a child in either early years (2%) or reception (4%). The majority of parental/carer responses have come from those with children in secondary education, with 63% having children in Years 7-11 and 23% having children in Years 12 -13.

Figure 2: Q1b. Please select the age groups that apply to your children/young people....? (All responses)



Sample base size: 283

Free school travel

Among parent/carer respondents, the majority of those with reception and/or primary aged children do not currently receive free KCC organised transport. For those with reception years children, a quarter (25%) receive free KCC transport, as do 28% of those with primary aged children. It's important to note that the policies being consulted on are for free school transport, so only 25% of respondents are affected by the proposals.

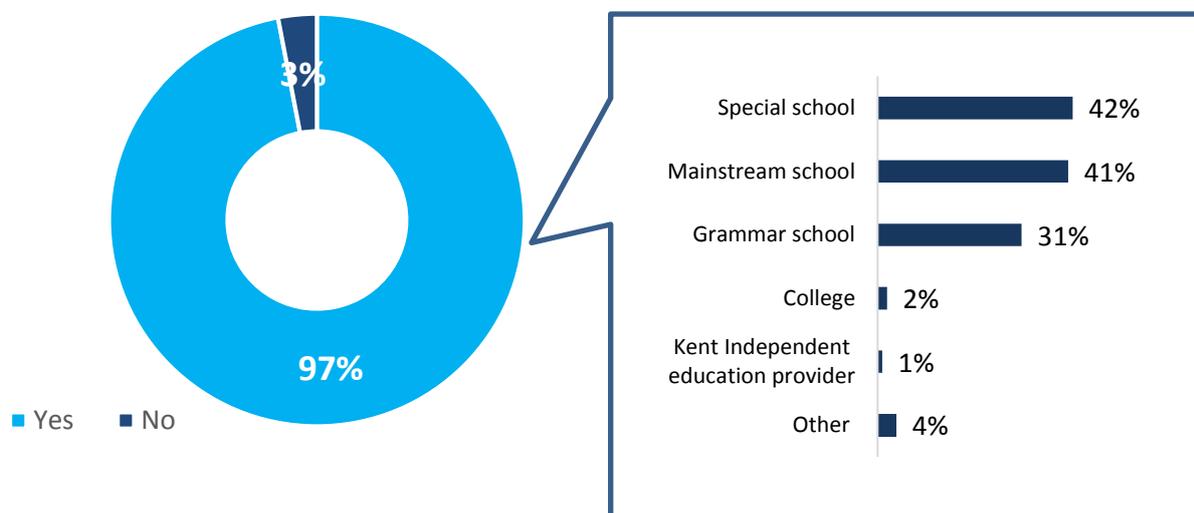
Table 2: Q1e. Do any of your Reception children receive free KCC organised transport? Q1e. Do any of your Primary aged children receive free KCC organised transport? (All responses)

Sample base in brackets	Early years children (6)	Reception years children (12)	Primary years children (89)
No	100%	75%	72%
Yes – 1 child	0%	25%	27%
Yes – 2 children	0%	0%	1%
Yes – 3+ children	0%	0%	0%
Summary: Yes	0%	25%	28%

Secondary/young people education in Kent

Almost all (97%) parents/carers state that they have children who attend a school or further education establishment within Kent. Of this cohort, 42% said their child(ren) attend a special school, 41% said they attend a mainstream school and 31% a grammar school.

Figure 3: Q1c. Do your Secondary aged children/young people attend a school or further education establishment in Kent? Q1c. Please select from the following (All responses)

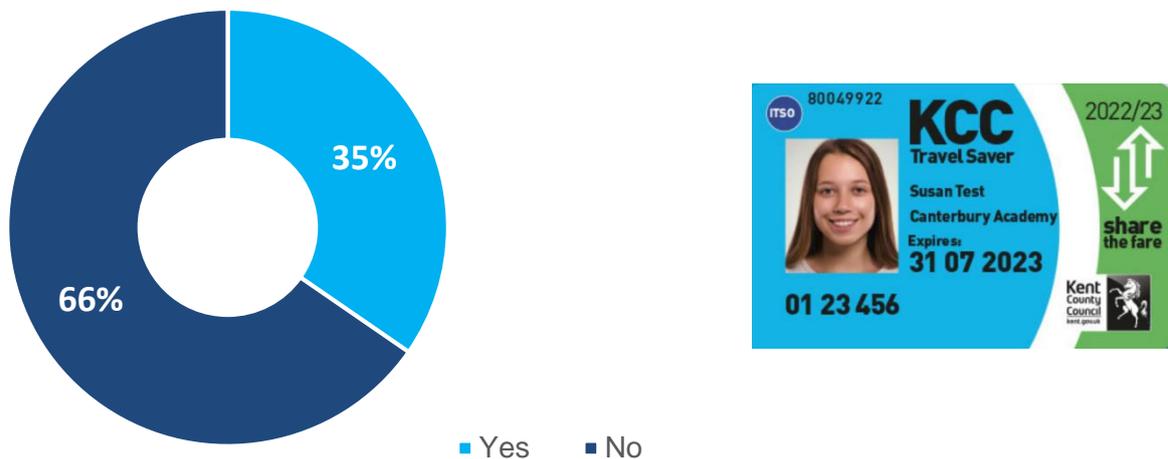


Sample base size: 176, 170

Secondary/young people: KCC Travel Saver pass

Among parents/carers of secondary aged children, 35% indicate that they have a secondary aged child currently using a KCC Travel Saver pass.

Figure 4: Q1d. Do your Secondary aged children currently use a KCC Travel Saver pass? (All responses)

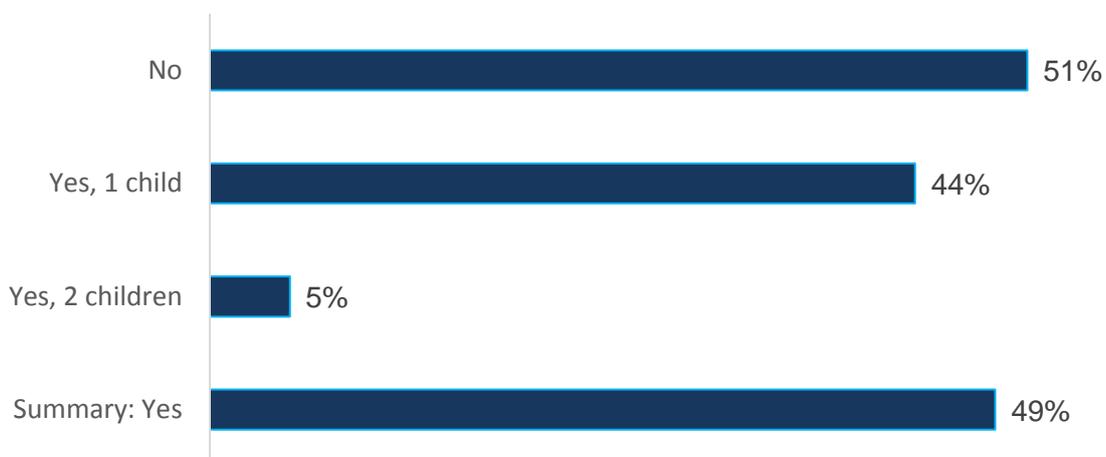


Sample base size: 179

Secondary/young people: free KCC organised transport

Half (51%) of parents/carers state that their secondary aged children do not currently receive free KCC organised transport. Of the 49% who do use this service, 44% say they have one child who does and 5% said they have two children who use the service.

Figure 5: Q1e. Do any of your Secondary aged children receive free KCC organised transport? (All responses)

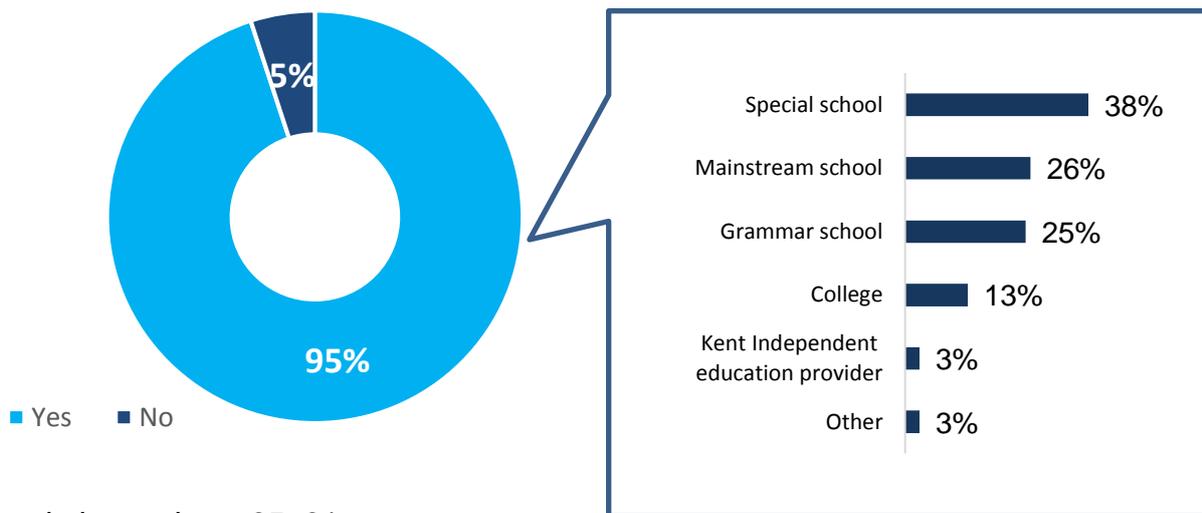


Sample base size: 179

Year 12 or 13 education within Kent

95% of parents/carers with child(ren) in year 12 or 13 said they go to a school or further education establishment in Kent. Of those that do, 38% go to a special school, 26% to a mainstream school, 25% to a grammar school, 13% go to college and 3% an independent education provider in Kent.

Figure 6: Q1c. Do your Year 12 or 13 children/young people attend a school or further education establishment in Kent? Q17. Please select from the following (All responses)

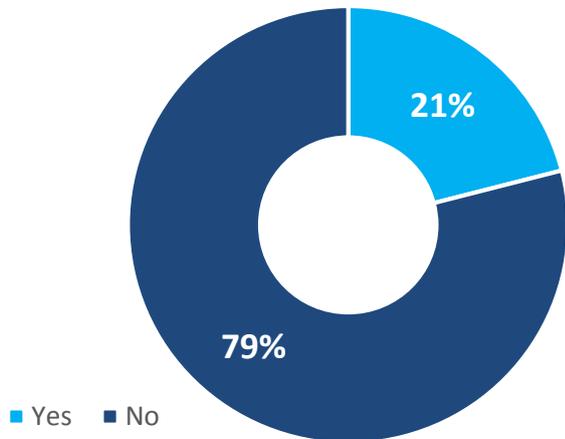


Sample base sizes: 65, 61

Year 12/13: KCC Travel Saver pass

Around a fifth (21%) of parents/carers with children in years 12 or 13 said they have a child that uses a KCC +16 Travel saver pass.

Figure 7: Q1d. Do your Year 12 or 13 young people currently use a KCC 16 + Travel Saver pass? (All responses)



Sample base size: 62

Year 12/13: free KCC organised transport

Over half (57%) of parents/carers with children in years 12 or 13 said their child does not receive free KCC organised transport. Of the 43% who do, 38% say they have 1 child who receives free KCC organised transport, and 5% said they have two children who receive this.

Figure 8: Q1e. Do any of your Year 12 or 13 young people receive free KCC organised transport? (All responses)



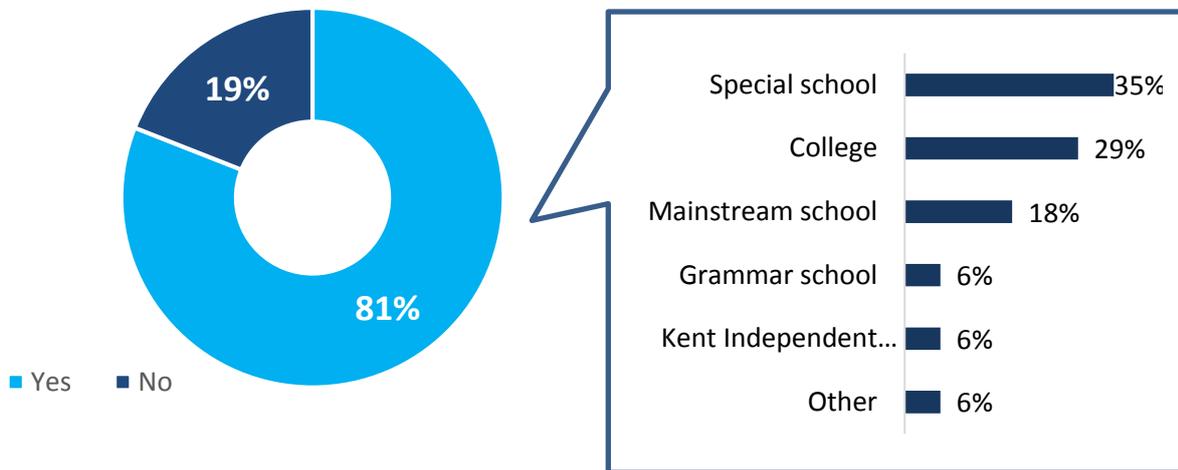
Sample base size: 65

Later than year 13 (but education started before 19th birthday) - education within Kent

81% of parents/carers with children in education over year 13 (who started before their 19th birthday) said their child goes to a school or further education establishment within Kent. Of those that do, 35% said they went to a special school, 29% a college, and 18% go to a

mainstream school. 6% stated they go to a grammar school and 6% an independent education provider in Kent. Please note the low bases size of respondents to this question.

Figure 9: Q1c. Do your children/young people (later than Year 13 but started their course before their 19th birthday) attend a school or further education establishment in Kent? Q1c. Please select from the following (All responses)



Sample base size: 21, 17

Later than year 13 (but education started before 19th birthday) free KCC organised transport

43% of parents/carers with a child later than year 13 but having started their course before their 19th birthday, said that their child does not have free KCC organised transport, with 57% saying they do for one child.

Figure 10: Q1e. Do any of your young people (later than Year 13 but started their course before their 19th birthday) receive free KCC organised transport? (All responses)

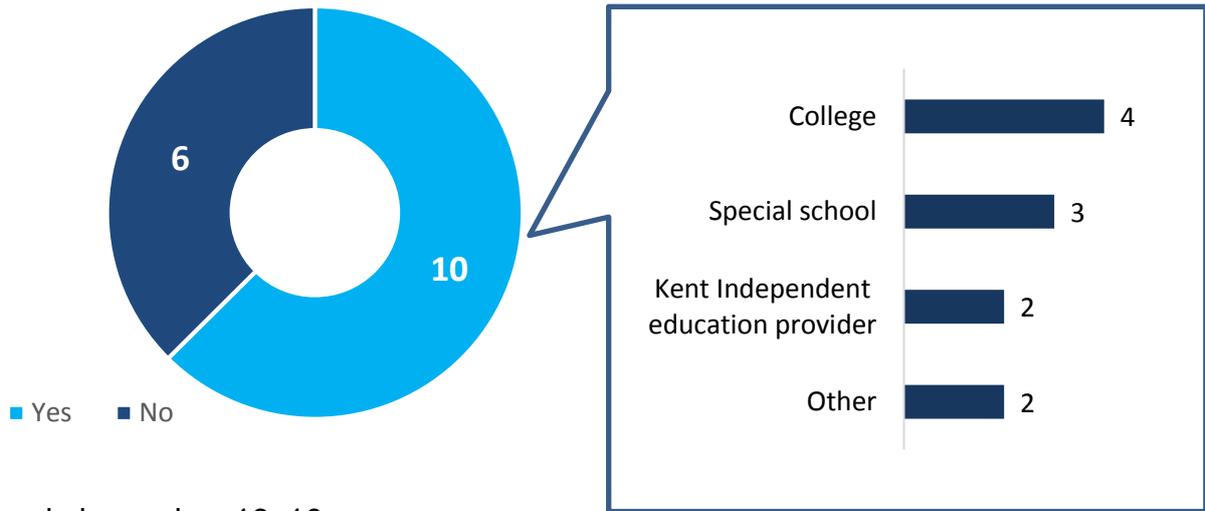


Sample base size: 21

19–25-year children in education within Kent

10 in 16 parents/carers with children aged 19-25 said their child goes to a school or further education establishment within Kent. Of those that do, 4 out of 10 said they go to college, 3 of 10 to a special school and 2 in 10 to an independent education provider in Kent.

Figure 11: Q1c. Do your 19 to 25 aged young people attend a school or further education establishment in Kent? Q1c. Please select from the following (All responses)

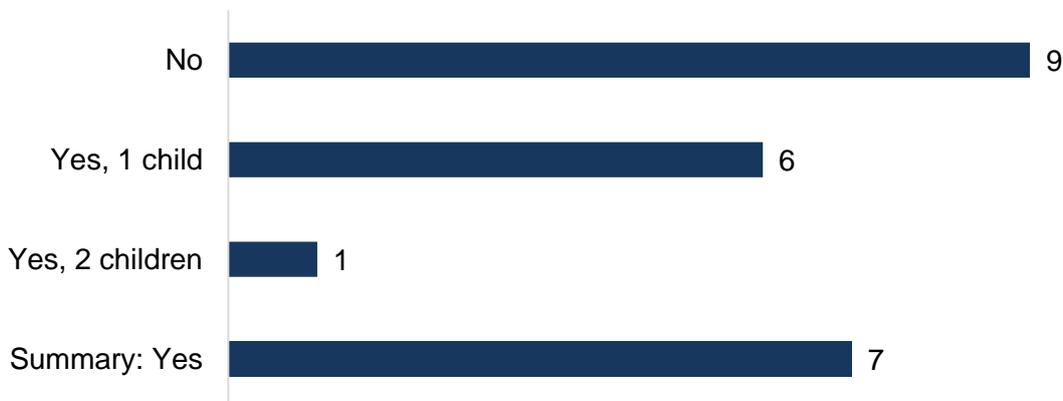


Sample base size: 16, 10

19–25-year children receiving free KCC organised transport

9 of 16 parents/carers with a child aged 19-25 said that their child does receive free KCC organised transport. Of the 7 who do so, 6 say one of their children do so, and 1 said they have two children who do so.

Figure 12: Q1e. Do any of your 19-25 year old young people receive free KCC organised transport? (All responses)

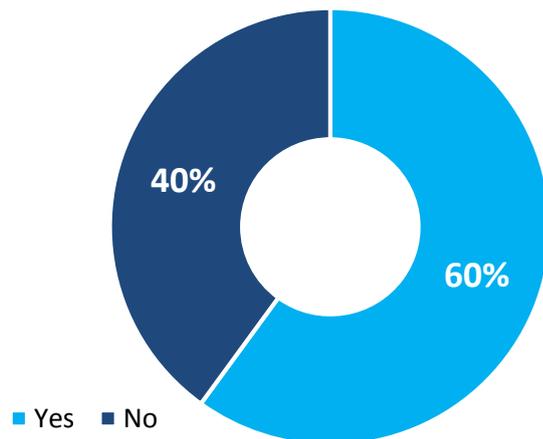


Sample base size: 16

Education, Health and Care Plan

Six in ten (60%) parents/carers responding to the consultation say they have a child/young person with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Figure 13: Q1f. Do any of your children/young people have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? (All responses)



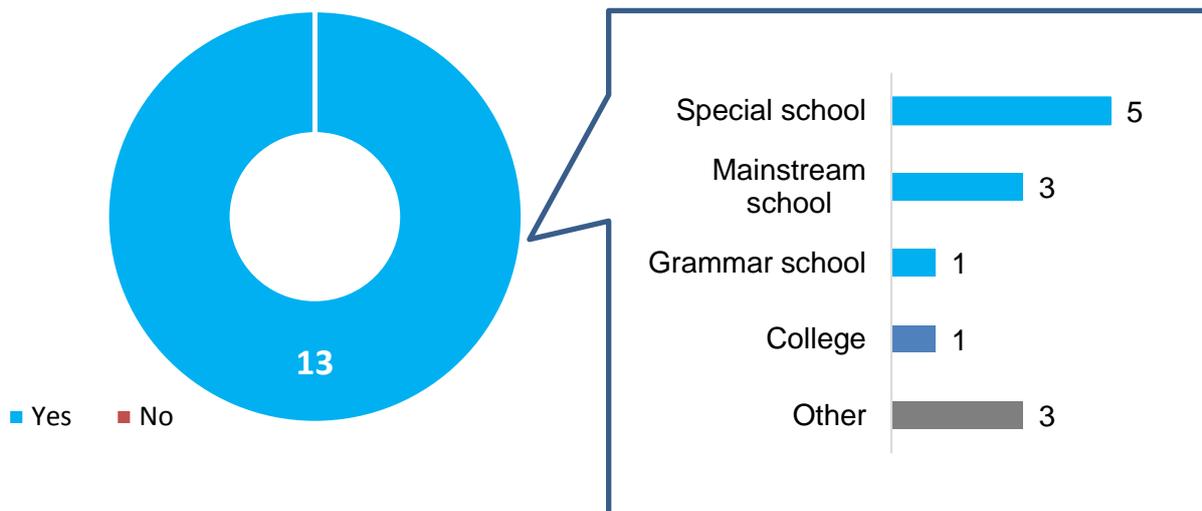
Sample base size: 285

Student response profile

Attendance in further education within Kent

All 13 students who responded said that they go to a school or place of further education within Kent. 5 of 13 said they go to a special school, 3 of 13 a mainstream school and 1 each saying they go to either a grammar school or college.

**Figure 14: Q2a. Do you attend a school or further education establishment in Kent?
Q2a. Please select from the following (All responses)**

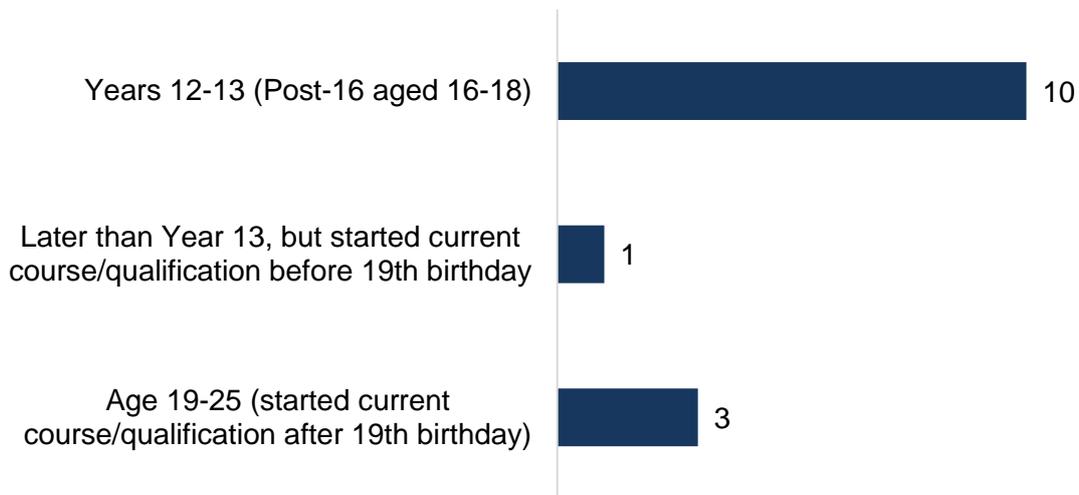


Sample base size: 13

Student age group

10 of 14 students said they are in years 12 or 13, 1 said they were later than year 13, but started their course before their 19th birthday. A further 3 students are aged 19-25 and started their course after their 19th birthday.

Figure 15: Q2c. Please select the age group you are in (All responses)

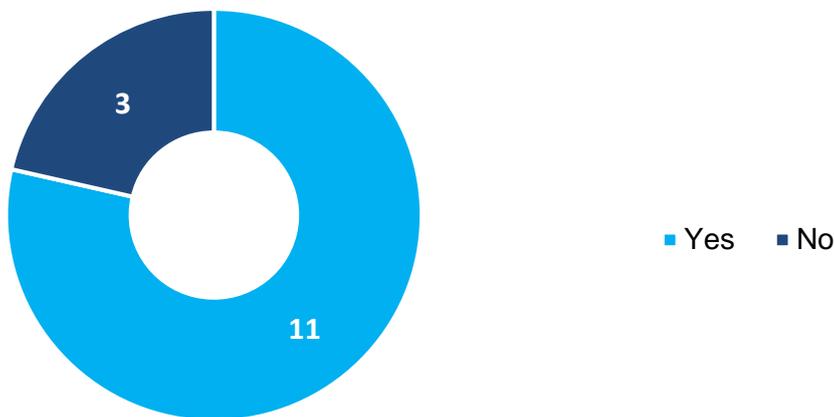


Sample base size: 14

Student Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

11 of 14 students said that they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities with an EHCP.

Figure 16: Q2. Do you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? (All responses)

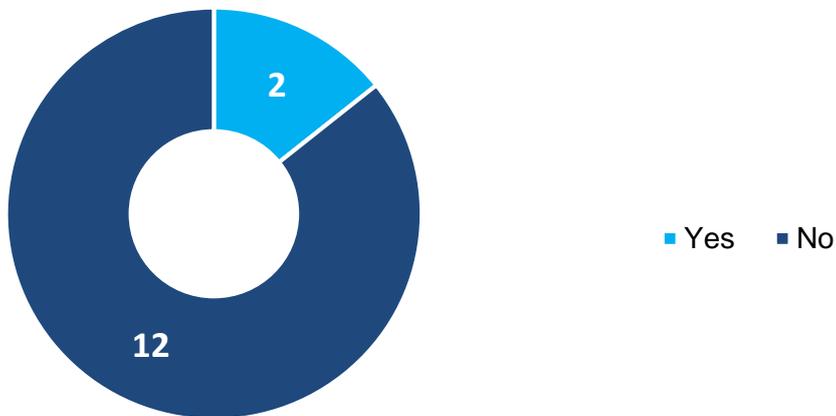


Sample base size: 14

Kent 16+ Travel Saver Pass

2 of 14 students said that they have a Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass.

Figure 17: Q2e. Do you currently use the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass? (All responses)

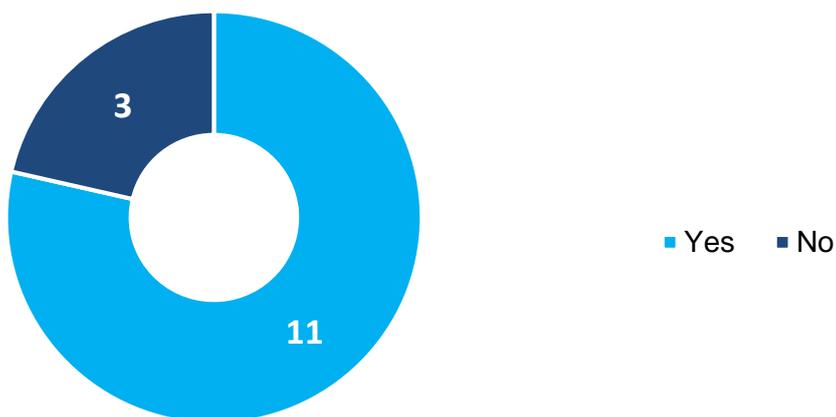


Sample base size: 14

Free KCC arranged transport

11 of 14 students said that they use arranged transport free of charge supplied by KCC.

Figure 18: Q2f. Do you use KCC arranged transport that is provided free of charge? (All responses)



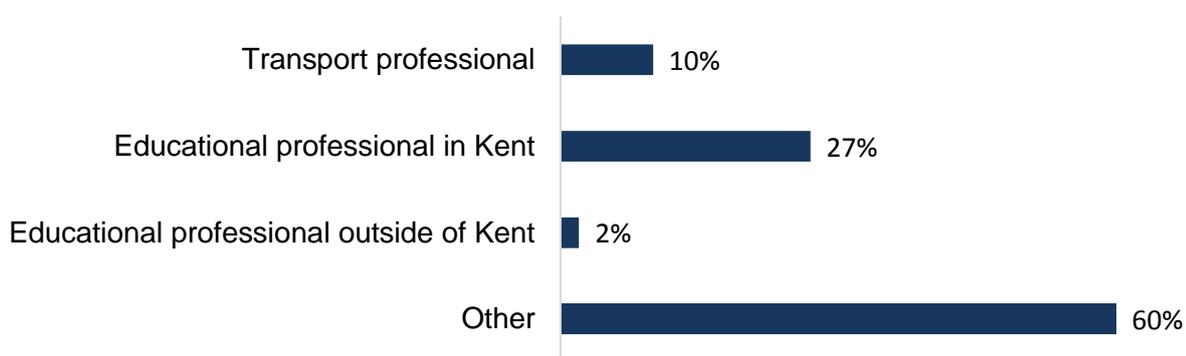
Sample base size: 14

Other stakeholders' response profiles

Occupation

Other stakeholders potentially interested or impacted by the Homes to School Transport or Post-16 policies were invited to take part to give their views on the consultation. Around a quarter (27%) stated they work in an educational profession within Kent, whilst 10% said they are a transport professional. 2% say they work in education outside of Kent. 60% said they were responding in another capacity

Figure 19: Q3. If you are responding in another capacity, please select from the following options (All responses)



Sample base size: 48

Education capacity

Of those working in education, 1 said they are a College teacher or other representative, whilst 2 said 'Other' which were a 'SEN teaching assistant' and 'Chair of Governors'. 1 respondent said they were a special school teacher or other representative outside of Kent.

Table 3: Q3. Please select from the following – Education within Kent Q45. Please select from the following – Education outside of Kent (All responses)

	Within Kent (13)	Outside of Kent (1)
Special school Head/teacher or another representative	2	1
College Head/teacher or another representative	2	0
Grammar school Head/teacher or another representative	1	0
Kent Independent education provider	1	0
Other	7	0

Of those that gave an answer of 'Other' regarding the capacity they were responding in, their self-descriptions are provided below.

Table 4: Q3. If you are responding in another capacity, please select from the following options - Other responses (All responses)

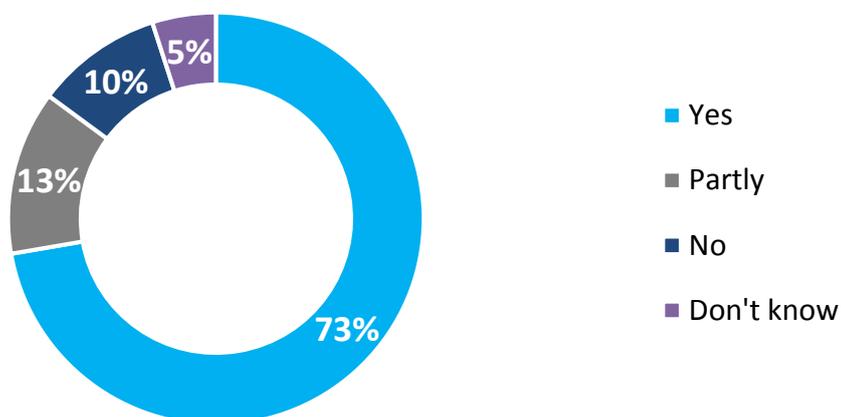
Descriptions of response capacity
I am a KCC registered foster carer for 16+
Member of the public
Grandparent
Parent of children that are now at university.
Interest Grandparent
Safety professional
Relative (great-uncle) of schoolchildren in Kent
Taxpayer
Concerned Citizen
Resident of Kent.
OAP
Grandparent/financial supporter of 2 children of school age

Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 - 16

This first section of consultation responses relates to the draft Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 – 16.

Initially, respondents were asked whether it was clear how this policy relates to them and their household who use transport to access education. In response, just under three quarters (73%) said they feel the policy is clear, with one in ten (10%) feeling it is not clear. 13% felt it was partly clear whilst 5% said they don't know.

Figure 20: Q4. Is it clear how this policy relates to you and those in your household who use transport to access education? (All responses)



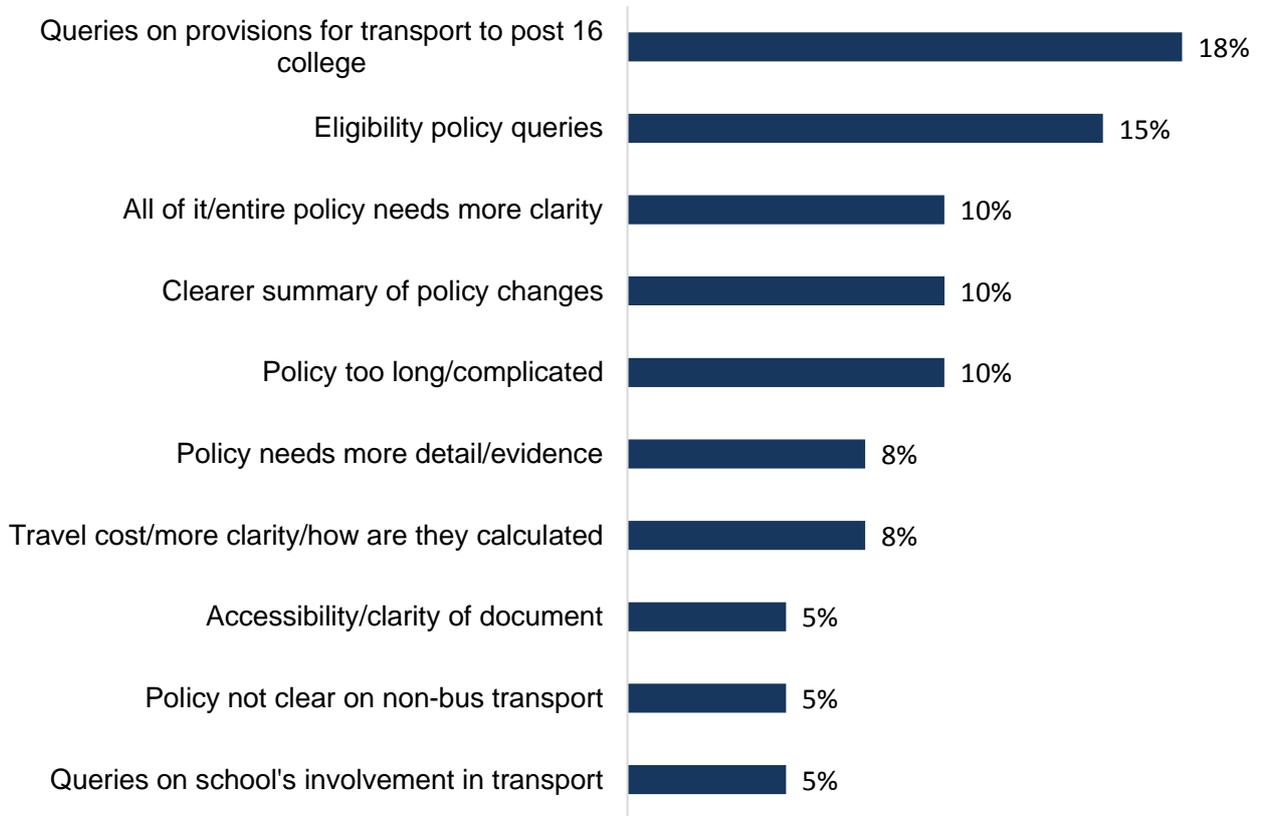
Sample base size: 261

Differences in views amongst sub-groups are shown below:

- Those with a **child in secondary school with free KCC transport** are significantly more likely to say it is **not clear how the policy relates to their household**, compared to those with a **child in secondary school who does not receive free KCC transport** (14% cf. 4%).
- Those with **no disability** are significantly more likely to find the policy clear on **how transport access relates to their household**, compared to those with a **disability** (80% cf. 64%).

Respondents who felt that the Transport Policy was not clear were asked to advise on how the Transport Policy could be made clearer. 18% had queries on the provisions in place for transport to post-16 college, whilst 15% questioned the eligibility rules around the policy. One in ten (10%) felt the policy needs more clarity generally, whilst 10% also felt a clearer summary was needed and that the policy was too long/complicated (10%).

Figure 21: Q4a. What part of the Transport Policy could be made clearer? (All responses)



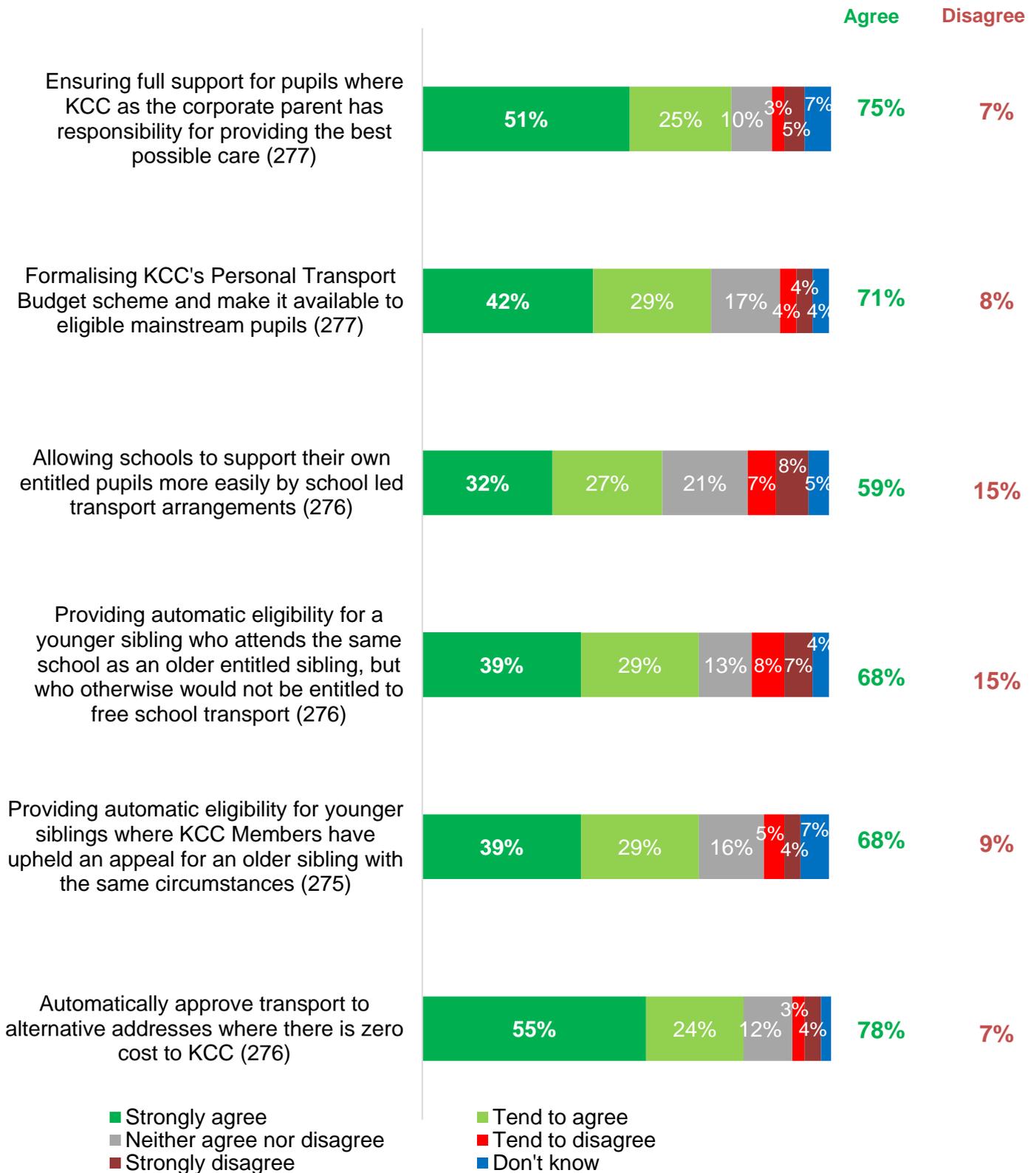
Sample base size: 40

Proposed improvements

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with six specific proposed improvements that are proposed to be incorporated into the new policy. The detailed responses to each are summarised in Figure 22 below.

- 78% of respondents agree that KCC should automatically approve transport to alternative addresses where there is zero cost to KCC, with over half (55%) strongly agreeing. Only 7% disagree with this.
- Three quarters (75%) agree with ensuring full support for pupils where KCC as the corporate parent has responsibility for providing the best possible care, with just over half (51%) strongly agreeing.
- Two thirds (68%) are in agreement that KCC should provide automatic eligibility for younger siblings where KCC Members have upheld an appeal for an older sibling with the same circumstances, with 39% strongly agreeing. Just under one in ten (9%) disagree with this statement.
- 71% agree that KCC should formalise the Personal Transport Budget scheme and make it available to eligible mainstream students, with 8% disagreeing.
- 68% agree that KCC should provide automatic eligibility for a younger sibling who attends the same school as an older entitled sibling, but otherwise would not be entitled to free school transport. However, 15% disagree, the highest proportion against any of the statements asked.
- Finally, 59% agree that KCC should allow schools to support their own entitled pupils more easily by school led transport arrangements, which is the least popular of the proposed improvements.

Figure 22: Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed improvements? (All responses)



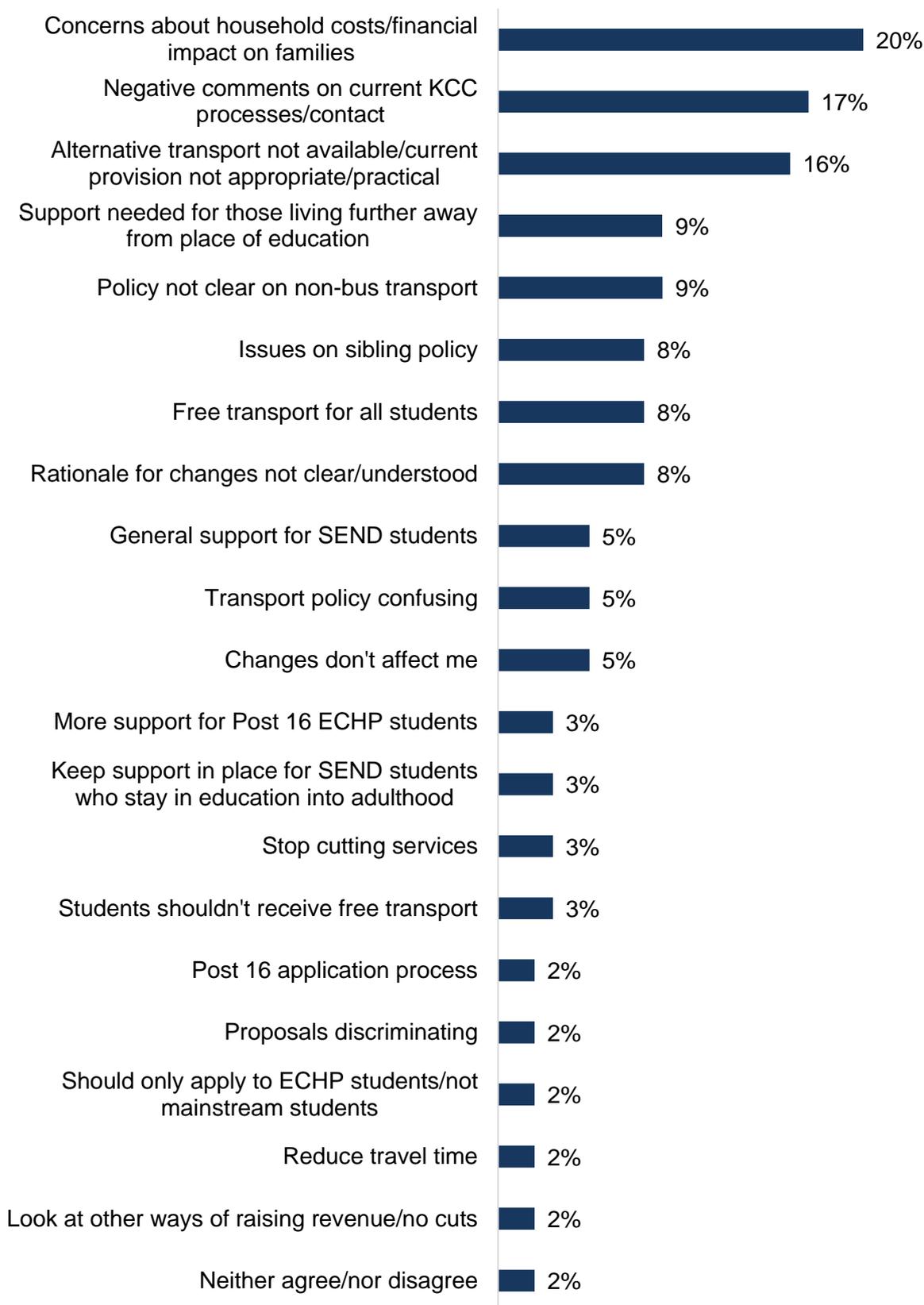
Sample base size in brackets

Differences in views amongst sub-groups are shown below:

- Respondents with **no disability** are significantly more likely than those **with a disability** to agree with **ensuring full support for pupils where KCC as the corporate parent has responsibility for providing the best possible care** (78% cf. 62%).
- Respondents who have a child in secondary school who receives free KCC transport are significantly less likely to agree that KCC should formalise their Personal Transport Budget scheme and make it available to eligible mainstream pupils compared to those with a secondary school student who does not receive free KCC transport (58% cf. 80%).
- Carers are significantly more likely to agree with automatically approving transport to alternative addresses where there is zero cost to KCC compared to those with no carer (85% cf. 71%).

Respondents were also offered the opportunity to give their views on any of the improvement statements in question 5. A fifth (20%) expressed **concerns around household costs** and the financial impact policy change will have on them. 17% commented negatively in regards to current **KCC processes and contact**, whilst 16% raised concerns around **alternate travel not being available, and current provisions not being appropriate/practical**.

Figure 23: Q5a. If you would like to comment on any of the improvements in question 5, please tell us in the box below. (All responses)



Sample base size: 64

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top three most common themes.

Concerns about household costs/financial impact on families

"It's incredibly unfair that there is no financial support for children who have to travel by train. We have to pay approx£800 pa for a 15 minute train journey as there is no bus from Edenbridge to Tonbridge. This is our closest grammar school. Our son did the 11 plus because there was no guarantee which comprehensive school he would be accepted into as Knole academy - our nearest Kent school - rarely takes children from Edenbridge. Children in Edenbridge have been offered places as far as Cranbrook. We are council tax payers subsidising bus passes but there is no support for train users. We have another son and we will have to consider whether we can afford to send him to the same grammar school, if he is fortunate to get in, because of the cost for two train fares £1600 - double the bus fare!! I don't understand why there is no help for us. surely it's fair to help every child that has no choice but to travel to secondary school because there isn't a local school. Kent endorses the grammar system and should support the children who try to make the best of it."

"Our school bus is being discontinued and this is having a major impact on our future. I was planning on returning to employment once my second child starts year 7, but that may now not be possible if there is no transport. I feel that those who live a further distance from school are discriminated against. My daughter passed her local Grammar school test, and even though the school is over 3 miles away we were told there is no transport available so I am having to stay at home for the foreseeable future just to do school runs. We are not able to move due to the enormous costs (stamp duty) involved and the rising costs of living."

"Our son has an EHCP and transport agreed to get him to school. This was arranged before he started and changing the rules now while he still attends seems unfair as we chose the school with this current situation knowing transport would be in place and that he would be supported. He could not travel with a bus pass and finding the cost would be a stretch but we would be above the limit for free transport."

Negative comments on current KCC processes/contact

"The KCC transport liaison/administrators who are supposed to setup transport for SEND kids are completely ineffective, do not respond to queries, are not available to speak to, my kid & many others SEND kids I have heard about have missed school due to complete failure of the transport support, please do better for these kids."

"I think we have had enough disruption to the services which are most used by our young people. School transport is the most vital of lifelines from rural villages. KCC created a selective system, you can't begin to dismantle that by taking the bottom brick out first."

“Removing of the discretionary alternatives is outrageous KCC has a responsibility to arrange transports for pupils in age of compulsory secondary education.”

Alternative transport not available/current provision not appropriate/practical

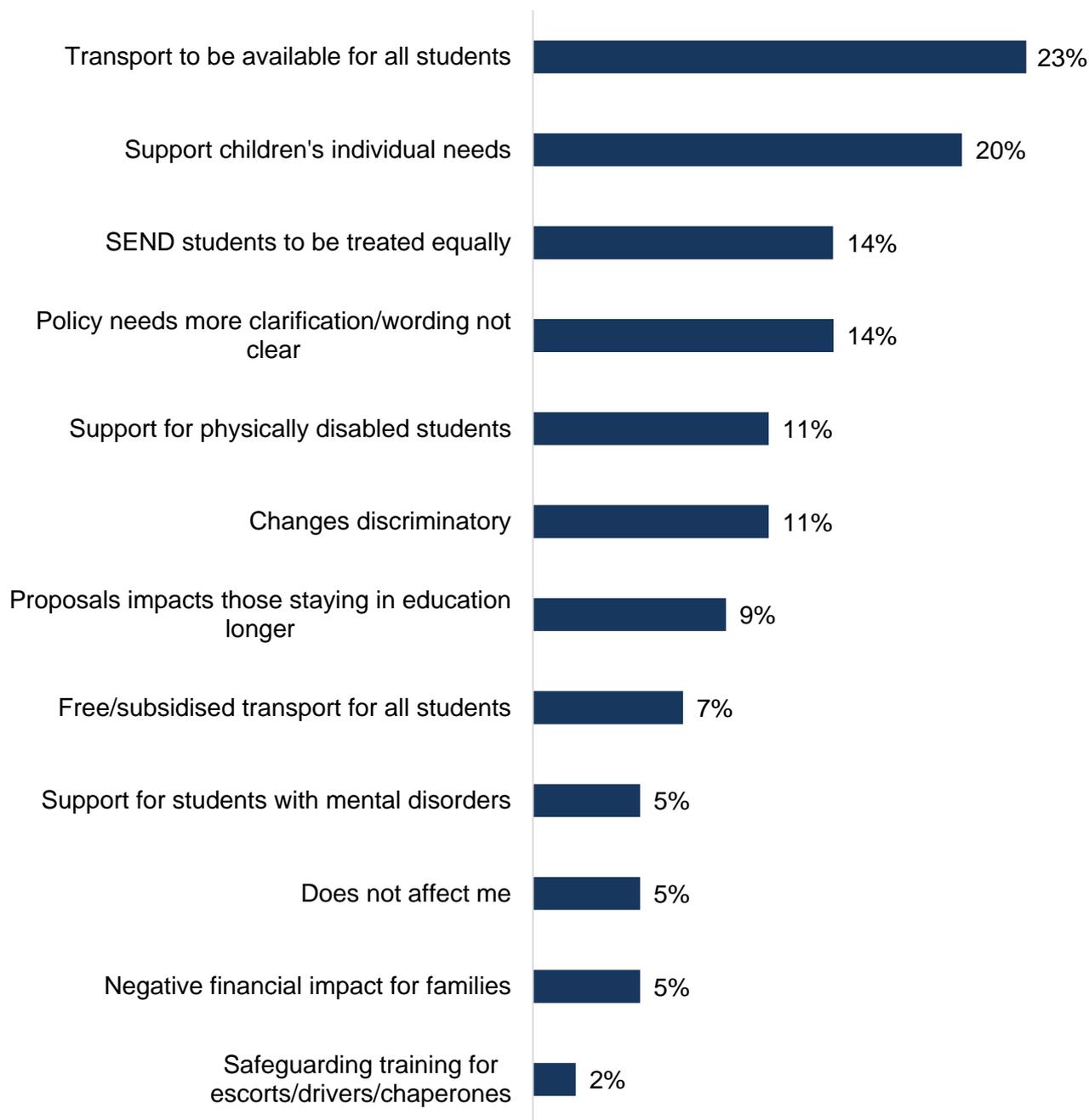
“In our village KCC in its wisdom has decided to scrap the local school bus service, meaning that there is no public transport at all. Families have to apply for taxis now, no doubt at extra cost to the bus service but no one at KCC seems bothered about this and the complaints department is defensive and totally useless.”

“We live in a village, no one in the village has been able to get free transport for 4 years as no one gets into that school, so we all have to pay, there needs to be alternatives when our closest schools are oversubscribed and we have no choice in schools.”

Equality analysis

When asked whether KCC should consider anything else in terms of equality and diversity in relation to the draft Home to School Transport Policy, 23% felt that **transport should be available for all students**, whilst 20% of respondents stressed that support for **children’s individual needs should be taken into consideration**.

Figure 24: Q6. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything we should consider relating to equality and diversity. (All responses)



Sample base size: 44

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top two most common themes.

Transport to be available for all students

“I think it totally unreasonable not to provide transport for ALL pupils at state schools.”

“Transport should be available for Mainstream children as well as SEND and EHCP children. There should not be discrimination between them.

“KCCs obligations under the Equality Laws are compromised by its failure to plan school transport on a reliable basis to allow families to plan ahead. Last minute crises are especially damaging to families without access to private transport, or with extensive caring responsibilities which limit their ability to cope with public transport failure.”

Support children’s individual needs

“This does not adequately take into account the noise and stress that a busy bus or train environment has on kids that have autism leading to sensory overload, their diversity is not adequately referenced.”

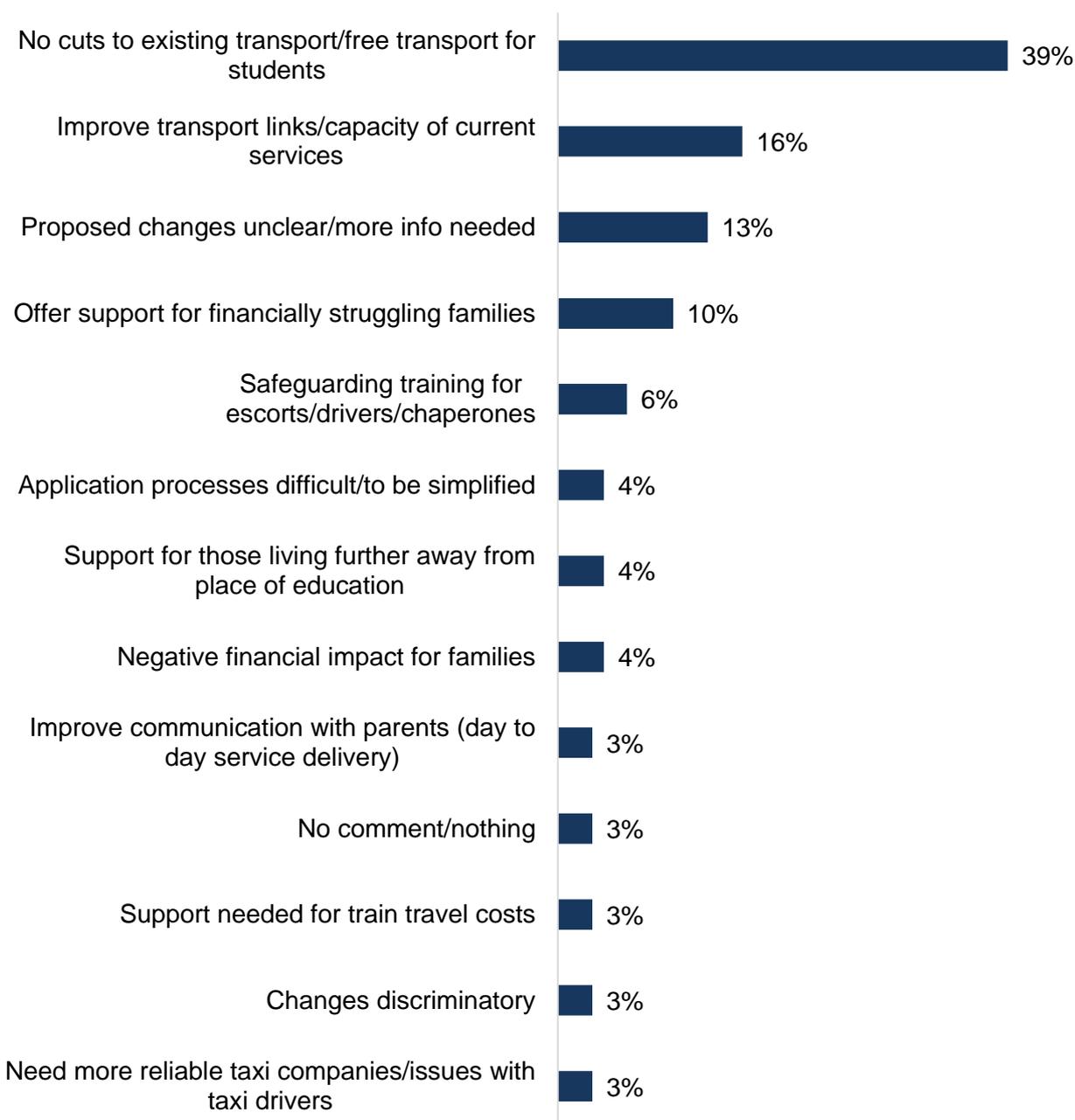
“SEND pupils can have different needs and should be treated individually rather than by condition.”

“Every child is different. Not every school will suit every child. Parental choice is one of the reasons why Kent is a desirable place to live. Equality means that every has the right to access that choice, not just those who can afford it.”

Comments and suggestions on draft Home to School Transport Policy

Participants were given the chance to provide any other comments or suggestions they had on the draft Home to School Transport Policy. Around two fifths (39%) made comments on preventing cuts to existing transport/free transport for students, whilst 16% want existing transport links and or the capacity of the current services to improved.

Figure 25: Q7. If you have any other comments or suggestions on the draft Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 to 16, including anything you feel is missing (where response is 2% or more)



Sample base size: 67

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the first theme.

No cuts to existing transport/free transport for students

“We need to ensure critical transport links to schools are not cut above all others. They are all full to the brim so there has to be a way to make these routes economical.”

“It is of paramount importance that any school aged child in education up to and including 16-19 (Y12 and 13) should have ACCESS to a school bus or train (public transport) for the intended purpose of facilitating getting to school.”

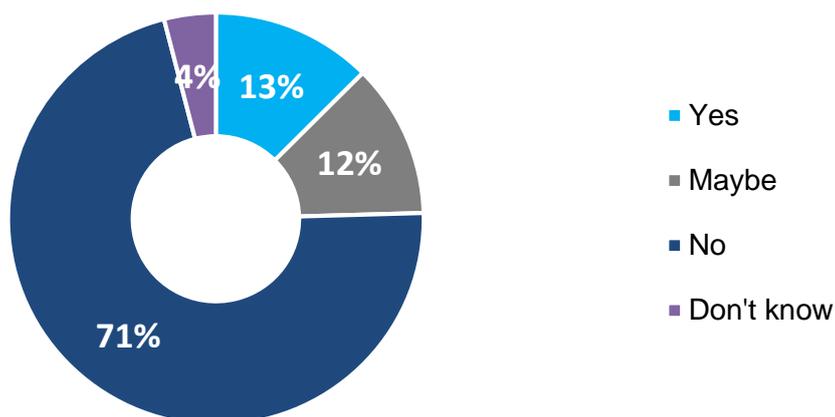
“Transport to schools should be provided for as many children as possible on the grounds of safety, efficiency, impact on level of traffic during the school travel times. If school transport is removed the enormous increase in private vehicles carrying out this journey will be unmanageable. All children attending any type of school should be assisted with transport, even if it is shorter bus journeys to local train services to continue longer journeys from outlying villages to access Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.”

Cycle Bursary Scheme

KCC are starting to explore the potential for a Cycle Bursary Scheme. The scheme would enable parents of children eligible for free school transport to receive a sum of money to buy their child a bicycle, instead of being provided access to a free KCC vehicle. The scheme would include safety equipment and some additional money for maintenance costs to ensure the bicycle remains safe and road worthy. This could be in the region of £300 to £500 and would likely cover three years of transport support.

When presented with these details 13% of respondents said the Cycle Bursary Scheme is something that would be of interest to them/their children. However, the majority (71%) stated this would not be of interest to them. These figures exclude those who answered ‘not applicable’ to this question.

Figure 26: Q8. Is the Cycle Bursary Scheme something that would be of interest to you or your child(ren)? (All responses excluding not applicable)

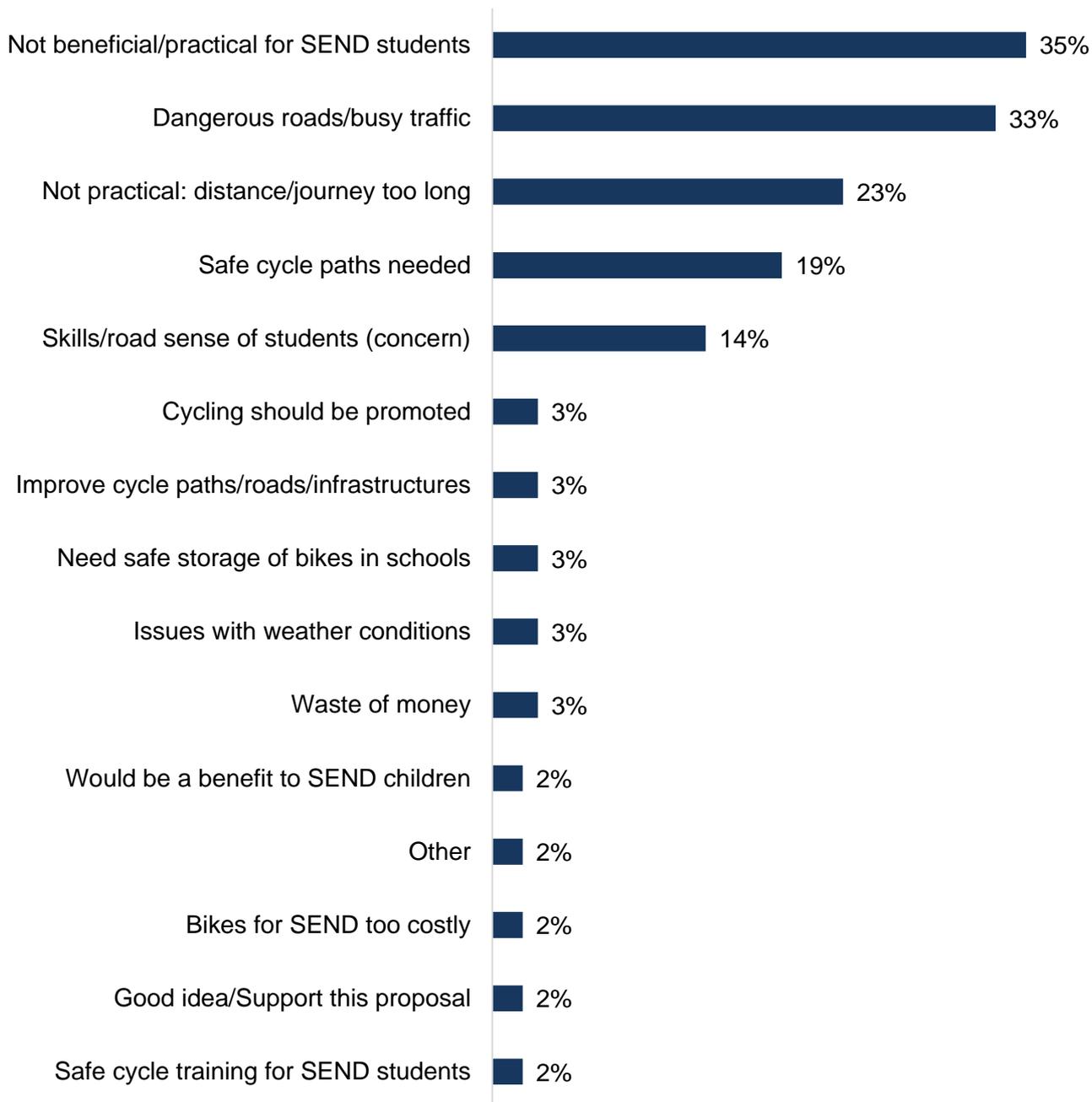


Sample base size: 224

When asked for feedback or suggestions relating to the potential Cycling Bursary Scheme, 35% of respondents said that it **would not be beneficial or practical for SEND students**. Over three in ten (33%) also raised **concerns around dangerous roads and busy traffic**.

A further 23% also noted that the scheme is **not practical for those with long distances/journeys to school**, whilst 19% commented on the **need for safe cycling paths**.

Figure 27: Q8a. If you have any feedback or suggestions on a potential Cycling Bursary Scheme, please tell us in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 128

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top three most common themes.

Not beneficial/practical to SEND students

“Putting a SEND child on a bike is humorous suggestion. Unsafe practice who is liable for accident? Have they got cycling proficiency provided?”

“The cycling bursary scheme is a non starter for my disabled children, as I’m sure it is for many Sen children .”

“This is aimed at the wrong group of children Most parents of special needs children or children who are learning disabled would be horrified at this idea unless the school was round the corner You must remember children under the autistic umbrella have sensory issues, so certain things affect them that others wouldn’t consider, children with learning disabilities have their own problems related to their disability. These children need security and stability in their lives and some need contact with family, carer etc on their journey In my opinion this is a terrible idea for this group of children, and the worse way of cost cutting imaginable.”

Dangerous roads/busy traffic

“It's not the cycle that needs maintaining, it's the state of the roads! They're not safe to cycle on!”

“Until there are proper cycle paths along footpaths this is ridiculously dangerous. Kent roads are dangerous and until cycle paths are full paths and not sporadically distributed this policy is a disaster waiting to happen particularly during rush hour. The council should look to Europe e.g. Finland and the Netherlands for the correct way to implement cycle paths.”

“Unfortunately I don’t think the road is safe enough for children to use bikes as their transport to travel to school.”

“The facilities to use cycles must be improved before transferring children from road passenger of school managed transport to road user. e.g. street lighting, main artery cycle paths, pothole reduction, school showers/changing facilities.”

Not practical: Distance/journey too long

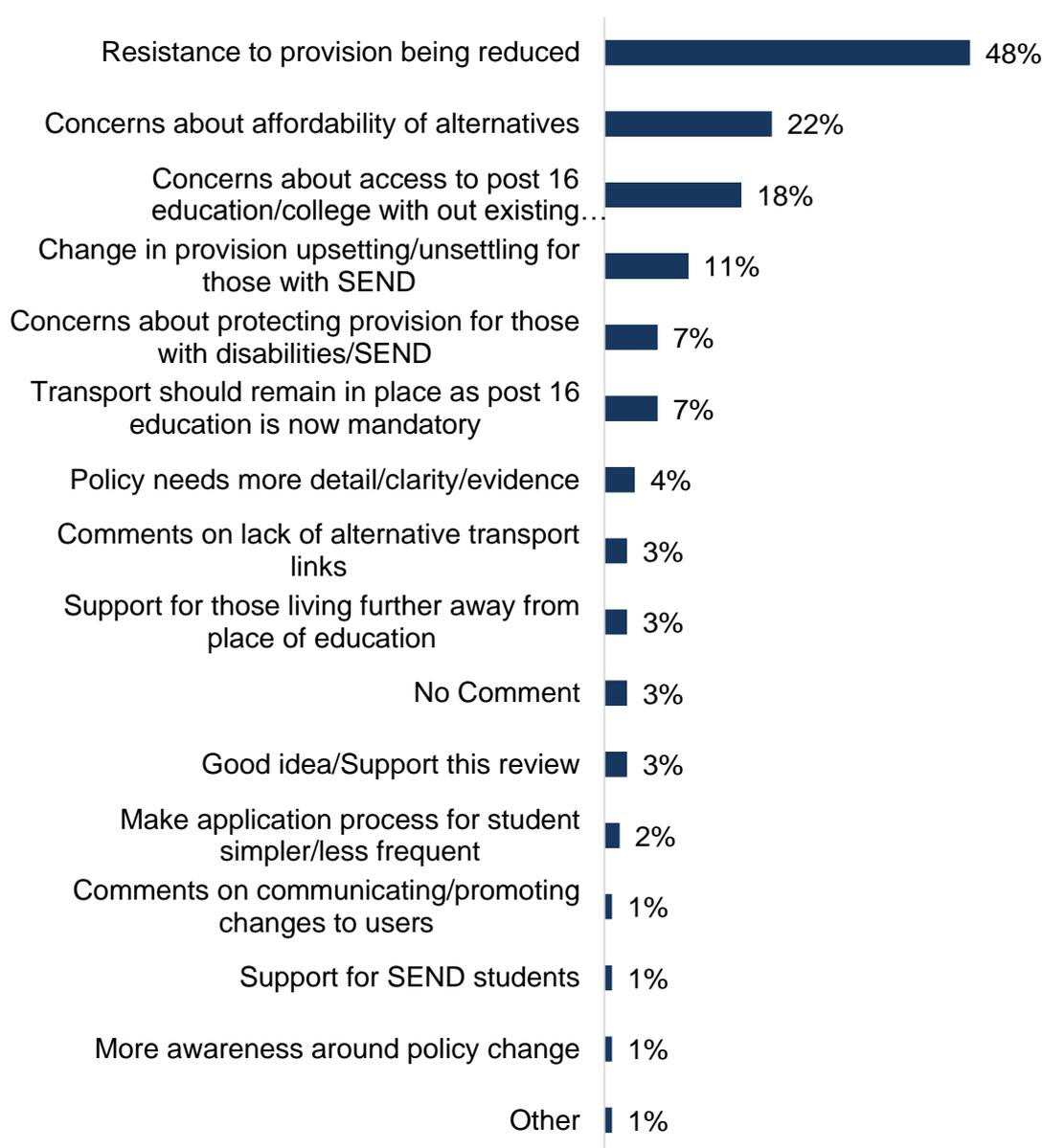
“I think it would be beneficial to be provided alongside free travel but considering it’s usually at least 3 miles each way that seems preposterous to expect children and parents to do that each day.”

“Cycling is good and it is good idea - but if the school is not near (and a lot of them aren't) they are difficult to use - my son is 1 hour on the bus so the bike would take longer (even if taking into account the traffic can be at times bypassed by bikes. It is not very practical for rural communities - also cycle lanes are a bit patchy in towns.”

Post 16 Transport Policy statements

Whilst no changes are being proposed for the 2023-24 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement, KCC is legally required to consult every year. Among those who commented on the 2023-24 policy, just under half (48%) stated **resistance to provisions being reduced**. These responses are likely to have been influenced by proposals elsewhere in the consultation. Over a fifth (22%) also stated **concerns around the affordability of transport alternatives**.

Figure 28: Q9. If you have any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023-24, please provide them in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 89

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top three most common themes.

Resistance to provision being reduced

"I am in agreement that there should not be any changes policy for the 2023-24 year. Post 16 SEND students still need to have access to their chosen courses, and if that means that they need KCC to fund transport due to their needs, then KCC should continue to do so."

"The actual cost is ridiculous. My older two children chose to stay at their secondary school for 6th form and my youngest will probably wish to do the same. How can KCC justify the increase cost of the post 16 travel saver card. Why doesn't it go up so much just because children are 16+. It is not their fault the government make them stay in education until they are 18."

"Children with an EHCP plan should be allowed free transport for as long as they are at school. I can't afford to take my daughter plus as I said public transport would cause anxiety. This could cause a meltdown on a bus etc and put passengers and driver at risk."

Concerns about affordability of alternatives

"Post 16 pupils saver bus cards are still far too expensive. Senior citizens should pay full price and school and college (16-21) students should be given free bus travel. They are young for such a short period but Seniors can use buses for possibly 20 years."

"The process is frustrating enough to get support for young people with often complex needs. My young people have never been offered any support towards independence such as travel training. I don't think the strain under which most parents of young people with special needs function is ever taken into account and how the current cost of living crisis makes taking away or reducing criteria for transport another kick in the teeth. Our benefits are not increasing to accommodate this and my vulnerable young people cannot get part time jobs. They don't need further barriers to education programmes."

"If a child received free school transport to school and stayed at school, they should still have free travel to school in the 6th form."

Concerns about access to post 16 education / college without existing transport support

"Given that all children remain in education till 18/19 now the existing free bus pass or Kent saver scheme should be available, not the post 16 one this is too expensive. In fact in rural areas with poor bus links it should be free bus travel for all to encourage bus use instead of the next generation of polluting car drivers."

"Our son will be unable to complete the education for his career path at a local school or college that can offer him access to opportunities. He will be unable to travel there alone."

“My daughter attends a college that specifically caters for her special needs. She is unable to travel independently. Why therefore should free fully funded transport be withdrawn in cases such as hers? Kent County Council should do everything in their power to fully support disabled young adults and their families.”

2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

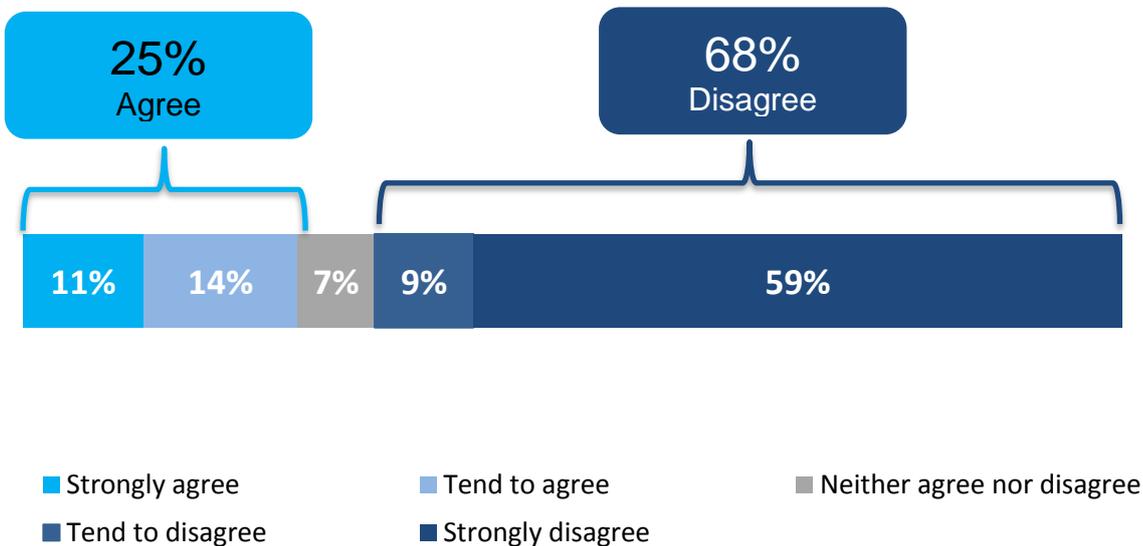
The responses given in relation to the three key proposed changes for 2025 are summarised in turn below.

Proposal 1: mandatory contribution for Post 16 SEND transport

KCC are proposing to introduce a mandatory contribution from all pupils who receive direct support from KCC for Post 16 transport including those with Special Educational Needs and/or a disability and/or mobility problems (SEND).

A quarter (25%) of respondents agree with the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including those with SEND, with 11% strongly agreeing. 68% disagree with this proposal, with over half (59%) strongly disagreeing.

Figure 29: Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including those with SEND? (Excluding don't know responses)



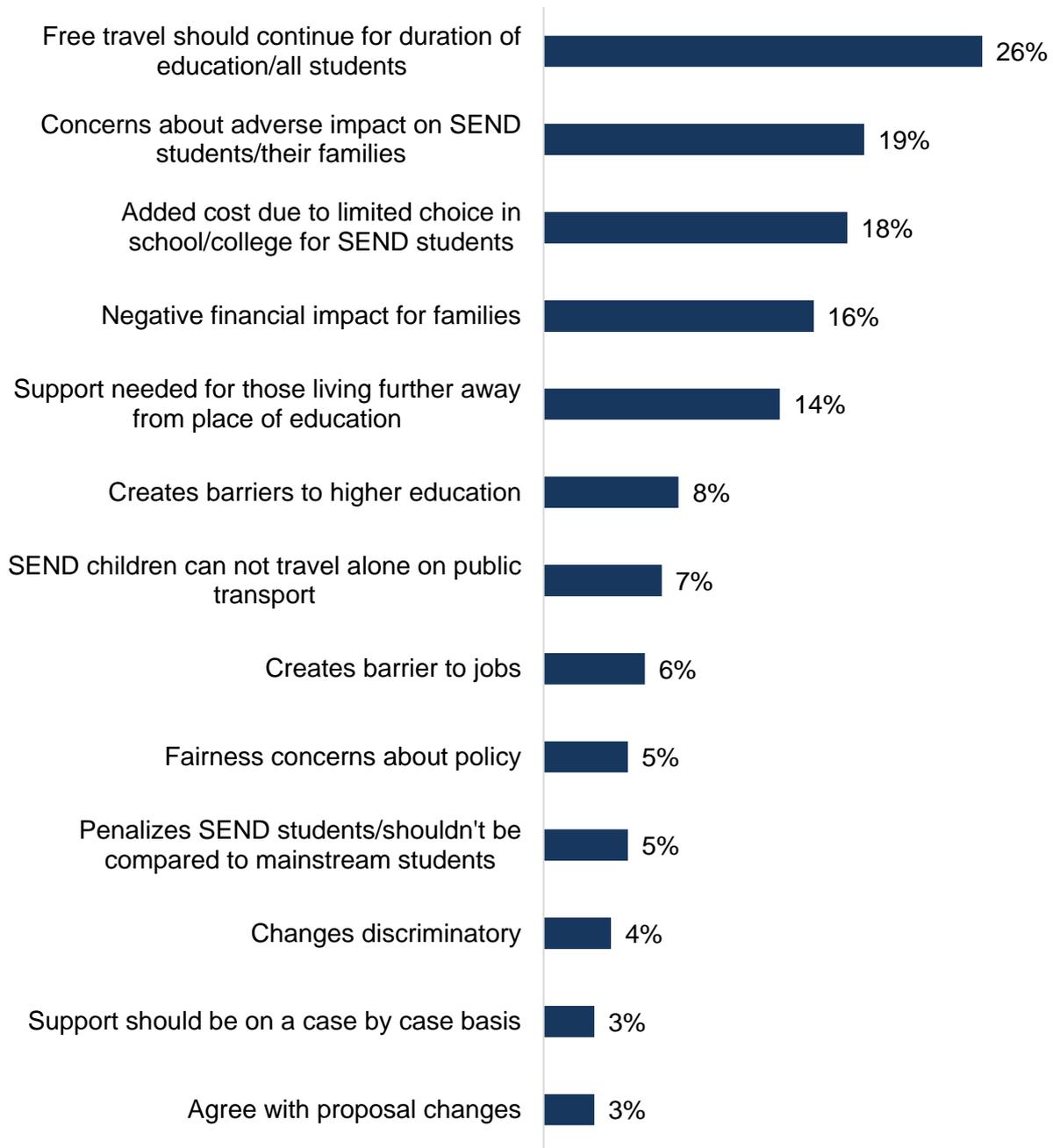
Sample base size: 260

Key variations in support are summarised below:

- Those responding in another **capacity (not student or parent/carer)** are significantly more likely to agree with this proposal compared to **parents/carers** (40% cf. 22%).
- Respondents who have a **child in secondary school with a KCC Travel Saver pass** are significantly less likely to disagree with the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including those with SEND compared to those with **a child in secondary schools who do not have a KCC Travel Saver pass** (46% cf. 79%).
- Respondents with a **child in secondary school who does not receive free KCC transport** are significantly more likely to agree with this measure compared to those **who do receive free transport** (41% cf. 15%).
- Those **without a disability** are significantly more likely to agree with these proposals compared to those with **a disability** (32% cf. 13%).

Analysis of the comments given in relation to proposal 1 show that 26% felt that free travel **should continue for the duration of education for all students**. 19% raised concerns about the **adverse impact the proposal will have on SEND students and their families**, whilst 18% commented on the added cost due to **limited choice in education establishments for SEND students**.

Figure 30: Q10a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below (All responses with 2% or higher)



Sample base size: 147

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top three most common themes.

Free travel should continue for duration of education/all students

“An EHC plan continues to age 25 so why is travel to school not free once over 16. It should be all time in education at the very least.”

“The free provision is vital, particularly now that the cost of living is so high.”

“If children are made to stay in education until they are 18, then these should still be available for them, SEND or not.”

Concerns about adverse impact on SEND students/their families

“It will put children off learning and studying at a school that meets their needs. If the parent decides they cannot afford the subsidy (or don't want to go through the palaver of filling out a means-tested form) the child could be attending an inappropriate setting (but closer to home). That child may not achieve as well as they could and potentially disrupt the learning of those more able pupils (in the closer but inappropriate school) Eventually this will impact the whole society, with poorly qualified school leavers unable to sustain long term employment.”

“The special needs don't disappear at a certain age, they are often no less able to cope with an unsupported bus journey than they could when younger! If anything they can be more vulnerable.”

“Children with SEND need access to education more than anyone else to be given the best opportunity to succeed. In many cases the added stress of public travel, when dealing with physical or learning disabilities is likely to exclude many from accessing education. I think removal of transport for SEND children in this age group would be disastrous and would lead to them needing more support in their later lives costing more overall.”

Added cost due to limited choice in school/college for SEND students

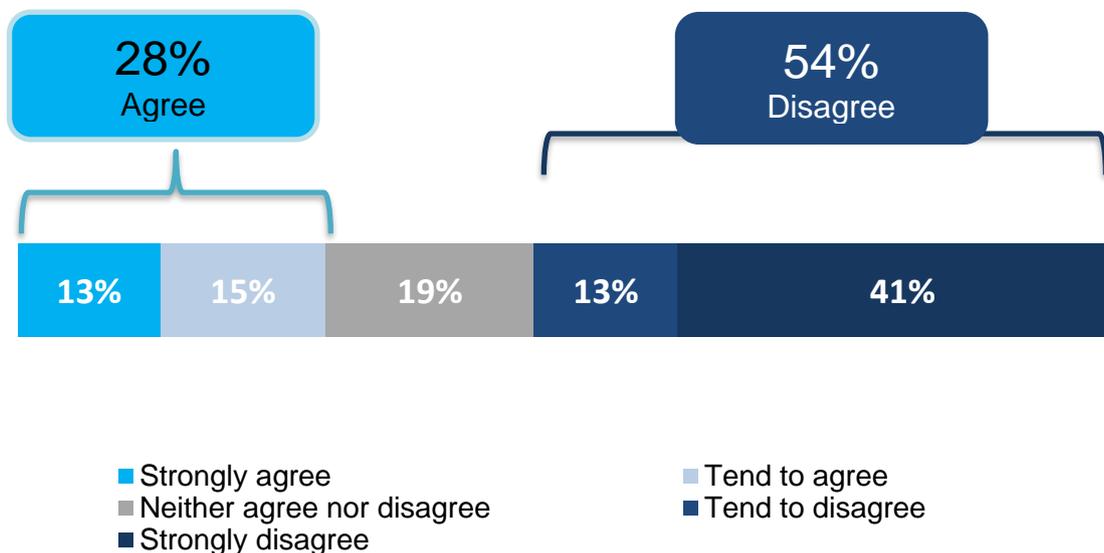
“The transport for SEND children is bad enough. To expect parents to pay towards sending their children/young adult to a school that's not in the same area is no fault of the parent. If my Son could go to the school that's a 5-minute walk away from us we would. But we can't, so to yet again penalise people with a disability by charging the parent to send their child to the only available school to them, 40-minute drive away is disgusting.”

Proposal 2: removal of additional drop off and collection

KCC are proposing to remove the discretionary provision of additional drop off and collection times for SEND Post 16 pupils to accommodate partial attendance. This would mean that drop off and collections would only be at the start and end of the school day.

Over a quarter (28%) of respondents agree with the removal of additional drop off and collection times for Post 16 pupils, with 13% strongly agreeing. Over half (54%) disagree with this statement, with 41% strongly disagreeing.

Figure 31: Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the removal of additional drop off and collection times for Post 16 pupils? (Excluding don't know responses)



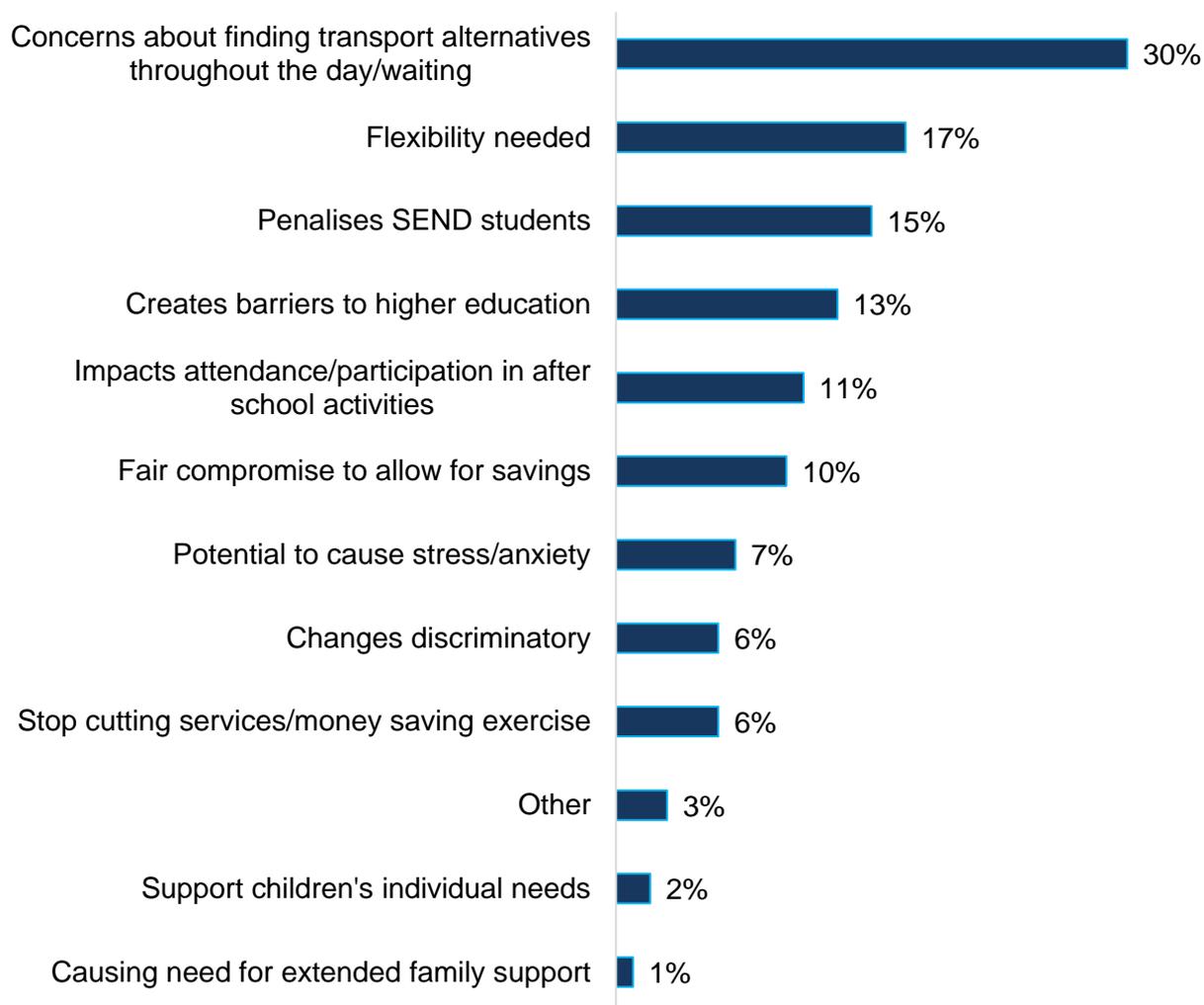
Sample base size: 254

Key variations in support are summarised below:

- Those responding in **another capacity (not student or parent/carer)** are significantly more likely to agree with this proposal compared to **parents/carers** (48% cf. 23%).
- Respondents who have **a child in secondary school with a KCC Travel Saver pass** are significantly more likely to agree with this statement compared to the **total average** (41% cf. 28%).
- Respondents with a child in secondary school **who receives free KCC transport** are significantly more likely to disagree with this measure compared to those **who do not receive free KCC transport** (64 cf. 41%).

In regard to proposal 2, 30% raised **concerns about finding transport alternatives** throughout the day, whilst a further 28% felt that **flexibility was needed**. A further 15% also made comments on the fact they felt this policy **penalises SEND students**.

Figure 32: Q11a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 103

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top two most common themes.

Concerns about finding transport alternatives throughout the day/waiting

"I think that I generally disagree with this proposal - what would these youngsters do whilst waiting for lessons to start, or waiting to be collected after their lessons? Many youngsters with SEND really struggle with unstructured times - my son certainly does and would not cope with "waiting". Would school/college staff be supervising these youngsters? Would other activities be provided for them whilst not in lessons? If their non-lesson time is guaranteed to be supervised and structured for those that need it, I would have no problem with this proposal - but I doubt very much that this will be the case!"

“This will put off young people attending days where they’re only in part of the days as they will have to hang around to get picked up which is unsafe for vulnerable children.”

“This does not affect us - how many students are actually affected by this? What will happen to those that finish early if they cannot be collected? Children with EHCPs cannot be left unattended during the day.”

Flexibility needed

“There needs to be flexibility for students especially post 16 when they may need to attend only parts of the day.”

“We both work and our jobs do not allow flexibility to do this.”

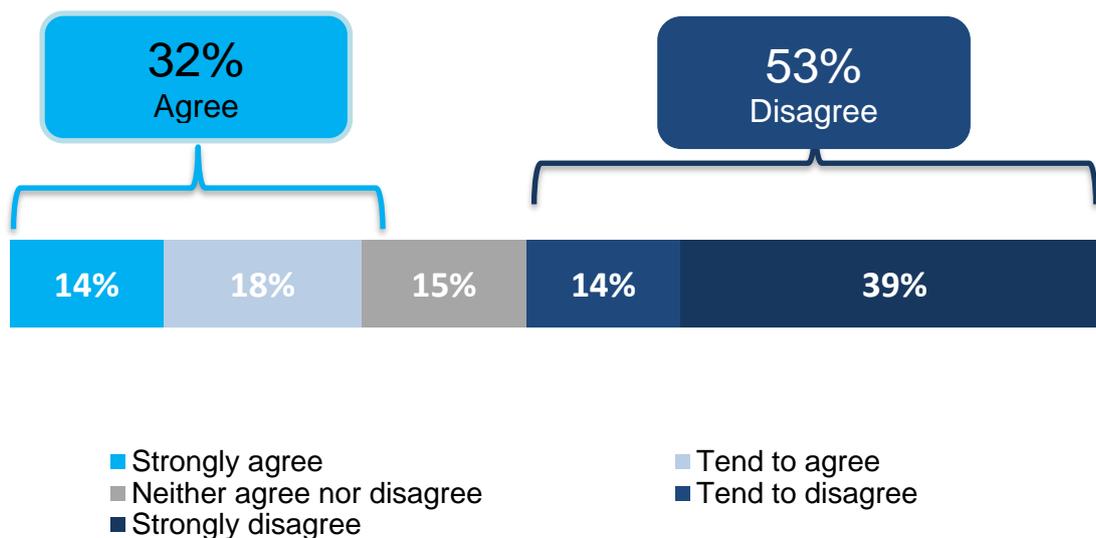
“Additional drop off/collection points are also essential. Most SEN students need help with independent travel and are on reduced timetables, may have health appointments or extra support as per EHCP. It is not the student’s fault if they need to be in their educational setting earlier or longer due to this. One size does not fit all! These students require an enormous amount of flexibility within their timetables to incorporate their individual health and learning requirements. Parents who need to work cannot start later or finish early in all areas of employment which means that parents are not returning to work as a lot have stopped working due to their child's SEN requirements. Removing additional points means that some children will need parents to drop off or collect within their working day.”

Proposal 3: new qualifying criteria for Post 19 SEND learners

KCC are proposing to introduce qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new education courses started after their 19th birthday. This means that when assessing the need for transport support for this cohort, KCC would not consider it necessary, other than in exceptional circumstances, to provide transport for a learner to attend an additional Further Education course at the same level or equivalent to one the learner has previously attended and completed.

A third (32%) of respondents agree with the introduction of qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new courses started after their 19th birthday, with 14% strongly agreeing. Just over half (53%) disagree with this statement, with 39% strongly disagreeing. 15% gave a neutral response.

Figure 33: Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the introduction of qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new courses started after their 19th birthday? (Excluding don't know responses)



Sample base size: 248

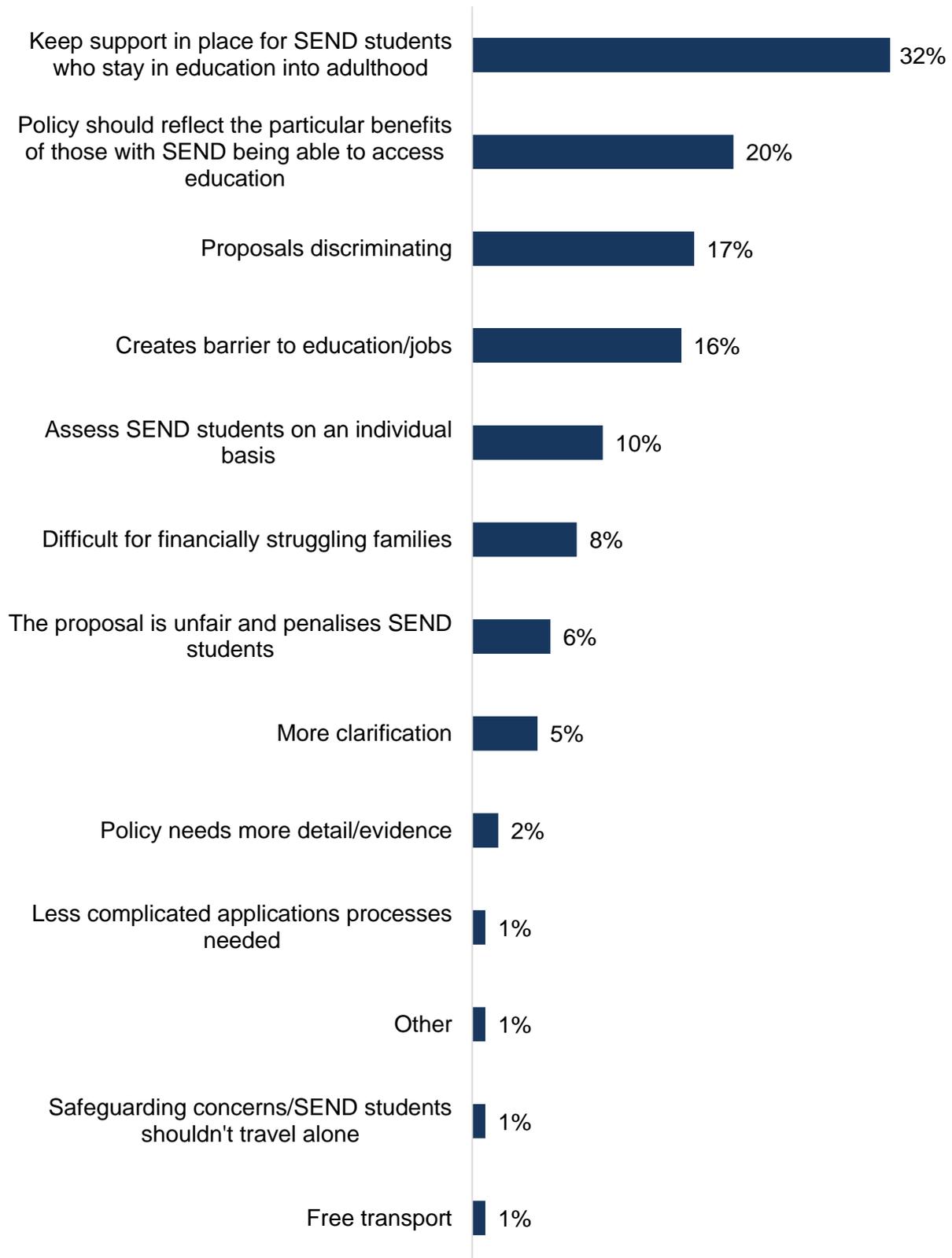
Key variations in support are summarised below:

- Those responding **in another capacity (not student or parent/carer)** are significantly more likely to agree with this proposal compared to **parents/carers** (53% cf. 28%).
- Respondents who have a **child in secondary school with a KCC Travel Saver pass** are significantly more likely to agree with this statement compared to the **total average** (47% cf. 32%).

- Respondents with **a child in secondary school who does receive free KCC transport** are significantly more likely to agree with this measure compared to the **total average** (46% cf. 53%).

When asked for any other comments pertaining to proposal 3, a third (32%) suggested KCC should **keep support in place for SEND students who stay in education into adulthood**, whilst 20% of respondents said that KCC's policy should reflect the **benefit of those with SEND being able to access education**.

Figure 34: Q12a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal below. (All responses)



Sample base size: 88

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top three most common themes.

Keep support in place for SEN students who stay in education into adulthood

“Free transport for sen post 16 needs to remain for as long as the ehcp is in place so 25! my daughter for one at that point will still be very vulnerable and not be able to use any other form of transport.”

“Students take longer to achieve qualifications. Need to ensure that education/training is in place 19-25 to maximise the possibility that they end up able to join the workforce in the future. It seems short-sighted to remove transport if it then means the student simply goes into requiring a care package rather than setting them up in a position where they are able to contribute economically.”

“Please give these young vulnerable people a chance to learn , grow and develop in a safe environment. Without transport support many will not attend a supportive environment and bear in mind the pressure on many families will increase. We are living in a financial crisis and as I have stated previously it is always the most vulnerable who will suffer if cuts are made to transport.”

Policy should reflect the particular benefits of those with SEND being able to access education.

“Assessment at the time of need should be a given. circumstances may have changed.”

“Not all courses start in September. Some pupils birthdays would mean they would be 19 in September when the academic year starts.”

“What are exceptional circumstances? The education system has failed to support and the young person is still struggling to access the education that they should have been entitled too years ago? Young people with Send do not always get the support and understanding they needed according to an age timeline. Bear in mind the strain of the parent that is still trying to get her child the support he should have received before reaching 16 to access the achievements he was capable of then in his 19th year!”

Proposals discriminating

“A young person with SEND can stay in education up until they are 25, it may be the case that a suitable course isn't initially available to start with - I believe this would be discrimination and limit the choices of SEND young people.”

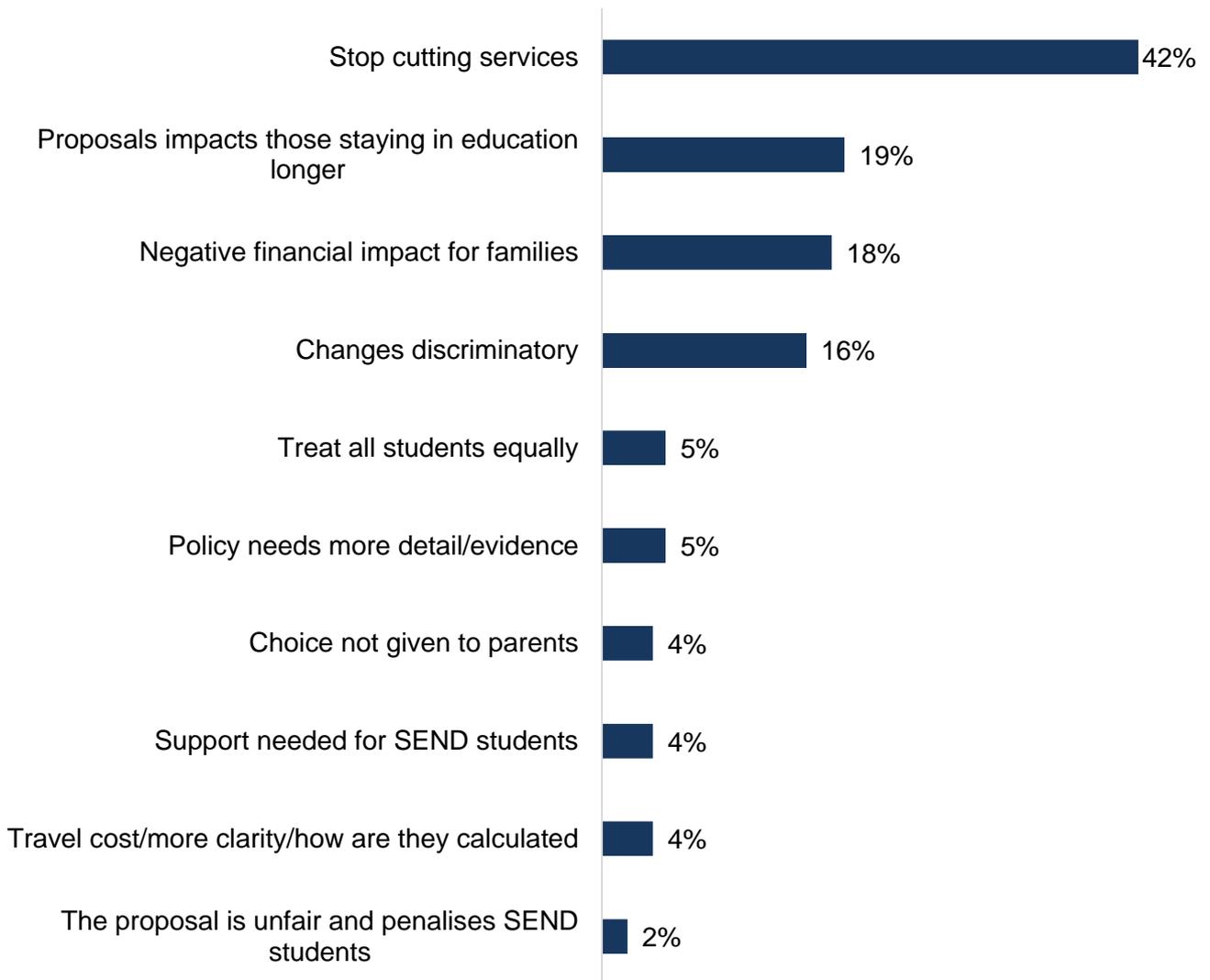
“This proposal is not permitted under equality and diversity regulations, I do not understand how this proposal is permitted to be even proposed by Kent County Council, it is discriminatory.”

“A child with an EHCP needs to be enabled to reach its full potential, many children with an EHCP will have had periods of missed education, it is not uncommon for children in Kent to have been out of education for months if not years, these children desperately need that extra time in education to ensure they have same opportunities as their peers, to remove this requirement will force many to make a choice based on finances and NOT what is best for their education or futures. That is discrimination. Kent should be putting children first not finances!”

Equality analysis

When asked for views on the equality analysis for the draft 2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement, including how KCC can lessen the impact on learners and their families, the overwhelming sentiment was resistance to any changes. Over four in ten (42%) of the comments at this question suggested that KCC should **stop cutting services** in the area of post 16 transport.

Figure 35: Q13. We welcome your views on our EqlA for the draft 2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement and if you think there is anything else we could do to lessen the impacts on learners and their families. Please write your comments/suggestions below. (All responses)



Sample base size: 57

The section below highlights example comments left by respondents for the top two most common themes.

Stop cutting services

“Please reconsider your proposal - as I've said, investing in these youngsters now, keeping them gaining qualifications and training them to be employable is such a good investment - it will save you more long term. I'm fairly certain that my child would need a lot of social care input if he had to finish his studies in 2024 - he'll not be ready for employment by then, and he needs the structure and routine that college provides, so I'd probably be looking into getting him some form of day care provision from social services - this is not something I would contemplate if he was still at college. His mental health is not strong at the moment, and withdrawing the routine and structure that college provides him would no doubt impact him negatively, and he would need more NHS mental health support too.”

“I totally understand the need to reform but unfortunately those post 16 whether or not in SEN or mainstream still need to safety of receiving transport to and from school. This will diss advantage a lot of children.”

“Don't withdraw transport for those seeking to learn who already have barriers to learning because of their disabilities.”

Proposals impact those staying in education longer

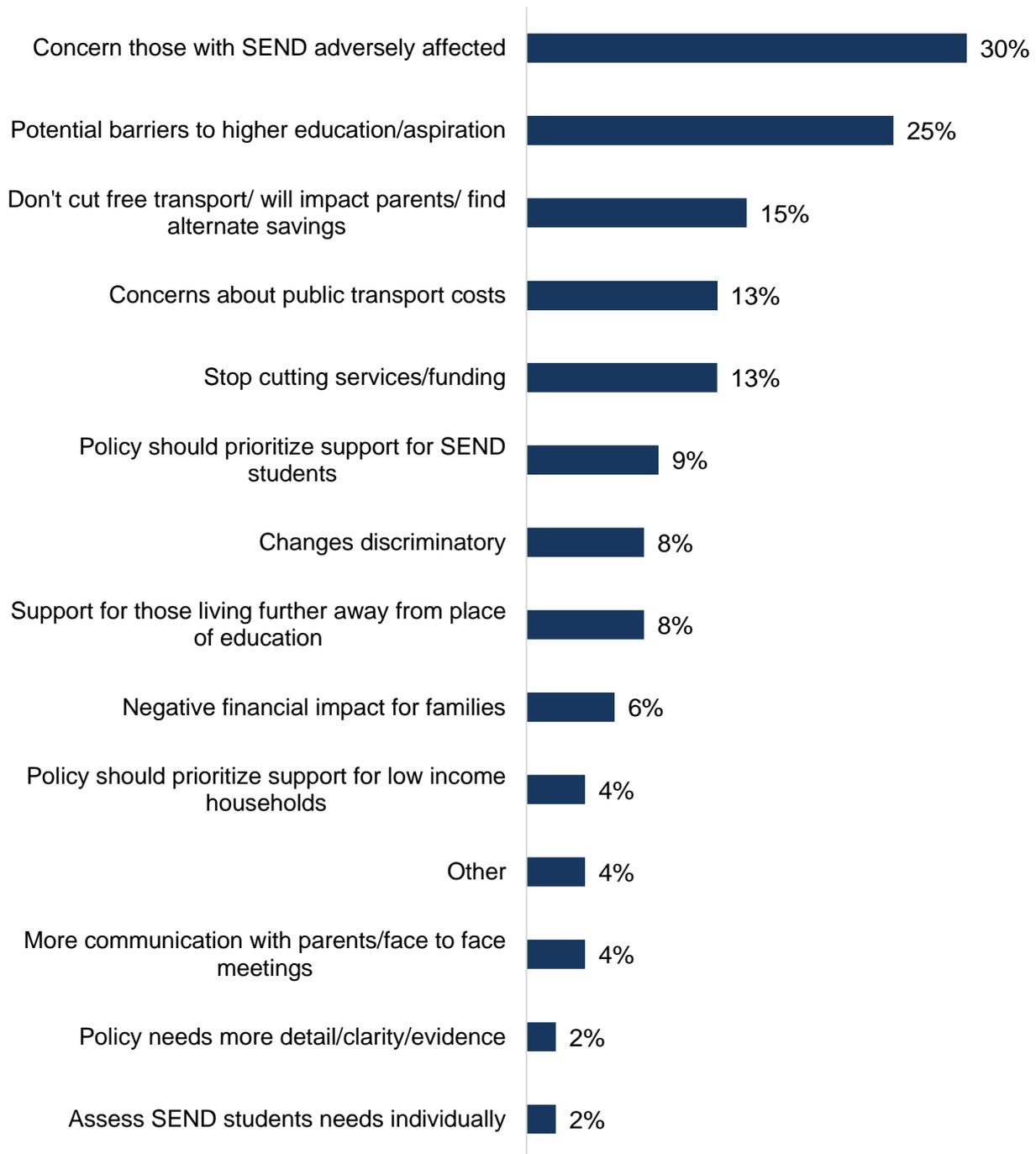
“SEND students might take longer than mainstream to get qualification's my understanding of changing from statement to EHCP was to make it easier for students you can see what is needed and would cover them up until 25 to give them a chance to 'catch up' to take away transport is to take away their chance of an education the hard work of trying to kid the world they have equality and they have a right to an education is taken away from them if transport is not given, how sad that we are going backwards and not forward.”

“It will put barriers in place to stop our young people accessing an education, especially those with an EHCP. Cost of living which is impacting everyone and KCC appear not to of thought of the impact on our young people yet again. Can predict that NEET and mental health crisis will go through the roof.”

“Any changes are hard and you have to realise that sometimes these decisions can be the difference between a pupil going to college or having to drop out altogether because a system that says you don't get the support because your parents earn too much doesn't mean your parents want to help you out so sometimes means testing doesn't take in to account the damage it can also have on the individual and society.”

In relation to the Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2024-25, three in ten (30%) respondents raised concerns with the **adverse impacts the policy could have on SEND students**. Whilst a quarter (25%) raised concerns with the **potential barriers to higher education**.

Figure 36: Q14. If you have any other comments on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2024-25, please provide them in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 53

Concern those with SEND adversely affected

“Our son needs support to attend college. He would not be able otherwise to access a course that supports his aspirations. Would you want to do courses in something you didn't want to pursue because it was closer. He should have opportunities to thrive and develop.”

“Think about the whole picture over the course of a SEND student's lifetime not just the bank balance for a handful of years whilst they are under 25.”

“These plans will mean a lot of young people who WANT to learn something will have their dreams compromised.”

Potential barriers to higher education/aspirations

“I am very concerned that my child along with many others will be dealt a blow to their aspirations to continue in college because they are disabled. Many children live quite a way from the setting they are learning at but cannot undertake public transport alone, to deny them transport is discriminating them from people who can get on public transport alone.”

“Provide post 16 transport for those that most need it. Don't get rid of it completely. It wouldn't be fair for them to drop out of education before age 18.”

“I accept there are savings that are needed but the post 16 part is too dramatic in one year - find another way this is their one shot of being the best they can be don't take that away from them but preventing them from access to further education.”

Don't cut free transport/will impact parents/find alternate savings

“Please do not abolish free transport, it will have a detrimental effect on many, many families; families who have already fought long and hard to even get their child into a special educational setting. It seems wholly unfair that they can reach 16 years of age and then suddenly have this withdrawn. There is such a lack of SEN schools that families do not have a wide choice of places and have to take what is offered to them. For so many, their attendance is only made possible with the provision of free transport.”

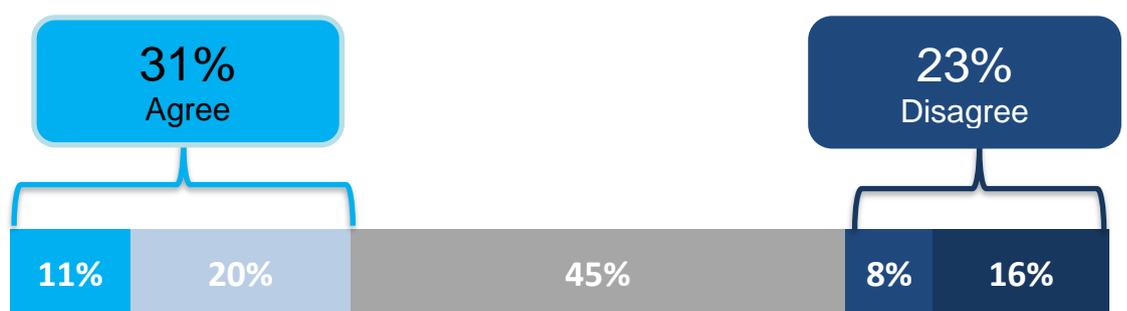
Transport Retendering Procedure for Pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND

In Annex 7 of the draft Home to School Transport Policy, KCC explain their approach to purchasing home to school and post 16 transport services for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and/or Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). This is as a result of the greater complexity that is often required to be considered when finalising their transport requirements.

This document includes details of how KCC will communicate and engage with parents/carers and schools and/or learning provisions for planned and unexpected changes.

Around three in ten (31%) respondents agree with how KCC propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services, with 11% strongly agreeing. Just under a quarter (23%) disagree, with 16% strongly disagreeing. Just under half (45%) neither agree nor disagree. This may reflect the fact that this area of service delivery may not be relevant for all respondents.

Figure 37: Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services? (Scaled responses – don't know removed)



- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

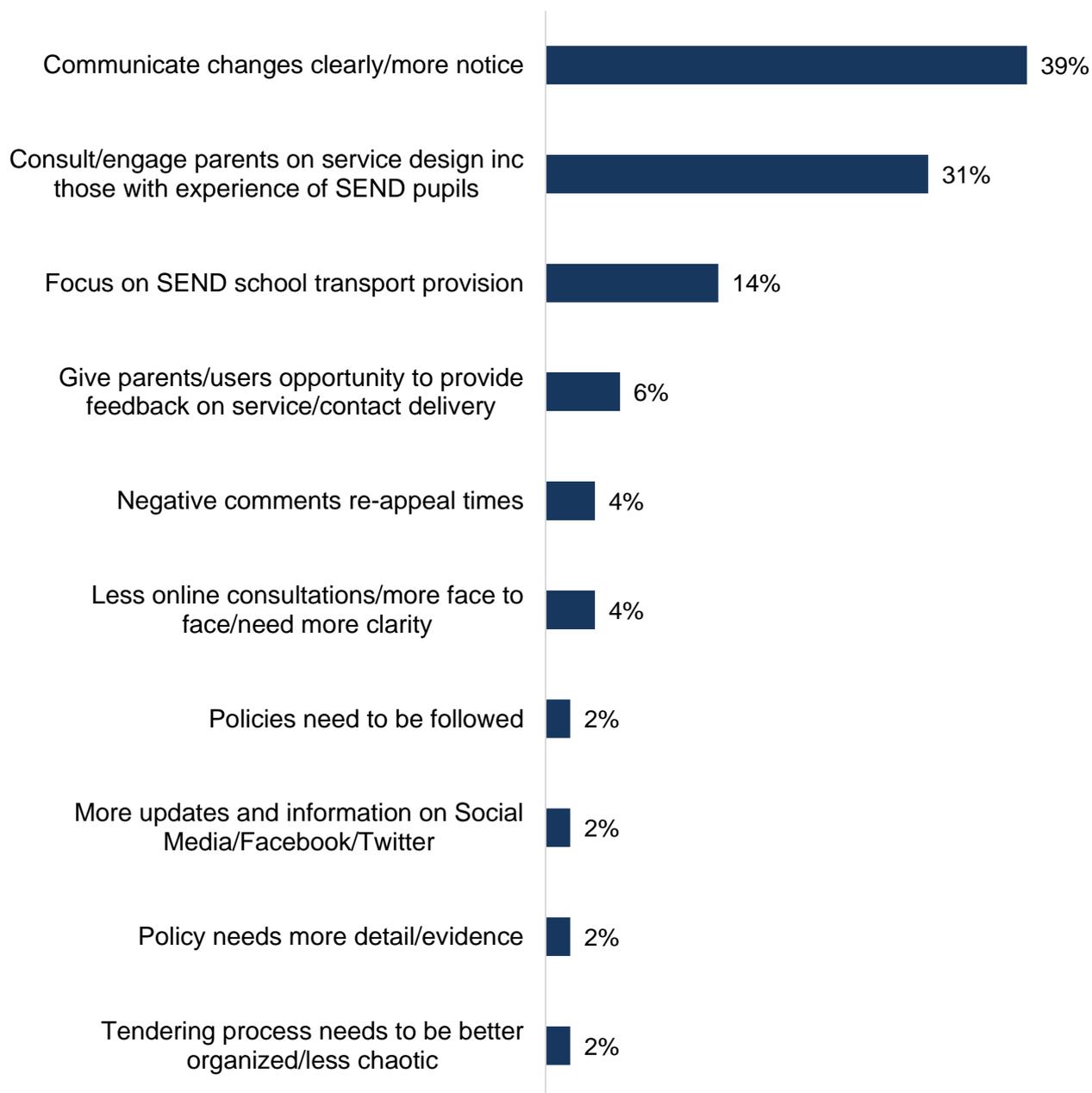
Sample base size: 179

Key variations in agreement and disagreement are summarised below:

- **Non-carers** are significantly more likely to agree with how KCC propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services compared to **carers** (48% cf. 27%).

When asked to comment on how KCC propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders, 39% of respondents said that they need to **clearly communicate any changes made**. Three in ten (31%) highlighted **consultation and engagement is needed with parents** on service design, including those with experience with SEND students.

Figure 38: Q15a. If you have any comments on how we propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned service changes, please tell us in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 49

Communicate changes clearly/more notice

“All aspects should be joint meeting with all involved and a good clear communication barrier maintained.”

“Following last years debacle around retendering, any future process needs to put the children involved at the forefront of ANY decision. Not money, time or any other option. The

child, it's education and wellbeing has to be the priority! Moving children from 5 seater taxis into 15 seater minibuses and on journeys lasting upto 2 hours is unacceptable and definitely not putting the children first. Any changes need to be organised, timely and appropriate to the service users."

"No schools have been notified of these changes."

"2 months' notice of planned changes is not enough time. Those with SEND may require significant additional support to prepare them for change. Equally carers may have to make life changes in order to accommodate changes."

Consult/engage parents on service design including those with experience of SEND pupils

"Any changes that affect the pupils should be consulted by parents first not to be decided by grown adults around a table who don't have families in our situations!"

"Are you planning to e-mail and/or write to individual families with the survey? If not, it should be done."

"We as parents do not have a say in the physical location of SEND schools. We actually moved to an area of Maidstone to be close to the school site, but our daughter was later moved onto a satellite provision all the way over in Snodland. Nobody consulted parents we do not believe."

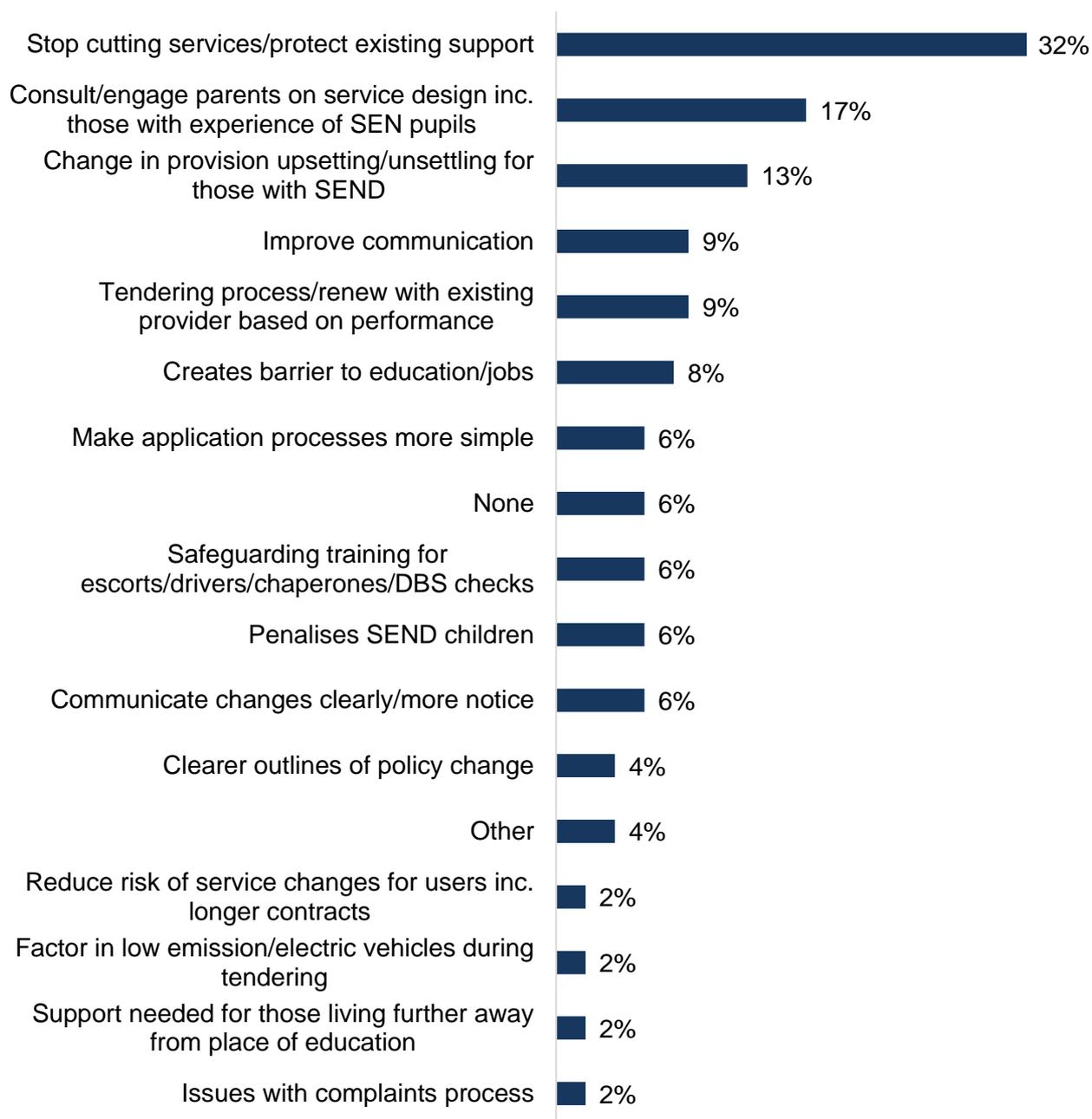
Focus on SEND school transport provision

"16+ SEND children with an EHCP are normally unable to travel alone to their school, they are at greater risk, this proposal is going to essentially effect their education. These children are at schools that they need taxi / minibus provided as there is no educational provision nearer suited to their needs , so why on earth are the department of education yet again trying to save money for the most vulnerable."

"I am not fully aware of this. However, transport arrangements have been very poor over the last 2 academic years. This is no criticism of any individual - we have had a very constructive relationship with transport, solution focused. However, transport needs to be arranged in a timely manner that allows all students to start the provision on the first day of term 1. Failure to do so disadvantages already disadvantaged learners."

A third (32%) of respondents said that KCC need to **stop cutting** services and protect existing support in place. 17% commented on the need to **consult and engage with parents**, including those with experience of SEND students when asked about any further suggestions to the Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for those with an EHCP or SEND.

Figure 39: Q16. If you have any other comments or suggestions on our Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND, please tell us in the box below (All responses)



Sample base size: 53

Stop cutting services/protect existing support

"It's a broken system. SEND children are treated appallingly."

"Please keep things as simple as possible, our children get distressed with the constant changes to their travel needs."

"Again this seems to be another example of KCC wanting to reduce its support to young adults and children with disabilities and SEN. You should be ashamed of this penny pinching that will affect a large number of young adults with disabilities."

"16+ SEND children with an EHCP are normally unable to travel alone to their school, they are at greater risk, this proposal is going to essentially effect their education. These children are at schools that they need taxi / minibus provided as there is no educational provision nearer suited to their needs, so why on earth are the department of education yet again trying to save money for the most vulnerable."

Consult/engage parents on service design including those with experience of SEND pupils

"Parents should be the first port of call to a pupil's individual case should be discussed. Yes change must happen but not at the expense of the children to line your pockets! Any child with a ECHP In SEND settings up to 18/19 shouldn't be effected by travel but a fee could be added like all school aged children."

"Have a parent board of SEND families and actually listen to them."

"Get parental feedback on the current services to inform KCC as to whether to re-new or change contracts. Not just the cheapest quote. Safety should be the utmost important factor for SEND children."

Change in provision upsetting/unsettling for those with SEND

"Yes previously changes to transport and personnel have caused significant stress to some individuals with SEND there needs to be adequate time and reassurance to ensure any transition is smooth. Previous experience of this process does not promote confidence."

Key findings

Respondents are largely in agreement that they understand how the Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 – 16 relates to them and their households. There is a small cohort (around one in ten) who did not understand. Of those that do not find the policy clear, common reasons given were due to not understanding the provisions for transport to post-16 college and general eligibility queries in regards to the policy.

In regards to statements on the proposed improvements, respondents are largely in agreement in general, with all statements receiving a higher proportion in agreement rather than disagreement. Agreement was highest in relation to the automatic approval of transport to alternative addresses where there is zero cost to KCC (78%) and ensuring full support for pupils where KCC as the corporate parent has responsibility for providing the best possible care (75%). Disagreement is slightly higher around providing automatic eligibility for younger siblings who attend the same school as an older entitled sibling, but who otherwise would not be entitled to free school transport (15%) and allowing schools to support their own entitled pupils more easily by school led transport arrangements (15%). Respondents with a disability were significantly more likely to strongly disagree with providing automatic eligibility for a younger sibling who attends the same school as an older entitled sibling, but who otherwise would not be entitled to free school transport when compared to the total average.

Interest in the Cycle Bursary Scheme is not particularly high, with around seven in ten (71%) stating that they would not be interested in this scheme. Of those not interested, concerns are most commonly around the lack of benefit and practicality for SEND students and external issues such as dangerous roads and busy traffic, as well as the distance and length of journey for some students making cycling unrealistic.

Support is relatively low in regard to the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including SEND, with over two thirds disagreeing. The most common comments were in regards to feeling that free travel should continue for the duration of education for all students.

The levels of support amongst respondents were also low in relation to the removal of additional drop off and collection times, with just over a quarter (28%) agreeing, and over half disagreeing (54%). Respondents raised concerns about finding alternative transport throughout the day and students having to wait around to be picked up.

In regards to the proposal around a new qualifying criteria for post 19 SEND learners, just 32% agree with these proposals, with over half (53%) disagreeing. The most frequent comments were in regards to keeping support in place for SEND students who stay in education into adulthood, as well as the policy reflecting the particular benefits of SEND students being able to access education.

31% are in favour around proposals to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services, with just 23% disagreeing.

Key groups

In regards to differences amongst respondents, those who are not carers are more likely to agree with the proposals compared to those who are carers. Respondents in another capacity, meaning not a student or parent/carer are the most likely interest group to agree with the proposals.

By subgroup, those who do not receive free KCC transport are typically more likely to agree with the proposals compared to those who do receive free KCC transport. The same can also be said for those who are not a secondary KCC Travel pass user compared to those who do have a secondary KCC Travel pass.

Appendix 1: Profile of respondents

The table below shows the profile of consultation respondents. Please note that these questions were non-compulsory so the total sample base per characteristic varies.

Sex	#	%
Male	44	18%
Female	195	79%
Prefer not to say	8	3%
Transgender		
Yes	0	0%
No	244	98%
Prefer not to say	5	2%
Carer		
Yes	131	52%
No	112	45%
Prefer not to say	7	3%
Age		
0-15	4	2%
16-24	5	2%
25-34	9	4%
35-49	134	53%
50-59	64	25%
60-64	9	4%
65-74	15	6%
75-84	8	3%
85 and over	0	0%
Prefer not to say	4	2%
Disability		
Yes	45	18%
No	191	78%
Prefer not to say	9	4%
Disability detail		
Physical impairment	17	39%
Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy	18	41%
Mental health condition	18	41%
Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)	8	18%
Learning disability	8	18%

Other	7	16%
Ethnicity		
White English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish, Irish	222	88%
Asian or Asian British Indian	1	>1%
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	1	>1%
Mixed White & Asian	1	>1%
Chinese	1	>1%
Other specifications below		>1%
English/ Asian Caribbean	1	>1%
White British	2	1%
Caucasian, Anglo-Saxon, Celt	1	>1%
White Polish	1	>1%
White European	1	>1%
Roman	1	>1%
Mixed White and Chinese	1	>1%
French Asian	1	>1%
White South African	1	>1%
White other	1	>1%
British South Asian	1	>1%
Slavic	1	>1%
I prefer not to say	13	5%
Sexuality		
Heterosexual/Straight	211	85%
Bi/Bisexual	8	3%
Gay man	1	>1%
Gay woman/ Lesbian	1	>1%
Other (please specify)	2	1%
Prefer not to say	25	10%

Appendix 2: Consultation questions

Consultation Questionnaire

Kent County Council (KCC) is consulting on:

- a transport policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16 to come into effect from the 2024/25 academic year, and
- our Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

We are also taking this opportunity to seek your views on our Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and/or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

We recommend that you read the consultation documents before answering these questions. To take part in the consultation please go to www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy to complete the online questionnaire.

Alternatively, you may complete a Word/paper version and return it by email schooltransportconsultation@kent.gov.uk or post to: Freepost KCC School Transport

The questionnaire is split into five sections:

Section 1 – About You	Page 3
Section 2 – Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 to 16	Page 10
Section 3 – Post 16 Transport Policy Statements	Page 16
Section 4 – Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for Pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND	Page 22
Section 5 – More About You	Page 24

You can answer all or as many of the questions as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback on a section or question, just move on to the next one.

Following the end of the consultation we will take all responses into consideration and produce a consultation report. Findings from the consultation will be discussed by Cabinet Committees in May 2023.

If you need any help taking part in this consultation or have any questions, please contact us at schooltransportconsultation@kent.gov.uk or telephone us on 03000 418 796. This number goes to an answering machine which is monitored during office hours.

Please ensure your response reaches us by midnight on 21 March 2023.

Privacy: Kent County Council (KCC) collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. KCC respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Read the full Privacy Notice at the end of this document.

Alternative formats: If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call: 03000 421 553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421 553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

Section 1 – About You

Before you tell us your views on the draft Home to School Transport Policy and Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25, we would like to ask you some questions about you. This information will help us to understand your views in more depth.

Q1. Are you a parent/carer of children/young people in education (by education we mean attending nursery, school, college or other further learning)?

Select **one** option.

Yes

No (**go to Q2**)

Q1a. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Q1b. Please select the age groups that apply to your children/young people:

Select **all** that apply.

Early Years (0-4 years) – **go to Q1e**

Reception (4-5 years) – **go to Q1e**

Years 1-6 (Primary aged 5-11) – **go to Q1e**

Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16) – **go to Q1c**

Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18) - **go to Q1c**

Later than Year 13, but started current course/qualification before 19th birthday – **go to Q1c**

Age 19-25 (started current course/qualification after 19th birthday) - **go to Q1c**

Q1c. Do your children/young people attend a school or further education establishment in Kent?

Select **all** that apply.

Yes, please select from the following:

- Special school
- Mainstream school
- Grammar school
- College
- Kent Independent education provider
- Other, please say which one:

No, I attend school or further education setting outside of Kent. Please select from the following:

- Special school
- Mainstream school
- Grammar school
- College
- Independent education provider
- Other, please say which one:

Q1d. Do your children/young people currently use a KCC Travel Saver pass?

This is the travel card subsidised by KCC that gives access to the public bus network.

Select **all** that apply.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, KCC Travel Saver (years 7-11) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

Q1e. Do any of your children/young people receive free KCC organised transport?

Select **one** option.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, 1 child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, 2 children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, 3 or more children |

Q1f. Do any of your children/young people have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?

Select **one** option.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

Please now go to Section 2.

Q2. Are you a student aged 16 to 19 or up to 25 if you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

Select **one** option.

Yes

No (**go to Q3**)

Q2a. Do you attend a school or further education establishment in Kent?

Yes, please select from the following:

Special school

Mainstream school

Grammar school

College

Kent Independent education provider

Other, please say which one:

No, I attend school or further education setting outside of Kent. Please select from the following:

Special school

Mainstream school

Grammar school

College

Independent education provider

Other, please say which one:

Q2b. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you're not sure or don't want to tell us, you can leave the box blank. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Q2c. Please select the age group you are in:

Select **one** option.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Later than Year 13, but started current course/qualification <u>before</u> 19 th birthday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Age 19-25 (started current course/qualification <u>after</u> 19 th birthday) |

Q2d. Do you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? Select **one** option.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I'm not sure |

Q1e. Do you currently use the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass? Select **one** option.

This is the travel card subsidised by KCC that gives access to the public bus network.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |

Q2f. Do you use KCC arranged transport that is provided free of charge?

Select **one** option.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I'm not sure |

Please now go to Section 2.

Q3. If you are not a parent/carer or student, please select from the following options:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transport professional, select from the following: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Taxi operator |

- Minibus operator
- Bus operator
- Other, please tell us more:

Educational professional in Kent, select from the following:

- Special school Head/teacher or another representative
- Mainstream school Head/teacher or another representative
- Grammar school Head/teacher or another representative
- College Head/teacher or another representative
- Kent Independent education provider
- Other, please tell us more

Educational professional outside of Kent, select from the following:

- Special school Head/teacher or another representative
- Mainstream school Head/teacher or another representative
- Grammar school Head/teacher or another representative
- College Head/teacher or another representative
- Independent education provider
- Other, please tell us more

Other, please let us know in the box below:

Q3a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation in the box below:

Q3b. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your organisation's postcode:

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Section 2 – Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 to 16

The next set of questions relate to the proposed Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16.

Pages 4 to 6 of the consultation document provide a summary of the draft policy. The consultation document and full draft policy are available from the consultation webpage www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy

Q4. Is it clear how this policy relates to you and those in your household who use transport to access education?

*Select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q4a. What part of the Transport Policy could be made clearer? *If your suggestion relates to a specific section/page, please provide details.*

The draft Transport Policy includes a number of improvements. More information on these improvements are on pages 4 to 6 of the consultation document.

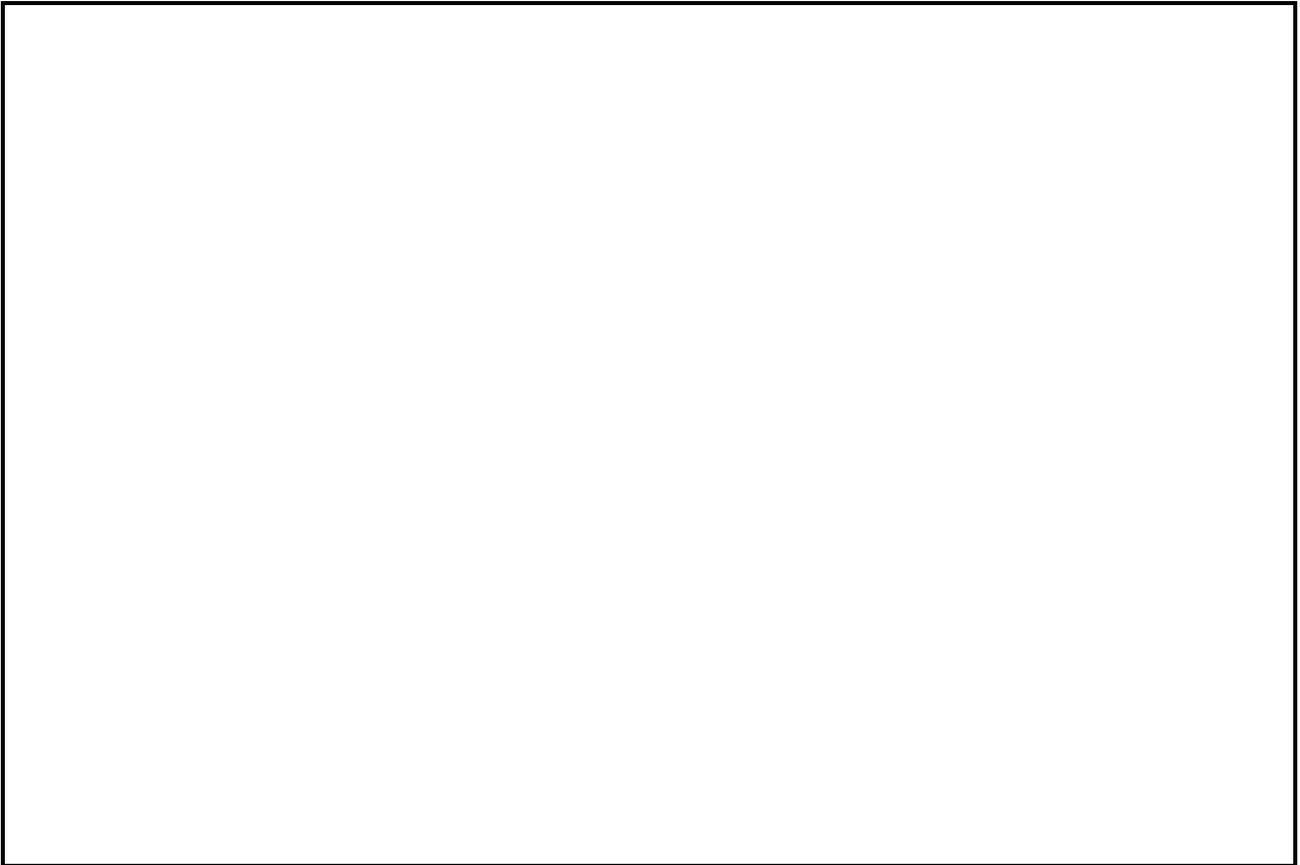
Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed improvements?

*Please select **one** option per row.*

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. Ensuring full support for pupils where KCC as the corporate parent has responsibility for providing the best possible care.						
2. Formalising KCC's Personal Transport Budget scheme and make it available to eligible mainstream pupils.						
3. Allowing schools to support their own entitled pupils more easily by school led transport arrangements.						
4. Providing automatic eligibility for a younger sibling who attends the same school as an older entitled sibling, but who otherwise would not be entitled to free school transport.						
5. Providing automatic eligibility for younger siblings where KCC Members have upheld an appeal for an older sibling with the same circumstances.						
6. Automatically approve transport to alternative addresses where there is zero cost to the KCC.						

Q5a. If you would like to comment on any of the improvements in question 5, please tell us in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific improvement, please make that clear in your comment by adding the number. Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to enter their comment. The box is currently blank.

Equality Analysis

To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we have prepared an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft Transport Policy.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any proposals would have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief, and carer's responsibilities.

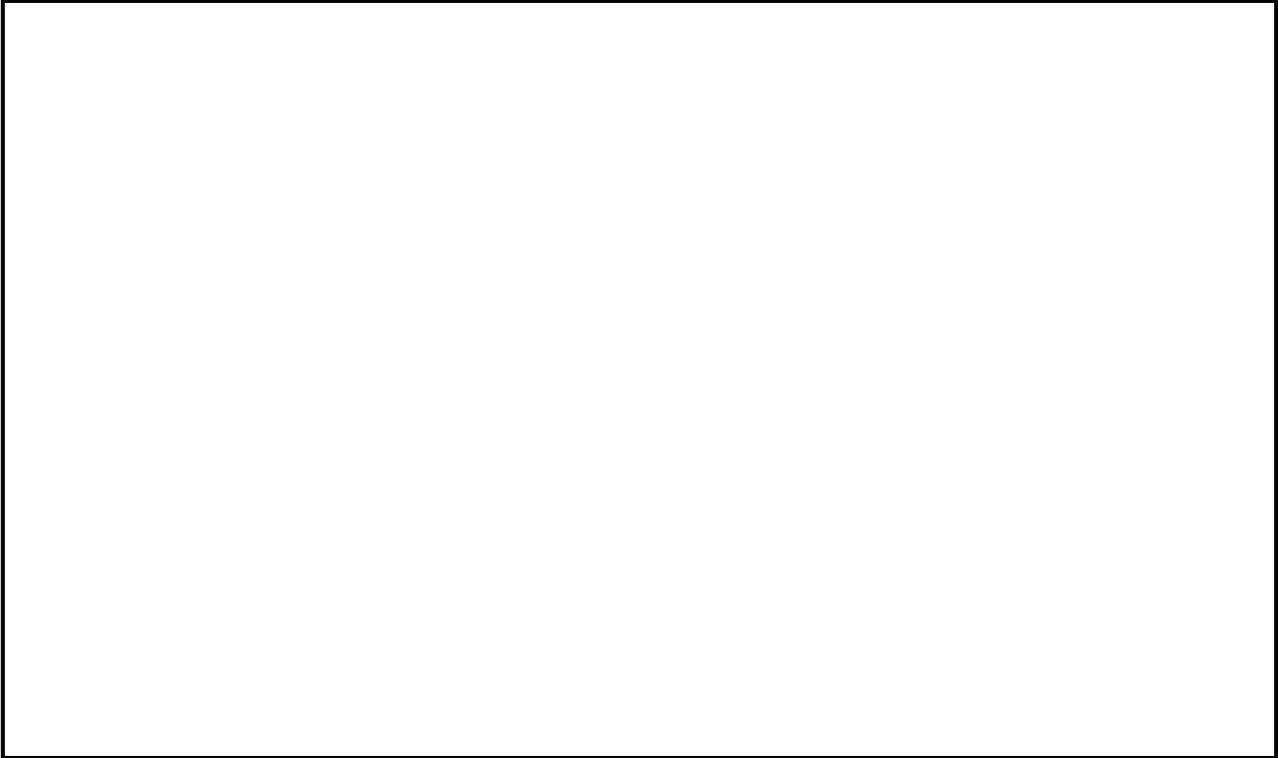
A summary of potential impacts can be found on page 6 of the consultation document. The consultation document and full EqIA are available at kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy or on request.

Q6. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything we should consider relating to equality and diversity. Please add any comments in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

Q7. If you have any other comments or suggestions on the draft Home to School Transport Policy for Children and Young People aged 4 to 16, including anything you feel is missing, please add them in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information within your response.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to provide comments or suggestions on the draft Home to School Transport Policy.

Cycle Bursary Scheme

We are starting to explore the potential for a Cycle Bursary Scheme and would welcome your views at this early stage. The scheme would enable parents of children eligible for free school transport to receive a sum of money to buy their child a bicycle, instead of being provided access to a free KCC vehicle. The scheme would include safety equipment and some additional money for maintenance costs to ensure the bicycle remains safe and road worthy. This could be in the region of £300 to £500 and would likely cover three years of transport support.

Q8. Is the Cycle Bursary Scheme something that would be of interest to you or your child(ren)? *Please select **one** only.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maybe
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable

Q8a. If you have any feedback or suggestions on a potential Cycling Bursary Scheme, please tell us in the box below. *Please do not identify yourself or anyone else.*

Section 3 – Post 16 Transport Policy Statements

The draft 2023-24 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

No changes are being proposed for the 2023-24 Post 16 Policy Statement, however KCC is legally required to consult every year. Page 9 of the consultation document provides a summary of the draft Statement. The consultation document and full draft Statement are available from the consultation webpage www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy

There will be the opportunity to provide your feedback on the Statement for 2024-25 in the next question.

Q9. If you have any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023-24, please provide them in the box below.

If you don't have any comments, please move on to the next question. Please do not include any personal information within your response.

The draft 2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

The draft 2024-25 Statement proposes three changes to provision for SEND learners over 16 years of age. The consultation document, which is available from the consultation webpage along with the full draft Statement, provides more information.

Proposal 1: mandatory contribution for Post 16 SEND transport

We are proposing to introduce a mandatory contribution from all pupils who receive direct support from KCC for Post 16 transport including those with Special Educational Needs and/or a disability and/or mobility problems (SEND). As is the case with mainstream pupils, these pupils would be expected to pay the equivalent value of a Kent 16+ Travel Saver Pass (currently £500, but subject to annual price reviews). A half price option would be made available to families who qualify for low-income support.

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a mandatory contribution for all KCC provided transport for Post 16 learners, including those with SEND?

*Please select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q10a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below. *Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to provide comments on the proposal. The box is currently blank.

Proposal 2: removal of additional drop off and collection

We are proposing to remove the discretionary provision of additional drop off and collection times for SEND Post 16 pupils to accommodate partial attendance. This would mean that drop off and collections would only be at the start and end of the school day.

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the removal of additional drop off and collection times for Post 16 pupils? Please select *one* option.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q11a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.

Proposal 3: new qualifying criteria for Post 19 SEND learners

We are proposing to introduce qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new education courses started after their 19th birthday. This means that when assessing the

need for transport support for learners aged 19-25 who did not start a course before their 19th birthday, we would not consider it necessary, other than in exceptional circumstances, to provide transport for a learner to attend an additional Further Education course at the same level or equivalent to one the learner has previously attended and completed.

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the introduction of qualifying criteria for learners seeking transport support for new courses started after their 19th birthday? *Please select **one** option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q12a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal below. *Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

Equality Analysis

We have prepared an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft 2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement.

On pages 11 to 12 of the consultation document we have summarised the potential impacts and mitigations. The consultation document and full EqlA is available at www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy or on request.

Q13. We welcome your views on our EqlA for the draft 2024-25 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement and if you think there is anything else we could do to lessen the impacts on learners and their families. Please write your comments/suggestions below. *Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

Q14. If you have any other comments on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2024-25, please provide them in the box below. *Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

Section 4 - Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for Pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND

The draft annex is available in full on the consultation webpage

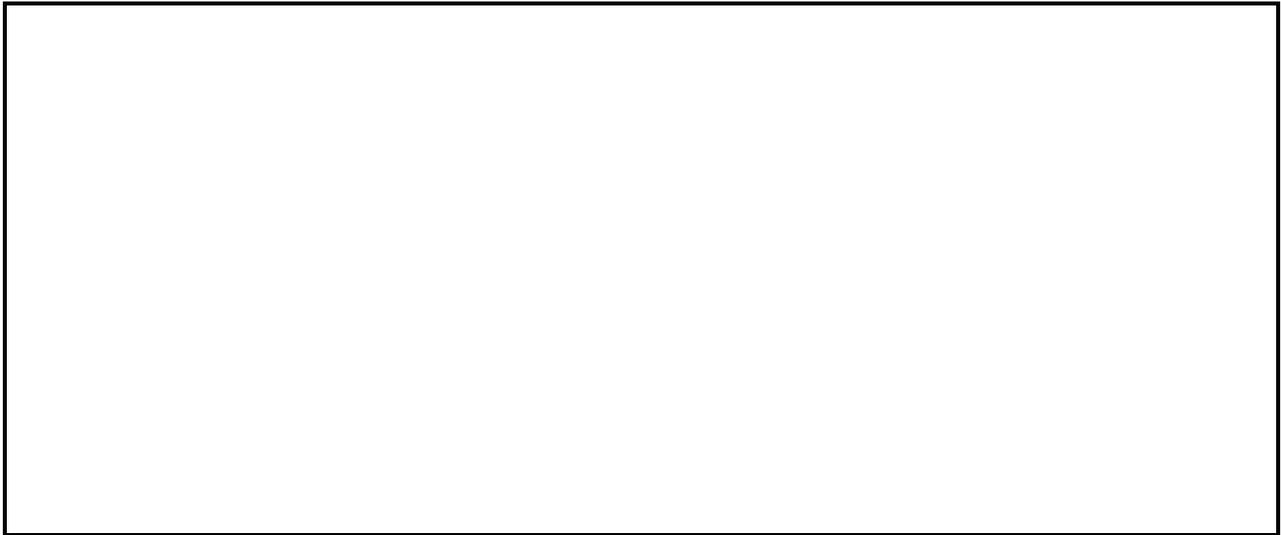
www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned changes to services? Please select *one* only.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q15a. If you have any comments on how we propose to communicate and engage with key stakeholders on planned service changes, please tell us in the box below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.

Q16. If you have any other comments or suggestions on our Home to School and Post-16 Transport Retendering Procedure for pupils with an EHCP and/or SEND, please tell us in the box below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.



Section 5 – More About You

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. We'll use it only to help us make decisions and improve our services.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Q17. Are you....? *Select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

We use the terms "transgender" and "trans" as inclusive umbrella terms for a diverse range of people who find their gender identity differs in some way from the sex they were originally assumed to be at birth.

Q18. Have you ever identified, or do you identify as a transgender or trans person?

*Select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q19. Which of these age groups applies to you? *Please select **one** option.*

0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>	85+ over	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q20. Do you regard yourself as belonging to a particular religion or belief? *Select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

I prefer not to say

Q20a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q20, which of the following applies to you? *Select one option.*

Christian

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Other

I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a long standing physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q21. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q21a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q21, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.

You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other' and give brief details of the impairment you have.

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)
- Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- I prefer not to say
- Other

Other, please specify:

A Carer is anyone who provides unpaid care for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.

Q22. Are you a Carer? *Select one option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q23. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? *Please select one option.* (Source 2011 Census)

White English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Asian or Asian British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Other - If your ethnic group is not specified on the list, please describe it here:

Q24. Are you...? *Select one option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Heterosexual/Straight
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Bi/Bisexual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay woman/Lesbian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay man
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered in the development of our policies.

We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous, and we will keep your personal details confidential.

Closing date for responses: midnight 21 March 2023



m.e.l
research

