

Early Learning and Childcare Shetland



Shetland-Wide Consultation Childcare Survey 2021

CENTRAL MAINLAND



SECTION A

This report presents an overview of findings from parents/carers who have a child in a Central Mainland setting that receives a funded early learning and childcare placement.

Section A relates to funded early learning and childcare. Funded hours are offered to all 3 and 4-year olds in Scotland, and to eligible 2-year olds. Section A considers current use and factors that influence the use of funded early learning and childcare for parents/carers who use provision based in the Central Mainland. In addition, Section A also asked for views about the need for additional childcare over and above their funded entitlement.

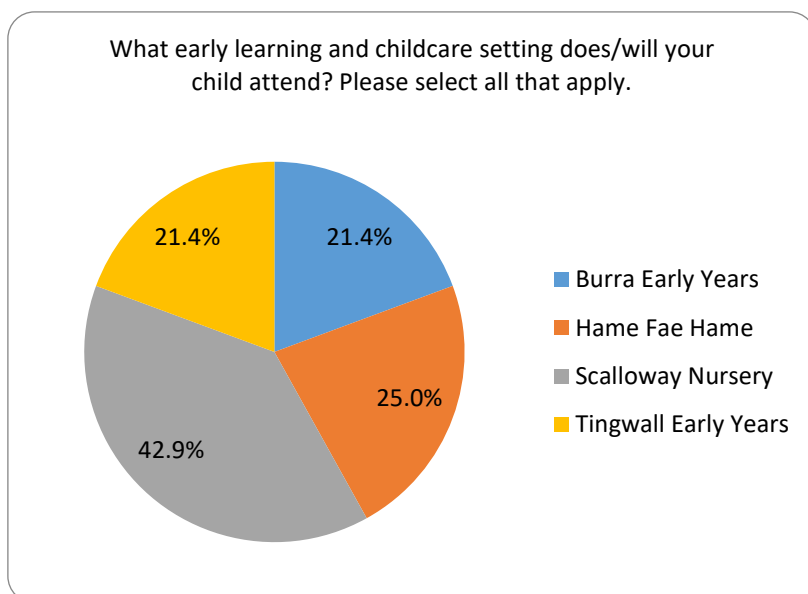
To gather the data, the Shetland-wide Consultation Childcare Survey (conducted in November/December 2021) was filtered to only include the responses given from parents/carers who were using provision that was based in Central Mainland. These settings included Burra Early Years, Hame Fae Hame, Scalloway Nursery, and Tingwall Early Years. Of the total 119 responses that Section A received in the Shetland-wide Survey, 28 of these responses were using one or more of the Central Mainland facilities listed above.

Question 6

What early learning and childcare setting does/will your child attend? Please select all that apply.

Scalloway Nursery received the highest level of representation, with a total of 42.9% of the responses (12 responses). This was followed by Hame Fae Hame (25%) and then Burra Early Years (21.4%) and Tingwall Early Years (21.4%).

What early learning and childcare setting does/will your child attend? Please select all that apply.			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Burra Early Years	21.4%	6
2	Hame Fae Hame	25.0%	7
3	Scalloway Nursery	42.9%	12
4	Tingwall Early Years	21.4%	6
5			28

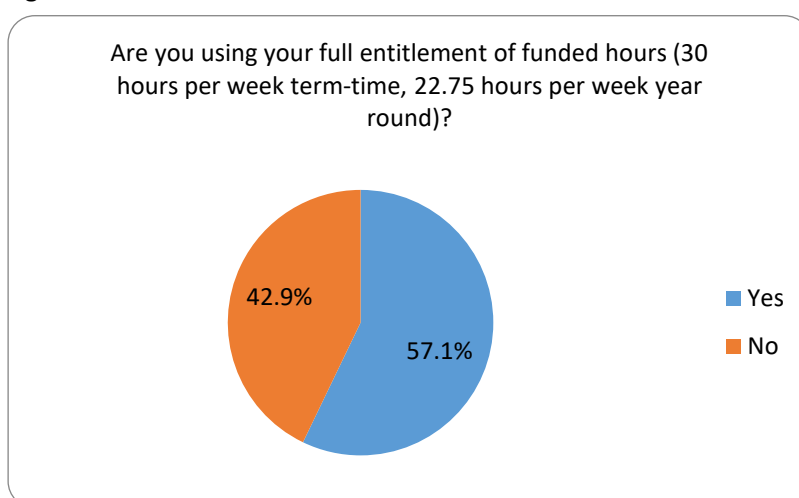


Question 7

Are you using your full entitlement of funded hours (30 hours per week term-time, 22.75 hours per week year round)?

Of the 28 responses, 57.1% (16 responses) stated that they are currently making use of their full entitlement of 1140 hours. This is compared to the 42.9% of parents/carers (12 responses) who stated that they do not use their full entitlement.

Comparison: When comparing this to the Shetland-wide survey, those using early learning and childcare provision in Central Mainland are 20.7% more likely to be using their full entitlement than the Shetland average.



Question 8

If you answered No, please provide the reasons why:

This question was answered by 12 respondents. The themes that arise reflect those of the Shetland-wide survey, with 6 responses stating that they believe that their child is too young and not yet ready for a full 30 hours per week in a formal setting while another 4 responses claim that they do not need the full 30 hours, particularly due to part-time work. A further 2 responses wanted more quality time with their child.

The following comments are noted:

- *Not needed as I don't work full time and feel it's a very long day for a 3 year old. Maybe coming closer to my child starting school I would consider upping their hours.*
- *I think 30 hours is too much time for pupils to spend in childcare aged 3 if they have the option to be at home (i.e. if parents not working full time).*
- *30 hours or 6 hours every day is just far too long for a child under 5 to be in a childcare setting in my opinion. We use 20 hours only.*
- *I feel it's too long for the age of the child.*

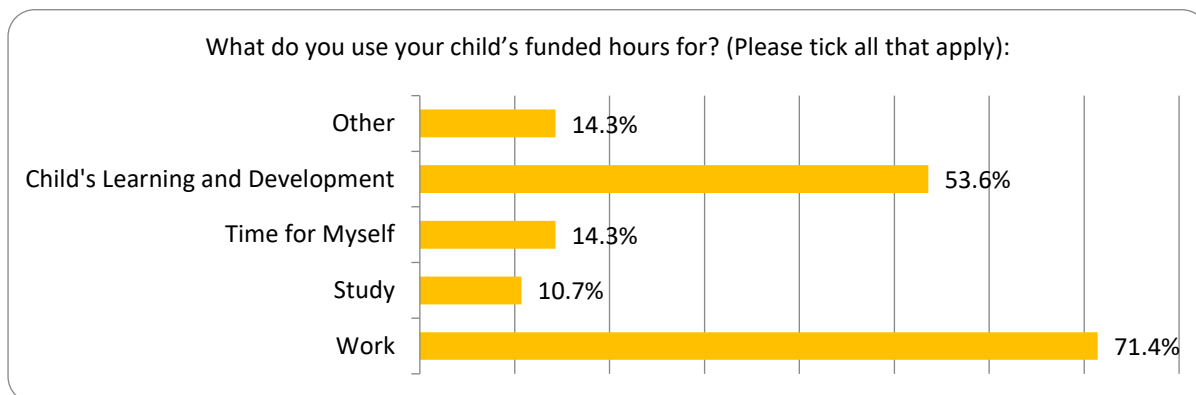
Question 9

What do you use your child's funded hours for? (Please tick all that apply):

72.4% of respondents (20 responses) stated that they use funded early learning and childcare hours to work, while a further 53.6% (15 responses) use it for their child's learning and development.

14.3% (4 responses) use it for time to themselves. This implies that funded hours allows for an increased ability for parents/carers to attend employment.

Comparison: These numbers are similar to the Shetland average, where 76.5% of respondents stated that they use funded early learning and childcare hours to work.

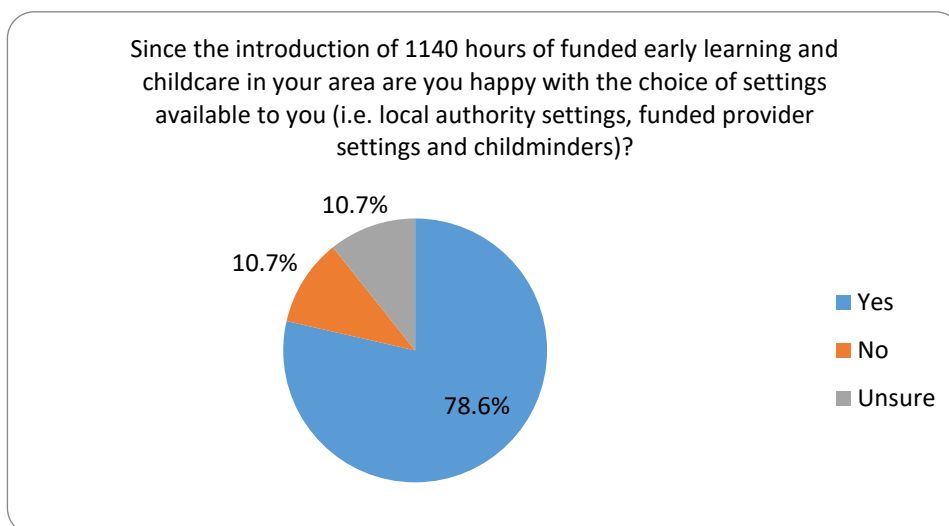


Question 10

Since the introduction of 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare in your area are you happy with the choice of settings available to you (i.e. local authority settings, funded provider settings and childminders)?

Of the 28 responses, 78.6% of respondents (22 responses) stated that they were happy with the choice of early learning and childcare settings available to them while 10.7% (3 responses) stated that they were not happy. A further 10.7% (3 responses) claimed to be unsure.

Comparison: The figures are similar to the Shetland-average – where 80.3% of parents/carers were happy with the choice of settings.



Question 11

If you answered No, please provide further information here:

This question was answered by 6 respondents. Of these, 2 responses commented on the lack of childminders in the area, 2 mentioned the lack of provision in their local area of Nesting.

The following comments are noted:

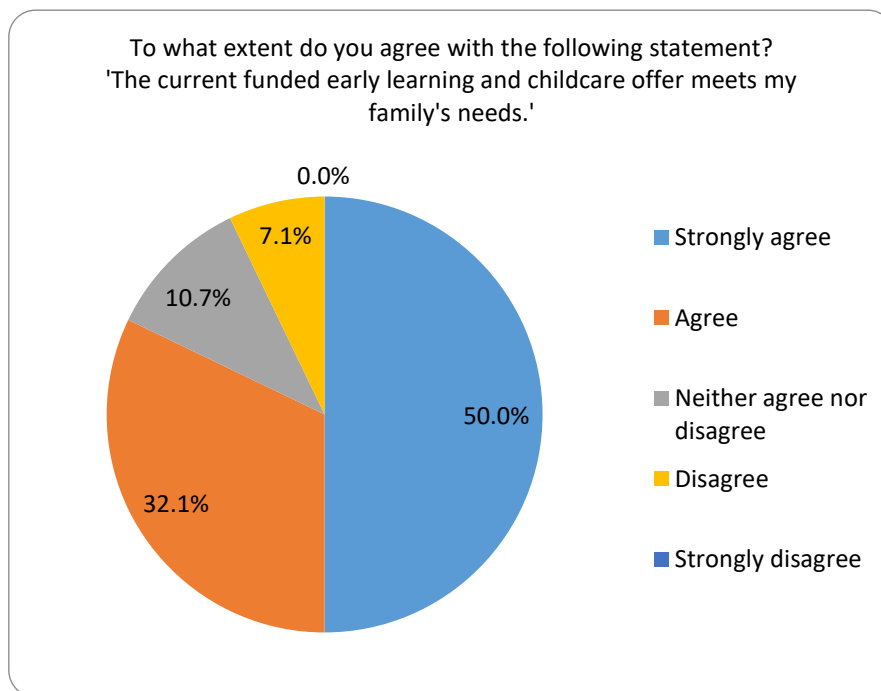
- *I'd love there to be more childminders in my local area. A split placement between nursery and childminder would be excellent as a full day in nursery can be quite overwhelming for 3-4 year olds.*
- *There is no nursery where I live (Nesting) and the closest ones don't offer wrap around hours so I was pushed / forced to put my children to Scalloway which isn't ideal in terms of connecting children with their community.*
- *I am happy with Tingwall, but would prefer to have a nursery in Nesting because my child will go to school there.*

Question 12

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? 'The current funded early learning and childcare offer meets my family's needs.'

82.1% (23 responses) of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that their current early learning and childcare setting offer was meeting their needs. In comparison, 7.1% of respondents (2 responses) disagreed with the statement, 0 respondents strongly disagreed, and 10.7% (3 response) neither agreed nor disagreed.

Comparison: The Shetland-wide survey presents similar findings, where a slightly lower proportion, 79.9%, of parent/carers needs being met by their current early learning and childcare setting.



Question 13

If you disagree/strongly disagree with the above statement, please provide further information here:

This question received 4 responses. Of these responses, 3 responses suggested that the opening times, in particular closing times, were not in-line with their working schedule, making it difficult for parents to both work and pick up their child. 1 further response mentioned wanting a funded place for their 2-year old child.

The following comments are noted:

- *If the placement could be open until 5 that may be more useful in terms of work patterns.*

- Hours of nursery (ending at 3) and long protected lunch break are out of sync with working hours, the pool (where swimming lessons and public swimming are during the protected time) and even the school. For this reason I've mainly moved my child to HFH.
- Should be able to put my 2 and a half year old into a funded place.

Question 14

Were you aware of the full registration process prior to registering?

Prior to registering, 67.9% of respondents (19 responses) claimed to be aware of the full registration process.

Comparison: This figure is 6.8% lower than the response from the Shetland-wide childcare survey.

Question 15

Were the options for funded hours clear enough to understand (single placement, split placement, blended placement)?

78.6 % of parents/carers (22 responses) stated that the options for funded hours were clear enough to understand.

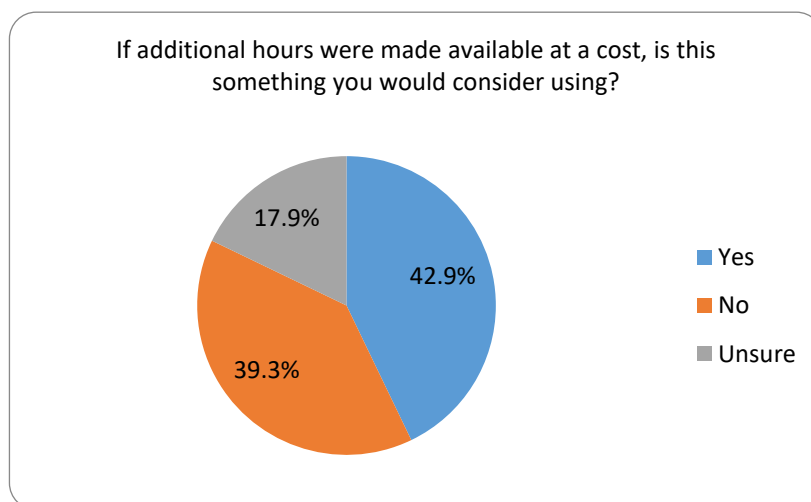
Comparison: This is 3.2% higher than the response found in the Shetland-wide childcare survey.

Question 16

If additional hours were made available at a cost, is this something you would consider using?

Of the 27 responses, 33.3% of respondents (12 responses) said that they would pay for additional hours while 40.7% (11 responses) stated that they would not. A further 25.9% (5 responses) were unsure.

Comparison: These figures are very similar to the Shetland-average, with the Shetland-wide Survey stating that 37.6% of parent/carers in Shetland would pay for additional hours. Therefore, those living in Central Mainland are slightly more likely to use additional hours.



Question17

Do you feel that you received adequate information on your chosen early learning and childcare setting before your child started attending?

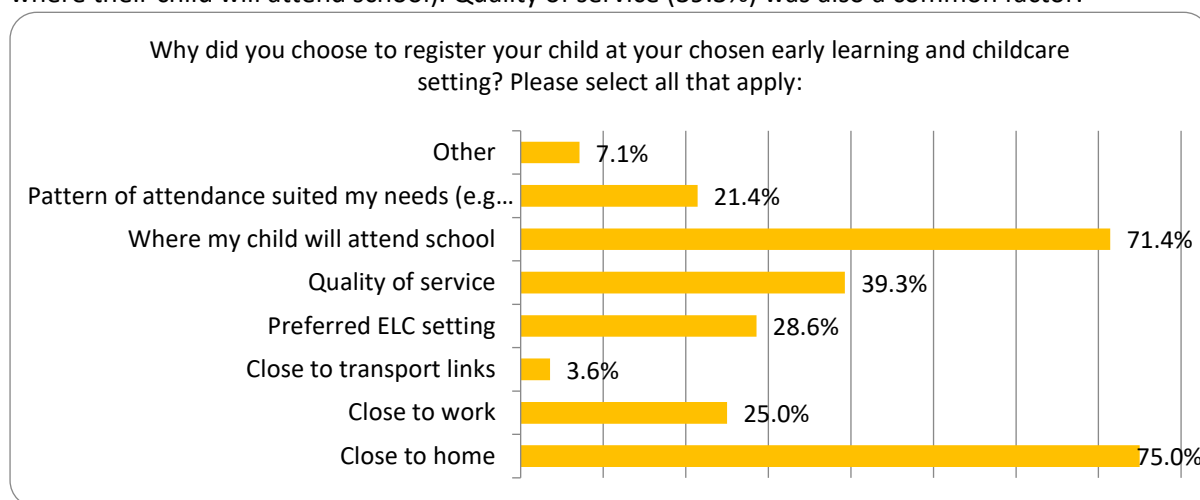
67.9% of respondents (19 responses), believed that they received adequate information on their chosen early learning and childcare setting before their child started attending.

Comparison: This is lower than the response found in Shetland-wide consultation, where 74.5% of parent/carers stated that they received adequate information.

Question 18

**Why did you choose to register your child at your chosen early learning and childcare setting?
Please select all that apply:**

Much like the Shetland-wide survey, parents' choice of early learning and childcare provider was influenced by a range of factors, with convenience of location, particularly being close to home or their chosen school setting being the most common answer (75% of respondents claimed that they chose their setting because it was close to home while 71.4% stated that it was because it was where their child will attend school). Quality of service (39.3%) was also a common factor.



Question 19

We aim to increase the amount of time children spend playing outside. If more outdoor provision was on offer, would you be interested in this for your child/children?

75% of respondents (21 responses) using services based in the Central Mainland were interested in more outdoor provision, while 3.6% were not (1 response). A further 21.4% (6 responses) claimed to be unsure.

Comparison: Parent/carers living in the Central Mainland are 6.4% more interested in outdoor provision when compared to the Shetland-average.

Question 20

If there are any barriers to you currently accessing funded early learning and childcare please give details below:

This question was answered by 4 respondents. Of these, 3 said N/A while one further response mentioned affordability concerns.

KEY FINDINGS

- 57.1% of respondents who use provision based in the Central Mainland are currently making use of their full entitlement of 1140 hours. **This is 20.7% higher than the Shetland-average.**

Therefore, those using early learning and childcare provision in the Central Mainland are more likely to be using their full entitlement when compared to the entirety of Shetland

- Since the introduction of 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare, a high majority of parent/carers (78.6%) using provision in the Central Mainland are happy with their chosen setting.
- The vast majority of parent/carer needs of those using early learning and childcare provision in the Central Mainland are being met through the current offer of 1140 funded hours. 82.1% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that their current setting offer was meeting their needs.

SECTION B

Section B is centred around school-aged childcare. This section examines current school-aged childcare facilities for those living in the Central Mainland, assesses whether this provision does enough to meet the needs of parents/carers, and aims to see where services may need to be developed in the future.

To gather the responses, the Shetland

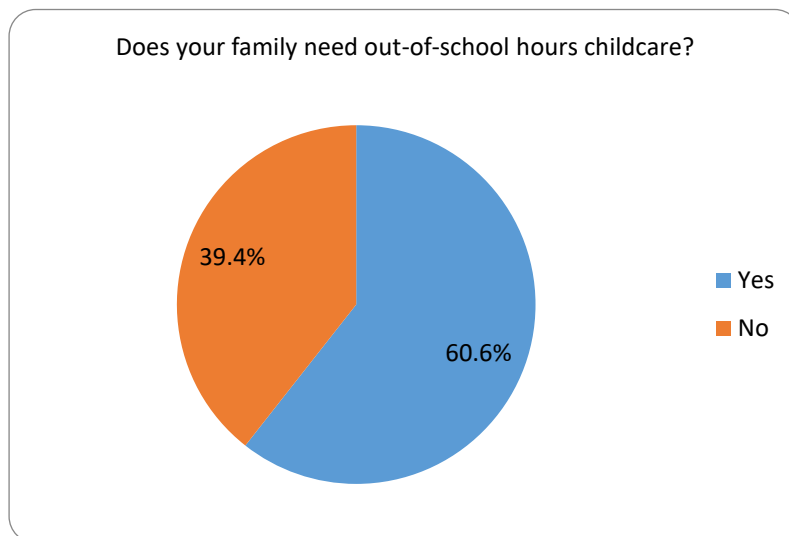
-wide Consultation Childcare Survey (conducted in November/December 2021) was filtered, this time to those who stated that they lived in the Central Mainland. Of the total 316 responses that Section B received in the Shetland-wide Survey, 66 of these responses stated that they lived in Central Mainland.

Question 23

Does your family need out-of-school hours childcare?

This question was answered by 66 respondents. Of these, 60.6% (40 responses) stated that they require out-of-school childcare provision. This is compared to the 39.4% of parents/carers (26 responses) living in Central Mainland who stated that they do not need this type of provision.

Comparison: Similar findings came out of the Shetland-wide survey where 57% of Shetland parents/carers require out-of-school childcare. Therefore, parents/carers living in Central Mainland are 3.6% more likely to need out-of-school care than the Shetland-average.



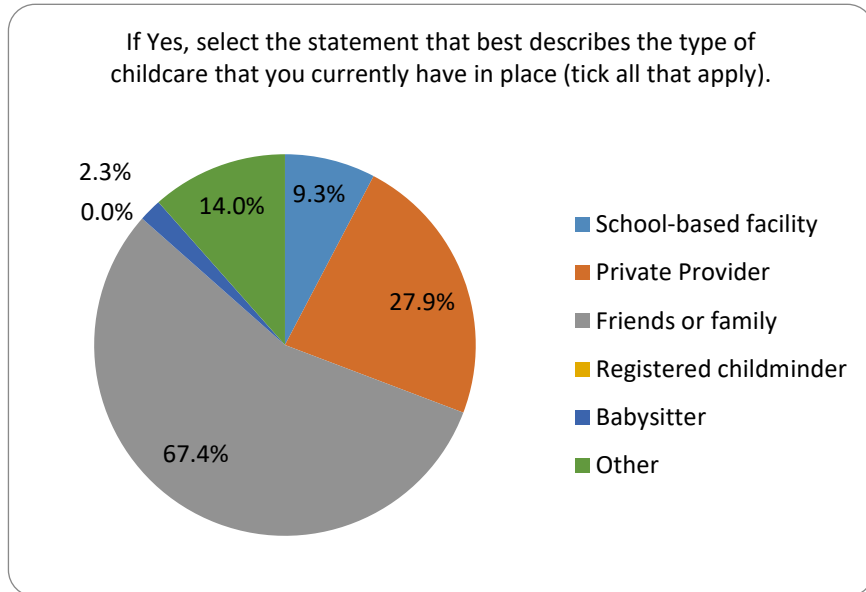
Question 24

If Yes, select the statement that best describes the type of childcare that you currently have in place (tick all that apply).

As in the Shetland-Wide Survey, the majority (67.4%) of those living in Central Mainland rely on friends or family for childcare provision. A further 27.9% use a private provider, 9.3% use a school-based facility while 14% stated 'other'.

Comparison: In the Shetland-wide survey, 75.1% of respondents stated using friends or family as a source of childcare. While a large number of parents/carers in Central Mainland use friends and

family for childcare, this figure is 7.7% lower than the Shetland-average. Further, those living in Central Mainland are 12.8% more likely to be using a private provider when compared to the Shetland-average.

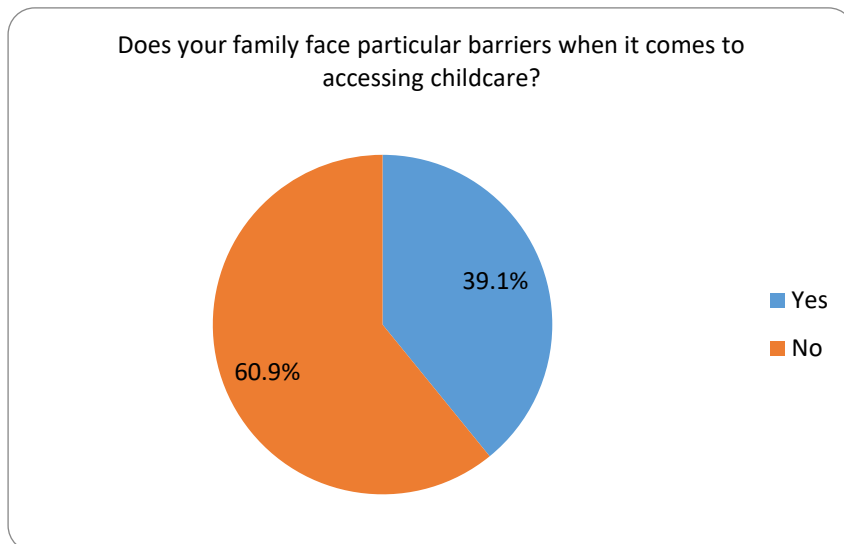


Question 25

Does your family face particular barriers when it comes to accessing childcare?

This question was answered by 46 respondents. Of those who answered, 60.9% of parents/carers (28 responses) stated that do not face any particular barriers when accessing school-aged childcare compared to the 39.1% of parents/carers (18 responses) that claimed that they did.

Comparison: When comparing to the Shetland-average, those living in the Central Mainland are 5.3% less likely to face barriers when accessing school-aged childcare.



Question 26

If Yes, please provide further information here:

This question was answered by 20 respondents. Of these, the most common theme to arise was the lack of childcare options available to families in the local area (8 responses). Other common barriers included issues with affordability (5 responses), the negative effects that limited childcare has on employment (3 responses), issues with finding family/friends for childcare (3 responses). A further 3 responses mentioned needing provision during holidays and one response mentioned the lack of childminders.

The following comments are noted:

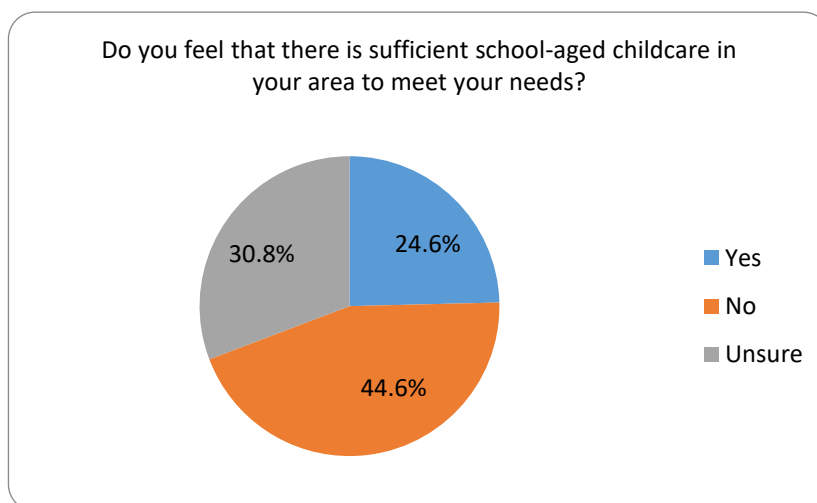
- *Often the hours don't find my early start. Very little choice.*
- *Current lack of availability of before school support means I can't get into work as early as I would like. This was particularly challenging during the heightened Covid restrictions when, as keyworkers, we still had to work.*
- *Out of school child care would be beneficial, but cannot use any that is suitable for my daughter's needs. There is also none at all in my area. Would need to be affordable.*
- *Very little choice can be quite costly.*

Question 27

Do you feel that there is sufficient school-aged childcare in your area to meet your needs?

Of the 65 responses, 24.6% (16 responses) believe that families living in Central Mainland have access to an adequate level of childcare to meet their needs. In comparison, 44.6% (29 responses) believe that there is no sufficient school-aged childcare in Central Mainland. A further 30.8% of respondents (20 responses) claimed to be unsure. Therefore, this question suggests that the current school-aged childcare facilities in Central Mainland are not meeting the needs of the families living there.

Comparison: The Shetland-wide survey shows that 51.6% of parents/carers in Shetland believe that family needs are not being met through current school-aged provision. Therefore, those who live in Central Mainland are 7% more likely to have their childcare needs being met through the current provision when compared to the Shetland-average.



Question 28

If you answered No, please provide further information here:

This question received 28 responses. Of these responses, the most common theme to arise was the lack of childcare provision in Central Mainland (22 responses), and the difficulties that arise from this. Other recurring topics included affordability concerns (3 responses), the limiting effects that lack of childcare has on employability (2 responses), the need for childcare during school holidays (2 responses), and the lack of childminders in the area (3 responses).

The following comments are noted:

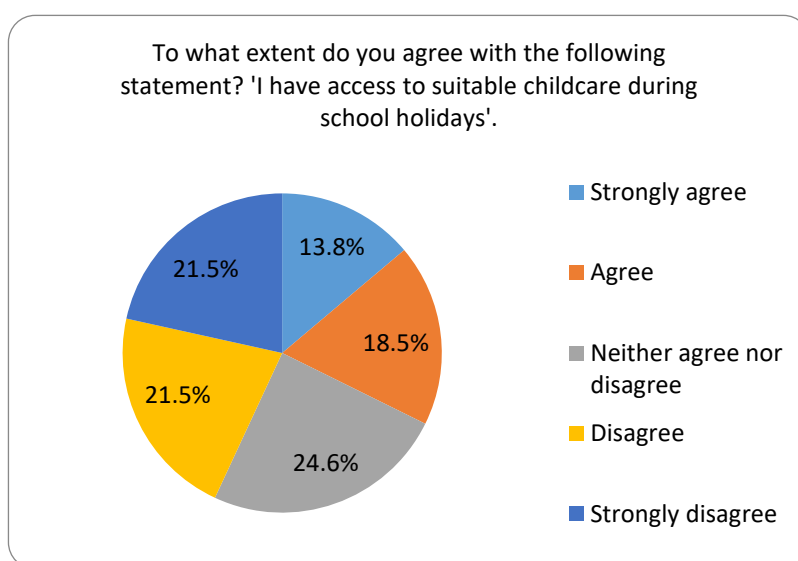
- *There is no out of school childcare/club available in my area. If so it would be something I would access.*
- *I'm having to work half days as there is no registered childcare or after school activities or clubs after 3pm in Tingwall*
- *There are no after school clubs in our area or anything on in the holidays that fit into a regular 9-5 working day.*
- *There's no suitable after school, or school holiday, care available for secondary age pupils with additional needs.*
- *There is no formal childcare in our area. We rely solely on family and friends which is extremely challenging.*
- *No registered childminders in our area.*
- *I feel current provisions are too expensive which means I am unable to use them.*

Question 29

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? 'I have access to suitable childcare during school holidays'.

The majority of parents/carers in Central Mainland do not have access to childcare during school holidays. 32.3% of respondents (21 responses) either agreed or strongly agreed that there was suitable provision during the holidays. In comparison, 43% (28 responses) chose to either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. A further 24.6% (16 responses), the largest response, claimed to neither agree nor disagree.

Comparison: While these results suggest more provision could be provided during holidays, this response is slightly more positive when compared to the Shetland-wide consultation where 26.8% of parent/carers in Shetland agreed that they had suitable holiday provision.

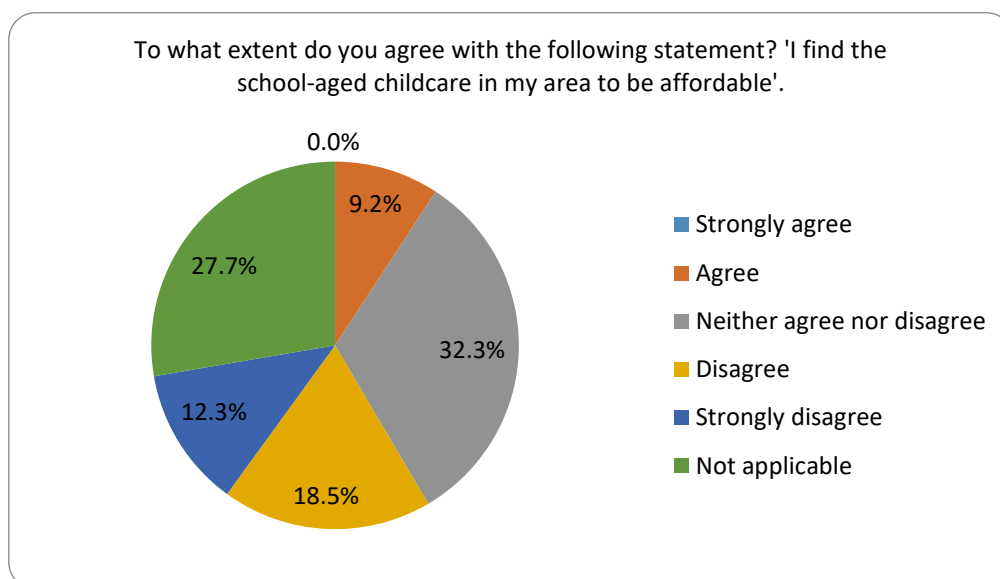


Question 30

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? 'I find the school-aged childcare in my area to be affordable'.

9.2% of respondents (8 responses) agreed that they found their school-aged childcare to be affordable in the Central Mainland (with zero respondents 'strongly agreeing'). In comparison, 30.8% of respondents (21 responses) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that school-aged childcare was affordable. A further 27.7% of respondents (15 responses) claimed this statement to be 'not applicable' while a further 32.3% (16 responses), the largest response, chose to neither agree nor disagree. Therefore, a large number of parents living in the Central Mainland believe childcare is not affordable, however a large number also believed that they could not answer this question adequately.

Comparison: These responses reflect those found in the Shetland-wide consultation are similar to the Shetland average.



Question 31

What changes to local childcare provision, if any, would meet the needs of your family?

This question received 35 responses, with 26 comments mentioning wanting an increase in the number of out-of-school childcare options in the local area. Of these, 12 responses specifically mentioned wanting provision after-school while a further 3 responses mentioned wanting a breakfast club. In particular, parents/carers asked for provision that catered to the average working day, to reduce the constraints that a lack of childcare places on employment.

Other common themes that emerged was respondents wanting an increase in provision during the holiday periods (6 responses), and affordability issues (8 responses), with numerous respondents claiming that it was too expensive and asking for a lower rate.

The following comments are noted:

- Availability during all school holidays and more options if one facility is full.

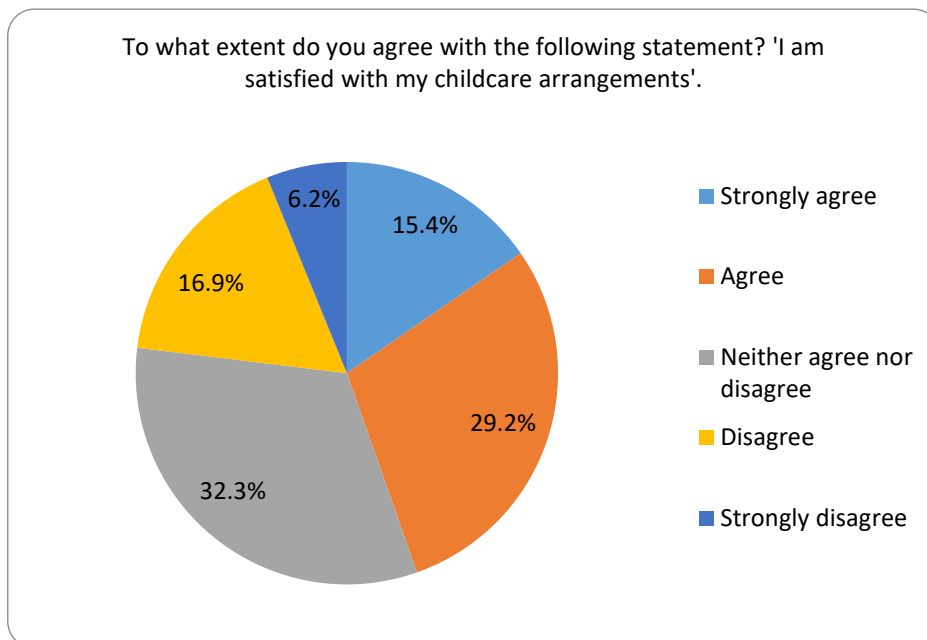
- *If there was increased school aged children after school and throughout the holidays then I would use it. This last 2 years have resulted in elderly relatives not been asked to help with childcare given the Pandemic, thus protecting them and minimising risk. Therefore when looking at alternatives it was clear that SIC was lacking in this area.*
- *If there would be any existing at all locally, and then also suitable for additional needs.*
- *More provision and ones that cater during working hours. Some holidays like the Clickimin start at 10 which leads to a childcare issue beforehand.*
- *Perhaps some form of after school youth club would help for kids whose parents work full-time.*
- *Affordable pre & post school childcare in school setting.*
- *Childcare is covered by family/working from home/holidays. I can't afford to pay for the childcare services available.*
- *We feel that it is expensive as Mum is a part time worker, reduction in daily costs would help family.*

Question 32

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? 'I am satisfied with my childcare arrangements'.

44.6% (29 responses) either agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their childcare arrangements. In comparison, a smaller proportion, 23.1% (15 responses), chose to either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. A further 32.3% (21 responses), chose to neither agree nor disagree.

Comparison: These number are very similar to the Shetland-average, where 42.8% agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their childcare arrangements and 24.6% disagreed. Therefore, those living in the Central Mainland are marginally more satisfied with their childcare arrangements when compared to the Shetland-average.



Question 33

Are there any comments you wish to add in relation to childcare in your area?

This question was answered by 16 respondents who live in Central Mainland. Similar to above, the most common theme to arise was the lack of access to out-of-school aged childcare in the local area

(6 responses), and the difficulties that families face because of this. Other themes to occur were the praising of their current settings (4 responses), the overreliance on informal networks (friends and family) for childcare provision (2 responses), and affordability concerns (2 responses).

The following comments are noted:

- *Other than using somewhere like Hame Fae Hame or Peerie Foxes there are few local childminders, which I would prefer for my children.*
- *As above, nil affordable childcare or clubs for after school time or during holidays for older age groups of children.*
- *I am not aware of childcare services available as I rely on family to help.*

KEY FINDINGS

- Instead of formal provision, the majority of parents living in the Central Mainland (67.4%) rely on informal networks – friends and family – as their main form of school-aged childcare. A further 27.9% use a private provider, which is 12.8% higher than the Shetland-average.
- School-aged childcare needs are not being met in the Central Mainland for the majority of parents/carers, with 24.6% believing that there is an adequate level of childcare in the area. That said, those who live in Central Mainland are 7% more likely to have their childcare needs being met through the current provision when compared to the Shetland-average.
- 39.1% of parents/carers in the Central Mainland face particular barriers when accessing school-aged childcare. Those living in the Central Mainland are 5.3% less likely to face barriers when accessing school-aged childcare.
- There is a high demand for more out-of-school services, with numerous responses asking for an increase in school-aged childcare in the local area, in particular after-school.