



# **Women's Survey 2022** **– disability report** Scottish Women's Budget Group

Survey conducted February-March 2022

Responses from those who identified as having a disability



Scottish  
Women's  
Budget  
Group

The Scottish Women's Budget Group conducted survey with women in Scotland between 9<sup>th</sup> February – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The survey asked questions about women's local priorities, experiences of rising prices, childcare and social care. This report outlines the data from the responses to the survey by those who identified as having a disability.

## Local Authority Areas

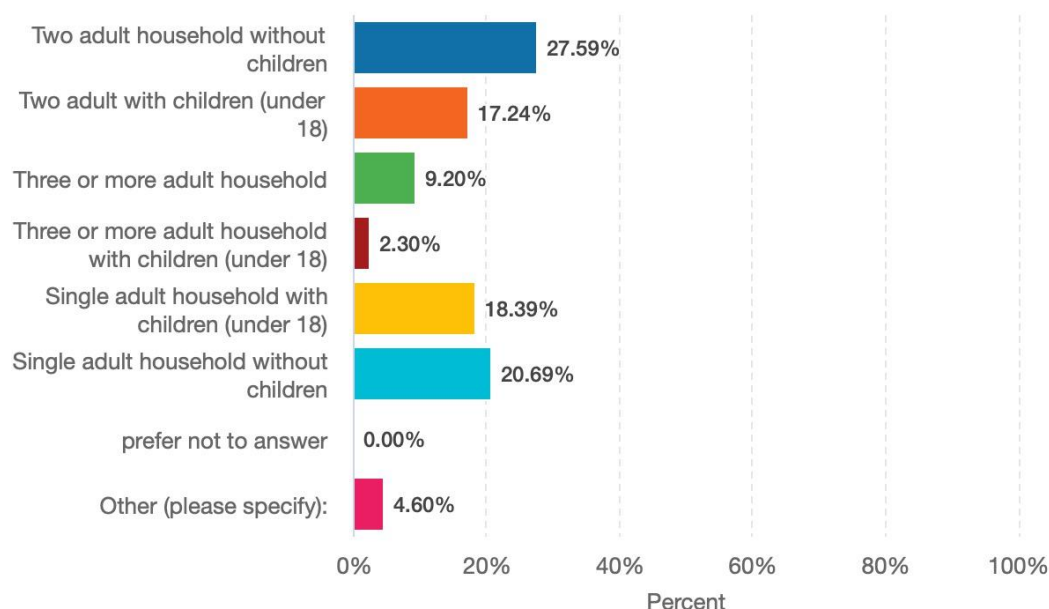
87 responses from 26 local authority areas as follows;

Local Authority	Number of responses	Local Authority	Number of responses
Aberdeenshire	2	Inverclyde	2
Aberdeen	6	Midlothian	3
Angus	3	North Ayrshire	5
Argyll & Bute	1	North Lanarkshire	4
City of Edinburgh	5	Orkney	0
Clackmannanshire	0	Perth & Kinross	6
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1	Renfrewshire	6
Dumfries and Galloway	2	Scottish Borders	0
Dundee	11	Shetland Islands	0
East Ayrshire	1	South Ayrshire	2
East Dunbartonshire	1	South Lanarkshire	2
East Lothian	4	Stirling	0
East Renfrewshire	1	The Highland Council	2
Falkirk	10	The Moray Council	1
Fife	0	West Dunbartonshire	1
Glasgow City	18	West Lothian	1

# Demographics

## Household

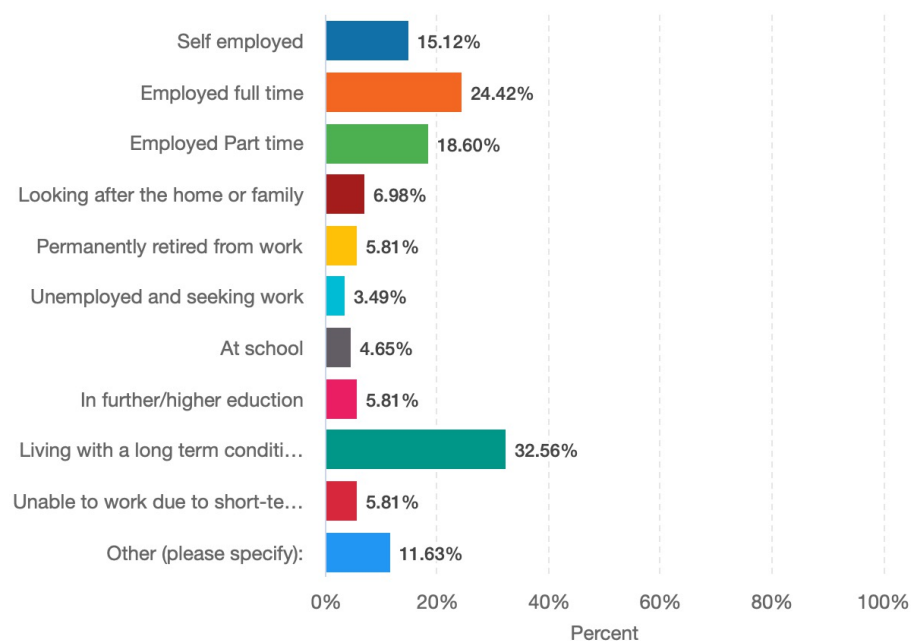
Please tick the option which best describes your household?



The percentage of single adult household with children are 8% higher than for the full survey, two adult household with children is 14% lower than for the full survey.

## Employment status

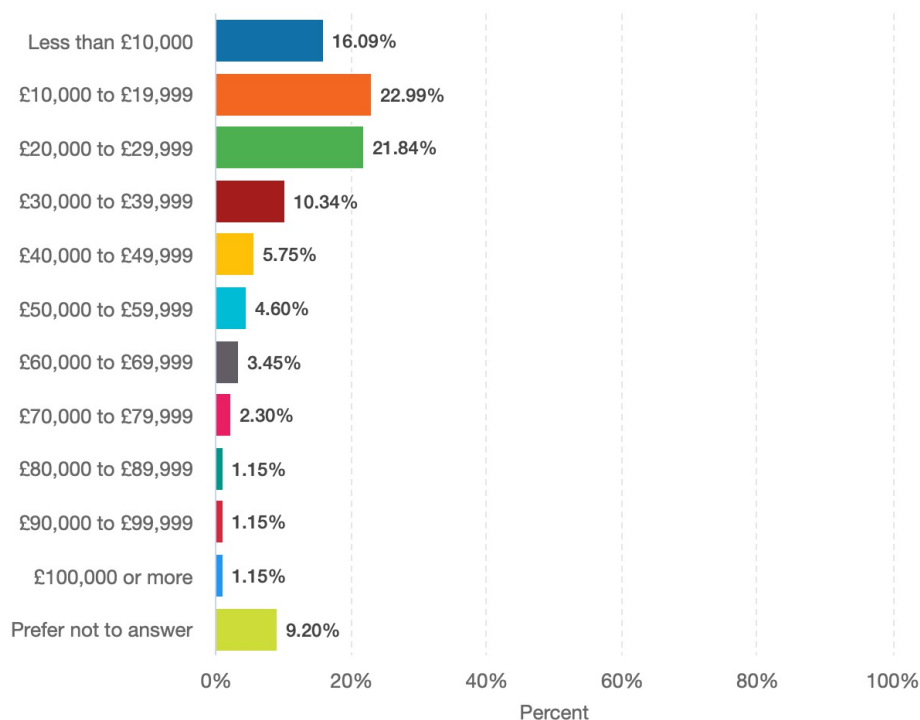
Please tick the option which best describes your employment status



Numbers self-employed are twice as high as in the full sample data (15.12% to 7.33%), numbers employed are 20% less than in the full sample data (24.42% to 44.68%), the numbers living with long term conditions are 4 times as higher than in the full sample data (32.56% to 7.80%), while those unable to work due to short term illness or injury are 3.5 times higher than in the full sample data (5.81% to 1.65%).

## Household income

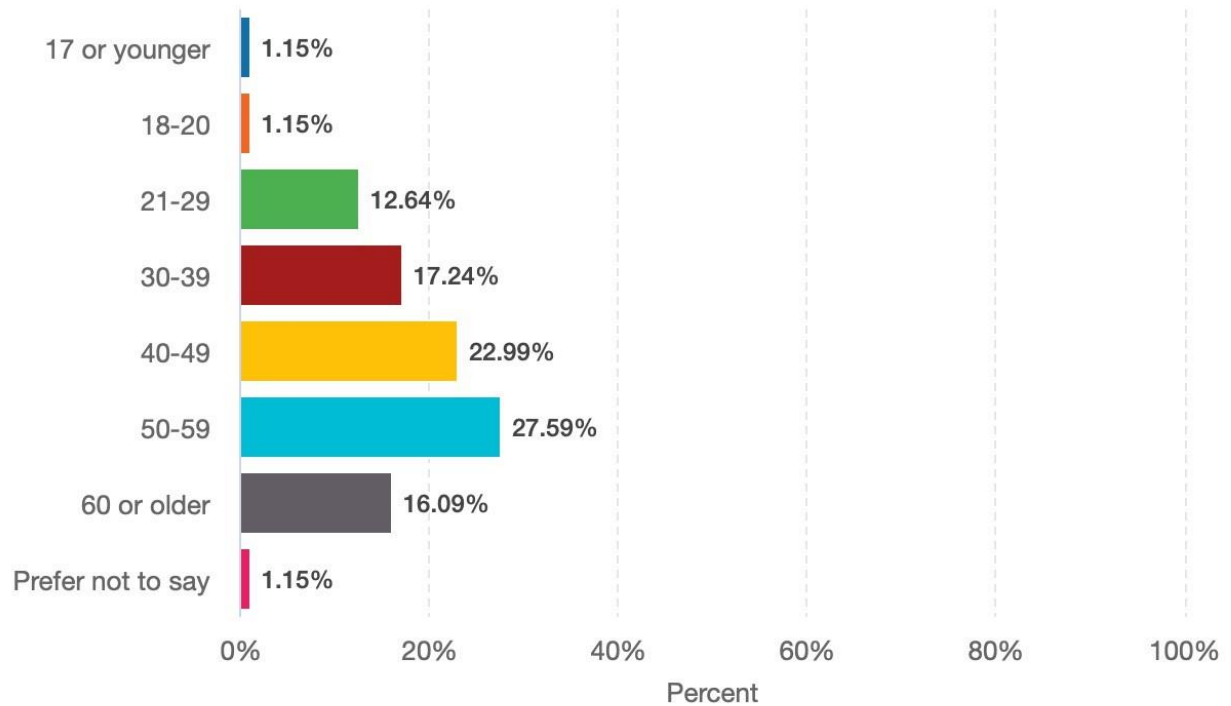
Please choose the option which best describes your household income? This is the combined earnings (including benefits) of the household.



The numbers with a household income of less than £10,000 are almost 3 times higher for those with disabilities than in the full sample (22.99% to 5.65%), while those with a household income of less than £19,999 were more than double the full sample (21.84% to 11.53%).

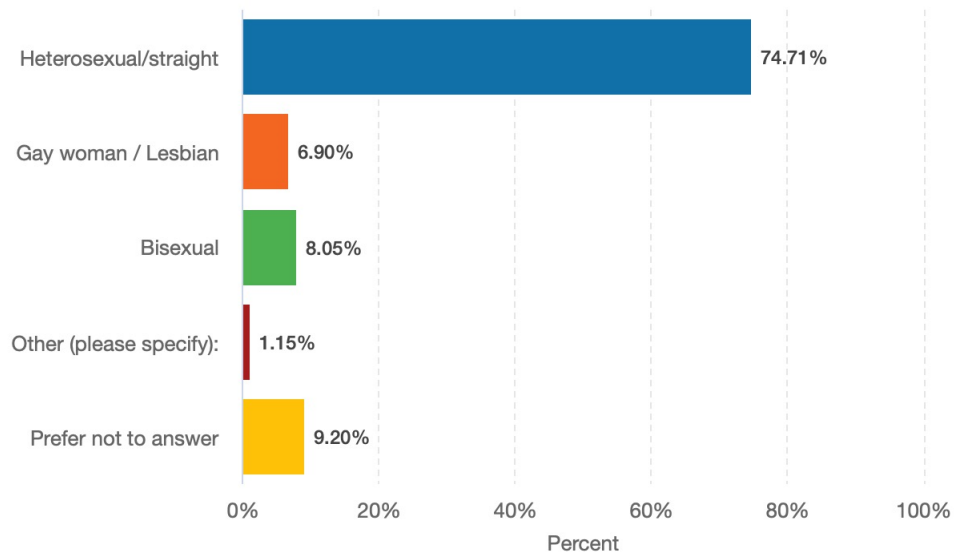
## Age Range

Please select your age range



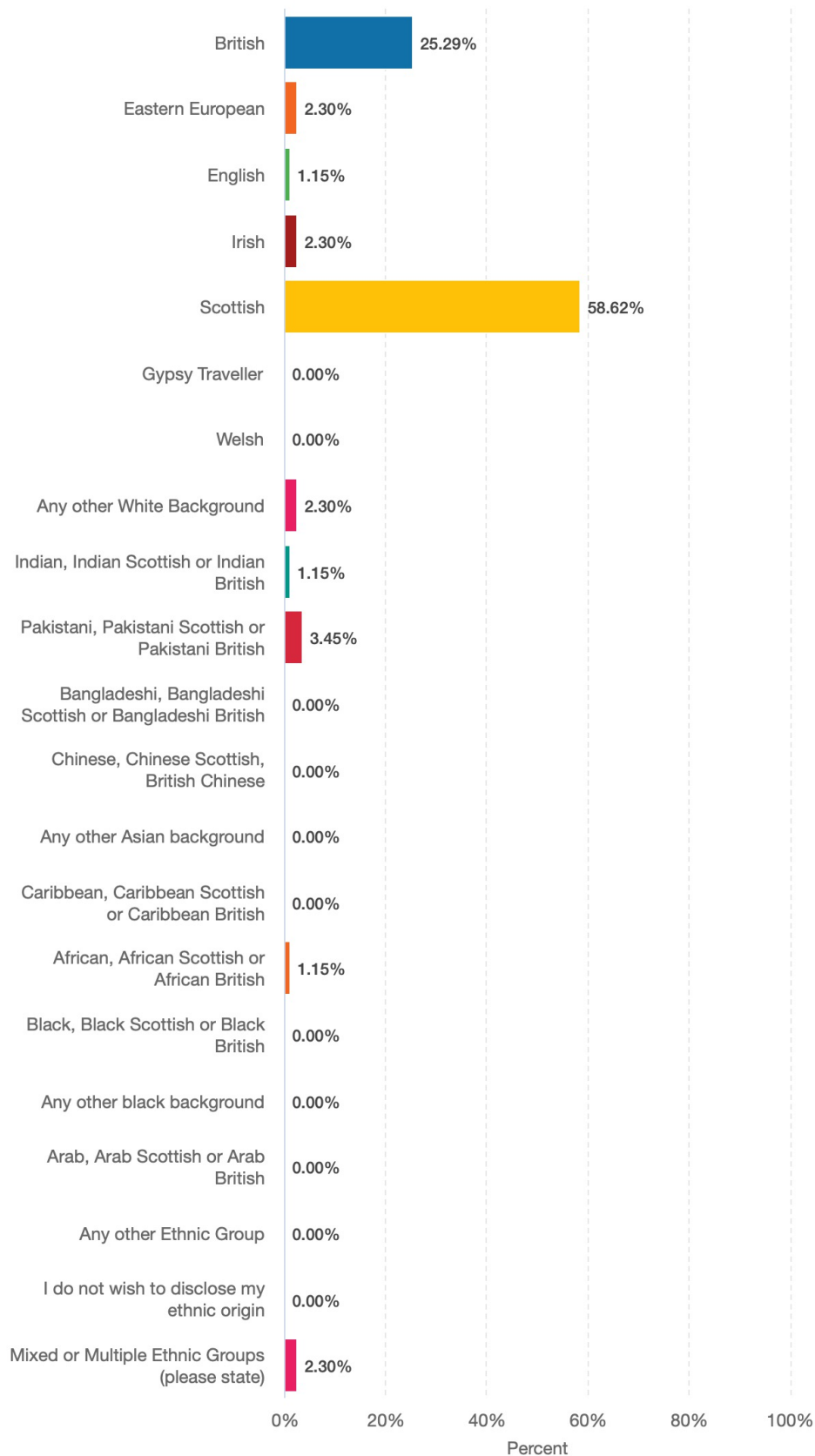
## Sexual Orientation

Which best describes your sexual orientation?



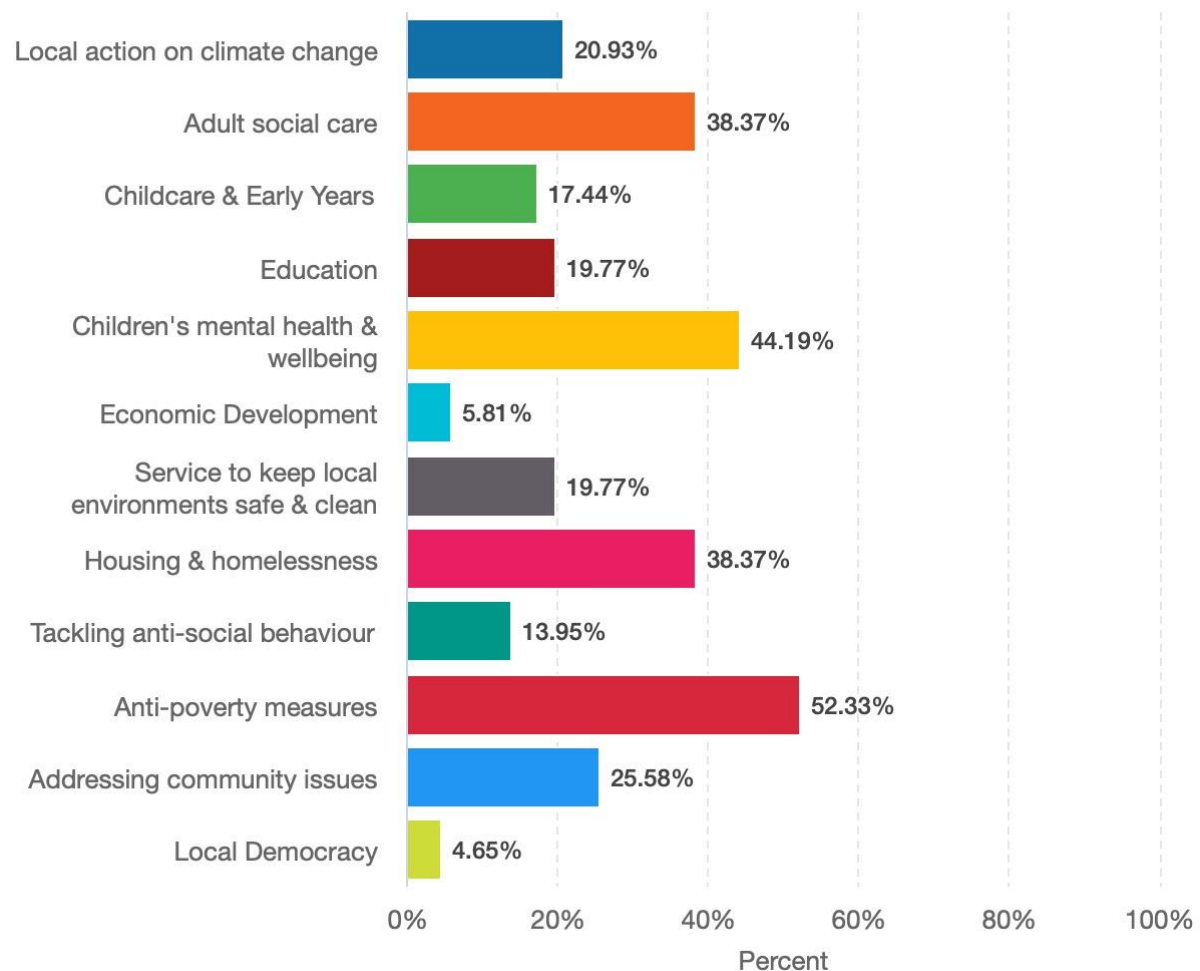
## Ethnicity

Please tell us your ethnicity



# Women's Priorities for Local Elections

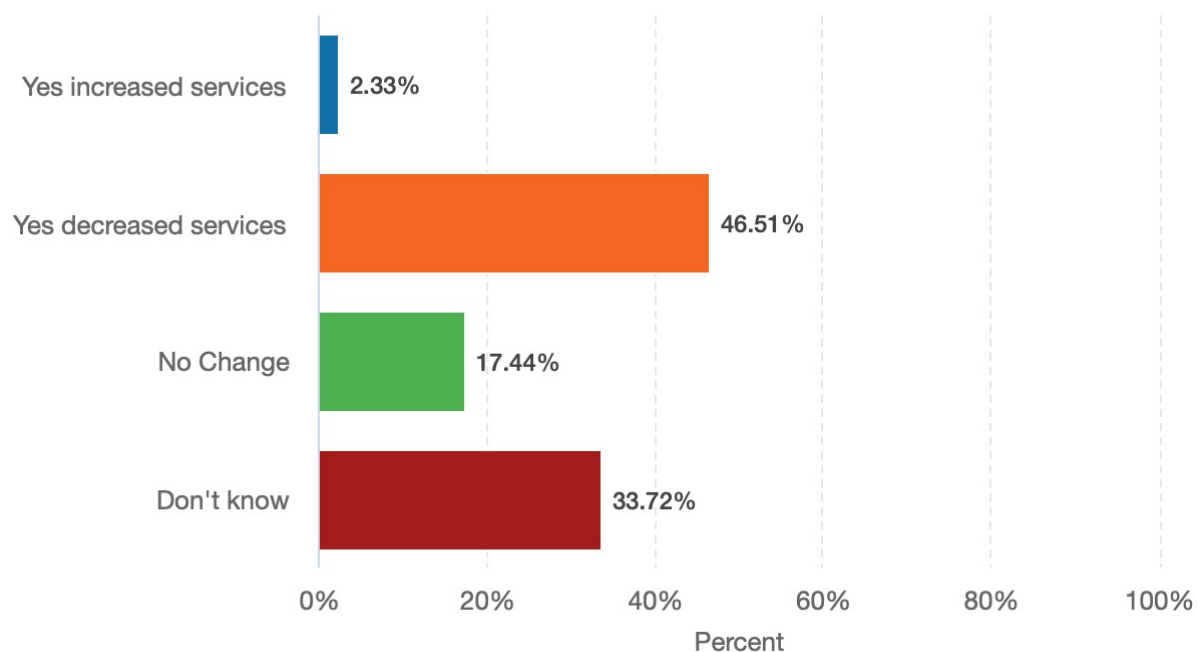
## Priorities for local government elections



Those who identified as disabled selected anti-poverty measures (52.33% to 47.17%), housing & homelessness (38.37% to 28.07%), Adult social care (38.37% to 32.08%) and children's mental health and wellbeing (44.19% to 36.79%) at higher rates than was identified in the full sample data. Economic development (5.81% to 12.26%), education (19.77% to 31.37%), childcare & early years (17.44% to 24.29%) and services to keep local environments safe & clean (19.77% to 24.53%) were selected at a lower rate than was identified in the full sample data.

## Changes in Service provision in the last year

Are you aware of any changes in service provision in your local area in the last year?



In an open comment box following these questions respondents identified the following areas that had impacted on them:

*'Potholes in all roads, some very deep, many have been there for years. Potholes in pavements! Roads never swept or cleaned. Trees/bushes at sides of roads not maintained, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic at junctions. Fly-tipping never cleared away. Dustbins now emptied once in three weeks instead of two, which has led to an increase in fly-tipping.'*

*'Harder to get around due to decreased bus services and increased ticket prices (I know the council isn't in charge of this but I feel like they could at least put pressure on the bus companies to be less horrible). Understaffing and general drop in the level of pupil support in local schools affecting friends and family members with kids, and those who are teachers. Increased reliance on shoddy 'econsult' system for GPs - tried to give me antibiotics without even speaking to me, for an obvious fungal infection. Maintenance of local pavements poorer than usual, and when it's icy they put huge piles of salt all around our local park (in a deprived area) rather than spreading it properly - but also refuse to install more grit bins so folk can do it themselves. Maintenance of the path by the Don has really declined, to the point where some parts feel unsafe to walk on now (lots of trees down - that's nobody's fault - but decades of poor maintenance mean that a few trees falling can make the whole path fall into the river).'*

*'Decrease in mental health services/ increasing pressure on these services. The staff do a great job however are underfunded and under staffed which has affected myself, family members and friends.'*

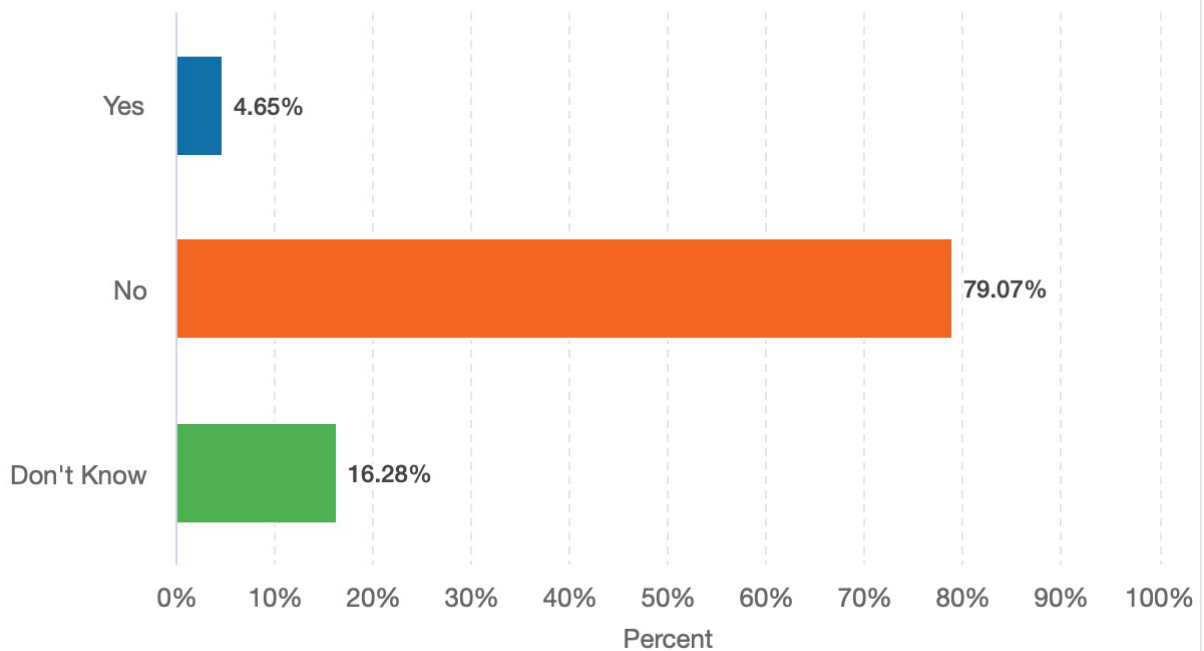
*'Our local play areas are being taken down and replaced with houses leaving us with no social places for kids to play.'*



*'There has been a lack of ability to contact the local council or have them follow up with service requests  
The local council mainly ignore or lie about jobs they have not actually completed.  
I have also asked for access to equipment in my local area to help with litter clearing and fly tipping but they do not respond'*

### Do councils take the needs of women into account?

Do you feel that the impacts on women are taken into account when decisions are taken by your local council?



The numbers who said that they did not think that the impacts on women are considered are 15% higher for those who identified as having a disability.

# Cost of living Crisis

## Are increasing costs impacting your spending decisions?

Answer Choices	Yes, I struggle to manage these costs	No, but I have had to make changes to other areas of household spending	No, I am able to manage this household cost	Response Total
Food costs	37.65% 32	47.06% 40	15.29% 13	85
Energy costs	48.24% 41	43.53% 37	8.24% 7	85
Housing costs	30.95% 26	30.95% 26	38.10% 32	84
Transport costs	25.30% 21	38.55% 32	36.14% 30	83

In comparison to the full data sample on all elements a higher percentage of those who identified as disabled stated they struggled to meet costs;

Food costs – 15% higher  
 Energy costs – 16% higher  
 Housing costs – 14% higher  
 Transport costs – 6% higher

In an open comment box, respondents told us that they were concerned about the cost of living increases and that they experienced a disability premium (with increased costs related to their disability).

*‘Price of fuel has impacted me as prices are too high to fuel up as often as I used to so having to use more public transport’*

*‘Housing costs as in Council Tax are prohibitive. CTR only available if in receipt of Pension Credit (mixed age couple are excluded if both not SPA) & low savings. CT should be assessed on \*income\* not savings (as these are not income). CT is extremely unequal-the family next door to us have 2 wages & live in same home but pay much less as at time assessed their home hadn't had roof conversion. We have a fraction of their income & most of it goes on CT, Utilities, food/fuel & Insurances/car running costs. I am very worried about increased fuel costs as temp freezing & supposed to not sleep in cold room, due to health, but can't afford to keep it on.’*

*‘I can't work f/t because of my disability so have a very low-income but because I work there is no help. If my energy bill goes up I can't afford it, I have no more money.’*

*‘Having to be careful when I can put heating on and shop around for cheaper food’*

*‘Energy costs like everyone are extremely exhausting the budgeting. The house I've letted for many years has had a boiler fitted into a bedroom which is cheap made and somehow it's costing me an absolute fortune for heating. But due to health reasons and my son I have to heat my home. So now I'm in debt with utilities it's a vicious circle. My*

*landlords have upped the rent by £50 which I cannot afford at all. Which in turn they are looking at giving me a notice to quit.'*

*'Energy bills have doubled with intentional less usage. Now more than 10% of income. My children are fed dinner by grandparents 3 times a week. I go without or have only a larger lunch on these days. Now cheaper to pay for school dinners for older kids p6 and s2 rather than home packed lunches. No control over variety or nutrition'*

*'I'm anywhere from £90 to £120 a week on electricity and that's without me using storage heaters so I don't eat some days'*

*'As a private renter with high rent I was already struggling but now I have noticed a huge increase in energy bills and food costs. I'm really going to struggle to pay for basic essentials this year.'*

*'I am isolated as I don't have money to use public transport to access services that are beneficial to my recovery. I skip meals, rely on the kindness of people and use food banks whenever possible as I don't have enough money for groceries. To cut down on energy bills, I try not to use my heating so I spend a lot of time in bed during the winter months trying to stay warm. I don't use things like a radio or TV as I am paranoid about my electricity bill being too expensive.'*

*'While I have ticked no because at the moment I can manage and manage well, I am actively concerned about the long term impact of living on a fixed income in a time of significant inflation. Given my level of disability I do not have the option of increasing my income through paid work.'*

*'The rise in costs has led to me having to live in a house that is at times cold I worry about heating bills. My food bills worry me, as I have allergies, meaning I pay more for basics. This now causes worries as prices are soaring. Fuel costs and ferry costs (when it sails) mean that I have to think twice about using my car (I can't use public transport) making me more isolated and even hospital visits are a worry due to cost.'*

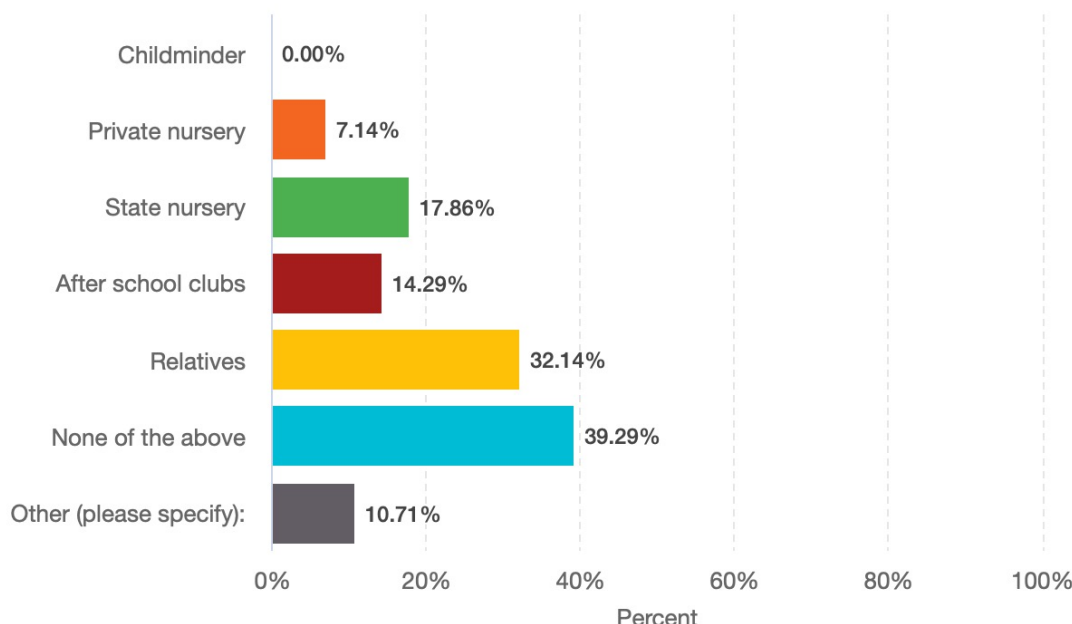
*'I live with my parents. I'm disabled, but not enough to get PIP. So if it weren't for my parents, I'd be homeless. I can't work enough to earn enough to live on my own. I barely make enough to buy my own food and travel to work. Any increases, like those mentioned above, mean that I am even further from ever being able to survive on my own.'*

*'I have a disability which is made worse by cold temperatures. I am fearful about turning my heating on at the moment in case I get a frightening bill. It is preventing me from being able to manage larger payments for repairs in my house.'*

## Early Years and Childcare

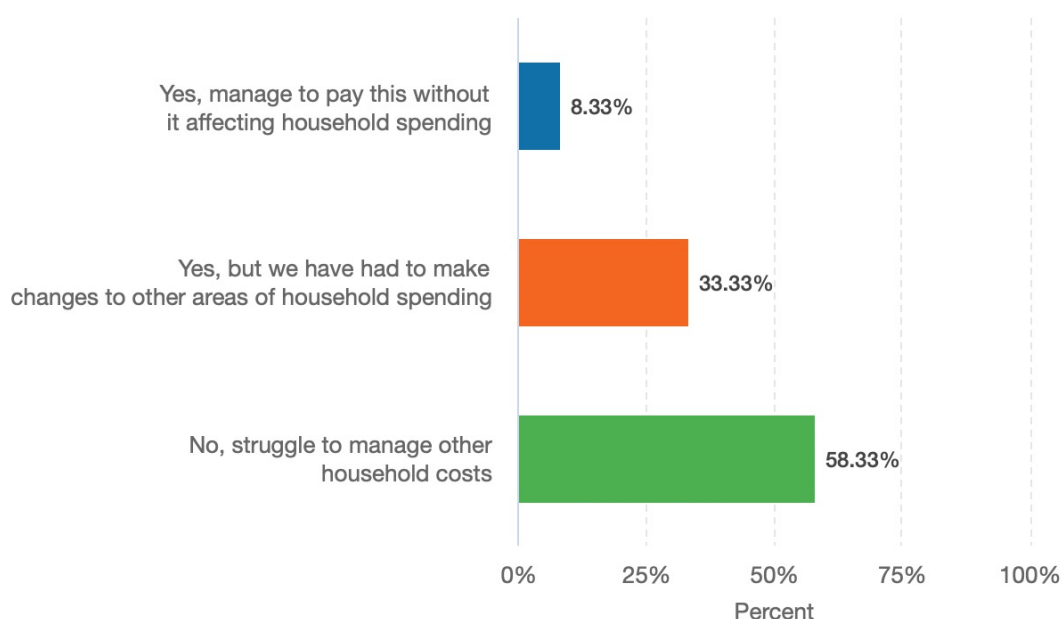
29 of those who completed the survey and identified as having a disability had childcare responsibilities.

Do you use any of the following (please tick all that apply):



People were paying between £120 and £550 per month towards childcare, depending on circumstances and children's age. From this it would appear that rates of using childcare are lower in this group which possibly reflects the lower rates of full-time employment, higher rate of self-employment and not working due to their health conditions/disability.

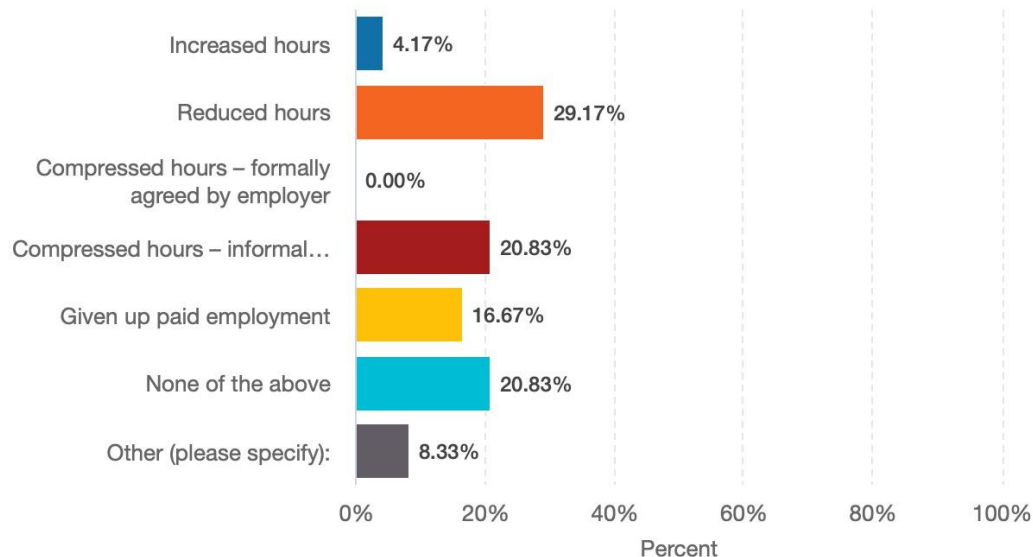
Do you find this affordable?



Of those who completed the survey and identified as having a disability those who stated that they struggled to manage childcare and other household costs was 20% higher than for the full data sample (58.33% to 39.33%).

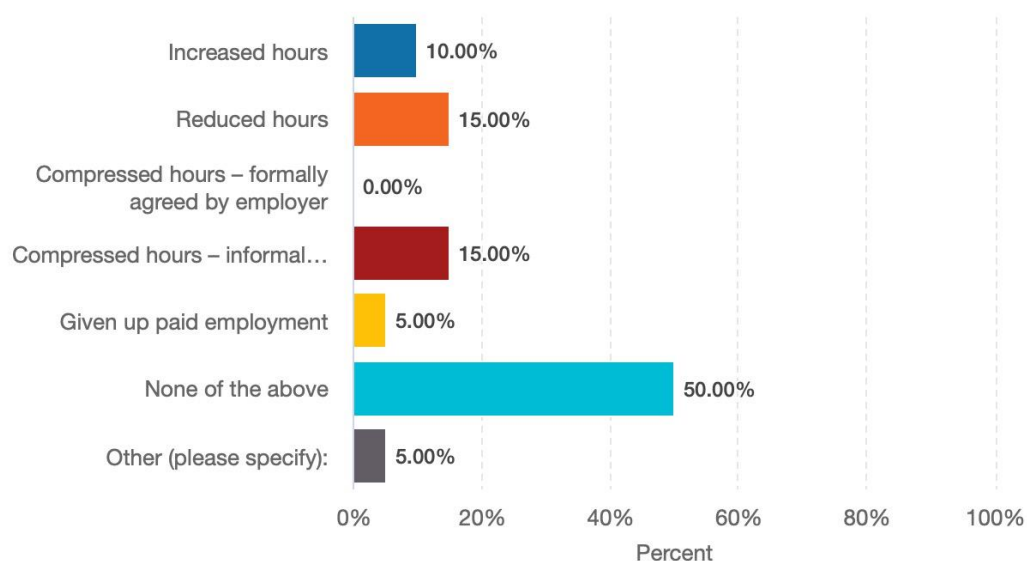
### Childcare impacted on work in the following ways

Have you had to make any changes to your paid work arrangements due to childcare?



24 people responded to this question. Other responses included using home working and self-employment as ways to help manage childcare.

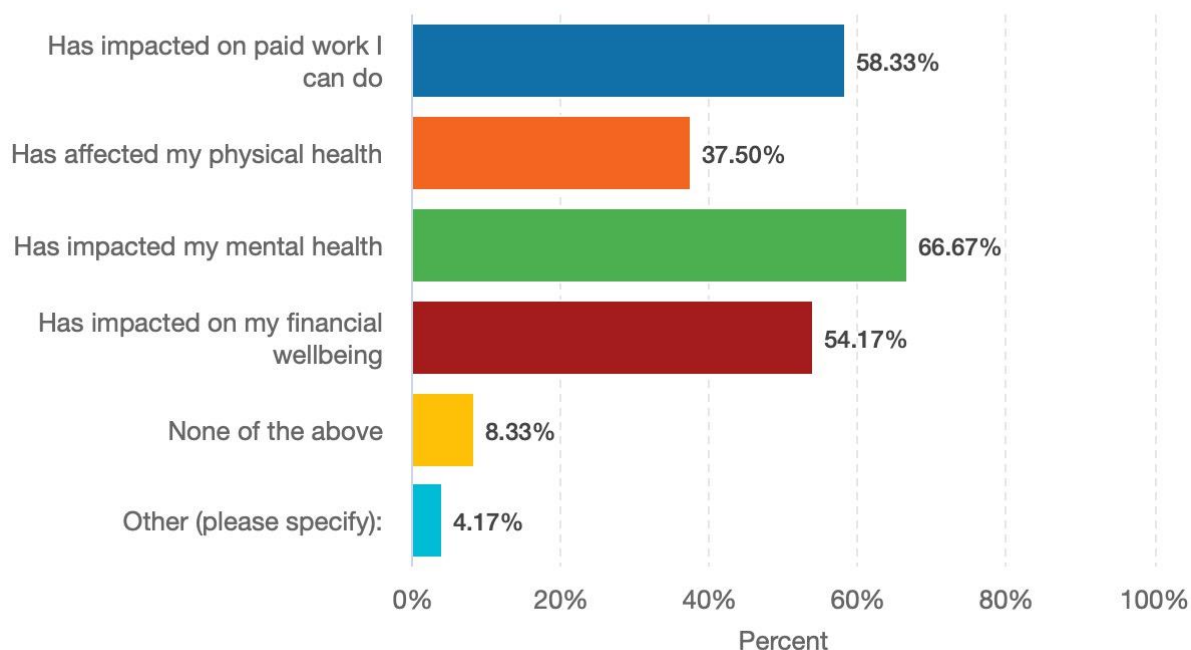
Has your partner had to make any of the following adjustments due to childcare?



20 respondents completed this question other responses included no partner (Single parent).

## Impact of managing childcare

Has managing childcare (i.e. finding it, paying for it) had any impact on you?



Completed by 24 respondents

*'In the past I have struggled to pay childcare fees and found these to be almost as much of a worry as rent.'*

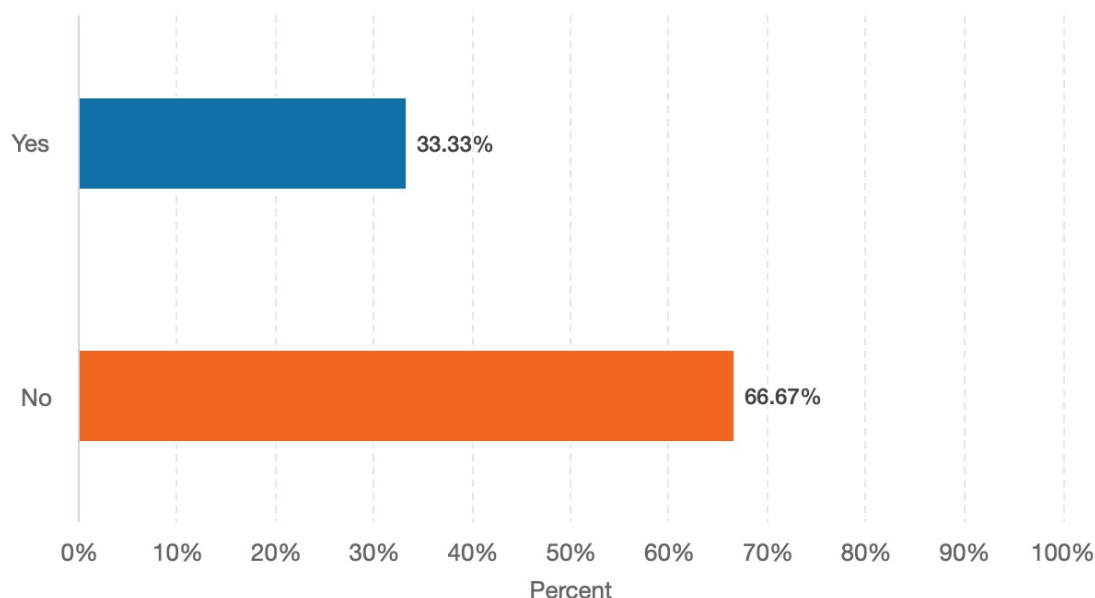
*'It is hard to find a childcare space, and communication is sparse. We want our child to have social interaction with other children but cannot afford to send him more than 2 days a week. We are over the earning threshold to qualify for 2 year old funded place by £30 a month. Two days a week at nursery costs £280-£330 a month.'*

*'Struggling to get space in after club, a lot time school off no childcare, been self-employed and must stop work when no child care access or holiday off from school.'*

*'Unable to earn a professional salary and resigned to stay at home due to lack of childcare provision. Tax credits are means tested so do not offset costs of a private childcare provider once you earn over a certain threshold.'*

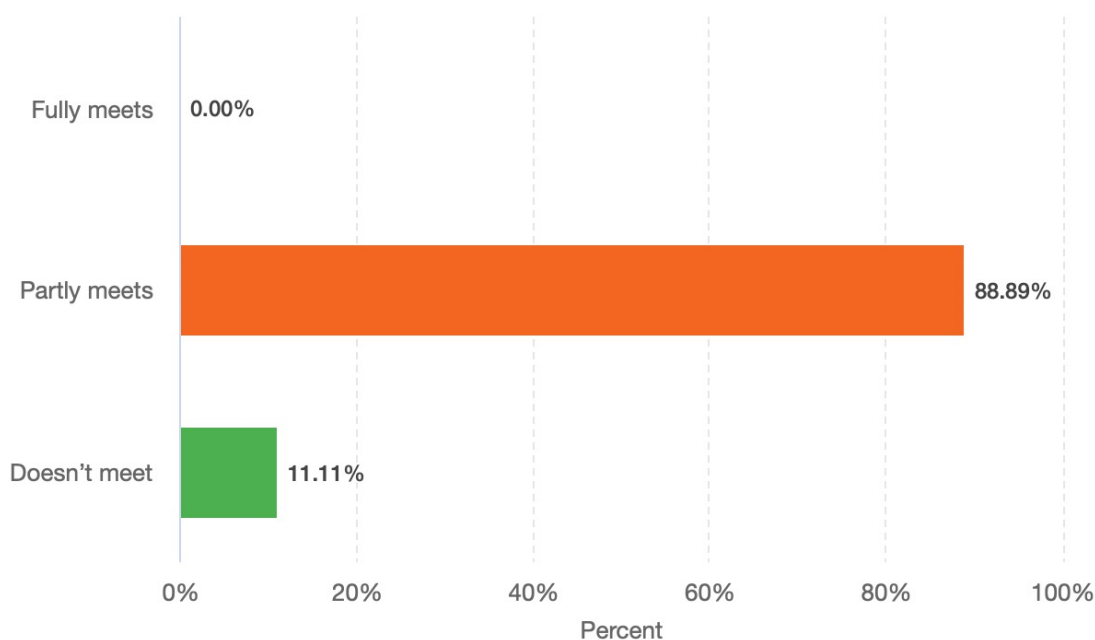
## 1140 hours commitment

The Scottish Government have committed to providing 30 hours childcare per week (term-time) for over 3's do you qualify for this?



27 respondents completed this question of the 9 who are eligible for the free childcare hours 7 are able to access this.

How well do these 30 hours of childcare meet your needs?



This question was completed by 9 respondents (in the full data sample of 37 respondents 32.43% childcare needs were fully met by the 30 hours of childcare). Those who completed this question told us the childcare did not meet their needs due to the lack of flexibility in the hours provided.

*'Hours are very ridged and do not cover full year round as some nurseries do not operate as 52 weeks. If I choose to work I would still have to pay some fees and once this is added onto all other expenses in life it really has a huge impact on overall health and well-being of both the adult and the child.'*

*'It doesn't reflect a working day I work 9 -5. It causes huge emotional stress relying on grandparents'*

*'We could really use more so I could get back to work for a decent number of hours.'*

## Social Care

We asked respondents about their use of social care of 84 responses 31 either used social care themselves or someone they cared for did

Answer Choices		Responses
Yes I do	21.43%	18
Yes someone I care for does	9.52%	8
Yes to both	5.95%	5
No	63.10%	53

Of the 24 people who accessed care for themselves or supported someone who needed care only 2 said the care package which was in place fully supported their needs.

Answer Choices	Me	Person I care for	Response Total
Yes, it fully meets our needs	100.00% 2	0.00% 0	<b>2</b>
No, it only partially meets our needs (there are gaps in provision)	53.33% 8	46.67% 7	<b>15</b>
No, it doesn't meet our needs and has a substantial impact on our ability to undertake day to day activities	57.14% 4	42.86% 3	<b>7</b>

*'Causes alot of stress as mother does not receive help she requires. Some carers will do as she asks but others don't. Even though she asked for help she was told to do herself. Mum gets upset and feels very unwell due to having to struggle to wash her hair, dry herself and get dressed, while carer is just standing staring'*

*'Support workers having to juggle too many clients and not having enough time or resources to fully assist clients.'*

*'Care provided 3 times per day but person required more. Minimum time provided by carers on each visit due to large number of clients.'*



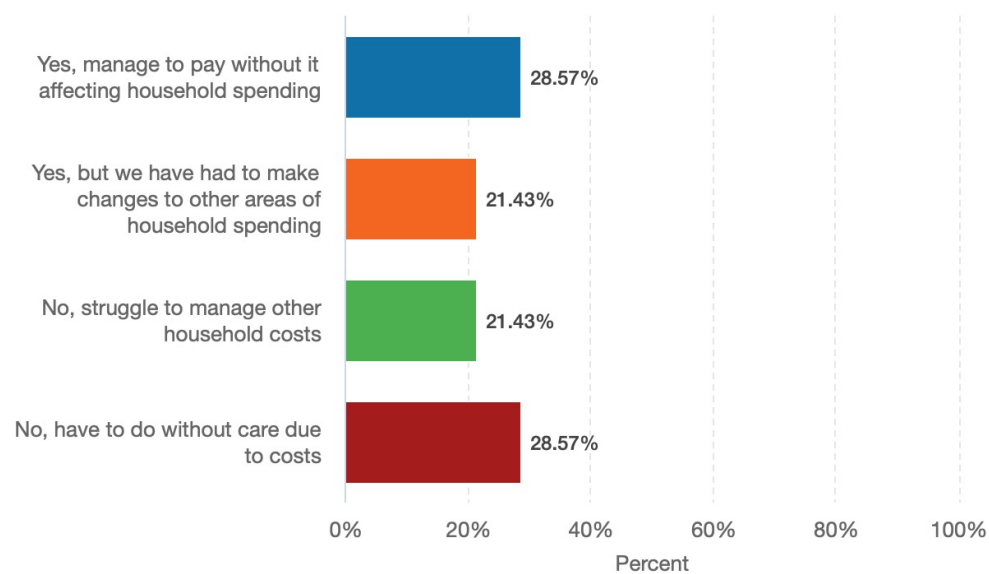
## Impact of Covid-19

Answer Choices	Responses	
Support has been stopped	9.52%	2
Support has been variable (at times it has remained at the level I had prior to the pandemic, other times it has reduced or stopped)	47.62%	10
Support has increased	0	0
Other (please specify): <a href="#">Show</a>	42.86%	9

## Care costs

Respondents told us about the impact having to pay for care had on them.

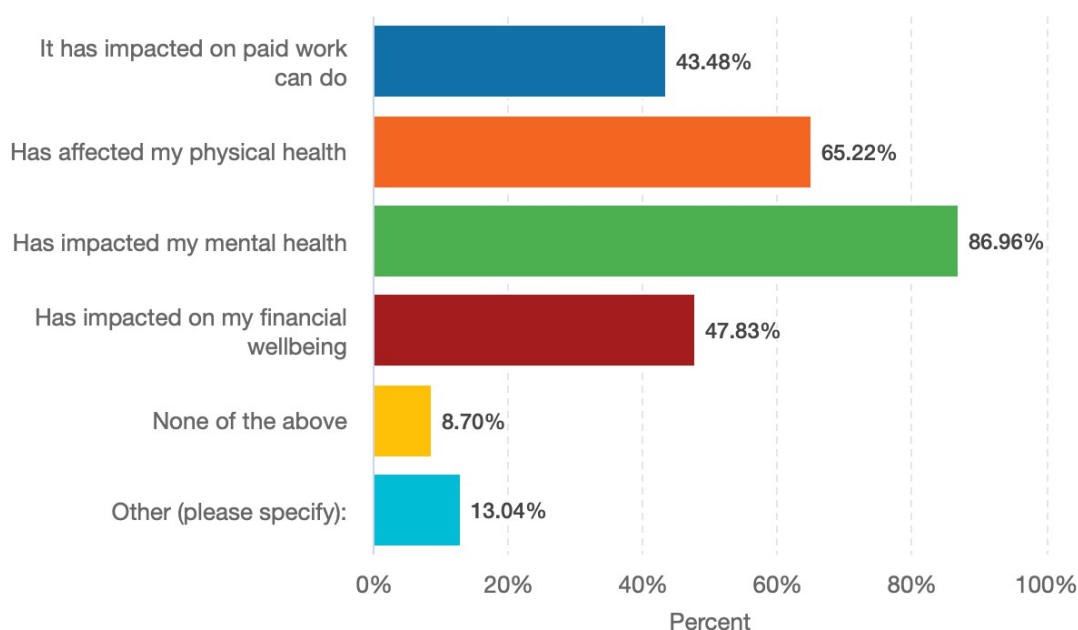
Do you find this social care affordable?



14 people responded to the above.

## Impact of managing care

Has managing care had any impact on you: (choose all that apply)



23 people responded, of those who responded other they highlighted that this impacted on all aspects of their life and them having a lack of time for other things.

Women were asked if there was anything else they would like to tell us, 43 of the respondents mentioned the need for greater investment in care (both child and adult social care)

'I fear that if I was in a position I really needed paid care support it would be very difficult to get. Partly from Covid, but also from experience in the past.'

'Carers are under a huge amount of pressure and deserve much better conditions (for paid carers) and support (for unpaid carers).'

'The rising costs of fuel, gas and electric make it hard to get by, even with my husband working with the council.'

'Since the pandemic, I've noticed my local bus routes have changed and I now have access to one bus. I live within a mile of the city centre - it should be easier for me to get a bus than it is to use my car, but it takes longer to get a bus into the centre of town than it does to walk, but walking isn't always an option. A pandemic should not be an opportunity to reduce necessary services.'

'Women already absorb much of the labour of care in society either at home, in health and social care or in the third sector. The very least the council can do is properly resource the spaces in which we perform this work.'

'Just find that disabled young people are not really thought of very well across mainstream settings, even down to the ability of NHS clinicians to work with children and young people who have social communication differences. Key policies and guidance

exists (GIRFEC, Coordinated Support Plans, Scottish Autism Strategy, Carers' act etc) offers are good in principle but poorly executed. Navigating benefits as a carer also very time consuming and anxiety provoking.'

**The survey was conducted between 9<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

**[Click to access the full survey results report.](#)**

