South Gloucestershire Council

Enhancing support for young families

Engagement survey findings

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Executive summary

This engagement survey captures the experiences of 214 parents, carers and families in South Gloucestershire during pregnancy and children's early years (0–5).

Overall experience of raising a child in South Gloucestershire

Most respondents feel South Gloucestershire is a good place to have a baby and raise a young child, valuing parks, green spaces and access to facilities. However, this varies by area, and working parents and families with children with additional needs feel less well supported. Positive experiences often rely on individual staff effort and expertise rather than consistent systems or pathways.

What works well

- Midwives and hospital/birth centres are highly-rated.
- Children's centres are valued by those who use them. However, not everyone knows about them, or that they are eligible to access support. Working parents can find it difficult to take advantage of the offering.
- Playgroups, stay-and-play sessions, library activities and community groups are highly valued for child development and parental wellbeing.
- Those who have accessed breastfeeding support groups or specialist support find it invaluable.
- Parents with children who meet the threshold for specialist support like paediatricians, occupational therapists, speech and language support etc. are pleased with the support they receive.

Challenges

The survey highlights several systemic issues:

- **Geographical inequality:** families living in rural areas with poor transport links have reduced access to support and groups.
- **Fragmentation and lack of continuity:** families see multiple practitioners and sometimes receive conflicting advice; the offer does not feel joined-up.
- **Inconsistent health visitor support:** variability in quality, with some describing "tick-box" provision.
- **Limited antenatal and postnatal preparation:** pandemic disruption, insufficient practical/emotional support and low awareness of available offers.
- **Working parents excluded:** some support is rarely available outside weekday hours.
- **Childcare affordability and availability:** childcare is costly and difficult to secure. There are concerns about how the 30-hour funding model is working.
- **SEND under strain:** long waits for assessment, high thresholds and difficulty obtaining specialist support or EHCPs.

- **Information gaps:** parents often feel uninformed about available support and pathways; signposting is inconsistent.
- **Emotional wellbeing needs:** many parents need more support with mental health.

The system works best for informed and persistent parents, or those able to pay privately. Families most likely to struggle include:

- Parents of children with additional needs
- Working parents
- Families without local support networks
- Fathers and single parents
- Families in rural or poorly connected areas
- Low-income households

Background

The council and its partners in health and education are receiving support from Central Government to look at options to improve the experience of families accessing support opportunities during pregnancy and their child's first five years. We want to develop 'best start plans' built around the experiences of families who have experienced things first-hand.

A survey sought to capture the experiences and feedback of local people during pregnancy and in the first years of raising a child in South Glos. Responses were received from parents, carers, grandparents and other primary care givers for children who are currently aged five and under.

The survey data is intended to guide and be used alongside evidence gathered from further outreach work talking directly with parents and carers in South Gloucestershire.

Taken together with internal data and evidence, views will help us build on what works and improve where things don't work so well, so we can give all our young children the best possible start in life.

Survey methodology and respondents

A dedicated online engagement site was created to provide background information to help people make an informed decision with the survey open for responses between 10 October and 21 December 2025.

The site was available in multiple language options and people could also provide feedback by completing a paper copy of the survey.

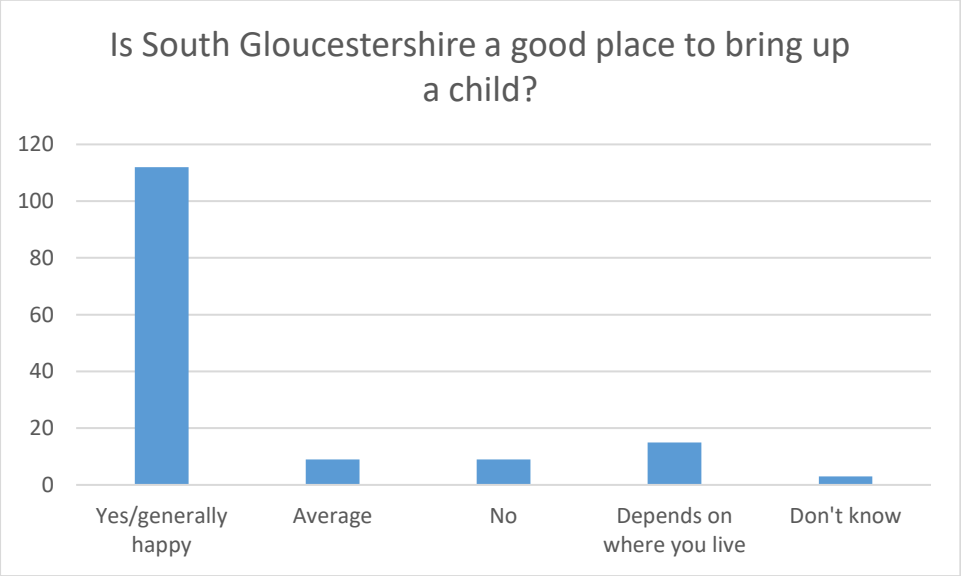
The survey was promoted via the usual channels the council uses to communicate with residents.

214 people completed the survey. All but two respondents were the primary care givers for the child (two were grandparents). Just over 90% of respondents were mothers.

A more detailed profile of the people who responded to the consultation survey is provided in the appendices.

Survey analysis

South Gloucestershire is generally seen as a good place to have a baby and raise a young child.



Several people who have commented appear to be comparing South Gloucestershire to more urban areas. They especially value having parks and green spaces on their doorsteps but at the same time easily being able to get to extremely popular facilities like libraries and children's centres.

However, this positive view is conditional. Families' experiences vary by area, income, work status, confidence in navigating systems, and whether a child has additional needs.

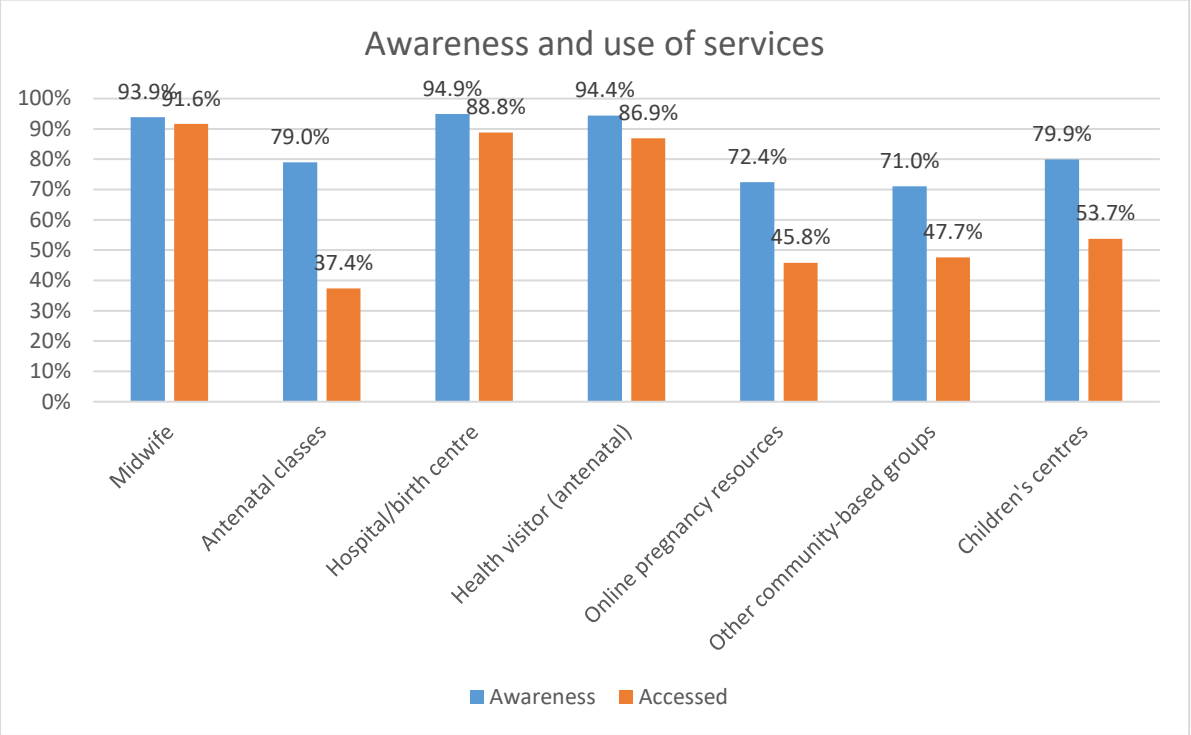
What works well is often person-dependent rather than system-driven, and many parents report having to be proactive, persistent, or privately funded to secure the support they need.

Feedback on individual offerings

Respondents were asked:

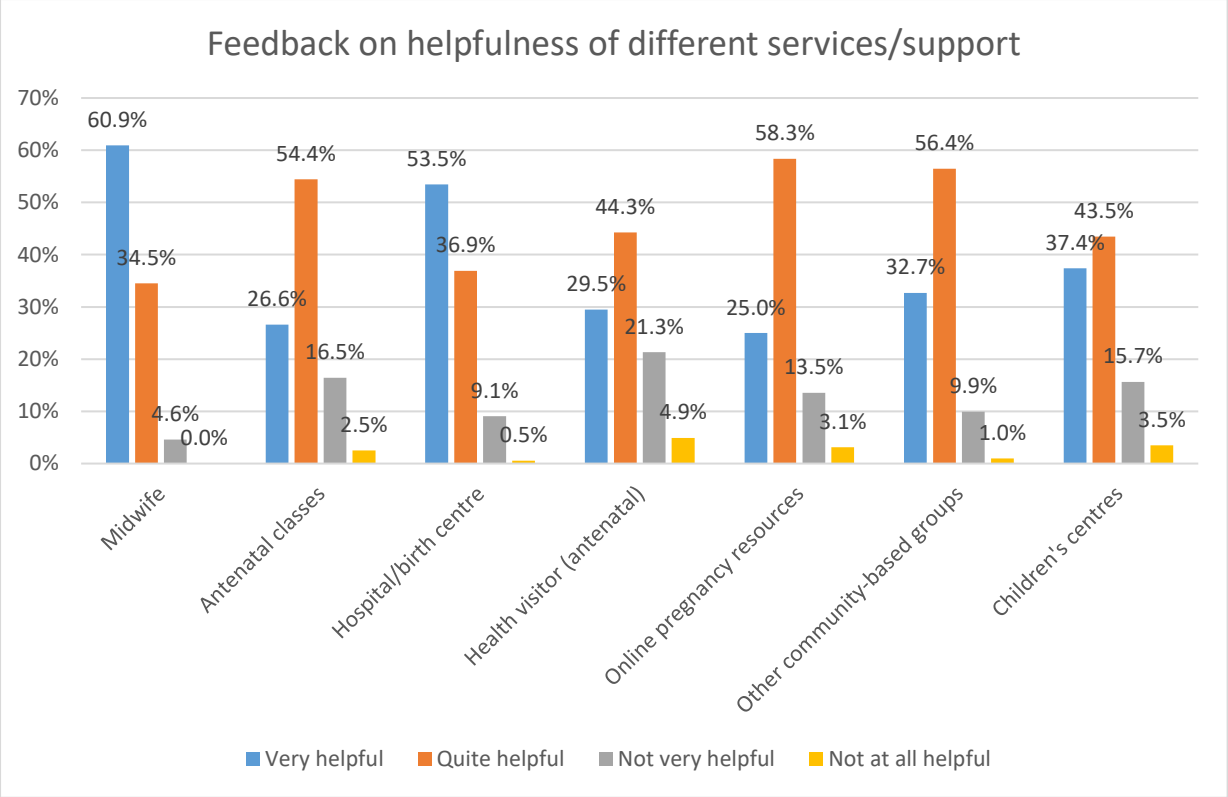
- Whether they were aware of individual opportunities,
- Whether they had used that support, and
- How helpful they had found it.

Support during pregnancy and in the first six months of the child's life



There is very low take-up of antenatal classes amongst survey respondents, with less than half of those who were aware of the offer taking advantage of the support. This result is heavily impacted by Covid, with many classes cancelled or not accessible in 2020 and 2021.

Approximately a half of families have visited a Children's centre. Awareness isn't especially high, but some respondents report being unsure if they are eligible for support through the centres.



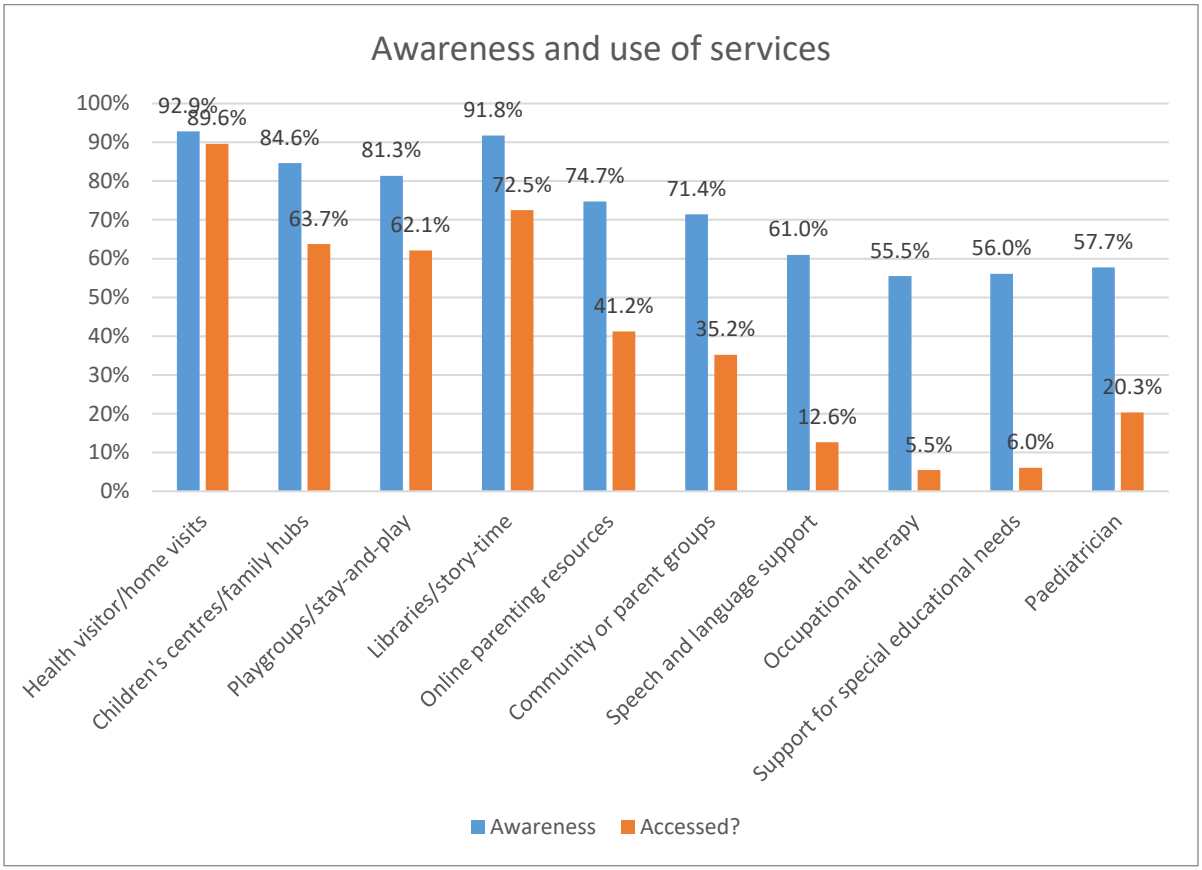
Support offer	Average helpfulness (out of five)*
Midwife	4.13
Hospital/birth centre	3.87
Other community-based groups	3.43
Children's centres	3.33
Online pregnancy resources	3.14
Antenatal classes	3.13
Health visitor (antenatal)	3.02

* Average helpfulness is calculated by scoring 'Very helpful' five points, 'Quite helpful' three points 'Not very helpful' one point and 'Not at all helpful' doesn't score. Multiplying by the proportion of respondents providing each rating gives a score out of five.

We can see that midwives and support provided at the hospital or birth centre were rated most positively. Health visitors were scored lowest, with over a quarter of people who received support from a visitor believing that support was 'Not very helpful' or 'not at all helpful'.

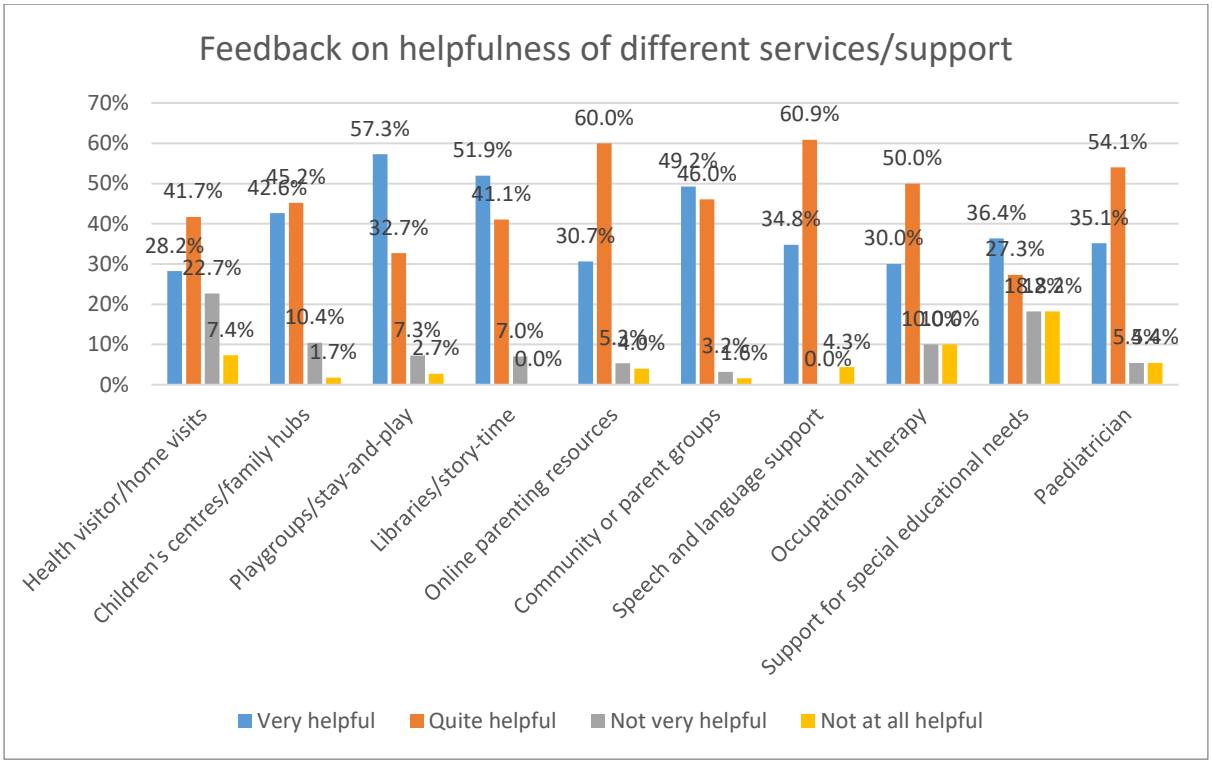
Online pregnancy resources also only received an average rating.

Support for the child and family from six months to four years' old



What stands out from the above graph are the relatively low usage of children's centres, family hubs, playgroups, library sessions and community/parent groups. As we can see from the table below (and echoed multiple times in comments) this type of support is seen as very helpful, but with many sessions scheduled during the working week, they are inaccessible for working parents.

Take up of specialist offers like speech and language support, occupational therapy and support related to special educational needs is understandably low; most families won't ever need this help. Later in the report we discuss the challenges families say they are facing getting timely access to the support they believe their children need, so it may be that these figures are lower than they should be.



Support offer	Average helpfulness (out of five)
Playgroups/stay-and-play	3.92
Libraries/story-time	3.90
Community or parent groups	3.87
Children's centres/family hubs	3.59
Speech and language support	3.57
Paediatrician	3.43
Online parenting resources	3.39
Occupational therapy	3.10
Health visitor/home visits	2.89
Support for special educational needs	2.82

As highlighted above, free or affordable activities for children, with opportunities for parents to socialise are highly rated. There is much less positive feedback about support for special educational needs and health visitors.

In the case of families with children with additional needs, this feedback is likely influenced by delays in assessments and difficulties getting to see specialists and/or receiving the support which parents believe their children need.

The feedback about health visitors is worse at this later stage than in the first six months. Commentary suggests that some people believe that where families are assumed to be coping, the health visit process can be ‘tick box’, with some respondents saying they didn’t get their two-year check-up.

What is working well

Combining the above metrics with qualitative data captured through free text comments highlights areas of the early support offer which parents believe are working well.

- Individual caring and dedicated staff are praised, particularly midwives and hospital staff during labour and birth. Support from hospital staff post birth is more variable.
- In-person, free or cheap community-based playgroups and activities (e.g. stay-and-play, rhyme time, community play groups etc.) are highly valued. They provide socialising opportunities for children and parents, reducing isolation and helping build a support network (important given Covid context for some). In some areas, people want more options.
- Children's centres are also highly rated by those who have taken advantage of them. Parents praise the specialist expertise on site and staff are also good at signposting to further support. But many people don't know about them and there are issues with uneven access (geography and eligibility).
- Those who have accessed breastfeeding support groups or specialist support find it invaluable (feeding is a major area of concern for new mothers and parents).
- Parents with children who meet the threshold for specialist support like paediatricians, occupational therapists, speech and language support etc. are pleased. However, many more people report challenges accessing support that they believe their children need.

Key challenges and gaps

Inconsistent access and geographical inequality

Provision varies by area. Rural communities with limited public transport are especially cut off. Additionally, people who live near to borders with other authority areas experience issues accessing opportunities most local to them.

"Nothing is on in the afternoons and when the weather is bad, it's really hard to find things to do. Public transport is absolutely dire, and very hard to use, especially with a buggy."

Lack of continuity and joined-up care

Families frequently experience a fragmented offer, seeing multiple midwives or health visitors and receiving conflicting advice from individual professionals.

People want what they perceive as siloed services to be more joined up and to talk to each other (GPs, paediatricians & specialist health services, health visitors, children's centres).

"Little contact with the midwife. Found out more information from reading books and online resources. Different midwife each time and no consistency. When struggling to breastfeed was told it was fine. Ended up using national breastfeeding helpline who were much more supportive.

Experience of health visitors is highly variable

Some families report excellent, proactive support, but many describe their experience with health visitors as limited (I could have googled that), tick-box, judgemental, or hard to access. This is especially the case once babies are older or families appear to be "coping", with reports of missed appointments.

Some believe there is a particular issue with understanding of emotional challenges facing parents.

Several people advocate for a re-imagining of the health visitor model.

"I don't think I've had any benefits from health visitor, they felt more like an interrogator i.e. Am I a danger to my child rather than supportive/helpful."

"Better early health visitor home visits, get rid of the box ticking."

Gaps in antenatal and postnatal preparation

Many of this cohort were impacted by Covid. Free, community-based antenatal classes were cancelled or unavailable in 2020 and 2021, leading parents who could afford it to rely on private provision. Others were left feeling underprepared and overwhelmed.

Some parents thought that classes don't focus enough on what happens after the birth, focusing on issues like emotional wellbeing, feeding challenges, and relationship strain.

"More support with baby classes - if this is something you already offer?"

Working parents are structurally excluded

Most support operates primarily during weekday working hours, making it inaccessible to working families. Evening and weekend provision is minimal, reinforcing perceptions that support is designed for non-working households. Yet, more than 90% of the survey's respondents are working.

Some working parents felt judged by midwives and health visitors.

Many working families felt penalised rather than supported, particularly with high childcare costs.

"More availability at weekends, working parents don't have everything worked out and still need support."

"More full working day childcare provision, particularly those that offer the funded childcare without significant additional costs."

Childcare affordability and availability

Families report long waiting lists for places at good nurseries or having to travel long distances for a nursery with space. Nursery and childcare is seen as expensive and not flexible enough to the needs of working parents.

Some believe the 30-hour funding model is not working as expected, with inconsistent access to funded childcare and nurseries not recouping their costs, which exacerbates the availability of childcare.

"The cost of nursery was a significant financial burden on our finances. I dread to think how families with low income and housing insecurities struggle."

"We currently travel 30mins away for a nursery as the ones near us are either full or not very good"

"Hold the government to account for saying they can provide 30 hours free childcare when they can't. All they are doing is forcing nurseries to put fees up elsewhere to stay afloat, which in turns put financial pressure on the parents."

General affordability

13.6% of survey respondents are receiving some form of financial support and several talk about the financial pressures facing young families. Availability of free and affordable support evens out inequalities.

"More free parenting groups/ baby groups. They cost a fortune when you're earning little to nothing."

SEND and additional needs support is a major pressure point

The 'system' is seen to work reasonably well for families with children without additional needs, but specialist support is under-resourced.

Parents are frustrated by long waiting lists to get a diagnosis and/or to see paediatricians and other specialists. High thresholds mean that many parents don't think their children are getting the support they need if they don't quite meet criteria. Pathways are sometimes disjointed.

Parents don't think they are listened to and describe having to fight for assessments and EHCPs, and sometimes to get the support they are entitled to under their Plans. Again, there is the option to pay privately for those who can afford it.

"Trying to access SEND is very difficult because the service is so stretched. No-one can help my four year old with Situational Mutism because no-one in our area is trained in it; it's a disgrace."

"We have had speech and language support for our 5 year old. It was really useful, but there was quite a delay in getting him referred to the service"

Increasing pressure on the offer

As above, there are issues for families trying to access specialist support. Whilst most people's general experiences are positive, a few say they have noticed issues with individual staff being run off their feet/over-worked. Issues with parents seeing different midwives and health visitors may be linked to resources being stretched too thinly. Additionally, a couple of parents who have multiple children report a decline in the range of support available which was available with their earlier children - for example in children's centres.

"Not have the support systems so over-worked that help is available for people who are on the edge of desperation, rather than only those who are the very needy/loudest."

"More resources. All children's centres need to be improved to have a better offering, open more with safe access to those who need support."

Inconsistent information, signposting, and navigation

Several parents report not knowing what support exists or how to access it, with information fragmented and difficult to find. New parents (many of whom have not had antenatal classes) often feel in-the-dark, isolated and unsupported.

Again, the role of health visitors is crucial to parents' experience – some visitors are fountains of knowledge who can open doors to much-needed support. Others provide a tick-box offer.

Children's centres are a particularly good source of information.

Awareness of individual opportunities as measured through the survey is generally quite good, but this may present a skewed picture (those finding out about the survey may also be more likely to be more informed).

"Better communication of what's going on. Sometimes I only find out about things if I see it advertised in the library."

Access to early breastfeeding support

The number of comments relating to breastfeeding shows how important an issue this is for mothers. There are several comments from mothers who do not feel they have been adequately supported in the hospital post birth or by midwives and health visitors.

Those accessing specialist support from children's centres or consultants, report very positive experiences, but this only emphasises the lack of timely expertise and the number of people who may be experiencing difficulties and struggling alone.

"When I had real issues with breastfeeding, I had an initial assessment but no follow up, I felt left alone."

Emotional wellbeing of parents

Being a first-time parent is a stressful experience. Survey responses show that there are many mothers and fathers who are struggling/have struggled with the enormity of these new responsibilities.

Many of the issues above add to parents' worries and fears. More comprehensive and accessible support can help alleviate these issues, especially:

- Clear signposting to information and further support.
- Opportunities to meet other parents to build support groups.
- Support with breast-feeding. Studies show links between difficulties feeding and emotional wellbeing.

Parents reporting issues to GPs and medical professionals do not always feel listened to and sometimes struggle to access the right support for their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

"Better relationship support & safe space for parents to breathe and cry and rest for a bit. Our relationship has declined dramatically due to the lack of support with the whole family - not just the baby. It's helping families to have good foundations - not just checking the baby has had milk."

"Having small children can be isolating but small parent groups really support parental mental health."

"More support for dads. They go back to work so soon, and are expected to just carry on as normal. No-one asks them how they are, how they feel."

Which groups are most affected?

The system works reasonably well for families who are informed and persistent – or who can pay for private support. Those most likely to struggle include:

- Parents of children with additional needs,
- Working parents,
- Families without nearby support networks,
- Fathers and single parents,
- Families in rural or poorly connected areas,
- Lower income families.

"More access to information and guidance around what is available and how to access it. Support for finding childcare. Support for dads who have taken on primary caring responsibilities to get back into work."

"The support is out there - if you know where to go and have the tools to access it."

What more do parents want/need?

Parents don't necessarily report gaps with support which is not provided in South Gloucestershire (though some do express positive feedback on things like pregnancy yoga, hypno-births, and baby massage). In general, they also believe the support that they have accessed is high quality.

What they *are* asking for is:

- Clearer information and signposting to the full range of support that is available,
- Fair access to that broad offering in all areas,
- Greater depth of offering – especially nursery places and childcare, but also library opening hours,
- More support available outside working hours, and greater flexibility of universal services, recognising the proportion of families with parents who both work,
- Where children show signs of having additional needs, fewer delays in diagnosis and quicker access to specialist expertise,
- A more co-ordinated and joined-up offer which helps parents and children get the support they need quickly.

Additionally, there may be a case for more support to help parents with their emotional wellbeing.

Parents with financial resources can access the support they need to best support their family. Delays and shortfalls in some areas of support risk deepening inequalities rather than supporting families to thrive.

Next steps: Potential themes to follow up

This survey is intended as an initial fact-finding exercise to help us better understand and identify issues for further follow-up. The relatively small number of responses (compared to the whole population of parents with young children), and likely skew of responses due to the survey methodology mean that we don't have statistical confidence in trends and conclusions. However, they provide useful insight for follow-up work. An external partner has been engaged to conduct independent in-depth conversations with parents and carers to help us better understand key issues.

Below are some themes which have been identified from the initial survey analysis, which may benefit from additional follow-up.

Some are known issues which the council is already exploring with its partners. Some would benefit from further exploration through outreach work and focus groups.

Then there is a third group of issues raised, which are known about, but which fall out of the scope for this project to consider/address (for example access to support related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These have been included in the list below, but action will take the form of feeding back to appropriate council teams and partner organisations.

For follow up through focus groups

Antenatal classes

- What does the offer look like now? Has free provision returned to pre-Covid levels? Some people still report issues with availability.
- There is only 79% awareness of antenatal classes amongst the survey respondents. Post covid, is awareness growing, stable or declining?
- Are there gaps in the content?
- What is the balance between online and in-person? Parents especially value the opportunity to meet others.

Information and signposting

- What is the awareness of support more broadly?
- What changes are needed to improve awareness?

Emotional support for parents

- Is our survey sample representative of broader trends?
- What support do parents need and when?

The experience of groups under-represented in survey responses

Capture more information from groups we haven't heard from, including:

- Younger parents

- Fathers – both those who are the primary care givers and the experience of fathers returning to work
- Stay at home parents?
- Low-income families

For consideration outside of this project

Geographic inequality

- Link into existing work around community hubs and wider work around neighbourhood working

Experience of health visitors

- Capture more evidence – share survey with colleagues who are recommissioning the CCHS contract.

Breastfeeding support

- Link in with Infant Feeding Strategy developments

Nursery/childcare provision

- Make links with existing work being carried out with Early Years around sufficiency and take up of places

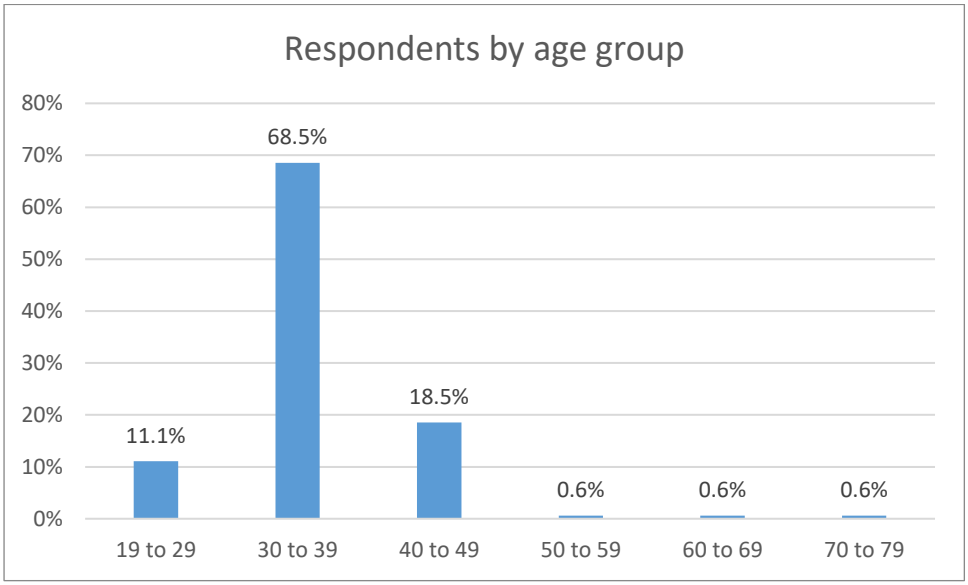
Support for parents with children with additional needs

- There is existing work with South Glos Parent Carers so share survey

Experience preparing for school

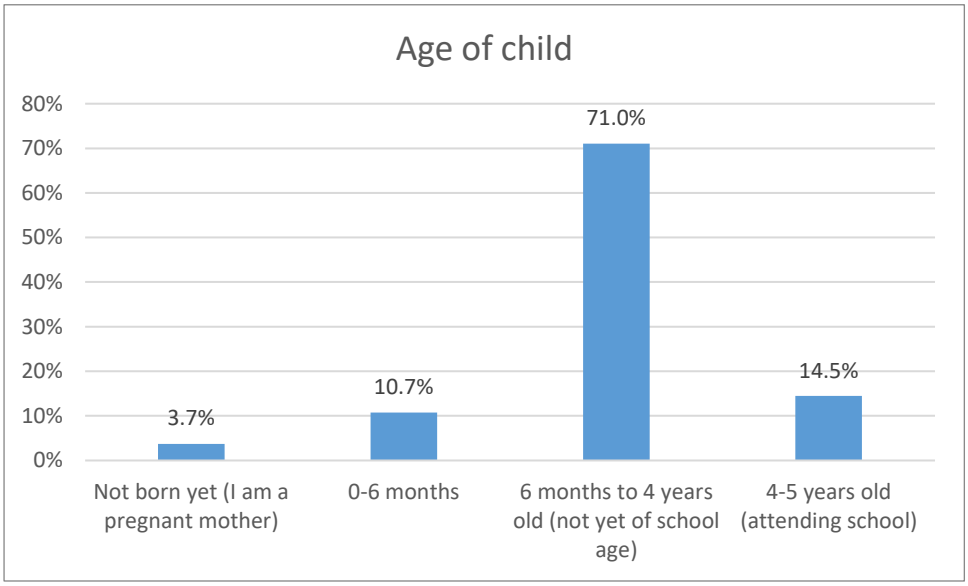
- Relatively few people answered this question so agreed to include in some of the community engagement questions.

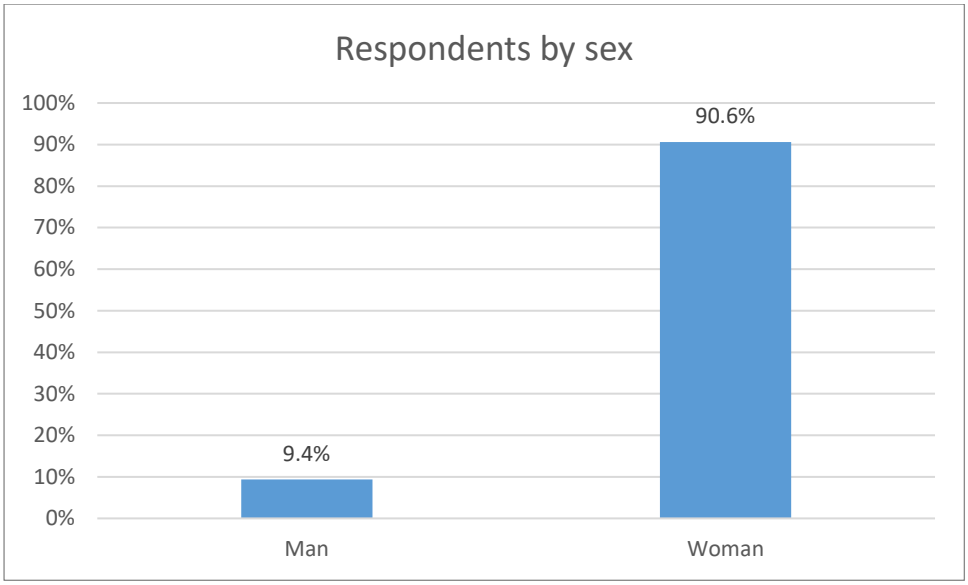
Appendix 1: Respondent demographics



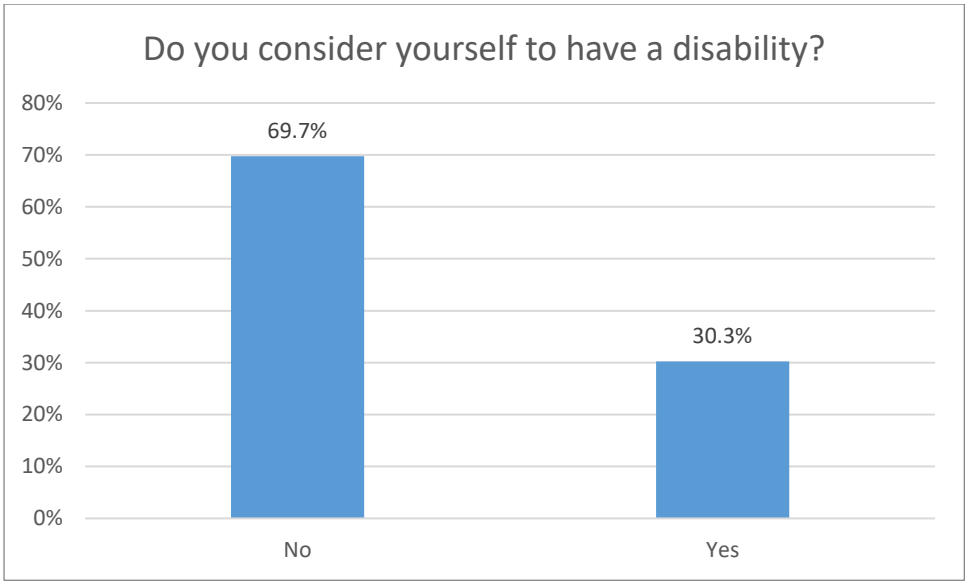
High proportion of 30- to 39-year-olds

- Reflects older age at which people are having children (and for most respondents it is more than year since birth of their child). Does this match national/other local data?
- Explore experience of younger mums – one respondent talks about not fitting in
- Two grandparents, one older parent



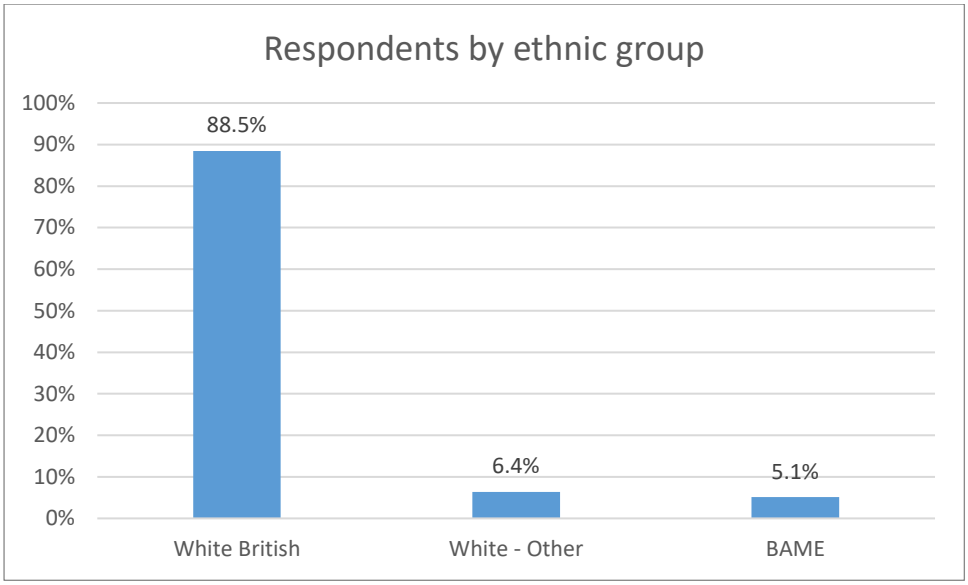


Far more women than men. What is the experience of dads? Those fathers who responded and are main care givers talk about needing more help – difficult to join support network?



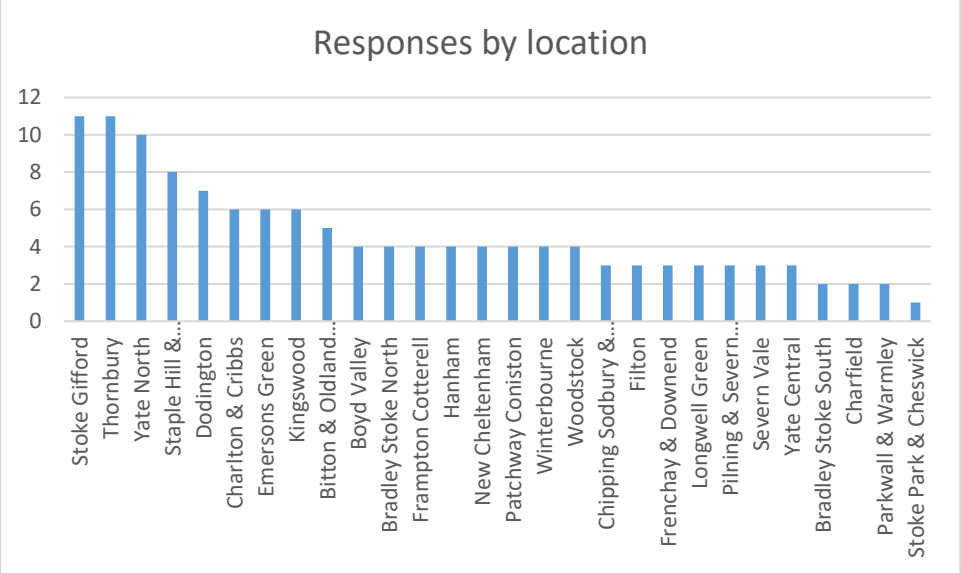
Disproportionate number of people self-reporting a disability, with a particularly high incidence of mental health conditions. Several comments about postpartum depression and wanting more support with mental health.

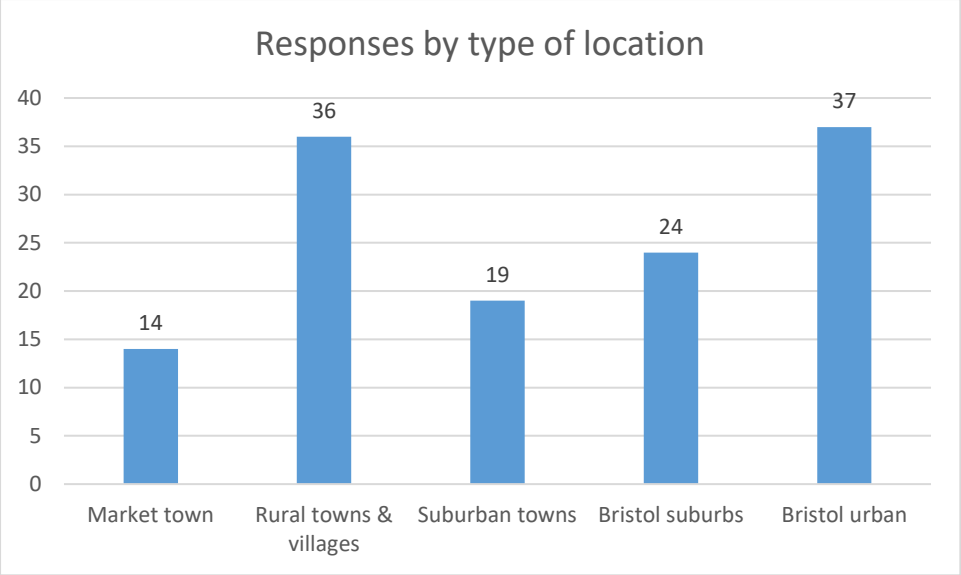
- Does this reflect the wider population of young mums/parents?



Ethnicity generally reflects South Glos population, as a whole.

Where do respondents live?

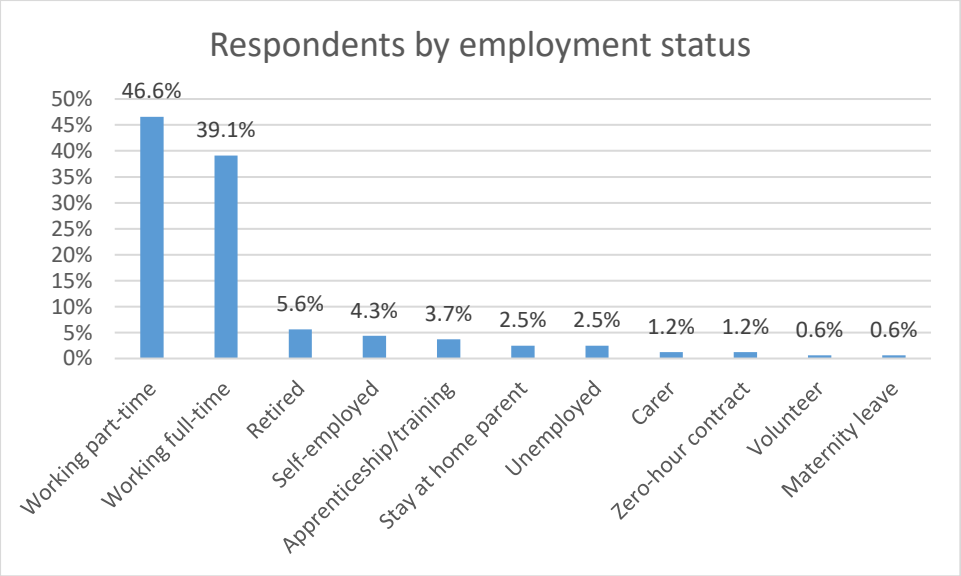


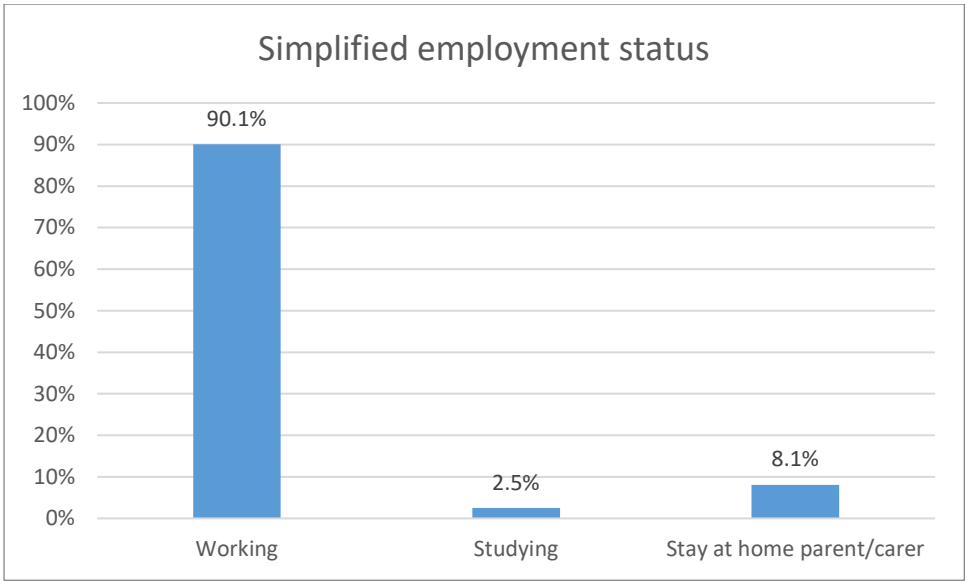


Far too few responses to compare by individual location. However, by increasing our sample size, we could split into the following groupings, otherwise simply rural/urban.

What do we expect to learn from this data? We already know that people who live in more rural locations feel more cut off from support.

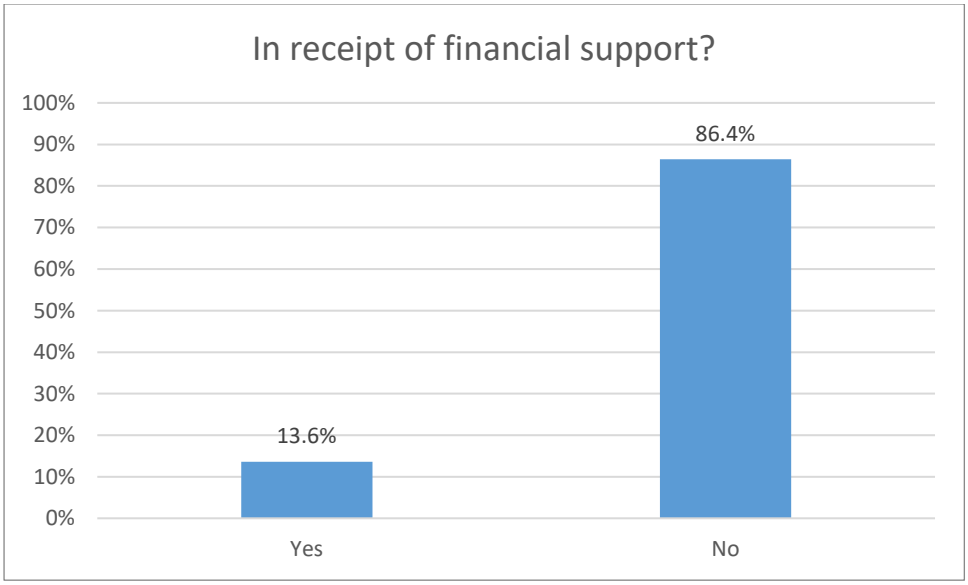
Working parents





High proportion of respondents are working. Several comments about difficulties for working parents:

- Limited support available outside of working hours,
- Challenges (costs/availability) with nursery places/childcare,
- 'Judgement' by midwives/health visitors.



Appendix 2: Comment themes

To help identify common themes, comments made through the survey have been grouped. Wherever possible, these have been counted to help us understand the most important priorities.

Feedback on services during pregnancy and up to six months

General	Services stretched/cut	2

	Tailored to personal needs	1
	Impact of Covid - availability	3
	Face to face support invaluable	1
	Helpful staff	6
Ante-natal support	Lack of classes	16
	Wasn't offered/didn't know about	4
	Too expensive	3
	Unwelcoming	1
	Not especially helpful	3
	Don't like online classes	1
	Lots of people in class	1
	Private classes good	2
	Lots of support during pregnancy	1
	Lack of support re: mental health issues	1
Birth & hospital	Listened to wants/needs	2
	Poor personal experience	1
	No space, had to go elsewhere	1
Breast-feeding support	Staff not knowledgeable/available	6
	Breast feeding group good	6
Midwife	Poor individual experience	3
	Helpful/kind	26
	Busy/overstretched	4
	Inconsistent support/lack of continuity	18
Health visitor	Inconsistent support/knowledge	13
	Poor personal experience	6
	Tick box/of limited use	12
	Very infrequent visits	1
	Didn't know about support offer	3
	Judgmental/Not taken seriously	6
	Part of trial of more intensive support	1
	Helpful	12
	Good breastfeeding support	1
Children's centres	Didn't know about them	5
	Not eligible for support/reducing support	2
	Breastfeeding expertise	5
	Felt judged	1
	Helpful/Strong expertise	8
	Not available outside working hours	1
Online resources	Online resources good	2
	Difficult to know which sources are reliable	1
	Poor	1
Other post-hospital	Poor support with postpartum depression	1
	Difficulty getting EHCP/specialist support	1

Feedback on services from six months up to four years old

General	Impact of Covid - restricting access to services	2
	Difficulty for working parents	3
	Clash with nap times	3
	Not well signposted - need to be proactive	6
	Services stretched/cut/targeted	2
	Sometimes don't know what support is required - which pathway, autism, speech and language	1
Children's centres	Access limited	1
	More available in/signposted from children's centres	1
	Helpful/welcoming	1
Health visitors	Tick box/of limited use	7
	Difficult to contact	2
	Helpful to ask questions	7
	Appointment didn't take place	2
Speech & language	Difficulty accessing - wait list	5
	Very helpful	5
Library	Stay and play good	17
	Storytime good	2
	Rhymetime good	5
	Value of librarians	1
Play groups	Community groups cheap and good	9
	Church playgroups	1
Specialist services	Difficult to access support	3
	No local expertise	1
	Physio helpful	1
	Services very helpful for those with diagnosed conditions	1
	Difficult to access paediatrician	5
	Paediatrician helpful	1
Online	Facebook breastfeeding group	1
	Haven't found useful resources	1

Is South Gloucestershire a good place to bring up a child?

Is it a good place?	Yes/generally happy	112
	Average	9
	No	9
	Depends on where you live	15
	Don't know	3
Birth & hospital	Midwife service good	8
	Midwives need more training	1
	Antenatal classes expensive	1
	Antenatal classes not available	1
	Need more support with breastfeeding	1
	Limited range of options for birth	1
Health visitor	Poor experience with health visitor	4
	Difficult to access/inconsistency of support	3

	Helpful	3
	Great signposting to wider support	1
	Available	2
Children's centre	Great resource	4
Play groups/Nursery/Childcare	Good activities and playgroups	18
	Long waiting lists/few places	4
	Expensive	2
	Good nurseries	4
	Need more play equipment for toddlers	1
	Lack of community spaces/activities - Filton, Thornbury	6
Library services	Would like longer opening	2
	Good services	2
Ongoing medical support	Good access to healthcare	6
	Knowledgeable medical support	2
	Effort needed to get support	1
	Poor access/dissatisfaction with healthcare	2
Support for parents	Good	1
	Better support for mums in Bristol	1
Schools	Funding & resources	1
	Transport	1
	Good schools	5
	Challenges accessing SEN support	1
Specialist support	Difficult to access	5
General	Reliance on families for support	3
	Good range of support	17
	Need more accessible/free services	3
	Concerns around crime/antisocial behaviour/hate	5
	Safe/community focused	6
	Better signposting to services needed	3
	Increasing issues with crime	1
	Good parks / green spaces	14
	Harder for single parents/if parents work - support outside working hours	4
	Difficult time to raise a child	3
	Lack of public transport	1
	Services stretched/cut	5
	Lack of facilities for older children/teens	1
	Good transport links	1
	Issues for people living close to LA border	1
	Fewer people having children	1
	Expensive place to live/cost of living	4
	Housing availability	2

Potential improvements

Nursery and school provision	More nurseries and schools	10
	More money for schools	3

	Raising standards in nurseries	2
Midwives and health visitors	Consistent midwife provision	4
	Easier access to health visitors (i.e after return to work, earlier etc)	5
	Training for Midwives/Health visitors	4
	Re-evaluation of role of health visitors - individual support not box ticking	4
	Less judgment/more understanding	7
	Bing back community midwifes	1
Other parenting advice	Ante-/post-natal classes	9
	Explain the process	2
	Information about c-section	1
Childcare	Access to government funded childcare/address issues with system	5
	Support finding childcare	2
	More childcare options (younger children, full working day)	6
Specialist support	Better access to SEN / mental health assessments	1
	Better access to health care services	3
	Local specialist children's A&E	1
	Investment in SEN facilities	5
Playgroups and activities	More free out of term activities	2
	More play / activity options	15
	Extend library hours/more library activities	3
	More groups that are free / cheap	9
Family support networks	More support networks / spaces for families	5
	More groups & support for dads	5
	Mental health support	3
	Respite support	2
	Support for whole family	1
Signposting to support	Listing of suppliers/activities	9
	Signposting to support via website	9
Breastfeeding	Improve knowledge about breastfeeding	2
	More support with breastfeeding	3
	Support with sleeping	1
Children's centres	Bring back baby groups / massages	1
	More children's centres, more accessible for all	10
	Hub for accessing range of services	1
	Need to be better promoted	2
Funding & system	Improve funding for these services - reduce waiting lists	9
	More support in rural areas	5
	Join up services - GP, health visitor, children's centre	5
	Better understanding of needs of working parents - flexibility of support, non-judgement	5
Wider support for families	Help with housing etc	1
	Financial/cost of living support	4
	More social housing provision	2
Other	Green spaces / outdoor play areas better maintained	8

	Improve policing	2
	Happy with current provision	3
	Transport improvements including road safety around schools	7
	Better understanding of care experienced people (trauma etc)	2
	Need to understand this better - capture different perspectives	1

Other services

Speech & language	Need more resources	1
	Speech therapy	1
Library	Longer opening hours	1
Play groups	More	2
Online	More online support	1
Nursery	Funding for working hours	1
	Ad hoc childcare support	1
Specialist services	Support for those just below thresholds	2
	Occupational therapy	1
	Mouth breathing function	1
	Better knowledge within universal services	1
	Access to paediatrician	1
Financial	Signposting to available financial support	1
	Occupational Health support with returning to work	1
Ante-natal support	Classes	9
	More in-depth support	1
	Advice for after birth	1
	Pregnancy yoga	1
	Online courses (as alternative to no support during Covid)	2
	Books	1
Birth & hospital	Doula	1
	Pre-induction relaxation	1
	Hypno-birthing	1
	Support after NICU	1
Breast-feeding & sleep	Support group	12
	Breastfeeding counsellor/consultant	6
	Support with alternatives to breastfeeding	1
	Baby sleep support	1
	Weaning classes	2
Children's centre & baby groups	Baby group @ CC	2
	Antenatal classes @ CC	1
	Juice project	1
	Community groups	3
	More needed	4
	More library sessions	1

	Church groups	1
	Baby massage	1
	Meeting younger parents	1
	More accessible support	1
Medical	Speech and language	1
	Allergy specialist	1
	First aid course for babies	2
	Check c-section wound	1
Parental support	Therapy	1
	Online community	1
	Jigsaw Thornbury	1
	Walk & talk	1
	Buggy exercise	1
	Mental health support	4
	Rockabye	1
	Mothers for mothers	3
	Dad hub	1
	Support for single parents	2
	Adoption support (It takes a village)	1
	Best Start	1
	Facebook parents groups	1
	Peanut app	1
	Support with mental health/depression	1
General	Support at weekend/outside working hours	2
	Covid impacts	1
	Better signposting to services and support	1
	Supporting families with second child	3
	Difficulty getting places after c-section	1
	Declining support/harder to access support from CC	2