



**To: Education and Children Policy Board**

**On: 14 March 2024**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Early Learning and Childcare Consultation - 2023**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how mandatory early learning and childcare, day care, out of school care and discretionary services should be made available. There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
- 1.2 This report advises on the findings of the early learning and childcare consultation carried out by Renfrewshire Council. Data collection began in August 2023, and the survey was initially open for one month. A smaller number of responses were submitted than expected however, and so the deadline was extended to 20<sup>th</sup> October. The consultation report is attached as appendix one to this report.

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## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Service Policy Board is asked to note the findings of the early learning and childcare consultation - 2023, which is attached as an appendix to this report.
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## Background

- 3.1 Part 6 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how mandatory early learning and childcare should be made available and to publish plans for future delivery in response to the consultations. Parts 7 and 8 of the Act also requires an authority to consult representative populations of parents on how discretionary early learning and childcare (under the 1980 Act) and discretionary day care and out of school care for children not in need (under the 1995 Act) should be provided and supported. There is also a requirement to consult representative populations of parents on how mandatory day care and out of school care for children in need (under the 1995 Act) should be made available.
  - 3.2 There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
  - 3.3 In line with the requirements of the 2014 Act, Renfrewshire Council has continued to consult every 2 years (apart from 2020 when there was a delay due to the covid pandemic), with the last consultation carried out in August 2021. Findings from previous surveys included information on demand and barriers on current and future use, and parents' perceptions on aspects relating to early learning and childcare services for parents of children aged 0-14 years. The information has assisted the council in the planning and delivery of services and played a key part in planning for the expansion of early learning and childcare.
  - 3.4 The current and most recent online survey carried out by Renfrewshire Council from August to October 2023 sought the views of parents and carers on early learning and childcare and out of school care provision. Questions were set to gather information on current and future usage of early learning and childcare 0 to 14 years, including demand, barriers and parental perceptions. The survey was structured to provide information within three categories: needs and services for parents of children accessing early learning and childcare, those accessing out of school care, and the needs of parents considering early learning and childcare and/or out of school care in the next 2 years. The survey included a number of closed questions.
  - 3.5 Appendix one provides the overall findings from the 2023 survey, including information on headline results and responses to all the questions asked.
  - 3.6 A total of 723 respondents took part in the survey. Due to the small sample size of respondents who participated in the consultation the responses provided can only be seen as an indicator of the wishes, demand and perceptions which may not fully represent the views of the wider community across Renfrewshire.
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#### **4. Key Findings – Early Learning and Childcare Survey – 2023**

- 4.1 A total of 723 respondents took part in the survey. Although each locality within Renfrewshire was represented, the largest proportion of respondents were from Renfrew (13%) and Johnstone (10%). When broken down by SIMD, 36% of respondents were from quintiles 1 and 2, while 62% were from quintiles 3-5.
- 4.2 The majority of parents had at least one child of school age (52%), with 26% between the ages of 5 – under 8 years. In addition, 21% of children were between 3 – under 5 years, while 13% were 0- under 2 years, and 8% between 2- under 3 years.
- 4.3 The key findings of the survey are as follows:

##### **Currently Accessing Early Learning and Childcare**

- In total, 335 parents who responded to the survey were currently accessing early learning and childcare.
- The majority of parents/carers accessed early learning and childcare through a local authority early years class or centre (59%), while 44% accessed early learning and childcare through a private or voluntary nursery, and 3% through a registered childminder.
- The largest proportion of parents/carers accessing funded early learning and childcare used a term-time only model (42%), while 39% accessed this through a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks. A smaller proportion of parents/carers chose a morning or afternoon placement (12%). Overall, 79% of parents/carers were accessing the funded entitlement through their preferred model of provision.
- Of those accessing funded early learning childcare, 88% were using the full entitlement to 1140 hours. A number of those who were not using the entitlement in full stated this was due to childcare providers not being flexible enough (26%), while 30% stated they would rather have their children cared for at home or with a family member/friend.
- Parents/carers were asked if they were considering deferring their child's transition to primary school. Overall, 16% said they were considering this option.

##### **Currently Accessing Out of School Care**

- 221 parents/carers who responded to the survey were accessing out of school care for their child.
- The type of out of school parents/carers accessed varied, with 77% accessing after school care, 57% out of school care (during the holidays), and 36% accessing breakfast clubs.
- The most cited benefit of accessing out of school care was that parents can continue to work, train or study (83%). Furthermore, 46% stated their child enjoys attending their out of school setting, and 21% that it has supported their child's development.
- Parents/carers were asked about any barriers they may face accessing out of school care. The most frequently cited barriers were the affordability

(31%) a lack of available places (27%) and a lack of flexibility (22%). However, 38% stated they have not experienced any barriers.

### **Planning on Accessing Early Learning and Childcare / Out of School Care in the Future**

- 344 parents/carers who are looking to access either early learning and childcare or out of school care in the next 2 years completed this survey.
  - The majority of these respondents were looking to access out of school care (66%), while 48% were looking to access early learning and childcare.
  - Those looking to access early learning and childcare provided information on the age their child will be when they begin accessing this: 36% will be aged 0-2 years, 25% will be aged 2-under 3 years, and 40% will be 3-5 years or have not yet started school.
  - Most parents/carers would rather their child accessed early learning and childcare in a local authority class or centre (88%), while 35% would prefer a private or voluntary nursery, and 11% preferring a registered childminder.
  - The majority of parents considering early learning and childcare in the future stated they would prefer to access this through a term-time model, (54%), while 31% stated they would prefer a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks, and 12% would prefer a morning or afternoon only session.
  - Of those considering out of school care in the future, 79% stated they would like to access after school care, 54% would wish for out of school care during the holidays, and 37% would wish for before school care.
- 4.4 52% of children represented in the survey were of school age. The projected population for this age group in Renfrewshire is 19,383.
- 4.4 It is important to highlight that with a smaller sample, these findings can only be seen as an indicator of the perceptions, demand, and experiences of those currently accessing childcare or looking to access childcare in Renfrewshire in the next 2 years.
- 4.5 Although a small sample size, the findings in relation to early learning and childcare will continue to assist the council in its delivery options of provision of the 1140 hours entitlement of early learning and childcare. The findings in relation to other aspects of childcare will be considered when undertaking any future planning of childcare services for Renfrewshire.

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### **Implications of this report**

1. **Financial**  
None
2. **HR and Organisational Development**  
None

### 3. **Community /Council Planning**

Our Renfrewshire is thriving	Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people.
Our Renfrewshire is well	Earlier intervention will lead to healthier outcomes for young children.
Our Renfrewshire is safe	Local services will benefit children, young people and members of the community.
Building strong, safe and resilient communities	The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents, children and young people
Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all	Effective governance arrangements ensure that the organisations receiving funding comply with legislative requirements.
Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy	Flexible childcare placements will enable parents to access and sustain employment, training or education.

### 4. **Legal** None

### 5. **Property/Assets** None

### 6. **Information Technology** None

### 7. **Equality and Human Rights** The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because there is no decrease to the level of service provision being proposed therefore no diminution of service. Registered services comply with the Equality Act 2010.

### 8. **Health and Safety** None

### 9. **Procurement** None

- 10 Risk**  
None
- 11 Privacy Impact**  
Personal information will only be held as required in order to deliver the service. This will be done in accordance with all data protection legislation.
- 12 COSLA Policy Position**  
None
- 13 Climate Risk**  
None

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## List of Background Papers

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KMcD/LG  
08 February 2024

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## Renfrewshire Council Children and Young People Consultation 2023

Consultation on early learning and out of school childcare

# Renfrewshire Council Children and Young People Consultation 2023

## 1. Executive Summary

### 1.1. Introduction

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on all local authorities across the country to consult with parents and carers every 2 years y, to identify how childcare services for children and young people (CYP) aged 0-14 years should be made available and inform their next steps for delivery. This report outlines the findings of the CYP Consultation.

The consultation was conducted through an online survey which was promoted on Renfrewshire Council's website, and social media. Data collection began on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and the survey was planned to remain live for one month. A smaller number of responses were gathered than expected during this time however, and so the deadline was extended to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### 1.2. Key Findings

A total of 723 respondents took part in the survey. Although each locality within Renfrewshire was represented, the largest proportion of respondents were from Renfrew (13%) and Johnstone (10%). When broken down by SIMD, 36% of respondents were from quintiles 1 and 2, while 62% were from quintiles 3-5.

- 1.2.1. The majority of parents had at least one child of school age (52%), with 26% between the ages of 5 – under 8 years. In addition, 21% of children were between 3 – under 5 years, while 13% were 0- under 2 years, and 8% between 2- under 3 years.

The key findings are as follows:

#### **Currently Accessing Early Learning and Childcare**

- In total, 335 parents who responded to the survey were currently accessing early learning and childcare (ELC).
- The majority of parents/carers accessed ELC through a local authority ELC class or centre (59%), while 44% accessed ELC through a private or voluntary nursery, and 3% through a registered childminder.
- The largest proportion of parents/carers accessing funded ELC used a term-time only model (42%), while 39% accessed this through a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks. A smaller proportion of parents/carers chose a morning or afternoon placement (12%). Overall, 79% of parents/carers were accessing the funded entitlement through their preferred model of provision.
- Of those accessing funded ELC, 88% were using the full entitlement to 1140 hours. A number of those who were not using the entitlement in full stated this was due to childcare providers not being flexible enough (26%), while 30% stated they would rather have their child cared for at home or with a family member/friend.



- Parents/carers were asked if they were considering deferring their child's transition to primary school. Overall, 16% said they were considering this option.

### **Currently Accessing Out of School Care**

- 221 parents/carers who responded to the survey were accessing out of school care (OSC) for their child.
- The type of OSC parents/carers accessed varied, with 77% accessing after school care, 57% accessing OSC (during the holidays), and 36% accessing breakfast clubs.
- The most cited benefit of accessing OSC was that parents can continue to work, train or study (83%). Furthermore, 46% stated their child enjoys attending their OSC setting, and 21% that it has supported their child's development.
- Parents/carers were asked about any barriers they may face accessing OSC. The most frequently cited barriers were the affordability of OSC (31%) a lack of available places (27%) and a lack of flexibility (22%). However, 38% stated they have not experienced any barriers.

### **Accessing ELC / OSC in the Future**

- 344 parents/carers who are looking to access either ELC or OSC in the next 2 years completed this survey.
- The majority of these respondents were looking to access out of school care (66%), while 48% were looking to access ELC.
- Those looking to access ELC provided information on the age their child will be when they begin accessing this: 36% will be aged 0-2 years, 25% will be aged 2-under 3 years, and 40% will be 3-5 years or have not yet started school.
- Most parents/carers would rather their child accessed ELC in a local authority nursery or centre (88%), while 35% would prefer a private or voluntary nursery, and 11% a registered childminder.
- The majority of parents considering ELC in the future stated they would prefer to access this through a term-time model, (54%), while 31% stated they would prefer a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks, and 12% would prefer a morning or afternoon only session.
- Of those considering OSC in the future, 79% stated they would like to access after school care, 54% would wish for out of school care during the holidays, and 37% would wish for before school care.

## **2. Overall Survey Results**

The overall results from this survey are detailed below. Due to the small sample size of respondents who participated in the consultation the responses provided can only be seen as an indicator of the wishes, demand and perceptions which may not fully represent the

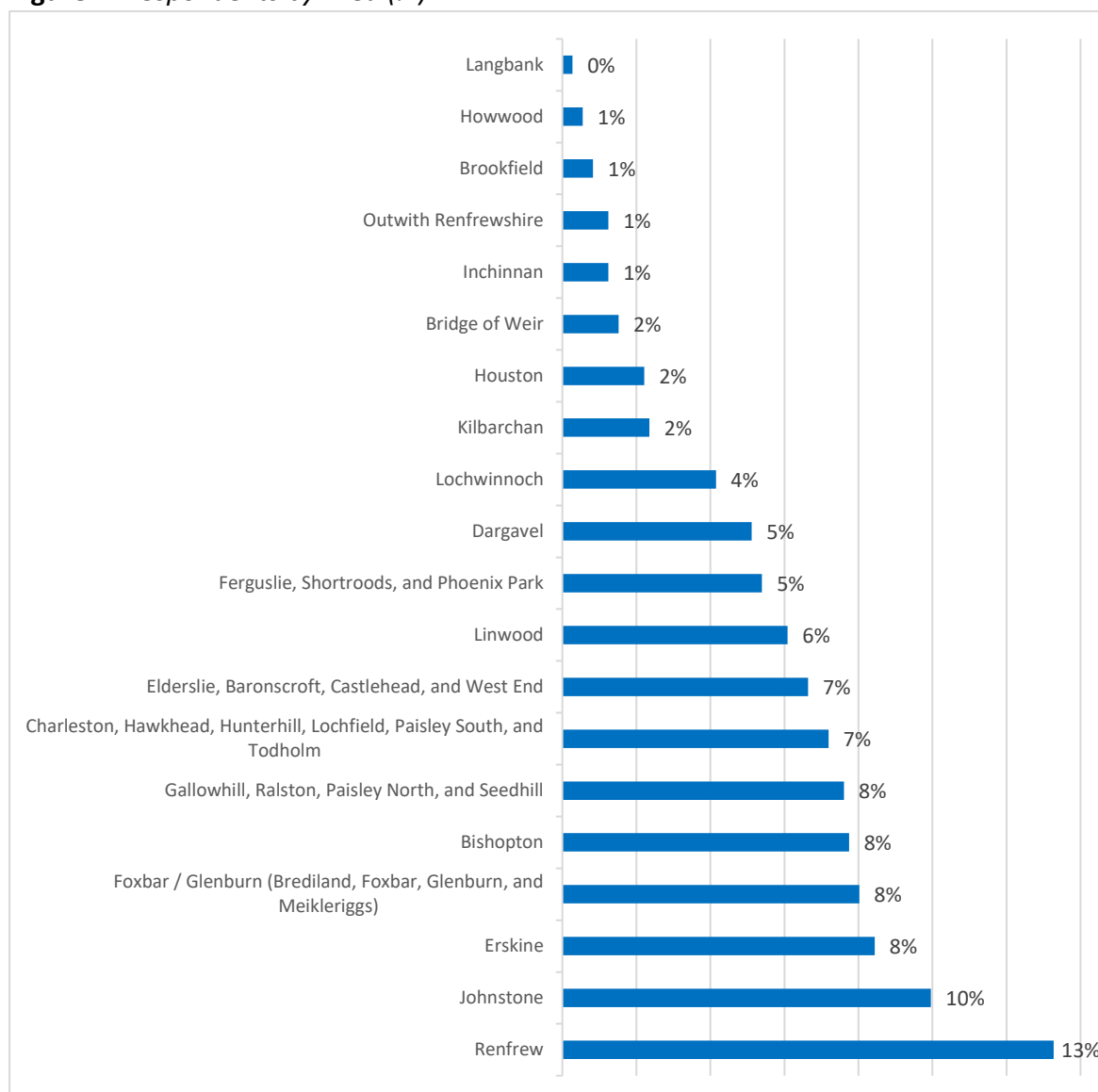
views of the wider community across Renfrewshire. However, the findings in relation to early learning and childcare will continue to assist the council in its delivery options of provision of the 1140 hours entitlement of early learning and childcare. The findings in relation to out of school care will also be considered when undertaking any future planning of childcare services for Renfrewshire.

## 2.1. Respondent Profile

2.1.1. The 723 responses to this survey represented 1217 children in Renfrewshire aged 0-14 years. The majority of these children were of school age (52%).

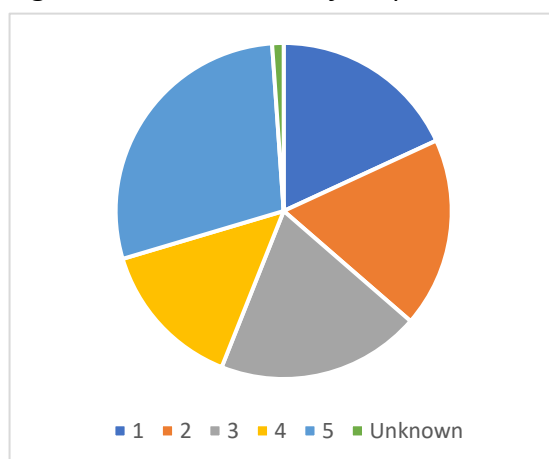
2.1.2. Respondents identified the areas of Renfrewshire they lived in. There was representation from each area of Renfrewshire, however, larger numbers of respondents were from areas within Paisley (28%) as well as Renfrew (13%) and Johnstone (10%), while only 11% of respondents were from Brookfield, Howwood, Langbank, Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan, Houston, and Bridge of Weir. Figure 1 details the area responses in full.

**Figure 1. Respondents by Area (%)**



2.1.3. Respondents also entered their postcode, providing more information on their SIMD<sup>1</sup> profile. The SIMD quintiles of respondents varied, with 36% in SIMD 1-2, and 62% in SIMD 3-5. Figure 2 shows the spread of SIMD.

**Figure 2.** *SIMD Quintile of Respondents*



2.1.4. All respondents detailed the age of each child they have who are either currently accessing childcare or considering to have access to childcare in the next 2 years. Although 52% of children were of school age, a significant proportion of these children were aged 5- under 8 years (26%), while 19% were 8- under 12 years, and 7% were aged 12-14 years. Half of those below school age were 3-under 5 years. Table 1 details the age of respondents' children below.

**Table 1.** *Age of Respondents' Children*

<b><i>Age of child</i></b>	<b><i>N</i></b>	<b><i>%</i></b>
<i>0 - under 2</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>2- under 3</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>3- under 5</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>5- under 8</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>8- under 12</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>12-14.</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>7%</i>

*Note. Percentage represents total number of children represented in the survey (N= 1217).*

2.1.5. Respondents identified whether they are currently accessing childcare, and if so, what types of childcare. Overall, 68% were currently accessing childcare, while the remaining 32% were looking to access childcare in the future. Of those currently accessing childcare, the majority were using ELC (67%), while 44% were accessing OSC. The responses to the type of childcare accessed are detailed in Table 2.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintile categorises areas from 1 (most deprived) to 5 (least deprived).

**Table 2. Types of Childcare Accessed**

<b>What type of childcare do you currently access in Renfrewshire?</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Early learning and childcare</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Out of school care</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>32%</i>
<i>Accessing both of these services</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>12%</i>

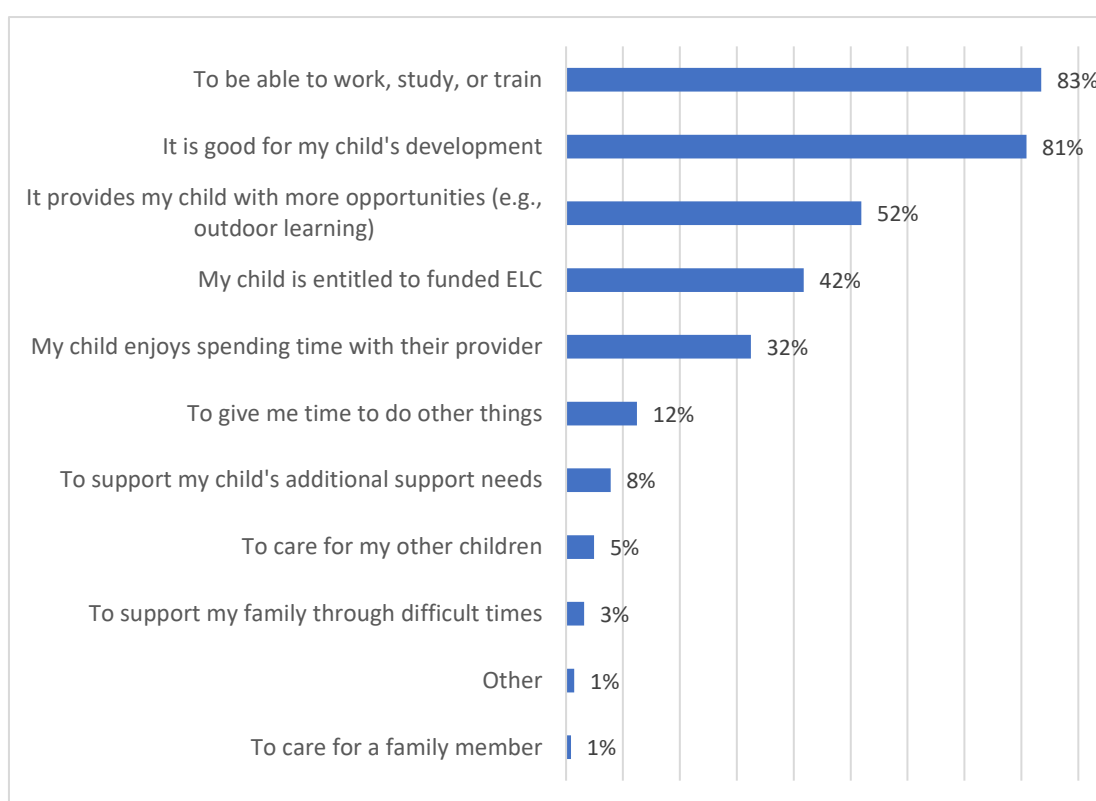
2.1.6. The number of respondents accessing ELC and OSC varied by area, with Johnstone (30) and Erskine (28) having the highest number of families accessing ELC. Higher numbers of families accessing OSC were also found in Dargavel (14), and Ferguslie (13), while those accessing both services were more likely to live in Bishopton (10) and Foxbar (9).

## 2.2. Early Learning and Childcare

2.2.1. A total of 335 respondents were accessing ELC at the time of completing this survey. The majority were accessing ELC through a local authority ELC class or centre (59%), while 44% had a child attending a private or voluntary nursery, and 3% were using a registered childminder. A larger number of parents/ carers in Johnstone (24), Foxbar (31), and Renfrew (30) were using a local authority nursery, while many of those with a child attending a private or voluntary nursery were found to live in Bishopton (17) and Gallowhill (13).

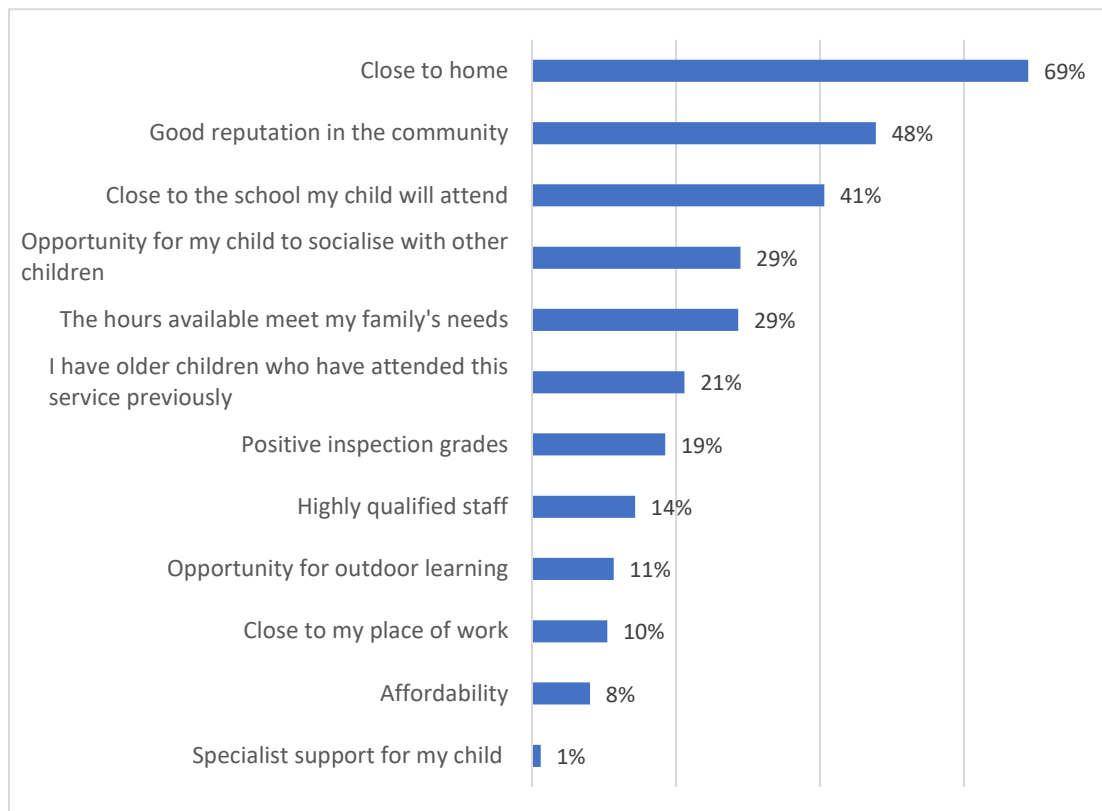
2.2.2. Respondents were asked to identify their main reasons for accessing ELC. They were able to choose from a list of statements and select the reasons they perceived to be most important. The most common reason was to allow parents to work, study, or train (83%), followed by the perception that it would be good for their child's development (81%), and that it would provide their child with more opportunities (52%). Figure 3 details the spread of these responses.

**Figure 3. Reasons for Accessing ELC**



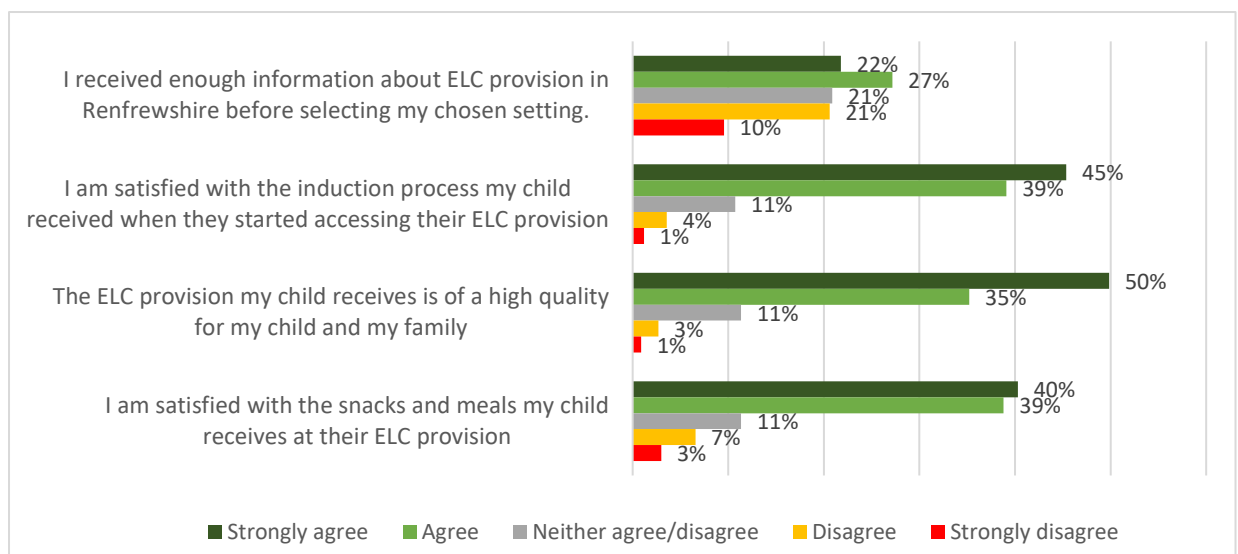
2.2.3. Respondents were also asked to indicate the three factors they considered most important when choosing their childcare provider. As shown in Figure 4, the most cited reasons for their choice of provision were that it was close to home (69%), it had a good reputation in the community (48%), and it was close to the school their child will soon attend (41%).

**Figure 4. Reasons for Choice of ELC Provider**



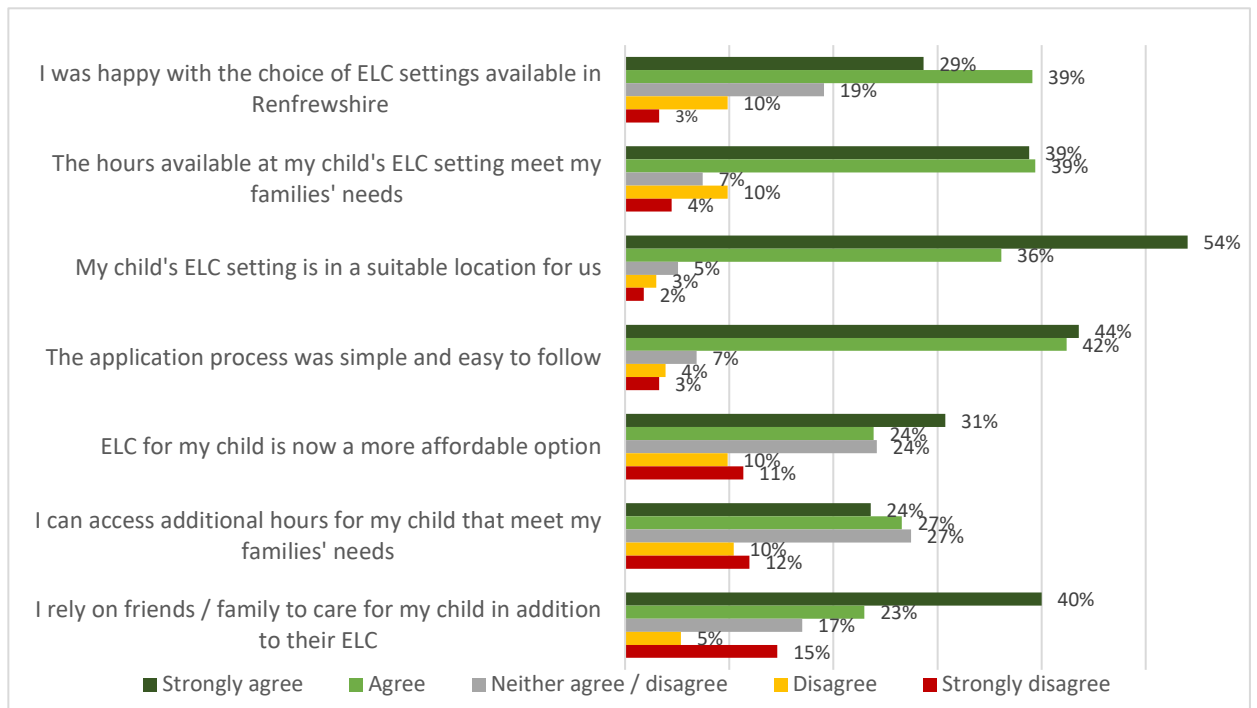
2.2.4. To gather respondents' perceptions of the quality of ELC they access, a Likert scale was included that had a list of statements and required respondents to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed. Overall, 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the ELC provision their child receives is of a high quality. Just under half (49%) however agreed or strongly agreed that they received enough information about ELC in Renfrewshire before selecting their chosen setting. The results to this scale can be viewed in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Perceived Quality of ELC**



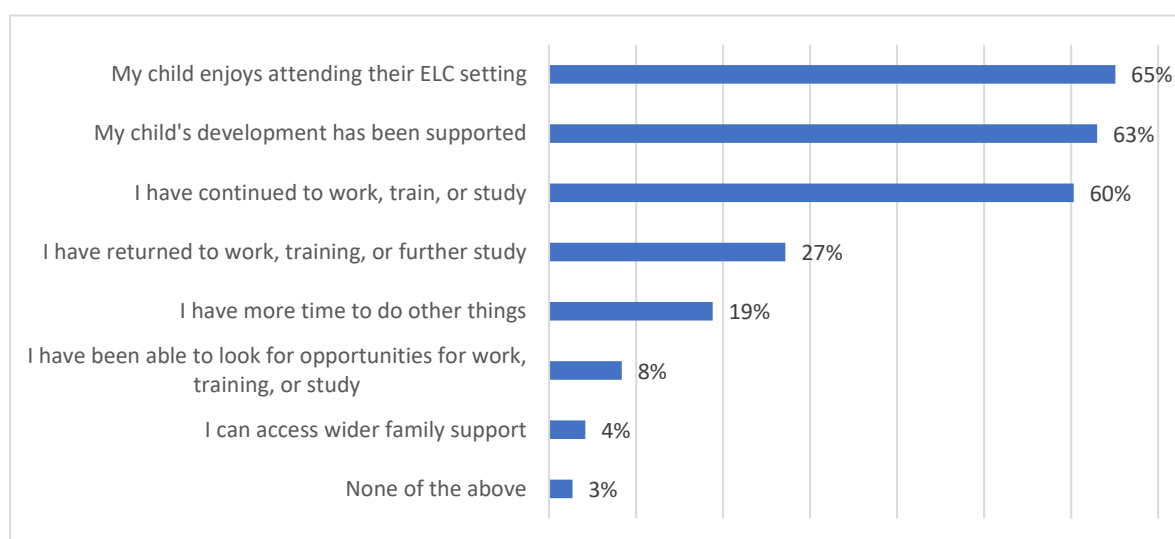
2.2.5. In addition to asking respondents their perceptions on quality of ELC, they were also provided with a Likert scale to measure perceived flexibility and accessibility of ELC in Renfrewshire. Overall, 68% of respondents were happy with the choice of ELC settings available, and 90% found their setting to be in a suitable location. Just over half (51%) agreed or strongly agreed that they could access additional hours that met their needs. The results to this scale are in Figure 6.

**Figure 6. Flexibility and Accessibility of ELC**



2.2.6. All parents/carers were asked to identify how accessing ELC has impacted on themselves, their child and their family, by selecting from a list of statements. Figure 7 shows that 65% of parents/carers stated their child enjoys attending ELC, 63% believed their child's development has been supported, and 60% have continued to work, train, or study. Furthermore, 27% stated they have now returned to work, training, or study.

**Figure 7. Impact of Accessing ELC for the Child, Parent/Carer, and Family**



- 2.2.7. Respondents were asked about their main source of information regarding ELC provision. The most cited source was word of mouth (41%), followed by 40% who accessed Renfrewshire Council's website, and 34% who contacted ELC providers directly. Smaller proportions of respondents accessed information through a health visitor (13%) and social media (7%).
- 2.2.8. The majority of respondents had a child who was eligible for funded ELC (69%), and 83% of these children became eligible at age 3. The highest number of eligible 2-year-olds were found to live in Johnstone (11), Foxbar (9), and Renfrew (6).
- 2.2.9. Of those accessing funded ELC, 42% were doing so through a term-time only model, while 39% were using a 2.5-day model, and 12% were using a morning or afternoon placement. Only 3 respondents stated they were accessing up to 10 hours of extended daycare. Respondents were asked which model they would like to access and matching this with their current model indicated that 79% were accessing their preferred choice. The majority of those who were not accessing their preferred model stated they would rather access the entitlement through a term-time place.
- 2.2.10. Responses to the current models accessed were compared with the previous consultation which took place in 2021. The number of parents/carers accessing a term-time place has increased slightly from 39% to 42%, and the number accessing a 2.5-day placement also increased from 31% to 39%. Those accessing 10 hours of extended daycare decreased from 8% to 1%.
- 2.2.11. Parents/carers accessing funded ELC were also asked whether they use the full entitlement to 1140 hours. Overall, 88% were accessing the entitlement in full. Those not accessing the full entitlement stated that this was due to childcare providers not being flexible enough (26%), and/or because they would rather



manage these around school hours (30%). While only a small number of families were not using the full entitlement, they were most likely to live in Erskine (4), Foxbar (5), Johnstone (4), and Linwood (4). The full list of reasons for not accessing the entitlement in full can be found below.

**Table 4. Reasons For Not Using the Full Entitlement**

<b>Why do you choose not to use the full entitlement for your child?</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Childcare providers are not flexible enough</i>	7	26%
<i>Not enough availability of places</i>	2	7%
<i>I prefer to care for my child at home</i>	4	15%
<i>I prefer that a family member cares for my child at home</i>	4	15%
<i>To manage around school hours</i>	8	30%
<i>Other</i>	5	19%

2.2.12. Respondents were asked whether they were considering deferring their child's start to school. Since August 2023, all children who are aged 4 when they are due to start school and whose parents choose to defer are entitled to an additional year of funded ELC. Tracking the number of families who would consider this option would be beneficial for future planning in Renfrewshire. Most parents/carers (86%) stated they were not considering this option. The 14% of parents/ carers who were considering doing so were more likely to live in Foxbar (10), Erskine (8), and Renfrew (8). The majority of these respondents had a child aged 3- under 5 years (61%).

### 2.3. Out of School Care (OSC)

2.3.1. A total of 221 respondents were accessing OSC in Renfrewshire. The type of OSC service accessed varied, with 77% accessing after school care, 57% accessing out of school care, and 36% accessing breakfast clubs. These results can be seen in table 5.

**Table 5. Type of OSC Accessed**

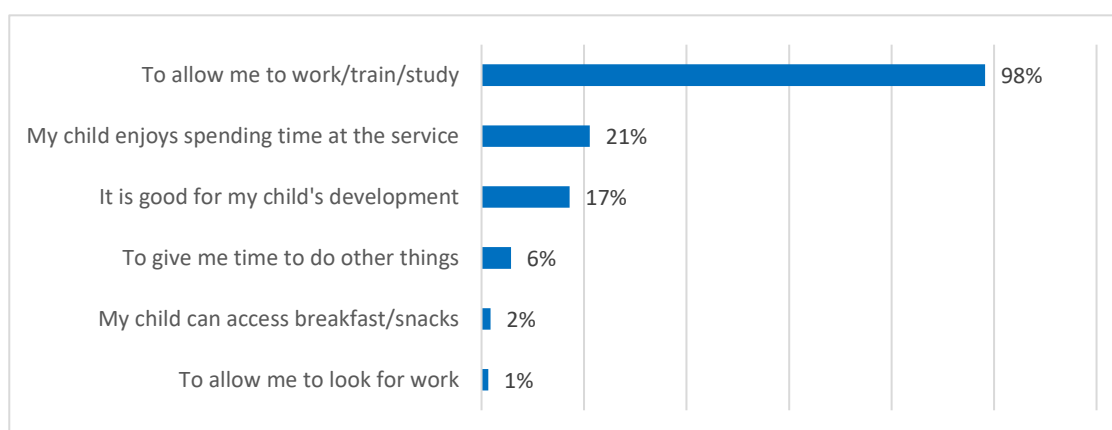
<b>What types of OSC do you currently access? (Please select all that apply)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Before school care (term-time only)</i>	66	29%
<i>After school care (term-time only)</i>	174	77%
<i>Breakfast clubs (in school, term-time only)</i>	82	36%
<i>Out of school care (during the holidays)</i>	130	57%

<i>Registered childminder</i>	15	7%
<i>Playschemes</i>	12	5%
<i>Family/Friend</i>	66	29%
<i>Other</i>	1	0%

2.3.2. The type of OSC accessed also varied across areas in Renfrewshire. The highest rates of all OSC types were found in Bishopton (12 before school, 26 after school, 11 out of school care) and Renfrew (8 before school, 22 after school, 14 breakfast clubs, 19 out of school care), while Dargavel had higher numbers of parents accessing after school clubs (18) and out of school care (14).

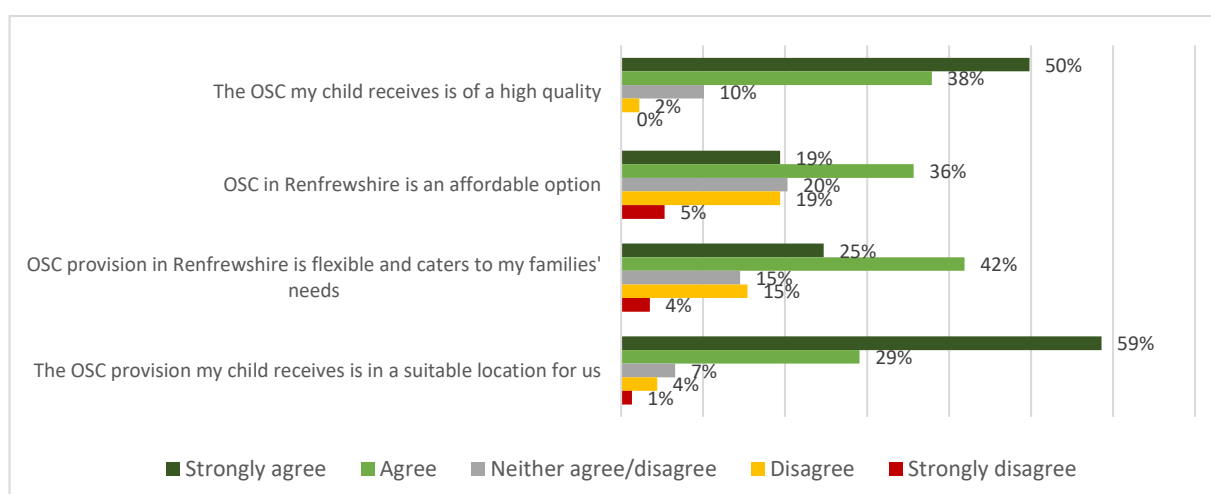
2.3.3. Parents/carers were asked their reasons for using OSC, and almost all (98%) stated that it was to allow them to work, train, or study. The responses to this question are found in Figure 8.

**Figure 8. Reasons for Accessing OSC (%)**



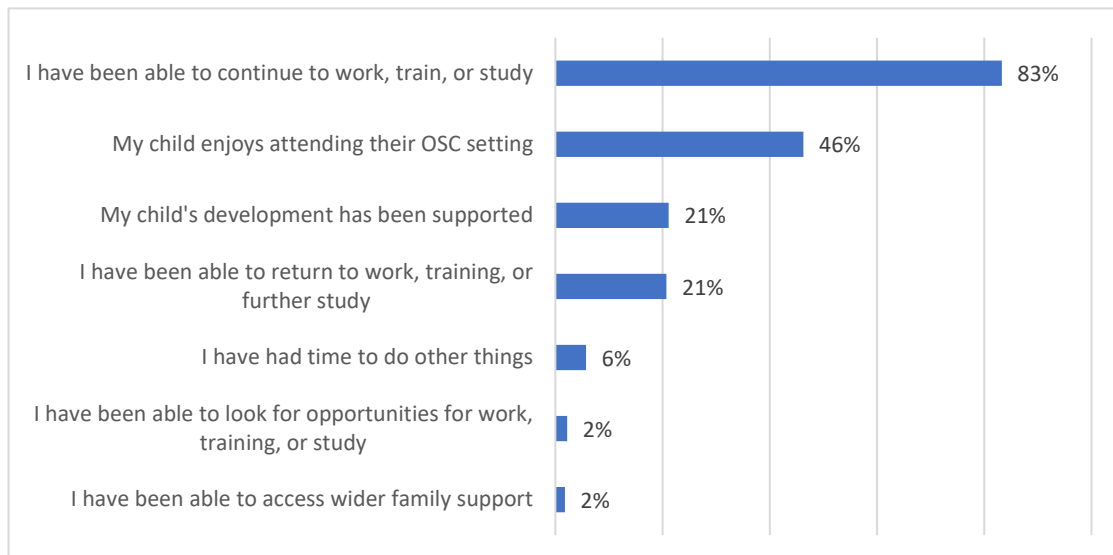
2.3.4. A Likert scale was included to assess the quality, flexibility, and affordability of OSC. As seen in Figure 9, 88% of respondents perceived the OSC their child receives to be of a high quality, and 67% believed the provision is flexible and caters to families.

**Figure 9. Quality, Flexibility, and Affordability of OSC**



2.3.5. Parents/carers were also asked about the impact of accessing OSC for themselves, their child, and their family. Most respondents (83%) stated they have been able to work, train, or study, and 46% stated their child enjoys attending their OSC setting. The full list of responses can be viewed in Figure 10.

**Figure 10.** *Impact of Accessing OSC For Parents/Carers, Children and Families*

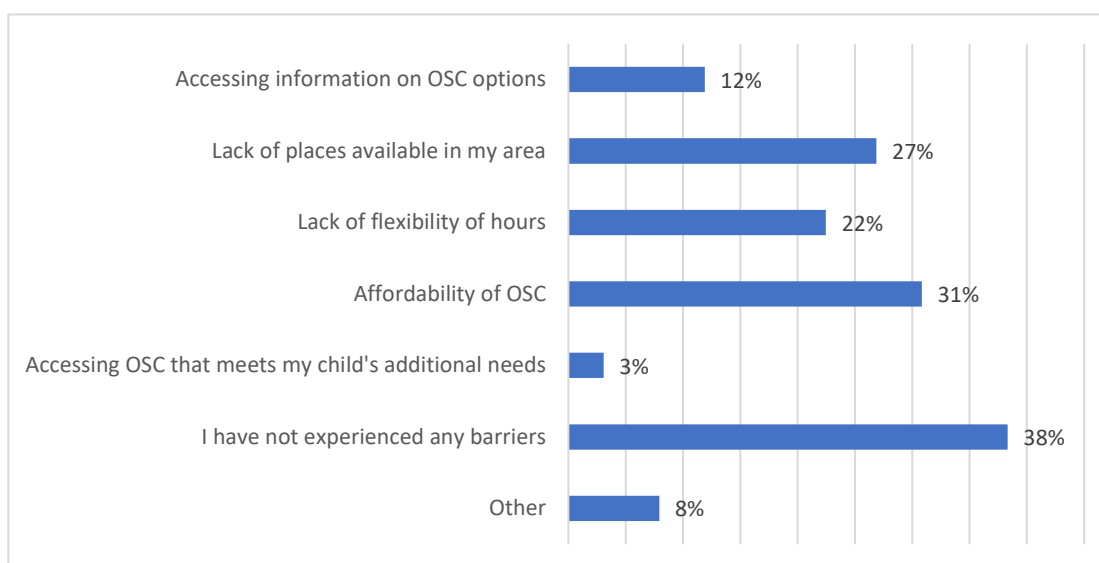


2.3.6. Potential difficulties to accessing OSC were investigated, by asking respondents to identify any barriers they have faced. Overall, 31% of parents/carers listed affordability as a barrier, while 27% cited a lack of available places in their area, and 22% a lack of flexible hours. However, 38% stated that they have not experienced any barriers. The findings to this question are in Figure 11.

2.3.7. The areas with the highest number of respondents experiencing barriers to accessing OSC were Renfrew (22), Elderslie (9), and Bishopton (9). In each of these areas, affordability was the most reported barrier.

2.3.8. Those experiencing barriers to OSC were significantly more likely to be in SIMD 5 (40), compared to SIMD 1 (17), 2 (16), 3 (13), and 4 (10). However, those in SIMD 1-2 were more likely to report barriers related to flexibility.

**Figure 11. Barriers to Accessing OSC**



## 2.4. Accessing Childcare in the Future

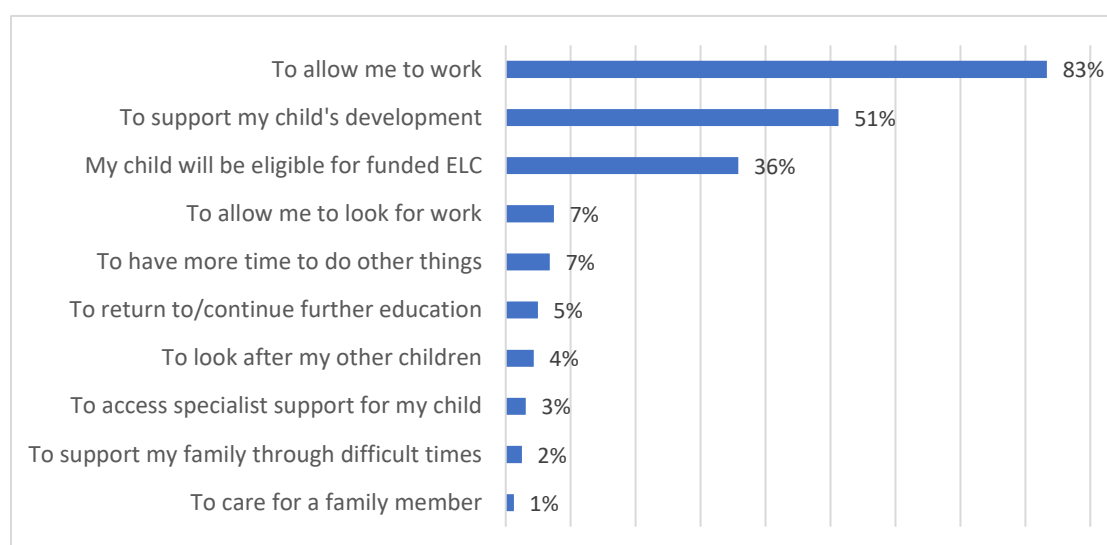
A total of 344 respondents were looking to access childcare in the next two years, with 162 considering ELC (47%) and 225 considering OSC (65%). While the location of these families varied, Gallowhill (19) and Foxbar/Glenburn (16) had the highest number of parents/carers considering ELC, while Renfrew (18), Lochwinnoch (18), and Erskine (24) had the highest number of families considering OSC.

### 2.4.1. Future ELC

Those considering ELC in the next 2 years were asked to note the age their child will be when they attend. 40% of respondents stated their child will be between 3-5 years, while 20% stated their child will be 2- under 3 years, and 36% that their child will be 0- under 2 years.

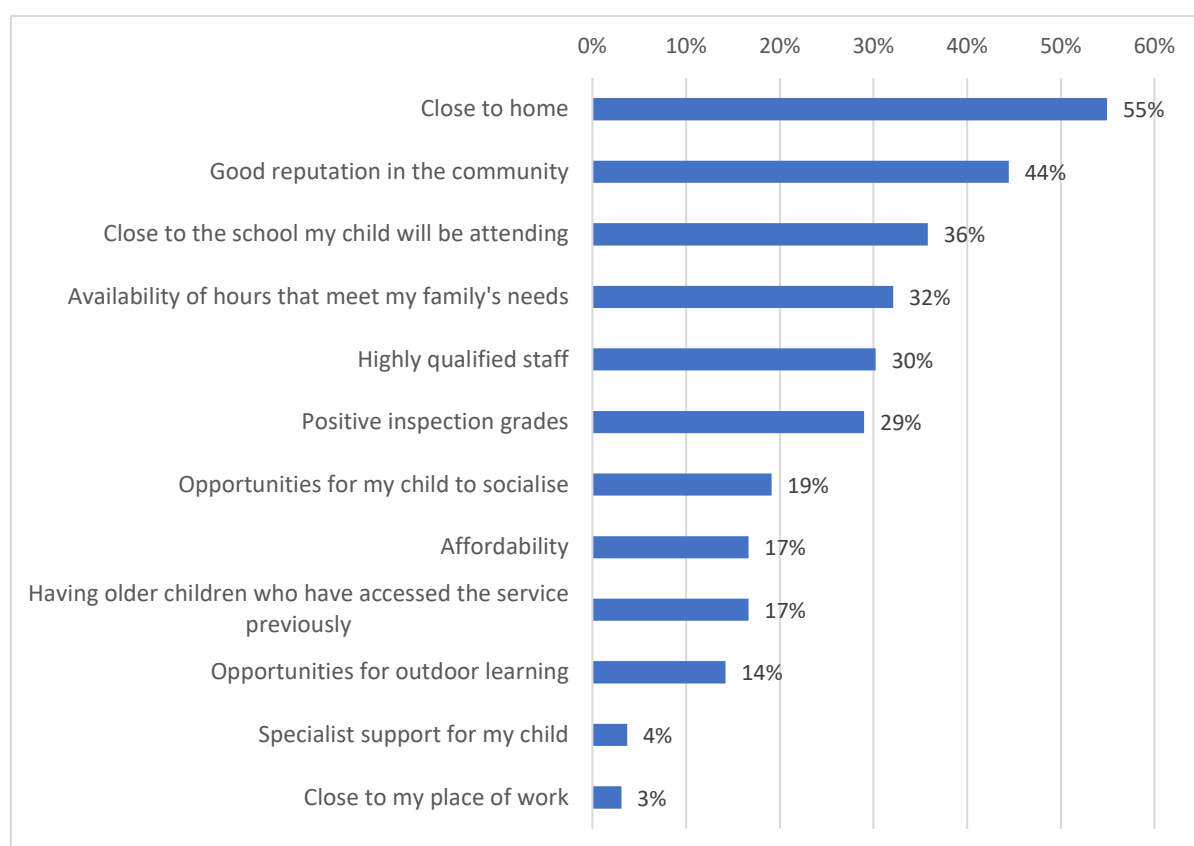
2.4.2. Parents/carers considering ELC were asked their reasons for considering ELC in the future. Similar responses were given to those currently accessing ELC, with 83% stating that it would allow them to work, 51% that it would be good for their child's development, and 36% stated their child will be eligible for funded ELC. The responses to this question are found in Figure 12.

**Figure 12. Reasons For Considering ELC in the Future**



2.4.3. In addition to asking their reasons for considering ELC, parents/carers were asked what factors would influence their choice of provider in the future. As shown in Figure 13, these responses were similar to those currently accessing ELC, with 55% stating it must be close to home, 44% stating it should have a good reputation in the community, and 36% stating it should be close to the school their child will attend.

**Figure 13. Important Factors When Considering ELC Provision in the Future**

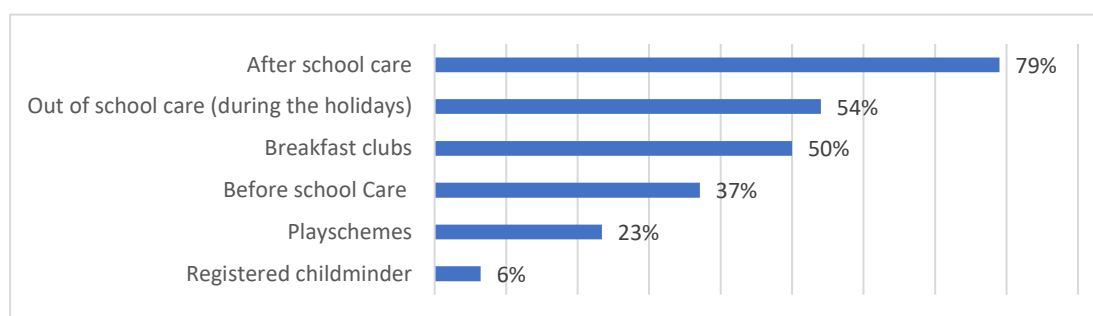


- 2.4.4. When asked where they would prefer to access ELC, 88% stated they would wish for their child to attend a local authority nursery or centre. In addition, 35% would like their child to attend a private or voluntary nursery, and 11% would prefer to access this with a registered childminder.
- 2.4.5. Parents/carers were also asked if they knew where to access information about ELC provision in Renfrewshire. In total, 65% either agreed or strongly agreed that they knew where to access information, 17% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 18% neither agreed nor disagreed.
- 2.4.6. All respondents looking to access ELC were asked if they would be interested in Gaelic Medium education as part of their child's ELC, with 23% (38) stating they would consider this. The highest number of families who would consider this were found to live in Erskine (8).
- 2.4.7. The majority of parents/carers (62%) considering ELC stated that their child will be eligible for funded ELC in the next 2 years, with 83% of these being eligible from 3 years of age. Almost all of these parents (93%) predicted they will be using the entitlement in full, with those who did not citing they would rather care for their child at home (57%), that they intend to manage these around school hours (57%), and that 1140 hours would be too much for their child (14%).
- 2.4.8. Just over half of parents with children who will be eligible for funded ELC would rather access this through a term-time model (54%), while 31% would rather a 2.5-day placement. In addition, 12% stated they would prefer a morning or afternoon placement, and only 3% would prefer 10 hours of extended daycare. Those looking for a term-time model were more likely to live in Erskine (6), Gallowhill (9), and Elderslie (7), while those looking for a 2.5-day placement were more likely to live in Renfrew (5), Johnstone (3), and Houston (4).
- 2.4.9. Responses to parents preferred future model of ELC were also compared with their occupation. Those in full-time work were split between preferring a term-time or 2.5-day model, while a larger proportion of those working part-time were more likely to select a term-time model. Those not in work, training or study were the most likely to consider a morning or afternoon place.

#### *2.4.10. Future OSC*

Overall, 248 respondents were considering OSC in the next 2 years. As shown in Figure 14, the type of service parents were looking to access varied, with 79% considering after school care, 54% considering out of school care, and 50% considering breakfast clubs.

**Figure 14. Type of Future OSC**



2.4.11. The type of OSC parents were considering was compared based on the area of Renfrewshire they live. The highest number of parents considering before (9) and after school care (25) were in Renfrew. Those looking for out of school care over the holidays were more likely to live in Gallowhill (9), Renfrew (19), or Erskine (7), and those considering breakfast clubs were most likely to live in Renfrew (6), Erskine (11), and Johnstone (6).

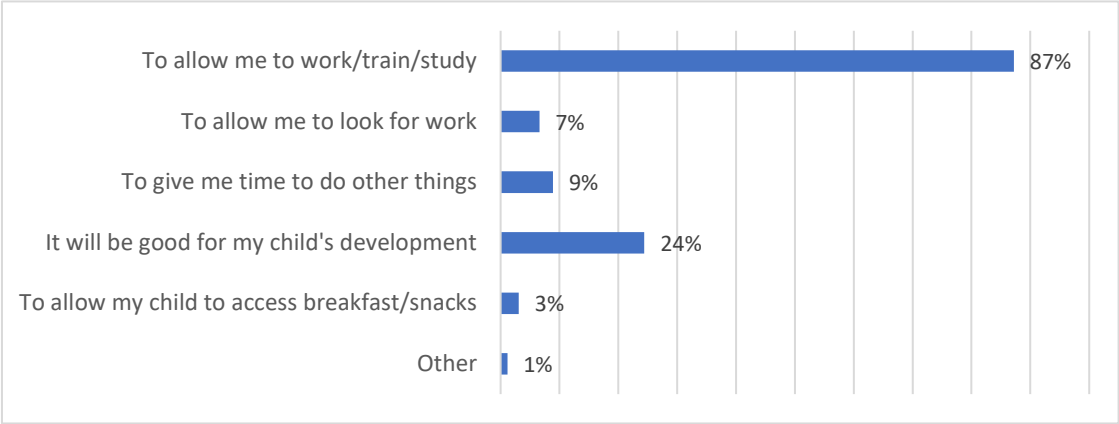
2.4.12. When breaking down by SIMD, 76 parents considering OSC in the future were in SIMD 5, representing 30% of this group. Most of these parents were considering after school care (61), and this pattern was found across all SIMD quintiles. Table 6 shows the type of OSC parents were considering, by SIMD.

**Table 6.**  
*Type of OSC, by SIMD*

SIMD	Total	Before School	After School	Out of School (during the holidays)	Playschemes	Registered Childminder
1	40	12	28	20	7	0
2	46	12	39	28	15	2
3	48	21	41	21	7	6
4	36	14	26	26	11	1
5	76	32	61	38	18	7

2.4.13. Parents/carers considering OSC were also asked their reasons for doing so, and gave similar responses to those currently accessing OSC. Most of these respondents stated accessing OSC would enable them to work, study, or train (87%), while 24% stated it would be good for their child's development. These results are shown in Figure 15.

**Figure 15. Reasons for Considering OSC**





## 2.5. Qualitative Data – Common Themes

All survey respondents were provided with one open-ended question: *'Is there anything else Renfrewshire Council should consider in regard to ELC or OSC?'.* This data was analysed to create key themes, which have been produced in a 'you said, we did' format to demonstrate how this feedback will be used to shape the delivery of childcare across the authority.

You said...	We did...
<p><b>ELC – Flexibility and Choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests to access funded ELC through a term-time place.</li> <li>• Distributing funded hours more evenly across the week, as opposed to 2.5 model with longer days.</li> <li>• Greater flexibility of funded hours to allow parents to return/continue to work.</li> <li>• Extensions to funded ELC provision to enable more families to return to work, including an early start/late finish time, and greater access to wrap-around care.</li> </ul>	<p>All three and four-year-old and some two-year-old children are eligible to 1140 hours of free funded ELC. Parents in Renfrewshire can access a funded ELC place for their child in either a Council ELC class or centre or in an approved Funded Provider nursery or childminder. EYC settings can open for an extended day (between 8 am and 6pm) across the calendar year or school day/ term time.</p> <p>In response to ongoing feedback from parents Renfrewshire continues to offer a range of options across each geographical area to meet the needs of families. These models include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Term-time – 9am-3pm Monday-Friday, for 38 weeks</li> <li>- 2.5 days – 2 full days (8am-6pm) and 1 morning (8am-1pm) or afternoon (1pm-6pm), for 48 weeks per year</li> <li>- A morning or afternoon place, Monday-Friday, for 48 weeks per year</li> </ul> <p>In addition, parents have the option to access their funded entitlement between 2 providers as a 'blended' place between Local Authority and/or funded provider settings.</p> <p>Information on early learning and childcare can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

	<p>Our ELC services are regulated by the Care Inspectorate and as such, must deliver ELC to a set number of children each day. This means only a set number of term-time places / 5 day per week places can be offered to parents each year.</p> <p>In our 8-6 EYC settings, our early years staff work shifts to accommodate attendance patterns. There are a number of services that can offer a flexible approach for parents/carers to access their funded hours. Parents may also be able to buy extra hours in addition to the 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare for an eligible child or to purchase a place for a child aged from birth to 3 years who is not eligible.</p> <p>For those seeking additional childcare, wrap-around care is available within a number of Council and Funded Provider settings. More information on this can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Across Renfrewshire we are committed to ensuring families receive their first preference location and model where possible.</p> <p>1140 hours are an entitlement, not a requirement. Parents can choose to take all or some of the funded hours available. Parents can discuss your preferences with the Head of the Nursery, Centre or childminder.</p>
<p><b>Funded ELC for Younger Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider extending funded ELC to all children, including those under 3 years of age.</li> </ul>	<p>The entitlement to 1140 hours of funded ELC only applies to children aged 3-4 years, and eligible 2-year-olds. However, there is some provision available for children aged 0-2 years in Renfrewshire Council ELC Centres. These placements are limited and are also allocated in-line with Renfrewshire Council's Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy. More information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

	<p>In addition, parents can purchase ELC for children under 3 years of age (those who are not eligible for a 2-year-old funded place) in a private or voluntary nursery and childminder.</p> <p>In the autumn of 2023, the Scottish Government announced a commitment to providing childcare for children from 9 months onwards, the plan for delivering this. More information can be found on page 6 <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>ELC Provision - meals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In ELC it was difficult to find a meal option their child would prefer from the meal options provided.</li> </ul>	<p>All meals provided in ELC are required to follow nutritional guidelines, 'Setting the Table' for children aged under 5 yrs. These menus are varied and include either a starter and a main course, or a main course and a dessert.</p> <p>Recent consultation with parents and young persons using Renfrewshire Council ELC settings has provided feedback in relation to meal provision which has been incorporated to recent menu changes. Renfrewshire Council continues to engage with stakeholders to ensure meals meet statutory guidelines whilst aligning to service users' preference. Menus for meals served in Renfrewshire Council ELC classes and centres can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Children's menu choice is made at an establishment level. Further information on meal options will be available from your ELC provider.</p>

<p><b>Additional Support Needs - ELC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring ELC environments are suitable for children with additional support needs.</li> <li>• Sufficient training/ investment is in place for staff to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to support their child throughout the day.</li> </ul>	<p>All of our ELC settings are inclusive, and staff support the needs of all children, including children with a range of additional support needs. ELC staff work in partnership with other agencies and families to ensure appropriate supports and strategies are identified for children.</p> <p>Staff regularly access general and specific training to ensure children with additional support needs receive a quality ELC experience and that their needs are met. This is usually agreed at an individual setting level.</p>
<p><b>Affordability of Childcare - ELC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of ELC, particularly for those with children aged 0-2 years, as a barrier for returning/continuing to work.</li> </ul>	<p>The entitlement to funded ELC only applies to children aged 3 to 5 years, and some 2-year-olds who meet certain criteria.</p> <p>The most recent programme for government includes a commitment to expanding this entitlement however to include 1- and 2-year-olds, and more information can be found on page 6 <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Availability, Affordability and funding of OSC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider more OSC services within local schools.</li> <li>• Cost of OSC services as a barrier for returning/continuing to work.</li> <li>• Difficulty accessing OSC places in certain areas – specifically in Bishopton, Dargavel, Lochwinnoch, Langbank, and Kilbarchan.</li> <li>• Increase the funding to extend current OSC services and ensure families across Renfrewshire can benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>There are 2 local authority OSC services in Renfrewshire, which offer after school and holiday care for children up to 14 years. Currently there are 36 OSC services are operated by providers in the private and voluntary sectors. Some childminders also provided before /after school service to school age children.</p> <p>There is currently no entitlement to OSC and as a result Renfrewshire Council does not receive Government funding to deliver OSC provision across Renfrewshire. Although it is not</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased funding for breakfast clubs in local schools.</li> <li>• Difficulties accessing OSC for children with ASN.</li> </ul>	<p>an entitlement, this may change with the Scottish Government's commitment to developing a new system of wrap-around childcare for school-aged children.</p>
<p><b>Information / Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties in accessing information on funded ELC in terms of the application process, and the models available. It was hoped information could be provided ahead of time to help families make the best decisions regarding provision.</li> <li>• Parents requested information regarding catchment areas/choice for primary school, and links between ELC nurseries/centres and primary schools.</li> <li>• Parents also stated that they would appreciate more information on OSC across Renfrewshire, as many were not aware of what was available in their area.</li> </ul>	<p>Renfrewshire Council continues to monitor and develop its communications with parents. This includes social media communications and all information in relation to ELC is available on Renfrewshire Council's website.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council advertises applications for ELC each year in December and January, in advance of the allocation process for the coming academic session. This advertisement advises of the application process and provision available.</p> <p>School catchment area are different from the designated panel area for early learning and childcare. A placement in an early learning and childcare class does not guarantee a place in the primary school as not all primary schools have a nursery class. Further information on School Admissions and Placing Request policy are available at <a href="http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schools">www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schools</a></p> <p>Following from this feedback, we have developed a new webpage for OSC to ensure there is a central list of all services available in Renfrewshire.</p>