



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 15 January 2026

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Early Learning and Childcare Consultation - 2025

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires local authorities to consult every 2 years with 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.
 - 1.2 This report advises on the findings of the early learning and childcare consultation carried out by Renfrewshire Council. Data collection began on 1 September until the 13 October 2025. The consultation report is attached as appendix one to this report.
-

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 - 2025, which is attached as an appendix to this report.
-

3. 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.

- 3.2 There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
- 3.3 Renfrewshire Council has continued to comply with the duty of the 2014 Act, with the last consultation carried out in autumn 2023. Findings from previous surveys have been used by the council to support the planning and delivery of early learning and childcare services.
- 3.4 The current and most recent online survey carried out by Renfrewshire Council from between 1 September and middle of October 2024 sought the views of parents and carers on early learning and childcare and out-of-school care provision. Questions were designed to gather information on current and future usage of early learning and childcare 0 to 14 years, parental perceptions and barriers to accessing provision. 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 2025 survey, including information on headline results and responses to all the questions asked.
- 3.6 A total of 498 respondents took part in the survey, which is a reduction of around 200 from the last survey. The survey period was extended from 4 to 6 weeks and further communications provided via the Council's social media channels to maximise the number of participants.
- 3.7 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.

4. Key Findings – Early Learning and Childcare Survey – 2025

- 4.1 A total of 498 respondents took part in the survey. Almost all localities within Renfrewshire were represented, except for Howwood and Kilbarchan. The largest proportion of respondents were from Bishopton (13%), followed by the area Foxbar, Glenburn and Brediland (11%) and Renfrew (11%).
- 4.2 All respondents detailed the age of each child they have who are either currently accessing childcare or considering accessing this in the next 2 years. 38% of children were within the 3-5 bracket, while 33% were of school age. Only 9% fell into the 2-3 age bracket, and 20% of children were within the 0-Under 2 bracket.
- 4.3 The key findings of the survey are as follows:

Currently Accessing Early Learning and Childcare

- In total, 389 parents who responded to the survey were currently accessing early learning and childcare (ELC).
- 57% of parents/carers accessed ELC through a local authority ELC class or centre, while 48% accessed ELC through a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% through a registered childminder.
- The largest proportion of parents/carers accessing funded ELC used a 2.5 /3 day, over an extended year model of place (38%), followed by term-time only model (32%).
- A smaller proportion of parents/carers chose up to 10 hours per day extended day care for some of the year (5%) and morning or afternoon placement (4%).
- 86% of parents/carers were accessing the funded entitlement through their preferred model of provision.
- Of those accessing funded ELC, 80% were using the full entitlement to 1140 hours. Identified reasons for not using the full entitlement were preferring to care for their child at home (15%), not enough availability of places in my area (11%), and childcare providers not being flexible enough (13%).
- Parents were asked if they were considering deferring their child's transition to primary school. Overall, 16% said they were considering this option and 10% advised they would maybe consider.

Currently Accessing Out of School Care

- 99 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, 33% accessed breakfast clubs or before school care, 69% accessing after school care, and 45% accessing out-of-school care (during the holidays). Utilising the support of family or friends was identified by 32% of respondents and 8% reported using a registered childminder.
- The most cited benefit of accessing OSC was that parents can continue to work, train or study (94%). Furthermore, 47% stated that their child enjoys attending their OSC setting, while 24% cited their child's development has been supported. Additionally, 4% stated that they have been able to access wider family support.
- Parents/carers were asked about any barriers they may face accessing OSC. The most frequently cited barrier was the lack of available places (63%), followed by affordability of OSC (37%) and lack of flexibility of hours and accessing information on OSC options both at 35%.

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

- 473 parents/carers respondents are looking to access either ELC or OSC in the next 2 years.

- 39% of respondents are looking to access both ELC and OSC, 38% are looking to access ELC only and 23% looking to access OSC.
- Those looking to access ELC provided information on the age their child will be when they begin accessing this: 57% will be aged 3-5 years or have not yet started school; 18% will be aged 2-under 3 and 26% aged 0-2 years,
- 72% parents/carers would rather their child accessed ELC in a local authority nursery or centre, while 25% would prefer a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% a registered childminder.
- 44% of respondents considering ELC in the future would prefer to access this through a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks while 42% stated that they would prefer a term-time, school day model. Additionally, 8% cited they would prefer up to 10 hours a day extended day care while only 7% stated they would prefer a morning or afternoon only session.
- Of those considering OSC in the future, 27% stated they would like to access after school care, with 33% wishing to access breakfast clubs and before school care. 16% would wish to access out-of-school care during the holidays.

4.4 It is important to note that, due to the smaller sample size, these findings should be viewed as indicative rather than definitive. They reflect the perceptions, demand, and experiences of parents and carers who are currently accessing childcare or planning to do so in Renfrewshire within 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.

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.

Reshaping our place, our economy, and our future

The engagement process informs the redesign of ELC provision.

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

Support to families through a range of flexible and accessible places will support parents into and sustain employment, training or enter education

4. Legal
None

5. Property/Assets
None

6. Information Technology
None

7. Equality and Human Rights
A review of impact on equalities and human rights will be conducted to inform future proposals and implementation as required.

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. Children's Rights
None

14. Climate Risk
None

List of Background Papers
None

Author: Kathleen McDonagh, Education Manager – Early Years
Tel No: 07799034553, kathleen.mcdonagh@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Author of Consultation Findings: Rebecca Hannah, Childcare Information Officer,
rebecca.hannah@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Renfrewshire Council Children And Young People Consultation 2025

Consultation on Early Learning and Out of School Childcare

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 to identify how childcare services for children and young people aged 0-14 years should be made available and inform their next steps for delivery. This report outlines the findings of the Children and Young People consultation conducted in autumn 2025.

The consultation was conducted through an online survey which was promoted on Renfrewshire Council's website and social media channels. Data collection initially began on 1 September 2025 and was planned to remain live for one month. A smaller number of responses were gathered than expected, resulting in an extension until 13 October 2025.

1.2 Key Findings

A total of 498 respondents took part in the survey. Within the findings, almost all localities were represented except for Howwood. The largest proportion of respondents were from Bishopton (13%), followed by the area Foxbar, Glenburn and Brediland (11%) and Renfrew (11%).

The key findings are as follows:

Currently Accessing Early Learning and Childcare

- In total, 389 parents who responded to the survey were currently accessing early learning and childcare (ELC).
- 57% of parents/carers accessed ELC through a local authority ELC class or centre, while 48% accessed ELC through a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% through a registered childminder.
- The largest proportion of parents/carers accessing funded ELC used a 2.5 /3 day, over an extended year model of place (38%), followed by term-time only model (32%).
- A smaller proportion of parents/carers chose up to 10 hours per day extended day care for some of the year (5%) and morning or afternoon placement (4%).
- 86% of parents/carers were accessing the funded entitlement through their preferred model of provision.
- Of those accessing funded ELC, 80% were using the full entitlement to 1140 hours. Identified reasons for not using the full entitlement were preferring to care for their child at home (15%), not enough availability of places in my area (11%), and childcare providers not being flexible enough (13%).
- Parents were asked if they were considering deferring their child's transition to primary school. Overall, 16% said they were considering this option and 10% advised they would maybe consider.

Currently Accessing Out of School Care

- 99 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, 33% accessed breakfast clubs or before school care, 69% accessing after school care, and 45% accessing out-of-school care (during the holidays). Utilising the support of family or friends was identified by 32% of respondents and 8% reported using a registered childminder.
- The most cited benefit of accessing OSC was that parents can continue to work, train or study (94%). Furthermore, 47% stated that their child enjoys attending their OSC setting, while 24% cited their child's development has been supported. Additionally, 4% stated that they have been able to access wider family support.
- Parents/carers were asked about any barriers they may face accessing OSC. The most frequently cited barrier was the lack of available places (63%), followed by affordability of OSC (37%) and lack of flexibility of hours and accessing information on OSC options both at 35%.

Accessing ELC/OSC in the Future

- 473 parents/carers respondents are looking to access either ELC or OSC in the next 2 years.
- 39% of respondents are looking to access both ELC and OSC, 38% are looking to access ELC only and 23% looking to access OSC.
- Those looking to access ELC provided information on the age their child will be when they begin accessing this: 57% will be aged 3-5 years or have not yet started school; 18% will be aged 2-under 3 and 26% aged 0-2 years,
- 72% parents/carers would rather their child accessed ELC in a local authority nursery or centre, while 25% would prefer a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% a registered childminder.
- 44% of respondents considering ELC in the future would prefer to access this through a 2.5-day model over 48 weeks while 42% stated that they would prefer a term-time, school day model. Additionally, 8% cited they would prefer up to 10 hours a day extended day care while only 7% stated they would prefer a morning or afternoon only session.
- Of those considering OSC in the future, 27% stated they would like to access after school care, with 33% wishing to access breakfast clubs and before school care. 16% would wish to access out-of-school care during the holidays.

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. The findings in relation to early learning and childcare will continue to assist the council in its delivery options of provision

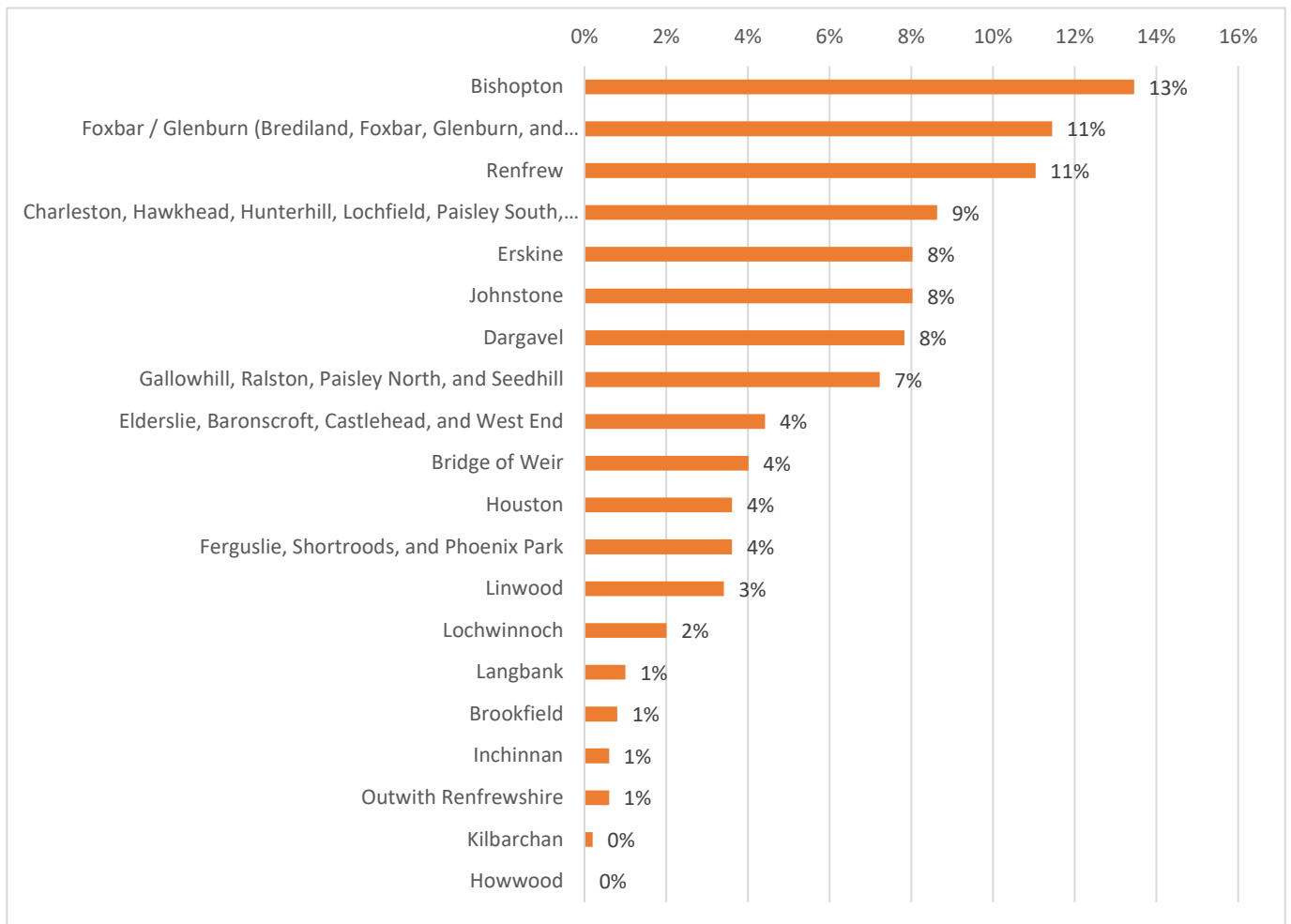
of the 1140 hours entitlement of early learning and childcare. The findings in relation to out-of-school care will also be considered when undertaking any future planning of childcare services for Renfrewshire.

2.1 Respondent Profile

2.1.1 The 498 responses to this survey represented 796 children in Renfrewshire aged 0-14 years. 38% of these children were within the 3-5 age bracket and 29% aged under 3 years.

2.1.2 Respondents identified the areas of Renfrewshire they lived in. There was representation of all areas of Renfrewshire except Howwood. The highest percentage of respondents was from the Bishopton area with a 13% response rate. Figure 1 details the area responses in full.

Figure 1 Respondents by Area (%)



2.1.3 All respondents detailed the age of each child they have who are either currently accessing childcare or considering accessing this in the next 2 years. 38% of children were within the 3-5 bracket, while 33% were of school age. Only 9% fell into the 2-3 age bracket, and 20% of children were within the 0-Under 2 bracket.

Table 1 Age of Respondents' Children

Age of child	N	%
0 - under 2	160	20%
2- under 3	70	9%
3- under 5	305	38%
5- under 8	145	18%
8- under 12	87	11%
12-14.	29	4%

**Note. Percentage represents total number of children represented in the survey (N= 796).*

- 2.1.4 Respondents identified whether they are currently accessing childcare, and the type of childcare accessed. 80% were currently accessing childcare, while the remaining 20% were looking to access childcare in the future.
- 2.1.5 Of those currently accessing childcare, the majority were using ELC (66%), while 8% were accessing OSC. Additionally, 12% of respondents advised that they were accessing both services. The responses to the type of childcare accessed are detailed in Table 2:

Table 2 Types of Childcare Accessed

What type of childcare do you currently access in Renfrewshire	N	%
Early Learning and Childcare	331	66%
Out of School Care	41	8%
Accessing Both Services	58	12%
Not Currently Accessing	68	14%

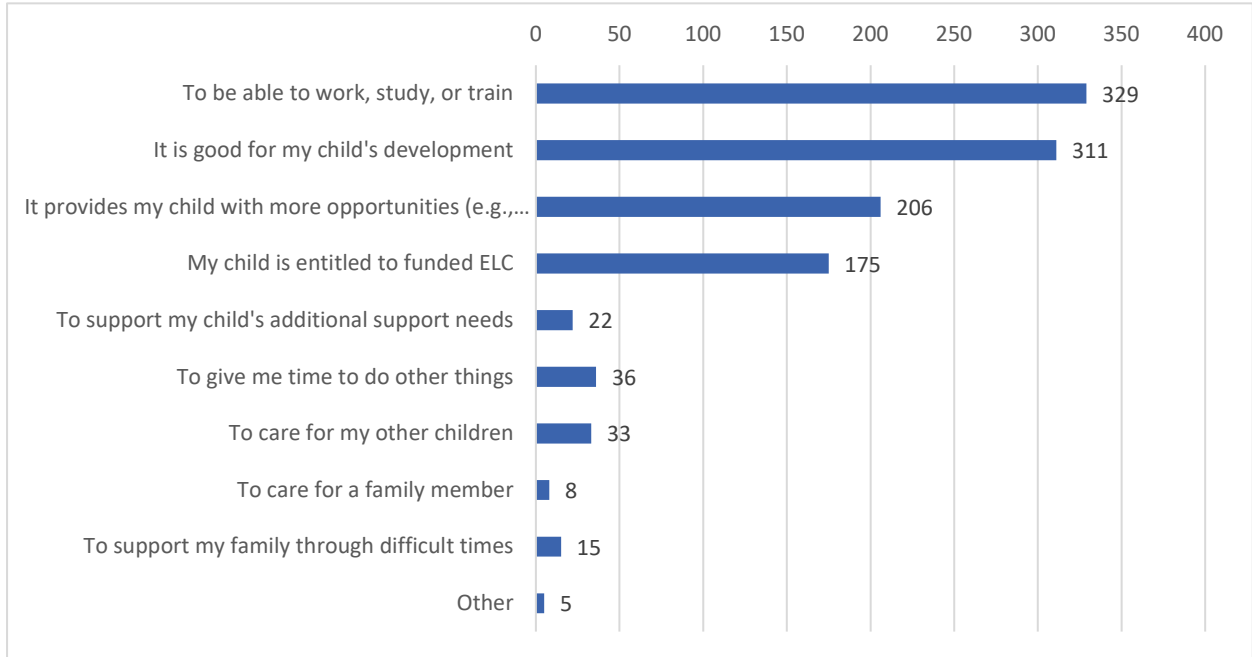
- 2.1.6. Majority of respondents had a child who was eligible for funded ELC (55%), and 82% of these children became eligible at age 3. The highest number of eligible 2-year-olds were found to live in Foxbar/Glenburn (7) and Paisley North/East – Gallowhill, Ralston, Seedhill (7).
- 2.1.7 The number of respondents accessing ELC and OSC varied by area, with Bishopton (45) and Renfrew (43) having the highest number of families accessing ELC. In terms of OSC, the area with the most respondents accessing this type of childcare was Bishopton, which had a response level of 15.

2.2 Early Learning And Childcare

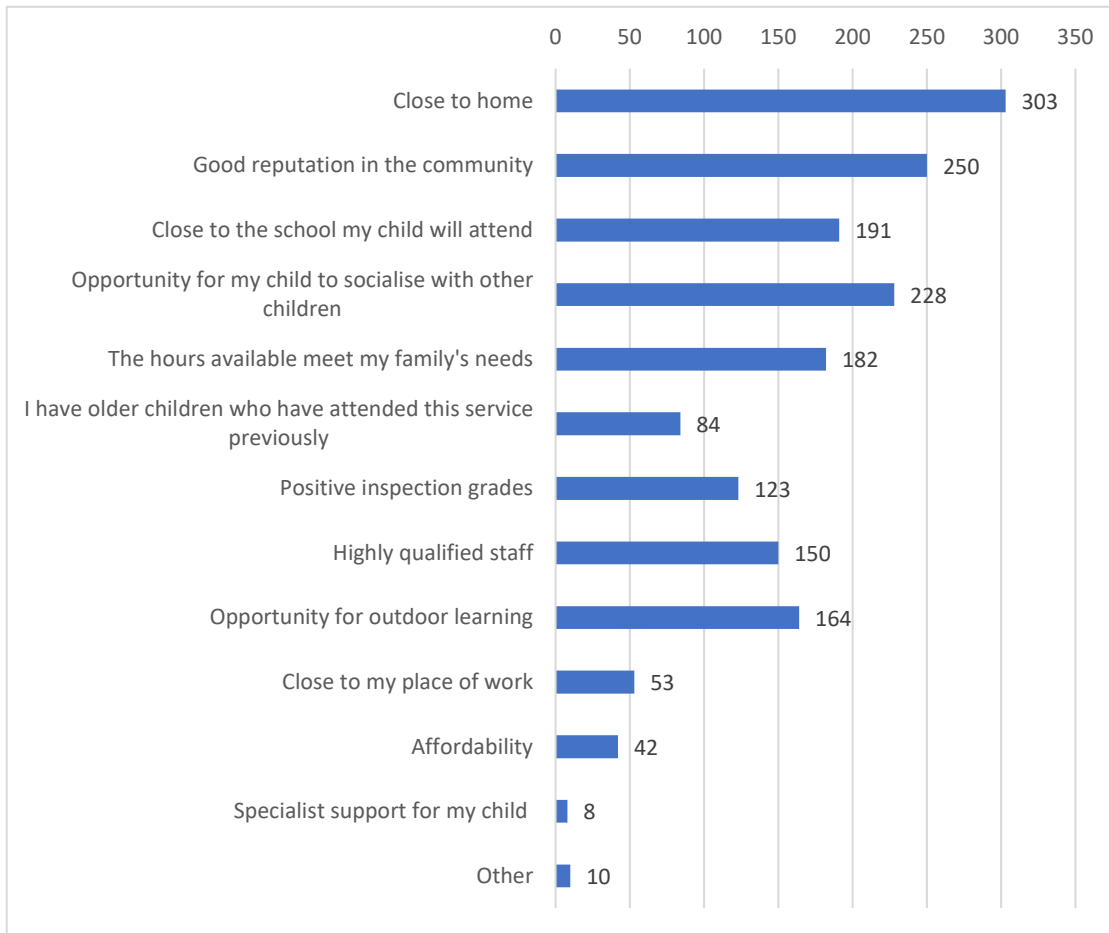
- 2.2.1 A total of 389 respondents were accessing ELC at the time of completing this survey. The majority were accessing ELC through a local authority ELC class or centre (57%, 223) while 48% (188) had a child attending a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% (15) were using a registered childminder. A larger number of parents/carers in Foxbar/Glenburn (27), Bishopton (28) and Charleston/Hawkhead/Hunterhill/ Lochfield (25) 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 (33), Renfrew (33) and Dargavel (16).

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 reasons were to allow parents to work, study or train (85%), followed by the perception that it would be good for their child's development (80%) and that it would provide their child with more opportunities (e.g. outdoor learning) (53%). Figure 2 details the spread of these responses.

Figure 2 Reasons for Accessing ELC

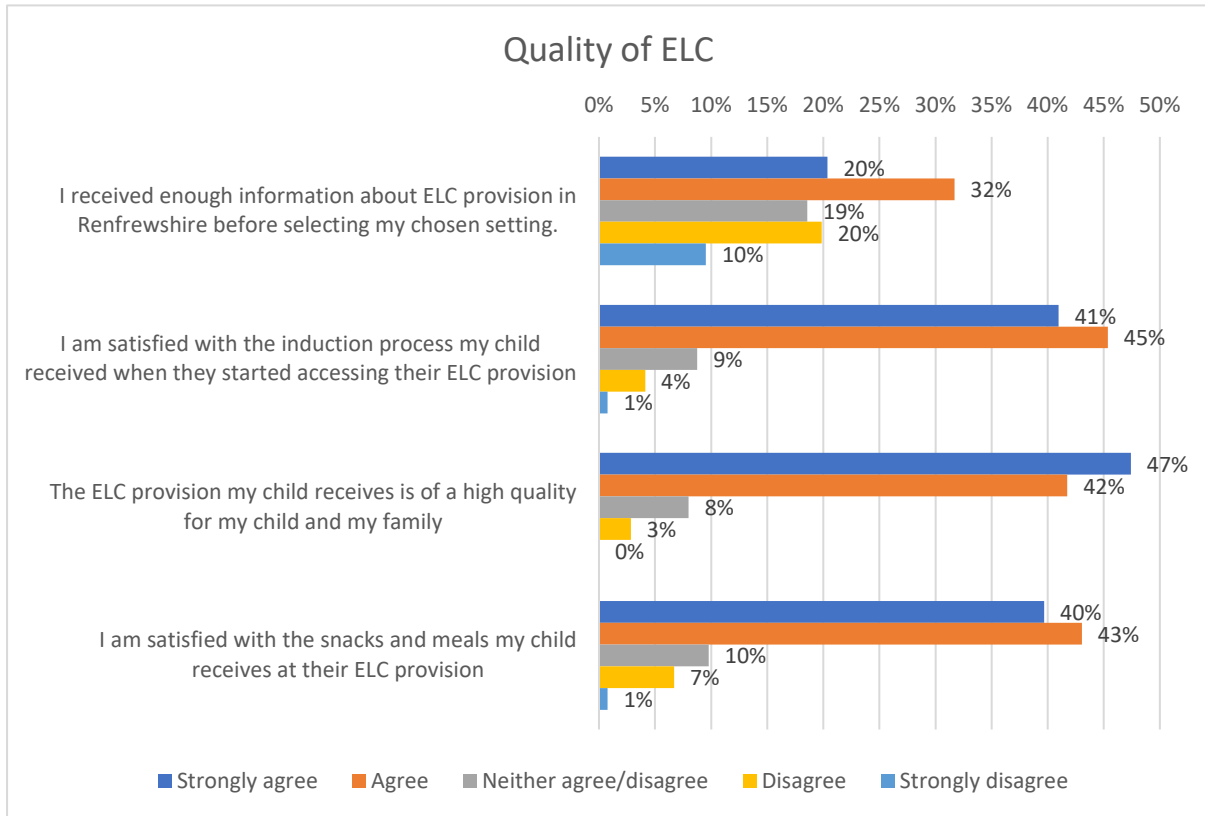


2.2.3 Respondents were also asked to indicate the three factors they considered most important when choosing their childcare provider. As shown in Figure 3, the most cited reasons for their choice of provision were that it was close to home (78%), it had a good reputation in the community (64%), and it provided an opportunity for their child to socialise with other children (59%).

Figure 3 Reasons for Choice of Childcare Provider

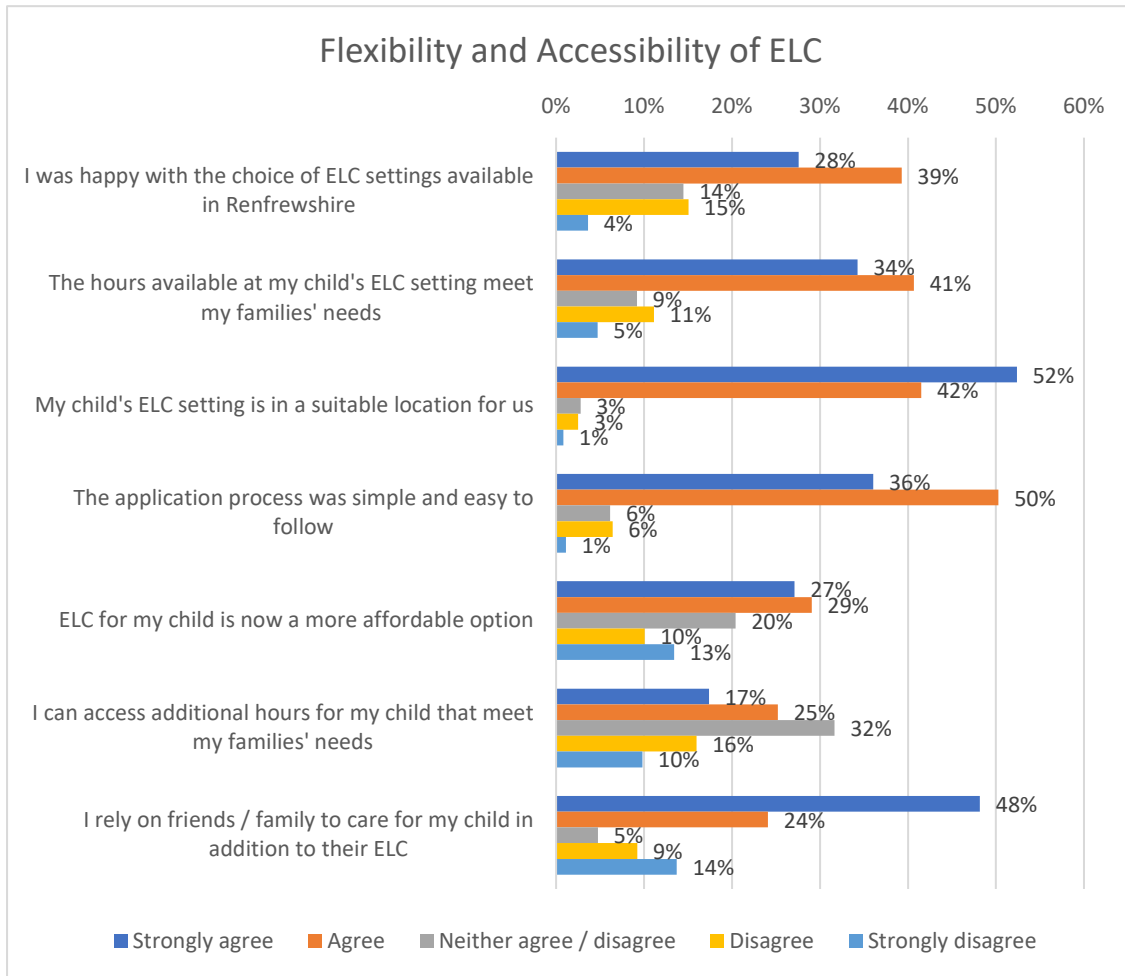
2.2.4 To gather respondents' perceptions of the quality of ELC they access, a Likert scale was included that had a list of statements and required respondents to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with all statements. Overall, a high percentage of respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the statements provided, with 89% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the ELC provision their child receives is of high quality. Just over half (52%), agreed or strongly agreed that they received enough information about ELC provision in Renfrewshire before selecting their chosen setting. The results pertaining to this scale can be viewed below in figure 4.

Figure 4 Perceived Quality of ELC

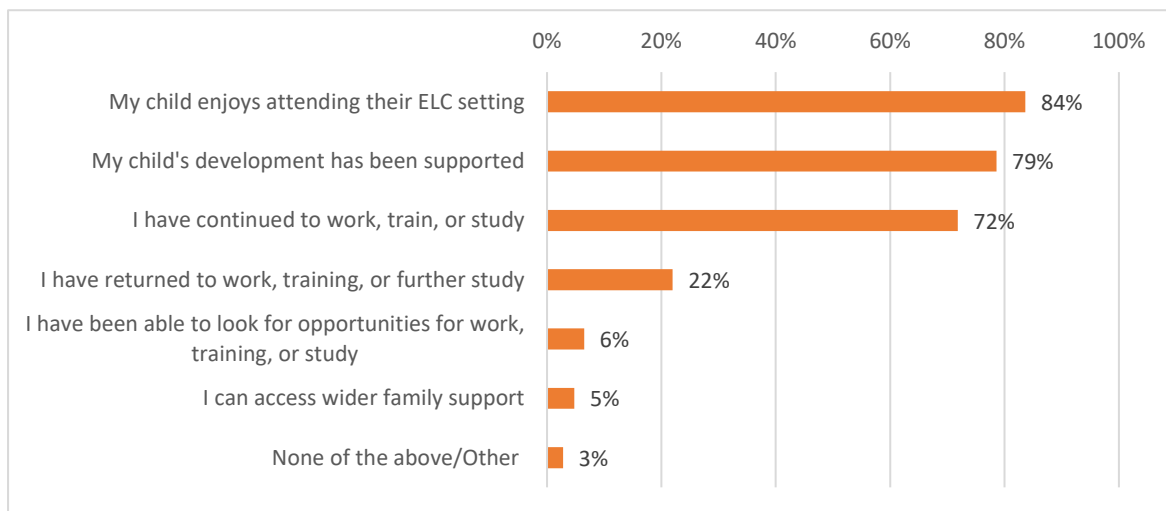


2.2.5. In addition to asking respondents their perceptions on the quality of ELC, a Likert scale was also provided to measure their view on the flexibility and accessibility of ELC within Renfrewshire. Overall, 67% of respondents were happy with the choice of ELC settings available, and 94% found their setting to be in a suitable location. Only 42% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they could access additional hours that met their needs and 56% that ELC was now a more affordable option. The results to this scale are in Figure 5.

Figure 5 Flexibility and Accessibility of ELC



2.2.6. Respondents were asked to identify how accessing ELC has impacted on themselves, their child and their family by selecting from a range of statements. Figure 6 illustrates that 84% of respondents stated their child enjoys attending their ELC setting, 79% felt that their child's development had been supported, and 72% have continued to work, train or study. Additionally, 22% of respondents advised that they have now returned to work, training or further study.

Figure 6 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 at 32%, followed by direct contact with ELC providers (30%) and 16% accessing information from Renfrewshire Council's website. Smaller proportions of respondents indicated that they accessed information through a health visitor (9%) and ELCC websites (5%). In addition, 4% of respondents selected 'other category', citing pre-existing knowledge of ELC provision due to working in the sector, that they reviewed the local area, had older children who had attended an ELC setting previously, and consulted with the Care Inspectorate website.
- 2.2.8 Of those accessing funded ELC, 32% were doing so through a time term-time only model, while 38% were using a 2.5-day or 3-day model of provision across the calendar year. Furthermore, smaller levels of respondents indicated they were utilising 10 hours a day extended daycare (5%) and a morning or afternoon placement (4%).
- 2.2.9 Respondents were asked which model they would like to access and matching this with their current model indicated that 86% were accessing their preferred choice. The majority of those who were not accessing their preferred model stated that they would rather access the entitlement through a term-time place.
- 2.2.10 Parents/carers accessing funded ELC were also asked whether they use the full entitlement of 1140 hours. Overall, 80% were accessing the entitlement in full. Those not accessing the full entitlement stated that this was due to preferring to care for their child at home (15%, 11), not enough availability of places in their area (11%, 8) and childcare providers not being flexible enough to meet their specific needs (13%, 9). Of the 20% of respondents not utilising the full entitlement, the majority were living in the areas of Foxbar/Glenburn (15), Renfrew (12) and Paisley North (7). The full list of reasons for not accessing the entitlement in full can be found below.

Why do you choose not to use the full entitlement for your child?	N	%
Childcare providers are not flexible enough to meet my specific needs	9	13%
Not enough availability of places in my area	8	11%
I prefer to care for my child at home	11	15%
Availability of ASN staff	1	1%
I prefer that a Family Member cares for my child at home	7	10%
To manage around school hours	5	7%
Other	15	55%

2.2.11 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. Respondents were therefore asked whether they were considering deferring their child's start to school. 74% stated they were not considering this option, while 16% (58) responded 'Yes' and 10% responded 'Maybe'. The 26% of respondents who were considering deferral were most likely to live within the areas of Bishopton (14), Foxbar/Glenburn (8), Dargavel (5), and Erskine (6).

2.2.12 When asked what elements influenced this decision 49 advised their child would benefit from more time to develop, followed by 36 who believed that their child needed more time to build confidence or independence. Furthermore, 14 respondents advised that their child had additional support needs. Respondents were able to select multiple options.

2.3 Out of School Care

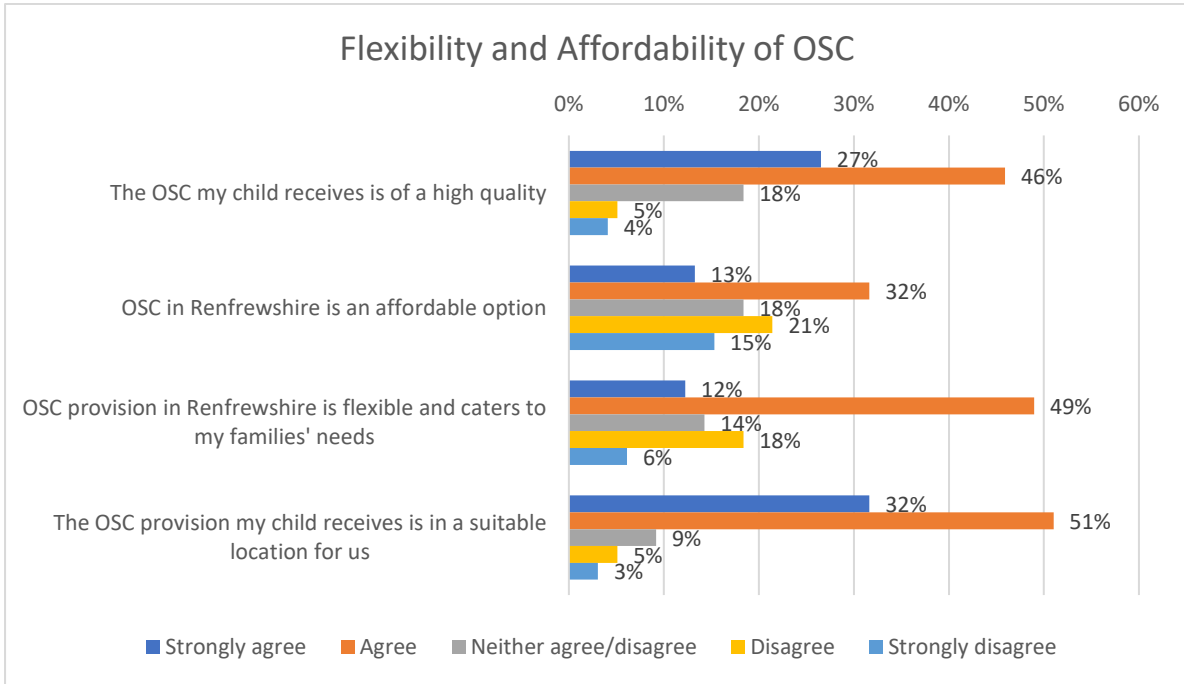
2.3.1 A total of 99 respondents were accessing OSC in Renfrewshire. The type of OSC service access varied, with 69% accessing after school care, 33% accessing breakfast clubs and before school care and 45% accessing out-of-school care during the school holidays periods. Additionally, 13% of respondents accessed playschemes and 8% accessed registered childminders. 33% of respondents indicate that they use family or friends to care for their children. These results can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3 Type of OSC Accessed

What types of OSC do you currently access? (Please select all that apply)	N	%
Before school care (term-time only)	32	33%
After school care (term-time only)	68	69%
Breakfast clubs (in school, term-time only)	32	33%
Out-of-school care (during the holidays)	44	45%
Registered childminder	8	8%
Playschemes	13	13%
Family/Friend	32	33%
Other	2	2%

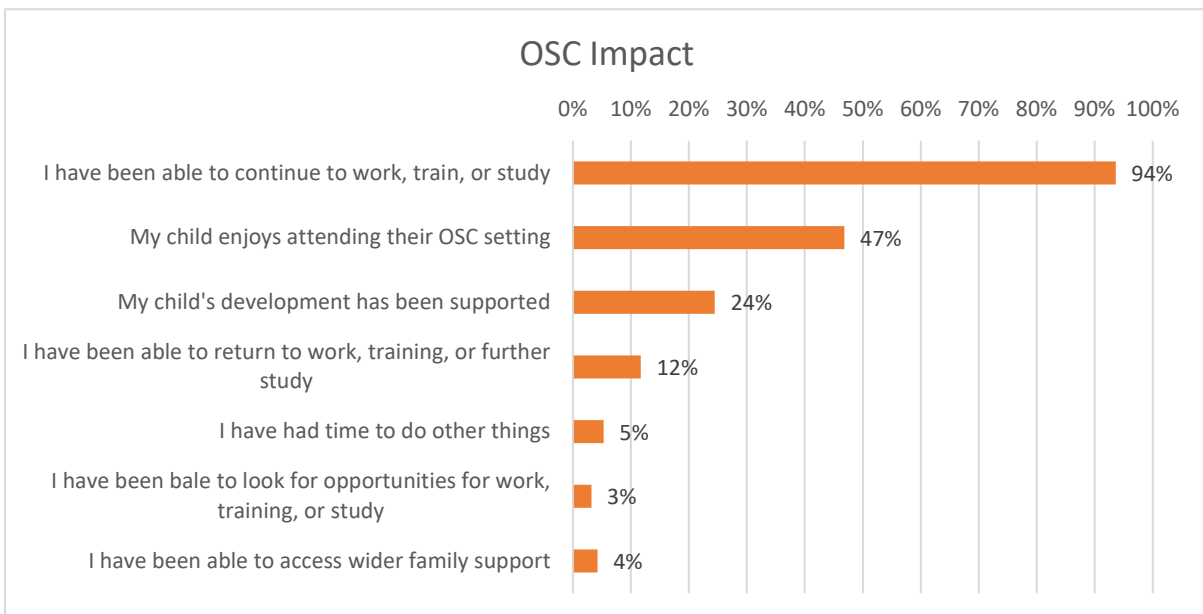
2.3.2 A Likert scale was included to assess the quality, flexibility, and affordability of OSC. As noted in figure 7 below, 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed the OSC their child receives is of a high quality. Additionally, 45% of parents/carers felt that OSC was an affordable option, 61% stated that the OSC catered to their family’s needs and 83% felt that OSC provision was in a suitable location.

Figure 7 OSC - Quality, Flexibility and Affordability



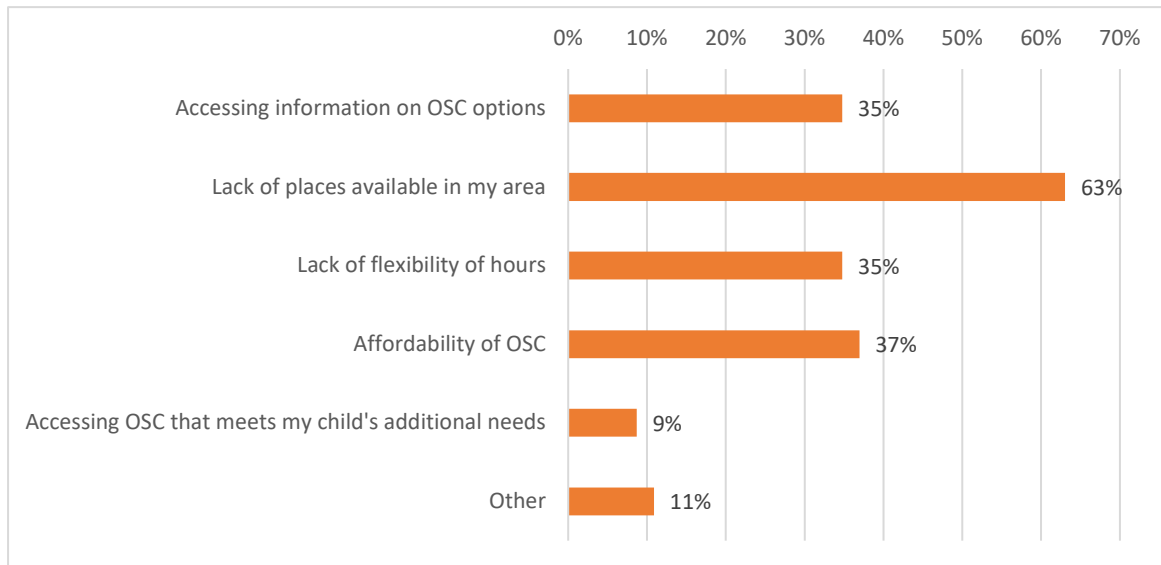
2.3.3. Parents/carers were also asked about the impact of accessing OSC for themselves, their child, and their family. 94% of respondents stated that they have been able to work, train, or study, and 47% stated their child enjoys attending their OSC setting. The full list of responses can be viewed in Figure 8.

Figure 8 Impact of Accessing OSC For Parents/Carers, Children and Families



2.3.4. Respondents were asked if they had experienced barriers to accessing OSC. Overall, 53% of parents/carers identified that they had not experienced any whereas 47% cited that they had experienced barriers to accessing OSC. Respondents were asked to identify any barriers they have faced to help understand reasons for this. Overall, 63% of parents/carers listed lack of available places in their area as a barrier, while 37% cited affordability, and 35% accessing information on OSC options and lack of flexibility. The areas with the highest number of respondents experiencing barriers to accessing OSC were Bridge of Weir (5), Johnstone (5), Bishopton (6), and Renfrew (6). Responses in full can be seen below in Figure 9.

Figure 9 Barriers to OSC

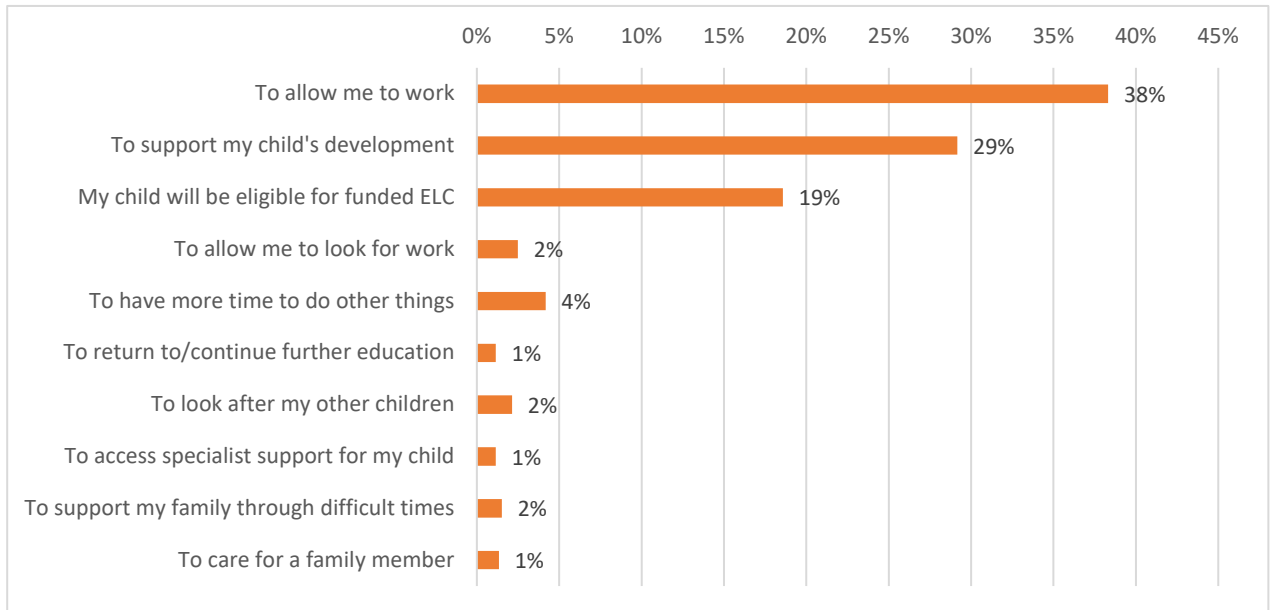


2.4 Accessing Childcare In The Future

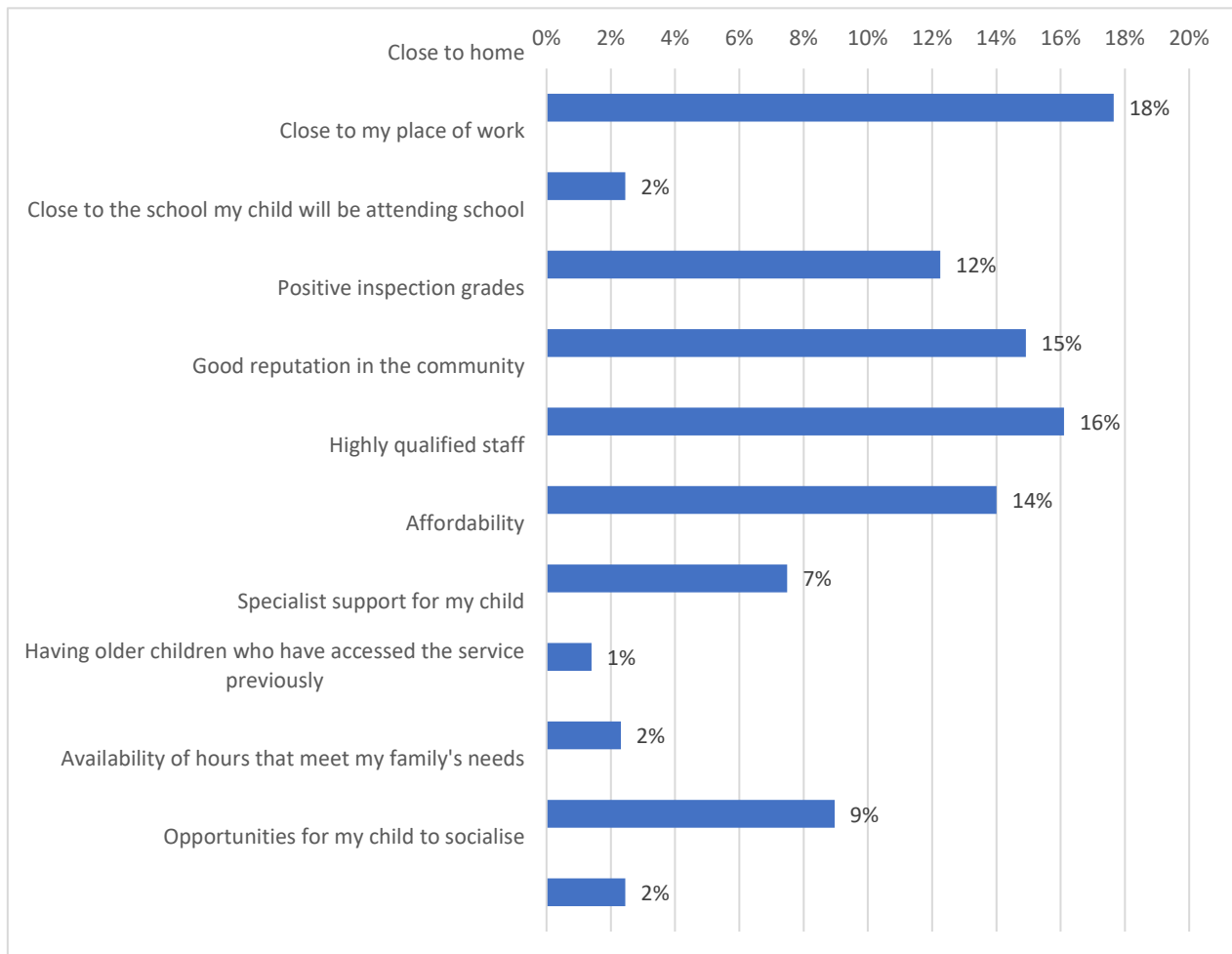
2.4.1 A total of 473 respondents advised that they were looking to access childcare in the next two years, with 180 considering ELC (38%) and 109 considering OSC (23%). Additionally, 184 (39%) of respondents advised that they were looking to access both ELC and OSC. While the location of these families varied, Bishopton (24), Foxbar/Glenburn (23) and Renfrew (23) had the highest number of parents/carers considering ELC only, while Bishopton (14), Foxbar/Glenburn (16) and Renfrew (13) had the highest number of families considering OSC only. Additionally, Renfrew (19), Dargavel (22) and Bishopton (29) had the highest number of families considering both ELC and OSC.

2.4.2 Those considering ELC in the next 2 years were asked to note the age their child will be when they attend. 57% of respondents stated their child will be between 3 to +5 years, while 26% stated their child will be under 2 years, and 18% that their child will be aged 2 to under 3 years.

2.4.3 Parents/carers considering ELC were asked their reasons for considering ELC in the future. Similar responses were given to those currently accessing ELC, with 38% stating it would allow them to work, 29% that it would be good for their child's development, and 19% stated their child will be eligible for funded ELC. The responses to this question are found in Figure 11.

Figure 10 Reasons for considering ELC in the future

2.4.4 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 12 below, these responses were again similar to those currently accessing ELC, with 18% stating it must be close to home, 16% stating it should have a good reputation in the community, 15% citing it should have positive inspection grades and 14% stating it should have highly qualified staff.

Figure 11 - Important Factors when Considering Childcare

2.4.5 Respondents were asked where they would prefer to access ELC. 72% stated they would wish for their child to attend a local authority nursery or centre, 25% would like their child to attend a private or voluntary nursery, and 4% prefer to access this with a registered childminder.

2.4.6 All respondents looking to access ELC were asked if they would be interested in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) as part of their child's ELC, with 18% (86) stating they would consider this. Furthermore, 14% (68) stated that they were unsure if they would consider this. The highest number of families who would consider this were found to live in Renfrew (17), Bishopton (10), Foxbar/Glenburn (10) and Paisley South (Charleston/Hawkhead/Lochfield/Todholm) (8). It is important to note that the highest number of families that were unsure resided in Renfrew (11), Paisley South (Charleston/Hawkhead/Lochfield/Todholm) (9), Dargavel (9), and Johnstone (9). It was found that of the highest proportion of families interested in GME had children who fell into the 3-5 age bracket (41%), followed by 25% in the 0-2 bracket and 15% in the 5-8 bracket. This can be seen in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Families Interested in GME - Age of Child/Children

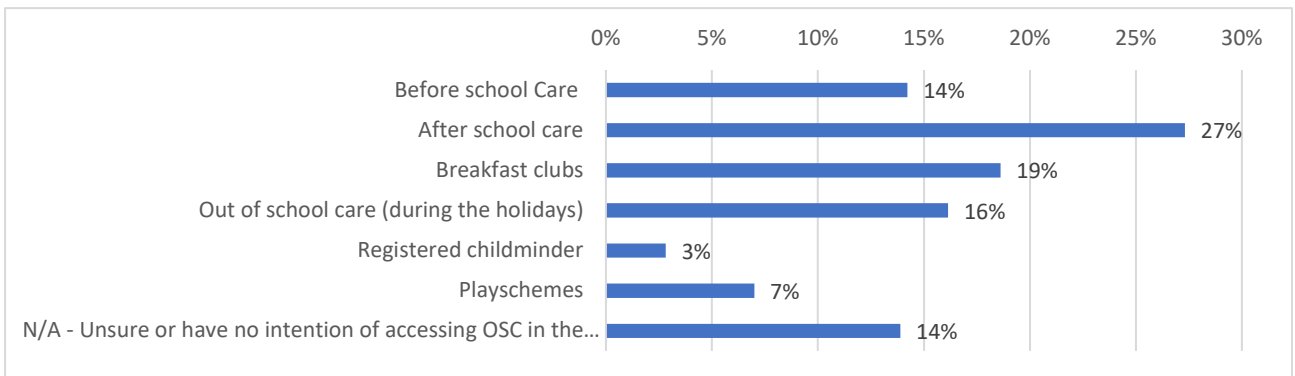
Age of Child/Children	N	%
0-Under 2	33	25%
2-Under 3	8	6%
3-Under 5	54	41%
5-Under 8	19	15%

2.4.7 The majority of parents/carers (57%) considering ELC stated that their child will be eligible for funded ELC in the next 2 years, with 71% of these being within the 3 to 5 age group. Almost all these parents (91%) predicted they will be using the entitlement in full. The 9% of respondents not intending to use the full entitlement identified the following reasons: managing their child’s placement around school hours (48%), childcare providers are not flexible enough for their needs (24%), and that they prefer to care for their child at home (21%).

2.4.8 Just under half of parents with children who will be eligible for funded ELC would rather access this through 2.5 days a week over 48 weeks model (44%), closely followed by a term-time model (42%). In addition, 8% stated that they would prefer 10 hours a day extended day care for some of the year and 7% cited they would prefer a morning or afternoon only session.

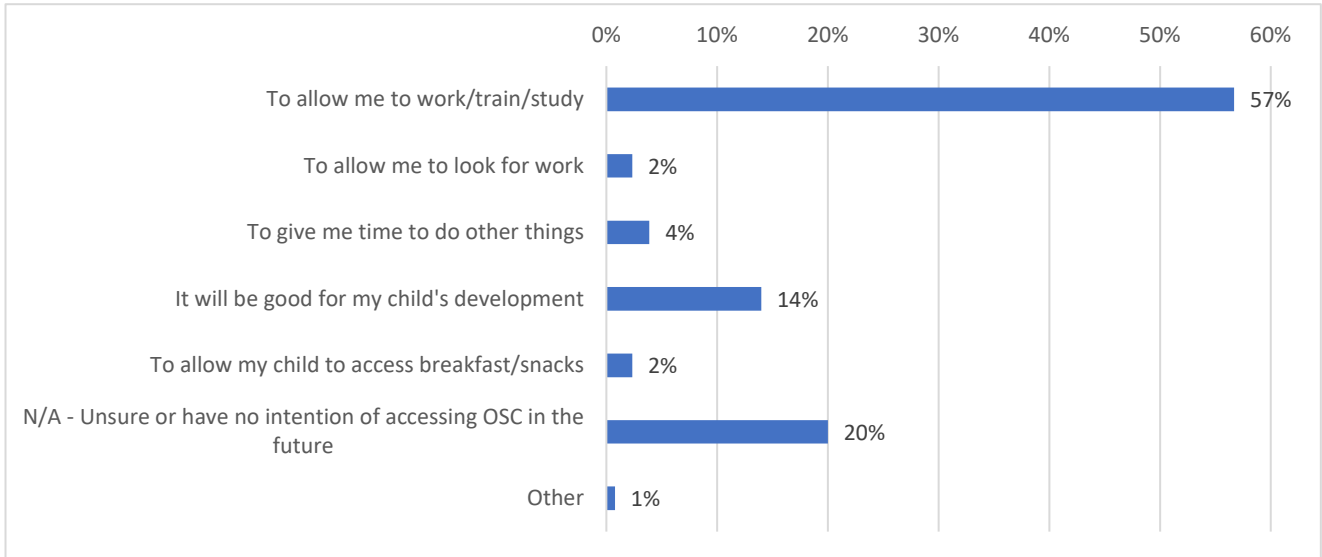
2.4.9 109 respondents indicated they are planning on accessing OSC in the next 2 years. Figure 13 below indicates the type of service to be accessed:

Figure 12 Type of Future OSC



2.4.10 Parents/carers considering OSC were also asked their reasons for doing so and gave similar responses to those currently accessing OSC. The majority of these respondents stated accessing OSC would enable them to work, study or train (57%), while 14% stated that it would be good for their child’s development. These results are shown in Figure 14.

Figure 13 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>ELC – Flexibility and Choice</p> <p>Respondents’ views on preferred models of delivery varied, with some commenting on their preferences for term-time, whilst others said 52 weeks/ extended.</p>	<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 continue to 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.</p> <p>In response to ongoing feedback from parents Renfrewshire continues to offer a range of ELC Providers and provision options across each geographical area to meet the needs of families. The range of delivery models, include term-time and 52 weeks per year, full day, and part-time places, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> services which open between 8 am to 6 pm over the school year, or calendar year services which open for a school day model over the school year 2.5 days or 3 days places over the calendar year; or half days, either mornings or afternoon places over the calendar year - blended placements – enabling children to access their ELC entitlement across more than one setting. <p>All ELC services are regulated by the Care</p>

<p>Greater information and access to wrap-around care.</p>	<p>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. In 8-6 EYC settings, our early years staff work shifts to accommodate attendance patterns.</p> <p>Information on early learning and childcare can be found here.</p> <p>There continues to be a number of services that can offer a flexible approach for parents/carers to access their funded hours and to purchase extra hours in addition to the 1140 hours of funded ELC for an eligible child. This is both within Funded Provider and local authority settings.</p> <p>Within local authority settings, wraparound care can only be purchased if there is capacity to enable this.</p> <p>Information on wrap-around care is available directly from the setting and available on Renfrewshire Council website. Information on this can be found here.</p>
<p>Availability and Infrastructure</p> <p>Concerns regarding the number of nurseries and childcare places available in growing communities such as Bishopton.</p> <p>Requests for additional nurseries attached to schools for easier transitions.</p>	<p>Across Renfrewshire there is a range of ELC Providers and provision options across geographical areas which is sufficient to meet the demand. The Council continues to monitor uptake and demand in settings and geographical areas, which includes monitoring of population projections, to ensure places available are sufficient to meet demand in geographical admission panel areas.</p> <p>There continues to be a range of delivery models and sufficient ELC provision in geographical areas to meet demand and need, this includes ELC classes which are in some primary schools. Whilst not all primary schools have an ELC classes attached to it, there are effective transition arrangements across all ELC settings and primary schools to ensure a smooth transition for children moving from ELC on to primary school.</p>
<p>Funded ELC for Younger Children</p> <p>Availability and access to funded ELC for children under 3 years of age.</p>	<p>The entitlement to 1140 hours of funded ELC only applies to children aged 3-4 years, and eligible 2-year-olds.</p> <p>There is however some provision available for non-eligible children aged 0-2 years in Renfrewshire Council ELC centres. These</p>

	<p>placements are limited and are allocated in-line with Renfrewshire Council's Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy. More information can be found here.</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>ELC Provision - meals</p> <p>A small number of respondents commented that the lunch and snack option were limited and had concern about the quality of the food provided.</p>	<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>Menus for meals served in Renfrewshire Council ELC classes and centres can be found here. Children's menu choice is made at an establishment level. Further information on meal options will be available from your ELC provider.</p>
<p>Additional Support Needs - ELC</p> <p>Access to suitable provision for children with additional support needs.</p> <p>Sufficient training and staffing to support children with additional support need.</p>	<p>All local authority and Council ELC settings are inclusive, and staff are trained to meet the needs of all children, including children with a range of additional support needs. ELC staff also work in partnership with other agencies and families to ensure appropriate supports and strategies are identified for children.</p> <p>Staff continue to 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>Affordability of Childcare - ELC</p> <p>The increasing cost of ELC, which can limit access to provision.</p> <p>Access to funded ELC for children aged 3.</p>	<p>All children aged 3 to 5 years and some 2-year-olds are entitled to 1140 hours of funded ELC per academic session. Parents can choose to access their child's funded hours in either a Funded Provider or local authority setting.</p> <p>In Renfrewshire, 3-year-olds who are born between 1st September and end of February can access their funded ELC place from the month following their 3rd birthday. This is earlier than the statutory entitlement, with 3-year-olds being entitled to ELC from the term after their 3rd birthday.</p> <p>Whilst, within Scotland there is currently no entitlement to funded ELC for children under 2 years of age. There is however some discretionary provision available for children aged 0-2 years, with these placements allocated in-line</p>

PUBLIC

	<p>with Renfrewshire Council's Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy</p> <p>Information on who is eligible for funded ELC can be found here.</p>
<p>Availability, Affordability and funding of OSC</p> <p>Limited access to OSC to support working parents.</p> <p>Cost of OSC services was identified as a barrier.</p> <p>Difficulties in accessing OSC for children with ASN.</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.</p> <p>Currently there 38 OSC services available in Renfrewshire, which offer after school and holiday care for children up to 14 years. 36 of these services are operated by providers in the private and voluntary sectors and 2 by the local authority. Some childminders also provided before /after school service to school age children. More information on OSC services can be found here.</p>
<p>Information/Communication</p> <p>Access to ELC placement application process.</p> <p>Access to information on ELC entitlement provision.</p> <p>Access to information on OSC provision.</p>	<p>All information in relation to ELC is available on Renfrewshire Council's website, and can be found here.</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council advertises ELC places each year in December and January, in advance of the allocation process for the coming academic session. This advertisement advises of the application process, the ELC entitlement and the provision available.</p> <p>A webpage for OSC was developed following feedback from the last Children and Young People consultation. Information relating to OSC is also now available on Renfrewshire Council's website and can be found here</p> <p>Renfrewshire Council continues to monitor and develop its communications with parents.</p>