

**Derby City Council**

**Participation Champion Evidence for  
Engaging Children, Young People and  
Parents/Carers in Decision Making**

**1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 There is a range of research, guidance and legislation that requires Local Authorities to involve and listen to the voice of children and young people. These are set out in several key statutory documents including the Children's Act 2004, Children & Families Act 2014, Care Matters White Paper, Leaving Care Act 2000, Duty to Consult 2012, Education Act 2002.
- 1.2 The purpose of the participation evidence questionnaire is to capture the involvement of children, young people, and parent/carers in the Local Authority's decision-making processes during 2022/23.
- 1.3 Derby City Partnership has a set of participation standards<sup>1</sup> to help embed the voice of children and young people in local decision-making processes. There are 5 standards:
  - Engagement
  - Planning
  - Delivery
  - Evaluation
  - Feedback
- 1.4 A Microsoft Forms survey was used to capture the participation activity and its outcomes annually. In addition, the voice of the child and outcomes has been embedded in the single assessment within Liquid Logic.

## **2. Process**

- 2.1 Each service area identifies a Participation Champion; all champions receive a copy of the guidance on what is required, and any new champion will receive one to one Participation training from the Children and Young People's Participation Officer. They were then asked to coordinate and collate one piece of participation evidence from each member of their team and complete the participation evidence questionnaire 2022/23 on behalf of their service area, with exception to the Children in Care Service. This particular service area has collated the voice of the child within Liquid Logic as part of the single assessment for every child, alongside any other practitioner undertaking single assessments.
- 2.2 Whilst many services will have been involved in a wide variation of participation activities, workers were asked to provide just one sample of evidence on how they had involved children and young people (CYP) in decision making. This should be an illustration of the kind of work they have been undertaking and not representative of their whole work. They were also asked to submit all participation activities that involved the collective voice of CYP, that demonstrated their involvement in service development and evaluation.
- 2.3 It also needs to be noted that not all workers submitted one piece of evidence and many of the Participation Champions struggled to gain this information. There are also still some areas in Children's Services that still do not have a Participation

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<sup>1</sup> [children-and-young-people-participation-standards-2014\\_b.pdf \(derby.gov.uk\)](#)

Champion: Adoption and Permanence Team. There were also some areas in Children's Services that provided a nil return of Participation Evidence: Integrated Disabled Children's Service and Home Education.

2.4. The online Microsoft form asked the following:

- subject of their consultation
- type of consultation
- summary of children and young people views
- how the service or organisation improved/made changes as result of the views of CYP and parents/carers
- method of consultation
- identify key themes from a dropdown list
- identify links to CYP Plan and Derby Plan

Once collected, the qualitative data was quality assured and where evidence was not clear there was a discussion with the participation champion for further clarification to provide the opportunity to submit further information.

2.5. The Single Assessment asked the following:

- how were the child/young person's views captured
- what does the child/young person say is going well
- what are the worries of the child/young person
- What does the child/young person think would make things better, and how do we get there?
- What has the child/young person said they would like support with?
- The child / young person said that they would like support with and what has been, or is being done in response to these areas?
- Provide a summary of any planned actions, or any actions already taken in relation to the child's request for support, and any difference that this has made

### **3. Who Responded?**

24 service areas submitted participation evidence within Derby City Council.  
(Previous year was 19) using Microsoft Forms.

These were:

- Careline Out of Hours Service
- Children Centres
- Children's Social Care Reception Services and MASH
- Council Wide Services
- Children and Young People's Integrated Commissioning
- Early Help Localities 1 & 5
- Early Help Locality 2
- Early Help Localities 3 & 4
- Home to School Travel Service
- Independent Review Service

- In Year Fair Access
- Leaving Care Team
- New Communities Achievement Team
- Quality Assurance Team
- Preparing for Adulthood Team
- Public Health
- Residential Care – Limestone, Blossom House, Rosewood, The Shine
- School Admissions
- SENDIASS
- SEND Team
- STEPS
- Virtual School for Looked After Children
- Workforce Development
- Youth Offending Service

In total 3416 single assessments were completed, there were:

- 116 Children in Care Team
- 379 Locality 1&5
- 310 Locality 2
- 320 Locality 3&4
- 54 Lighthouse
- 33 Adoption and Permanence Team
- 2188 Reception Teams
- 16 System Corrections (LCS)

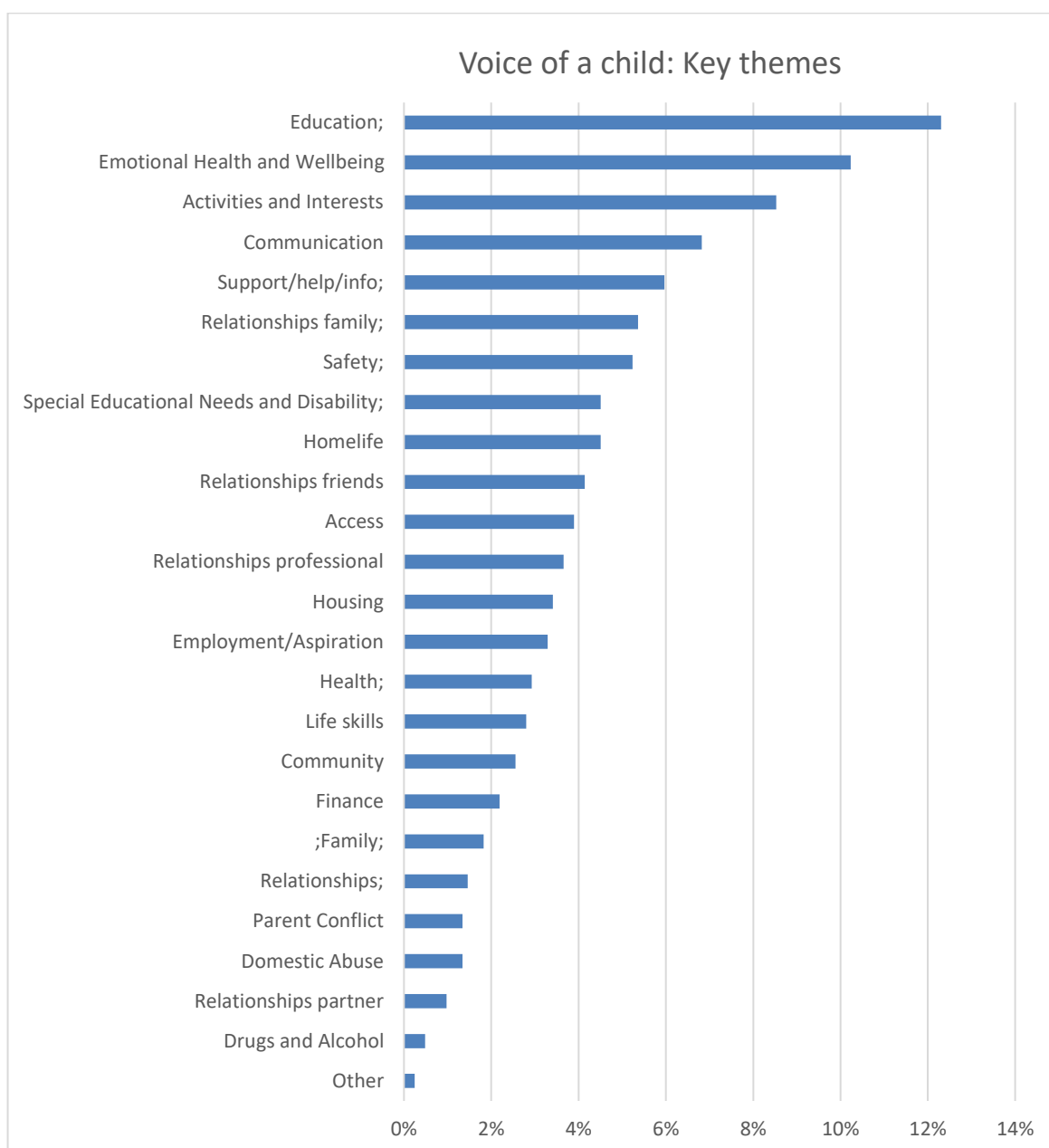
#### **4. Overall Results**

Graphs and Tables showing the results in full can be seen in Appendix 1 at the end of this document and the detailed breakdown of Participation Champion Evidence feedback 2022/23 in a separate document Appendix 4.

- Out of the 24 service areas listed on page 5, 212 individual pieces of evidence were submitted. This is an increase from previous year 2021/22 19 service areas and 187 pieces of evidence.
- Case Work – one to one support (174) has increased from (150) 2021/22 Service Development/Evaluation – collective voice of CYP (38) has remained consistent (37) 2020/21.
- The main themes 'Education', 'Emotional Health and Wellbeing' and 'Activities and Interests' where CYP have expressed their views in decision making, Education has remained consistent in the top 3 key themes from 2018/19 to 2022/23.
- However, the number of CYP, expressing their views on 'Activities and Interests' has risen and has never featured within top 3 from 2018/19 to 2022/23.
- The individual outcome themes in comparison to 2021/22 to 2022/23 'Education Support', 'Action Plan' have remained consistent. One to one support has significantly increase but support around 'Safety' has decreased from 2021/22.

- The main group outcome theme 'Voice of the Child' has remained consistent from 2021/22 to 22/23, with the involvement of service development/evaluation, demonstrating co-production. 'Improved Communication' outcome themes has increased from 2021/22 to 2022/23.
- Out of the 7 service areas 3416 Single Assessments were completed.
- The main themes where CYP wanted support were 'Relationships Family', 'Family Life' and 'Home Life'.
- The main areas for support were 'Action Plan or Care Plan Offered', 'Provide Advice or Guidance' and 'Other'.

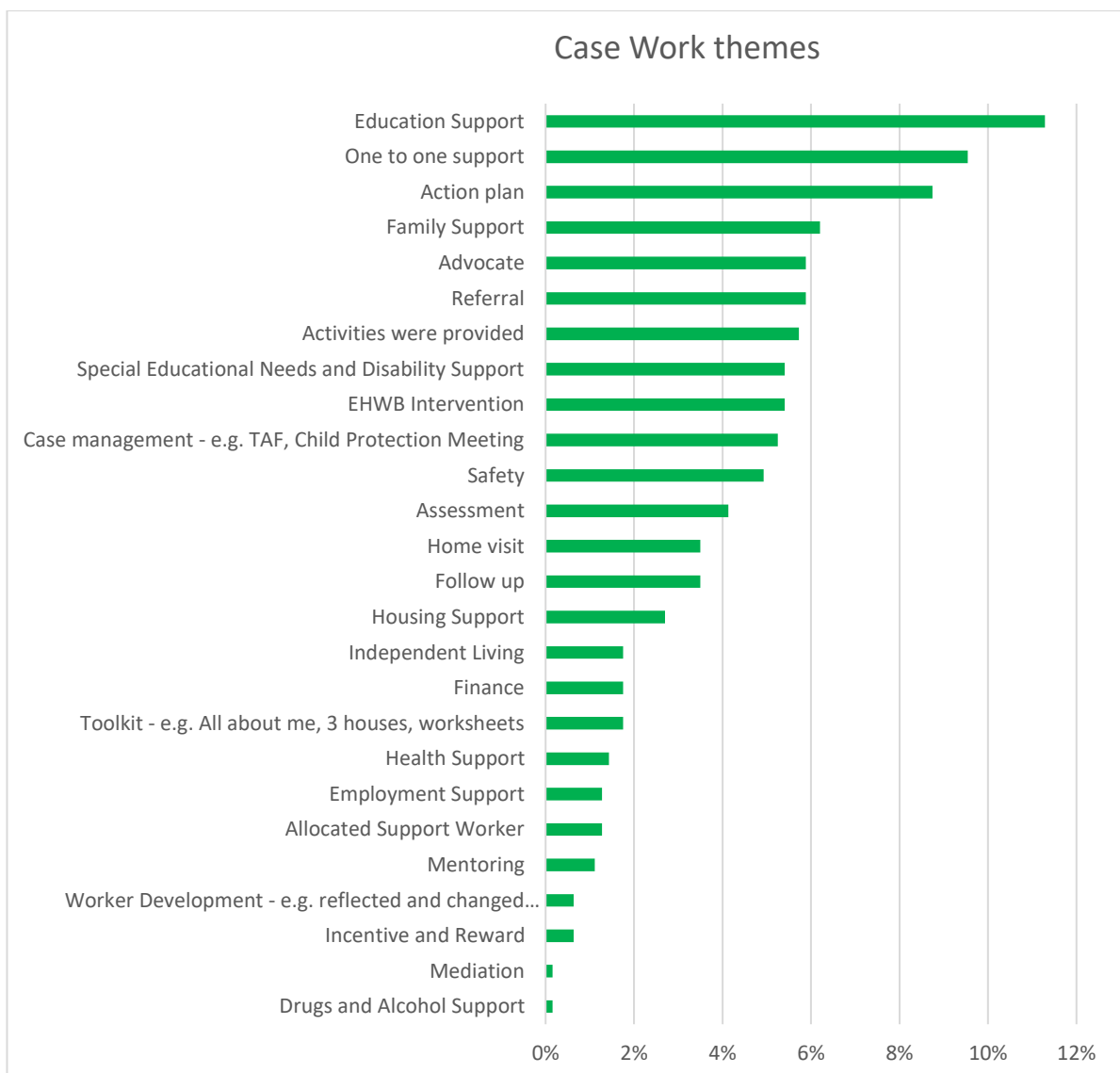
Graph 1 highlights the key themes where CYP have expressed their views in decision making.



- The main themes where CYP have expressed their views in decision making has been **education, emotional health and wellbeing, activities and interests.**

- This included thoughts around **education** worried about falling behind and exams, classrooms being too big/noisy, access to school placement, not getting the right support, bullying, getting to school on time.
- **Emotional Health and Wellbeing** not eating, not sleeping, anxiety, no friends, loneliness, abuse/trauma, self-harm, struggling with child's behaviour, mental health days, worried about - school, safety, conflict with parent/s.
- **Activities and Interests** more youth group support, accessible and safe facilities, lack of opportunities to socialise/ extra-curricular activities, fun activities that give opportunities to also learn new skills, activities stopped doing and want to pick back up again.

Graph 2 shows the outcome themes from the INDIVIDUAL participation

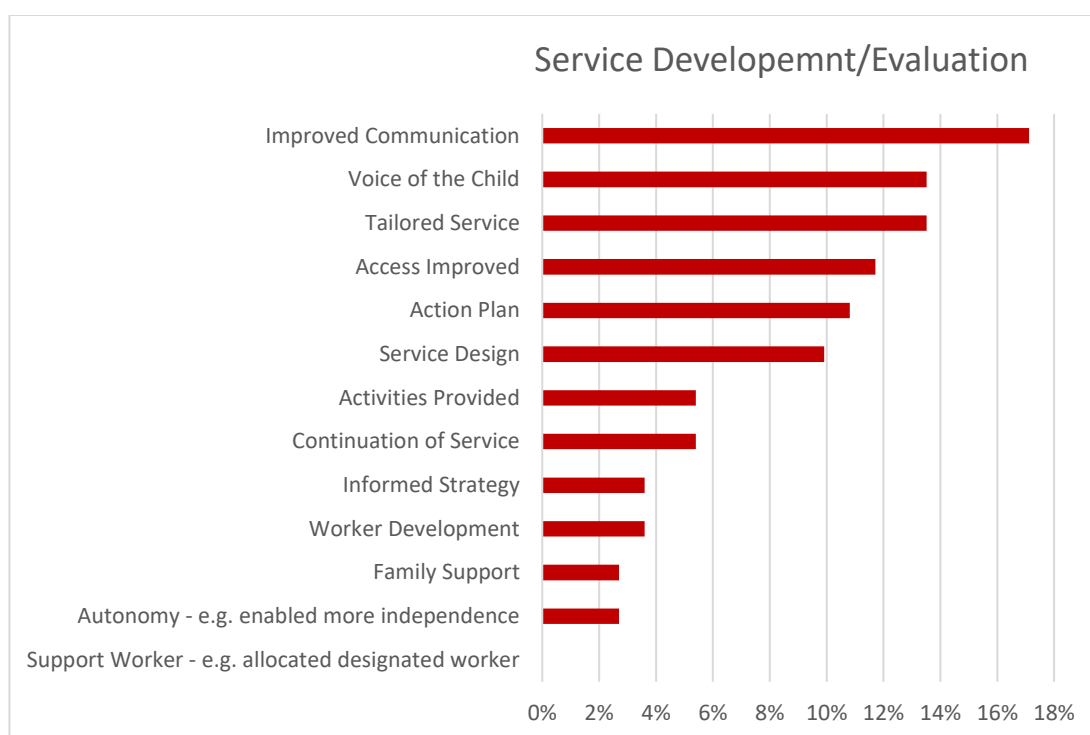


- Outcome Themes – these are split between individual outcomes and group outcomes.

The main outcome themes during an individual consultation were **Education support** such as transitioning to secondary school, advice/advocating on school placement/how to appeal, additional support, ESOL, career pathways through education, alternative provision/learning, advocating needs with school/teachers, school readiness.

- **One to one Support** views on review, support needed, next steps, agree plans, complete referral, explore feelings, SEND visual tools, explore issues and concerns, demonstrate tools to use/coping strategies, mentoring, tutor, direct work.
- **Action Plan** care plan, child protection plan, EHCP, safety plan, PEP, transition plan, crime prevention plan, support plan, service development plan
- In contrast, the main group outcome themes in graph 3 were around **improved communication, voice of the child, tailored service** of services DCC provide.

Graph 3 shows the outcome themes from GROUP participation.

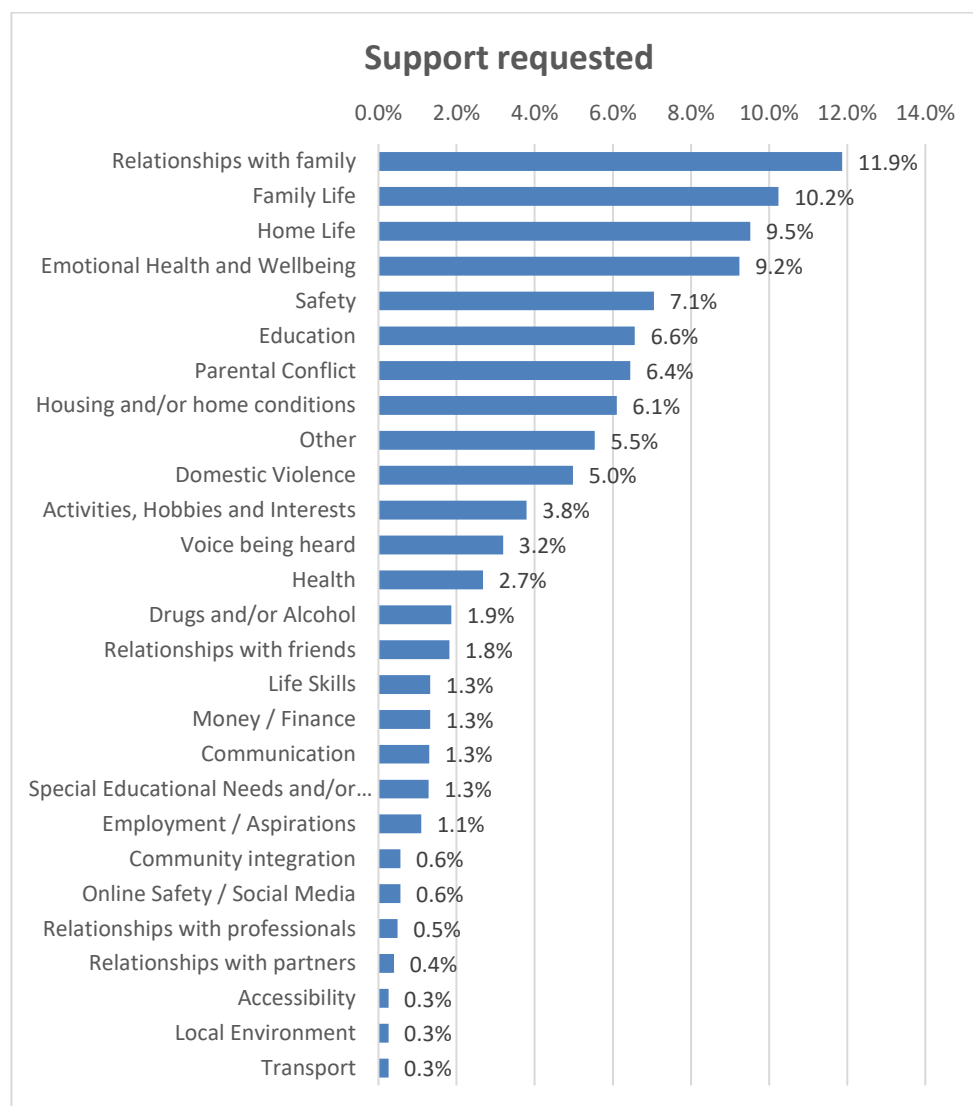


- Methods of consultation have remained fairly consistent, with an increase in one to one 2022/23 (80%) compared to 2021/22 (69%) and a decrease in the number of surveys/questionnaires 2022/23 (11%) to 2021/22 (2%) being used to engage CYP.
- The involvement of CYP in casework 2022/23 (82%) compared to 2021/22 (80%) and service development/evaluation has remained consistent 2022/23 (20%) compared to 2021/22 (18%).



- When looking at the participation evidence and relating this back to the CYP's Plan priorities these have remained consistent compared to 2021/22. The Derby Plan priorities the link to 'Safe' there has been a slight decline from 2021/22 (42%) to 2022/23 (38%) and a slight increase with 'Ambitious' 2021/22 (32%) to 2022/23 (37%).

Graph 4 highlights the key themes where CYP have requested support within the Single Assessment

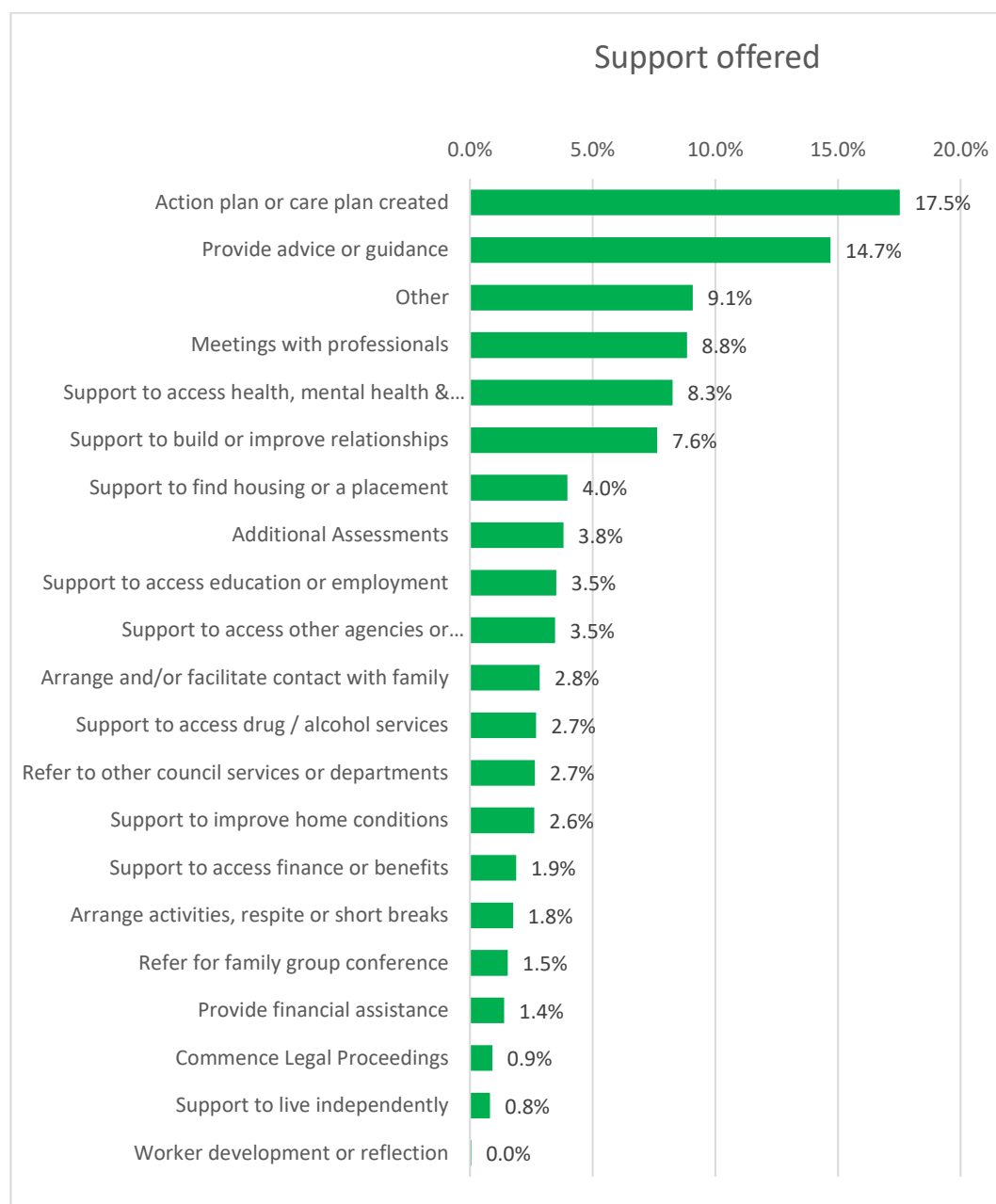


- The main themes where CYP have requested support have been **relationships with family, family life and homelife**.
- This included thoughts around **relationships with family** concerns regarding parental and/or sibling conflict, missing family contact, family health concerns (fear around parental death and parental drug and alcohol use).
- Family life** similarly including concerns around family conflicts and worries about parental health and mental wellbeing and safety of family members from abuse.

Alongside feelings of missing parents and wanting to be back in their care, enjoyment of family time spent together.

- **Homelife** desire to not share a bedroom with siblings, worries around family breakdowns and not having all family members in the household, concerns for safety in household alongside alcohol use, parental conflict causing disturbance to sleep, physical chastisement, sofa surfing and concerns regarding household finances.

Graph 5 shows the support offered within the Single Assessment



- The main outcome themes for support offered were **Action Plan or Care Plan Offered** including referral to welfare rights, updates with health services, progression to Initial Child Protection Conference, direct work with Children including play therapy, family contact arrangements reviewed, written agreement put in place.

- **Provide advice or guidance** parental advice around positive play, PAMs Parenting consideration, Mother and Baby Placement, Freedom Programme, Family Group Conference.
- **Other** such as identifying psychologist support, referral to Priority Families, meetings arranged with school, safety plan with parents, progression to formal risk assessment, advised to seek legal support, stepparent adoption referral, monthly adoption Social Worker visits, signposting to Youth Centres, PLO proceedings to be initiated, EHCP review.

## 5. Conclusion

- Services were asked to submit one example where they've engaged children and young people. These examples are an illustration of the type of engagement these services undertake and should not be indicative of their participation with children and young people.
- However, those services who completed the Single Assessment included every CYP with some CYP having multiple entries.
- Derby City Council has recognised individual needs and values, changed approaches to practice and the way the services are delivered from the responses given by the children and young people. All the evidence collated from the Microsoft Forms can be seen in full in Appendix 2.
- This report highlights that we are listening to the voice of the child which is informing daily interactions and decisions. There is also evidence that the collective voice has informed service development and evaluation processes, however this is still a low figure and not increased from the previous year.
- There has been an increase in the number of participation evidence submitted compared to the previous year, and also due to embedding this within the Single Assessment. The quality of submissions is varied with a continuing need for quality assurance required. This is something we need to keep promoting as everyone's responsibility and embedding in everyday practice.
- This is the first year the voice of the child has been embedded into the Single Assessment, the results show variations in recording which may highlight a training need for example: many practitioners ticked 'other' however looking through responses most could have fit into one of the listed categories.
- There was 21% of the Single Assessment where the voice of the child was 'not captured' or given a 'no response' this needs to be explored in more detail, for this report these Single Assessments were removed from the results.

The areas for development are to:

- Improve the active involvement and listen to the voice of the child at a more strategic level through the key actions in the CYP Partnership Participation Strategy action plan for DCC.

- Develop individual team engagement plans to improve the active involvement of CYP at strategic level.
- Use the voice of the child evidence to inform business planning and the Children and Young People's Plan
- Ensure there are Participation Champions for each service area, and they actively support and submit participation evidence for their team within the specified timeframe (see paragraph 2.3 for more details)
- Explore a way of building the process of participation evidence into individual case work into Liquid Logic as this would reduce the need to record the evidence twice, along with capturing more evidence daily. This has already happened for single assessments and the next phase is SEND. The development needs endorsing to develop this across all CYP systems including Early Help Services.

## Appendix 1 – Result tables showing 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 Participation Data

Table 1 shows the methods of consultation used.

Table 1. Methods of Consultation	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
One to One interview	117	57%	93	54%	155	74%	134	69%	175	80%
Survey/questionnaire	32	16%	15	9%	13	6%	21	11%	5	2%
Forum/Council	20	10%	22	13%	13	6%	14	7%	16	7%
Focus Group	16	8%	14	8%	8	4%	22	11%	16	7%
Other (family meeting, email, phone call, skype, observation)	16	8%	20	12%	18	9%	0	0%	0	0%
Workshop	5	2%	7	4%	3	1%	4	2%	6	3%

Table 2 shows the range of areas where children and young people were involved in decision making.

Table 2. Areas of Decision Making	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Case Work	123	68	53	36	166	81	150	80	174	82
Service Development/Evaluation	59	32	16	11	40	19	37	20	38	18
Voice of the child	Not used as a code	0	77	53	Not used as a code	0	Not used as a code	0	Not used as a code	0
Total	182	100	146	100	206	100	<b>187</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3 shows where the involvement of children, young people, and parents/carers link to the CYP Plan priority areas.

Table 3. Children and Young People's Plan	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
CYP and their families are safe	86	47	82	56	90	40	61	33	65	31
Derby SEND reforms	35	19	12	8	36	17	37	20	36	17
Improved health, emotional well-being, and mental health for CYP	34	19	30	21	48	23	44	24	53	25
CYP are supported to achieve and become work ready	27	15	22	15	32	16	44	24	58	27

Table 4 shows where the involvement of children, young people, and parents/carers link to the Derby Plan priority areas

Table 4. Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnership Derby Plan	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/2023	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Safe	115	63	121	83	71	34	79	42	81	38
Strong	36	20	7	5	93	42	49	26	52	25
Ambitious	31	17	18	12	42	20	58	32	79	37

## Appendix 2 – Detailed DCC Participation Champion Evidence 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023



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