

# The POET Survey

## Essex County Council Data Report: July 2019

### Children & Young People with additional special educational support needs

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This report presents data collected from children and young people who have additional support and may have Education Health and Care Plans (EHC plans) in Essex using the Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). It also compares the numerical responses of children and young people in Essex with the responses we have from children and young people from other parts of England. In total, this report presents the 371 responses from Essex to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Essex data against 580 responses from other parts of England who have used the most recent version of the POET. As people could choose not to complete particular questions within the survey, the totals reported throughout the report are unlikely to add up to these figures overall. Partially completed responses were removed from the data set if no answer was provided to any of the questions relating to experience of support or the impact of support.

Where provided, percentages are of those people who responded to that question. The target population for the survey was children and young people with special educational needs who had additional support needs and may have had experience of EHC Plans.

Figures 1 and 2 shows how the children and young people answered the survey. Just under half of children from Essex answered the questions on their own (47%), significantly higher than the children from other areas of England (22%). Well over half of the children were male

### **Who took part in the survey and what support did they receive?**

The POET survey asked children and young people their age and why they needed support. The average age of children from Essex who took part in the survey was 13, the similar to children from other parts of England (14). Figure 3 shows the single largest group of children from Essex (50%) were between the age of 11 and 16, similar to children of the same age group from other parts of England (50%). Figure 4 shows the main reason children needed support both in Essex (23%) and in other parts of England (23%) was for help with a learning disability. The responses from children and young people in Essex were broadly similar to those of children and young people other areas of England in terms of the reason they needed support.

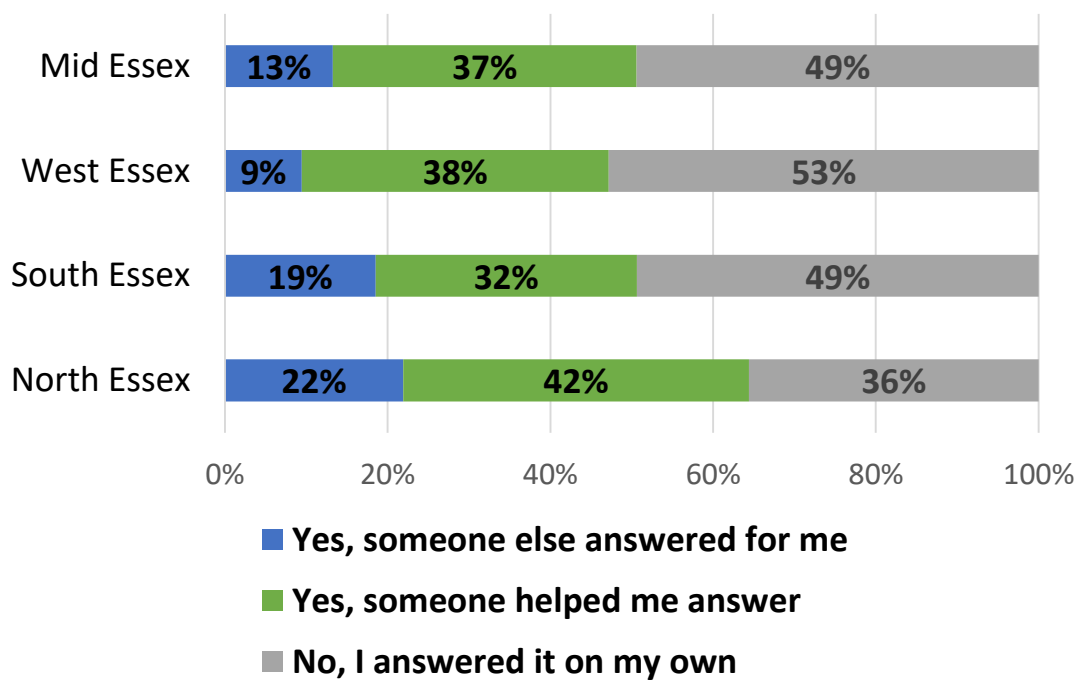
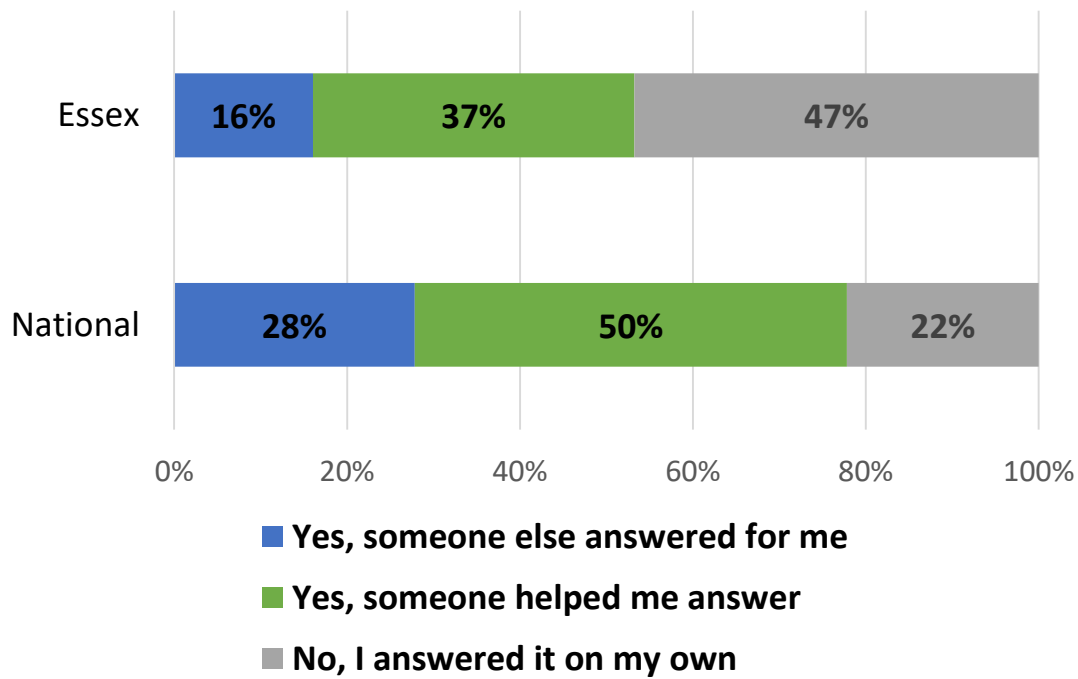


Figure 1. Did you have help to complete the survey?

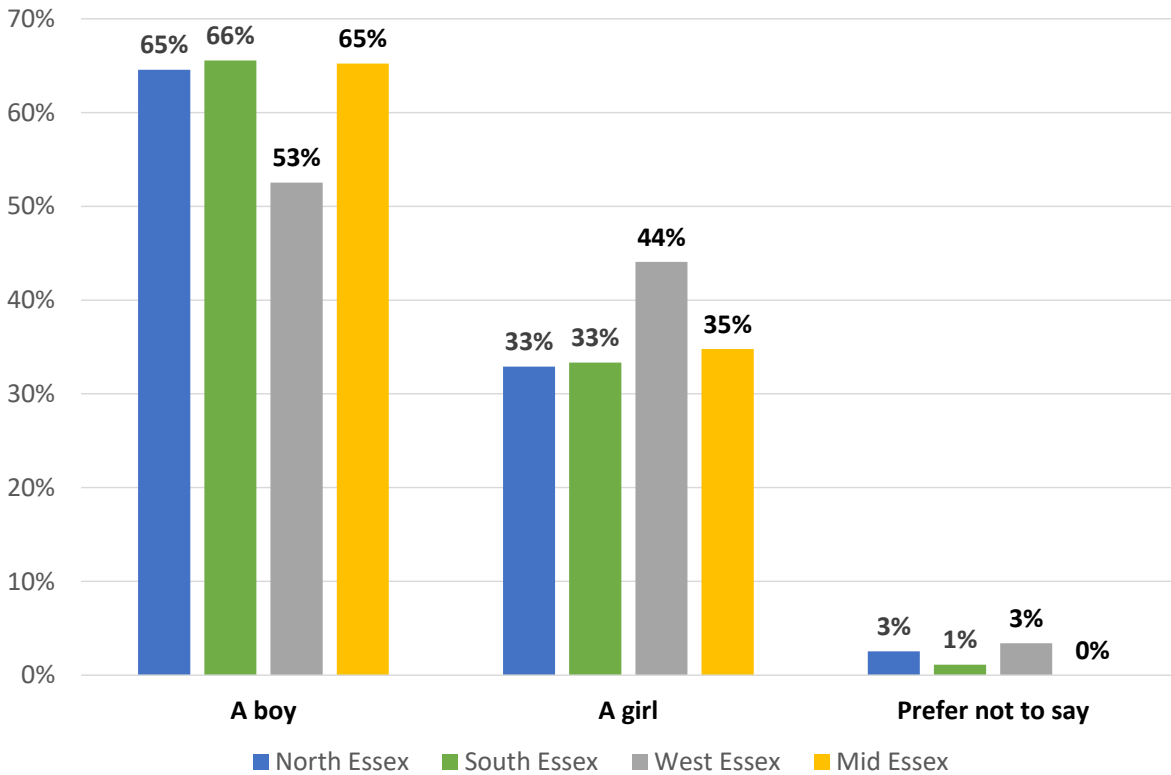
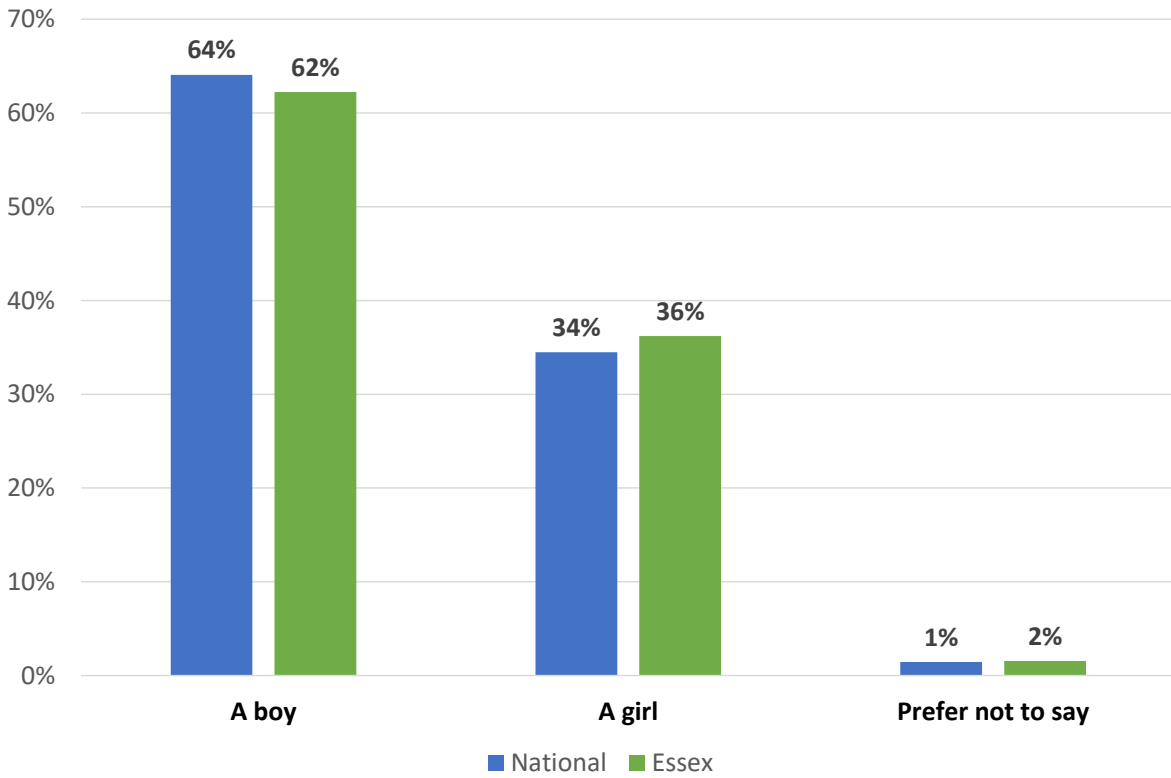


Figure 2. Gender of children and young people?

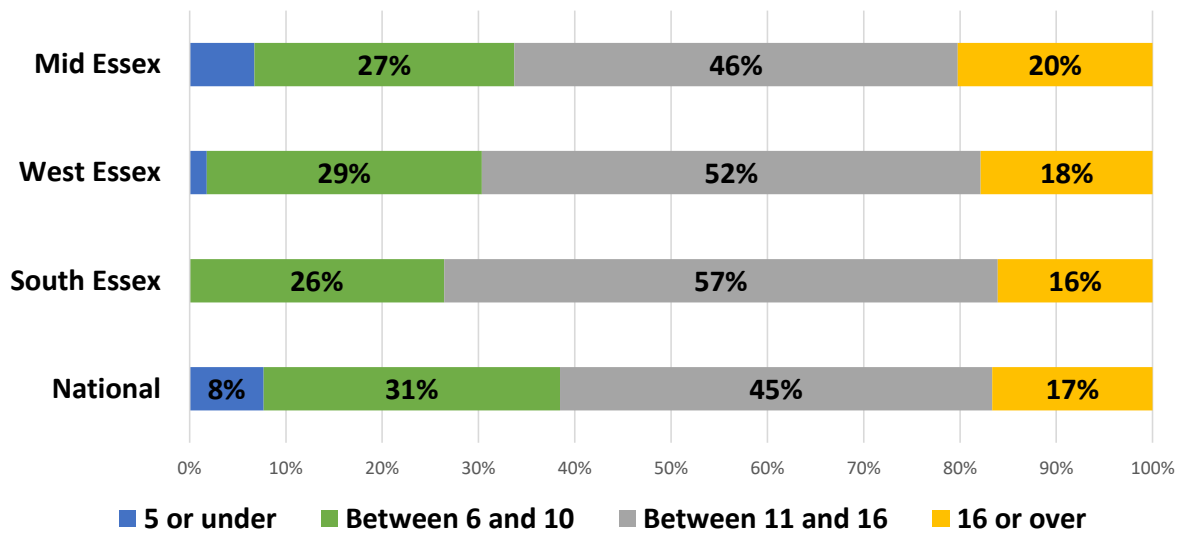
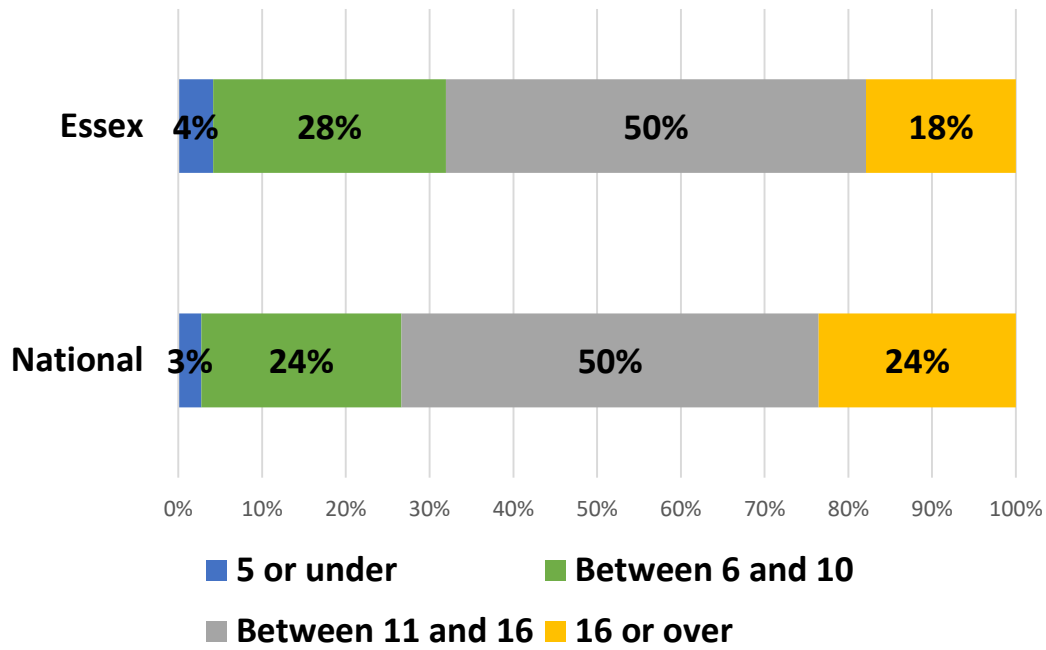


Figure 3. Childrens and young people's age

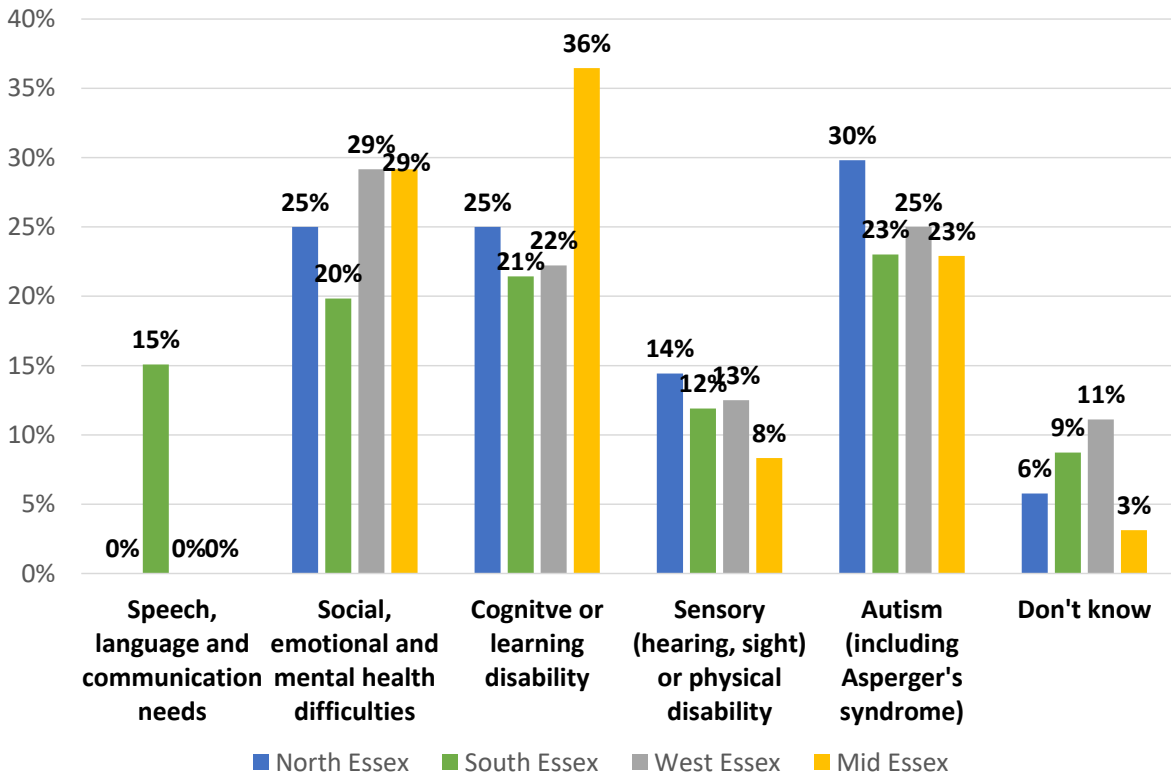
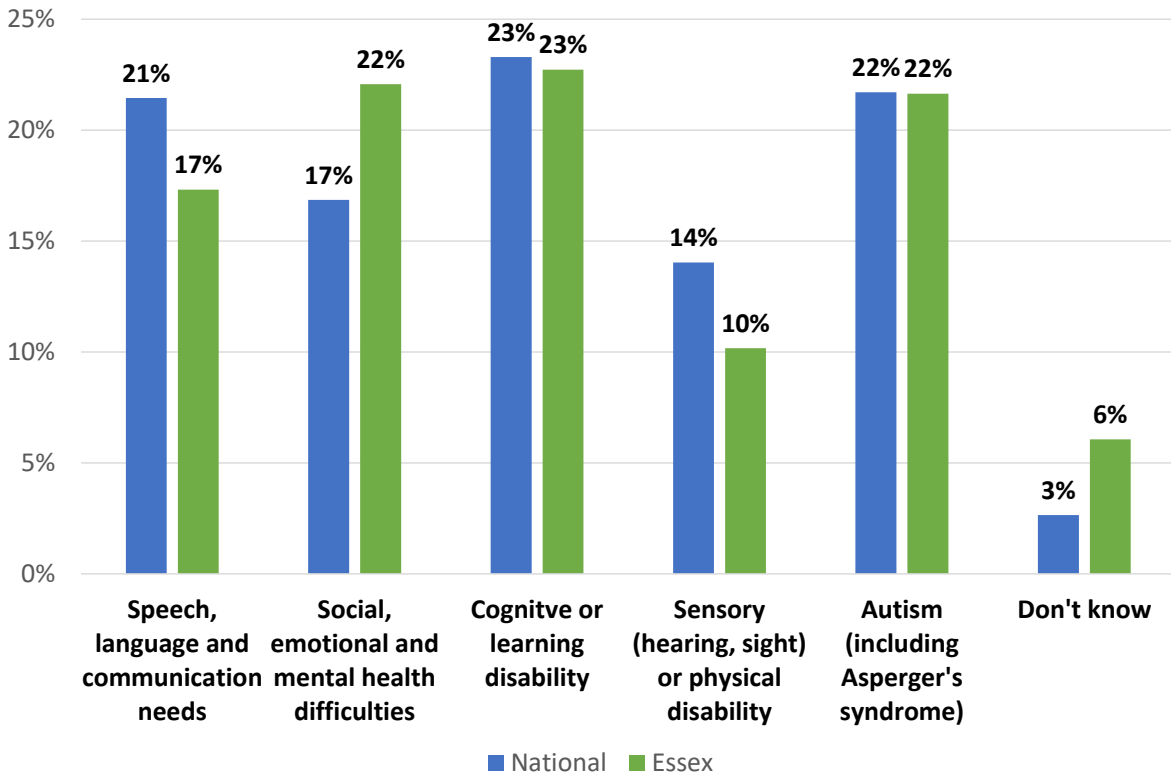


Figure 4. Why do children need support?

The POET survey asked children and young people what type of school or college they attended or if they were at university, undertaking an apprenticeship or had paid work.

More than two thirds of children from Essex went to a mainstream school (71%) a significantly higher proportion than children from other parts of England (39%) and 4% reported attending a special school compared to 33% of children from other parts of the country.

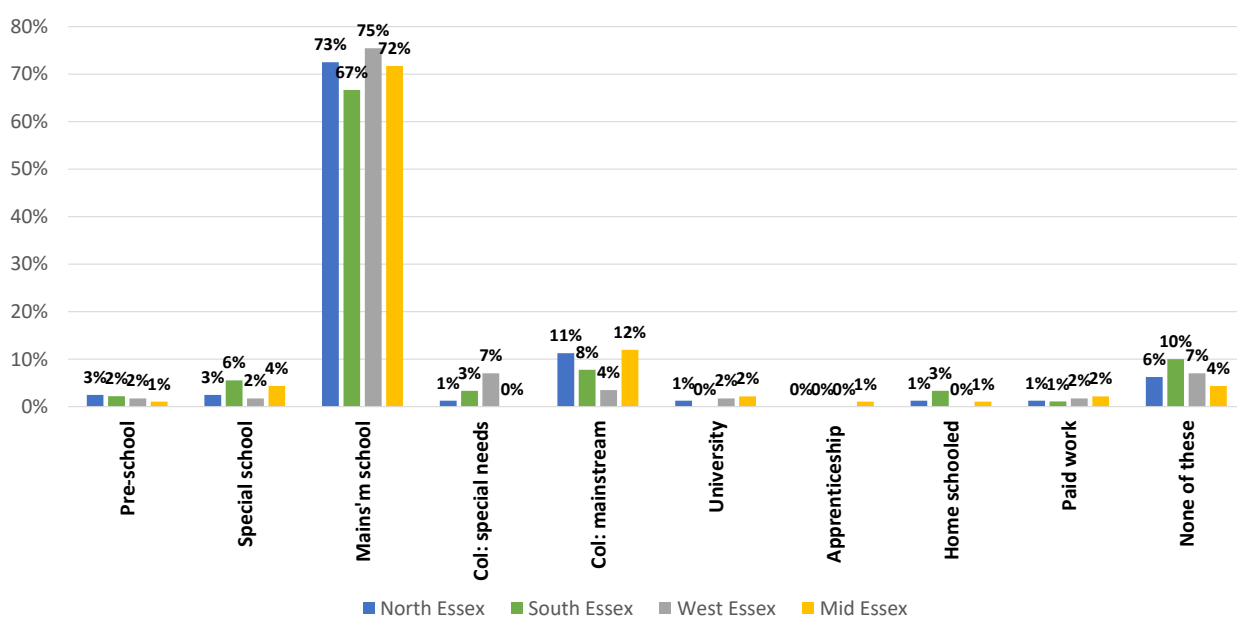
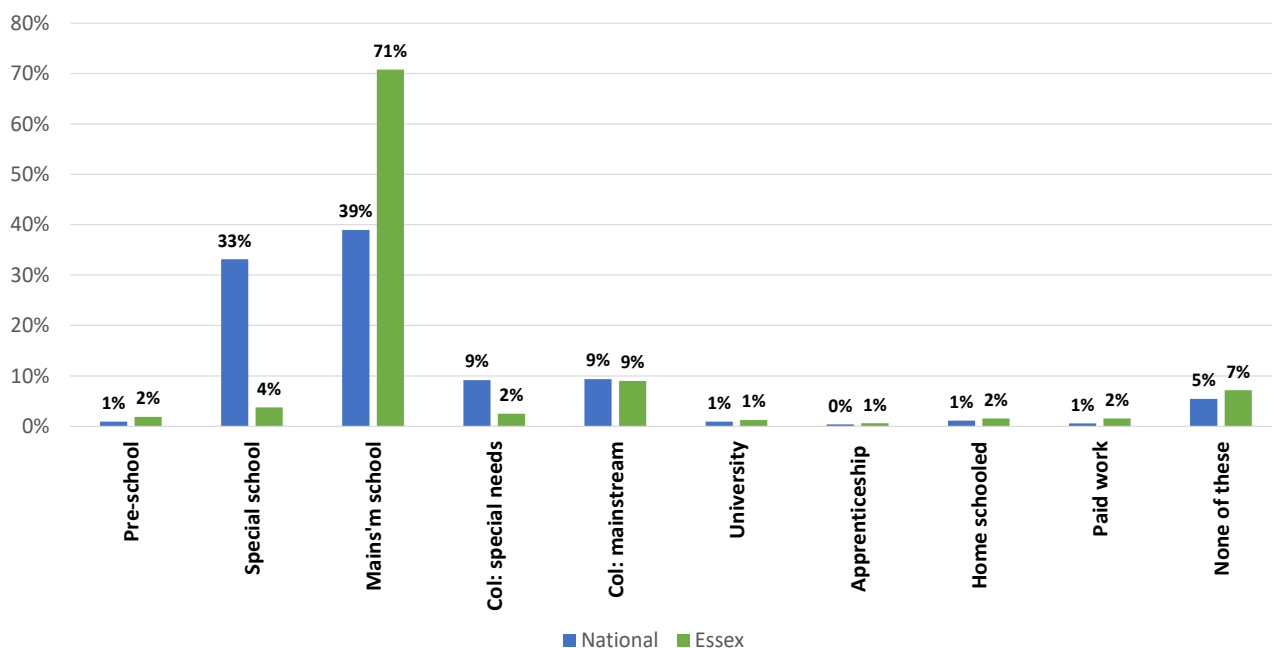


Figure 5. What type of education, work or training do children and young people do

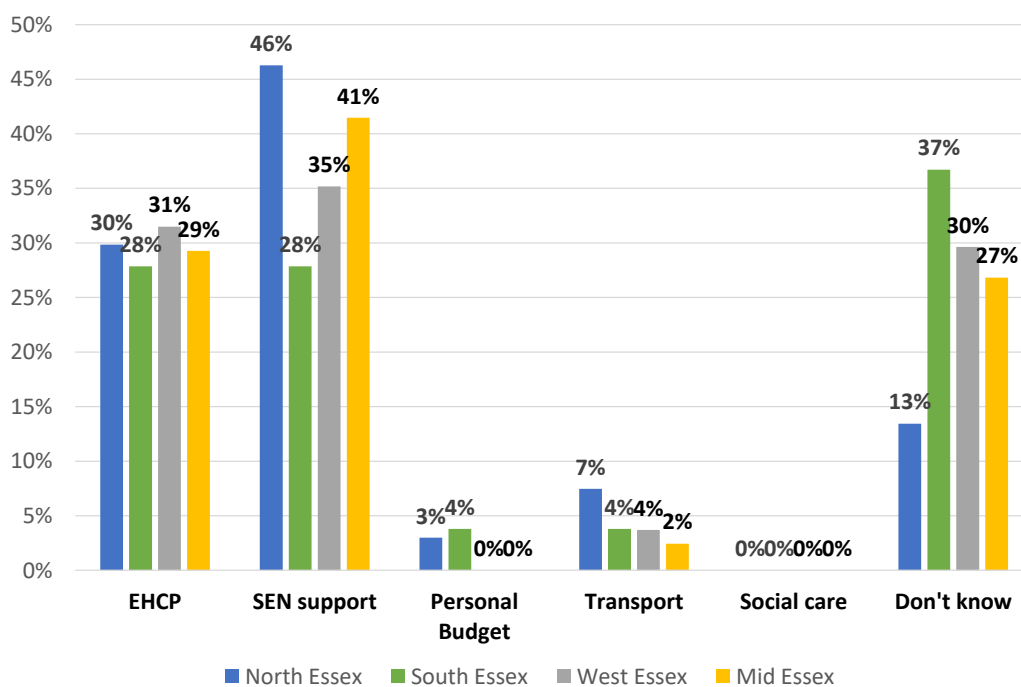
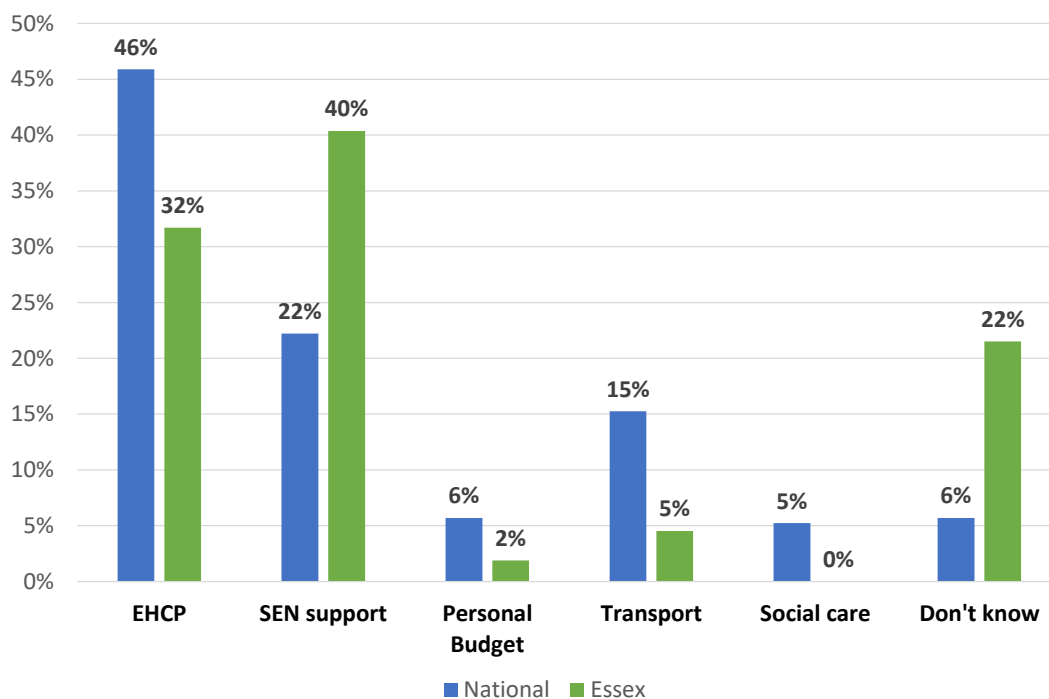


Figure 6. What additional paid support do children and young people receive?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say what they received paid support for, figure 6 shows that children from Essex were more likely to say they had support for their SEN (40%) compared to responses from other parts of England (22%). Just under a third of children said they had paid support for their Education Health and Care plan (32%) compared to just under half of children from other parts of England (46%).

Children and young people responding to the POET survey from Essex were more likely to say they did not know if they had paid support (22%) compared to responses from other parts of England (6%).

## What do children and young people with additional needs feel about the support they receive?

The POET survey asked children and young people to say whether they were involved in writing their EHC Plan. Just over a third of the children from Essex that responded to the survey said that their views were included when their support was planned (35%) lower proportion than children who responded from other parts of England (44%).

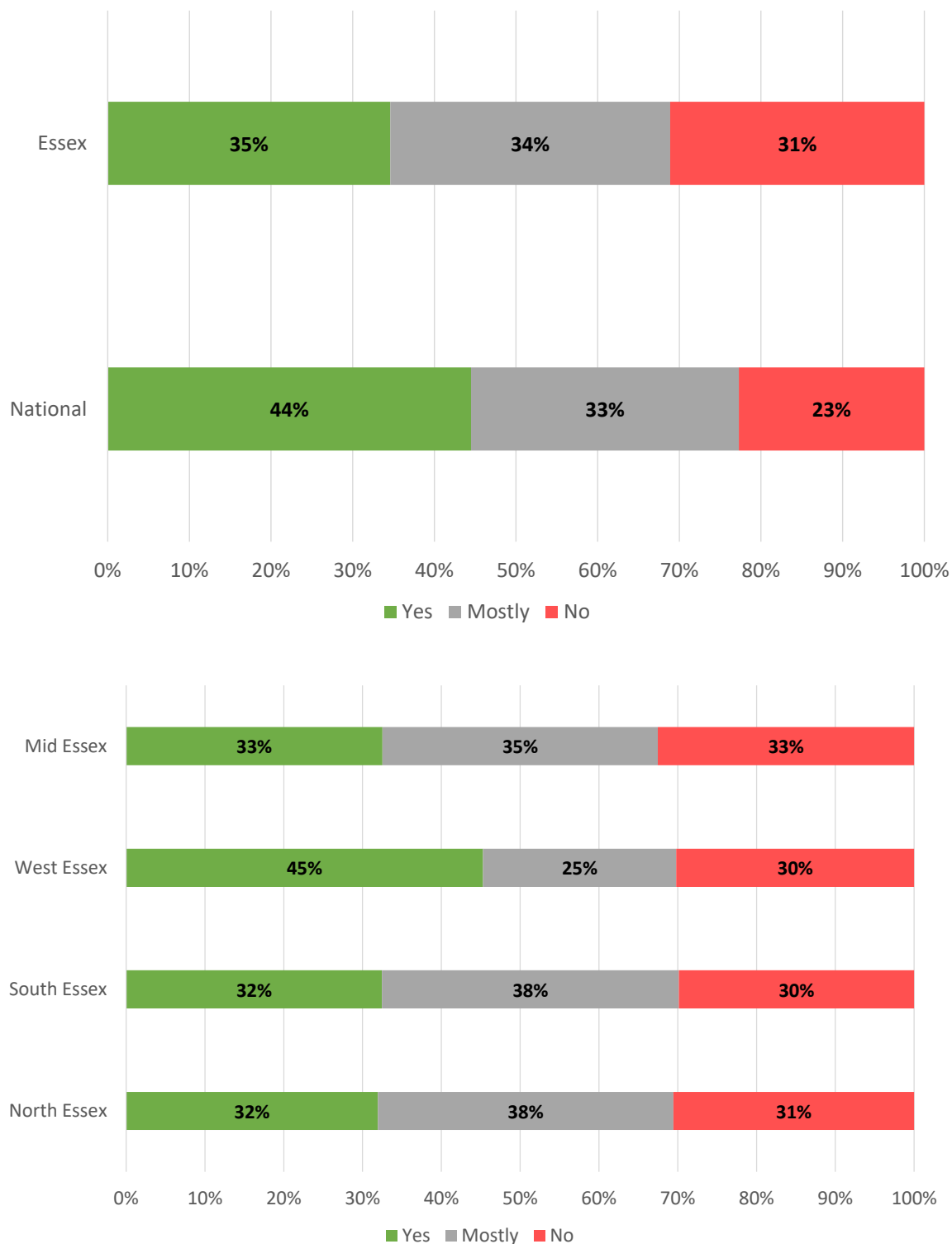


Figure 7. Were children and young people's views included when their support was planned?



The POET survey also sought to find out if the views of the childrens close family members were included in the support planning. Just over half of children and young people (52%) reported that their family members views were included, a lower proportion that children who who took part from other areas of the country (65%). See figure 8.

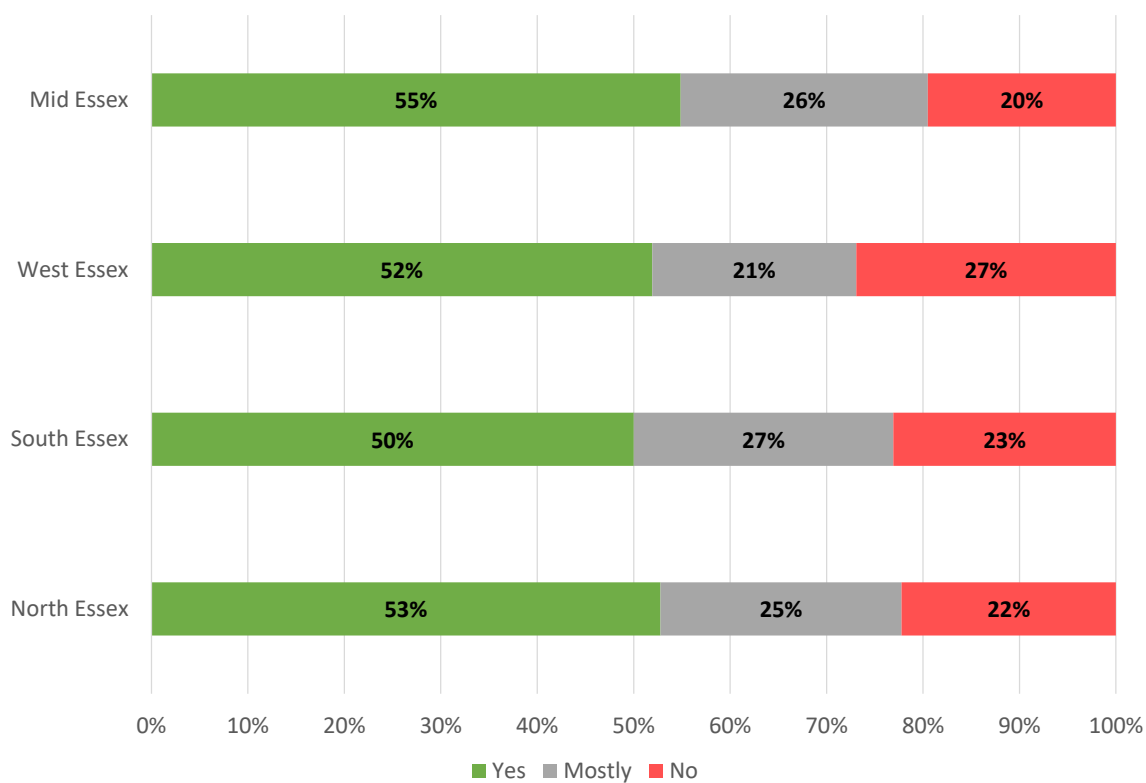
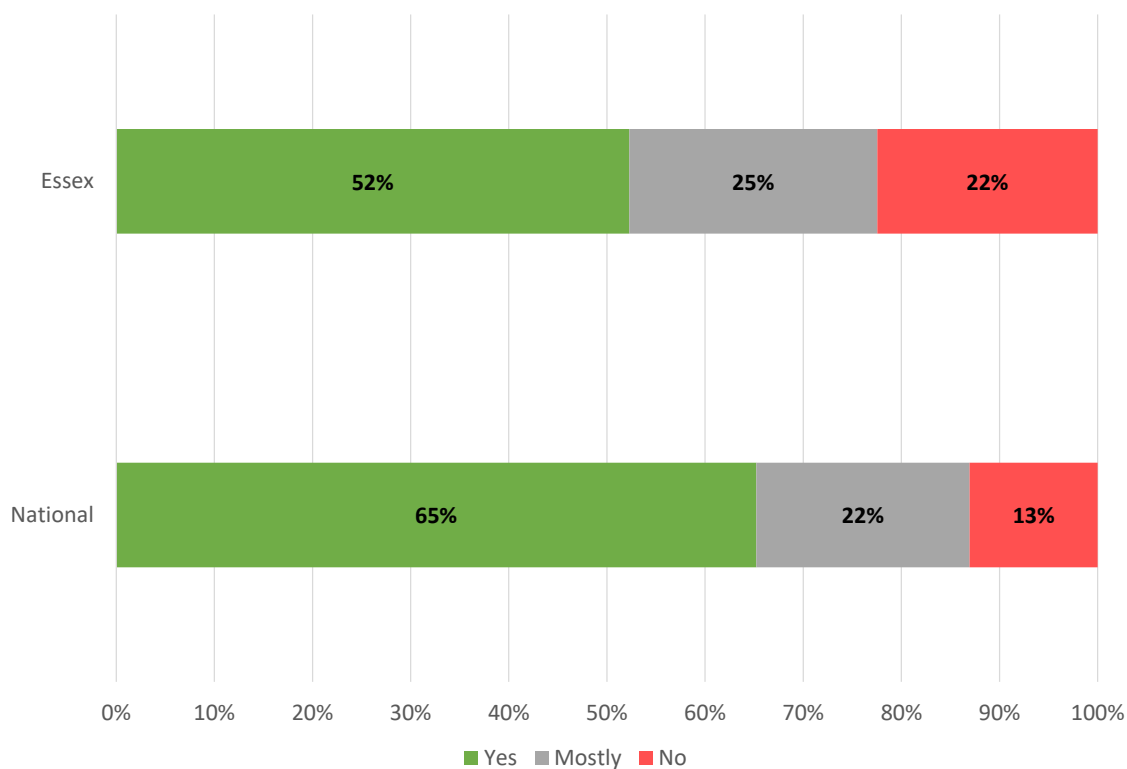


Figure 8. Were the views of close family members included when their child’s support was planned?

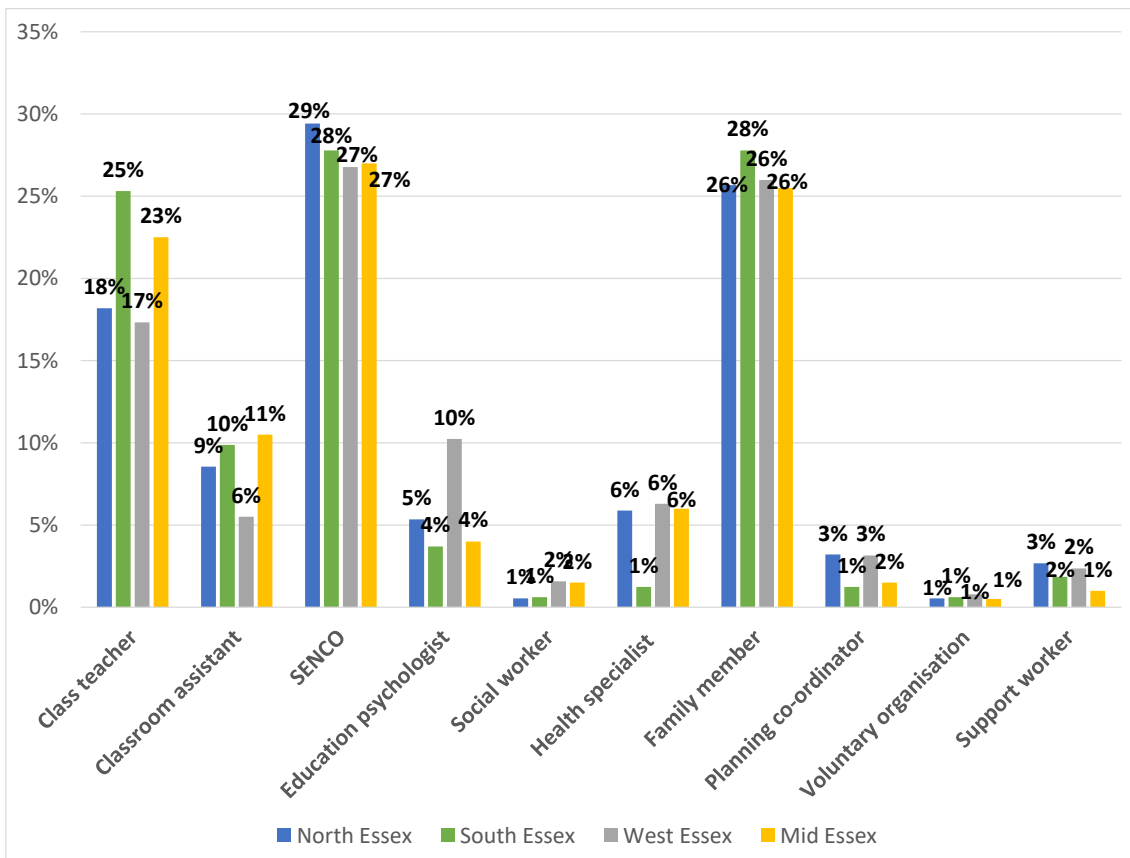
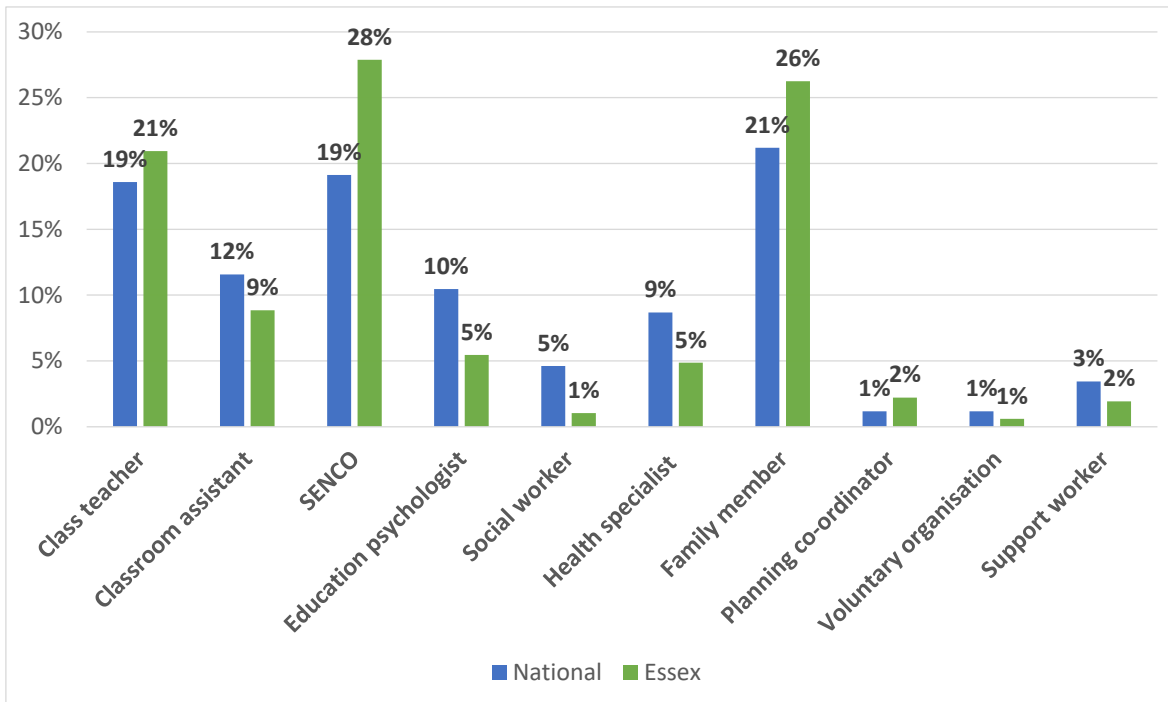


Figure 9. Who was involved in the children and young people's support planning?

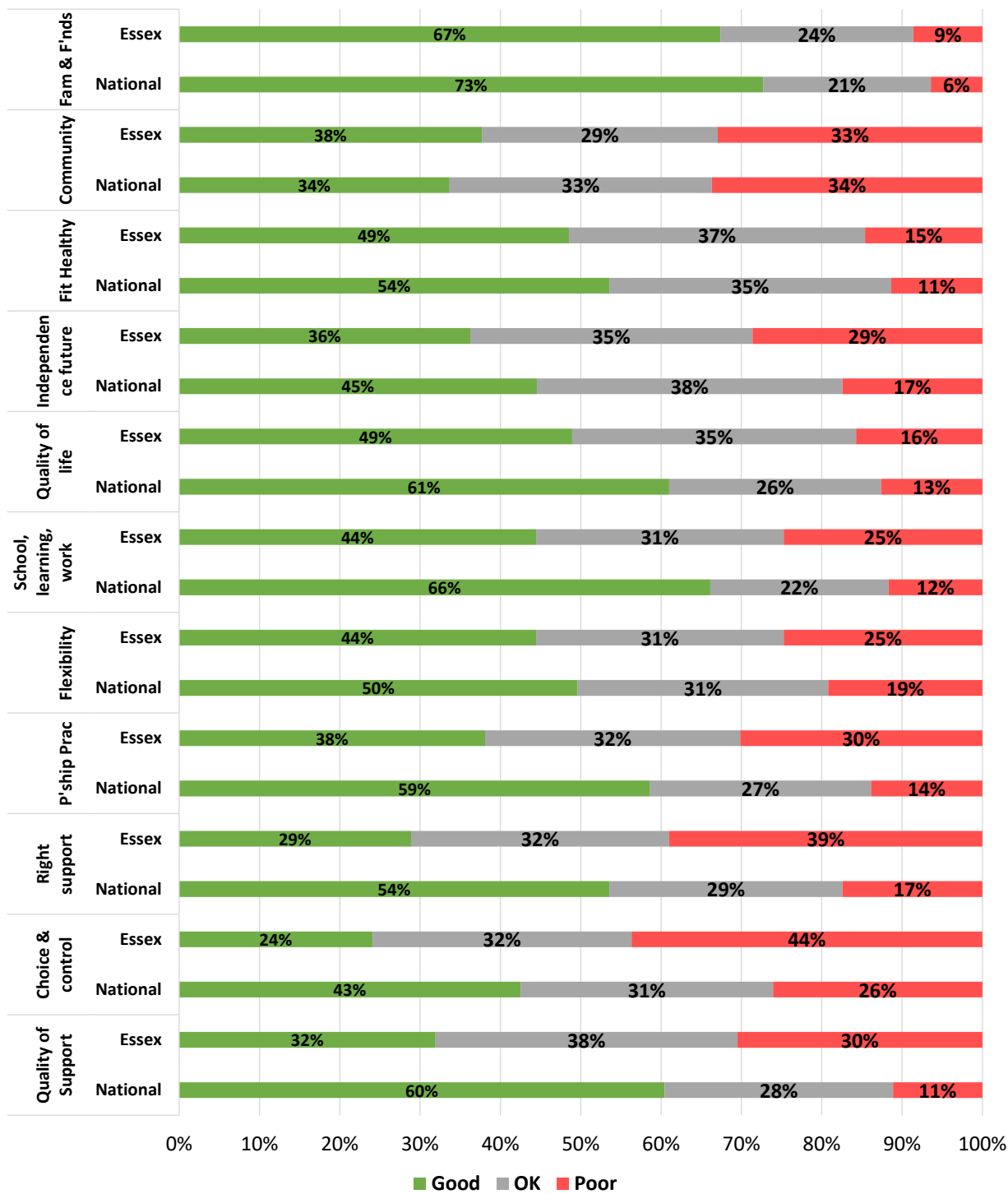
As figure 9 above shows, a wide range of professional people were actively involved in children's support planning. Responses from children and young people from Essex were broadly similar to other areas of the country, with children and young people in Essex more likely to report the involvement of a SENCO (28%) than other areas of England (19%).

The POET survey asked children and young people to say what their experience had been of the support they received over the past 12 months and how their had support had helped in eleven different aspects.

- **The quality of your support:**
- **Choice and control about your support:** I can choose and change my support if I need to.
- **Having the right help and support to meet my needs:**
- **Practitioners who help and support me work well together:**
- **Flexibility of help and support as my needs change:**
- **Take part in school, learning, work or training:** I do the best I can at school, college or work.
- **Feel happy with your quality of life:** I'm happy and enjoy life.
- **Develop independence and the skills to be ready for the next steps of your future:**
- **Be as fit and healthy as you can be:**
- **Be part of the local community:** I can do things in my local area.
- **Enjoy relationships with family and friends:** I enjoy time with family and friends.

As Figure 10 shows, Just over two thirds (67%) of the children and young people from Essex said their support had helped them enjoy their relationships with family and friends compared to just under three quarters of children from other parts of the country (73%). Slightly less than a half of the children from Essex said their support helped them with four of the other ten areas we asked about: quality of life (49%), being as fit and healthy as they can be (49%) taking part in school, learning and work (44%) and flexibility of support as their needs change (44%),

A third of the children and young people from Essex said the support they received was poor in one of the eleven areas we asked about: being part of the local community (33%). Well under a half (44%) said the having choice and control about their support was poor, a higher proportion than children reporting from other parts of the country (26%).



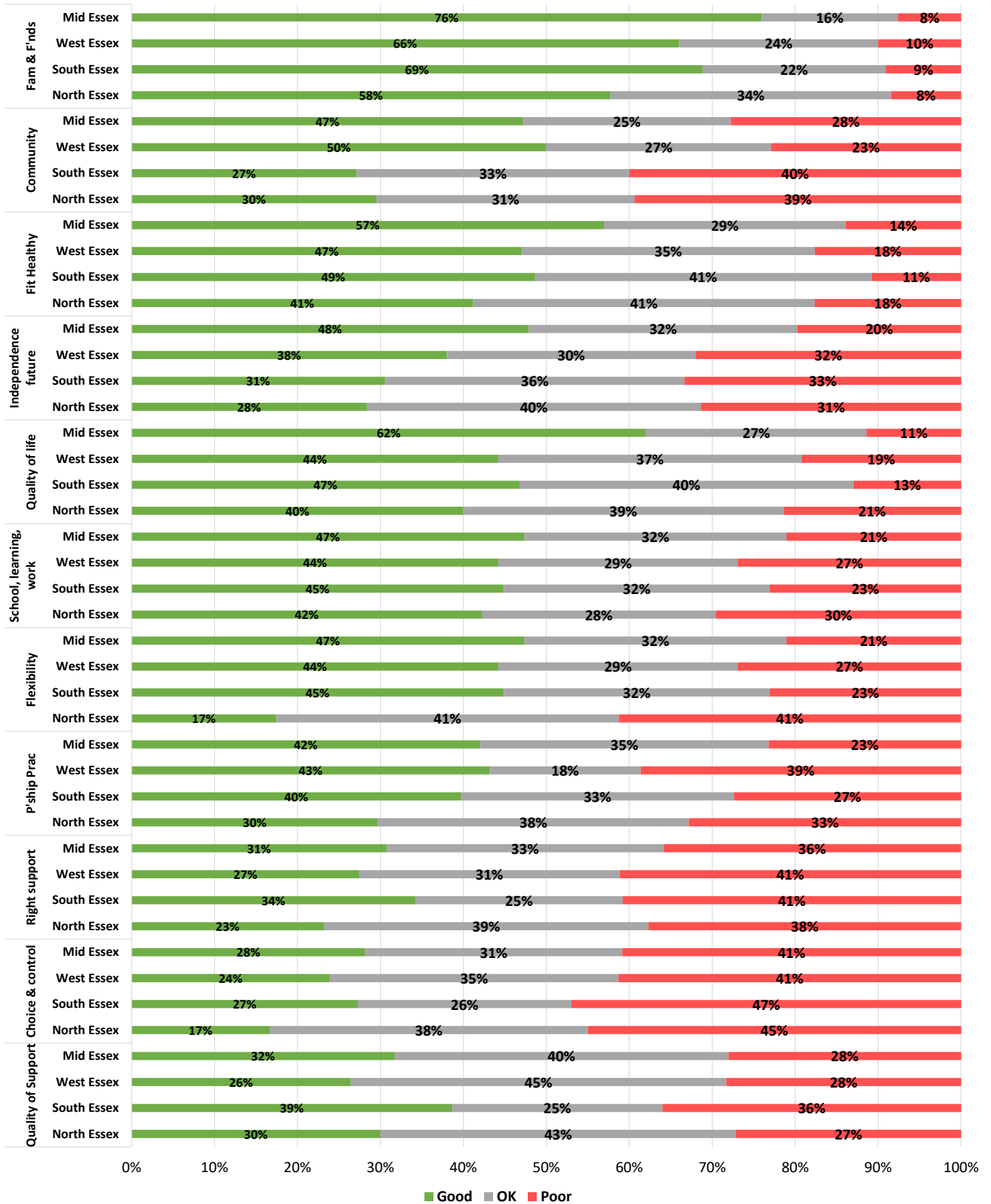
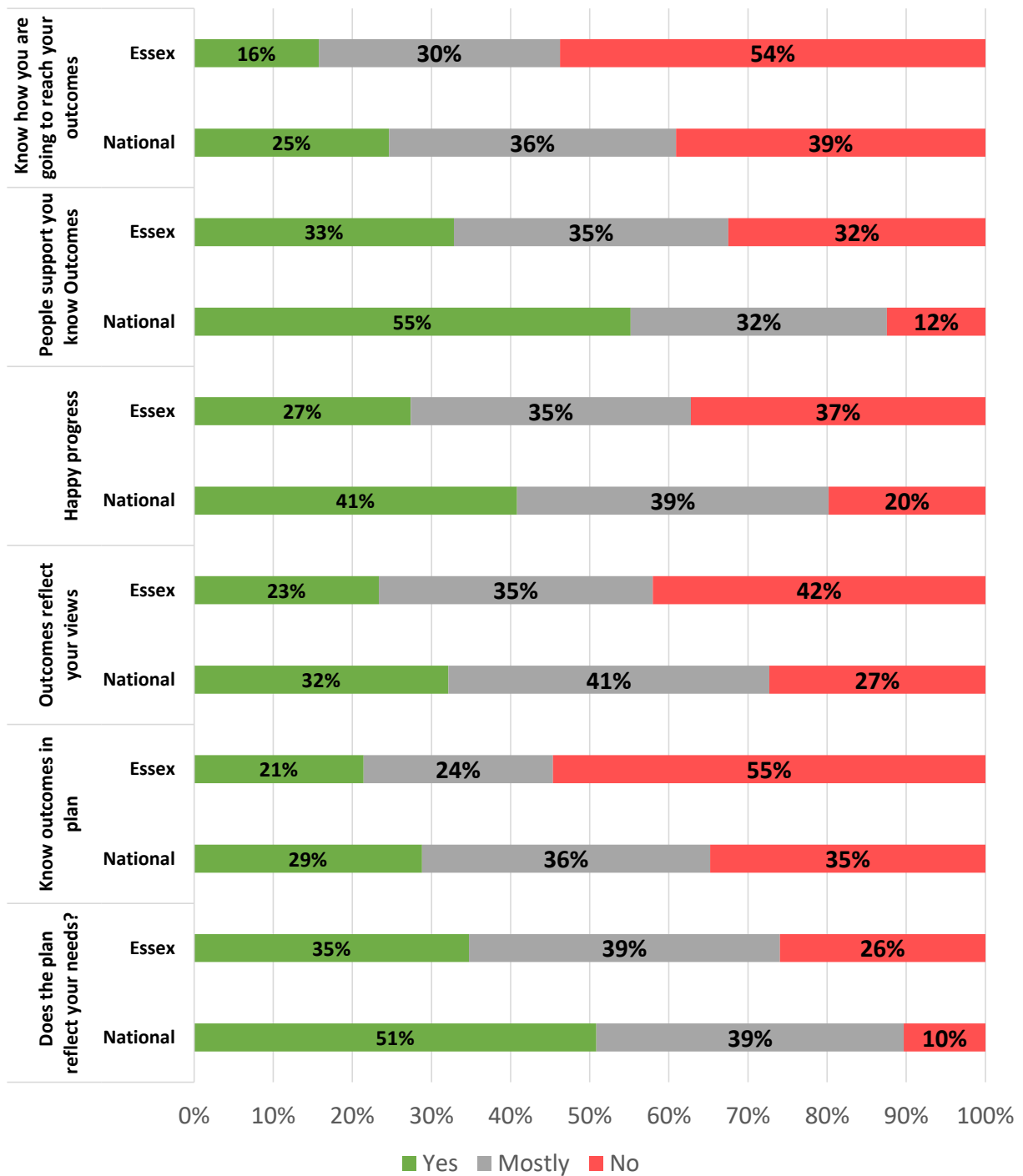


Figure 10. Over the past year, what do you think about these areas of the help and support that you get and how well has the support you get helped you?

## Outcomes for Children and Young People

The POET survey asked children and young people to say how well they felt their support plan reflected their needs, if they and the people who supported them knew what the planned outcomes were and if they felt the outcomes planned reflected their views. They were also asked if they knew how they were going to reach their outcomes, if they were happy with the progress made so far and if they had achieved their outcomes with the support they get.



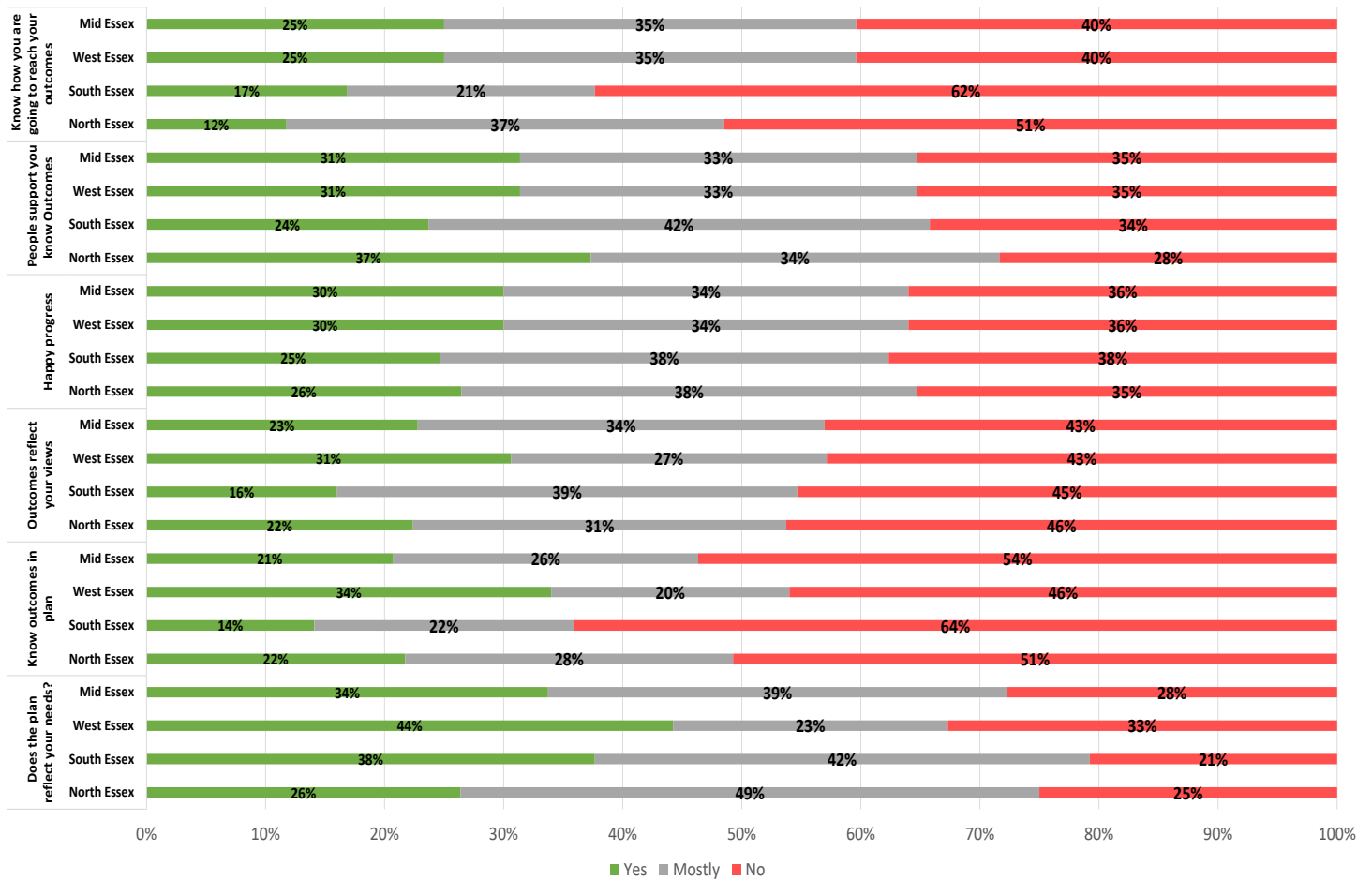


Figure 11. Children and young people’s outcomes

Just over a third of the children and young people from Essex who took part in the POET survey said that their support plan reflected their needs (35%), a lower proportion than children from other areas of the country (51%). Under a quarter of the children from Essex reported that they had achieved their goals with the help of the support that they get (16%), a lower proportion compared to the other parts of the country (25%).

## Conclusion

Throughout this report local findings have been benchmarked against national data. This is intended to provide an indicative relative position. Care should be taken however when making precise direct comparisons. This is because responses varied greatly across local authorities, levels of satisfaction being spread across a wide range. The national figures here are averages of these ranges.