

The POET Survey

Essex County Council Data Report:

July 2019

Parents of Children with additional special educational support needs

Introduction

This report presents data collected from parents and carers of children and young people who have additional support and may have an Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) in Essex, using the Personal Outcome Evaluation Tool (POET). It also compares the numerical responses of parents in Essex with the responses we have from parents in other parts of England. In total, this report presents the responses of 1626 parents in Essex to the POET survey. We are able to benchmark the Essex data against responses from 1863 parents in 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 the same totals 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 parents of children with special educational needs (SEN) who had experience of Education Health and Care Plans.

Who took part in the survey?

Parents were asked to say why their child needed additional support and what type of support their child received. The graphs in figures 1 and 2 show the main reason children needed support and the types of support being provided. The responses from parents in Essex were broadly similar to those of parents from other areas of England in terms of the reason their child needed support. Parents in Essex were slightly less likely to report having a personal budget for their child (3%) to other parts of England (5%). Just under a third of parents from Essex (30%) said that their child had an EHCP compared to well under a half of parents from other areas of the country (42%). They were more likely to report that their child had paid SEN support and less likely to report they had paid support for transport, compared to responses from other local authorities in England.

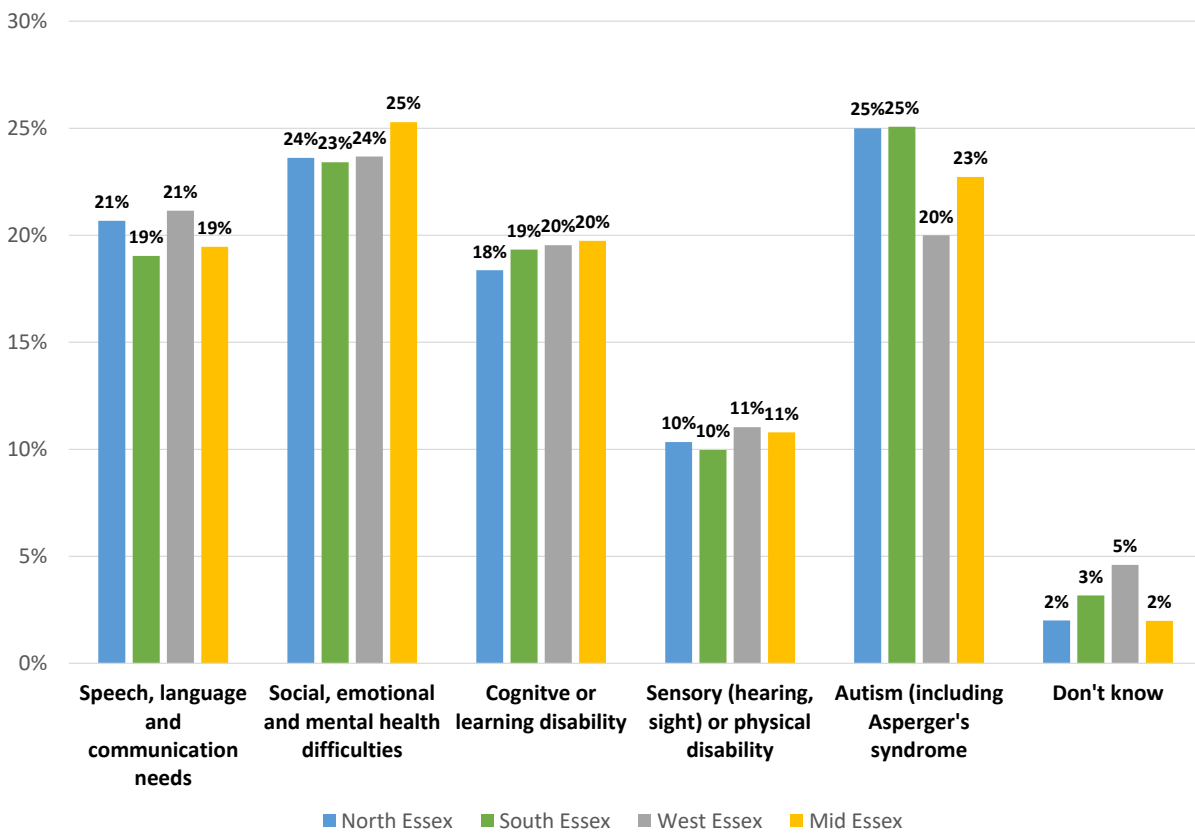
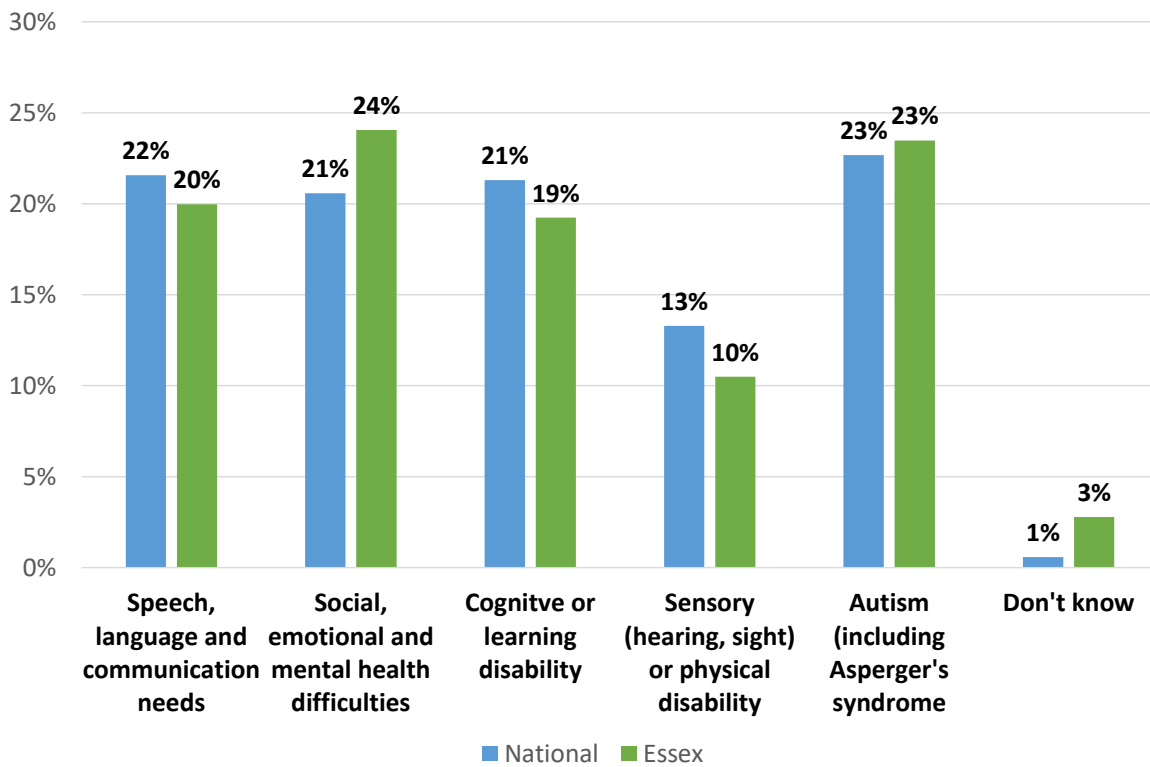


Figure 1. Why do children need support?

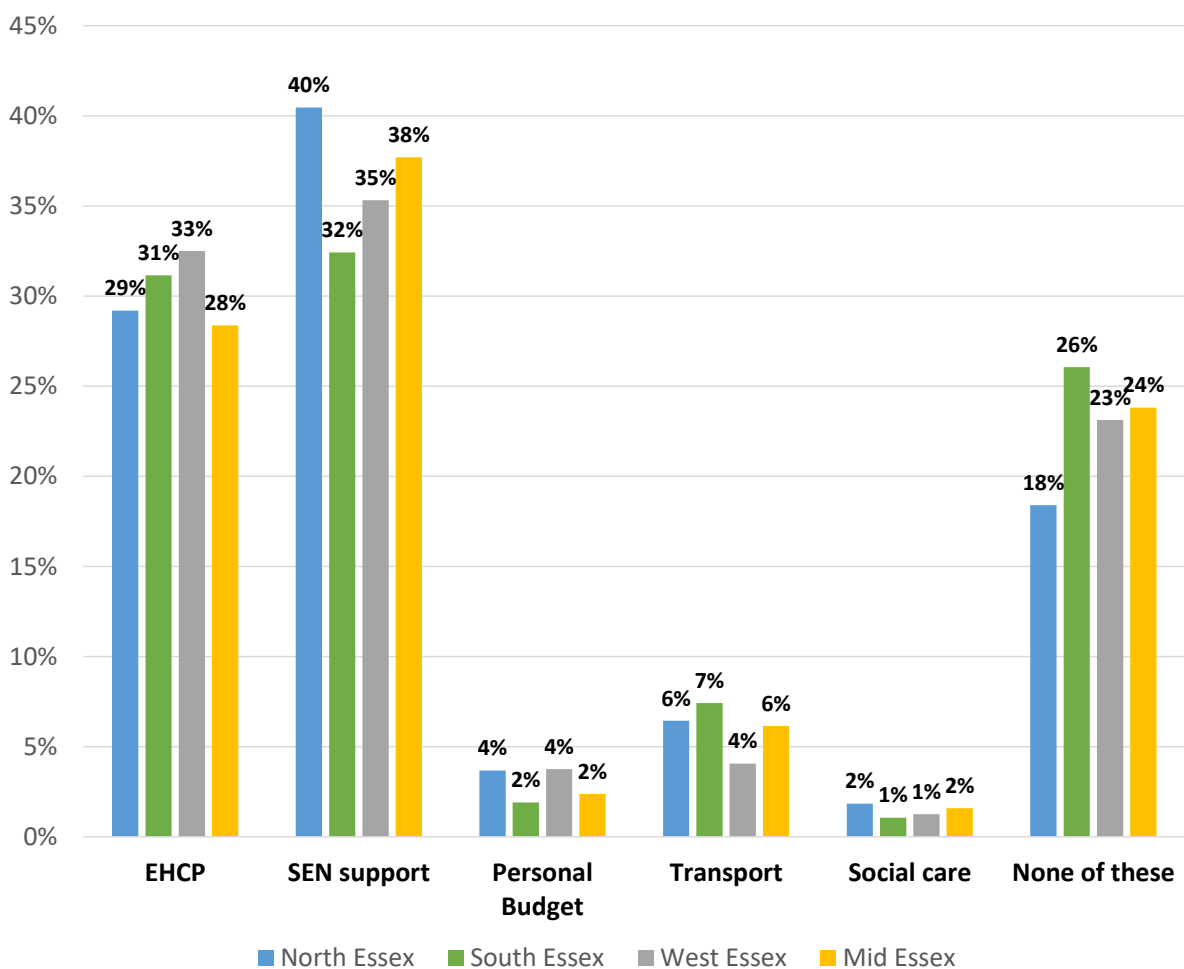
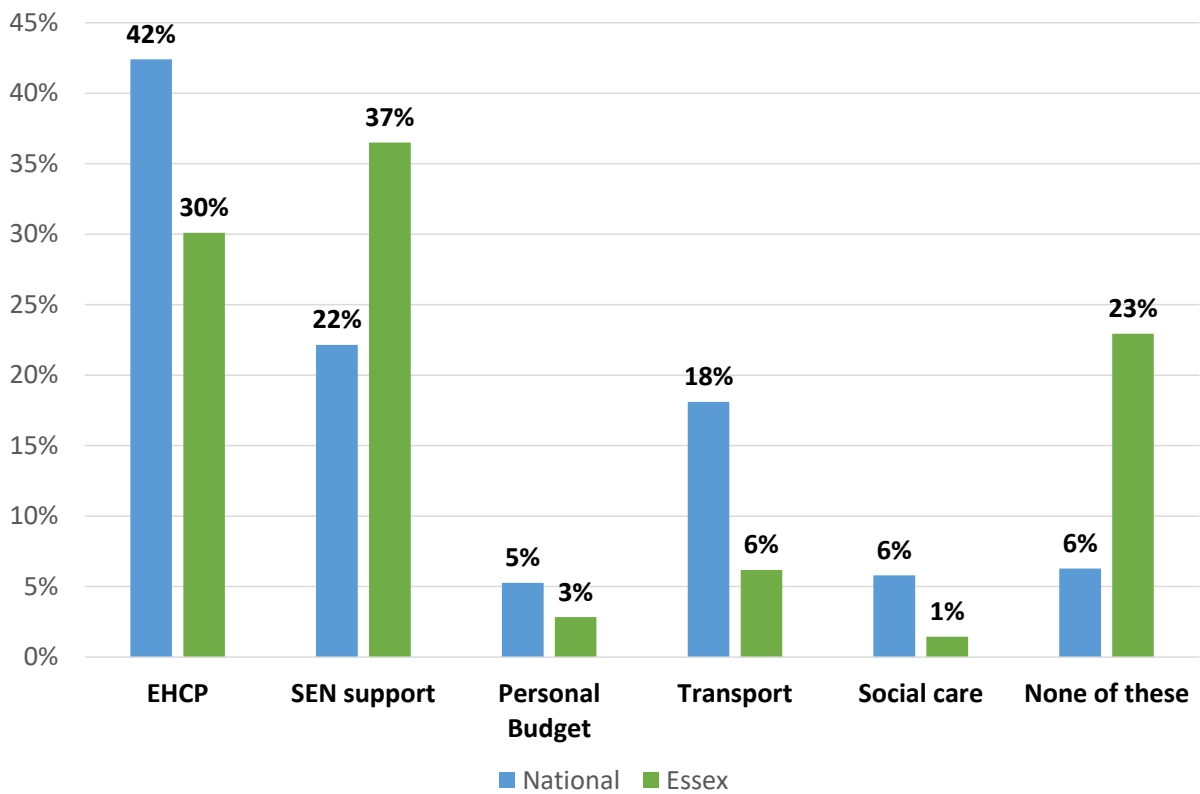


Figure 2. What additional paid support do children get?

POET survey asked parents what type of school, college, work or training their child attended; whether this was mainstream or special education. Parents from Essex were significantly more likely to report that their child attended a mainstream school (79%) compared to parents responding to the POET survey from other parts of England (43%).

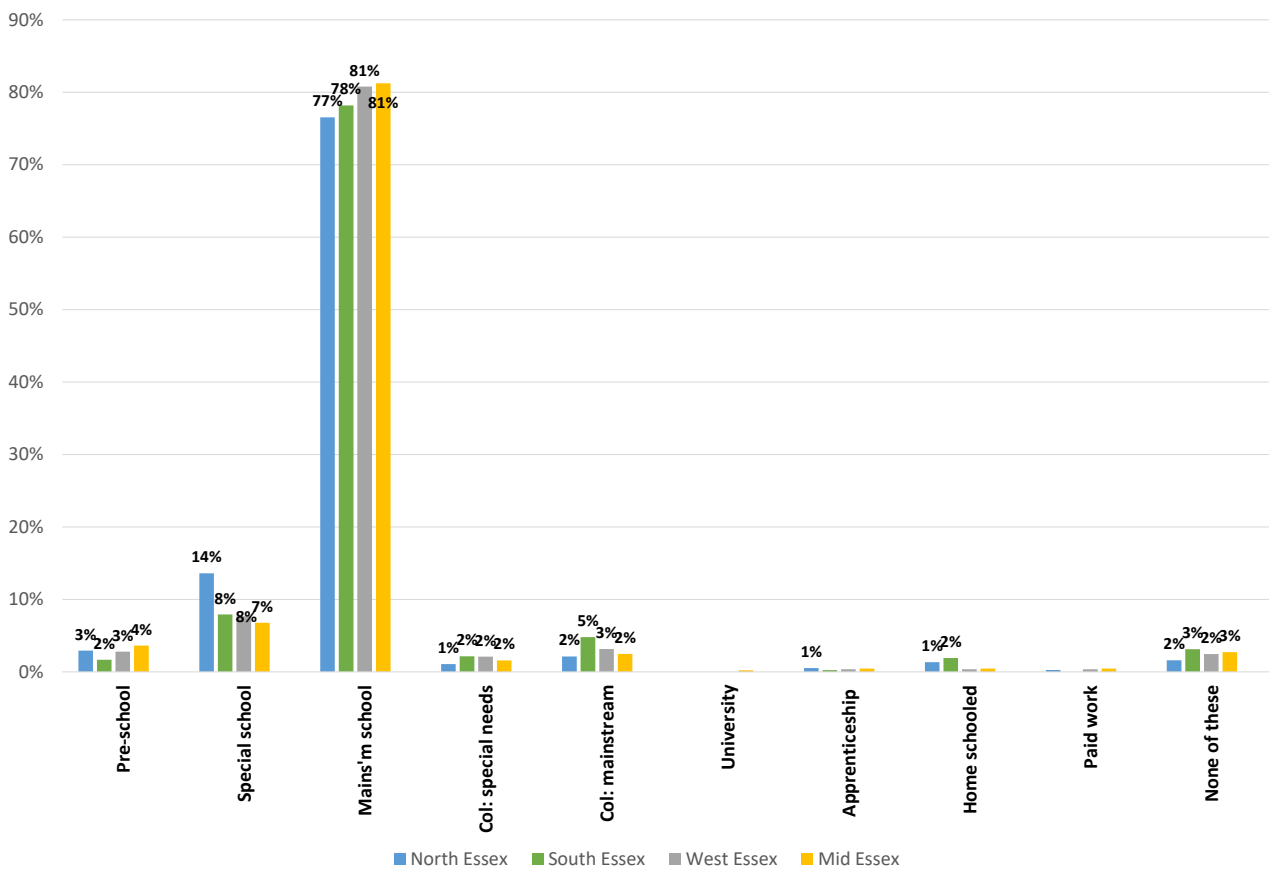
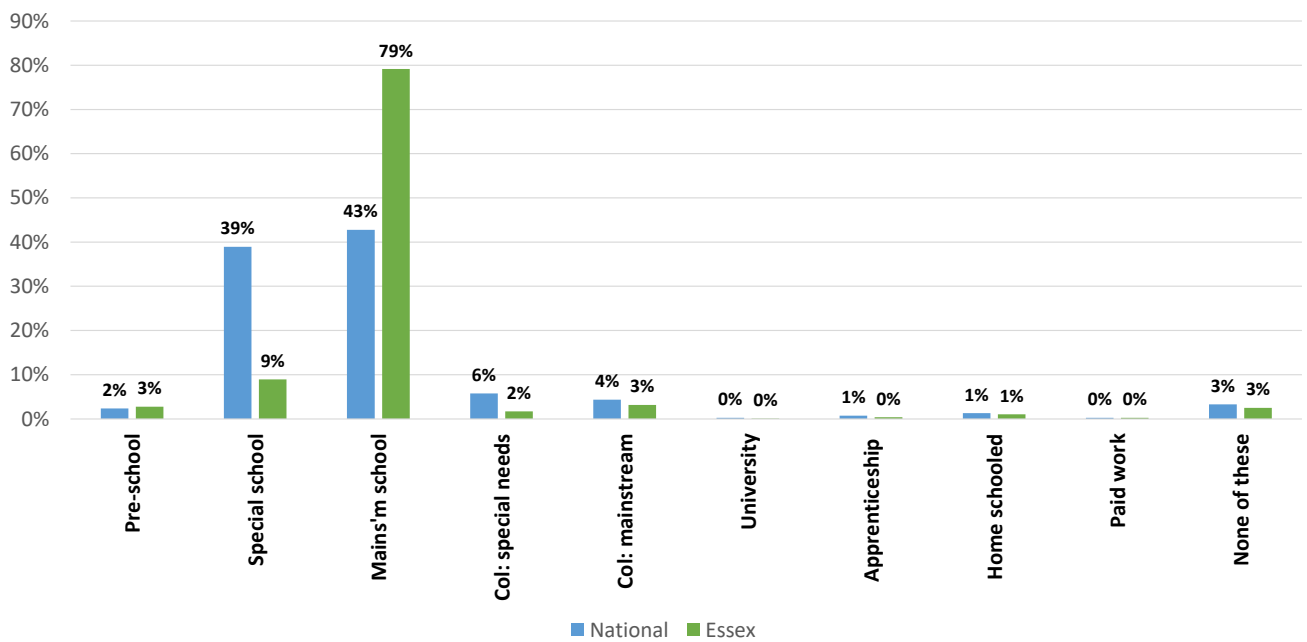


Figure 3. Child's place of education, work or training.

The POET survey also asked parents how long their child's support has been in place for and whether they had an EHC plan and a personal budget. As figures 4 to 6 show, parents from Essex were significantly more likely to report their child having SEN support for between 6 and 12 months (48%), compared to parents responding from other parts of England (25%). Well over a third of parents from Essex reported having an EHC plan for more than 3 years (41%) the same as other areas of the country. The length of time that parents reported having a personal budget was broadly similar to those parents responding from other parts of England.

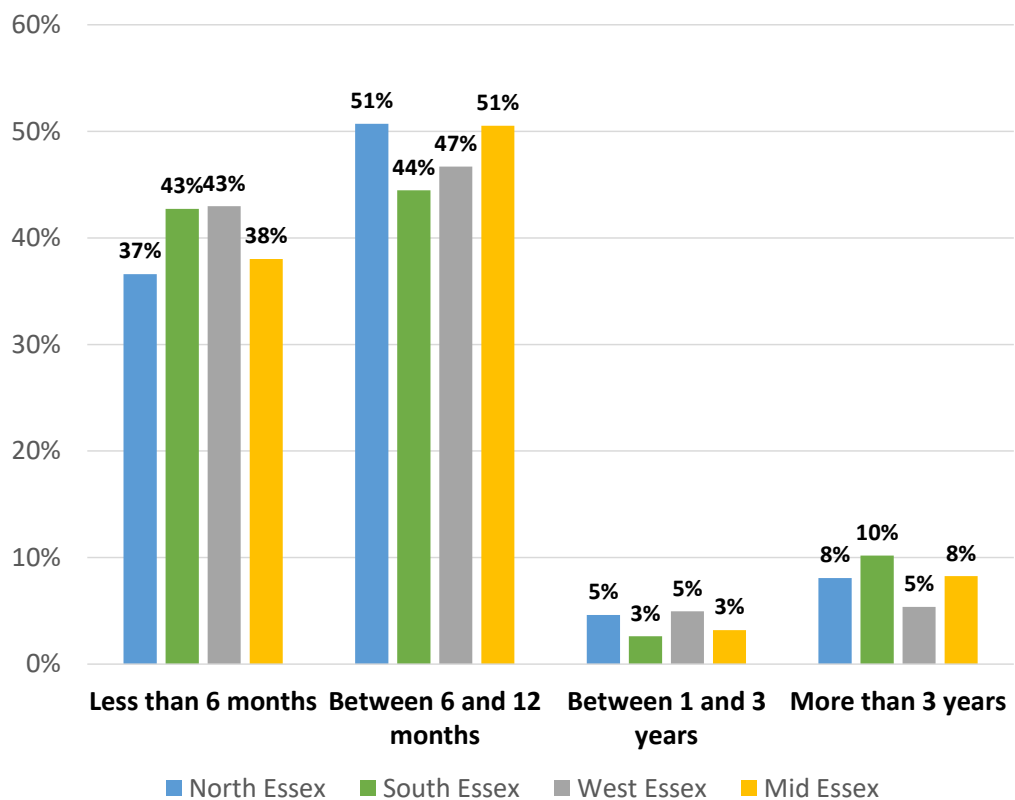
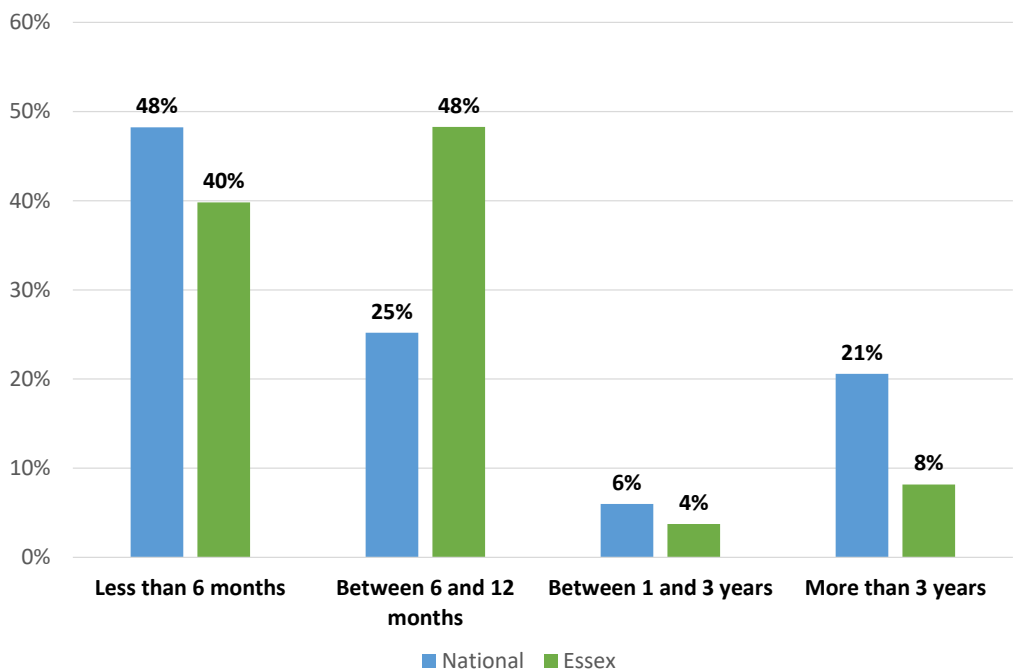


Figure 4. How long childrens' SEN support have been in place

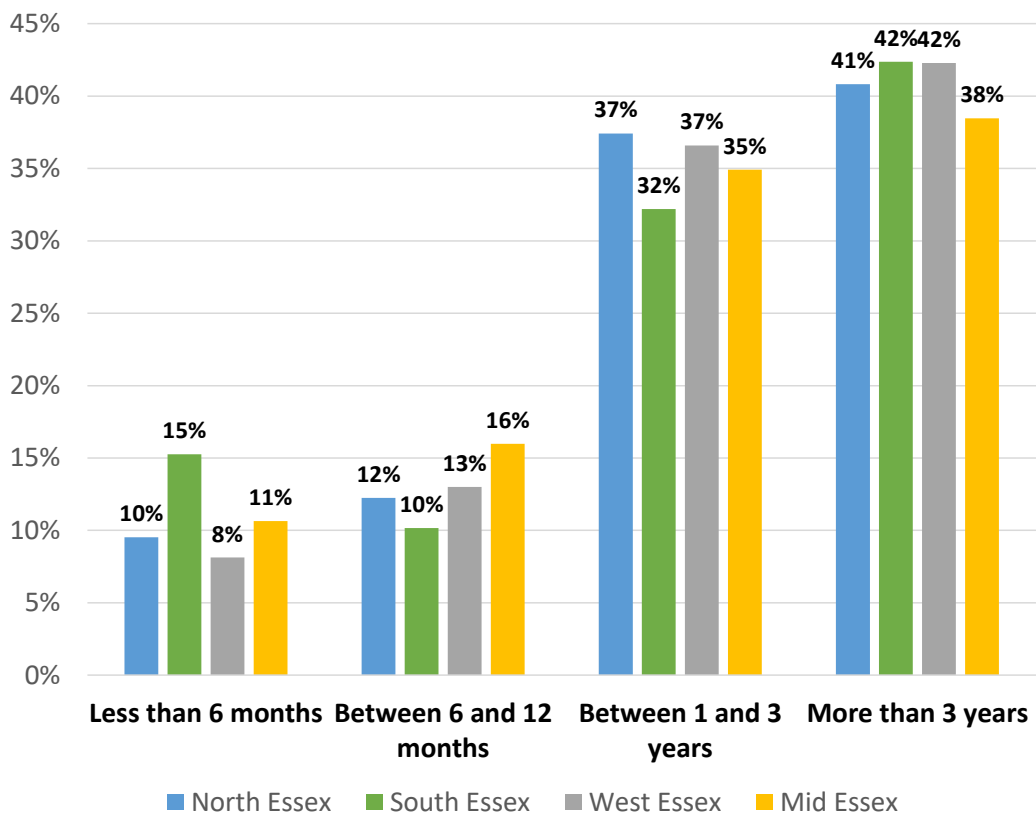
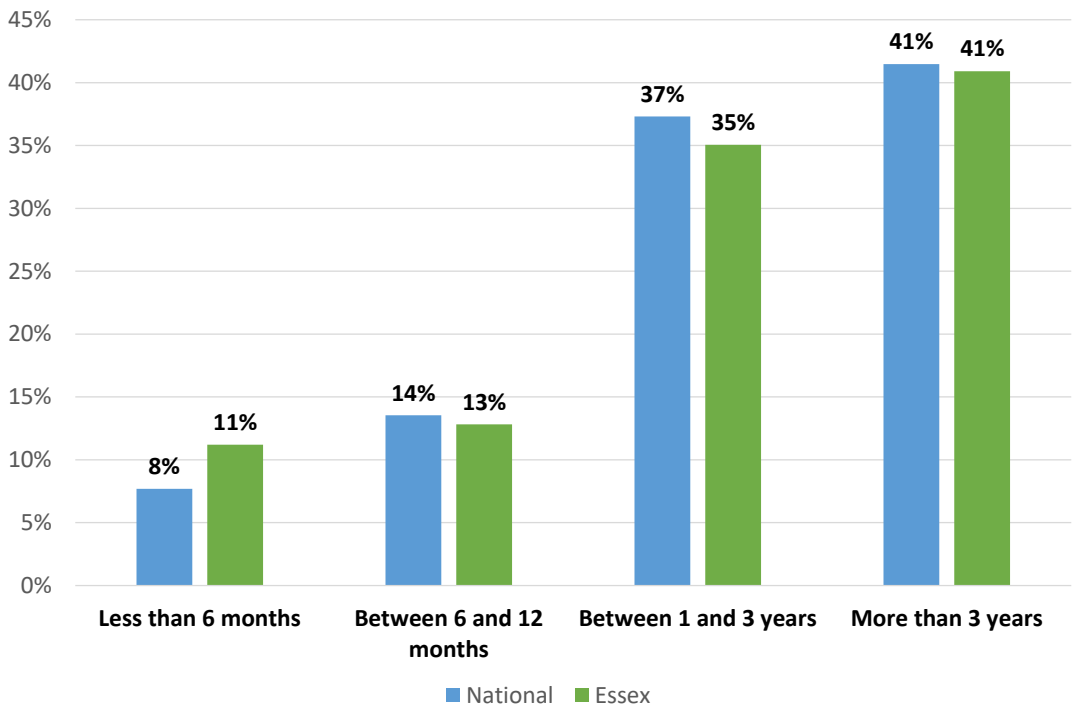


Figure 5. How long childrens' ECH plans have been in place

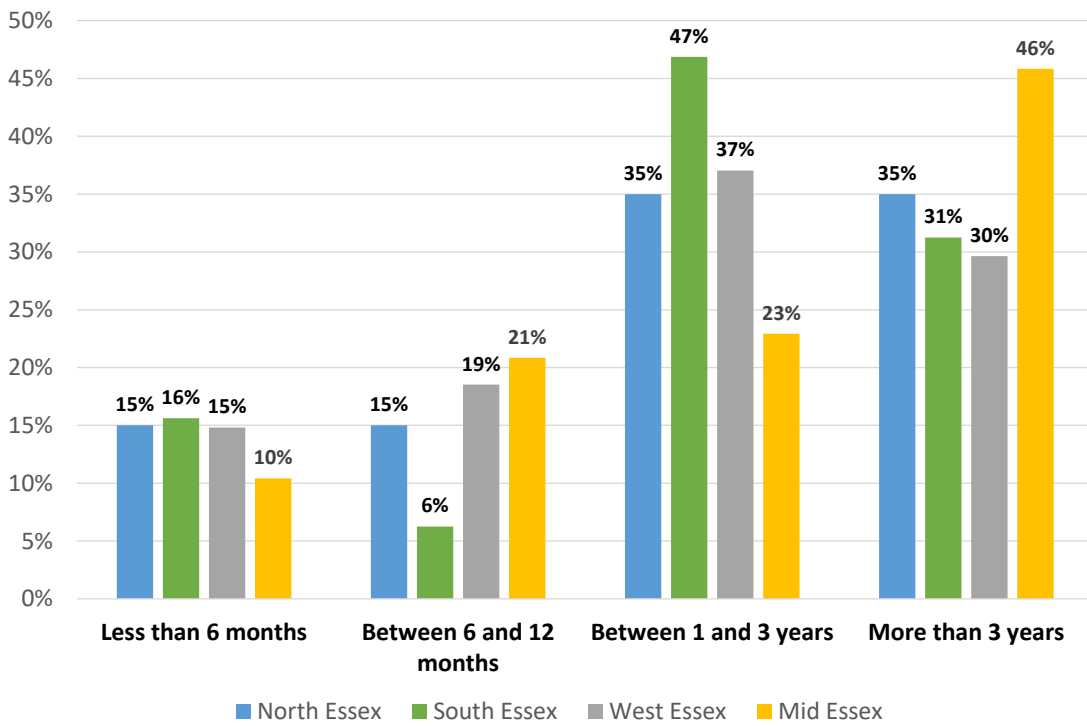
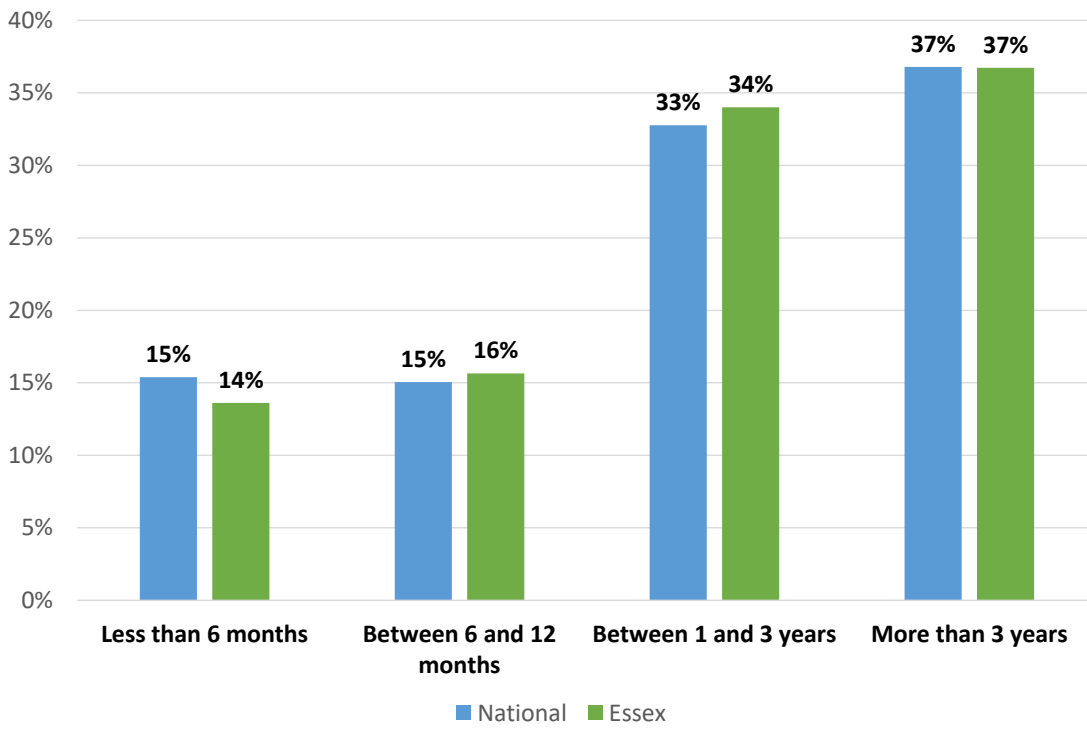
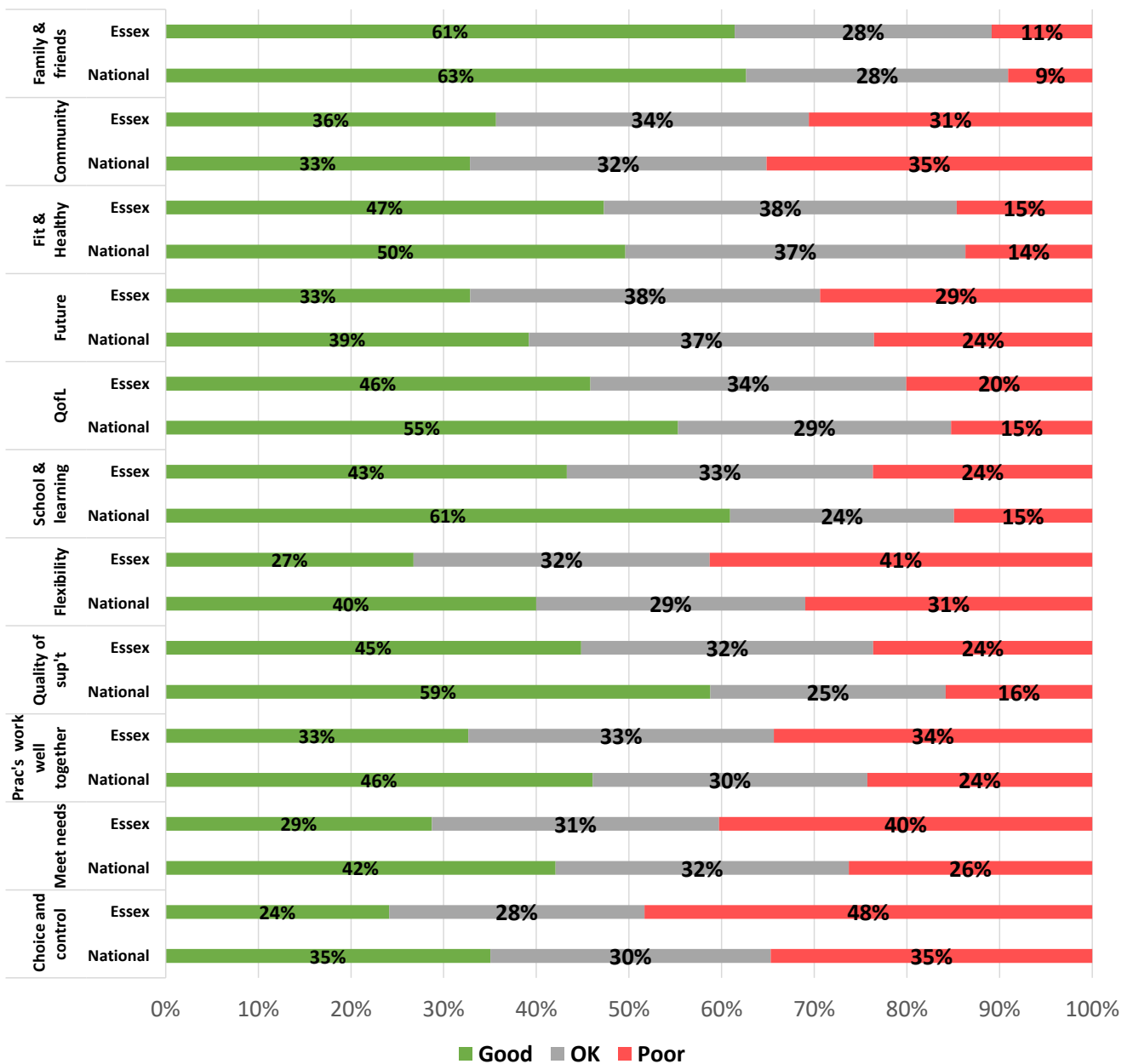


Figure 6. How long childrens' personal budgets have been in place

What do parents feel about the support their child has received and its impact?

The POET survey asked parents to answer several questions about their experience of the additional support that their child receives and what impact it has had on the child, including whether they had choice and control over the support and flexibility to change it if needed, as well as the quality and if it is the right help and support.

As figure 7 below shows, around a half or more of parents from Essex said that the support their child receives is good in four out of the eleven areas that we asked about; to enjoy relationships with family and friends (61%), being as fit and healthy as they can be (47%), feeling happy with their quality of life (46%) and the quality of their support (45%). A third or more of parents from Essex reported that the help and support that they received was poor in three of the areas that we asked about; Choice and control over the support (48%), having the right support to meet their needs (40%) and practitioners working well together (34%).



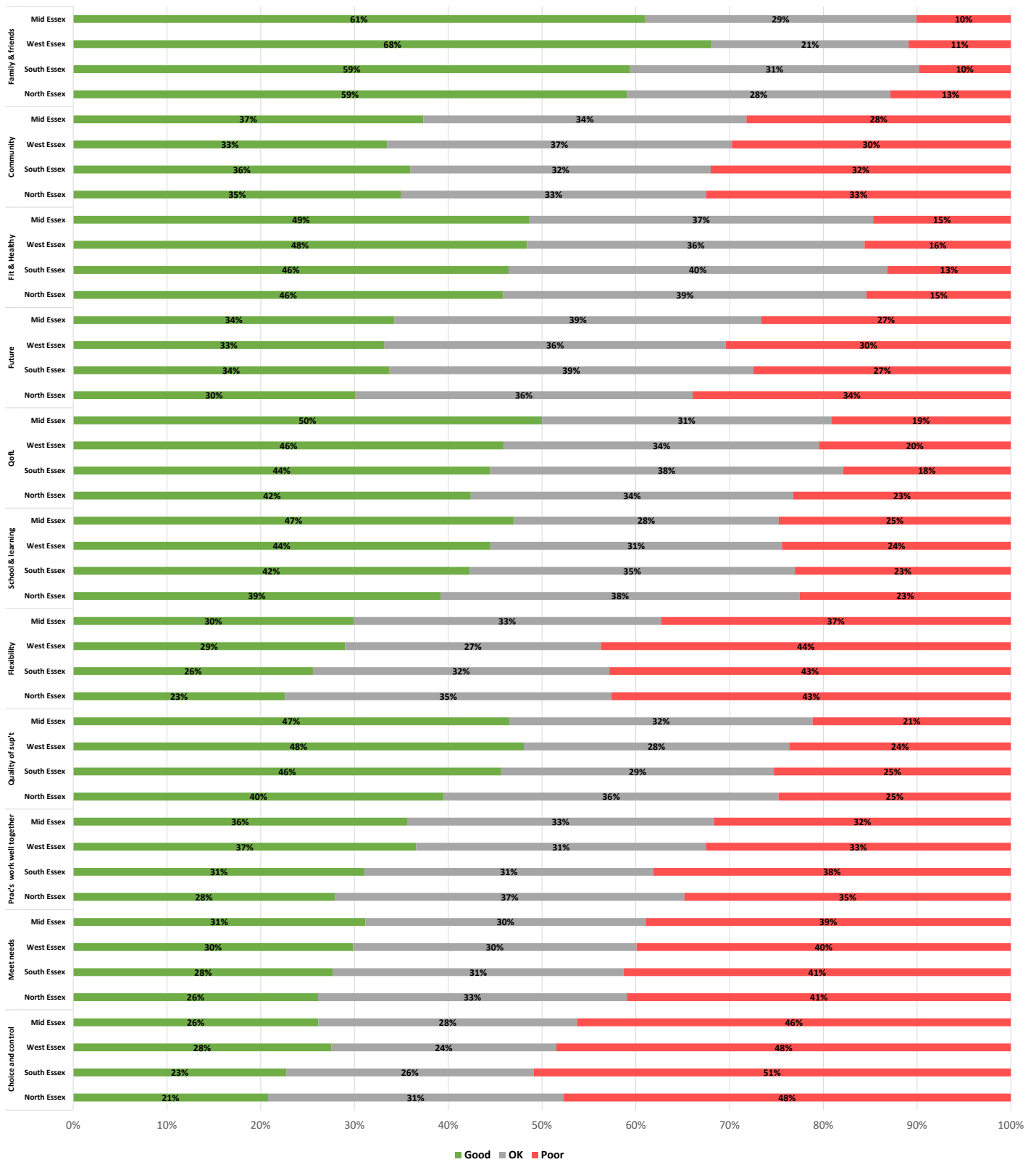


Figure 7. Experience of help and support your child receives and the impact it has had

The POET Survey asked parents whether and to what extent their views and the views of their child had been included in their support plan and who was involved with the planning. As figure 8 below shows, a wide range of professional people were actively involved in childrens support planning. Responses from parents from Essex were broadly similar to other areas of the country, with parents in Essex more likely to report the involvement of a SENCO (30%) than other areas of England (21%).

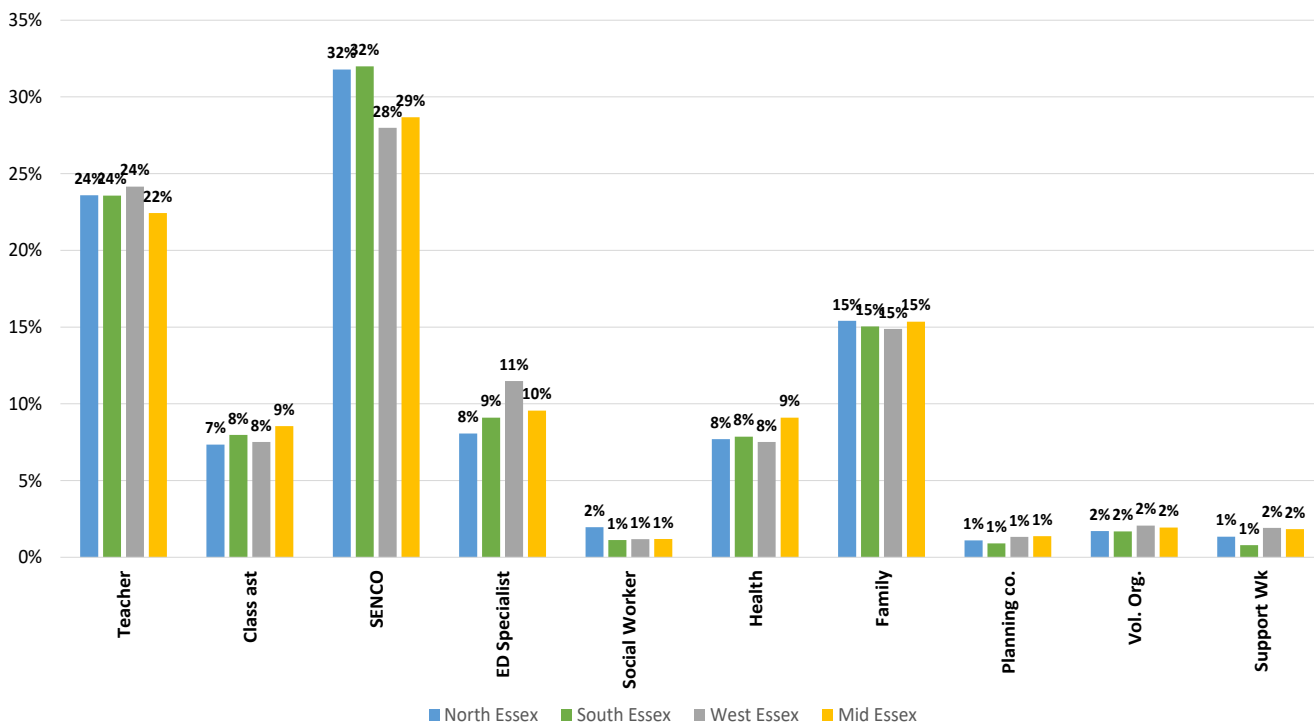
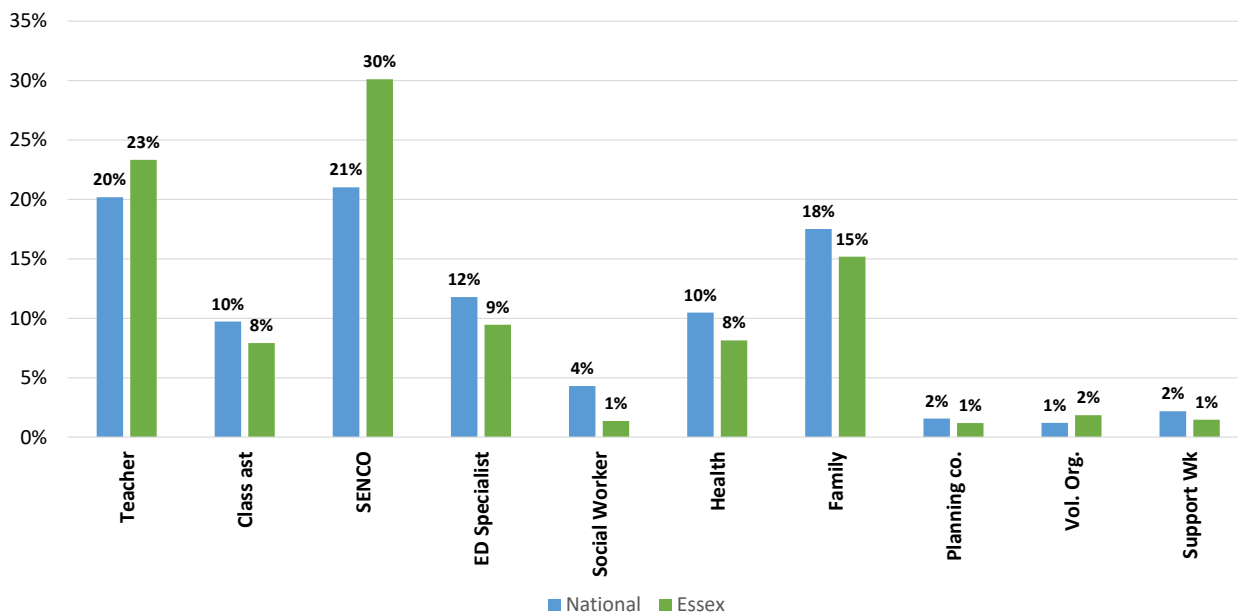
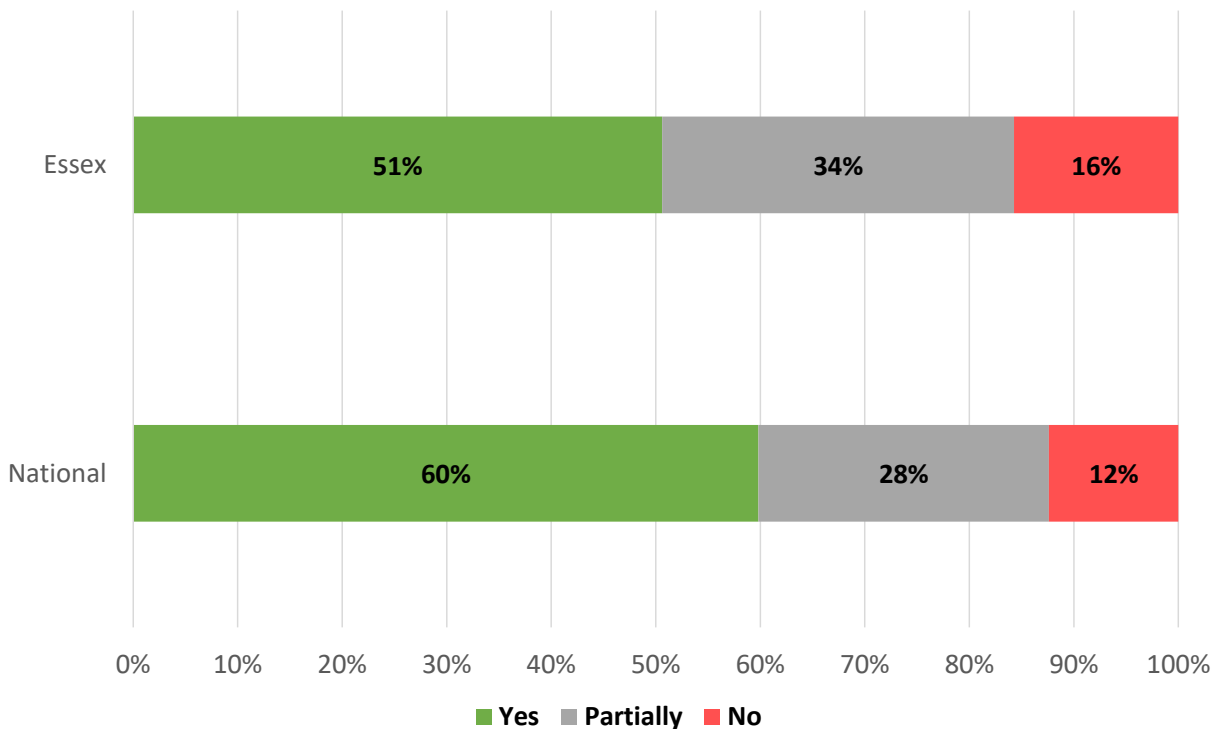


Figure 8. Who was involved in the children’s support planning?

Figures 9 and 10 show that just over a half of parents from Essex (51%) said their views had been fully included when their child’s support was planned, a lower proportion than parents from other parts of England (60%). Just over a third of parents from Essex (35%) reported that the views of their child had been included when their support was planned, similar to parents from other parts of England (36%).

Parent's views reflected



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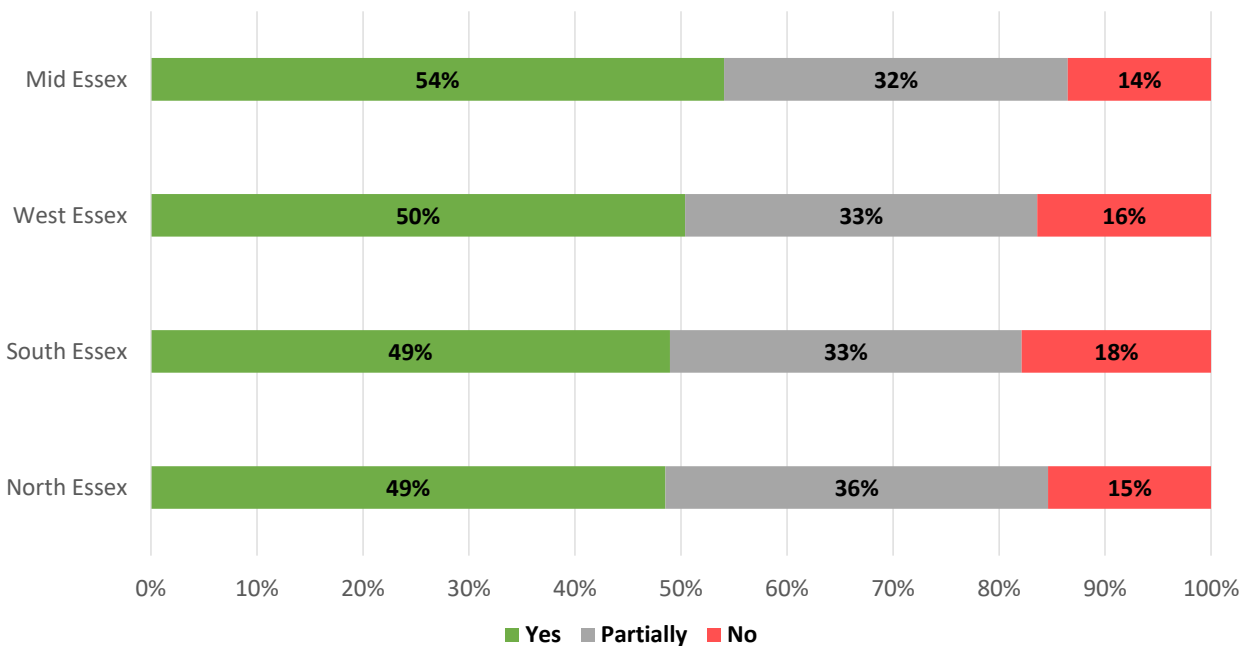


Figure 9. Were parents’ views included in the support plan?

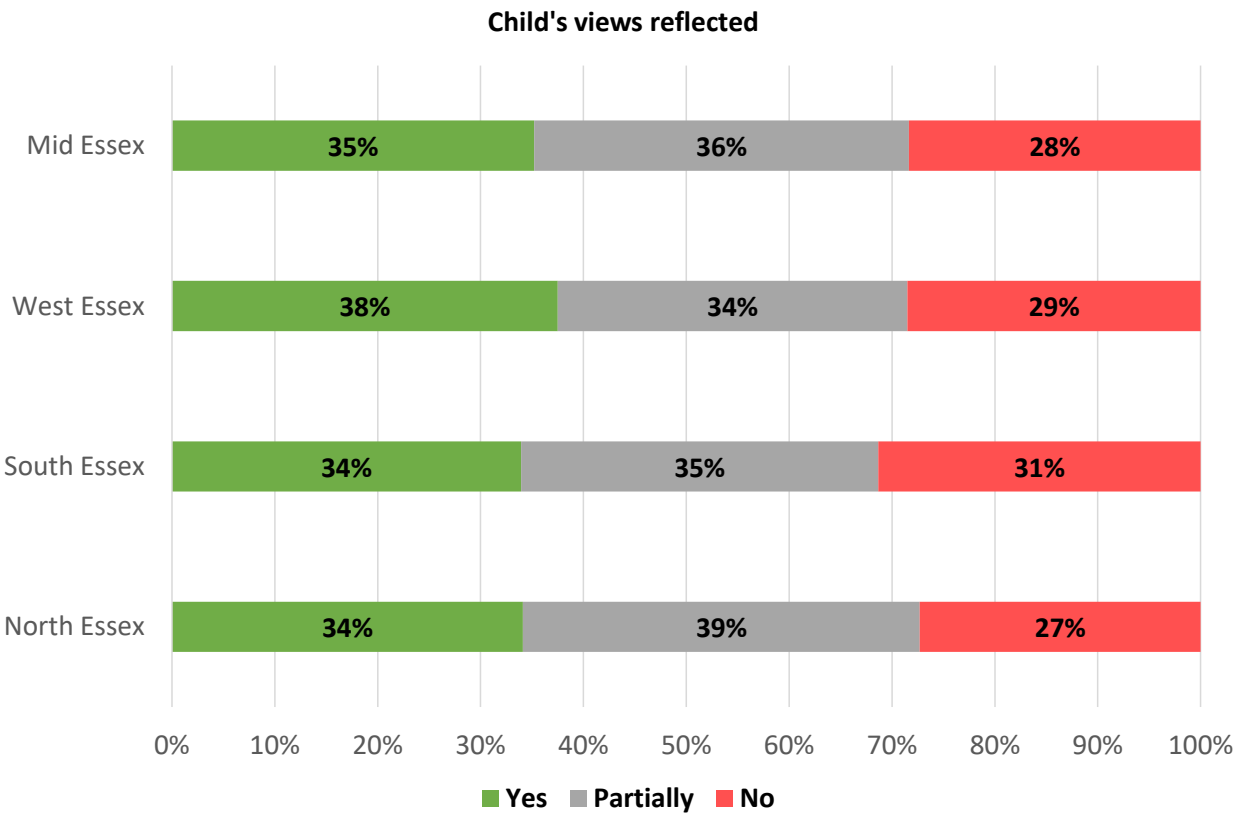
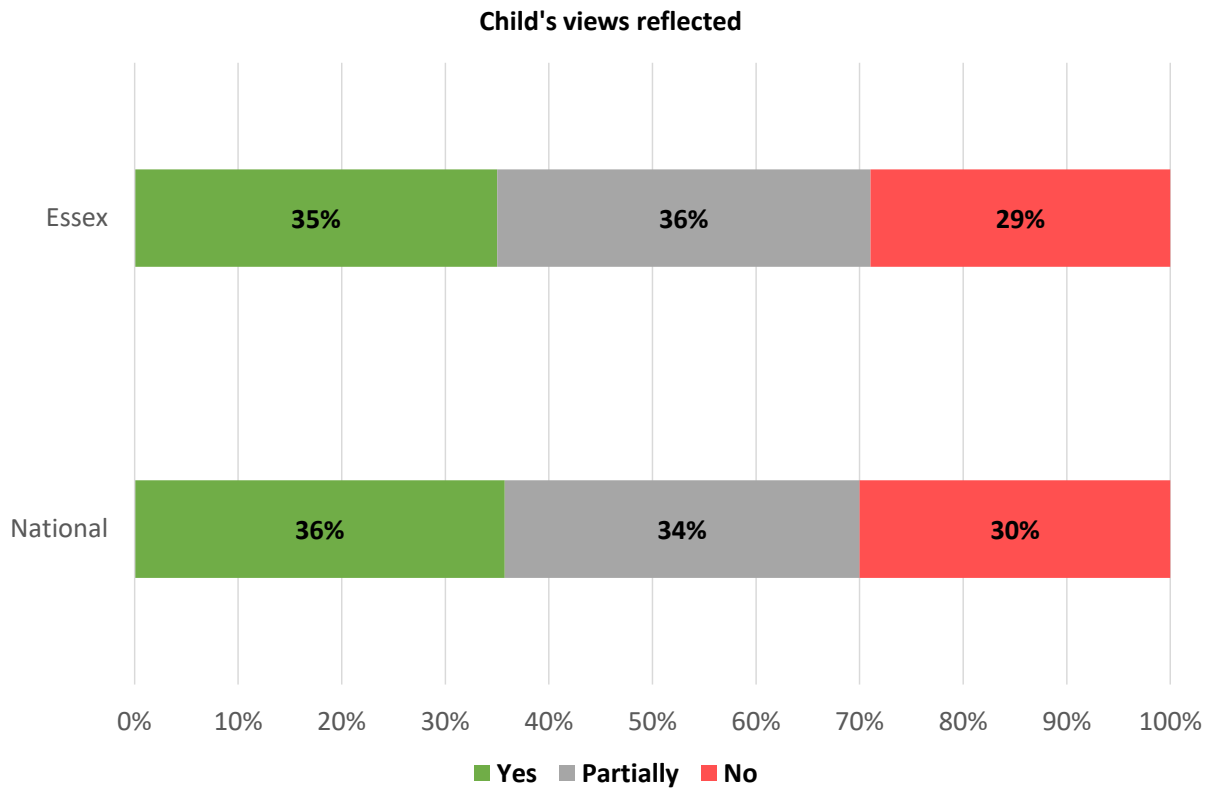
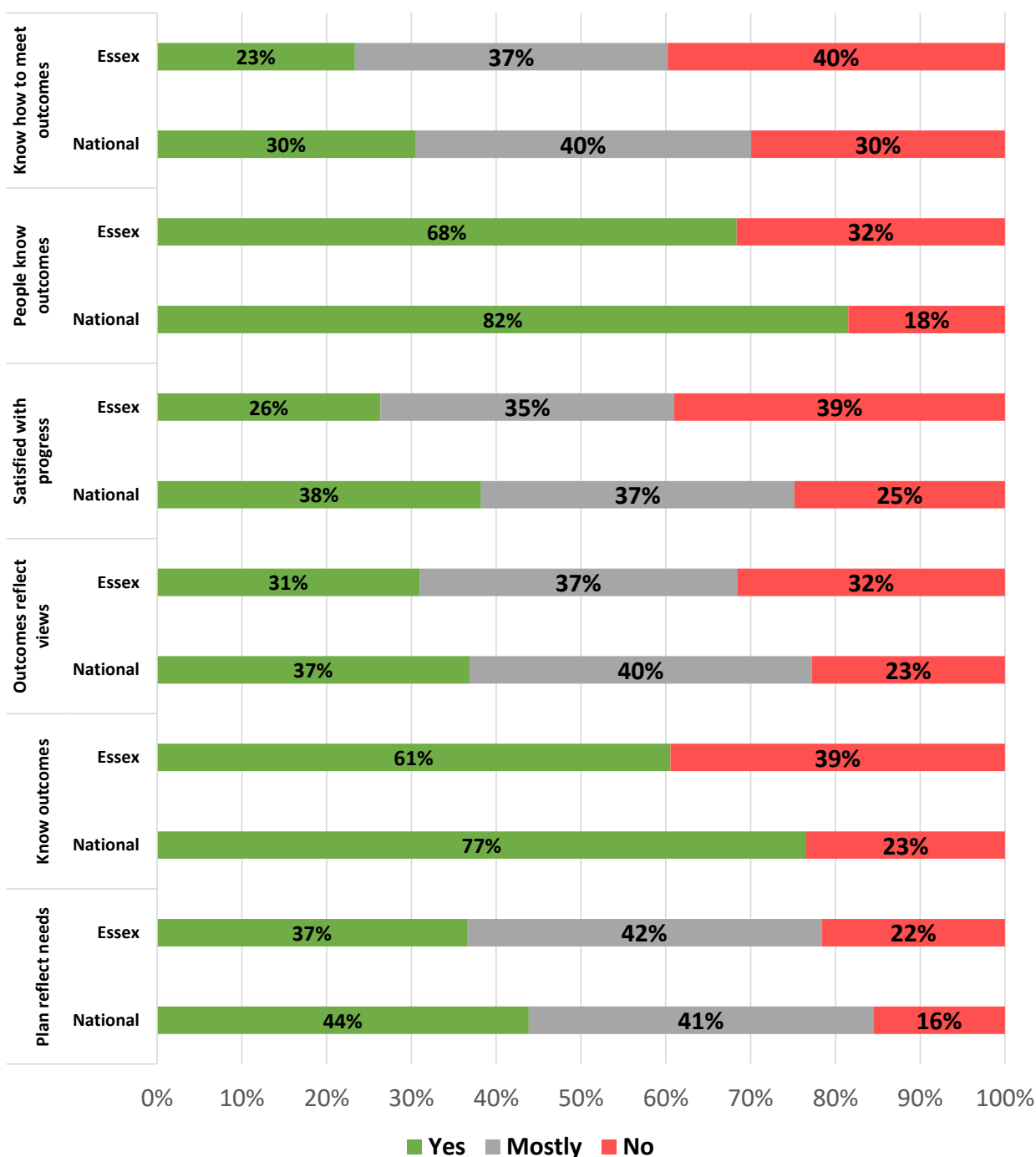


Figure 10. Were child's views included in the support plan?

The POET Survey asked parents a series of questions about their child’s outcomes, whether and to what extent they knew what outcomes were in their child’s support plan, how they were progressing and if any outcomes had been achieved. Just over two thirds of parents (68%) responded that the people who support their child know what the goals are in their child’s support plan, less than parents from other parts of the country (82%) and just under two thirds (61%) of parents knew themselves what their child’s goals were in their support plan, a lower proportion compared to other parts of the country (77%).

Just under a quarter of parents reported that their children had achieved outcomes within their support plan (23%) though just over a quarter (26%) reported they were satisfied with the progress they had made, lower proportions compared to other parts of the country; achieved outcomes (30%) and satisfied with progress (38%) respectively.



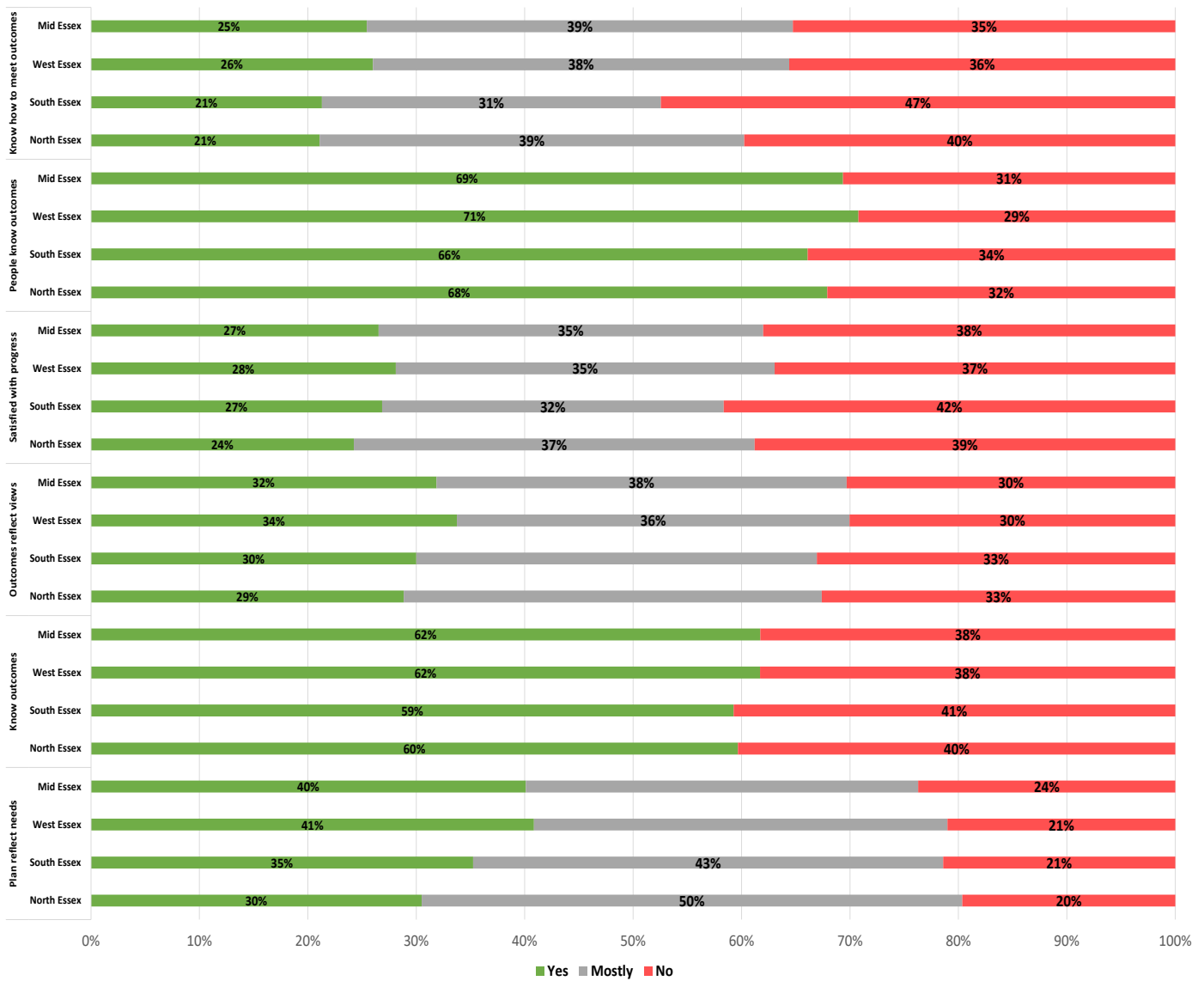


Figure 11. About children’s outcomes.

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.