Salford Parent Carer Forum

Annual SEND survey 2025

Viv Ormrod – Chair, SalfordPCF

Introduction

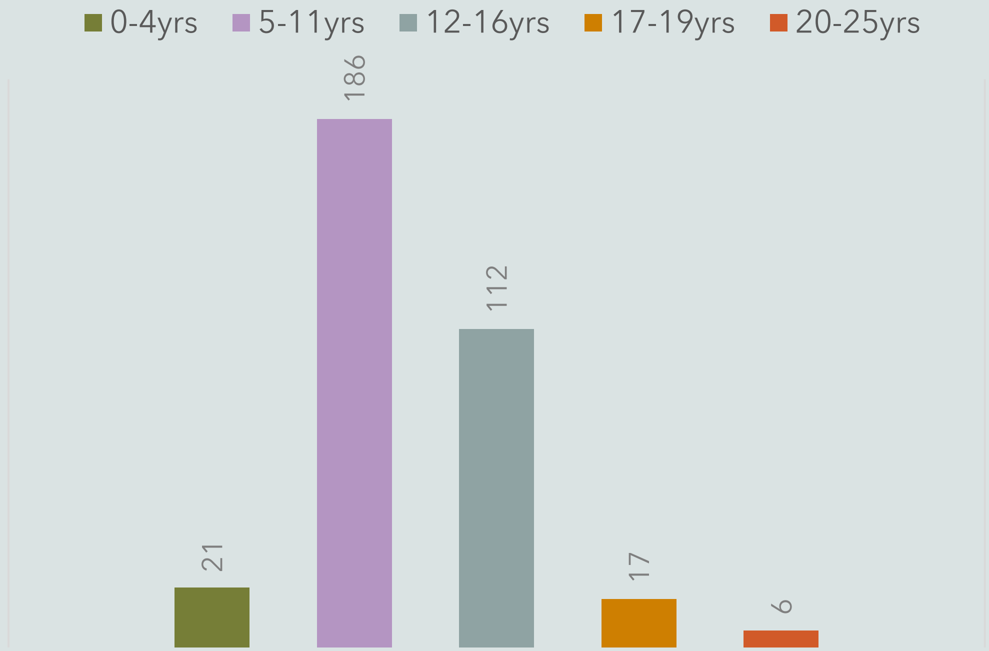
This is the 4rd year that we have successfully organised the Salford SEND Survey alongside the Salford's SEND Partnership.

The survey ran from the 22nd September until 31st October

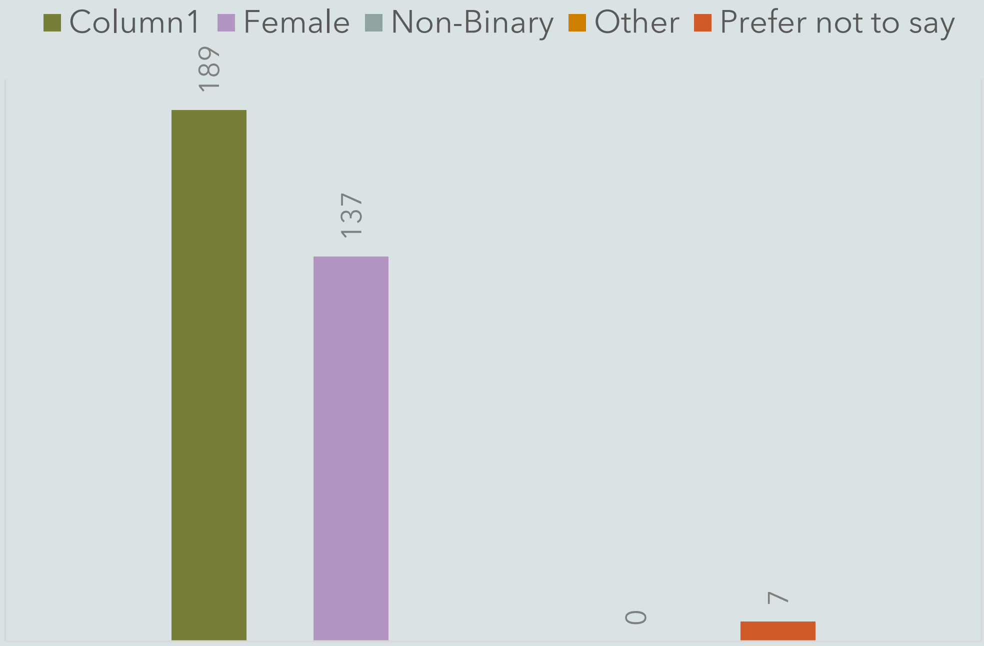
We received 343 responses.

Demographics

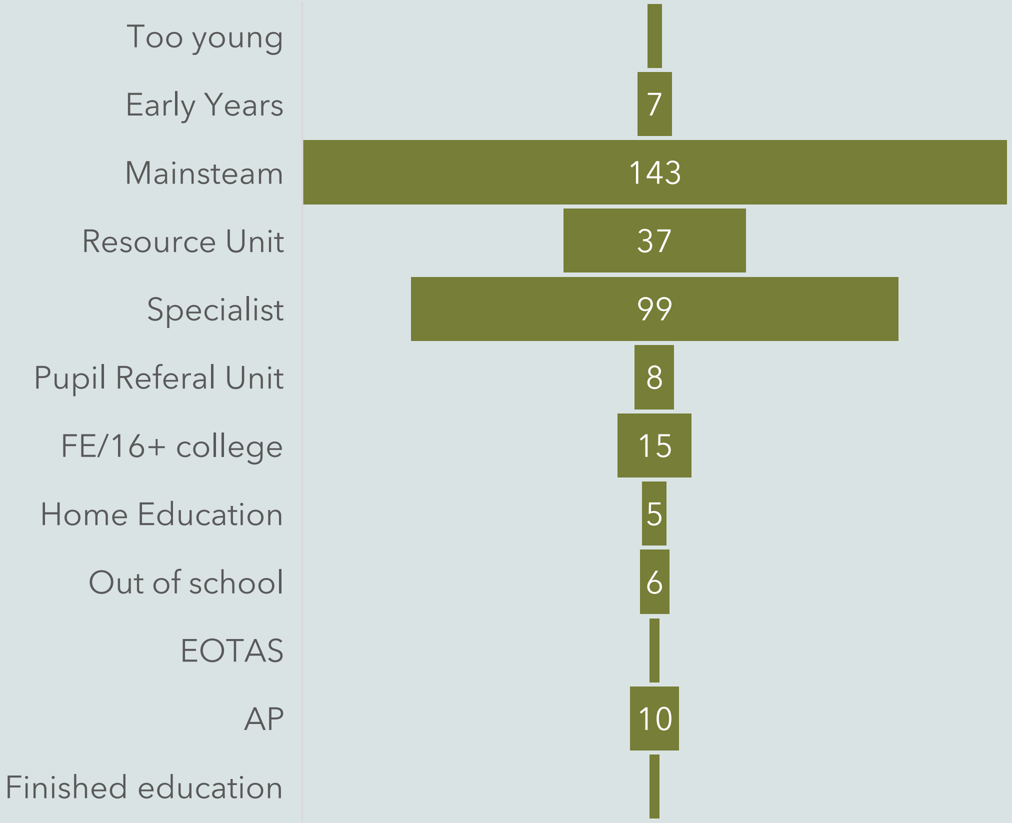
AGE GROUPS



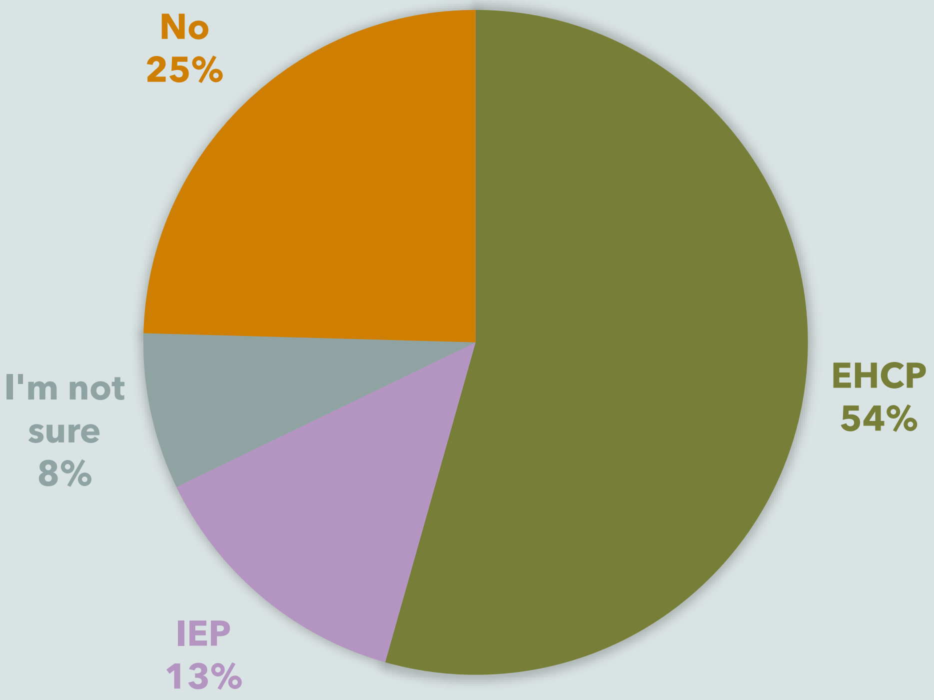
GENDER



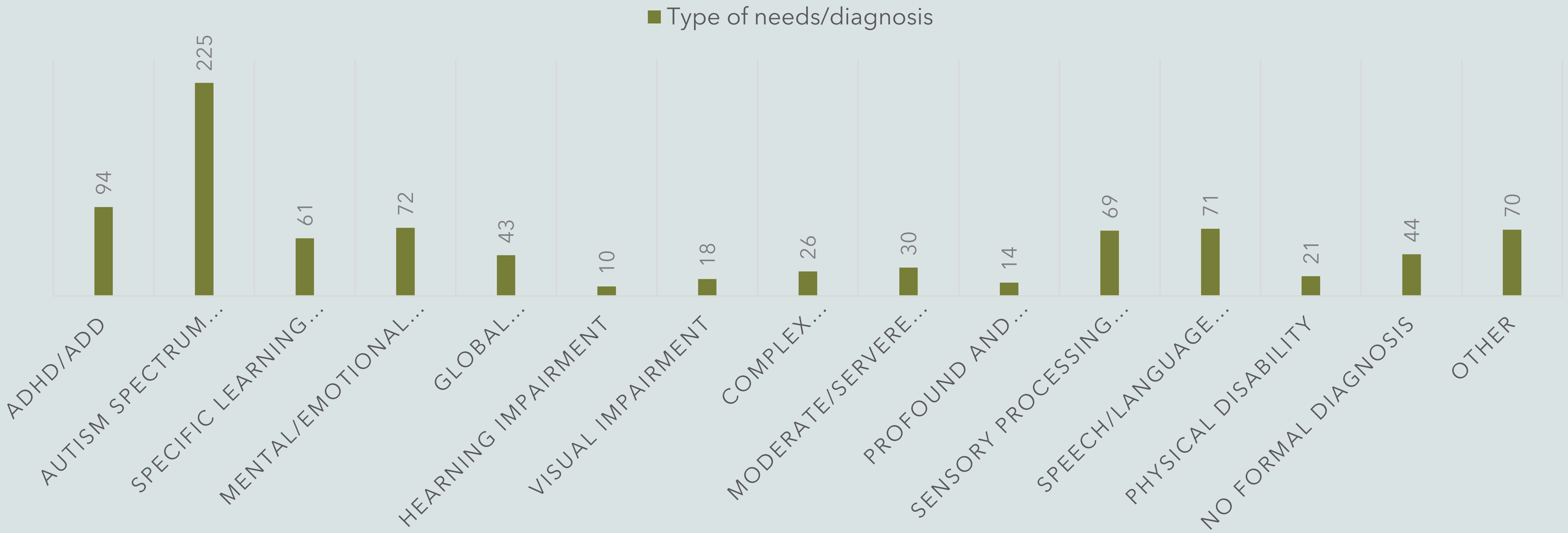
TYPE OF EDUCATION SETTING



DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

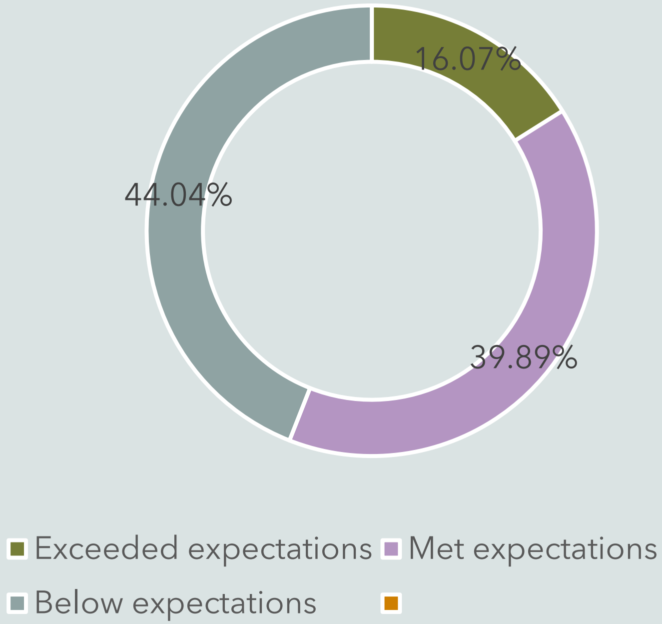


Q) What is your child's main area of need/diagnosis?

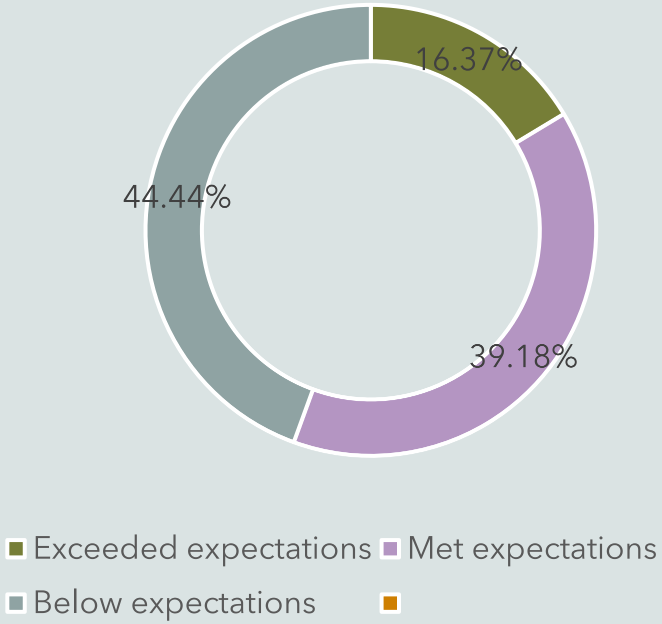


Q) How would you rate the SUPPORT your child/young person receives in SCHOOL?

2024



2025



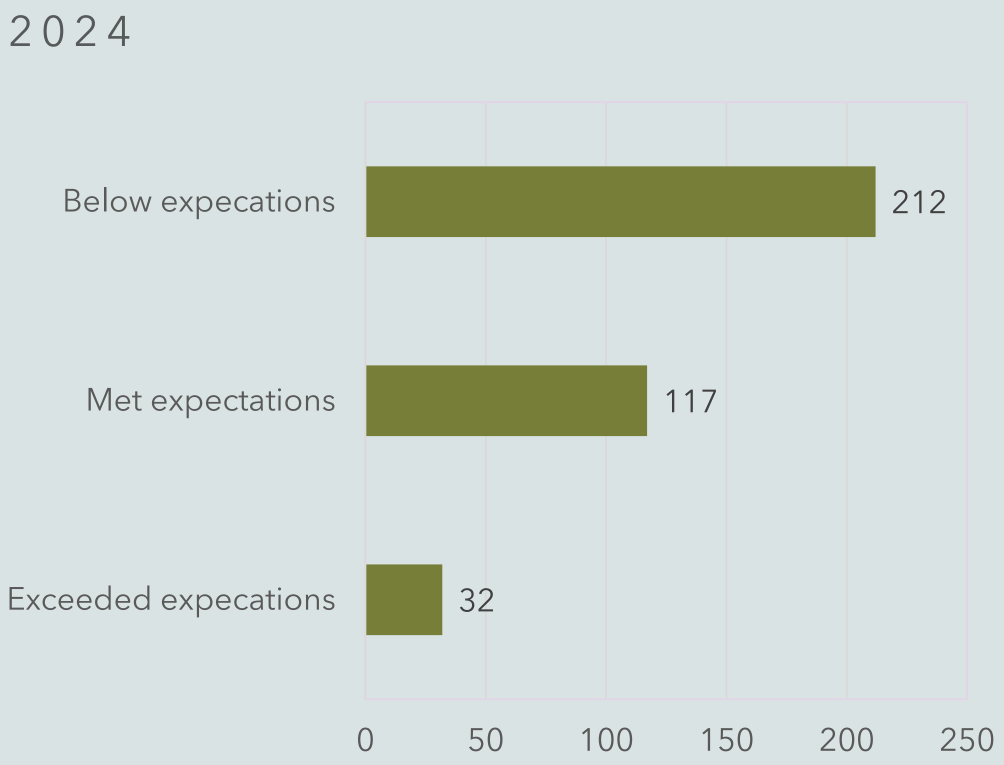
Parent Carer comments

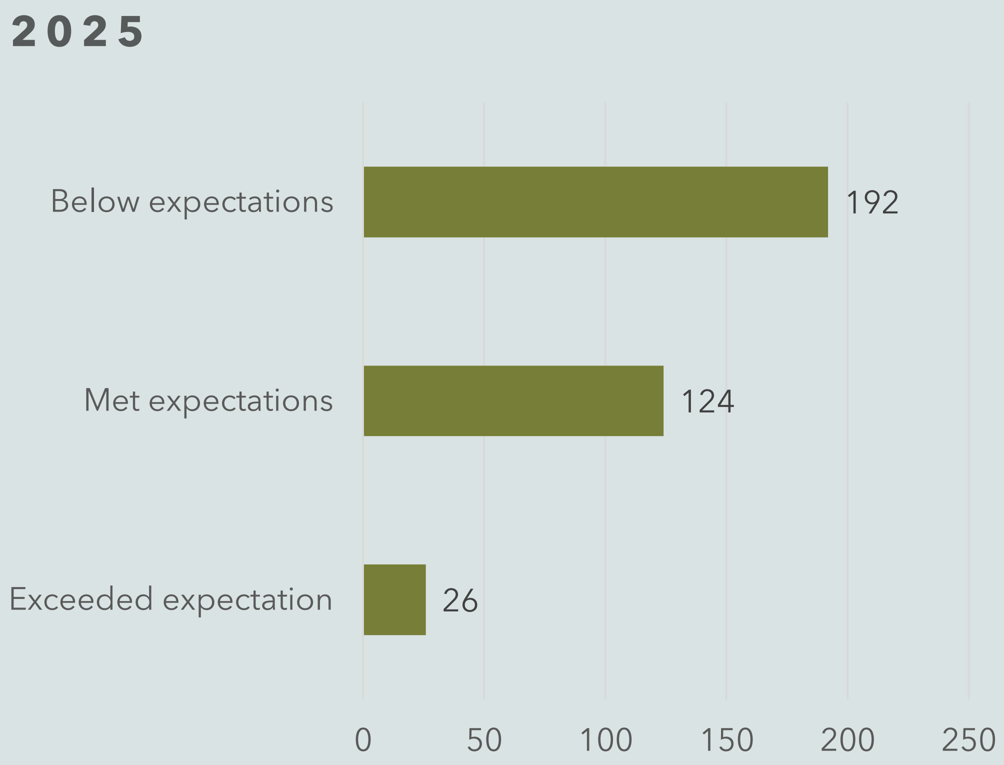
- School are able to actually lie about our children's support that they are actually recieving and they get away with it
- My daughter has autism, and in her EHCP it clearly states that she should have a 1-to-1 support teacher. However, the school has never provided her with any 1-to-1 support. She is treated just like the other children in the class, without the extra help she is entitled to. This is very upsetting because she has an EHCP plan for a reason, yet her needs are being ignored and her rights are not being respected.
- No understanding, not listening to parents/careres, teachers not on the same page, no leeway, seems to actually go out of their way to antagonist
- The school would not acknowledge a problem without a diagnosis but would not refer so had to pay privately. This was 12 months ago. We had his diagnosis 6 months ago and even after multiple meetings the basics have still not been provided.
- Considering my son has transitioned to high school this year - which is normally quite stressful - he has coped very well. Both primary school (Alde Brook PRU) and high school (Acer Academy) have been fantastic. The staff in high school are very supportive. Some of the support staff at the primary were less supportive and lacked the understanding of children with additional needs. The main class teacher however was wonderful.

Parent Carer comments

- Little contact from school SEN person, delay in starting a formal assessment and only happening when persistently contacting school SEN, this included evidencing differences in how certain Neurodivergences display between genders along with current criteria was formulated from usually males
- I have requested EHCP for my child and been told he does not need it as school can manage his needs, however teachers come to me regularly asking for support from myself to manage his behaviour in school as he is becoming unmanageable.
- I actually have no idea what support my son has at school or whether he needs any support

How would you rate the SUPPORT your child/young person receives from HEALTH? (for example: Occupational Therapy , Speech and Language, Pediatricians, CAMHS, 0-19 team)





Parent Carer Comments

“O.T was fantastic for my son, however again his school does not follow the recommendations of his care properly and failed to refer him to neuro pathway regardless of o.t assessing my child and noticing many autistic/ sensory struggles.”

“The wait times are so ridiculously long we had to go through right to choose to access a faster diagnosis but now we are left wondering what support there is.”

“Shocking, terrible. Passed from one person to the next and they still don’t help”

“CAMHS met expectations only because all they do is check my sons weight, height and blood pressure due to the medication he takes. I have asked about possible groups my son could join - willing to have children with additional needs- and they tell me they don't know of any.”

Parent Carer Comments

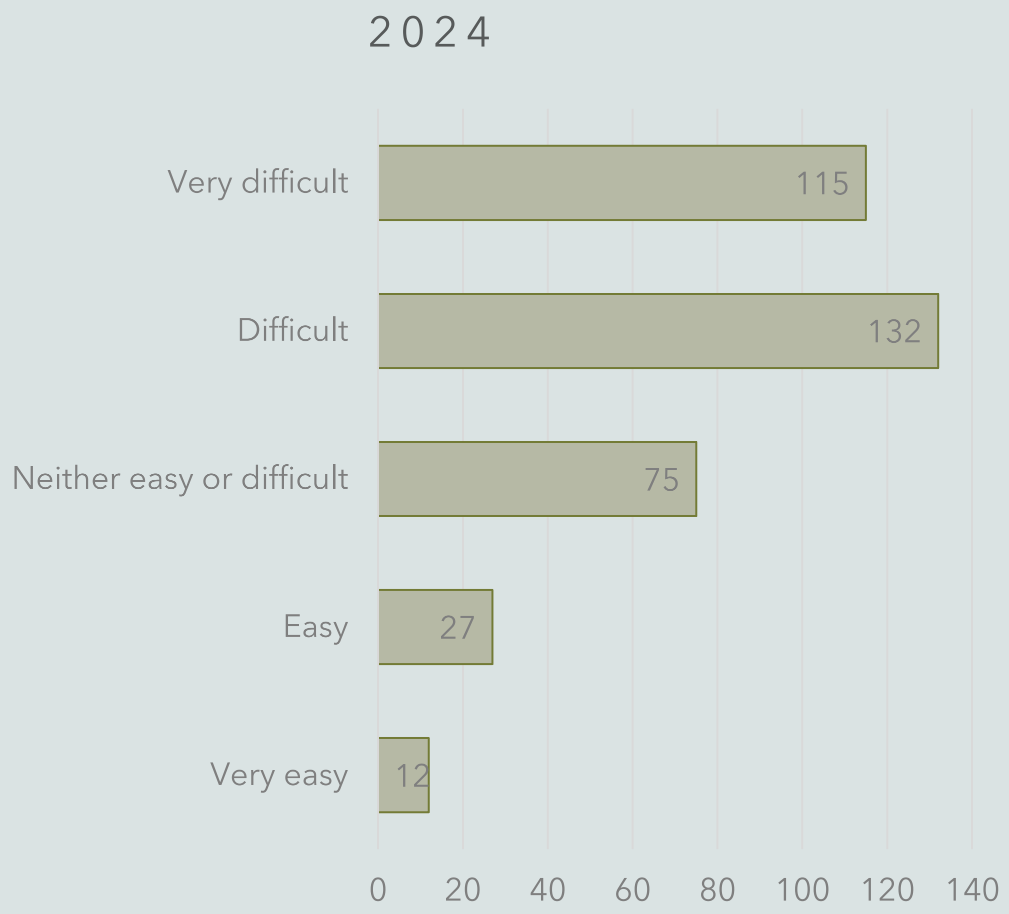
“Its every 6 months for our paediatrician appointments and there's no support in-between no help no guidance meanwhile my child suffers”

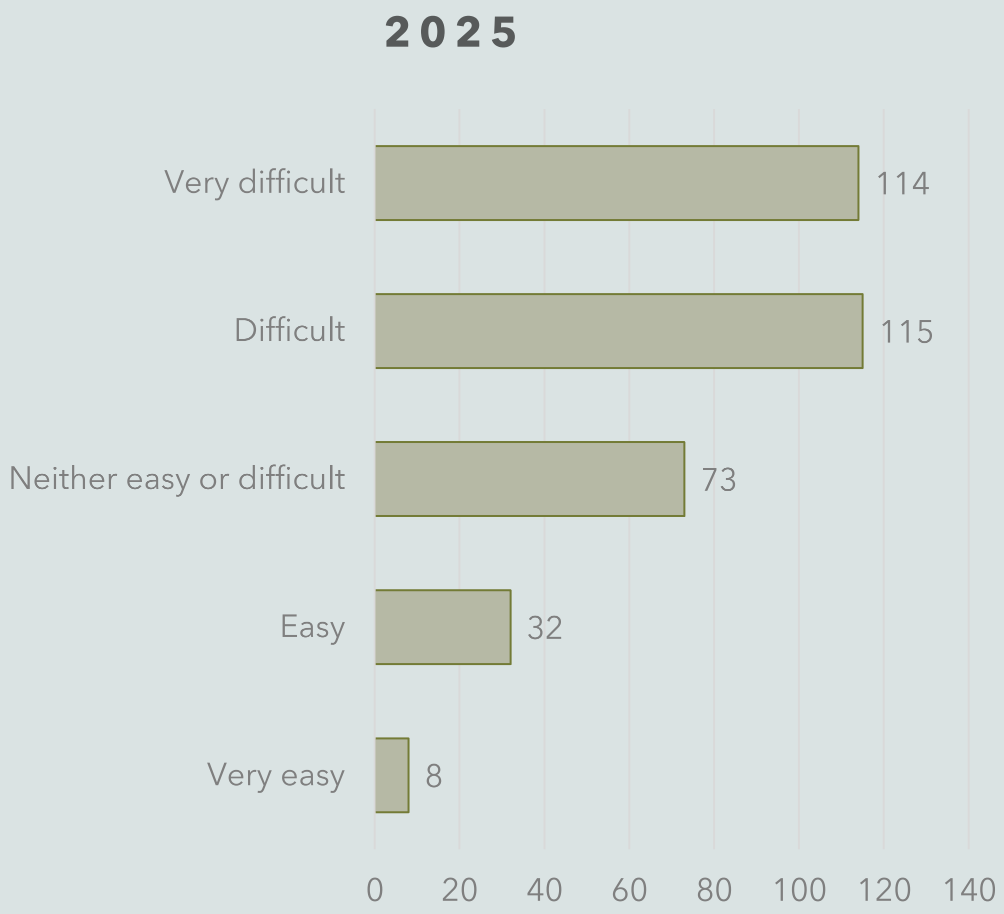
“The support he gets is helpful but it feels like a minefield to navigate - it's too difficult to know who deals with what aspect and I'm struggling now he has a diagnosis to get help with where to go next.”

“After initial diagnoses we have had little involvement with CAMHS. They have been responsive when I have requested specific info but generally there is a lack of information and signposting as to what I can continue to receive from them.”

“School nurses are great but once you get that diagnosis you get handed a leaflet and sent on your way. There is no support.”

How easy is it to access support for your child/young person?





Parent Carer Comments

“GP seems uninterested and not knowledgeable about ASD (keeps mixing it up with ADHD). Can't access Paeds or CAMHS because of long wait times in Salford. Feel really alone trying to get help for my child.”

“What support?”

“I feel we don’t get listened too. Even when asking for help from the drs I’m ignored because academically he is doing well. His emotional side is very bad.”

“I try really hard to find groups especially SEND groups which I have not found yet in my area”

“EVERYTHING IS A FIGHT”

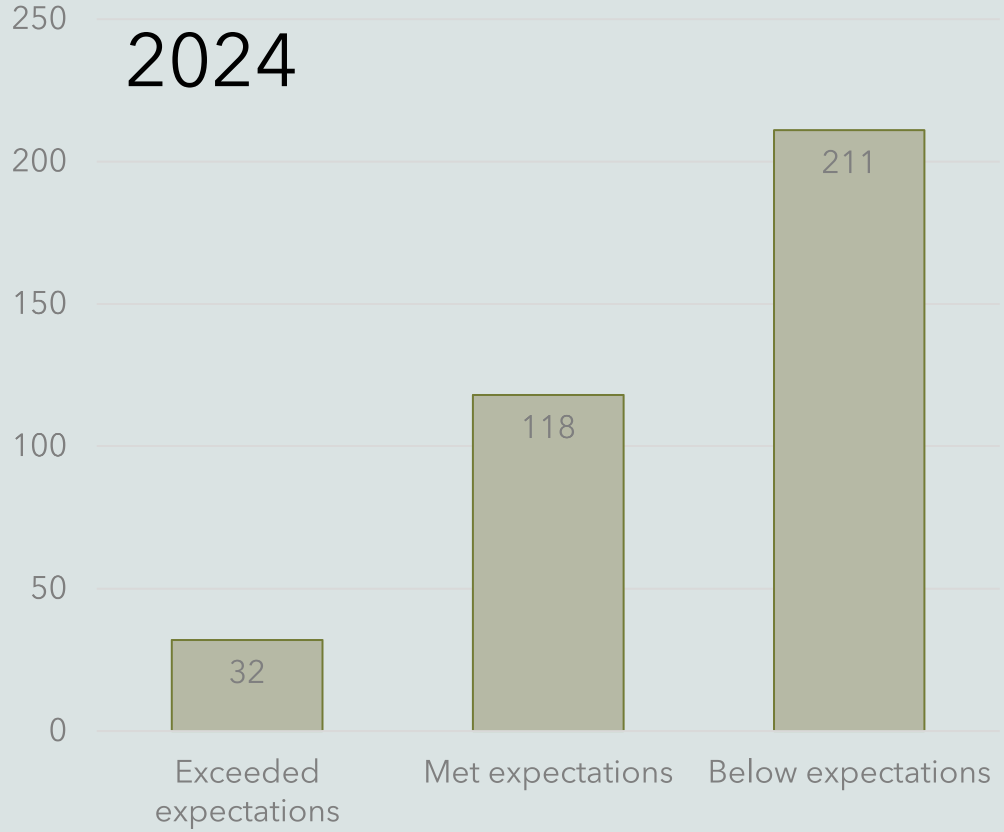
“Every service is overstretched they all just look for a way to pass you somewhere else”

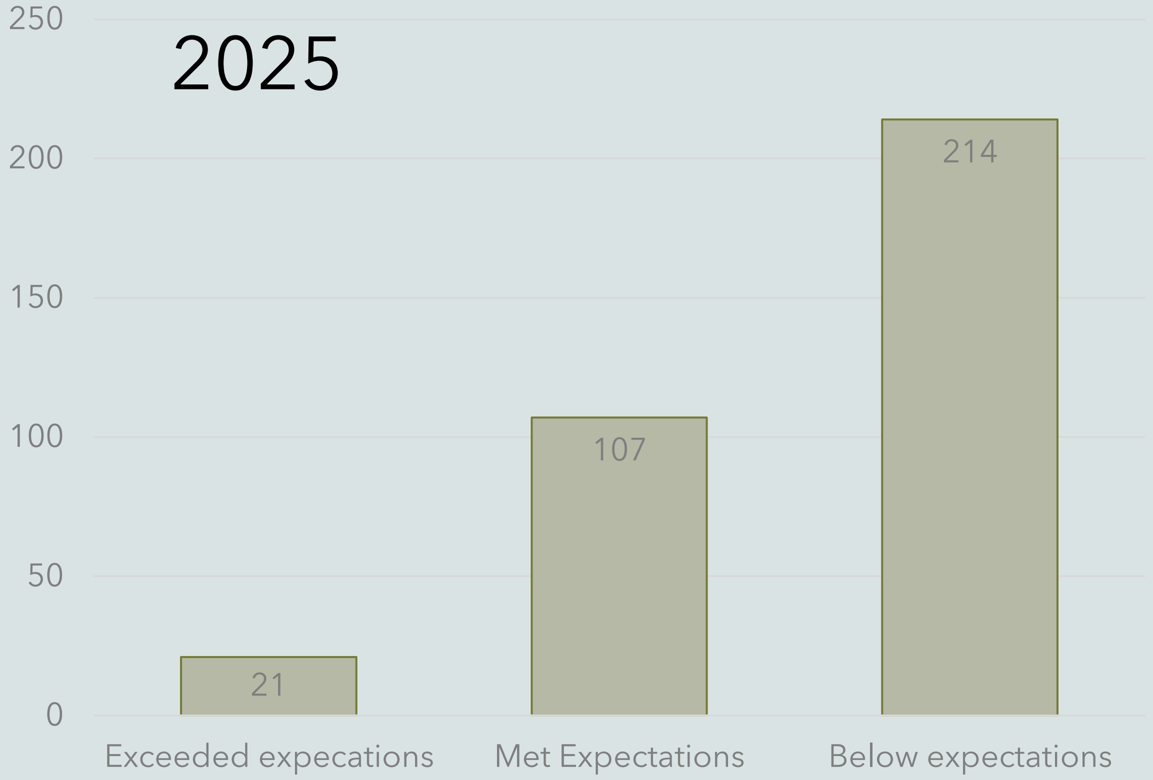
“I don’t know what support is available or even where to turn to to ask what support he can have”

Parent Carer Comments

"At every hurdle you're not believed. There are excuses. Then a long wait. Then going through the whole backstory with a thousand different professionals who do eventually get it. It's constant battling and advocacy and it's exhausting. And I say this as an extremely experienced SENDCo! So parents without the knowledge, experience and expertise must feel this ten fold."

Q) How would you rate the professionals (Health/School/Local Authority) and how they work together to support your child/young person?





Parent Carer Comments

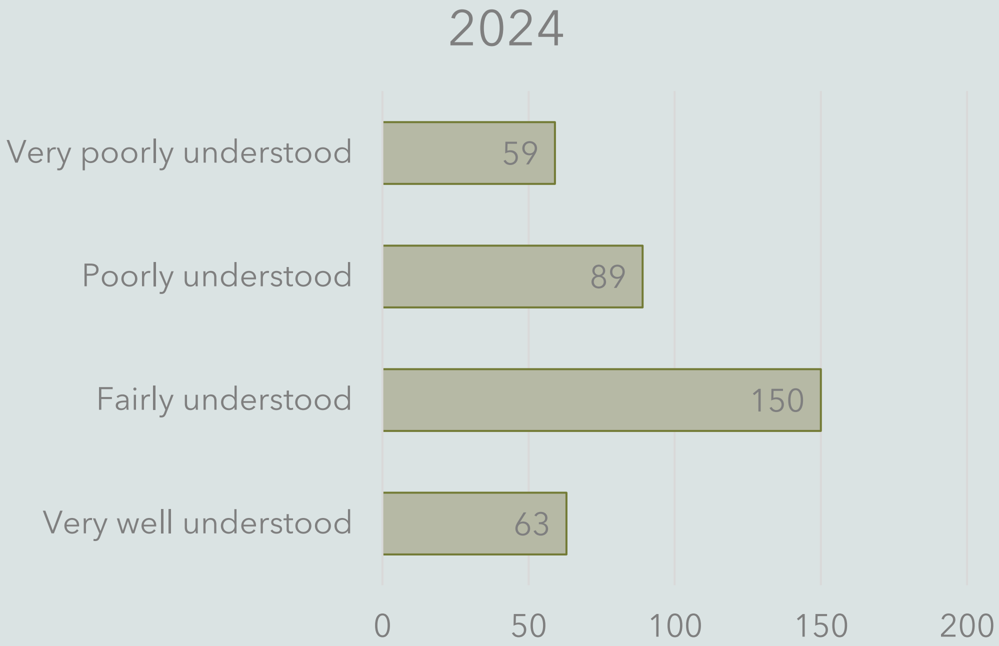
“It is rarely joined up and it seems that support is often only offered after a crisis but this is often unsuitable and/or short term”

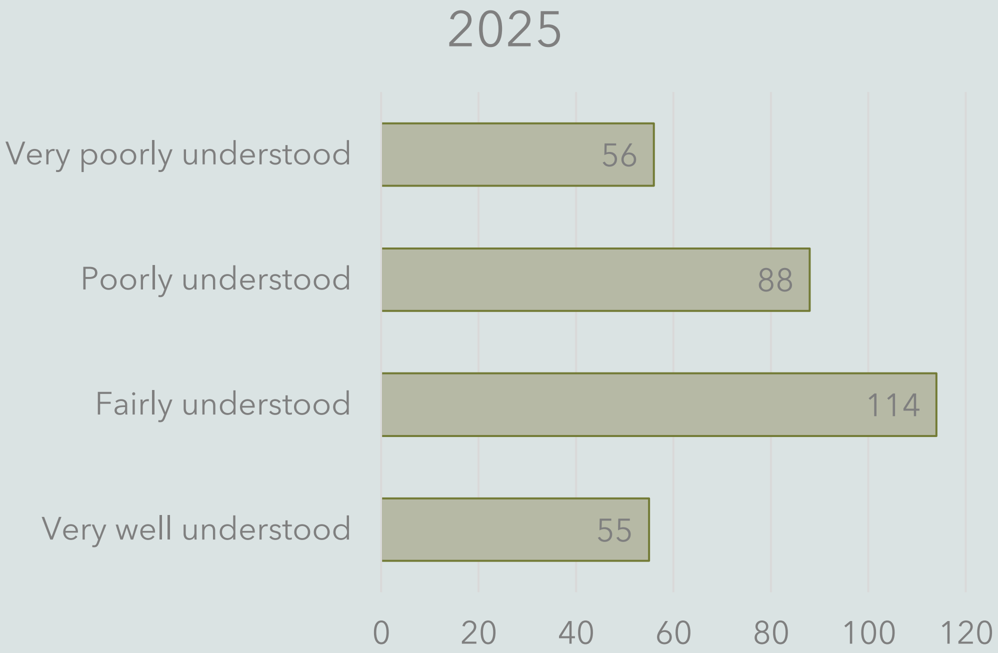
“Local Authority = Poor comms, shown no interest, do not attend meetings. Use out of date plans to make potentially life-changing decisions”

“It depends who coordinates , when it was Ed psych things moved more quickly, when it was the school it felt like wading through mud”

“Speech and school worked together well, and SaLT were amazing, lots of time to answer questions. Poor communication from anyone else”

Q) How well do you think your child's/young person's needs are understood by the professionals working with them?





Parent Carer Comments

“They’re not currently concerned about their needs, it's more what staff can handle, accommodate and think will be easier. Nobody is actually overseeing anyone.”

“Only because we paid private”

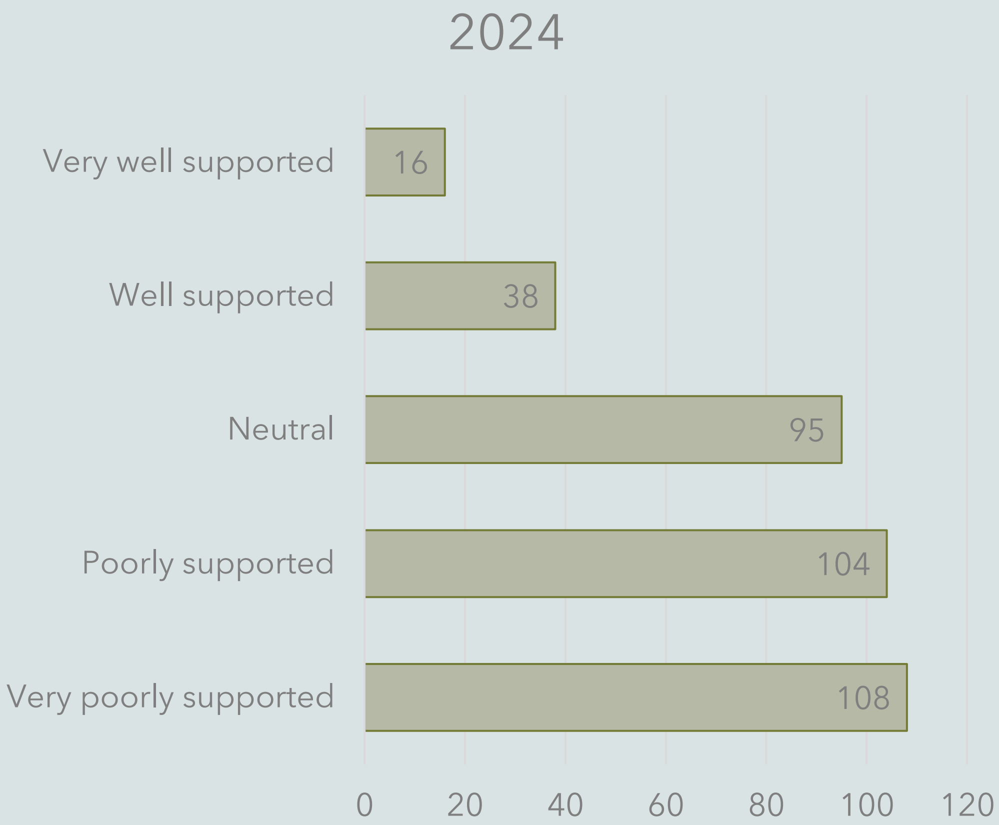
“School don't understand my child very well. Paediatrician and speech and language did understand him.”

“He is anxious most of the time plus he doesn’t like change yet the class he is in seems to like changing the room round weekly.”

“Educate, educate, educate, especially within teacher training”

“School have openly communicated that they do not know how to support him and have sought out guidance from the LA and they have been escalating the re-write of his EHCP etc.. but also receive zero response.”

Q) As a parent carer, how well supported do you/your family feel in relation to your child's/young person's Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?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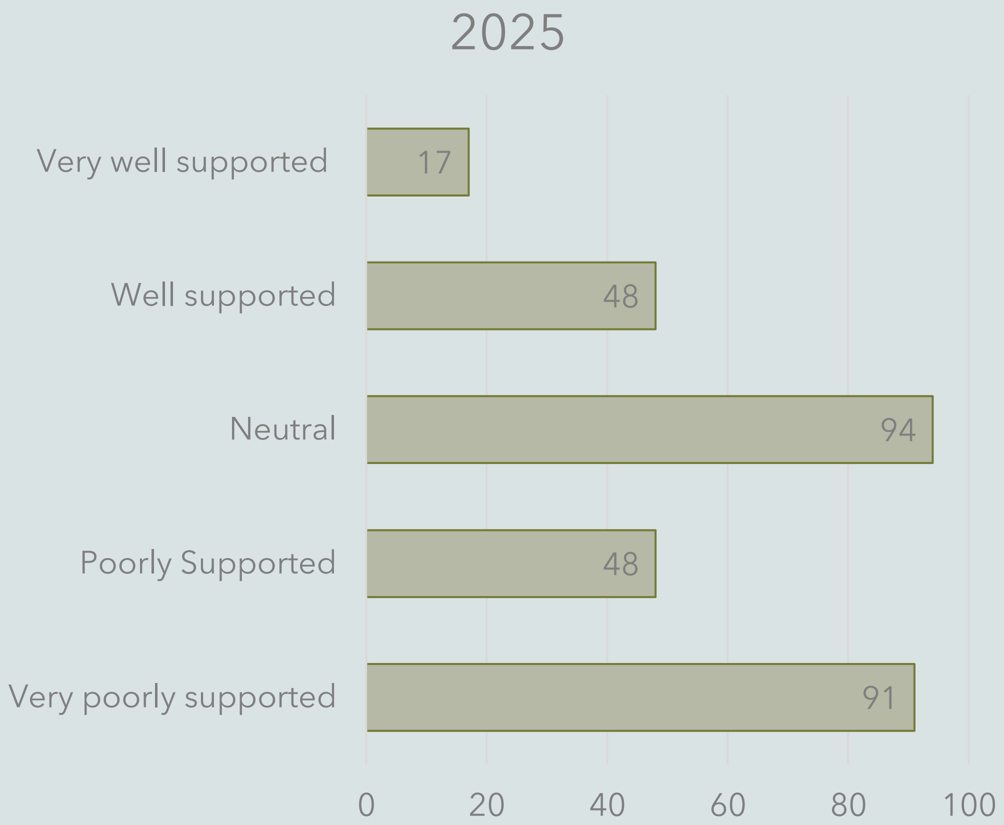

2025

Parent Carer Comments

“Ever since diagnosis and even before not one time has a professional reached out and supported our family. It feels like a battle to get help but I am battling at home daily already so I have no extra energy to fight for what is needed for my child. It's really disappointing”

“No support whatsoever!! What is the support that is available? I do not know!! What I know is we cannot handle the load anymore!!!!! Social worker is so great at sugar coating everything, these meetings are needed so we are all working together - I don't need stupid meetings, I need ACTIONS!!”

“Lack of support across the board and in the community. How is a single parent supporting a child with these needs suppose to work? We are pushed into poverty through lack of support.”

Parent Carer Comments

“Poorly. I have been blamed for my child's needs systematically. Some of the support has been extremely basic which I already knew.”

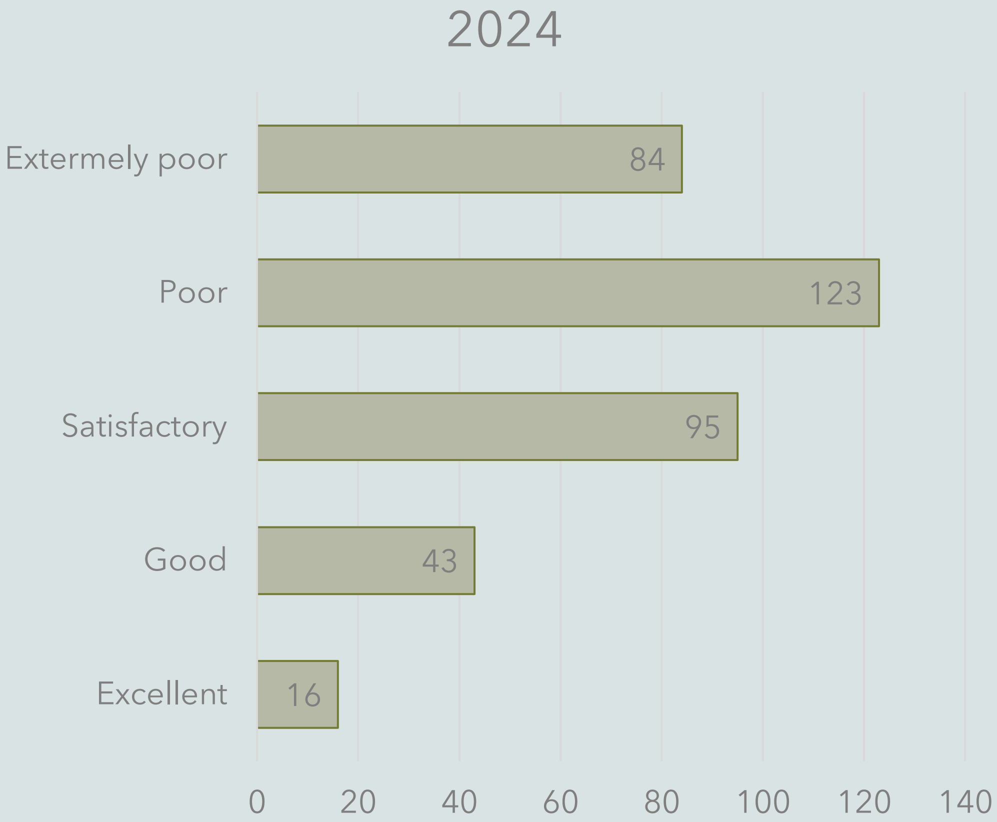
“It seems that the onus is on us to drive the help and we are flying blind. If there was a service like Early Help for the whole process or just what you do post-diagnosis it would be so much easier. It's a full time job trying to get him what he needs”

“Difficult to advocate for my child when professionals do not consider my child a priority”

“Again being proactive as helped me as alot of the information and supporting isnt very forthcoming or arrives to little too late.”

“No contact from anyone, completely isolated and lost in the system”

Q) How would you rate the leisure and social opportunities for your child/young person?



Parent Carer Comments

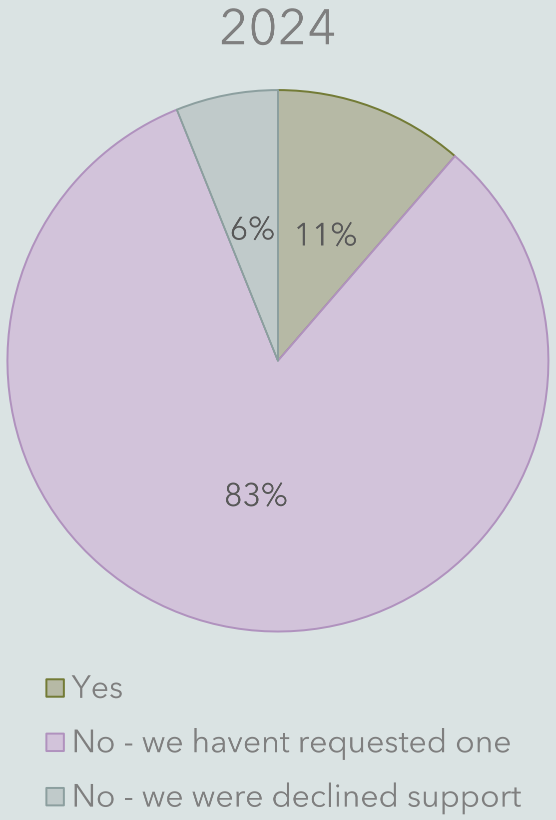
Whilst all groups and leisure facilities may say that they're inclusive, it's just words. They say it because legally they have to. My sons swims in the star fish class at Worsley leisure centre, but that is all because everything else is impossible to find! I run an after school club aimed at children with additional needs and disabilities precisely for this reason.

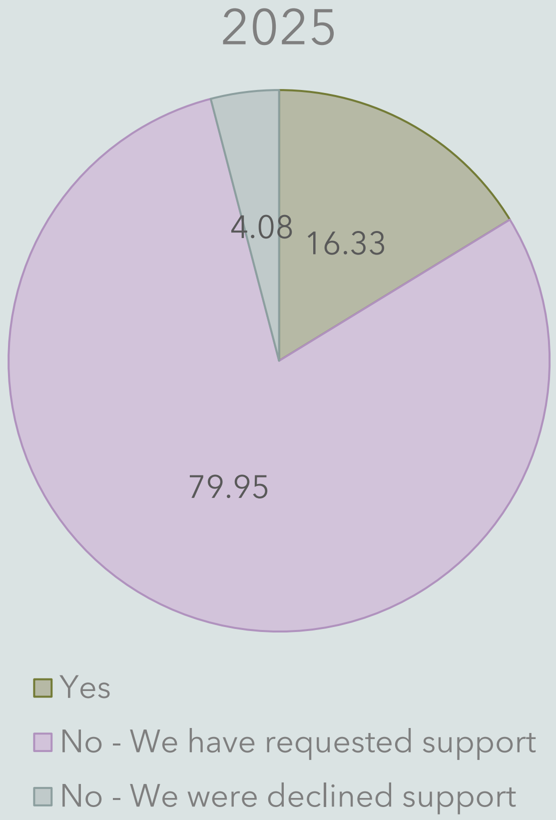
There is not enough opportunity locally

Can be hard accessing sen session as seem to be late sessions Unable to send to holiday clubs as need reassurance of staff who know my child

There isn't enough access for children with additional needs. Over the summer endorphins ran a poorly managed club/group which didn't have enough access to sensory play or play for children with Sen

Q) Have you access support from a Social Worker in the past 12 months?





Parent Carer Comments

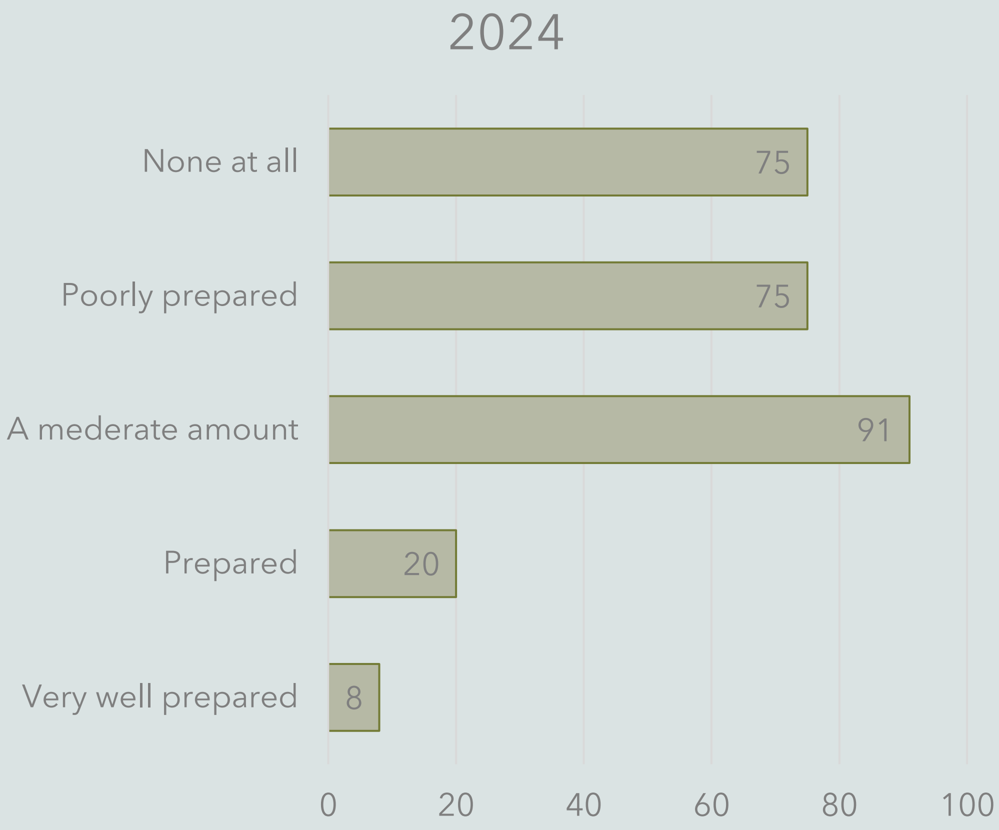
I reached out to social worker - I actually put a section 20 request and then a child in need referral. That was in June. Still to date, just talks! Says me I need to be on pathway for support, hence the meetings/ visits are needed. But no further action / actual therapy been provided, to relieve us of pressure and we are living under abuse simply put.

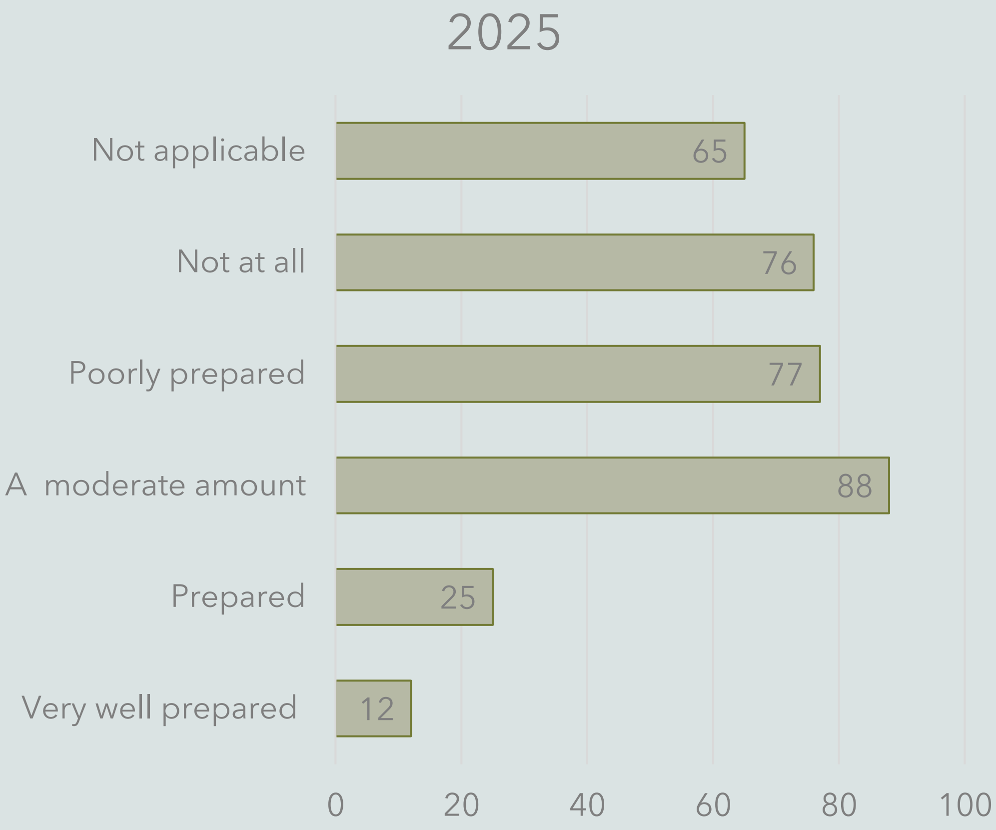
Social workers don’t “help” they come in and tell you what todo. There is no support from social services

Didn’t know we could get social worker support. No-one has told us anything.

Both parents work for Nhs. Feel like Social Services think, we should know about different Services/ Support.

Q) Do you feel your Child/Young Person is prepared or developing skills for Independent living, Employment, Keeping themselves healthy or being part of the community?





Parent carer feedback

“He hasn't got a clue”

“He is only 9 but I don’t think he had been taught the basics at school such as road safety or how to keep himself safe online.”

“I am teaching him this not the school”

“Yes, because we have taught him.”

“These skills require a two fold approach, starting at home and then within the education system, we learn maths but not money management, we learn cooking but not how to plan and budget etc. Yes parents are just as responsible as high schools but the emphasis on compulsory Physical education over domestic skills is questionable at best”

Q) Finally, is there anything you would like to share with us about your experiences of SEND?

“With the way he's at just 9 years of age, I absolutely worry, seeing behaviour deterioration over the years, when EHCP drafted at age 7 vs now 9.5 years old. May be it's with the co-morbid condition ASD come to light on top of ADHD, I'm unsure, but I cannot handle this load anymore as it's impacting all family, particularly I've to also consider my younger son who's 6 years old”

“Honestly I've felt extremely appalled. Being Nurodivergent myself I've expected at the very least some consideration for my children's struggles never mind support that they deserve and need, however this is also not happening.”

“Be human and not materialistic”

Q) Finally, is there anything you would like to share with us about your experiences of SEND?

“The wait times need to be significantly shorter to access help. After diagnosis there should be a team that reaches out to overwhelmed parents and guides them on what next steps to take. There seems to be lacking support for children who are not in nursery or school settings. These SEND children are falling through the gaps and need attention and support just as much as those in more formal school settings.”

“My son has only very recently at the age of 12 just received his diagnosis. 10 years in the making and I've had to fight for it. We've still had no follow up since diagnosis, There support whilst on pathway was non existent and school have only just started taking things seriously because of his diagnosis even though his needs are exactly the same”

“Lack of timely communication from local authorities”