

Increasing the hours of free early learning and child care provision.

An exploratory analysis of parents' views, on the
proposed increase to 1140 hours per year.



**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Contents

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	2
2. Introduction	5
Background	5
Aims and objectives of the current research	6
3. Discussion of results	7
Barriers to current use of the entitlement	7
Current use of childcare, reasons for the choice in child care, and reasons for using child care.	9
Views, attitudes and perceptions to issues in child care provision.	14
Preferred pattern for increased hours, and effect on work/life pattern.	16
Caveats, limitations, and mitigating actions	22
4. Methodology	24
Participants	24
Sampling method	24
Research instruments	24
Group variables and definitions	24
Data analysis	26
5. Results	27
Appendix 1: Informed consent form and questionnaire with responses:	37

1. Executive Summary

This report provides the analysis of an exploratory survey conducted by Education Analytical Services within the Scottish Government on the views of 4485 parents of 3 and 4 year olds on the proposed increase, by 2020, of free early learning and child care hours.

While the number of responses to the survey was high, the non-random sampling method effected the representativeness of the sample. The sample itself included relatively few of the following groups:

- Non-users of formal child care.
- Single parents.
- Households with no working adults.
- Households with low incomes.

Main findings

- Overall, 86.4% of parents reported that they currently used the free child care entitlement.
- The most often cited reasons for using child care was for their child's educational development, so that the parent could work, and so their child could interact with other children.
- The most commonly reported barriers to using the current child care entitlement was that they would still require some private child care to cover their needs. This was closely followed by reports of lack of availability of places within their area.
- The majority of parents also stated that they would like to be able to access more child care hours, and that they would like more choice in the type of child care available to them.
- Overall, the majority of parents reported that they found it difficult to afford the child care they need, with only one in five disagreeing that this was the case.
- When informed that the Scottish Government were proposing to increase the number of hours of free entitlement, the majority of parents stated that they would use the additional hours, fewer than 1 in 6 stated that they would not use all of the hours offered.
- The most frequently preferred option of extended child care entitlement was for year round early learning and child care, rather than only during school term time.
- The majority of parents would like to be able to access more child care hours so that they could work, train, or study. Parents in non-working households were more likely to state that they would use the additional hours to work, train or study, while parents in 2 parent working households were more likely to say that their work pattern would not change.

Barriers to use of child care entitlement

- The most cited barrier preventing use of the current free child care entitlement by those within large urban areas was lack of availability of places.
- Lack of availability of places was also commonly reported by non-users of the current entitlement, with over a quarter of those who identified as non-users of formal childcare reporting it as a barrier to them using the current entitlement.
- In contrast, only one in five non-users of formal child care reported not wishing to use the free entitlement as they preferred to look after their child themselves. Reasons for this were explored in the focus groups and there was a perception from some parents that 3 year olds were too young to participate in early learning.
- Parents from the focus groups also cited preferences for using private nursery provision as they saw the advantages private nurseries offered as: early opening, extended hours and year round coverage.

Current use of child care

- Respondents within low income households were more likely to report using local authority nurseries than those within medium or high income households.
- Those respondents within remote rural areas were most likely to report using the current free childcare entitlement, with those within large urban areas being least likely.
- In contrast, those within remote rural areas were least likely to report using a private or non-profit nursery, they were most likely to report using a child-minder on a weekly basis.

How parents intend to use the increased hours of free early learning and child care?

- Almost three quarters of households with no working adults either strongly or tended to agree that they would like to be able to access more hours of childcare to allow them to seek work, train, or study.
- Respondents within high income households were more likely to state that their work/life pattern would not change if the number of hours of childcare entitlement increased. This may reflect such households being more likely to consist of more than one working adult, working full time hours.
- Fewer than three in ten current non-users of formal child care stated that they would use none, or only some, of the proposed increased hours offered.

Use of informal child care

- While over 4 out of 10 parents reported using family and friends as child care on a weekly basis this varied across households. While the majority of households with 2 working adults reported using a family member or friend as child care on a weekly basis, a little over a quarter of households with no working adults, or 1 working adult did so.

- The majority of single parents (but not those in 2 parent households) either strongly, or tended to agree that they felt they placed too much of a burden on their family or friends for child care.
- While those within low income households were not more likely than high income households to report using family or friends as child care on a weekly basis, they were more likely to agree that they felt that they placed too much of a burden on them.

2. Introduction

The Scottish Government has pledged to increase the provision of free early learning and childcare provision to 1140 hours per year by 2020, for children who are 3 or 4 years old, as well for 2 year olds whose parents/carers are on qualifying benefits and are eligible for the 600 hours free entitlement through the Children & Young People's Act 2014.

Background

A brief history of early learning and childcare policy in Scotland.

- 2000 Standards in Scottish Schools Act places a duty on local authorities to secure a pre-school education place for all 3 and 4 year olds.
- 2002 Pre-school education introduced: 412.5 hours (2.5 hours/ day over 33 weeks/ year).
- 2007 Pre-school education increased to 475 hours (2.5 hours /day over 38 weeks).
- 2014 Pre-school education increased to 600 hours (five 3 hour 10 minute sessions per week over 38 weeks).

Current free early learning and child care provision.

Currently, free provision of early learning and child care is offered to all 3 and 4 year olds as well as vulnerable 2 year olds. As of August 2014, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act increased this free provision to 600 hours per year. This equates to around 16 hours per week during school term time. This free provision is delivered by a mixture of local authority nurseries, nursery classes attached to schools, partnerships offered by private or non-profit nurseries, and some child-minders. The 16 hours provision per week can be taken in sessions of between 2.5 hours per day and up to a maximum of 8 hours.

Local authorities are required, under the Children and Young People Act, to consult with parents every 2 or 3 years on the delivery of these free hours, ensuring that there is a reasonable degree of choice and flexibility.

Proposed increase in free early learning and child care provision

In the One Scotland Programme for Government 2014-2015¹, the foreword by the First Minister states that:

“In the years ahead we want to build upon that [current provision of free hours] to almost double the number of free hours to 30 hours a week of free childcare by the end of the next Parliament, and we will begin to plan for this expansion immediately”

This proposed increase in provision will not only cover all 3 and 4 year old children but also 2 year olds whose parents/carers are on qualifying benefits.

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/11/6336>

Aims and objectives of the current research

Education Analytical Services conducted an exploratory, information gathering, online survey on the up take of the proposed increase in free child care hours to 1140 hours per year, and how parents plan to use this increase. The purpose of the following report is to detail the findings of this survey.

The aims and objectives of this exploratory survey is to determine the following:

- How parents intend to use the increased hours of free early learning and child care?
- To what extent the intended take up of the increased hours of early learning and child care is determined by demographic factors (socioeconomic, rural or urban location, single parent or 2 parent family).
- To what extent the intended take up of the increased hours of early learning and child care is determined by current use.
- What are the barriers to using the free entitlement of early learning and child care?

In addition to this online survey, qualitative focus group research was commissioned, to provide detailed contextual information on the factors that influence child care choices for parents of 3 or 4 year olds. This qualitative research also examined the parents preferences for, and perceived impacts of increasing the hours of free entitlement. The findings of the focus group research are used throughout this report to corroborate with, and contextualise, the survey findings.

3. Discussion of results

Barriers to current use of the entitlement

Apart from those who stated that they used no formal childcare, the majority of respondents reported using the current free entitlement. While the overall use was 86%, each of the groups analysed had at least 8 in 10 of the respondents state that they used the entitlement.

Overall, there were three main barriers that were reported by non-users of the free entitlement (table 1). The most common barrier reported was that they would still need some private childcare (26%). This was closely followed by the lack of availability of places within their area (26%) and that their child is 3 but is due to start their free place at a later date (20%).

Table 1: Reasons for not using the free early learning entitlement

Q Why don't you use free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old child?

Base: Non users 501

	%
I would still need some private child care	26
Not enough availability of places within my area	25
Child is 3 but will not be able to commence free entitlement until a later date	20
Childcare providers are not flexible enough about hours of use	18
There is no free provision during school holidays	14
Myself/partner prefers to look after our own child	10
I do not qualify for other childcare costs support	8
I prefer for a family member to look after my child	4
I do not feel that local childcare provision is of a high enough quality	3
My child has additional support needs and I would not be able to access the quality of child care they would need	1
None of these or Other	19

The focus group research revealed similar findings, with some non-users of the current entitlement opting to send their children to private nurseries despite the fact that many do not offer funded places. The stated reasons for this was that they offer the required hours and flexibility in service, to cover the parent's needs.

The focus group research also found parents with a perception that three year olds are too young to participate in early learning, and that it is more relevant to a four year old in the year prior to starting at primary school.

Low, medium, high, and non-users of formal childcare.

Insufficient availability of places in their area was a commonly reported barrier by each of the levels of formal childcare use. Among the parents who stated that they used formal childcare, the proportion that reported this barrier increased depending on level of use, starting at 20% among low users of formal childcare, and doubling to 40% among high users. Of those who identified as non-users of formal childcare, 26% reported insufficient availability as a barrier to using the free entitlement.

Another barrier often reported by those who did not use the child care entitlement were that that they would still require some private child care to cover their needs. The proportion of respondents that reported this barrier increased alongside the level of formal childcare use. The third main barrier identified was that their child was 3 but was due to commence their free place at a later date. This was most reported by non-users of formal childcare, with the frequency dropping as the level of formal child care increased.

Not wishing to use the free entitlement as they preferred to look after their child themselves was a barrier particular to non-users of formal child care, with one in five (20%) reporting this. This may be due to there being a perception from some parents that three year olds are too young for early education.

Household composition

It is important to note that the number of households with no working adults was low, with only 147 parents identifying themselves as belonging to such a household. When investigating those who reported not using the free entitlement, the number dropped to 18 parents. Caution should be exercised when discussing the results from such low numbers as relatively high proportions can be identified that reflect the responses of only a few participants.

The main barriers reported varied slightly depending on the number of working adults in the house. As with the general trend, lack of availability of places was a common barrier regardless of the number of working adults in the house, however the proportion was highest among households with no working adults (39%).

The lack of free provision during school holidays was commonly cited as a barrier. This was a particular issue in households with no working adults (22%), and those with two or more working adults (18%). This was presumably less of an issue in households with only 1 working adult because in most cases the non-working parent in such households would take care of the child.

A number of parents within households with 1 working adult reported that they preferred themselves or their partner to look after their child (20%). This was less of a barrier among households with no working adults, or 2 working adults.

The need for some private childcare beyond the free entitlement was primarily reported by families with 2 or more working adults (29%) dropping off among households with 1 working parent and lower still for those with no working adults.

The most commonly given reasons for 2 parent households were the same as those for single parent households, with broadly the same proportions as the overall analysis. Single parents however, were considerably more likely to report that none of the possible reasons given reflected barriers important to them, and did not volunteer alternative barriers within the space allocated.

Household Income and benefit status

Those within low income households were somewhat less likely to report using the current free entitlement (80%) compared to medium income (87%), and high income households (88%).

Among those who reported not using the free entitlement, lack of availability of places was cited as a barrier for 36% of those within low income households, 24% within medium income households, and 25% of those within high income households. The need for private child care in addition to the entitlement was also reported as a major issue within low income households with 32% of those reporting this as a barrier to their use of the free entitlement. However, this was less of an issue within medium and high income households.

Households that claimed benefits reported broadly the same barriers as those that did not, with the same three barriers as the overall picture being the most cited reasons. One aspect that differed between the two groups were that considerably more non-benefit receiving households than benefit receiving households reported still needing private child care beyond the entitlement.

Urban/rural classification

Those living within rural and small town communities were more likely than those within urban areas to report using the child care entitlement.

The sample sizes for those who did not use the current entitlement within some of the sub groups, particularly small town and rural, was extremely low. Caution should be exercised when discussing the results of such a low number of respondents.

The main barriers given by each of the urban/rural subgroups broadly reflected the general picture with few exceptions. The main differences were among those within large urban areas, where a higher than average proportion (46%) reported lack of availability of places, and lack of flexibility among child care providers (24%). Those within remote rural areas were considerably more likely to report preferring themselves or a partner to look after their child, however it is important to note that this is a result reflecting a sub sample of only 22 respondents.

Current use of childcare, reasons for the choice in child care, and reasons for using child care.

Overall, on a weekly basis, the most used child care providers (table 2) were local authority nurseries (54%), Private or non-profit nurseries (42%), and a family member or a friend (44%). Of the other providers only childminders (15%),

playgroups (8%), and preschool (10%) were reported with a high frequency, though their use tended to be within specific subgroups.

Table 2: Summary of weekly childcare use.

Base: 4485 respondents

	%
Local Authority Nursery	54
A family member, friend, or neighbour	44
Private or non profit provider	42
Childminder	15
Preschool	10
Playgroup	8
Out of School Club	2
Breakfast Club	2
Creche	1
Children/Family Centre	1
Sitter Service	1

The most often cited reasons for the respondents choice in child care (table 3) was the reputation or recommendation of the provider (55%). Trust in the provider was also reported with high frequency both at an overall level (54%), and within all of the groups analysed. While the overall third most frequently cited reason for the choice in childcare was educational opportunities (50%), convenience was cited as a reason almost as often (50%) and was a main reason within some of the groups analysed.

Table 3: Reasons for choice of childcare provider.

Base: 4465 respondents

	%
Reputation/recommendation	55
Trust	54
Convenience	50
Educational opportunities	50
Social opportunities for child	44
Good quality/inspection report	42
Qualifications of staff	30
Reliability	28
Affordability	27
No other options were available	9
Availability of subsidies	5
Not Applicable (I do not use Child Care)	2
I don't know	1
Other	6

By a large margin, the most often given reasons (table 4) for using child care was so that the respondent could work (68%), for their child's educational development (72%), and so that their child could interact with other children (67%).

Table 4: Reasons for using childcare.

Base: 4479 respondents

	%	Non user % n=187	Low user % n=2636	Medium user % n=730	High User % n=772
For my child's educational development	72	39	79	66	61
So that I could work	68	49	57	91	92
So that my child could meet and interact with other children	67	47	73	60	56
Because it was available/offered to me.	26	7	35	13	9
Because my child likes spending time with the provider	24	18	25	23	18
So that I could look after the home/other children	12	12	14	9	5
So that my child could take part in a leisure activity	9	12	10	5	6
So that I could study/train	6	8	5	7	7
So that I could go shopping/attend an appointment/socialise	5	9	5	4	2
Because my child asked to spend time with the provider	4	4	4	3	2
So that I could look for work	3	5	4	2	2
Not applicable (I do not use Child Care)	2	24	1	*	*
Don't know	*	*	*	*	*
Other	2	3	2	2	2

* Above zero and below 0.5%

Low, medium, high, and non-users of formal childcare.

Almost all of the non-users of formal childcare used some combination of a family member, friend or neighbour, a child-minder, and playgroups for their child care on a weekly basis.

Of those groups that used formal child care the main providers reflected those found in the overall analysis. Where they differed was in the proportion of use. While low formal childcare users predominantly used local authority providers, this declined for medium and high users of formal child care.

In contrast to this, private and non-profit nurseries, were the principal providers of childcare among high and medium users of formal child care, with relatively few low users of formal childcare utilising these providers.

Trust in the provider was one of the primary reported reasons given for each of the levels of formal child care user as well as for non-users. The proportion that selected trust as one of their main reasons increased as level of formal childcare increased. Likewise reputation was important among all groups, though this was

less often reported as a main reason for their choice among non-users of formal child care.

Low users of formal child care were most likely to report educational opportunities as a reason for their choice, with non-users being least likely to report this as an important factor. Non-users of formal childcare were most likely to report affordability as a main reason for their choice. Convenience was more likely to be reported as a main reason for their choice among medium, and high users, than low users, and non-users of formal child care.

As with the overall analysis, (table 4) each of the user groups reported socialisation of their child, educational development of their child and so they could work as the most frequent reasons. Where they did differ however was in the proportions. Almost all high and medium users of formal child care reported their use of child care being so they could work, while low users and non-users cited this reason considerably less.

Within the focus group research, there was a perceptions of non-users, while recognising there are benefits from using early learning and childcare provision, felt that they were able to offer the same benefits to their child at home. Some non-users reported that they intended to send their child to nursery at the age of four to benefit from the early learning offered and to meet other children with whom they would subsequently attend primary school.

Household composition

The majority of respondents reported using local authority nurseries regardless of the number of working adults within the household. However, those with no working adults or 1 working adult, were more likely to report using local authority nurseries, and less likely to use informal child care such as family and friends. Households with 2 working adults tended to rely more on private and non-profit providers, and family members and friends for regular child care. The majority of households with 2 working adults reported using a family member or friend as child care on a weekly basis.

Educational opportunities was one of the main reasons cited across households regardless of composition. Both households with 1 working adult, and 2 or more working adults, reported reputation/recommendation and trust as being two of their main reasons. Households with no working adults were more likely to report social opportunities and convenience as the main reasons for their choice in child care, however.

With the exception of households with no working adults, the main reasons cited for using child care reflected the overall analysis. Households with 1 working parent and 2 or more working parents both reported a primary reason for using child care was so that they could work. Only around one in five households with no working adults, however, reported using child care so that they could seek work. Households with no working adults were considerably more likely than those with working adults to report using child care simply because it was offered to them.

There was little difference between single parent and 2 parent families in their choice in child care: the main providers chosen reflected those found in the overall analysis and the differences in proportions were very slight, typically varying between 1 and 4%.

Regarding the reasons for their choice in child care, there was little variation found between 2 parent, and single parent households. Both reported trust, educational opportunities, and reputation/recommendation as the main reasons for their choice. Likewise, the reasons for using child care were broadly similar to the overall analysis regardless of whether the respondent was from a single parent or 2 parent family.

Parents in the focus group research reported that local authority provision is not flexible enough for many of them, in particular those who work – or who wish to work – full time or even part time.

Those parents who reported using private nursery services tended to be working full time, although a few worked part-time. Their key reason for choosing this form of early learning and childcare was that they needed the flexibility offered by private nurseries. The advantages reported included early opening, extended hours and year round coverage.

Household Income and benefit status

Choices in providers of weekly child care did not differ a great deal across income groups. The same three main providers were reported, although the frequencies differed across the income groups. Those within high income households were more likely to select private or non-profit providers (55%), than medium (36%), or low income households (24%).

Those within low income households were more likely to report using local authority nurseries (64%), than medium income households (58%), or high income households (46%). The use of a family member or friend was reported by a fairly large proportion of respondents in all categories ranging between 39% for low income households, and 46% for medium income households.

Those within households with low, medium and high incomes gave the same main reasons for their choice of child care, reflecting the overall pattern. This was also true for both those households that were in receipt of benefits and those that were not. Trust in the provider, reputation, and educational opportunities were the most often given reasons by those in each of the household income groups, as well as both households in receipt, and those not in receipt of benefits.

The main reasons reported for using childcare are the same across the income groups. Educational development and interaction with other children was reported by each group in similar proportions to the overall analysis. The proportion that reported 'so I could work' as a reason varied considerably depending on household income, with those within low income households reporting it as a main reason less frequently (49%) than medium (66%) and high (76%) income households.

There was little difference in choice of child care between households that received benefits and those that did not. A slightly higher proportion of respondents that received benefits reported using local authority nurseries, and family or friends for child care. Those that did not receive benefits were slightly more likely to report using private or non-profit providers.

The reasons for their particular choice in child care and for choosing to use child care were broadly similar to those reported in the overall analysis with only very slight differences in the proportions.

Urban/rural classification

The three main providers of weekly child care were the same across all classifications, both urban and rural. The proportions of those that used local authority nurseries were lowest within large urban areas and highest within remote rural areas. The use of private and non-profit providers was inversely proportionate to local authority providers, with those within large urban areas being most likely to report using these providers and those within remote rural areas being least likely.

Family members and friends were used to a similar degree across most areas. The exception to this were those living in other urban areas where the majority of respondents reported using this form of informal child care on a weekly basis. While those from remote rural areas were least likely to report using private providers they were most likely to report using a child-minder.

Trust in the provider, and educational opportunities were reported as main reasons for the respondents choice in child care across all urban/rural classifications to a similar level as the overall analysis. While reputation of the provider was reported as being an important factor in all regions, those living in remote rural areas were more likely to report convenience as being an important reason for their choice.

The three main reasons for using child care were the same across all levels of urban/rural classification. Those within small towns and rural areas however, were less likely to report using child care so they could work. The proportion of those reporting educational development and interaction with other children increased as the location moved from urban to rural areas.

Parents in the focus group research, that lived in rural areas felt that those living in urban areas would have more choice in child care. Regardless of location, parents felt they were offered a relatively limited choice in early learning and childcare services.

Views, attitudes and perceptions to issues in child care provision.

Overall, the majority of respondents reported that they either strongly agreed or tended to agree (table 5) that they found it difficult to afford the child care they need, with only one in five disagreeing that this was the case. The majority of respondents also either strongly agreed, or tended to agree, that they would like to be able to access more child care hours, and that they would like more choice in the type of child care available to them.

There was a fairly even split between those who agreed, or disagreed (either strongly or tended to) that they felt they placed too much of a burden on family and friends. While more either strongly or tended to agree both that child care providers were not flexible enough about hours, and that they would like access to formal care outside working hours, this was less than the majority of respondents.

Table 5: Attitudes towards childcare provision.

Base: 4485 respondents	% Agree	% Neither	% Disagree	% Don't know
I would like to be able to access more childcare hours to allow me to work/train/study.	67	12	20	1
I would like more choice in the type of child care available to me.	60	20	18	2
I find it difficult to afford the child care that I need.	59	18	21	2
Child care providers are not flexible enough about hours of use.	49	21	29	4
I would like to access formal care such as nurseries, outside normal working hours.	44	21	33	2
I feel that I place too much of a burden on family and friends for child care.	42	16	41	1

Low, medium, high, and non-users of formal childcare.

High users of formal child care were most likely to either strongly or tend to agree that they found it difficult to afford the child care that they need. The tendency to agree with this reduced as the level of formal child care reduced, with non-users of formal child care being least likely to agree. This pattern was also evident when asked if whether they agreed that they would like to use formal child care outside working hours, with the majority of high users of formal child care either strongly or tending to agree with this statement.

The majority of medium users of formal child care either strongly, or tended to agree that child care providers were not flexible enough about hours of use, however the proportion was lower among high and low users, and lowest among non-users.

Within each category of formal child care use, as well as non-users, the majority of respondents agreed that they would like to be able to access more hours of child care to allow them to work, train or study.

Within the focus group research parents felt that the cost of early learning and childcare could be very expensive, with some non-users noting that it is prohibitive. Some users claimed that this was a key reason why they were not accessing more than the funded 16 hours of childcare a week.

Household composition

The responses to the attitudinal statements broadly matched the overall analysis regardless of the number of working adults in the home. The exception to this was that a higher proportion of those within households with no working adults either strongly, or tended to agree, that they would like access to more child care hours to allow them to work, train, or study. Almost three quarters of those within such households responded in this way. This suggests that within households with no working adults, the low number of hours of free entitlement is a strong barrier preventing employment.

Those within single parent households were more likely to strongly, or tend to agree with all of the attitudinal statements than those within 2 parent households. The majority of single parents also either strongly or tended to agree that they felt they placed too much of a burden on family and friends for child care and that they would like to be able to access formal child care outside of normal working hours. The majority of single parents also strongly agreed that they would like to be able to access more hours of child care to allow them to work, train, or study.

Household Income and benefit status

While the majority in each category of household income either strongly or tended to agree that they found it difficult to afford the child care they needed, the proportion reduced as the level of income increased. The same pattern was evident when asked if they agreed or disagreed that they would like to access more hours of child care, and that they would like more choice in the types of childcare available.

The majority of those within households with a low income either strongly or tended to agree that they felt they placed too much of a burden on family and friends for child care. The proportion that responded in this way reduced as income increased, and was not a majority in any other category of household income. The statements that were agreed with by the majority of respondents in the overall analysis was consistent regardless of whether their household was in receipt of benefits or not. The proportion of respondents within households that received benefits however, were slightly more likely to either strongly or tend to agree with the statements.

Urban/rural classification

The majority of respondents either strongly or tended to agree that they found it difficult to afford the child care they needed, this was true for all urban/rural areas except for those within remote rural areas.

For each of the three statements that were agreed with by the majority in the overall analysis, a lower proportion of those within remote rural areas either strongly or tended to agree.

Preferred pattern for increased hours, and effect on work/life pattern.

When respondents were told that the Scottish Government were proposing an increase in the free entitlement and then asked which option they would most likely

consider (table 6), only 15% stated that they would not use all of the hours offered. Overall, the most frequently selected option was year round over 50 weeks (41%). This preference was true for almost every group analysed, suggesting that year round child care was a common need. The second most frequently preferred option was term time only, covering the 9 am - 3 pm school day (21%).

Table 6: Preferred option for increased hours.

Base: 4465 respondents	%
Year round – e.g. 22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks	41
Term time only - 6 hours/day, 5 days a week (covering the school day, 9am-3pm)	21
Term time only but a different pattern of hours to suit your needs (e.g. 3 or 4 days per week but longer days)	18
I do not think I will use any of the free child care hours	5
I would only like to use some of the additional hours offered	10
I don't know	3
Other	2

When asked how the increase in free child care entitlement would affect their work/life pattern (table 7), the most popular option overall was that they would use the time to work more hours (38%). The second most popular option however was that their work/life pattern would not change (31%).

Table 7: How increased hours would change their work life pattern

Base: 4230 respondents	%
I would use the time to work more hours	38
My work/life pattern would not change	31
I would use the time to seek out part time work	10
I would use the time to study	4
I would use the time to seek out full time work	4
I would lower my hours at work	2
I would use the time for voluntary or community work	2
I don't know	2
Other	7

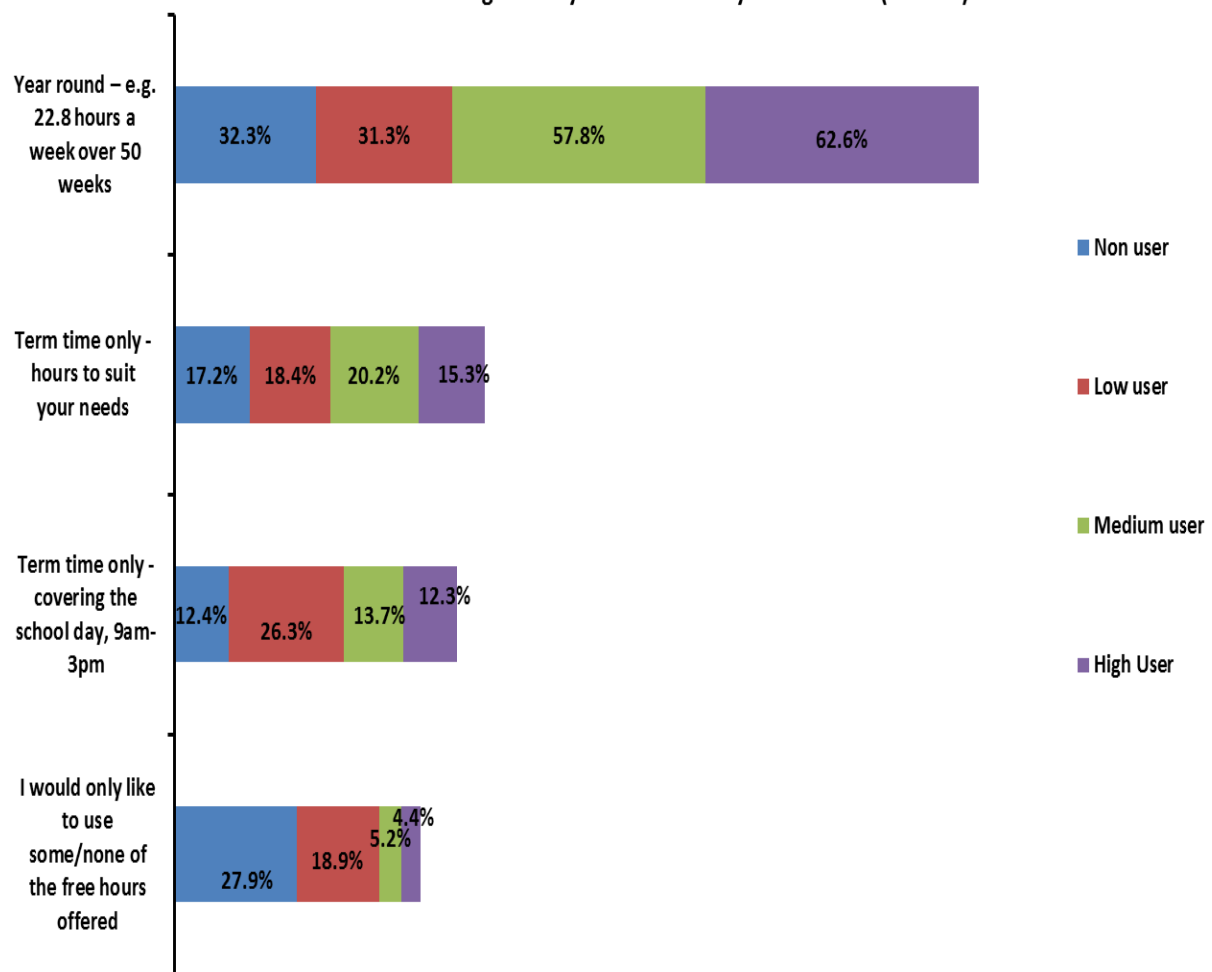
Low, medium, high, and non-users of formal childcare.

When asked which future pattern of use would appeal to them, when the free child care entitlement was increased, uptake was higher among groups with higher current formal child care use (Figure 1). Only 4% of high users and 6% of medium

users reported that they would use none, or only some of the free hours offered, compared to 19% among low users and 28% of non-users. The most preferred response among all categories was year round child care. This option was selected with higher frequency as the level of formal child care use increased, with 32% among non-users of formal child care, 31% among low users, rising to 58% among medium users and 63% of high users of formal child care.

There was some variation between groups on which option was second most frequently selected. Those who were currently medium or high users of formal child care were more likely to select term time with more flexible hours to suit their needs.

Figure 1: The Scottish Government is proposing to increase the provision of free early learning and child care for 3 or 4 year olds by 2020. There are a number of ways this can happen.
Which of the following would you be most likely to consider? (n=4465)

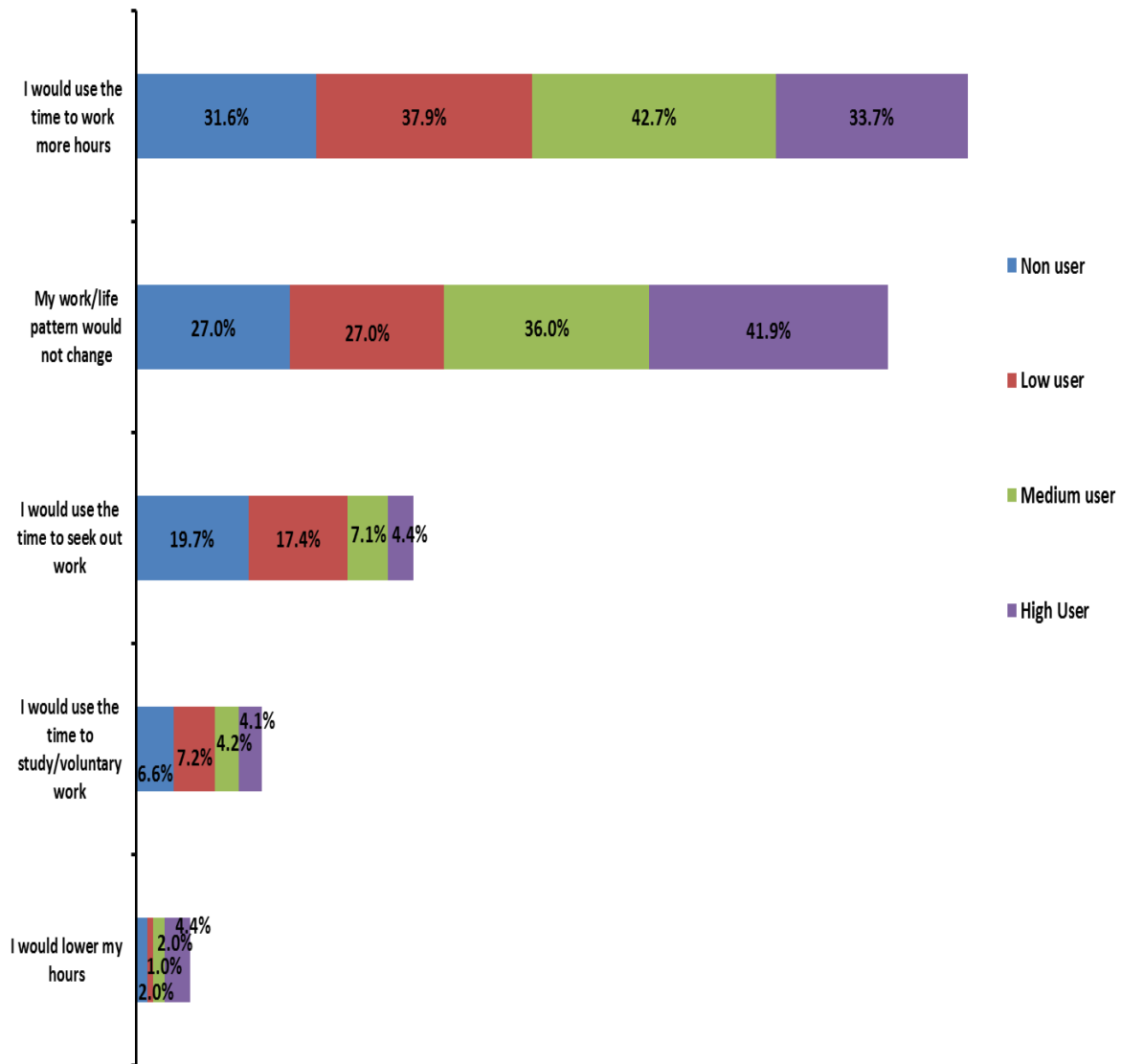


Low users of formal child care were more likely to select term time covering the 9am-3pm school day than the other remaining options. Non-users of formal child care were more likely to report that they did not wish to use any of the free child care hours than the remaining options available.

As shown (figure 2), all levels of child care use except high users were most likely to report that they would use the time to work more hours. High users of formal child care were more likely however to report that the increase in child care hours would

not lead to any change in their work/life pattern. This may be because their already high use is due to them working full time hours.

Figure 2: If you were to take up the increased hours of free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old, how would this effect your own work/life pattern? (n=4230)



Within the focus group research, those who were currently using the 16 hours of funded care considered they might take up additional hours to enable them to work longer. These respondents however expressed concern that many of the logistical issues already highlighted would still exist, albeit to a lesser extent. Parents currently using private nurseries that are not registered with local authorities and therefore do not offer funded childcare, were unlikely to change usage of their existing nursery, and thus would not be taking up the full funded early learning and childcare hours.

Focus group participants who were non-users of early learning and childcare services in Glasgow were unlikely to take up any early learning and childcare until

their child reaches the age of four, at which time they felt their child would benefit from the early learning element of childcare provision. This would also allow them to meet other children with whom they would be starting primary school and to get used to a school environment. These participants were unlikely to take up any additional hours over and above the current 16, when their child reaches the age of four.

Household composition

Households with 1 working adult and those with 2 or more working adults were most likely to select year round child care as their preferred option. Those households identified as having no working adults however, were most likely to report term time covering the 9am - 3pm school day as their preferred option.

There were differences found between households with 1, 2 or no working adults, in the second most frequent options selected. Households with no working adults had year round child care as their second most frequent choice, while those households with 1 working adult had term time covering the school day as their second most frequently reported choice. The second most likely option selected by those households with 2 or more working adults was term time with flexibility in hours to suit their needs.

Those households identified as having no working parents were most likely to report that they would use the time to seek out part time, or full time work, or that they would use the time to study. Less than one in ten living in such a household reported that the proposed increase would not affect their work/life pattern.

Those in households with one working adult were most likely to report that they would either use the time to work more hours, or that they would use the time to seek out part time work.

Those living in households with 2 or more working adults were more likely than those with 1 or no working adults to report the proposed change not affecting their work/life pattern. However, they were also more likely to report that they would use the time to work more hours.

When asked which pattern of use they would prefer when the proposed increase in hours were to go through there was little difference between single parent and 2 parent families. Year round child care was the first choice, with term time covering the 9am - 3pm school day as the second most chosen option.

Both those living in single parent, and 2 parent households were most likely to report that they would use the time to work more hours. Those living in single parent households however reported being more likely to use the time to seek out part time, or full time work, or to use the time to study. Single parents were also less likely to report that the increase in child care hours would not lead to any change in their work/life pattern.

These findings are supported by the focus group research, and those participants who are currently in full or part time work welcomed the additional hours. For example, some of those who were currently using 16 hours of funded care and

working part time considered they might take up the additional childcare hours to help make their working hours easier, to enable them to extend their current working hours or to change their working hours.

Household Income and benefit status

Reported uptake of the proposed increase for each group was similar to that reported in the overall analysis. Each of the three income groups selected year round child care as the preferred option. Term time covering the school day was the second most selected option by both low and medium income households. Within high income households, term time with flexible hours was the second preference.

Those on low incomes were most likely to state that they would use the time to work more hours, or that they would use the time to seek out part time work. Households with a medium income were also most likely to report that they would use the time to work more hours, those in high income households however were most likely to state that their work/life pattern wouldn't change. This may reflect those within high income households being more likely to consist of families with both parents working full time, or that those with higher incomes had less incentive to work longer hours.

Regardless of whether a household was in receipt of benefits or not, the pattern reflected the overall analysis with year round child care being the preferred option, and term time covering school hours being the second most preferred.

Those who received benefits were slightly more likely to report that they would use the time to work more hours, and less likely to report the increased hours having no effect on their work/life pattern. This may be explained by the possibility that those not in receipt of benefits are likely to have higher incomes, and may have less incentive to work more hours.

Urban/rural classification

While uptake of the proposed increased hours was high across all areas there was a considerably higher proportion of those in rural areas reporting that they would only take some or none of the proposed increased hours.

Year round child care was the most popular choice that was reported across all groups except for remote rural areas, where it was the second most popular option, with term time covering the school day more likely to be the preferred choice. All other groups reported term time covering the school day as the second most popular choice.

Across all urban/rural locations the most frequently selected effect of the proposed increase in free child care entitlement was that they would use the time to work more hours. This option was slightly more likely to be selected by those within remote small towns or remote rural areas. Those in remote areas were also more likely than those in accessible or urban areas to report that they would use the time to seek out more part time or full time work, and less likely to state that the proposed increase would not affect their work/life pattern.

Caveats, limitations, and mitigating actions

Every effort was made to be as inclusive as possible in terms of the survey sample. The organisations contacted included local authority nursery schools, private and non-profit nurseries, and various organisations who had contact with families who were both users and non-users of child care across Scotland. However, with any voluntary survey there is a risk of self-selection bias, whereby the people who participate in the survey possess characteristic differences to those who do not.

In the case of this survey it is important to note that there are potentially two levels of selection bias. Firstly, the organisations, schools, and nurseries, contacted participated on a voluntary basis, and the decision to do so may have been influenced by the individual characteristics of the managers and head teachers. Secondly, there is a risk that those parents who participated did so because they had stronger opinions, or that they had specific issues with the current provision of child care.

The use of snow ball sampling, while useful in attracting more participants, also opens the survey to the possibility of bias, as those parents who use social media will have an unknown but higher chance of selection. Those who have more social connections on social media will also be more likely to see the message through multiple sources, and thus selection favours such parents.

The latest 'Digital participation in Scotland' review² (2011) puts the proportion of those who do not have personal internet use at 29%. While the figure is quite old and more recent ONS figures for the UK as a whole³ suggest that the proportion of those without internet access is now considerably lower (16%). There are a number of reasons someone might not have internet access. The evidence suggests that lack of internet access is more likely for those who are old (60+), live in deprived areas, are disabled, those who are not working, those with lower levels of education, and those with lower incomes.

While those that are over 60 will not likely be primary carers for children of 3 or 4 the other factors listed may have a relevant bearing on the efficacy of the online survey. The primary mitigating action taken to reduce the influence of this was the inclusion of the Scottish Book Trust in the distribution strategy. The Scottish Book Trust run regular 'Bookbug' events within libraries across Scotland, where pre-school children are read stories and sing songs. Any parents at these sessions who wished to complete the questionnaire would have the opportunity to use the library's facilities to do so.

While it was not felt that it was necessary to gather information on the respondents gender, given the nature of the survey it can be expected that there is over representation of female respondents. Actions were taken to mitigate this, and an organisation which represents fathers was contacted to help with distribution of the link to the online questionnaire.

² <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/12/22155754/5>

³ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/rdit2/internet-access---households-and-individuals/2014/stb-ia-2014.html#tab-Key-Points->

As a result of this, there were a number of underrepresented groups. Single, widowed, and divorced parents made up only 9.6% of the surveys sample, although the 2011 census has the proportion of one parent families with children between 0 and 4 at 27.2%. Geographically there was also some disparity between local authorities response rates and their population. Shetland for example provided 3% of the survey responses, and represents less than 0.5% of Scotland's total population⁴. A table that compares the number of responses by local authority with the populations of those local authorities is included (Appendix 2).

⁴ <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release1b/rel1bsb.pdf>

4. Methodology

Participants

The participants of this survey were all parents or carers of 3 or 4 year old children currently living in Scotland. There were a total of 4465 parents who completed the questionnaire. Respondents were instructed to complete the survey only once per household. The purpose of the questionnaire related to patterns of child care that would suit the family, and family experiences of early learning and child care, as well as details about the whole household. As such, information was not gathered on the individual respondents' gender. Details of the contents of the questionnaire, and the informed consent form are included (Appendix 1).

Sampling method

The sampling method employed was non probabilistic in nature. Organisations relevant to family and child care services, private, non-profit, and local authority early learning and child care service providers were selected and contacted by email with requests to distribute the link to the online survey to parents of 3 or 4 year olds they have contact with.

Snow-ball sampling was also introduced by requesting those who participate to promote the survey using their social media accounts with a request for those seeing the message to propagate it even further.

Research instruments

The instruments consisted of a 25 question online survey. The online survey itself was hosted by Quest Back⁵. Respondents completed the questionnaire using their own internet connection and equipment, and the survey itself was optimised for desktop/laptop computers, tablets, and smart phones, to allow participants flexibility to respond using whichever method they wished. The precise number of questions completed by each respondent may vary as there were a number of possible routes that could be taken through the questionnaire and not every question would be asked of every respondent.

Group variables and definitions

A number of group variables were generated from the responses that helped analyse the data.

Level of formal childcare use.

The formal childcare use pattern was generated from the number of hours respondents reported using formal childcare (Local authority nursery, private/non-profit nursery, or Preschool).

⁵ www.questback.com

Firstly each level of use on the scale was allocated a value based on the midpoint of the scale for each of the different formal childcare options:

- Those who reported 1 to 10 hours were given the value of 5.
- Those who reported 10 to 20 hours were given the value of 15.
- Those who reported 20 to 30 hours were given the value of 25.
- Those who reported 30 or more hours were given the value of 35.
- Those who reported no use or that they use less than once a week were allocated a score of 0.

The total for all of the formal childcare options was then added up and the following categorical groups were made:

- Those with a total of 0 hours were classified as *non-formal childcare users*.
- Those with a total of 15 or less were classified as *low child care users*.
- Those with a total between 16 and 29 were classified as *medium child care users*.
- Those with 30 or more were classified as *high child care users*.

Working adults in the household

Respondents were asked how many working adults were in their household. This was then coded into a new variable which denoted either that there was either:

- 2 or more working adults within the household.
- 1 working adult within the household.
- No working adults within the household.

This allowed us to analyse the differences in responses between households with one working adult, 2 working adults or no working adults within them.

Number of parents within the household

Marital status was used to generate a new variable denoting the number of adults within the household:

- Those who reported either being a single parent, divorced, or widowed, were classed as being a 'single parent household'.
- Those reporting that they were married, or lived with their partner, were classed as living in a 'two parent household'.

Household income group

A new variable with three categories of household income were created from the respondents reporting of their household income.

- Those who reported earning less than a total household income of £13,499 or less, was classed as low household income.
- Those who reported earning a total household income of more than £13,500 but less than £50,000 were classed as medium income.
- Those who had a total household income of £50,000 or over were classed as high income.

Benefit status

Respondents reported which benefits they claimed, generating a binary variable denoting membership of one of the following two groups:

- Those whose household claimed no benefits.
- Those whose household claimed at least one benefit.

Urban/rural classification

The respondents' postcode was used to obtain the urban/rural classification for their home. This breaks down as follows:

- Large Urban Areas - Settlements of over 125 000 people.
- Other Urban Areas - Settlements of 10 000 to 125 000 people.
- Accessible Small Towns - Settlements of between 3 000 and 10 000 people and within a 30 minute drive time of a Settlement of 10 000 or more.
- Remote Small Towns - Settlements of between 3 000 and 10 000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10 000 or more.
- Accessible Rural - Areas with a population of less than 3 000 people and within a 30 minute drive time of a Settlement of 10 000 or more.
- Remote Rural - Areas with a population of less than 3 000 people and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a Settlement of 10 000 or more.

Data analysis

All data analysis was completed using SPSS 16.0 on a desktop computer.

5. Results

Question	Response	Total (%)	Formal childcare use pattern (%)					Working adults in the house				Marital status	
			Non user	Low user	Medium user	High User	No working adults	1 working adult	2 or more working adults	Couple	Single parent		
			n=187	n=2640	n=730	n=772	n=147	n=1186	n=3136	n=3528	n=348		
Do you currently use the free early learning and childcare entitlement for your 3 or 4 year old child? n=4485	Yes	3876 (86.4)	0.0%	91.5%	88.1%	85.8%	81.6%	85.2%	87.1%	87.0%	80.9%		
	No	501 (11.2)	92.0%	6.1%	10.3%	11.9%	12.2%	11.6%	10.9%	10.9%	14.0%		
	I don't know	108 (2.4)	8.0%	2.4%	1.6%	2.3%	6.1%	3.2%	1.9%	2.1%	5.1%		
How do you use this entitlement? n=3868	Local Authority nursery	2280 (58.9)	n=0	n=2412	n=642	n=659	n=120	n=1011	n=2725	n=3520	n=348		
	Private nursery provider (including not for profit providers).	1257 (32.5)	0.0%	19.7%	52.3%	57.1%	15.8%	25.8%	35.7%	32.7%	30.5%		
	Both	331 (8.6)	0.0%	3.4%	23.2%	14.4%	0.8%	5.8%	9.9%	8.9%	4.9%		
Why don't you use free early learning and childcare provision for your 3 or 4 year old child? N=501	Childcare providers are not flexible enough about hours of use.	88 (17.6)	n=172	n=162	n=75	n=92	n=18	n=137	n=343	n=441	n=60		
	My child has additional support needs and I would not be able to access the quality of child care they would need.	4 (0.8)	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	1.7%		
	Not enough availability of places within my area.	128 (25.5)	25.6%	19.8%	20.0%	40.2%	38.9%	25.5%	24.8%	26.1%	21.7%		
	I do not feel that local childcare provision is of a high enough quality.	16 (3.2)	2.3%	3.7%	2.7%	4.3%	0.0%	4.4%	2.9%	2.9%	5.0%		
	There is no free provision during school holidays.	71 (14.2)	7.6%	11.7%	17.3%	28.3%	22.2%	5.1%	17.5%	14.1%	15.0%		
	I would still need some private child care.	129 (25.7)	12.2%	22.2%	38.7%	46.7%	11.1%	19.0%	29.4%	25.9%	25.0%		
	Myself/partner prefers to look after our own child.	49 (9.8)	19.8%	9.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	19.7%	5.8%	10.7%	3.3%		
	I prefer for a family member to look after my child	19 (3.8)	7.0%	3.1%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	4.4%	4.1%	1.7%		
	I do not qualify for other childcare costs support	39 (7.8)	7.6%	8.6%	5.3%	8.7%	5.6%	7.3%	8.2%	7.9%	6.7%		
	Child is 3 but will not be able to commence free entitlement until a later date.	102 (20.4)	24.4%	22.2%	21.3%	8.7%	5.6%	19.0%	21.9%	20.6%	18.3%		
	None of these. or Other.	93 (18.6)	15.7%	18.5%	25.3%	18.5%	27.8%	15.3%	19.2%	17.0%	30.0%		

		Table 1B: Current use of the free childcare entitlement by household income, household benefit status, and urban/rural classification.											
Question	Response	Total (%)	Household income group			Benefit status		Urban/Rural Classification					
			Low income	Medium income	High income	Benefit receipt	non benefit receipt	Large Urban Areas	Other Urban Areas	Accessible Small Towns	Remote Small Towns	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural
Do you currently use the free early learning and childcare entitlement for your 3 or 4 year old child? n=4485	Yes	3876 (86.4)	n=336	n=2324	n=1684	n=1775	n=3247	n=1095	n=1042	n=463	n=156	n=542	n=355
	No	501 (11.2)	13.1%	86.6%	88.1%	85.8%	88.3%	82.4%	86.6%	91.1%	87.2%	87.3%	91.3%
	I don't know	108 (2.4)	6.8%	2.4%	1.3%	2.4%	2.3%	2.8%	2.0%	2.2%	3.6%	2.6%	2.5%
How do you use this entitlement? n=3868	Local Authority nursery	2280 (58.9)	n=269	n=2008	n=1479	n=1035	n=2781	n=900	n=899	n=421	n=136	n=472	n=324
	Private nursery provider (including not for profit providers).	1257 (32.5)	77.7%	64.5%	47.3%	60.7%	54.3%	51.8%	60.3%	61.8%	58.8%	56.1%	76.9%
	Both	331 (8.6)	19.3%	28.0%	41.4%	30.7%	37.4%	41.0%	30.6%	31.4%	33.1%	33.9%	15.1%
			3.0%	7.4%	11.2%	8.6%	8.3%	7.2%	9.1%	6.9%	8.1%	10.0%	8.0%
Why don't you use free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old child? N=501	Childcare providers are not flexible enough about hours of use.	88 (17.6)	n=44	n=257	n=179	n=110	n=383	n=162	n=119	n=31	n=14	n=55	n=22
	My child has additional support needs and I would not be able to access the quality of child care they would need.	4 (0.8)	13.6%	14.4%	24.6%	17.0%	20.0%	24.1%	16.0%	12.9%	7.1%	10.9%	4.5%
	Not enough availability of places within my area.	128 (25.5)	2.3%	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	I do not feel that local childcare provision is of a high enough quality.	16 (3.2)	36.4%	23.7%	24.6%	25.1%	27.3%	45.7%	16.0%	19.4%	14.3%	3.6%	18.2%
	There is no free provision during school holidays.	71 (14.2)	0.0%	3.5%	2.8%	2.3%	6.4%	1.9%	2.5%	6.5%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%
	I would still need some private child care.	129 (25.7)	13.6%	12.8%	16.8%	13.6%	15.5%	13.0%	18.5%	3.2%	14.3%	12.7%	4.5%
	Myself/partner prefers to look after our own child.	49 (9.8)	31.8%	25.3%	26.3%	23.8%	32.7%	29.0%	23.5%	25.8%	35.7%	18.2%	9.1%
	I prefer for a family member to look after my child	19 (3.8)	9.1%	10.9%	7.8%	10.2%	8.2%	5.6%	6.7%	6.5%	14.3%	9.1%	18.2%
	I do not qualify for other childcare costs support.	39 (7.8)	2.3%	4.7%	2.8%	2.6%	8.2%	1.9%	5.9%	0.0%	7.1%	3.6%	13.6%
	Child is 3 but will not be able to commence free entitlement until a later date.	102 (20.4)	2.3%	11.3%	3.9%	8.1%	7.3%	6.2%	12.6%	3.2%	14.3%	5.5%	13.6%
	None of these, or Other.	93 (18.6)	9.1%	21.4%	22.3%	20.9%	19.1%	14.8%	25.2%	38.7%	14.3%	38.2%	18.2%
			11.4%	20.0%	16.6%	19.3%	35.4%	18.5%	19.3%	9.6%	14.3%	5.5%	22.7%

Table 2A: Overall child care use and reasons for childcare use by pattern of use, number of working adults, and marital status.											
Question	Response	Total (%)	Formal childcare use pattern (%)				Working adults in the house			Marital status	
			Non user	Low user	Medium user	High User	No working adults	1 working adult	2 or more working adults	Couple	Single parent
Which of the following providers of early learning and childcare do you use? N=4485	Local Authority Nursery	54.1%	n=187	n=2640	n=730	n=772	n=147	n=1186	n=3136	n=4055	n=430
	Private or non profit provider	41.8%	0.0%	70.4%	40.4%	35.5%	66.7%	59.2%	51.6%	53.9%	56.5%
	A family member, friend, or neighbour	43.7%	0.0%	22.7%	84.5%	85.0%	17.0%	29.3%	47.8%	42.2%	37.9%
	Childminder	15.1%	34.8%	47.8%	50.4%	28.1%	25.9%	28.8%	50.3%	43.6%	44.7%
	Playgroup	8.4%	28.3%	20.1%	5.2%	3.8%	5.4%	10.7%	17.2%	14.8%	18.4%
	Preschool	10.0%	0.0%	9.1%	7.9%	19.7%	10.2%	11.6%	9.5%	10.2%	8.1%
	Out of School Club	2.3%	2.1%	1.4%	3.2%	5.1%	2.0%	1.6%	2.6%	2.3%	2.3%
	Creche	1.2%	4.8%	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	2.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%
	Children/Family Centre	0.6%	2.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.8%	1.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%
	Breakfast Club	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%	2.9%	3.8%	1.4%	1.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
	Sitter Service	0.8%	1.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	1.9%
	What were the main reasons you chose to have your child in early learning and child care? N=4479			n=187	n=2636	n=730	n=772	n=147	n=1185	n=3134	n=4049
So that I could work		67.9%	48.9%	56.9%	91.0%	92.4%	11.6%	43.2%	80.0%	68.4%	63.7%
So that I could look for work		3.4%	5.4%	3.9%	2.3%	1.6%	20.4%	6.0%	1.5%	3.0%	6.5%
So that I could study/train		6.3%	8.1%	5.4%	7.4%	7.1%	25.2%	7.8%	4.7%	5.5%	13.0%
So that I could look after the home/other children		11.5%	11.8%	13.7%	8.9%	4.7%	20.4%	19.3%	8.2%	12.0%	7.4%
So that I could go shopping/attend an appointment/socialise		4.6%	9.1%	4.9%	3.6%	2.2%	13.6%	7.1%	3.3%	4.5%	5.8%
For my childs educational development		71.9%	38.7%	78.7%	65.9%	60.9%	78.9%	75.3%	70.3%	72.4%	67.7%
Because my child likes spending time with the provider		23.7%	17.7%	25.0%	22.6%	18.4%	25.9%	27.3%	22.2%	23.9%	21.4%
Because my child asked to spend time with the provider		3.7%	4.3%	4.1%	2.5%	2.3%	5.4%	5.5%	2.9%	3.7%	3.7%
So that my child could take part in a leisure activity		8.6%	11.8%	9.7%	4.7%	6.0%	15.0%	11.7%	7.0%	8.6%	8.6%
Because it was available/offered to me.	26.0%	7.0%	35.0%	12.9%	9.3%	41.5%	33.6%	22.4%	25.8%	27.9%	
So that my child could meet and interact with other children											
Not applicable (I do not use Child Care)	67.3%	46.8%	73.3%	59.7%	56.1%	76.9%	71.3%	65.3%	67.8%	62.1%	
Don't know	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	
Other	2.0%	2.7%	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	2.7%	2.8%	1.7%	1.9%	2.8%	

		Table 2B: Overall child care use and reasons for childcare use by household income, household benefit status, and urban/rural classification.											
		Household income group			Benefit status		Urban/Rural Classification						
		Low income	Medium income	High income	Benefit recipient	non benefit recipient	Urban Areas	Other Urban Areas	Accessible Small Towns	Small Towns	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural	
Question	Response	Total (%)											
Which of the following providers of early learning and childcare do you use? N=4485	Local Authority Nursery	54.1%	64.0%	58.4%	45.9%	55.3%	51.0%	48.1%	57.4%	55.5%	55.1%	49.6%	68.2%
	Private or non profit provider	41.8%	23.8%	35.8%	54.5%	40.3%	45.7%	50.3%	41.2%	37.6%	41.0%	41.5%	23.1%
	A family member, friend, or neighbour	43.7%	39.0%	46.1%	43.0%	45.4%	39.6%	42.8%	50.7%	45.1%	37.8%	42.4%	42.0%
	Childminder	15.1%	15.5%	15.1%	15.5%	15.8%	13.3%	11.4%	14.4%	17.5%	16.7%	16.6%	22.0%
	Playgroup	8.4%	8.9%	8.5%	8.1%	8.0%	9.1%	5.9%	7.4%	9.7%	10.3%	14.0%	11.5%
	Preschool	10.0%	11.3%	10.6%	8.7%	10.2%	9.7%	5.8%	8.9%	10.4%	15.4%	13.5%	17.2%
	Out of School Club	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.9%	1.9%	2.6%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
	Creche	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%	1.9%	1.0%	1.3%	3.2%	0.9%	0.8%
	Children/Family Centre	0.6%	1.5%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%
	Breakfast Club	1.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.7%	1.1%	1.9%	1.3%	0.3%
	Sitter Service	0.8%	2.1%	0.5%	1.1%	0.7%	1.2%	1.0%	0.5%	1.1%	1.3%	0.6%	0.8%
			n=335	n=2324	n=1683	n=3246	n=1174	n=1094	n=1042	n=463	n=156	n=541	n=355
What was the main reason you chose to have your child in early learning and child care? N=4479		67.9%	49.0%	66.3%	76.0%	68.4%	66.9%	73.6%	68.9%	66.3%	59.6%	67.1%	58.0%
	So that I could work	3.4%	11.3%	3.7%	1.2%	3.7%	2.5%	4.1%	3.4%	2.8%	4.5%	2.6%	3.1%
	So that I could look for work	6.3%	16.7%	7.1%	3.1%	6.9%	4.5%	6.0%	6.5%	6.0%	11.5%	6.7%	5.6%
	So that I could look after the home/other children	11.5%	14.6%	12.3%	9.5%	11.5%	11.4%	9.7%	10.5%	13.8%	13.5%	12.0%	14.9%
	So that I could go shopping/attend an appointment/socialise	4.6%	9.9%	4.3%	4.0%	4.9%	4.1%	3.9%	4.9%	5.4%	6.4%	5.5%	3.7%
	For my child's educational development	71.9%	72.5%	71.6%	72.2%	72.0%	72.0%	68.8%	70.5%	74.7%	73.7%	76.3%	80.6%
	Because my child likes spending time with the provider	23.7%	23.3%	24.3%	23.2%	23.9%	23.0%	20.4%	22.1%	25.9%	25.0%	24.8%	33.5%
	Because my child asked to spend time with the provider	3.7%	6.6%	4.1%	2.4%	3.9%	2.9%	2.4%	3.3%	3.2%	5.1%	4.3%	7.0%
	So that my child could take part in a leisure activity	8.6%	13.4%	9.1%	6.9%	8.7%	8.3%	8.3%	7.2%	9.9%	11.5%	10.2%	8.7%
	Because it was available/offered to me.	26.0%	35.2%	28.2%	20.9%	27.5%	21.6%	19.9%	25.8%	31.7%	32.7%	27.9%	37.7%
	So that my child could meet and interact with other children	67.3%	70.4%	66.8%	67.3%	67.5%	66.9%	64.2%	65.6%	70.6%	71.2%	72.1%	72.4%
	Not applicable (I do not use Child Care)	1.6%	2.1%	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	1.9%	1.7%	2.5%
	Don't know	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other	2.0%	1.5%	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	0.0%	1.5%	1.4%

		Formal childcare use pattern (%)					Working adults in the house			Marital status											
		Non user	Low user	Medium user	High User	No working adults	1 working adult	2 or more working adults	Couple	Single parent											
Table 3A: Reasons for choice of childcare and preferred future pattern of use by pattern of use, number of working adults, and marital status.																					
Question	Response	Total (%)		n=186		n=2634		n=730		n=771		n=146		n=1183		n=3124		n=4038		n=427	
What were your main reasons for your particular choice in early learning and child care for your 3 or 4 year old child? (please select all that apply) n=4465	Trust	53.7%	49.5%	52.1%	55.9%	57.5%	43.2%	48.8%	55.9%	53.5%	55.5%	27.3%	27.8%	27.5%	24.1%	17.8%	27.2%	27.7%	27.1%	29.0%	
	Affordability	27.3%	33.3%	27.8%	27.5%	24.1%	43.8%	45.5%	51.4%	50.5%	40.3%	49.6%	33.3%	47.2%	57.4%	60.4%	60.1%	54.3%	54.8%	52.7%	
	Convenience	49.6%	41.9%	51.9%	60.4%	60.1%	42.5%	52.2%	56.0%	54.8%	52.7%	29.7%	14.5%	28.5%	31.8%	40.3%	35.9%	41.9%	29.8%	29.3%	
	Reputation/recommendation	54.6%	29.7%	45.9%	40.3%	41.9%	30.1%	30.5%	29.3%	43.5%	45.2%	43.7%	32.3%	45.9%	40.3%	43.4%	43.4%	43.5%	45.2%	45.2%	
	Qualifications of staff	43.7%	8.9%	8.3%	7.3%	12.6%	6.2%	8.6%	9.2%	9.0%	8.4%	8.9%	9.7%	8.3%	24.4%	23.3%	24.8%	27.3%	27.3%	28.6%	
	No other options were available	27.5%	24.7%	24.4%	33.6%	33.1%	23.3%	24.8%	28.6%	27.3%	28.6%	27.5%	21.5%	54.4%	46.0%	51.1%	49.3%	50.0%	50.8%	50.8%	
	Reliability	50.1%	5.4%	2.2%	3.6%	8.6%	4.8%	4.9%	5.6%	5.4%	5.2%	5.4%	5.4%	20.4%	36.5%	51.2%	54.0%	42.1%	36.5%	36.5%	
	Educational opportunities	41.5%	1.7%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	2.7%	3.0%	1.1%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	20.4%	36.5%	51.2%	54.0%	42.1%	36.5%	36.5%	36.5%	
	Availability of subsidies	24.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%	4.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	1.7%	24.2%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	
	Good quality/inspection report	1.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%	4.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	1.7%	24.2%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	
	Not Applicable (I do not use Child Care)	0.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	4.9%	0.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	
	I don't know	5.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	4.9%	0.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	
	Other	5.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	4.9%	0.5%	3.8%	5.4%	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	5.7%	5.4%	5.5%	
			n=186	n=2634	n=729	n=770	n=147	n=1181	n=3133	n=4045	n=430										
The Scottish Government is proposing to increase the provision of free early learning and child care for 3 or 4 year olds by 2020. There are a number of ways this can happen.	Term time only - 6 hours/day, 5 days a week (covering the school day, 9am-3pm)	21.3%	12.4%	26.3%	13.7%	12.3%	38.1%	25.6%	18.8%	21.1%	22.6%										
	hours to suit your needs (e.g. 3 or 4 days per week but longer days)	17.9%	17.2%	18.4%	20.2%	15.3%	15.0%	14.1%	19.6%	18.3%	14.2%										
	Year round – e.g. 22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks	40.9%	32.3%	31.3%	57.8%	62.6%	25.2%	34.3%	44.2%	40.5%	44.9%										
	I do not think I will use any of the free child care hours	5.0%	17.7%	5.9%	1.6%	1.4%	3.4%	5.8%	4.7%	5.2%	3.3%										
	I would only like to use some of the additional hours offered	9.8%	10.2%	13.0%	3.6%	3.0%	11.6%	13.5%	8.4%	9.7%	10.7%										
	I don't know	2.5%	4.8%	2.8%	1.6%	1.8%	5.4%	3.4%	1.9%	2.5%	2.6%										
	Other	2.6%	5.4%	2.3%	1.5%	3.5%	1.4%	3.4%	2.3%	2.6%	1.9%										

		Table 3B: Reasons for choice of childcare and preferred future pattern of use by household income, household benefit status, and urban/rural classification.											
Question	Response	Total (%)	Household income group			Benefit status		Urban/Rural Classification					
			Low income	Medium income	High income	Benefit recipient	non benefit recipient	Large Urban Areas	Other Urban Areas	Accessible Small Towns	Remote Small Towns	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural
What were your main reasons for your particular choice in early learning and child care for your 3 or 4 year old child? (please select all that apply) n=4465	Trust	53.7%	50.8%	52.3%	57.0%	53.7%	53.5%	51.60%	56.30%	53.30%	57.70%	55.90%	47.40%
	Affordability	27.3%	28.8%	30.2%	23.7%	28.7%	23.5%	29.30%	28.20%	26.80%	24.40%	26.70%	24.40%
	Convenience	49.6%	40.8%	47.7%	54.1%	50.1%	48.3%	51.60%	49.10%	50.50%	39.70%	55.60%	49.10%
	Reputation/recommendation	54.6%	46.2%	51.8%	59.7%	53.7%	57.0%	55.50%	53.70%	59.40%	53.80%	57%	40.30%
	Qualifications of staff	29.7%	29.1%	28.1%	31.9%	29.0%	31.6%	31.40%	30.60%	29.40%	28.20%	29.10%	26.10%
	Social opportunities for child	43.7%	45.9%	43.3%	43.9%	44.3%	41.8%	39.40%	45.20%	48.60%	46.80%	44.80%	46.90%
	No other options were available	8.9%	9.9%	9.5%	8.2%	8.9%	9.1%	8.60%	4.40%	8.40%	8.30%	9.10%	26.10%
	Reliability	27.5%	27.6%	25.7%	30.2%	27.5%	27.5%	26.50%	29.20%	27.40%	37.80%	37.80%	23.90%
	Educational opportunities	50.1%	52.3%	50.3%	49.0%	49.9%	51.0%	47.70%	50.80%	51.60%	54.50%	54.60%	49.70%
	Availability of subsidies	5.4%	3.3%	4.5%	7.2%	5.3%	5.6%	7.60%	4.60%	5.80%	5.10%	5.40%	1.70%
	Good quality/inspection report	41.5%	33.9%	38.8%	47.5%	41.5%	41.8%	49.50%	43.20%	41.70%	41.10%	30.10%	38.50%
	Not Applicable (I do not use Child Care)	1.7%	2.1%	1.9%	1.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.50%	1.40%	1.10%	2.60%	1.90%	2.60%
	I don't know	0.5%	1.8%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.50%	0.60%	0.40%	0.60%	0%	0.90%
	Other	5.5%	3.3%	5.6%	5.9%	5.5%	5.4%	5.10%	4.80%	6.30%	5.10%	6.30%	3.70%
Which of the following would you be most likely to consider? N=4465	Term time only - 6 hours/day, 5 days a week (covering the school day, 9am-3pm)	21.3%	32.0%	23.5%	16.2%	18.4%	22.3%	19.60%	20.90%	22.70%	26.30%	20.50%	31.50%
	Term time only but a different pattern of hours to suit your needs (e.g. 3 or 4 days per week but longer days)	17.9%	14.4%	18.3%	18.6%	18.2%	17.9%	17.70%	20.30%	16.20%	12.20%	18.50%	14.10%
	Year round – e.g. 22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks	40.9%	35.3%	38.1%	47.2%	41.4%	40.9%	49.20%	42.10%	41.00%	36.50%	39.10%	24.20%
	I do not think I will use any of the free child care hours	5.0%	3.0%	5.2%	4.4%	5.6%	4.7%	3.20%	3.80%	3.70%	7.70%	5.50%	7.30%
	I would only like to use some of the additional hours offered	9.8%	10.5%	9.7%	9.3%	10.6%	9.6%	6.30%	7.90%	11.00%	14.10%	11.30%	17.70%
	I don't know	2.5%	3.6%	2.8%	1.4%	2.0%	2.6%	1.80%	2.40%	1.90%	2.60%	2.40%	3.70%
	Other	2.6%	1.2%	2.4%	2.8%	3.8%	2.2%	2.20%	2.60%	3.50%	0.60%	2.80%	1.40%

		Table 4A: Effect of using proposed increase of childcare hours by pattern of use, number of working adults, and marital status.									
Question	Response	Total (%)	Formal childcare use pattern (%)				Working adults in the house			Marital status	
			Non user n=152	Low user n=2468	Medium user n=712	High User n=754	No working adults n=142	1 working adult n=1107	2 or more working adults n=2971	Couple n=3815	Single parent n=415
If you were to take up the increased hours of free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old, how would this effect your own work/life pattern? N=4230	I would use the time to work more hours	37.5%	31.6%	37.9%	42.7%	33.7%	4.9%	27.1%	43.0%	37.5%	37.6%
	I would use the time to seek out part time work	9.6%	13.8%	12.9%	3.7%	1.9%	38.7%	24.3%	2.7%	9.2%	13.5%
	I would use the time to seek out full time work	3.9%	5.9%	4.5%	3.4%	2.5%	21.1%	5.9%	2.4%	3.6%	7.5%
	I would use the time to study	4.6%	5.9%	5.3%	3.1%	3.2%	17.6%	8.0%	2.6%	4.1%	9.2%
	I would lower my hours at work	1.8%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	4.4%	0.0%	1.0%	2.2%	1.8%	1.2%
	I would use the time for voluntary or community work	1.6%	0.7%	1.9%	1.1%	0.9%	1.4%	2.4%	1.2%	1.7%	0.5%
	My work/life pattern would not change	31.2%	27.0%	27.0%	36.0%	41.0%	9.2%	22.2%	35.7%	32.2%	22.2%
I don't know	2.3%	5.3%	2.4%	1.1%	2.1%	3.5%	3.3%	1.9%	2.3%	1.9%	
Other	7.4%	7.9%	7.1%	7.0%	9.4%	3.5%	5.8%	8.3%	7.5%	6.5%	

		Household income group			Benefit status		Urban/Rural Classification						
		Low income n=332	Medium income n=2191	High income n=1600	Benefit receipt n=3078	non benefit receipt n=1099	Large Urban Areas n=1054	Other Urban Areas n=996	Accessible Small Towns n=446	Remote Small Towns n=142	Accessible Rural n=510	Remote Rural n=327	
Question	Response	Total (%)											
If you were to take up the increased hours of free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old, how would this effect your own work/life pattern? N=4230	I would use the time to work more hours	37.5%	34.5%	42.5%	32.4%	38.2%	35.1%	37.5%	35.3%	39.5%	43.0%	37.3%	42.8%
	I would use the time to seek out part time work	9.6%	19.9%	9.8%	6.5%	9.5%	10.2%	9.3%	8.2%	11.0%	12.7%	10.2%	11.0%
	I would use the time to seek out full time work	3.9%	11.2%	4.4%	1.8%	4.5%	2.5%	4.3%	5.0%	2.0%	7.7%	2.7%	2.8%
	I would use the time to study	4.6%	11.8%	4.9%	2.6%	4.9%	3.9%	4.8%	5.0%	4.0%	4.9%	5.3%	3.1%
	I would lower my hours at work	1.8%	0.6%	1.6%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	2.4%	2.0%	1.6%	1.4%	0.6%	0.9%
I would use the time for voluntary or community work	1.6%	1.2%	1.0%	2.3%	1.3%	2.5%	1.7%	0.8%	1.3%	2.8%	1.8%	2.4%	
My work/life pattern would not change	31.2%	13.7%	26.3%	41.4%	29.7%	36.2%	29.8%	34.0%	30.9%	23.2%	32.9%	27.5%	
I don't know	2.3%	3.1%	2.4%	1.9%	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	2.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	3.7%	
Other	7.4%	4.0%	7.1%	8.8%	7.9%	5.9%	8.4%	7.1%	8.1%	2.8%	7.8%	5.8%	

Here are some common views/perceptions of current early learning and child care provision. To what extent do you agree or disagree with them?

			Formal childcare use pattern (%)					Working adults in the household				Marital status	
			Non user n=184	Low user n=2626	Medium user n=726	High User n=770	No working adults n=147	1 working adult		2 or more working adults n=3123	Couple n=4033	Single parent n=429	
								1 working adult n=1180	working adults				
I find it difficult to afford the child care that I need. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree	33.9% 25.4% 17.9% 10.5% 10.0%	35.3% 17.4% 16.3% 12.0% 10.3%	30.2% 24.5% 20.4% 10.6% 11.5%	37.1% 30.6% 13.8% 12.5% 5.6%	44.4% 25.8% 13.8% 7.9% 7.1%	36.1% 21.1% 16.3% 2.7% 14.3%	33.1% 22.6% 19.2% 7.7% 13.9%	34.0% 26.6% 17.6% 11.9% 8.4%	20.7% 25.2% 18.4% 10.9% 10.0%	33.3% 26.8% 13.1% 7.2% 10.3%	21.7% 26.9% 14.3% 10.5% 3.7%	
Child care providers are not flexible enough about hours of use. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	20.8% 24.7% 21.0% 19.0% 9.9% 4.6%	24.0% 17.5% 19.7% 15.3% 9.3% 14.2%	18.6% 24.6% 23.0% 18.3% 9.6% 5.9%	21.8% 28.8% 17.2% 21.4% 9.9% 0.8%	26.5% 22.8% 17.7% 20.5% 10.7% 1.8%	21.9% 26.7% 19.2% 7.5% 11.6% 13.0%	18.6% 23.0% 26.5% 15.5% 9.9% 6.4%	21.5% 25.3% 19.0% 20.8% 9.8% 3.6%	20.7% 24.5% 21.1% 19.5% 9.8% 4.5%	21.7% 26.9% 20.8% 14.3% 10.5% 5.8%		
I feel that I place too much of a burden on family and friends for child care. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	18.8% 22.5% 15.9% 15.1% 26.0% 1.6%	20.1% 16.8% 15.2% 10.9% 32.1% 4.9%	20.2% 24.7% 15.6% 14.5% 23.6% 1.3%	17.9% 22.6% 15.3% 18.8% 23.7% 1.7%	14.5% 16.5% 18.3% 15.3% 33.4% 2.0%	22.8% 22.4% 11.6% 10.2% 27.2% 4.8%	16.5% 17.5% 19.4% 12.5% 31.8% 2.4%	19.4% 24.4% 14.9% 16.4% 23.8% 1.1%	17.9% 22.2% 15.9% 15.7% 26.6% 1.7%	26.8% 24.9% 16.7% 9.6% 20.9% 1.2%		
I would like to be able to access more childcare hours to allow me to work/train/study. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	44.6% 21.6% 12.4% 9.0% 11.0% 1.3%	38.9% 18.4% 10.8% 8.6% 20.5% 2.7%	43.2% 22.4% 11.6% 9.2% 12.0% 1.5%	49.9% 22.3% 12.2% 8.7% 6.5% 0.5%	48.4% 17.4% 15.9% 8.2% 9.1% 0.9%	50.7% 24.0% 9.6% 4.1% 9.6% 2.1%	44.1% 19.8% 11.7% 8.5% 13.9% 1.9%	44.5% 22.3% 12.8% 9.4% 10.0% 1.0%	43.7% 21.7% 12.8% 9.3% 11.2% 1.3%	53.0% 20.6% 9.1% 6.3% 9.3% 1.6%		
I would like more choice in the type of child care available to me. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	35.5% 23.6% 20.5% 10.4% 8.1% 2.0%	37.0% 21.2% 17.9% 7.1% 12.5% 4.3%	32.5% 24.7% 20.9% 10.5% 8.9% 2.5%	37.9% 23.4% 21.5% 11.2% 5.0% 1.1%	43.6% 20.5% 19.1% 9.0% 7.0% 0.8%	39.0% 16.4% 21.2% 6.8% 11.0% 5.5%	33.6% 22.5% 21.4% 9.2% 10.1% 3.1%	36.0% 24.3% 20.0% 11.0% 7.3% 1.4%	34.9% 23.9% 20.5% 10.7% 8.1% 1.9%	41.1% 20.7% 20.2% 6.8% 8.5% 2.8%		
I would like to access formal care such as nurseries, outside normal working hours. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	24.9% 19.0% 20.6% 19.2% 13.8% 2.6%	25.0% 13.6% 23.4% 14.7% 22.8% 0.5%	22.1% 18.2% 21.5% 19.8% 15.1% 3.4%	24.6% 22.9% 20.3% 21.8% 9.1% 1.2%	35.2% 19.3% 18.3% 16.2% 9.8% 1.3%	32.4% 22.8% 18.6% 6.9% 13.1% 6.2%	23.0% 17.3% 22.7% 16.8% 15.9% 4.3%	25.3% 19.4% 19.9% 20.7% 13.0% 1.7%	24.1% 18.7% 20.9% 20.0% 13.9% 2.4%	33.1% 21.1% 18.3% 11.0% 12.0% 4.5%		

Table 5A: Perceptions of childcare by pattern of use, number of working adults, and marital status.

Here are some common views/perceptions of current early learning and child care provision. To what extent do you agree or disagree with them?

		Household income group			Benefit status		Urban/Rural Classification						
		Low income	Medium income	High income	Benefit recipient	non benefit recipient	Large Urban Areas	Other Urban Areas	Accessible Small Towns	Remote Small Towns	Accessible Rural	Remote Rural	
		n=333	n=2311	n=1682	n=3229	n=1173	n=1089	n=1040	n=463	n=156	n=541	n=355	
I find it difficult to afford the child care that I need. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	33.9% 25.4% 17.9% 10.5% 10.0% 2.3%	42.9% 19.8% 15.9% 5.7% 9.9% 5.7%	38.9% 24.4% 16.6% 8.2% 9.5% 2.3%	26.1% 28.1% 19.4% 14.8% 10.5% 1.2%	36.6% 25.6% 16.8% 9.3% 9.1% 2.5%	26.3% 24.7% 21.1% 13.6% 12.7% 1.6%	38.6% 26.1% 15.4% 10.8% 7.4% 1.7%	35.5% 25.2% 17.2% 9.7% 10.6% 1.8%	35.0% 21.6% 19.9% 10.6% 11.0% 1.9%	32.7% 25.6% 19.2% 9.6% 11.5% 1.3%	30.9% 27.2% 16.8% 11.3% 11.6% 2.2%	26.2% 22.5% 23.4% 12.1% 11.5% 4.2%
Child care providers are not flexible enough about hours of use. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	20.8% 24.7% 21.0% 19.0% 9.9% 4.6%	21.3% 25.5% 24.6% 12.3% 10.8% 9.6%	19.8% 25.5% 23.4% 17.4% 9.2% 4.6%	22.4% 24.7% 16.8% 22.6% 10.5% 3.1%	21.1% 25.5% 21.1% 18.1% 9.2% 5.0%	20.0% 23.1% 20.2% 21.7% 11.5% 3.5%	24.4% 25.6% 19.9% 17.5% 9.3% 3.3%	21.5% 24.2% 20.3% 19.2% 10.5% 4.3%	23.0% 23.9% 20.4% 18.4% 10.0% 4.3%	12.9% 23.2% 23.2% 25.8% 11.0% 3.9%	18.6% 26.0% 21.4% 19.7% 11.0% 5.0%	15.9% 21.5% 26.7% 16.7% 9.6% 9.6%
I feel that I place too much of a burden on family and friends for child care. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	18.8% 22.5% 15.9% 15.1% 26.0% 1.6%	28.8% 21.9% 16.2% 7.5% 22.2% 3.3%	21.6% 24.5% 16.3% 13.8% 22.0% 1.9%	13.7% 20.0% 15.3% 18.8% 31.3% 0.9%	20.2% 23.5% 15.7% 14.6% 24.2% 1.8%	15.1% 19.7% 16.7% 16.4% 31.0% 1.0%	17.8% 19.9% 15.3% 16.4% 29.0% 1.5%	22.5% 24.7% 15.5% 13.7% 22.6% 1.0%	19.0% 24.4% 16.2% 14.0% 24.6% 1.7%	17.3% 18.6% 19.9% 17.9% 22.4% 3.8%	20.3% 20.1% 14.1% 14.9% 28.6% 2.0%	16.5% 28.2% 19.1% 13.7% 21.1% 1.4%
I would like to be able to access more childcare hours to allow me to work/train/study. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	44.6% 21.6% 12.4% 9.0% 11.0% 1.3%	54.5% 19.6% 9.9% 4.8% 9.6% 1.5%	48.5% 21.6% 11.0% 6.5% 10.8% 1.6%	38.7% 21.9% 14.9% 13.2% 10.8% 0.6%	46.9% 21.4% 11.8% 8.2% 10.3% 1.4%	38.9% 22.0% 14.1% 11.0% 12.9% 1.0%	48.3% 20.5% 11.6% 9.0% 9.4% 1.2%	45.1% 21.8% 13.7% 8.2% 9.9% 1.3%	48.7% 22.3% 9.3% 7.6% 10.6% 1.5%	42.3% 22.4% 12.2% 10.3% 11.5% 1.3%	45.5% 21.3% 12.2% 8.7% 11.5% 0.9%	37.9% 22.5% 16.2% 8.3% 12.5% 2.6%
I would like more choice in the type of child care available to me. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	35.5% 23.6% 20.5% 10.4% 8.1% 2.0%	43.5% 18.7% 18.4% 6.3% 7.9% 5.1%	36.4% 24.2% 20.9% 8.5% 7.7% 2.3%	33.6% 23.4% 20.0% 13.7% 8.2% 1.0%	35.9% 23.7% 20.8% 10.0% 7.4% 2.2%	33.9% 23.2% 19.8% 11.9% 9.9% 1.4%	40.4% 23.2% 18.3% 9.3% 7.8% 1.0%	35.6% 23.4% 22.3% 9.7% 7.0% 2.0%	35.7% 26.2% 18.6% 9.5% 8.0% 1.9%	27.6% 21.1% 25.7% 11.2% 9.9% 4.6%	31.4% 26.2% 19.6% 13.3% 7.6% 2.0%	34.0% 21.3% 25.1% 8.4% 8.6% 2.6%
I would like to access formal care such as nurseries, outside normal working hours. n=4485	Strongly Agree Tend to Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Tend to Disagree Strongly Disagree I don't know	24.9% 19.0% 20.6% 19.2% 13.8% 2.6%	35.1% 18.3% 20.7% 9.9% 9.9% 6.0%	24.9% 18.8% 22.5% 18.0% 13.1% 2.7%	23.4% 19.6% 17.7% 22.8% 15.0% 1.5%	25.4% 19.0% 20.7% 19.2% 12.9% 2.9%	23.9% 18.5% 20.6% 19.3% 16.0% 1.6%	26.6% 18.5% 20.2% 20.2% 11.2% 3.2%	28.4% 19.6% 20.1% 17.0% 13.4% 1.5%	29.4% 17.7% 17.5% 19.3% 13.4% 2.4%	18.2% 19.5% 18.2% 21.4% 18.2% 4.5%	21.6% 20.8% 22.3% 18.6% 14.8% 1.8%	22.3% 19.7% 22.3% 19.4% 13.1% 3.1%

Table 5B: Perceptions of childcare by household income, household benefit status, and urban/rural classification.

Appendix 1: Informed consent form and questionnaire with responses:

Informed Consent Form

The Scottish Government propose to increase the free Early Learning and Childcare provision to 1140 hours per year for children who are 3 or 4 years old, as well as for 2 year olds whose parents/carers are on qualifying benefits and are eligible for the 600 hours free entitlement through the Children & Young People's Act 2014.

We are currently looking for parents of 3 or 4 year olds residing in Scotland to give their views on the following.

- Their current use of child care.
- Whether they would use the increased hours of free child care.
- How they would use the increased hours of child care.
- How their views differ depending on family and work related factors.

Data protection

- Your participation is voluntary.
- Your responses will be completely anonymous and no data will be collected that can identify you.
- you are free to withdraw your participation from this study at any time, If you do not want to continue, you can simply leave this website.
- Please only complete this questionnaire once per household.

1: Are you the main carer/parent of a 3 or 4 year old currently living in Scotland (i.e. living with the child)?

Yes

No –skip to last page - thank you for your time..

Do you currently use the free early learning and childcare entitlement for your 3 or 4 year old child? (n=4485)	
	Percent
Yes	86.4
No	11.2
I don't know	2.4
Total	100.0

How do you use this entitlement? (n=4485)	
	Percent
Local Authority nursery.	58.9
Private nursery provider (including not for	32.5
Both.	8.6
Total	100.0

Why don't you use free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old child? (n=501)	
Reason	Percent
Childcare providers are not flexible enough about hours of use.	17.6
to access the quality of child care they would need.	0.8
Not enough availability of places within my area.	25.5
quality.	3.2
There is no free provision during school holidays.	14.2
I would still need some private child care.	25.7
Myself/partner prefers to look after our own child.	9.8
I prefer for a family member to look after my child	3.8
I do not qualify for other childcare costs support	7.8
None of these	6.4
until a later date.	20.4
Other (please specify)	12.1

In an average week, excluding time spent with a parent, how many hours do you use the following providers of early learning and childcare for your 3 or 4 year old? (n=4485)			
Local Authority nursery		Private nursery	
	Percent		Percent
Up to 10 hours per week	6.9	Up to 10 hours per week	5.1
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	44.3	Between 10 and 20 hours per week	16.1
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	2.4	Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	10.5
30+ hours per week	.9	30+ hours per week	10.3
Occasionally (less than once a week)	.1	Occasionally (less than once a week)	.2
I do not use this type of childcare	45.4	I do not use this type of childcare	57.8
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
A family member, friend, or neighbour		Childminder	
	Percent		Percent
Up to 10 hours per week	21.0	Up to 10 hours per week	4.8
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	15.5	Between 10 and 20 hours per week	5.7
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	5.1	Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	3.2
30+ hours per week	2.0	30+ hours per week	1.5
Occasionally (less than once a week)	10.3	Occasionally (less than once a week)	.8
I do not use this type of childcare	46.0	I do not use this type of childcare	84.1
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
Playgroup		Preschool	
	Percent		Percent
Up to 10 hours per week	5.8	Up to 10 hours per week	1.8
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	2.5	Between 10 and 20 hours per week	7.8
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.1	Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.3
30+ hours per week	.0	30+ hours per week	.2
Occasionally (less than once a week)	1.6	Occasionally (less than once a week)	.2
I do not use this type of childcare	90.0	I do not use this type of childcare	89.7
Total	100.0	Total	100.0

Out of School Club		Creche	
	Percent		Percent
Up to 10 hours per week	1.8	Up to 10 hours per week	1.2
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	.5	Between 10 and 20 hours per week	.0
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.0	Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	0
Occasionally (less than once a week)	.4	Occasionally (less than once a week)	1.1
I do not use this type of childcare	97.2	I do not use this type of childcare	97.6
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
Children/Family Centre		Breakfast Club	
	Percent		Percent
Up to 10 hours per week	.3	Up to 10 hours per week	1.7
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	.1	Between 10 and 20 hours per week	.1
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.0	Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.0
30+ hours per week	.0	30+ hours per week	.0
Occasionally (less than once a week)	.3	Occasionally (less than once a week)	.3
I do not use this type of childcare	99.2	I do not use this type of childcare	97.9
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
Sitter Service			
	Percent		
Up to 10 hours per week	.6		
Between 10 and 20 hours per week	.1		
Over 20 but less than 30 hours per week	.1		
30+ hours per week	.0		
Occasionally (less than once a week)	1.7		
I do not use this type of childcare	97.4		
Total	100.0		

5: What were the main reasons you chose to have your 3 or 4 year old child in early learning and child care? (please select all that apply) (n=4479)		6: What were your main reasons for your particular choice in early learning and child care for your 3 or 4 year old child? (please select all that apply) (n=4465)	
Reason	Percent	Reason	Percent
So that I could work	67.9	Trust	53.7
So that I could look for work	3.4	Affordability	27.3
So that I could study/ train	6.3	Convenience	49.6
So that I could look after the home / other children	11.5	Reputation/recommendation	54.6
So that I could go shopping / attend an appointment / socialise	4.6	Qualifications of staff	29.7
For my child's educational development	71.9	Social opportunities for child	43.7
Because my child likes spending time with/at the provider	23.7	No other options were available	8.9
Because my child asked to spend time with/at the provider	3.7	Reliability	27.5
So that my child could take part in a leisure activity	8.6	Educational opportunities	50.1
Because it was available/offered to me.	26	Availability of subsidies	5.4
So that my child could meet and interact with other children.	67.3	Good quality/inspection report	41.5
Not applicable (I do not use child care)	1.6	Not Applicable (I do not use Child Care)	1.7
I don't know	0.1	I don't know	0.5
Other (please specify)	2		

7: Here are some common views/perceptions of current early learning and child care provision. To what extent do you agree or disagree with them? (n=4443)			
I find it difficult to afford the child care that I need.		Child care providers are not flexible enough about hours of use.	
	Percent		Percent
Strongly disagree	10.0	Strongly disagree	9.9
Tend to disagree	10.5	Tend to disagree	19.0
Neither agree nor disagree	17.9	Neither agree nor disagree	21.0
Tend to Agree	25.4	Tend to Agree	24.7
Strongly agree	33.9	Strongly agree	20.8
I don't know	2.3	I don't know	4.6
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
I feel that I place too much of a burden on family and friends for child care.		I would like to be able to access more childcare hours to allow me to work/train/study.	
	Percent		Percent
Strongly disagree	26.0	Strongly disagree	11.0
Tend to disagree	15.1	Tend to disagree	9.0
Neither agree nor disagree	15.9	Neither agree nor disagree	12.4
Tend to Agree	22.5	Tend to Agree	21.6
Strongly agree	18.8	Strongly agree	44.6
I don't know	1.6	I don't know	1.3
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
I would like more choice in the type of child care available to me.		I would like to access formal care such as nurseries, outside normal working hours.	
	Percent		Percent
Strongly disagree	8.1	Strongly disagree	13.8
Tend to disagree	10.4	Tend to disagree	19.2
Neither agree nor disagree	20.5	Neither agree nor disagree	20.6
Tend to Agree	23.6	Tend to Agree	19.0
Strongly agree	35.5	Strongly agree	24.9
I don't know	2.0	I don't know	2.6
Total	100.0	Total	100.0
8: Which of the following options would you be most likely to consider using for your 3 or 4 year old? (n=4475)		8B: If you were to take up the increased hours of free early learning and child care provision for your 3 or 4 year old, how would this effect your own work/life pattern? (n=4230)	
	Percent		Percent
Term time only - 6 hours/day, 5 days a week (covering the school day, 9am-3pm)	21.3	I would use the time to work more hours	37.5
Term time only but a different pattern of hours to suit your needs (e.g. 3 or 4 days per week but longer days)	17.9	I would use the time to seek out part time work	9.6
Year round – e.g. 22.8 hours a week over 50 weeks	40.9	I would use the time to seek out full time work	3.9
I do not think I will use any of the free child care hours	5.0	I would use the time to study	4.6
I would only like to use some of the additional hours offered	9.8	I would lower my hours at work	1.8
I don't know	2.5	I would use the time for voluntary or community work	1.6
Other	2.6	My work/life pattern would not change	31.2
Total	100.0	I don't know	2.3
		Other (please specify)	7.4
		Total	100.0

9: Apart from yourself, who lives in your household? (Please tick all that apply) (n=4464)	
Person	Percent
One or more children under the age of 5	78
One or more children between 5 and 15	40.5
Yoru partner	81.1
One or more other adult relatives	3.4
Other (please specify)	1.4

10: What is your marital status? (n=4472)	
	Percent
Married;	74.0
Living with partner;	16.4
Single,	6.5
Divorced,	.7
Separated or Widow.	2.4
Total	100.0

12: Do you, (or someone else in your household), drive? (n=4428)	
	Percent
Yes	94.9
No	5.1
Total	100.0

13: What benefits, if any, do you currently receive? (Please select all that apply)	
Benefit	Percent
Universal credit	0.3
Working tax credit	13.4
Child tax credit	26.7
Jobseekers allowance	0.4
Housing benefit	5.5
Child benefit	63
Income Support	2.6
Disability living allowance	2.4
Employment and support allowance	0.7
Carers allowance	1.4
Lone parents benefit	0
Guardians allowance	0
Maternity allowance	2.4
None of these	26.1
I don't know	0.7
Other	0.5

11: Which of these best describes your ethnic group? (n=4468)	
	Percent
White - Scottish	79.3
White - Other British	12.4
White - Irish	1.2
White - Polish	1.0
White - Other	3.0
Pakistani	.7
Indian	.5
Bangladeshi	.0
Chinese	.4
Black - African	.4
Black - Carribean	.0
Black - Other	.0
Arab	.1
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	.4
Other (please specify)	.5
Total	100.0

14: Including yourself, how many adults in your household currently have a job, either as an employee or self-employed? (this includes if they are on maternity or sick leave). If none in your household currently have a job please type '0' (n=4485)	
#	Percent
0	3.3
1	26.5
2	68.7
3	1.2
4	.2
Total	100.0

15: What is your current employment pattern? (n=4464)	
	Percent
Employed (fixed hours each week)	61.0
Employed (shift work)	5.6
Employed (different number of hours and	7.6
Self-employed	9.7
Unemployed and looking	4.5
Student	1.7
Retired	.1
Unemployed and not looking	9.9
Total	100.0

16: What is your highest level of qualification? (n=4439)		18: Which local authority area do you live in? (n=4359)	
	Percent		Percent
School leaving certificate/ new national Qualification Access	1.7	Aberdeen	5.1
Standard Grade/O-grade/CSE/Senior Certificate or eq	7.5	Aberdeenshire	9.3
GSVQ Foundation or Intermediate/SVQ level 1 or 2/ SCOTVEC	2.7	Angus	1.4
Higher Grade/Higher Still/CSYS/A level	8.2	Argyll and Bute	2.5
GSVQ Advanced/SVQ level 3/ONC/ OND/ Scotvec ND	4.5	Clackmannanshire	.5
City and Guilds; HNC/HND/SVQ 4 or 5	14.3	Dumfries and Galloway	3.1
First Degree/Higher Degree	26.0	Dundee	1.0
Professional Qualifications	14.6	East Ayrshire	2.7
Postgraduate qualifications (PhD, Masters degree)	19.1	East Dunbartonshire	3.0
None of these	1.4	East Lothian	3.9
Total	100.0	East Renfrewshire	4.0
		Edinburgh	7.9
		Falkirk	1.9
		Fife	5.2
		Glasgow	6.8
		Highland	4.7
		Inverclyde	1.0
		Midlothian	2.4
		Moray	2.3
		Na h-Eileanan Siar	1.0
		North Ayrshire	1.9
		North Lanarkshire	2.9
		Orkney	1.4
		Perth and Kinross	3.5
		Renfrewshire	5.9
		Scottish Borders	.9
		Shetland	3.0
		South Ayrshire	.9
		South Lanarkshire	2.4
		Stirling	2.1
		West Dunbartonshire	1.8
		West Lothian	3.7
17. What is your postcode? (n=4485)			
19: What is your annual household income (including benefits, before tax) (n=4344)			
	Percent		
1. Under £4,500	.7		
2. £4,500 - £6,499	.9		
3. £6,500 - £7,499	.9		
4. £7,500 - £9,499	1.3		
5. £9,500 - £11,499	1.8		
6. £11,500 - £13,499	2.1		
7. £13,500 - £15,499	1.9		
8. £15,500 - £17,499	3.0		
9. £17,500 - £24,999	7.9		
10. £25,000 - £29,999	8.1		
11. £30,000 - £39,999	15.8		
12. £40,000 - £49,999	16.8		
13. £50,000 - £75,999	24.9		
14. £75,000 - £99,999	9.1		
15. £100,000 or over	4.7		
Total	100.0		



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