



# Preparing for Adulthood Parent/Carer Survey

Spring/Summer 2020

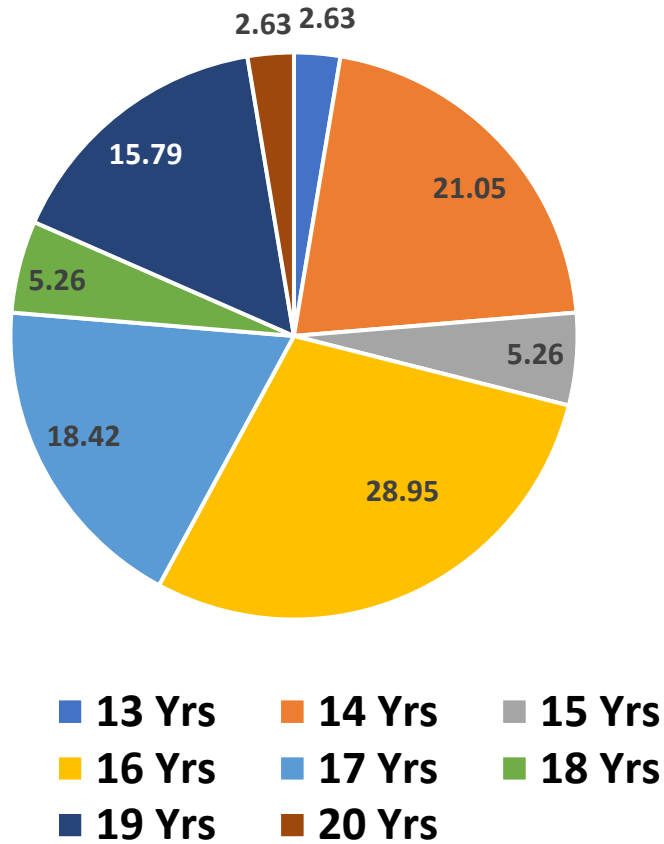
# Introduction

- The Preparing for Adulthood survey was targeted at parents and carers of young people aged 14-20 years who live in and/or attend (attended) school in the London Borough of Bexley and who have/had either an EHCP or are/were identified as SEN.
- The purpose of the survey was to collate the views of parents and carers on the Preparing for Adulthood process in Bexley including their personal experience, how it works in practice, their level of knowledge and confidence about PFA and to identify areas for improvement.
- The survey consisted of 10 questions and was open from April to July 2020.
- All responses are anonymous and respondents' children and young people cannot be identified.
- The number of respondents is a good proportion of Bexley Voice parents and carers with children and young people in the 14-20 age range. Therefore, we are confident that the findings are representative.
- The majority of respondents (c92%) were parents/carers of young people who had an EHCP.
- All but one response was in respect of one child/young person. One respondent had two young people in the survey population.
- The survey results provide insight into areas for improvement and will provide a baseline upon which improvements can be measured in future.
- It is proposed repeat the survey on an annual basis and track changes.

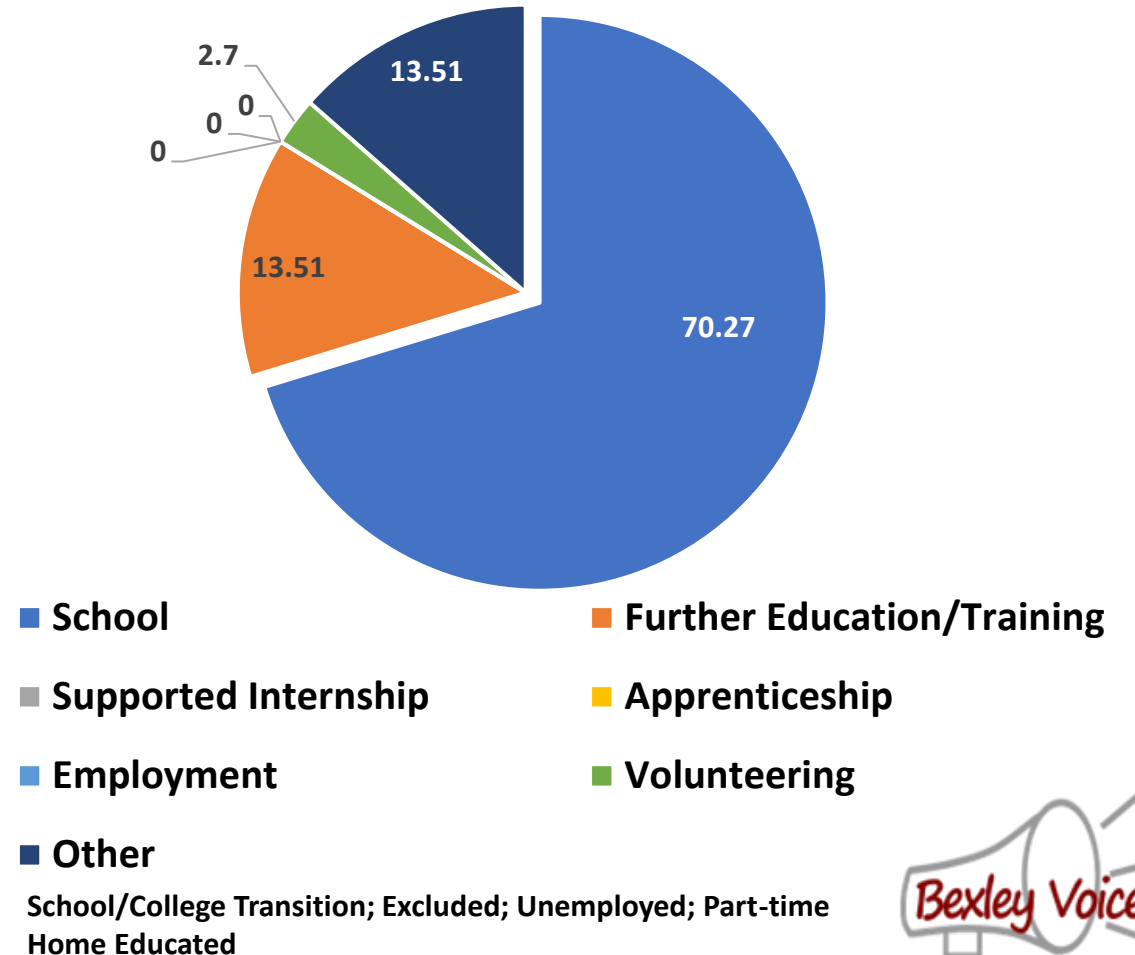


# Summary of Respondents

## Ages of Children/Young People



## Current Situation of Children/Young People



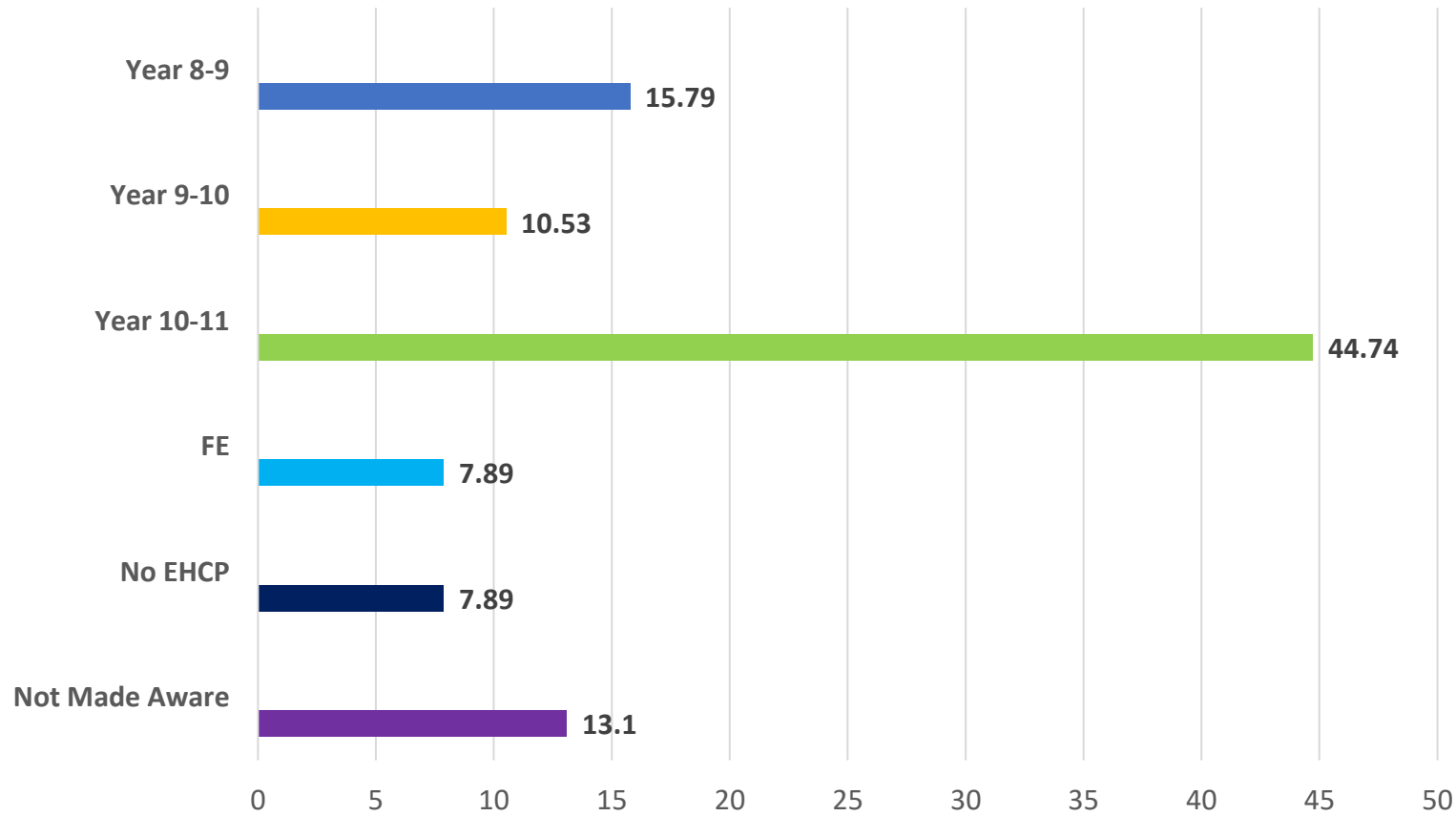
# Summary of Key Findings

- In the majority of cases, Preparing for Adulthood is included in EHCPs for the first time in Years 10-11, not in Year 9 as would be expected.
- In Years 8-9, very few parents/carers of young people are/were familiar with Preparing for Adulthood and the pathways available.
- There are very low levels of confidence amongst parents/carers about the Preparing for Adulthood process at the outset.
- The majority of parents/carers (82.86%) find out about Preparing for Adulthood from either Bexley Voice, via their own research or from other parents and carers. SENCOs and Schools provide the information in fewer than a quarter of cases.
- Only a small number of parents/carers found Bexley (CWD team/PFA team/Local Offer) most helpful in the process. Over 85% found the internet, Bexley Voice and other sources of support most helpful.
- Satisfaction levels with the process for all ages is very low:
  - 26.67% of parents/carers of 14-18 year olds are satisfied with the process to date
  - 0% of parents/carers of 19-20 year olds (19% of respondents) felt that transition to adulthood had been successful



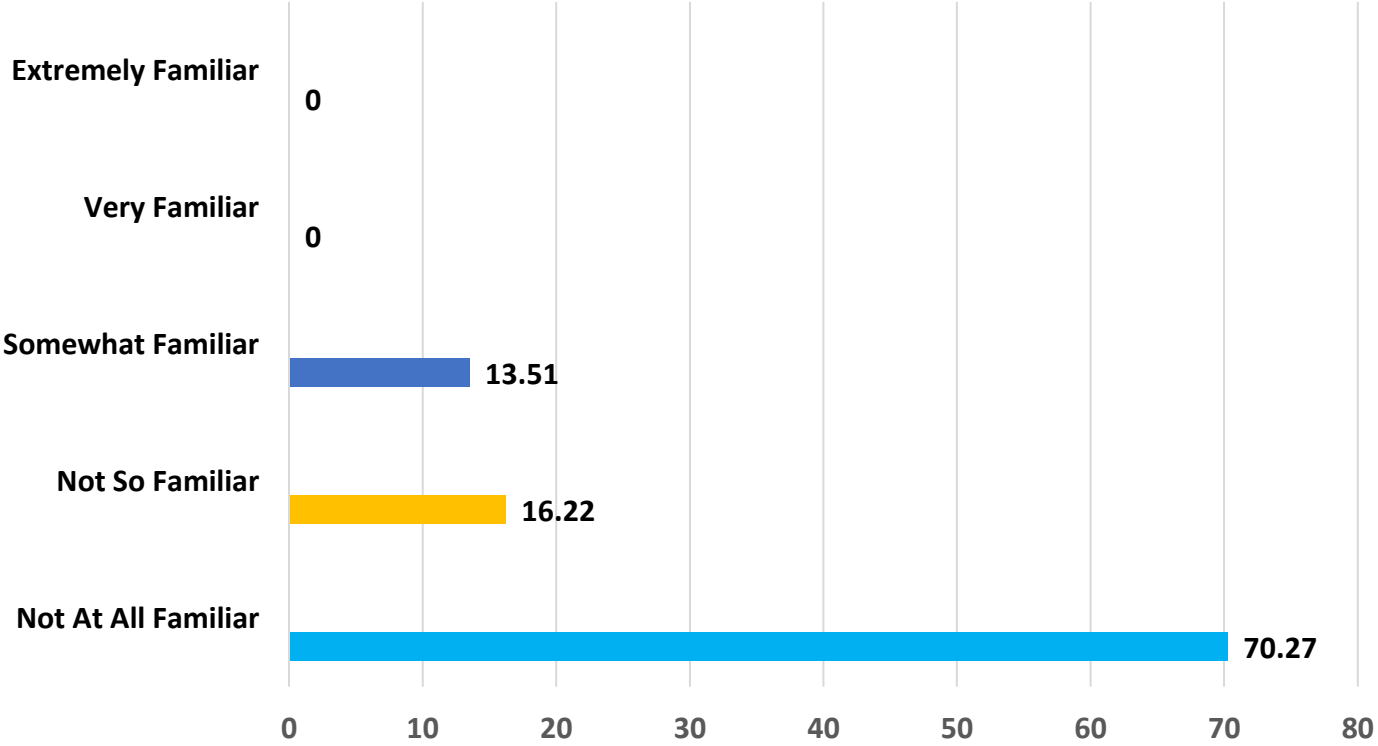
# Responses

Q1 In which school year were the Preparing for Adulthood outcomes first included in your young person's EHCP (if they had one)?



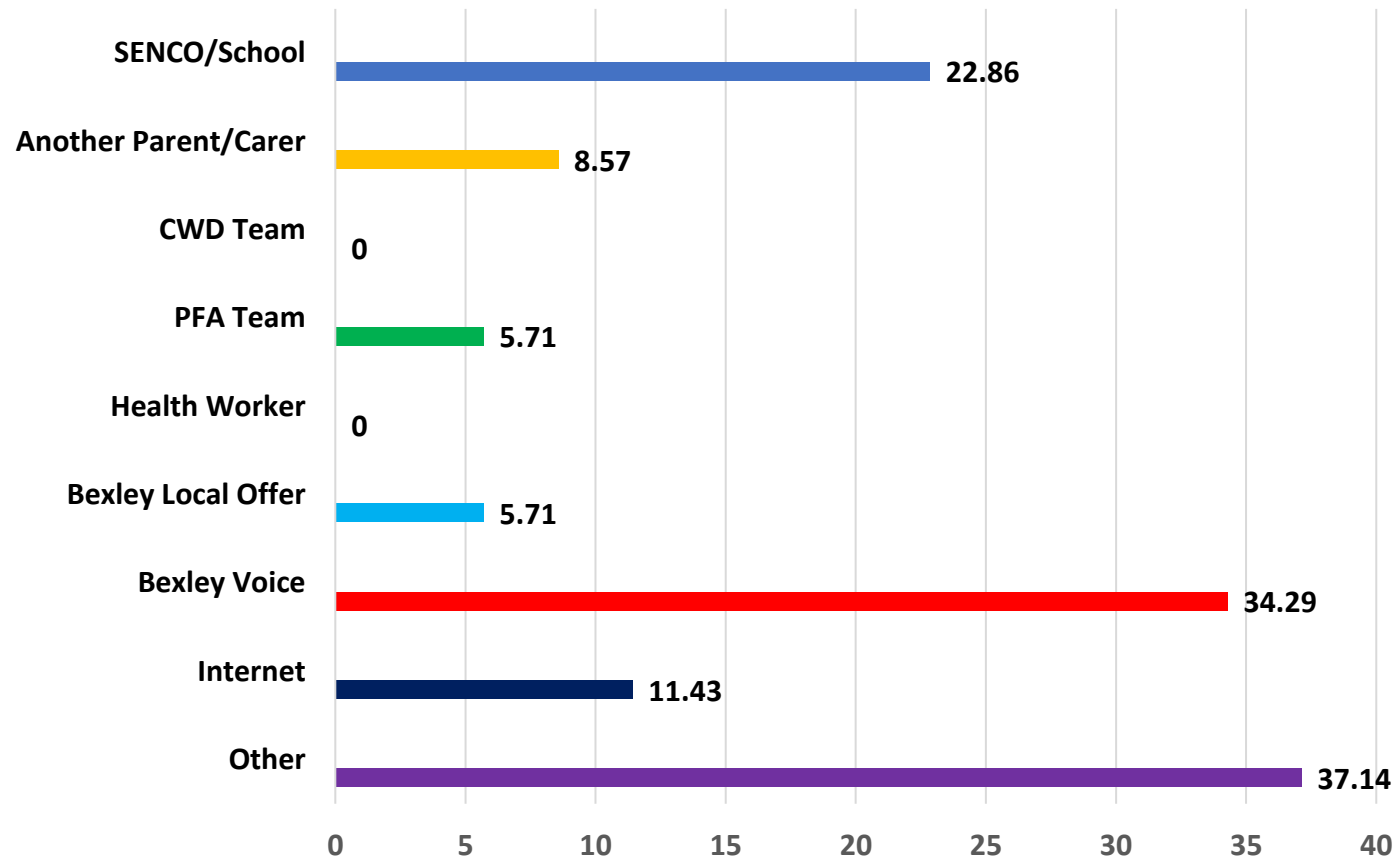
# Responses

Q2 How familiar were you with the Preparing for Adulthood Process and the pathways available to your young person when they were in Year 8/9?



# Responses

Q3 Where did you get information from about Preparing for Adulthood?

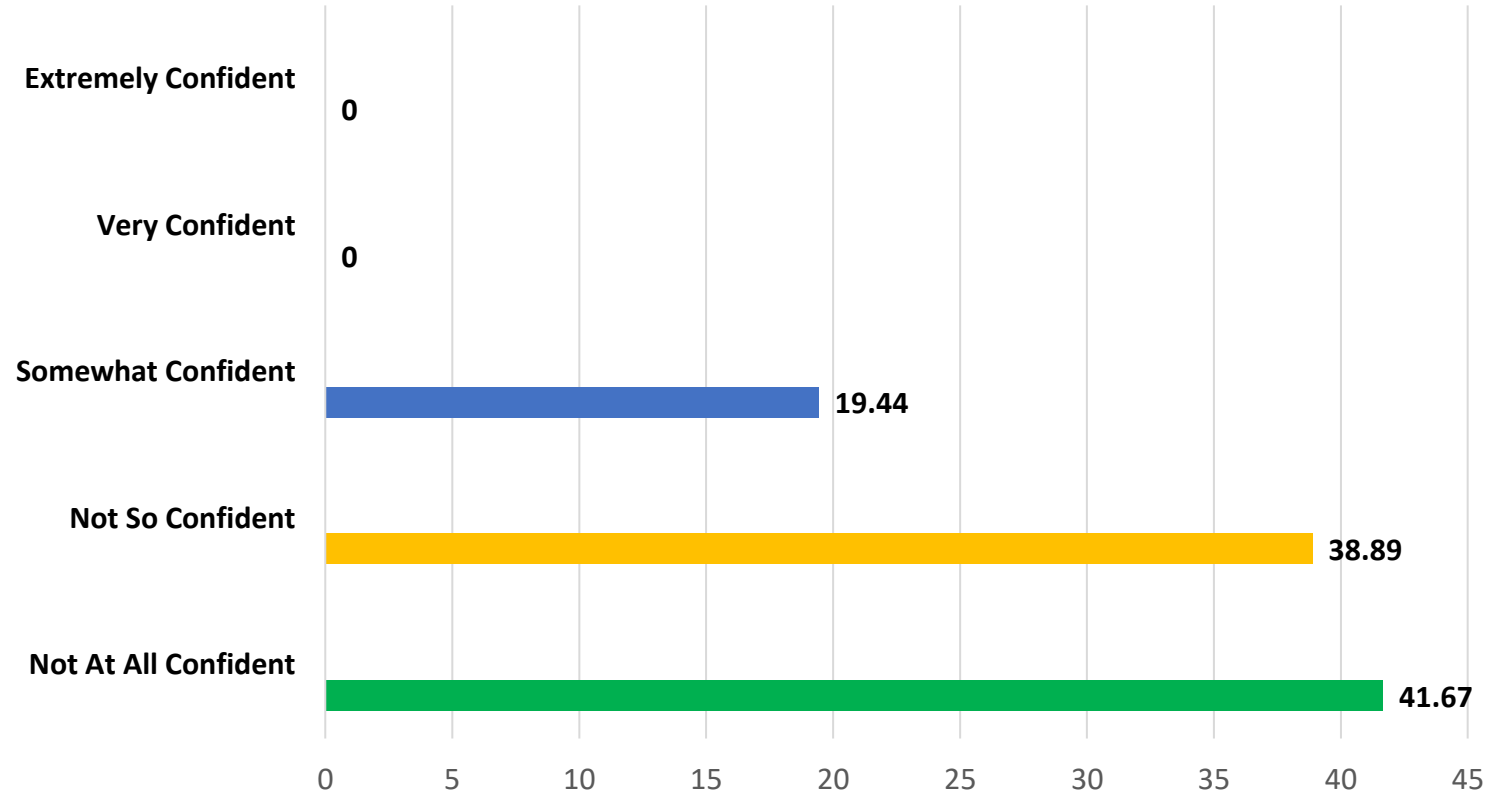


Other includes: Not Yet Provided (18.9%); Social Worker; Own Research



# Responses

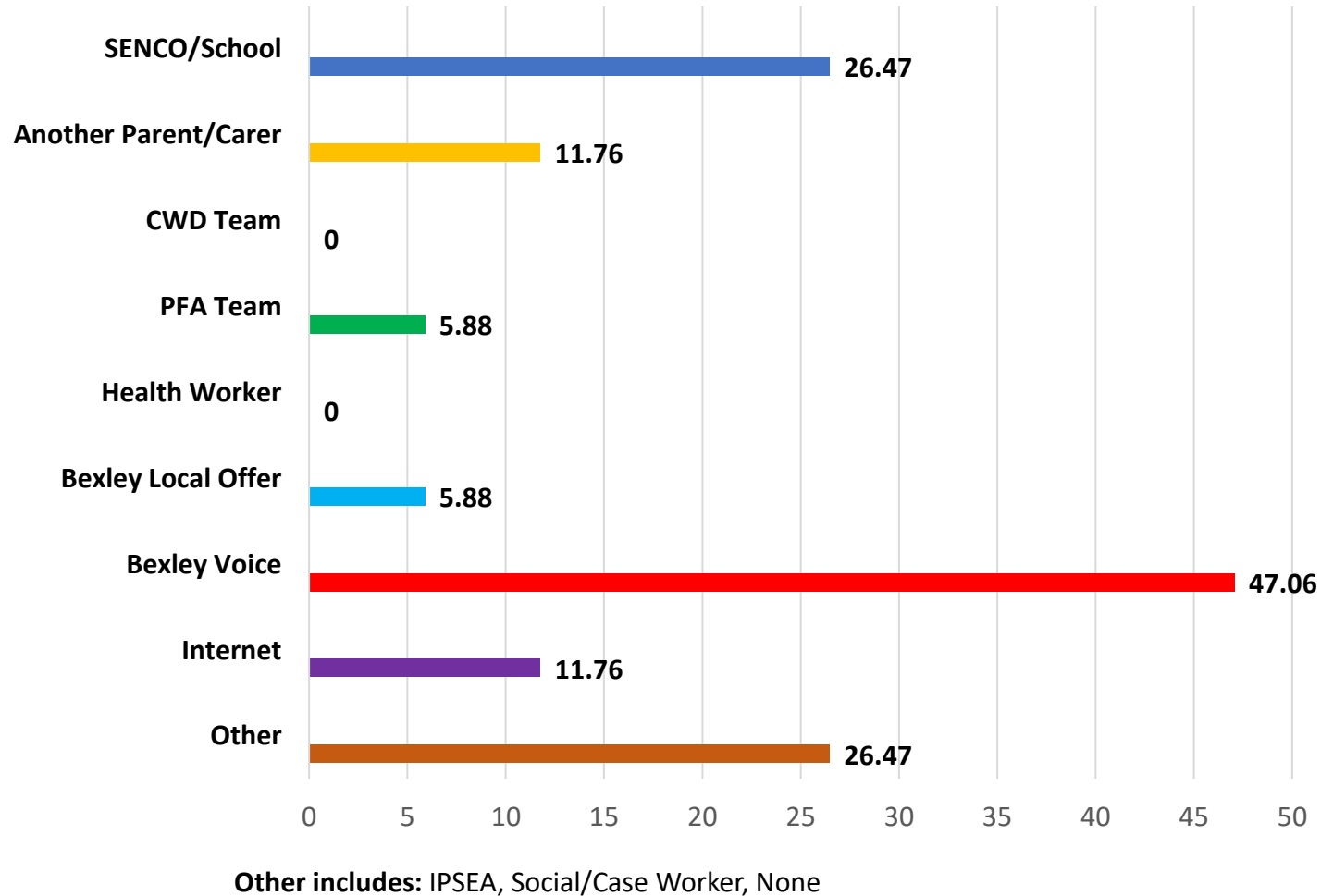
Q4 How confident did you feel at the outset of the Preparing for Adulthood process?





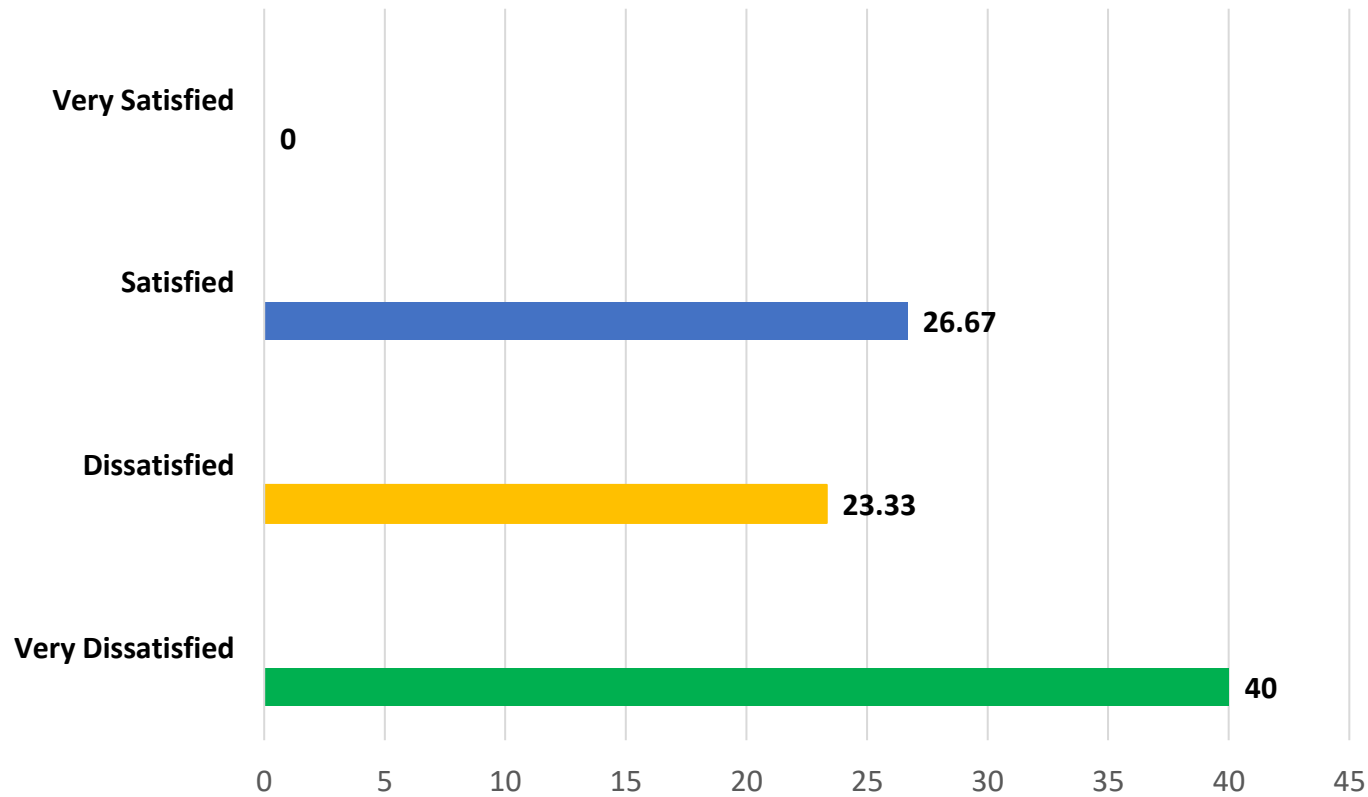
# Responses

Q5 Which of the following have been most helpful or supportive to you during the process?



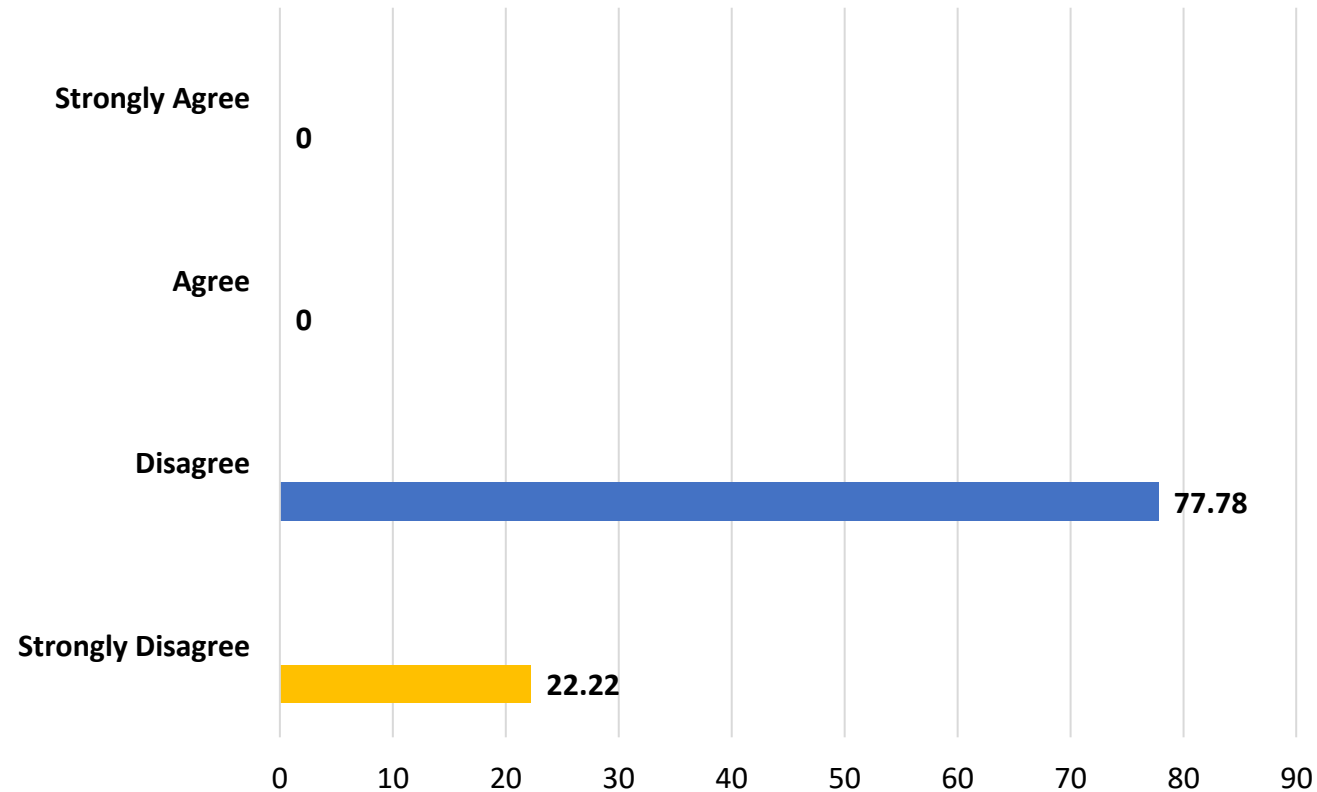
# Responses

Q7 For those with young people aged 14-18 (81% of respondents), what is your level of satisfaction with the process to date?



# Responses

Q7 For those with young people aged 19-20 (24.3% of respondents): To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'Transition into adulthood for my young person has been successful.'



# Comments from Parents/Carers of 14-18 Year Olds about PFA Process

We haven't had any preparation for adulthood apart from seminars organised by NAS or Bexley Voice

School very switched on and supportive

Start communicating earlier with timely and relevant information in easily readable and manageable chunks

Attends out of borough independent school. Had no help or information regarding preparing for adulthood. Appears if you aren't known to social services or attend a local school you're missed out of the loop (No EHCP)

Bexley were resistant to offering my son a Preparing for Adulthood Assessment. Tribunal ruled they must and assessment has yet to be undertaken

I don't know what the process is

I know nothing about this

Had to request involvement. Had to chase initial assessment. Next steps quite vague

Minimal input from anyone regarding transition from secondary school onto a Post 16 setting or adulthood



# Comments from Parents/Carers of 19-20 Year Olds about PFA Process

Immediate barriers arise with the language the information is delivered in- buzz words

Immediate help in place for higher education or advice on how to get into an apprenticeship/work

As soon as your child leaves full time education there's no help or support and his ECHP was taken away with no help what so ever with getting a job

More information available earlier in the schooling programme

My son has missed out on a lot of support and guidance. There is very little for older teenagers



# General Comments about PFA Process

I don't know anything for his transition and what's available in Bexley  
(No EHCP- age 15)

My child had one short session at secondary school with someone from Bexley Autism team  
(Age 16)

We have had very little support in helping him deal with preparations for GCSE or moving to adulthood. We manage as best we can on our own  
(No EHCP - Age 15)

What process? Yet again we have done it all ourselves, a bit of guidance from another parent but not much, and no help from the local authority  
(Age 19)

I am happy that I can talk to school and are in contact with transition team  
(Age 16)

It is a bit confusing as it's tied up tightly with the later chapters of the EHCP. Without Bexley Voice's support I think that I'd find the whole process pretty daunting  
(Age 12)

Preparing for Adulthood needs to be introduced to parents a lot sooner than what it currently is  
(Age 17)

I have no knowledge of the process  
(Age 16)



# Proposed Areas of Focus

- Parents and Carers of CYP with EHCPs need to be informed earlier than Year 9 about the Preparing for Adulthood Process and the Pathways in order that they can familiarise themselves and start to prepare. This could be achieved by:
  - SENCOs/Schools/Social Workers/Case Managers/Health Workers sharing information on Preparing for Adulthood proactively before the end of Year 8
  - This same group directing parents and carers to the Preparing for Adulthood section of the Local Offer early on in the process
- SENCOs/Schools must ensure that EHCPs include Preparing for Adulthood outcomes and plans from Year 9 (can Bexley double check this?) This should include looking at options for:
  - Further Education
  - Apprenticeships
  - Supported Internships
- Consider what support and guidance can be provided to parents and carers of CYP who:
  - do not have an EHCP but do have SEN support
  - those with an EHCP in mainstream school
  - those who are schooled out of Borough



# Bexley Voice Actions

- We are developing a series of parent/carer workshops on Preparing for Adulthood that cover:
  - An introduction to Preparing for Adulthood – the first of these was delivered in June 2020
  - Mental Capacity and Deputyship – Sept 20
  - Support for CYP with SEN Support but no EHCP – Oct 20
  - Personal Budgets - TBA
  - Annual Health Checks - TBA
  - Others to be developed based on identified need
- Establishing a Preparing for Adulthood Discussion/Focus Group designed to:
  - Collate experiences
  - Review feedback to our surveys and agree and monitor action plans
  - Provide feedback to Bexley on key topics arising
- Reviewing and updating our online Parent/Carer Transition Planner – to be completed October 20





# Next Steps

## Proposed next steps are:

- Relevant members of the SEND Strategic Implementation Board to review findings and consider if additional actions are appropriate
- Bexley Voice to share findings with our PFA Discussion/Focus Group (once established) and identify additional actions and monitor progress
- SEND Board to track progress on agreed actions
- Review progress of agreed actions in the next survey in 2021



# Questions?

