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Research Project  
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**The impact of the Early Years Foundation Stage  
[EYFS] on Registered Childminders**

Data Analysis of Questionnaires

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Analysis of each Questionnaire Question .....  | 5  |
| Number of replies .....  | 5  |
| Method of Data Capture .....   | 5  |
| Limitations to the analysis .....  | 6  |
| Q.1. What is your gender? .....  | 8  |
| Q.2. What is your age?.....  | 9  |
| Q.3. Optional – what is your ethnicity? .....  | 10 |
| Q.4. How long have you been childminding?.....   | 11 |
| Q.5. What was your last Ofsted inspection grading? .....   | 12 |
| Q.6A. Did any of the following areas impact POSITIVELY upon your OFSTED grading? .....   | 13 |
| Q.6B. Did any of the following areas impact NEGATIVELY upon your OFSTED grading? .....   | 14 |
| Q.7. Are you a member of any of the following? .....   | 15 |
| Q.8. How do you view your job as a childminder? .....  | 16 |
| Q.9. What is your highest current OVERALL educational qualification level? (e.g. You may have a L6 Degree in engineering or science that is nothing to do with childcare.) ..... | 17 |
| Q.11. Do you hold Early Years Professional Status [EYPS]?.....   | 19 |
| Q.12. Are you currently working towards any of the following CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualifications?.....   | 20 |
| Q.13. Have you received any bursary funding for any Childcare Specific qualifications and training since 2008? .....   | 21 |
| Q.14. If you were to stop working as a childminder, what would be your main reason? .....  | 22 |
| Q.16. Have you heard of the Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS? .....   | 24 |
| Q.17. How much knowledge and understanding do you have of EYFS? .....  | 25 |
| Q.18. What are your impressions of EYFS? .....   | 26 |
| Q.20B. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from the Local Authority? .....  | 29 |
| Q.20C. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from National Childminding Association?.....   | 30 |
| Q.20D. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from your NCMA Network Local Coordinator?.....   | 31 |
| Q.20E. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Peer / colleague Childminders?.....   | 32 |
| Q.20F. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Others?.....  | 33 |
| Q.21. How much EYFS related training have you received in the last year? .....   | 34 |
| Q.23. Did you respond to the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review?.....  | 36 |
| Q.24. Are you aware of the development of a high quality interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS? .....  | 37 |
| Q.25. Would you make use of an interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS? .....  | 38 |
| References .....   | 39 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 1 - Questionnaire Database Data Schema.....  | 5  |
| Figure 2 - Childminders in England. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011).....  | 6  |
| Figure 3 - Top 5 Local Authorities of Active Childminders. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011).....                                       | 6  |
| Figure 1 - Q.1. Data Count .....  | 8  |
| Figure 2 - Q.1. What is your gender? .....  | 8  |
| Figure 3 - Q.2. Data Count .....  | 9  |
| Figure 4 - Q.2. Data Distribution .....   | 9  |
| Figure 5 - Q.2. What is your age?.....  | 9  |
| Figure 6 - Q.3. Data Count .....  | 10 |
| Figure 7 - Q.4. Data Count .....  | 11 |
| Figure 8 - Q.4. Data Distribution .....   | 11 |
| Figure 9 - Q.4. How long have you been childminding?.....   | 11 |
| Figure 10 - Q.5. Data Count .....   | 12 |
| Figure 11 - Q.5. Data Distribution .....  | 12 |
| Figure 12 - Q.5. What was your last Ofsted inspection grading? .....  | 12 |
| Figure 13 - Q.6A. Data Count .....  | 13 |
| Figure 14 - Q.6A. Data Distribution.....  | 13 |
| Figure 15 - Q.6A. Did any of the following areas impact POSITIVELY upon your OFSTED grading? .....                              | 13 |
| Figure 16 - Q.6B. Data Count .....  | 14 |
| Figure 17 - Q.6B. Data Distribution.....  | 14 |
| Figure 18 - Q.6B. Did any of the following areas impact NEGATIVELY upon your OFSTED grading? .....                              | 14 |
| Figure 19 - Q.7. Data Count .....   | 15 |
| Figure 20 - Q.7. Data Distribution .....  | 15 |
| Figure 21 - Q.7. Are you a member of any of the following? .....  | 15 |
| Figure 22 - Q.8. Data Count .....   | 16 |
| Figure 23 - Q.8. How do you view your job as a childminder? .....   | 16 |
| Figure 24 - Q.9. Data Count .....   | 17 |
| Figure 25 - Q.9. Data Distribution .....  | 17 |
| Figure 26 - Q.9. What is your highest current OVERALL educational qualification level? .....                                    | 17 |
| Figure 27 - Q.10. Data Count .....  | 18 |
| Figure 28 - Q.10. Data Distribution .....   | 18 |
| Figure 29 - Q.10. What is your highest CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualification level? .....                                | 18 |
| Figure 30 - Q.11. Data Count .....  | 19 |
| Figure 31 - Q.11. Do you hold Early Years Professional Status [EYPS]? .....   | 19 |
| Figure 32 - Q.12. Data Count .....  | 20 |
| Figure 33 - Q.12. Data Distribution .....   | 20 |
| Figure 34 - Q.12. Are you currently working towards any of the following CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualifications?.....    | 20 |
| Figure 35 - Q.13. Data Count .....  | 21 |
| Figure 36 - Q.13. Have you received any bursary funding for any Childcare Specific qualifications and training since 2008?..... | 21 |
| Figure 37 - Q.14. Data Count .....  | 22 |
| Figure 38 - Q.14. Data Distribution .....   | 22 |
| Figure 39 - Q.14. If you were to stop working as a childminder, what would be your main reason? .....                           | 22 |
| Figure 40 - Q.15. Data Count .....  | 23 |
| Figure 41 - Q.16. Data Count .....  | 24 |
| Figure 42 - Q.17. Data Count .....  | 25 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 43 - Q.17. How much knowledge and understanding do you have of EYFS? .....   | 25 |
| Figure 44 - Q.18. Data Count .....  | 26 |
| Figure 45 - Q.18. Data Distribution .....   | 26 |
| Figure 46 - Q.18. What are your impressions of EYFS? .....  | 26 |
| Figure 47 - Q.19. Data Count .....  | 27 |
| Figure 48 - Q.19. Data Distribution .....   | 27 |
| Figure 49 - Q.19. When working within the EYFS framework what do you find most challenging? .....                           | 27 |
| Figure 50 - Q.20A. Data Count .....   | 28 |
| Figure 51 - Q.20A. Data Distribution.....   | 28 |
| Figure 52 - Q.20A. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from OFSTED? .....                              | 28 |
| Figure 53 - Q.20B. Data Count .....   | 29 |
| Figure 54 - Q.20B. Data Distribution .....  | 29 |
| Figure 55 - Q.20B. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from the Local Authority? .....                 | 29 |
| Figure 56 - Q.20C. Data Count .....   | 30 |
| Figure 57 - Q.20C. Data Distribution .....  | 30 |
| Figure 58 - Q.20C. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from National Childminding Association?.....    | 30 |
| Figure 59 - Q.20D. Data Count .....   | 31 |
| Figure 60 - Q.20D. Data Distribution.....   | 31 |
| Figure 61 - Q.20D. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from your NCMA Network Local Coordinator?.....  | 31 |
| Figure 62 - Q.20E. Data Count .....   | 32 |
| Figure 63 - Q.20E. Data Distribution .....  | 32 |
| Figure 64 - Q.20E. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Peer / colleague Childminders?.....        | 32 |
| Figure 65 - Q.20F. Data Count.....  | 33 |
| Figure 66 - Q.20F. Data Distribution .....  | 33 |
| Figure 67 - Q.20F. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Others? .....                              | 33 |
| Figure 68 - Q.21. Data Count .....  | 34 |
| Figure 69 - Q.21. Data Distribution .....   | 34 |
| Figure 70 - Q.21. How much EYFS related training have you received in the last year? .....                                  | 34 |
| Figure 71 - Q.22. Data Count .....  | 35 |
| Figure 72 - Q.22. Are you aware of the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review? .....  | 35 |
| Figure 73 - Q.23. Data Count .....  | 36 |
| Figure 74 - Q.23. Did you respond to the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review? .....  | 36 |
| Figure 75 - Q.24. Data Count .....  | 37 |
| Figure 76 - Q.24. Are you aware of the development of a high quality interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS? ..... | 37 |
| Figure 77 - Q.25. Data Count .....  | 38 |
| Figure 78 - Q.25. Would you make use of an interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS? .....                           | 38 |

## Analysis of each Questionnaire Question

The aim of this appendix is to show the overall analysis of each question asked in the questionnaire.

### Number of replies

The questionnaires were completed via a number of sources. Hampshire’s National Childminding Association [NCMA] blog website kindly posted a link to the on-line source of the questionnaire – 6 respondents replied via this method. Questionnaires were completed by personally attending Childminding drop in sessions locally – a further 10 questionnaires were gathered at these sessions. Childminders dropping their children to the local infant school kindly completed 5 questionnaires. Work colleagues and childminders know personally to the student completed 3 questionnaires. Two NCMA Network childminding conferences held in Eastleigh and Basingstoke on consecutive Saturdays contributed the vast majority of data with 144 questionnaires completed during the two conferences.

In total, 168 questionnaires were completed. This breaks down into 131 Network Childminders and 37 Non-Network.

### Method of Data Capture

The data supplied in the 168 hand-written questionnaires was transcribed manually into a bespoke MS Access Relational database. The simple database schema was designed to allow the questions and answers to be amended and altered after a short pilot scheme of five questionnaires, and for the data to be easily captured for further analysis using the built-in querying tools available. The answers were captured as a mixture of single and multi-choice, Yes/No and a small number of free text qualitative opinions.

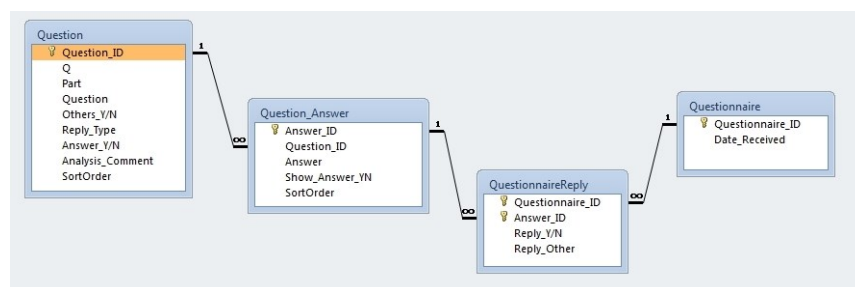


Figure 1 - Questionnaire Database Data Schema

Once all 168 questionnaires were captured queries were constructed to extract the data and exported to an MS Excel spread sheet where a number of worksheets were employed to allow the charting tool to display the

data graphically. Analysis of the data was based upon each individual question and then more complex queries involving sub-sets of data extrapolated from Network and Non-Network childminders plus Ofsted gradings and time spent at childminding.

### Limitations to the analysis

Publicly available statistics offered by The Office for Standards in Education [Ofsted] (Dec 2011) show that there are 39500 active registered childminders in England. Of those, the highest Local Authority with registered childminders in the country is Hampshire with 1460.

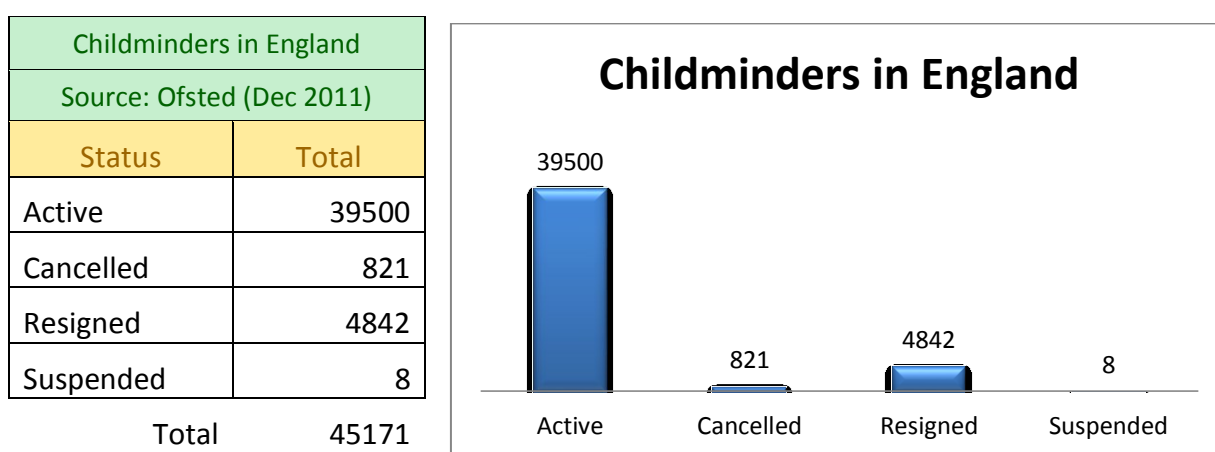


Figure 2 - Childminders in England. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011)

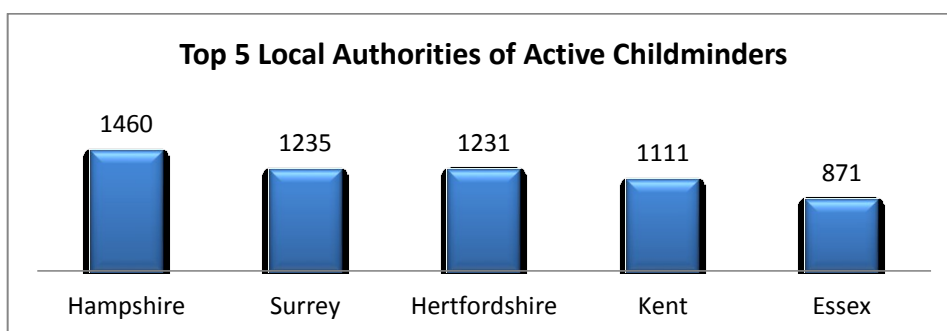


Figure 3 - Top 5 Local Authorities of Active Childminders. Source: Ofsted (Dec 2011)

This survey represents 11.5% of the total Hampshire actively registered childminders.

However, Network childminders completing the questionnaire have already had to meet the stringent requirements of joining the network and therefore represent:

- well motivated.
- having mostly Good or Outstanding Ofsted Inspection grades.
- educated to, or working towards Level 3.
- prepared to give up their own time to conduct further training.
- ready to conduct additional inspections by NCMA Network coordinators.
- mostly embracing of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Due to the disproportionate number of Network childminders completing the questionnaire, all questions will be biased due to the traits already identified. This places a known limitation on the interpretation and analysis to be conducted. Notwithstanding these limitations, the analysis can be considered viable where similarities in views and opinions are shared between the Network and Non-Network replies.

Although Non-Network questionnaires only represent 22% of the overall replies, where there is clear discrepancy between the views of the Network and Non-Network subset these will be displayed separately.

### Q.1. What is your gender?

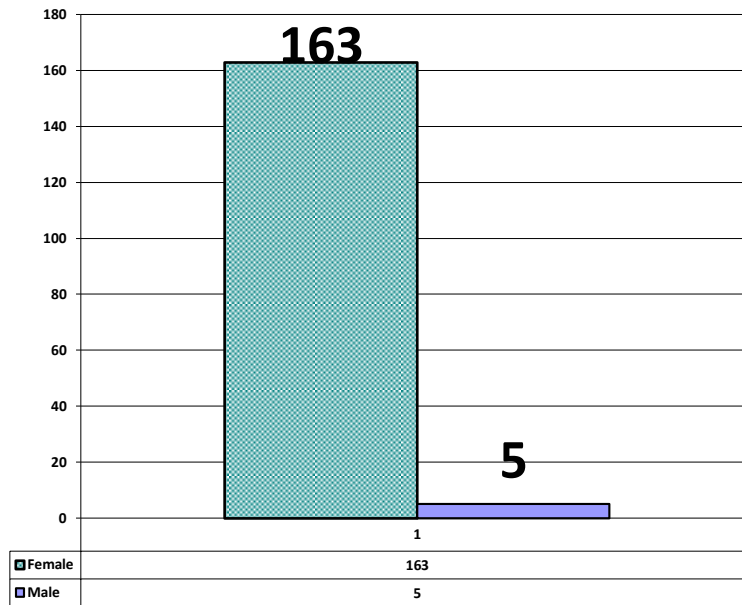


Figure 4 - Q.1. Data Count

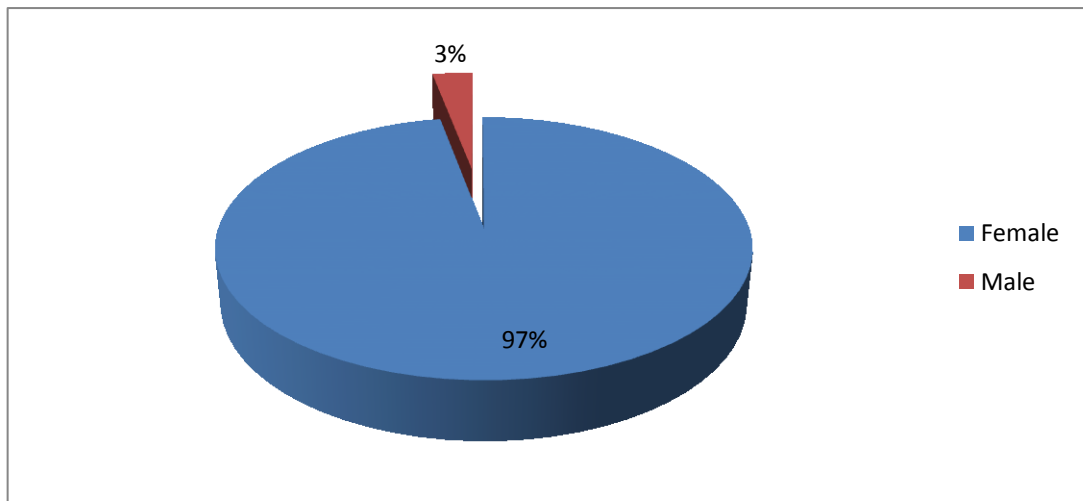


Figure 5 - Q.1. What is your gender?

The number of questionnaires completed by females is not surprising as The Department for Education [DE] publish that nearly 97% of the Early Years workforce are women. With barely 3% of childminders being a male, the responses to this questionnaire also closely reflects the overall national average.



### Q.2. What is your age?

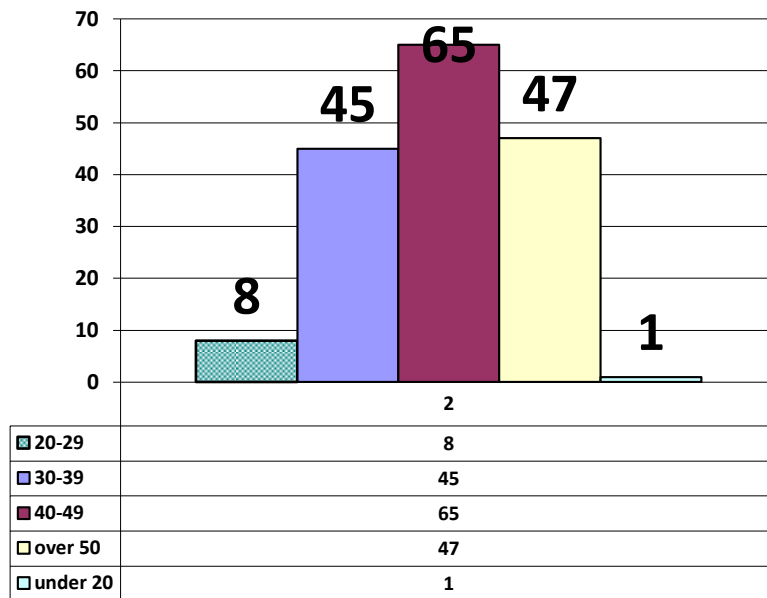


Figure 6 - Q.2. Data Count

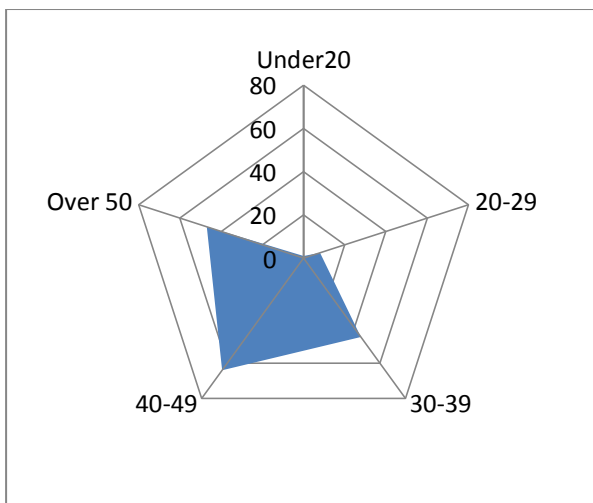


Figure 7 - Q.2. Data Distribution

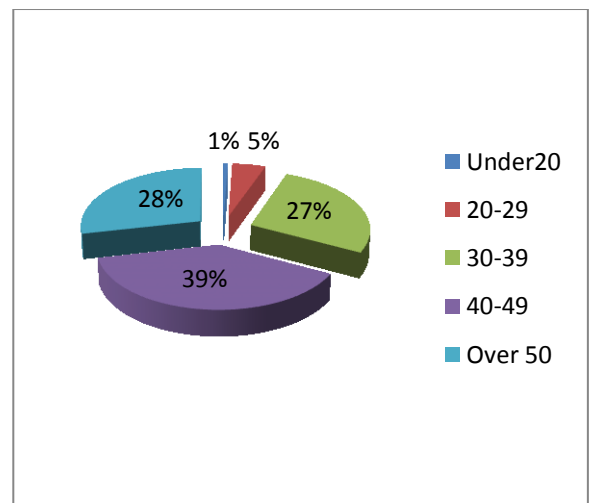


Figure 8 - Q.2. What is your age?

The spread of the age range of childminders completing the questionnaire indicates that the vast majority are aged over 30.

### Q.3. Optional – what is your ethnicity?

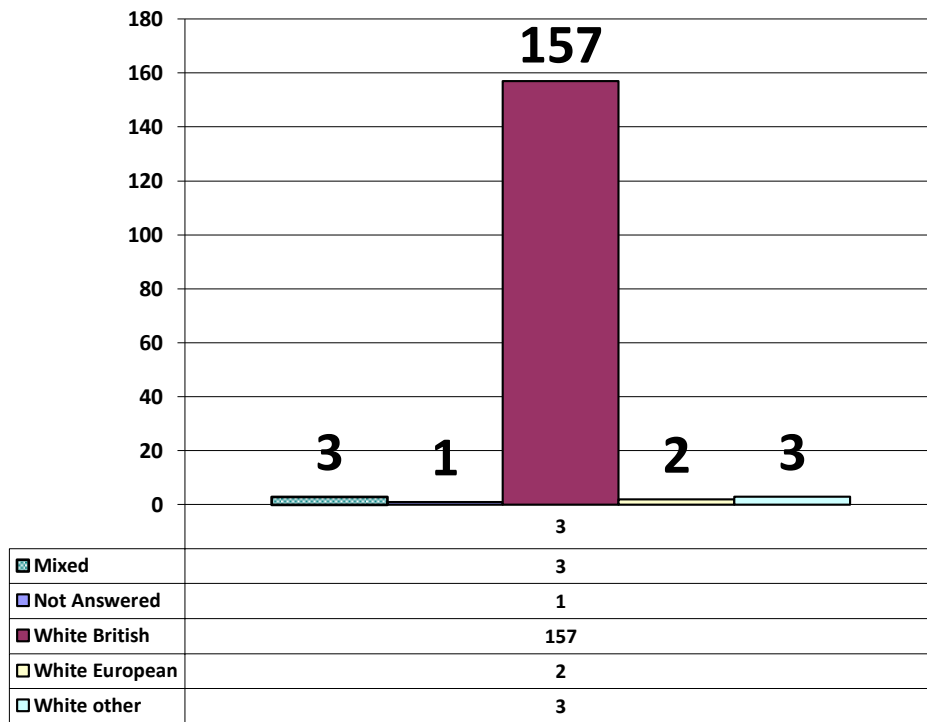


Figure 9 - Q.3. Data Count

The Office for National Statistics demographic data indicates that nearly 86% of the population are white British. This data set is reflective of those statistics.

### Q.4. How long have you been childminding?

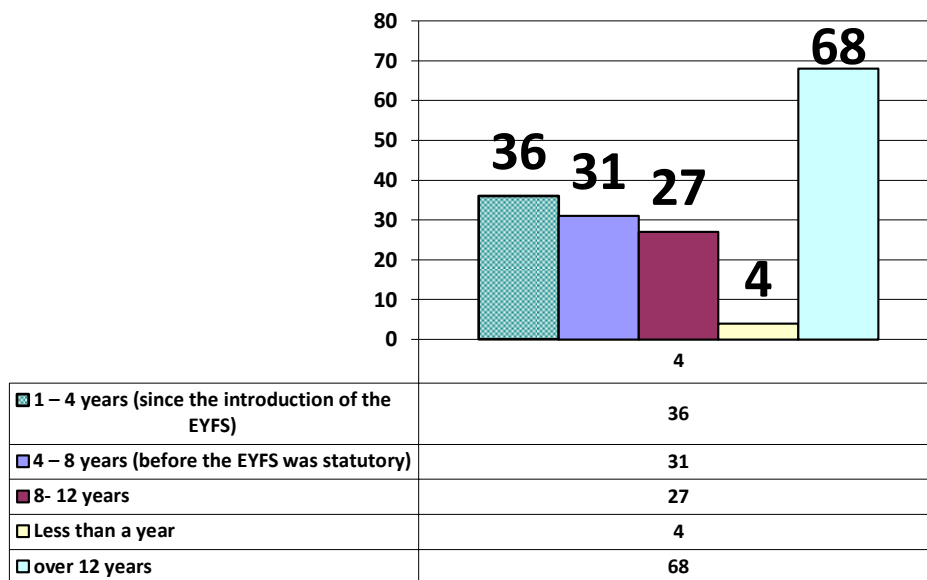


Figure 10 - Q.4. Data Count

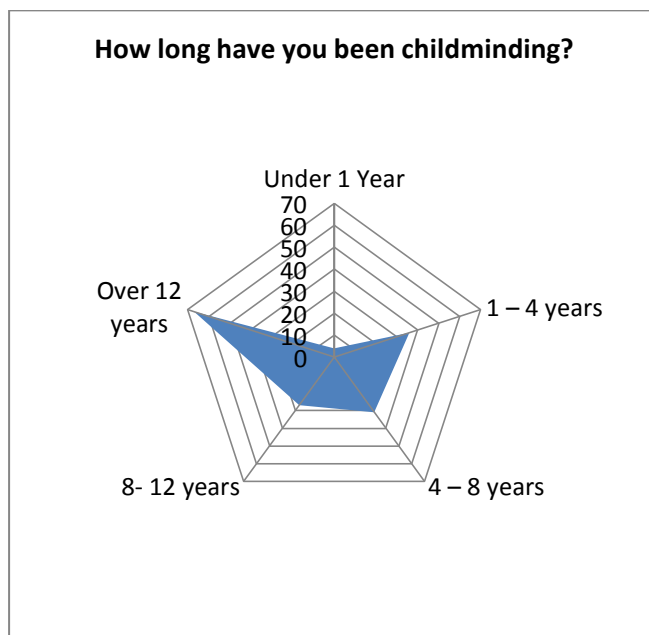


Figure 11 - Q.4. Data Distribution

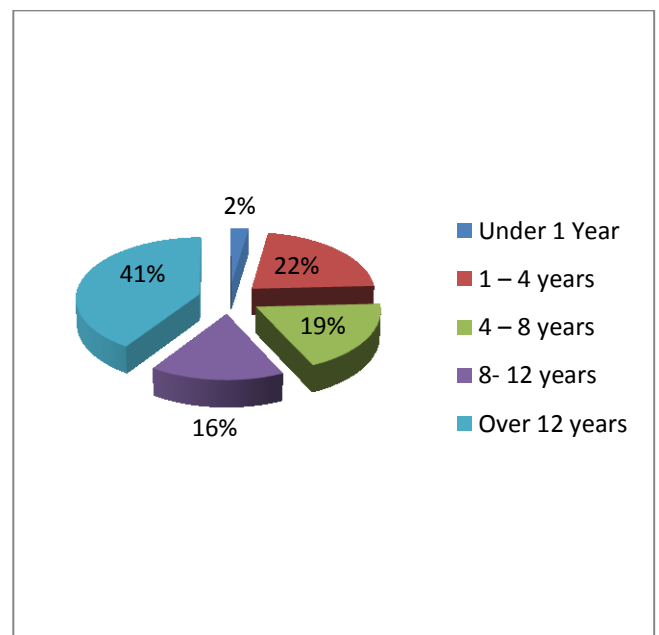


Figure 12 - Q.4. How long have you been childminding?

This data shows that 24% of the childminders have started childminding since the introduction of EYFS and 76% have continued working despite the introduction of EYFS with 41% childminding for over 12 years.

### Q.5. What was your last Ofsted inspection grading?

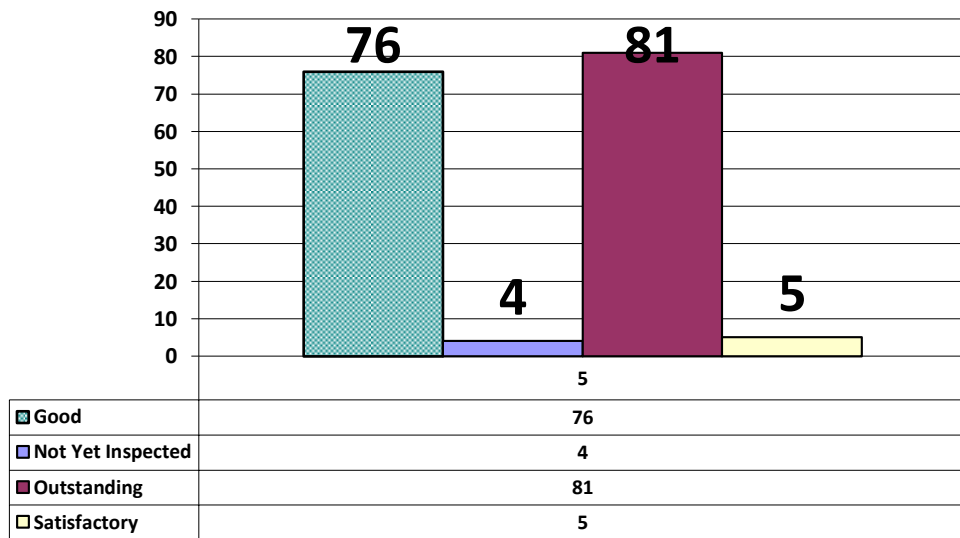


Figure 13 - Q.5. Data Count

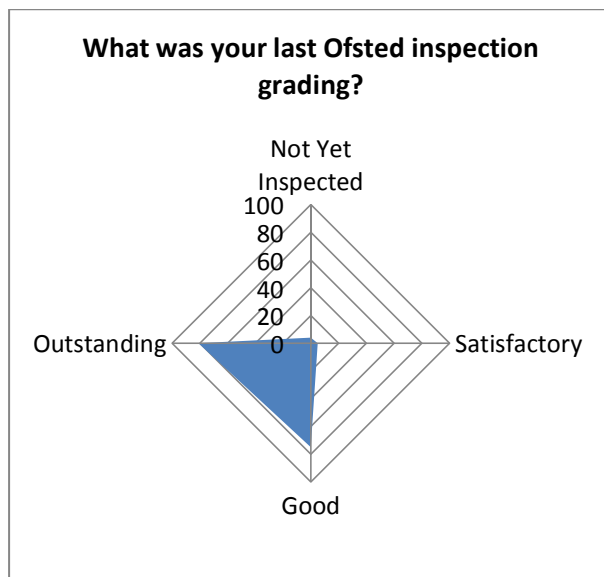


Figure 14 - Q.5. Data Distribution

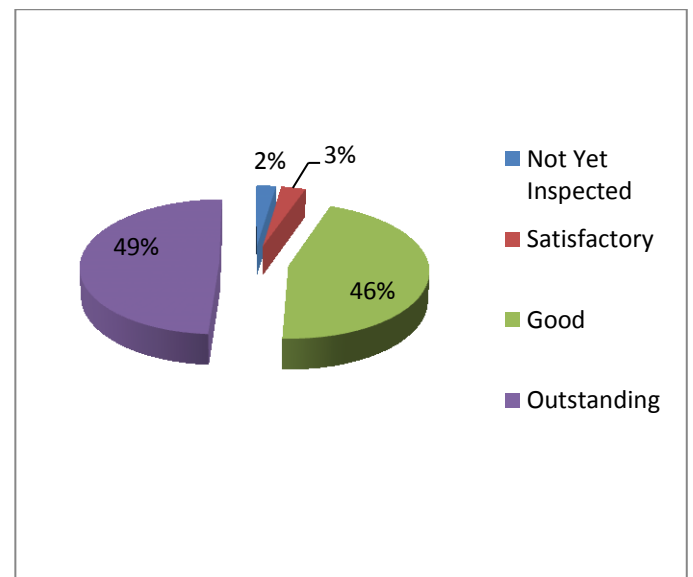


Figure 15 - Q.5. What was your last Ofsted inspection grading?

In this survey, the figures are biased towards the GOOD and OUTSTANDING because a large proportion of the questionnaires were completed by Accredited Network childminders. These childminders are all motivated, well-educated and generally enthusiastic about the implementation of EYFS. This data reflects the commitment and dedication of the childminders involved with 95% having achieved GOOD or OUTSTANDING in their last Ofsted inspection.

**Q.6A. Did any of the following areas impact POSITIVELY upon your OFSTED grading?**

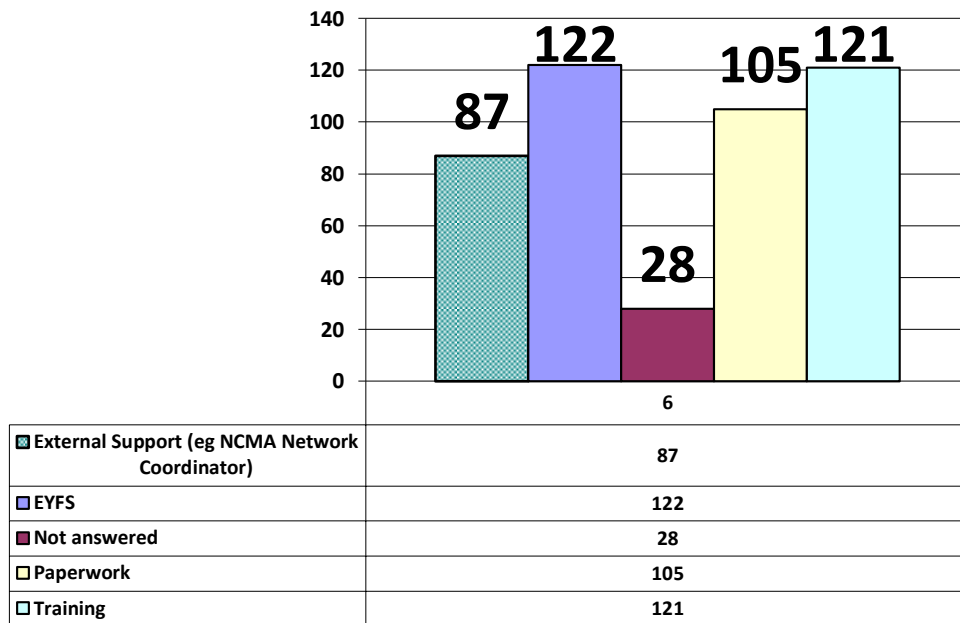


Figure 16 - Q.6A. Data Count

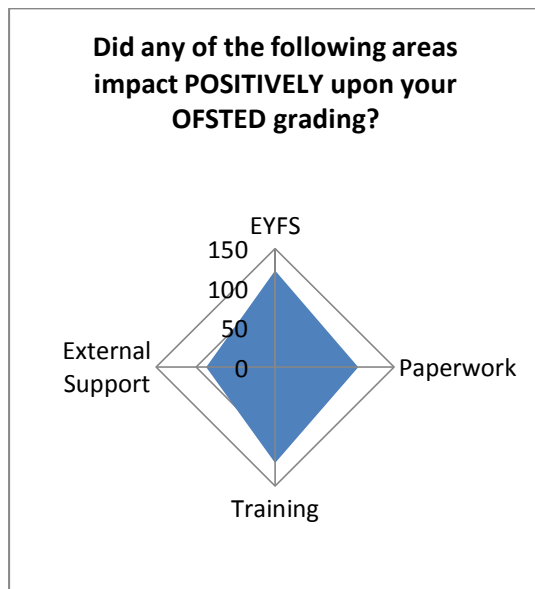


Figure 17 - Q.6A. Data Distribution

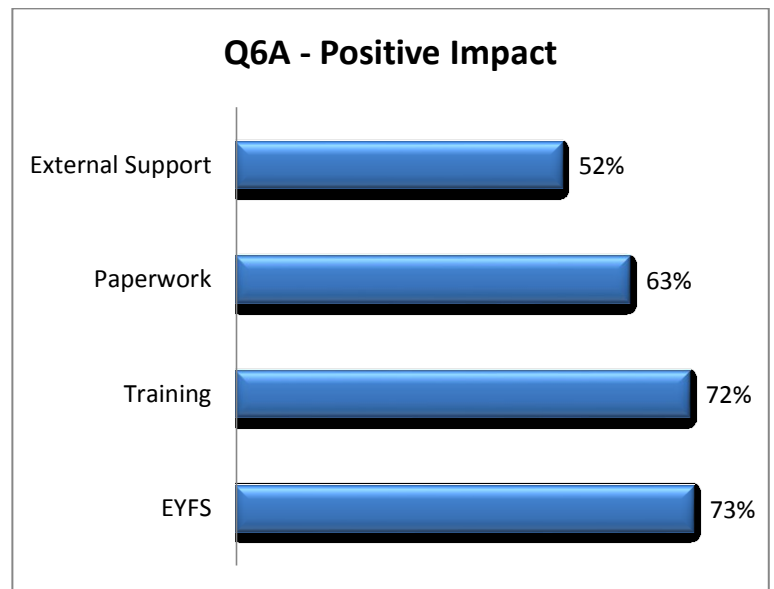


Figure 18 - Q.6A. Did any of the following areas impact POSITIVELY upon your OFSTED grading?

Many childminders see the implementation of EYFS as a positive aspect in Ofsted inspections. There is a relative equal split between four areas reflecting positively upon inspections.

**Q.6B. Did any of the following areas impact NEGATIVELY upon your OFSTED grading?**

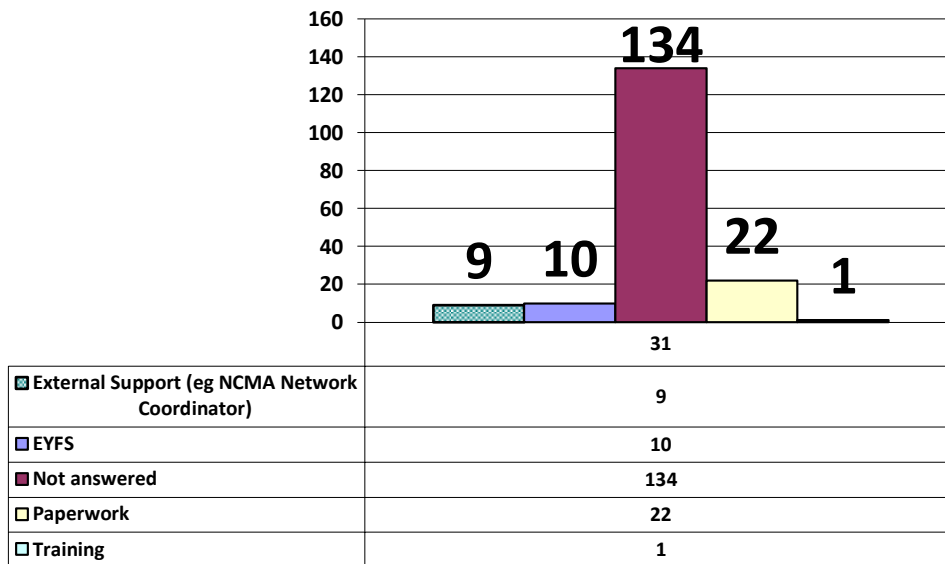


Figure 19 - Q.6B. Data Count

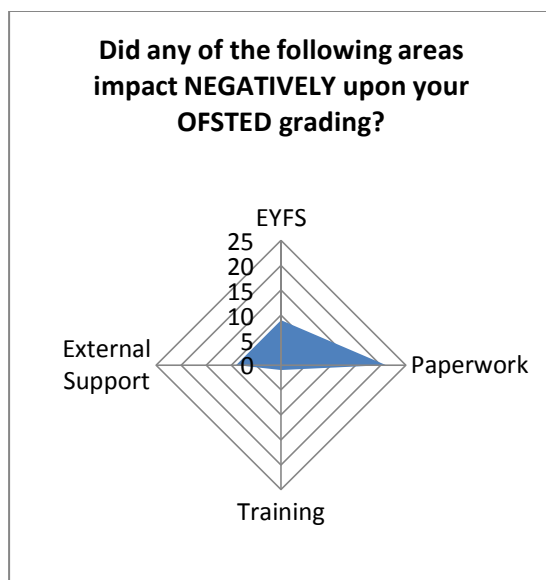


Figure 20 - Q.6B. Data Distribution

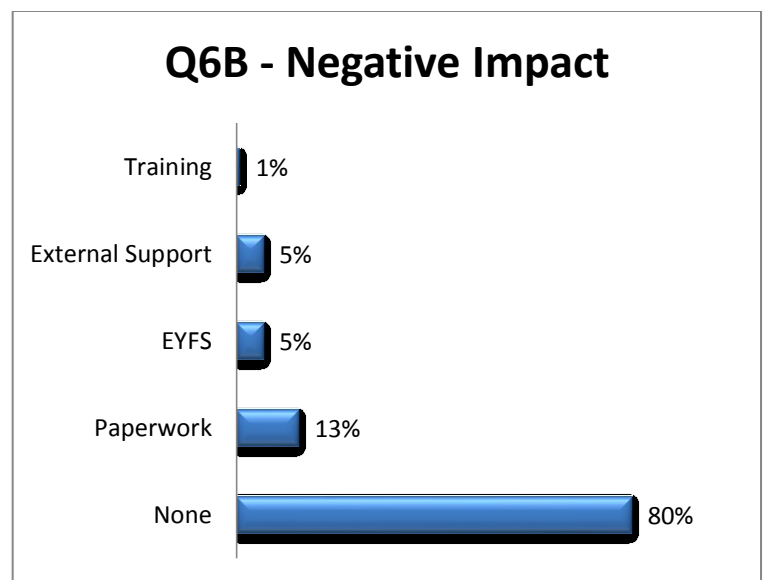


Figure 21 - Q.6B. Did any of the following areas impact NEGATIVELY upon your OFSTED grading?

Of the minority 24% who recognised a negative impact, paperwork was seen as the biggest hurdle (13%) in their Ofsted inspections. The majority, 80%, did not believe any area reflected negatively.

### Q.7. Are you a member of any of the following?

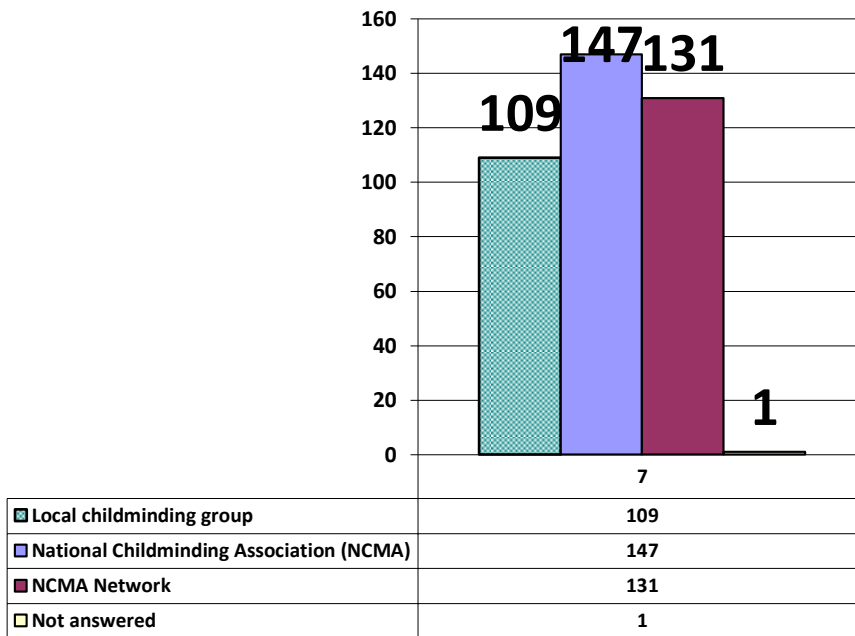


Figure 22 - Q.7. Data Count

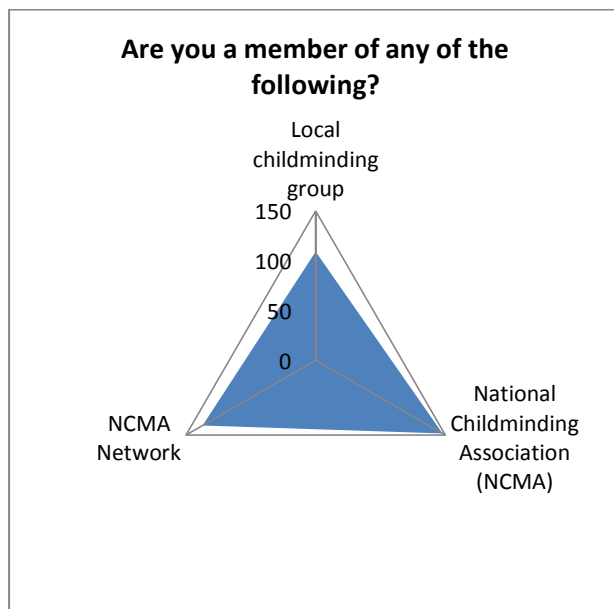


Figure 23 - Q.7. Data Distribution

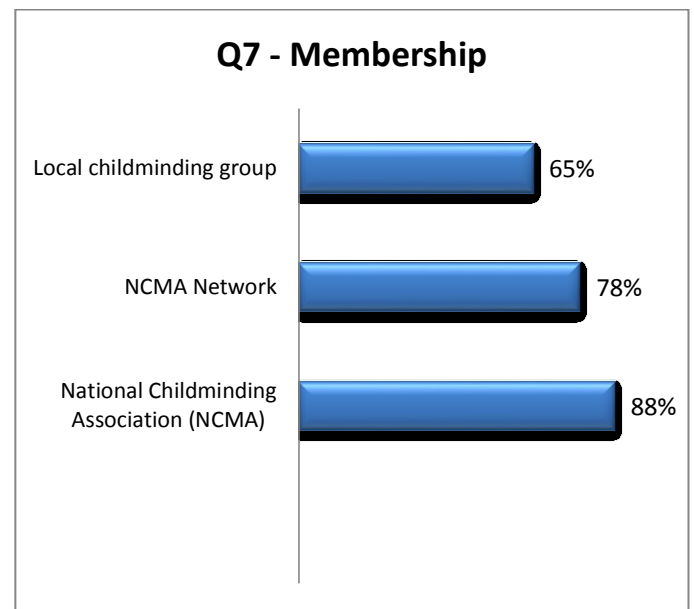


Figure 24 - Q.7. Are you a member of any of the following?

The data clearly shows that there is a high majority of membership and this also reflects in the network of support that these childminders enjoy.

**Q.8. How do you view your job as a childminder?**

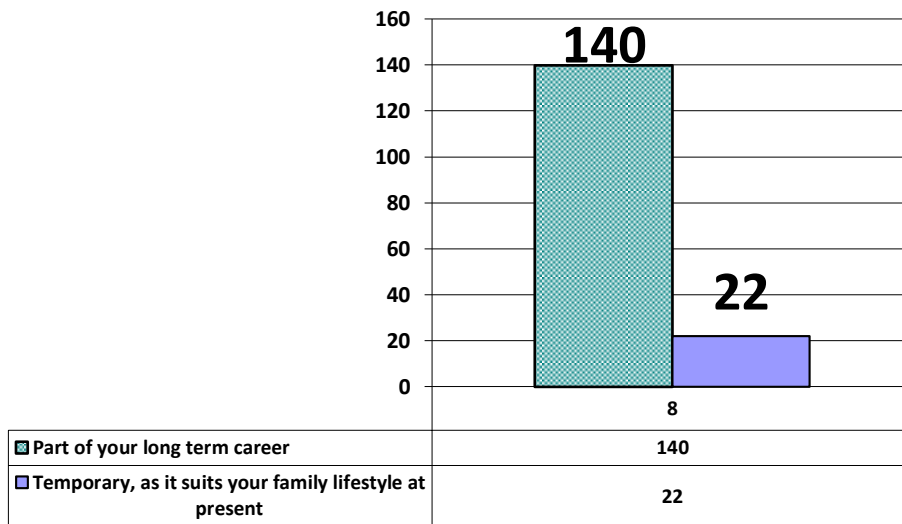


Figure 25 - Q.8. Data Count

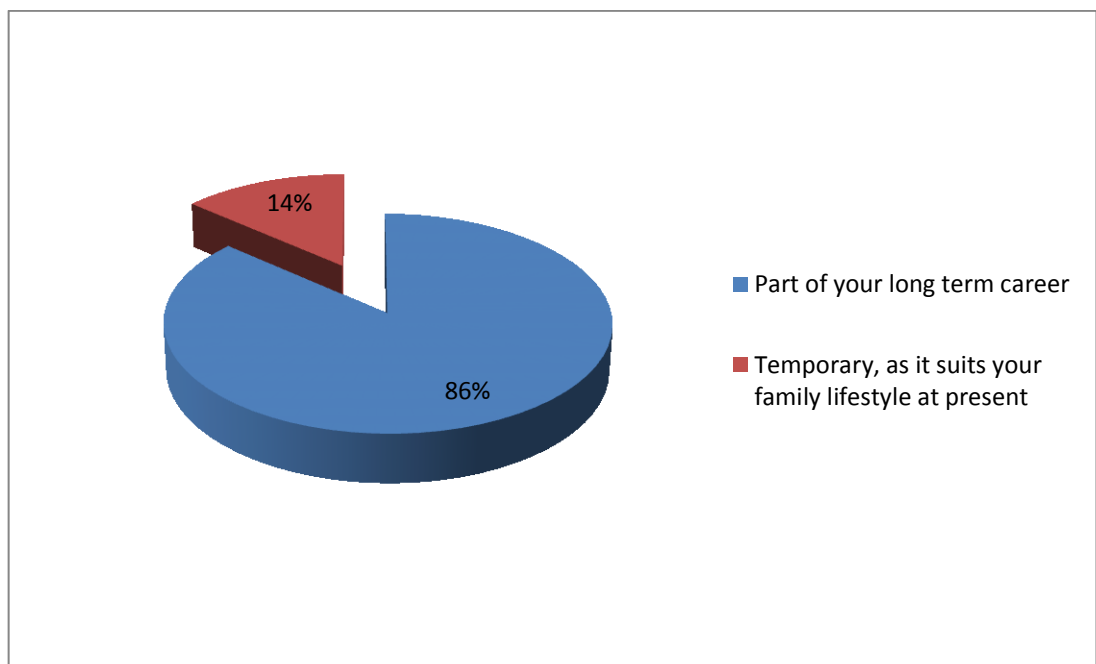


Figure 26 - Q.8. How do you view your job as a childminder?

86% view their childminding as a long-term career pattern.



**Q.9. What is your highest current OVERALL educational qualification level?** (e.g. You may have a L6 Degree in engineering or science that is nothing to do with childcare.)

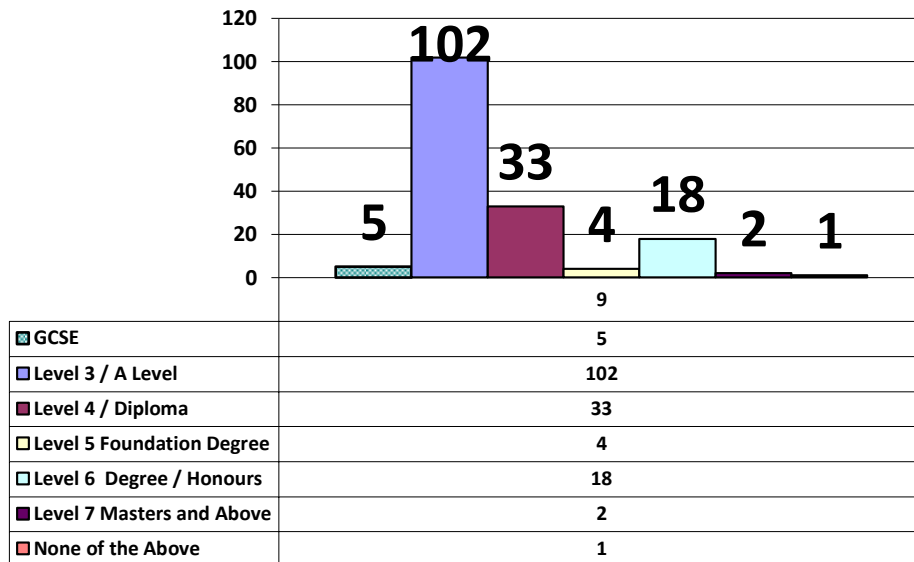


Figure 27 - Q.9. Data Count

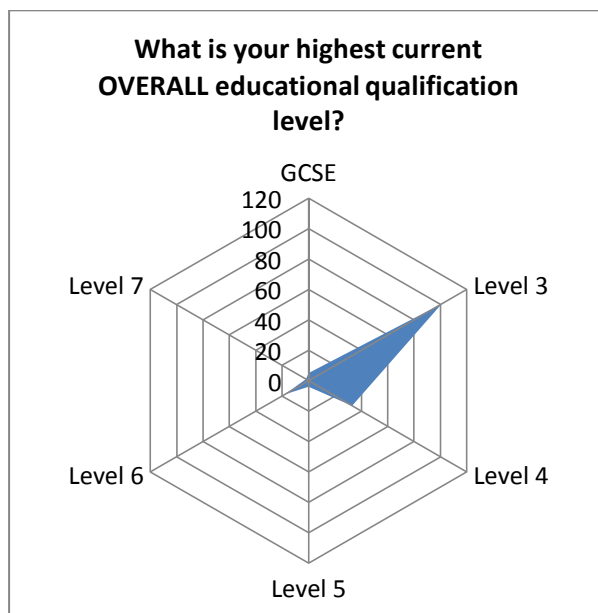


Figure 28 - Q.9. Data Distribution

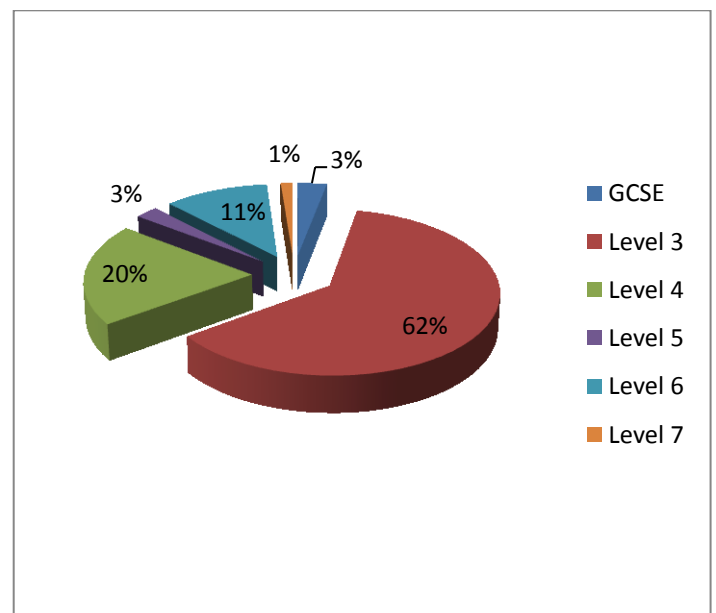


Figure 29 - Q.9. What is your highest current OVERALL educational qualification level?

This question aims to identify how many childminders have an OVERALL educational qualification that may or may not have anything to do with childcare. Of those answering 15% have a degree or higher with the greater majority (62%) holding a level 3 qualification. As with previous questions this data is biased as the majority of those completing the questionnaire are on the accredited network.

**Q.10. What is your highest CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualification level?**

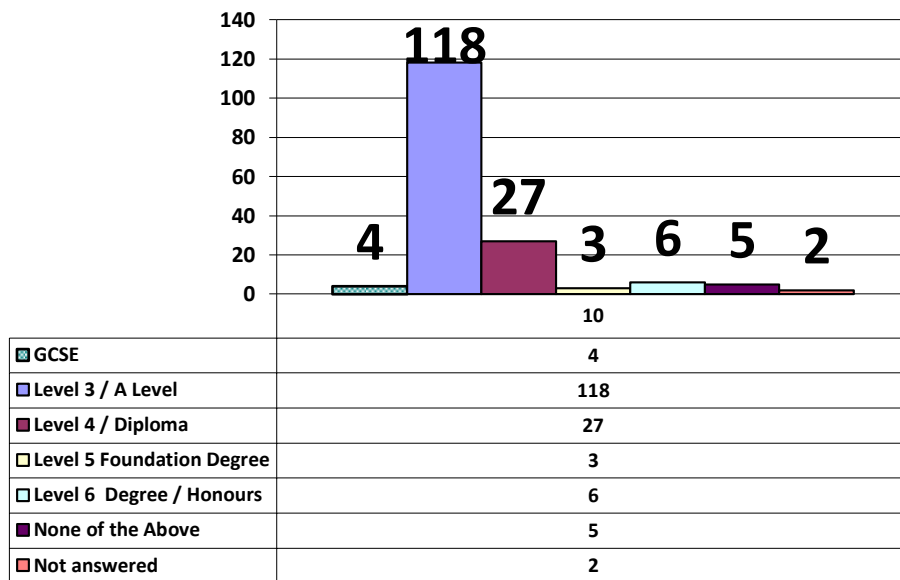


Figure 30 - Q.10. Data Count

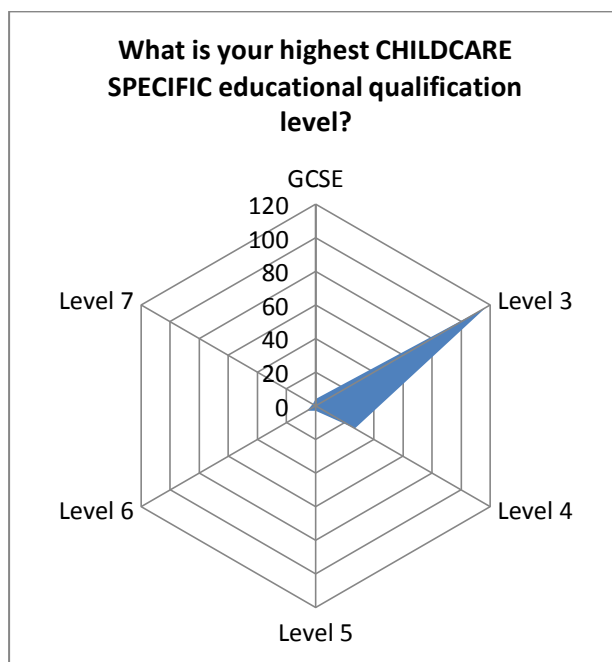


Figure 31 - Q.10. Data Distribution

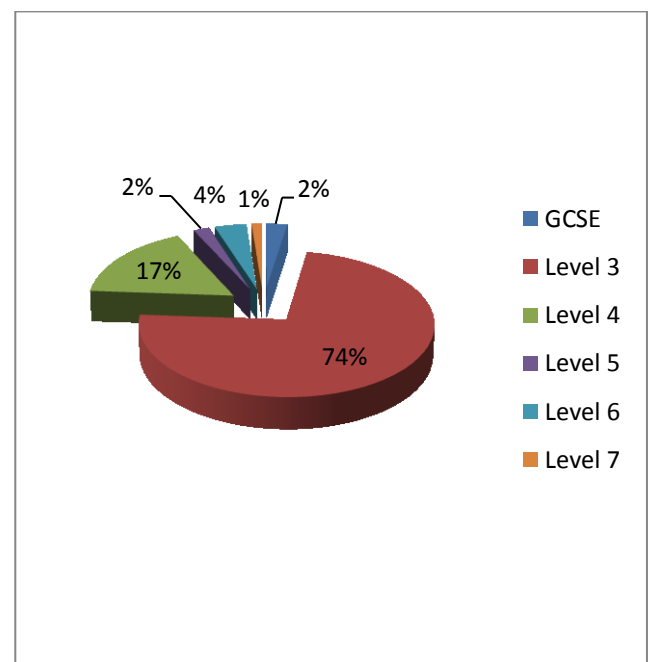


Figure 32 - Q.10. What is your highest CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualification level?

91% of those answering this question identified they held a Level 3 or 4 qualification in childcare. This emphasises the commitment to reach the minimum required educational standards of the National Childminding Association [NCMA] ‘Children Come First’ Quality improvement scheme for childminding networks.

### Q.11. Do you hold Early Years Professional Status [EYPS]?

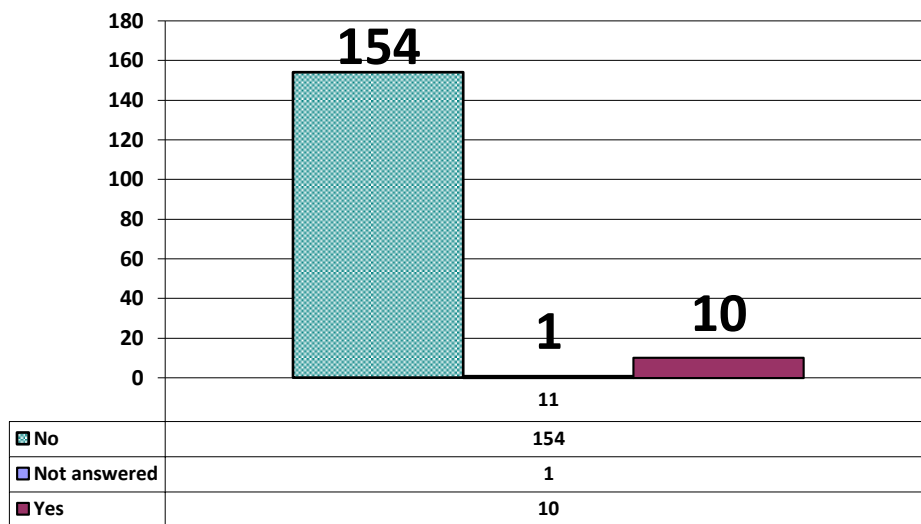


Figure 33 - Q.11. Data Count

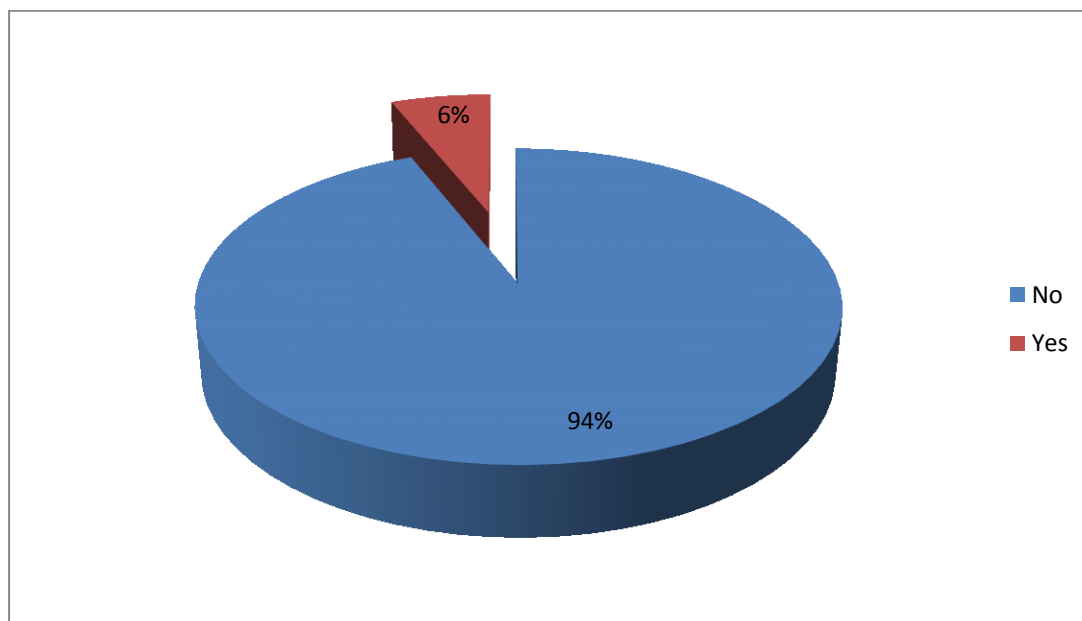


Figure 34 - Q.11. Do you hold Early Years Professional Status [EYPS]?

The Children's Workforce Development Council [CWDC] aspire to have a degree qualified (Early Years Professional [EYP]) in every setting. With childminders, this aspiration is unlikely to be fulfilled as there are so few with a degree qualification. This data does show that 6% of the childminders questioned have reached degree level and then gone on to complete the CWDC EYP Status.

**Q.12. Are you currently working towards any of the following CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualifications?**

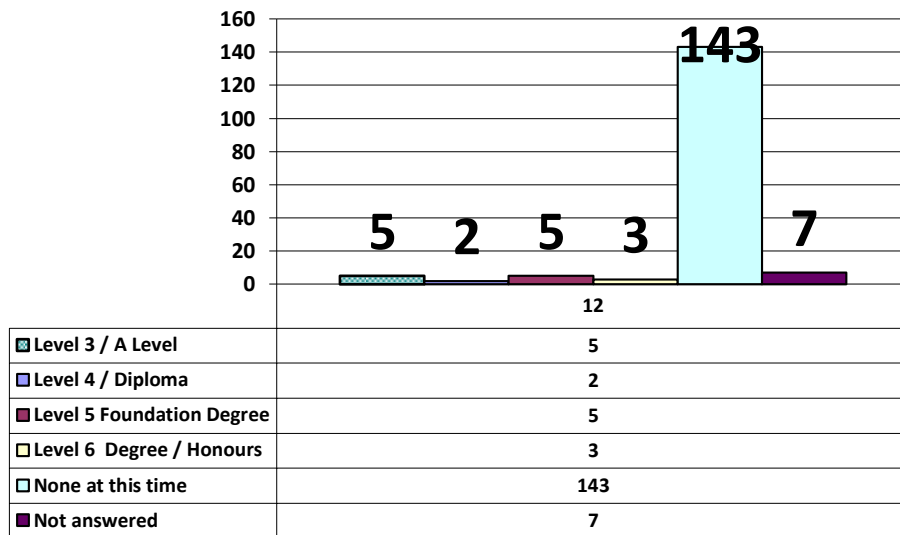


Figure 35 - Q.12. Data Count

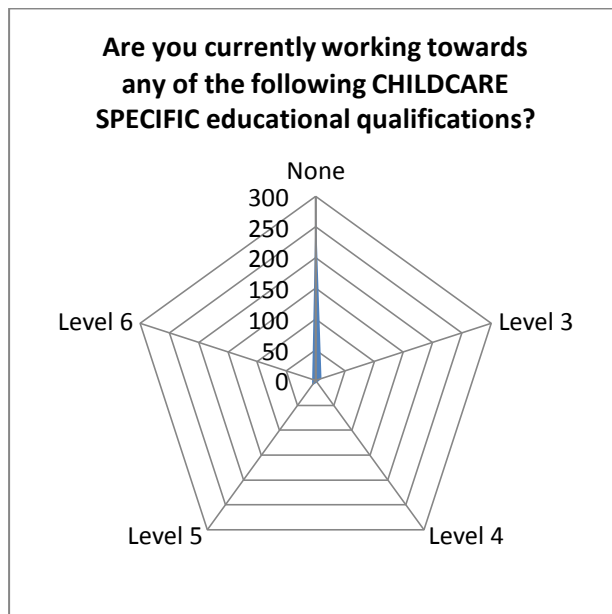


Figure 36 - Q.12. Data Distribution

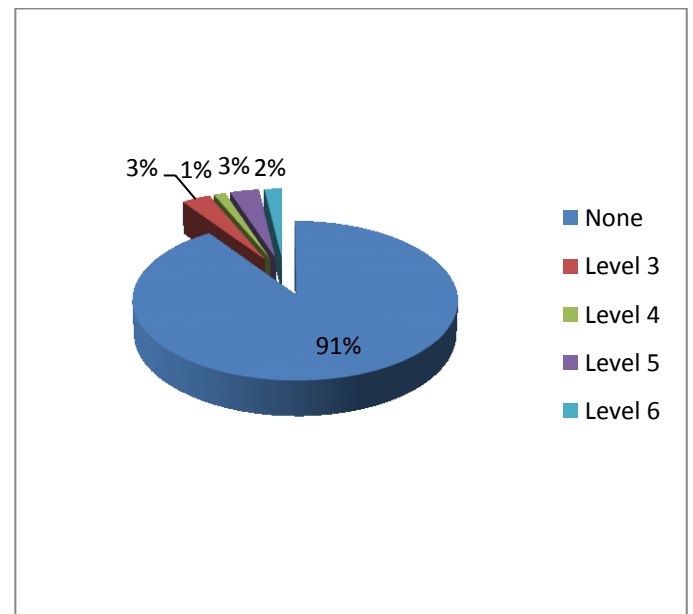


Figure 37 - Q.12. Are you currently working towards any of the following CHILDCARE SPECIFIC educational qualifications?

Only 9% of those completing the questionnaire are actually working towards any other Childcare specific qualification. This reflects poorly on the data sample as 90% have currently elected to remain educated to their present level.

**Q.13. Have you received any bursary funding for any Childcare Specific qualifications and training since 2008?**

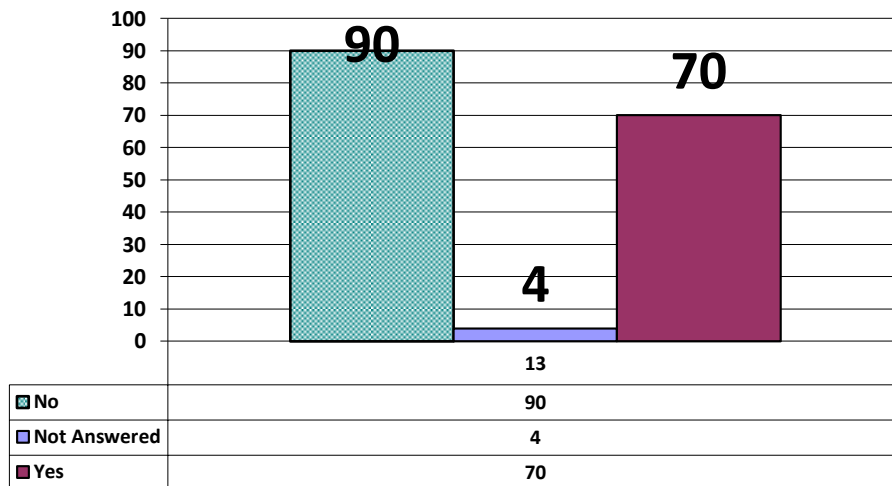


Figure 38 - Q.13. Data Count

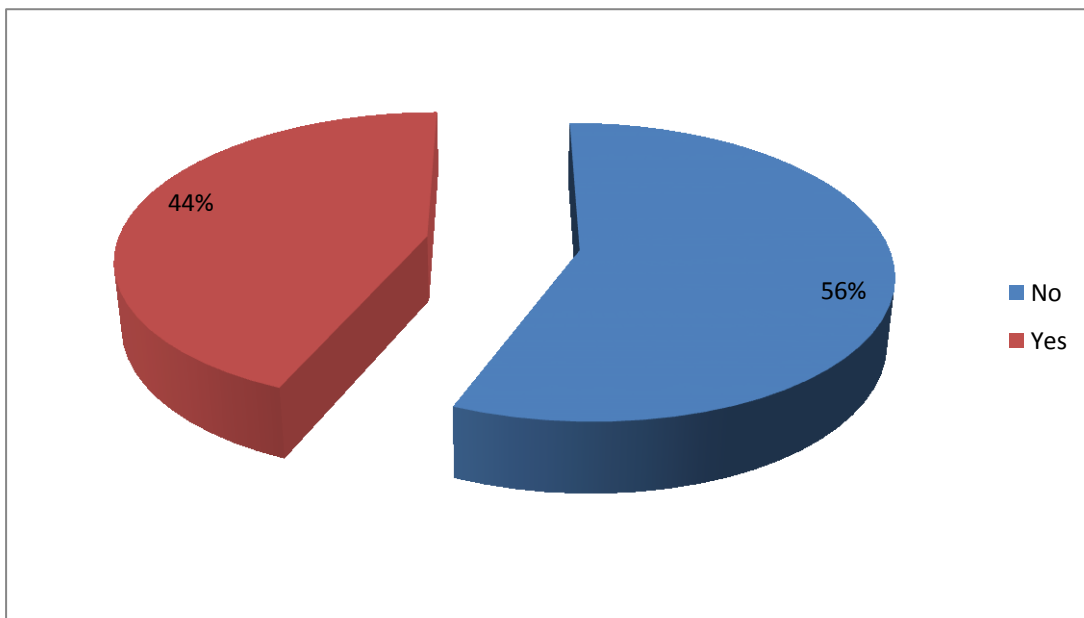


Figure 39 - Q.13. Have you received any bursary funding for any Childcare Specific qualifications and training since 2008?

Funding bursaries for training have been received by 44% of the childminders since the implementation of EYFS.

**Q.14. If you were to stop working as a childminder, what would be your main reason?**

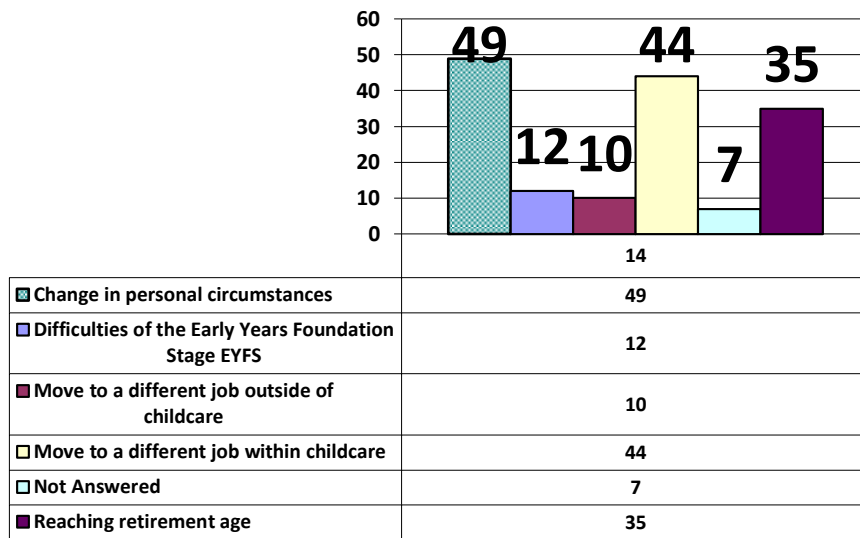


Figure 40 - Q.14. Data Count

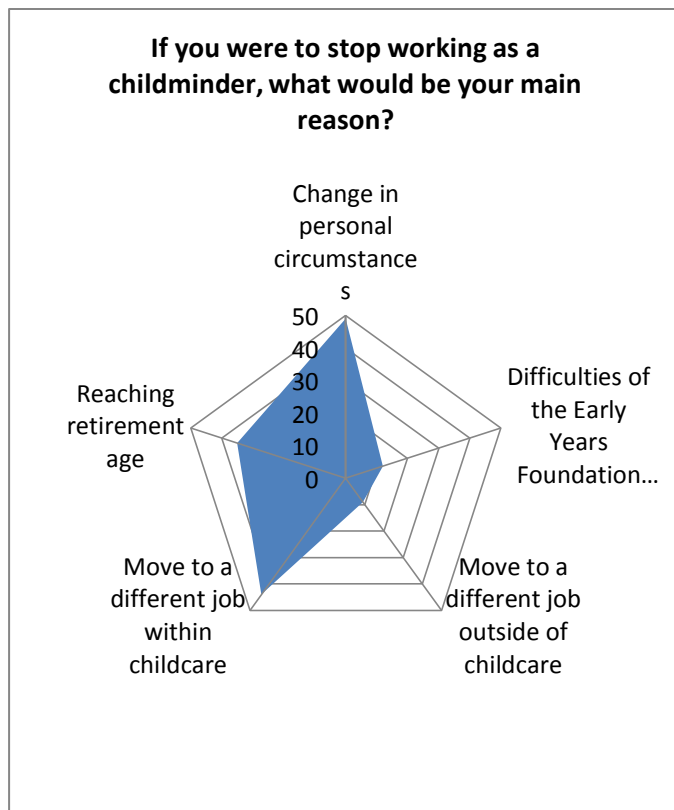


Figure 41 - Q.14. Data Distribution

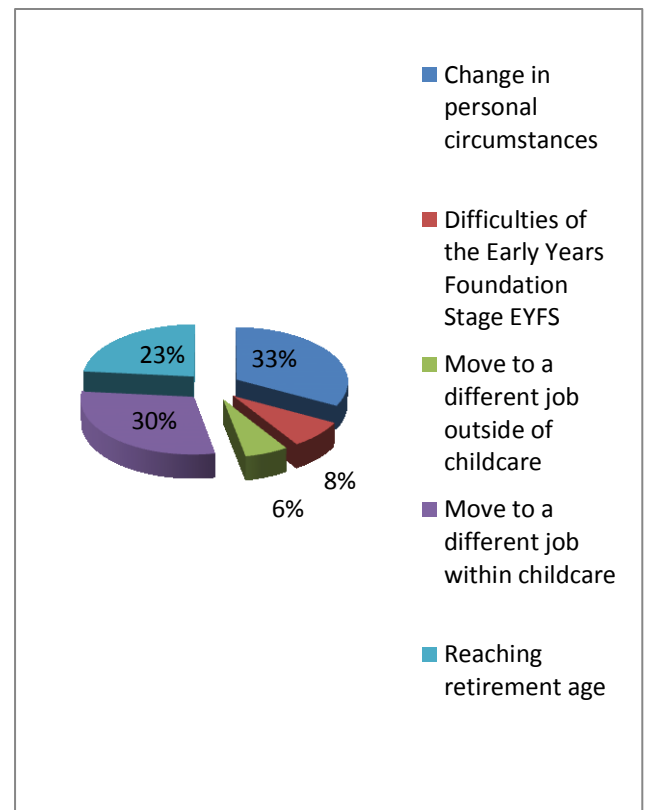


Figure 42 - Q.14. If you were to stop working as a childminder, what would be your main reason?

Three areas stand out as reasons for leaving childminding, 33% cite a 'Change in personal circumstances', 30% cite a 'Move to a different job within childcare' and 23% cite 'Reaching retirement age.' Only 8% believed 'Difficulties of the Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS' was a reason for leaving childminding. In this sample set there is a step change to the previous published.

Q.15. Do you have access to the internet?

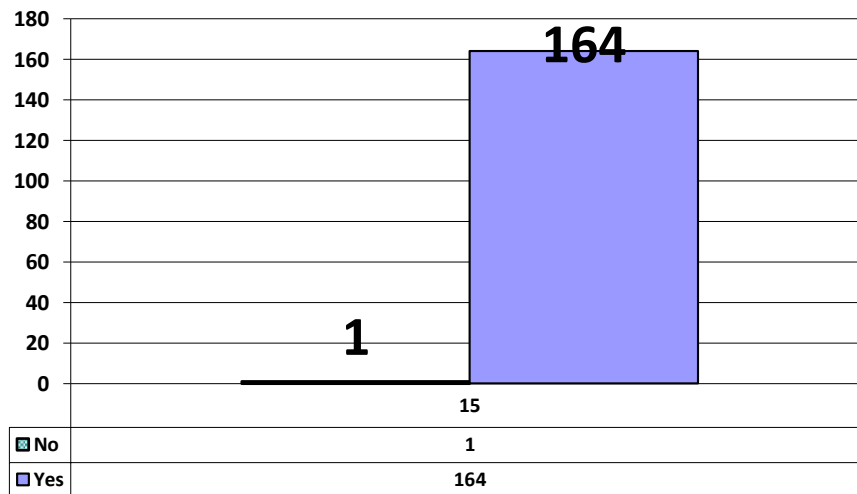
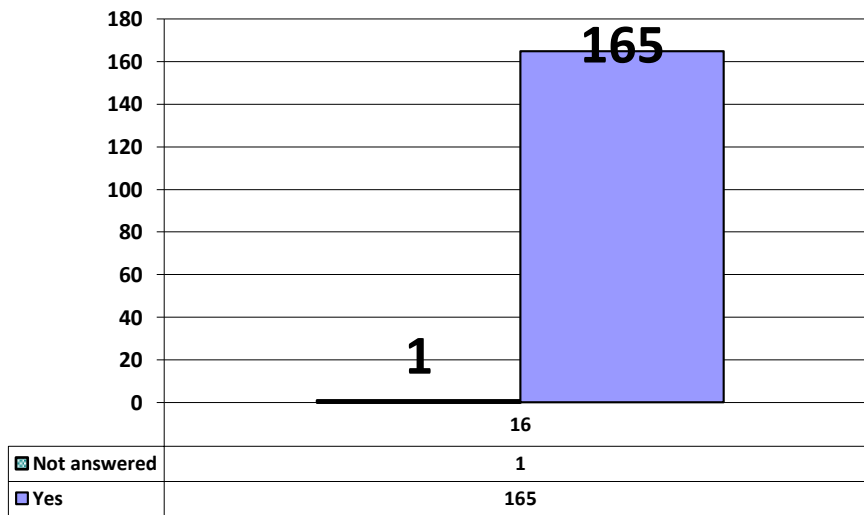


Figure 43 - Q.15. Data Count

This data shows an impressive 99% of childminders having access to the internet with only one person saying they did not. In her EYFS Review, Dame Clare Tickell (2011:17) quotes that “not all types of early years provider have ready access to the internet and that this is particularly true for childminders”. As can be seen from the data these childminders refute that opinion and compare very favourably with the Office of Communications [Ofcom] (2010) published national statistics of between 70% to 85% for home internet access by age, socio-economic group and gender.

### Q.16. Have you heard of the Early Years Foundation Stage EYFS?



99% of the data set identified they had knowledge of the EYFS.



**Q.17. How much knowledge and understanding do you have of EYFS?**

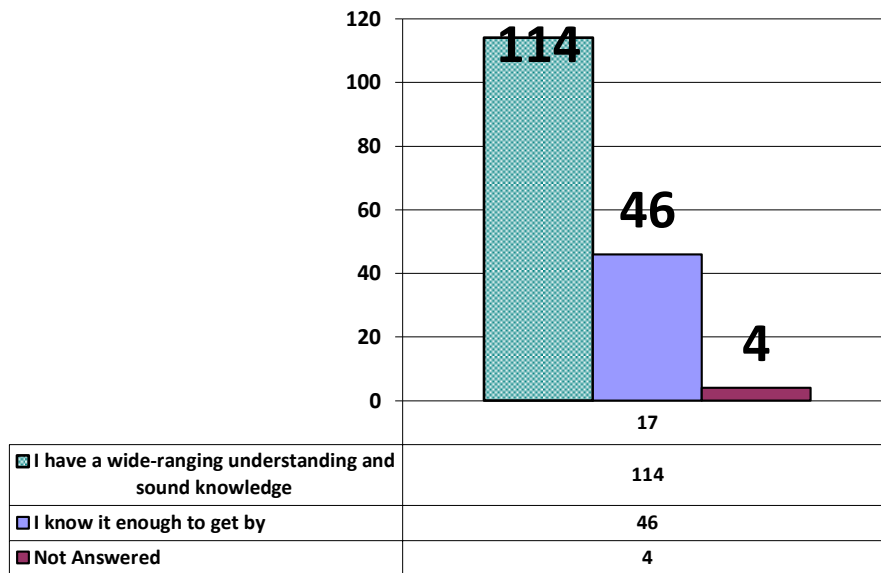


Figure 45 - Q.17. Data Count

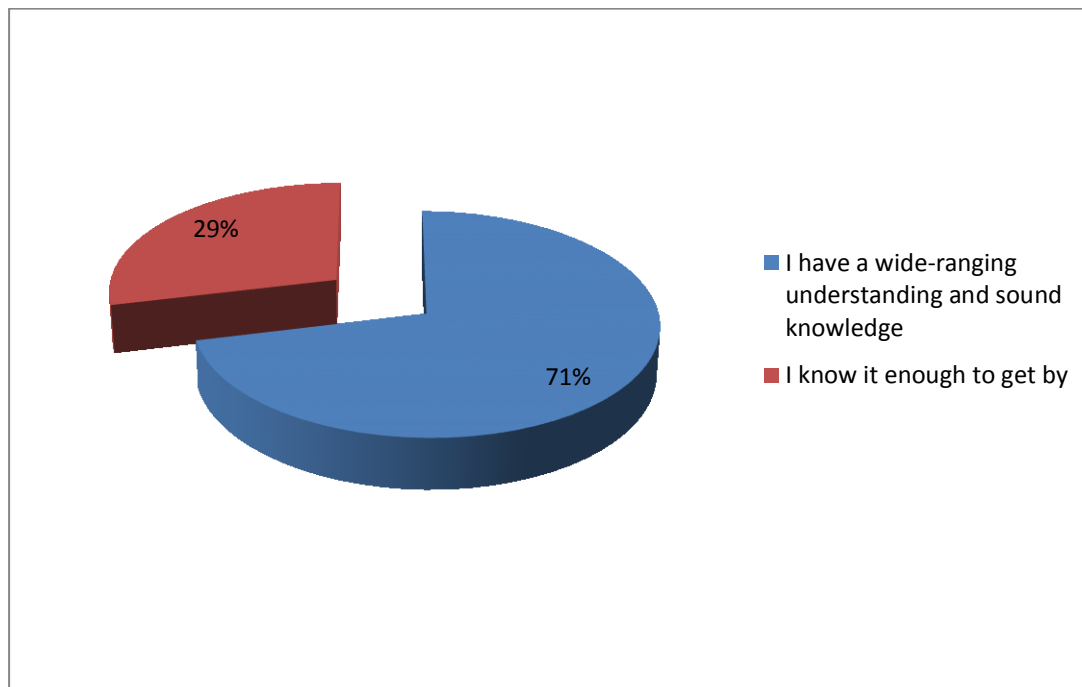


Figure 46 - Q.17. How much knowledge and understanding do you have of EYFS?

As with other questions in this questionnaire, the bias of network childminders of Good and Outstanding Ofsted grades make it reasonable to expect that the overwhelming majority are familiar with EYFS.

### Q.18. What are your impressions of EYFS?

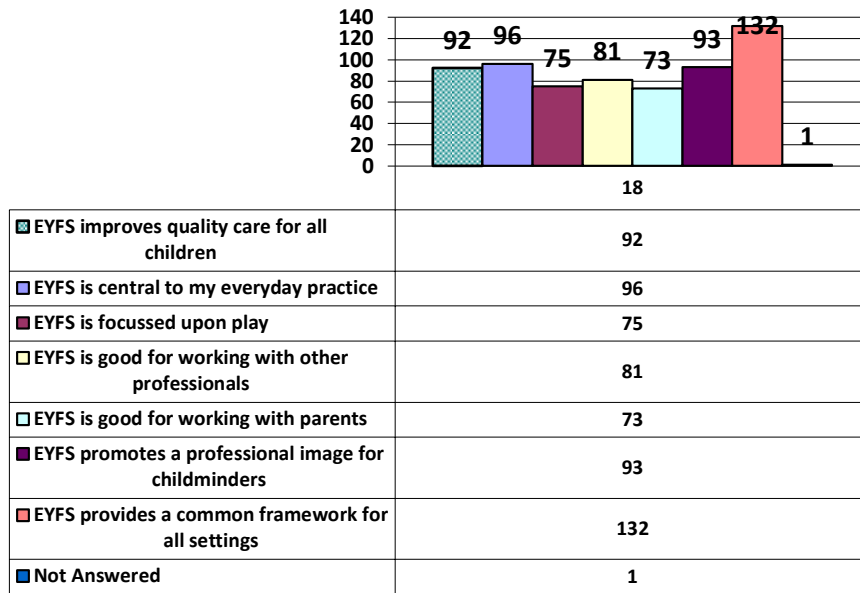


Figure 47 - Q.18. Data Count

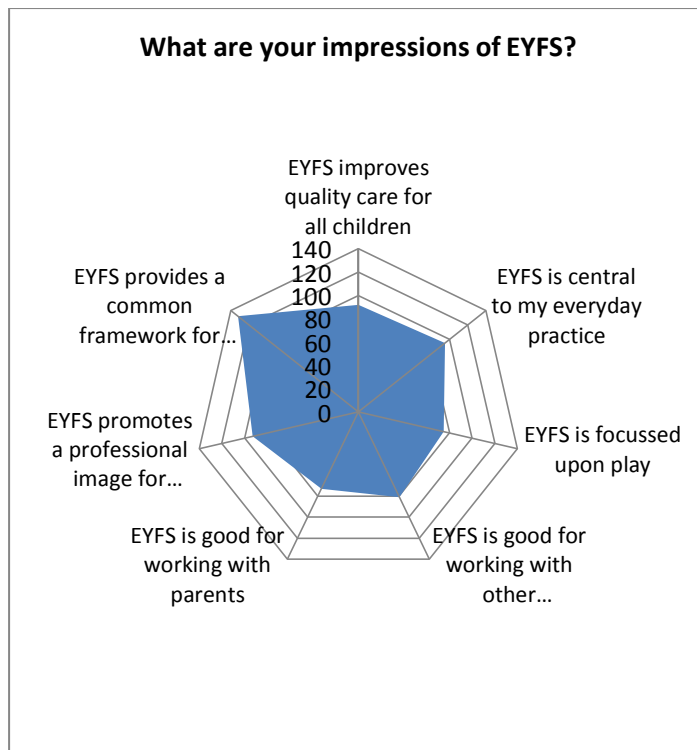


Figure 48 - Q.18. Data Distribution

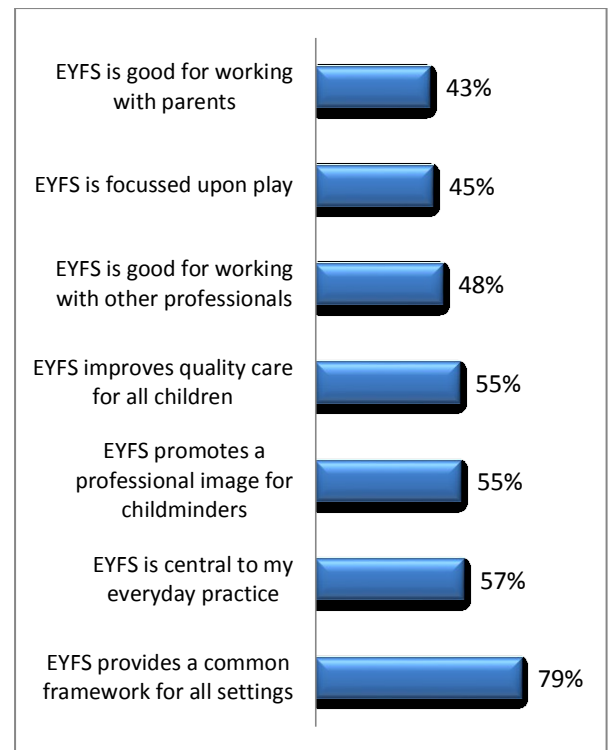


Figure 49 - Q.18. What are your impressions of EYFS?

With the exception of the 79% who cite 'EYFS provides a common framework for all settings', there is a relatively even split between all the other categories in this question.

### Q.19. When working within the EYFS framework what do you find most challenging?

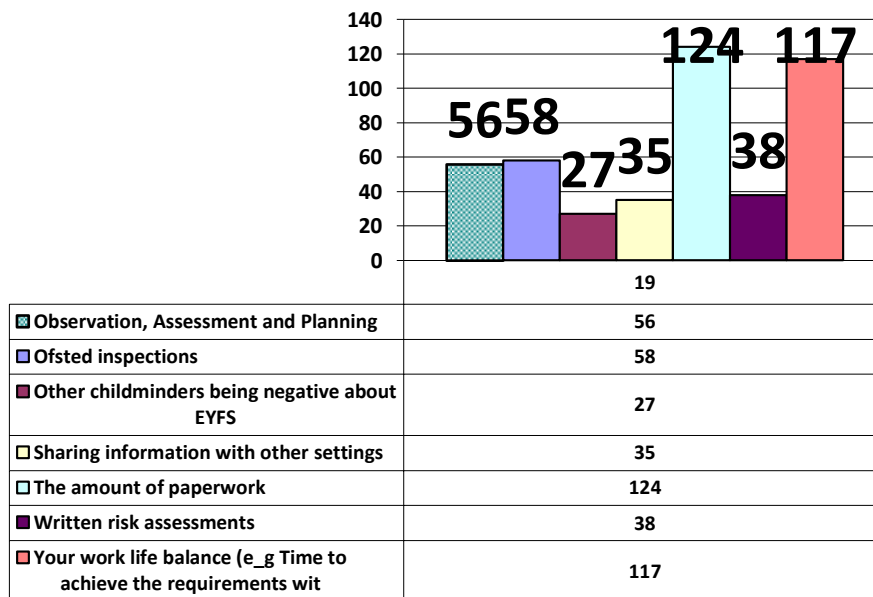


Figure 50 - Q.19. Data Count

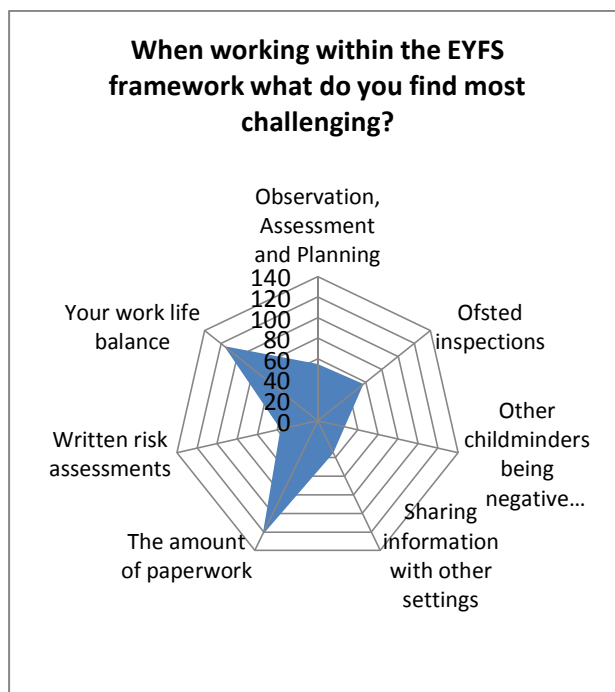


Figure 51 - Q.19. Data Distribution

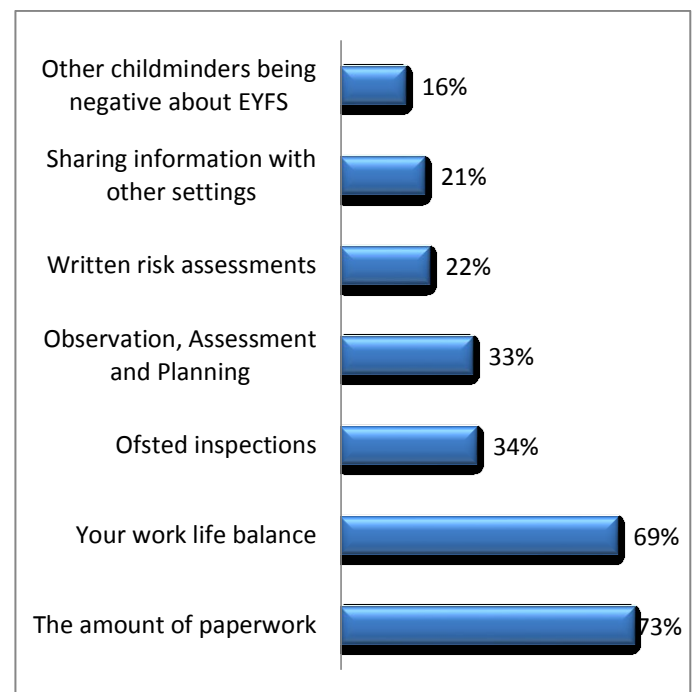


Figure 52 - Q.19. When working within the EYFS framework what do you find most challenging?

In this data, childminders are clear that two areas pose the greatest challenge to their practice. 'The amount of paperwork,' is stated by 73% of the sample set and 69% feel that 'Your work life balance' is the reason.

**Q.20A. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from OFSTED?**

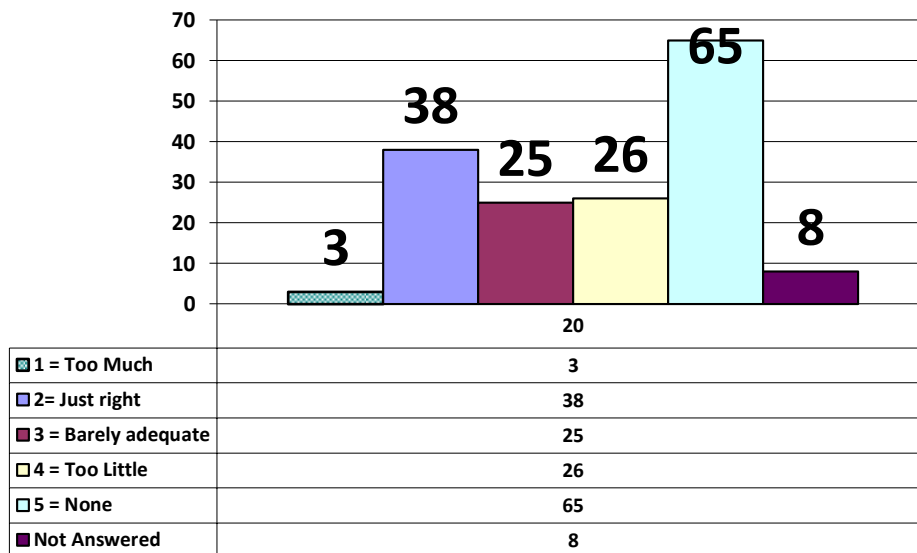


Figure 53 - Q.20A. Data Count

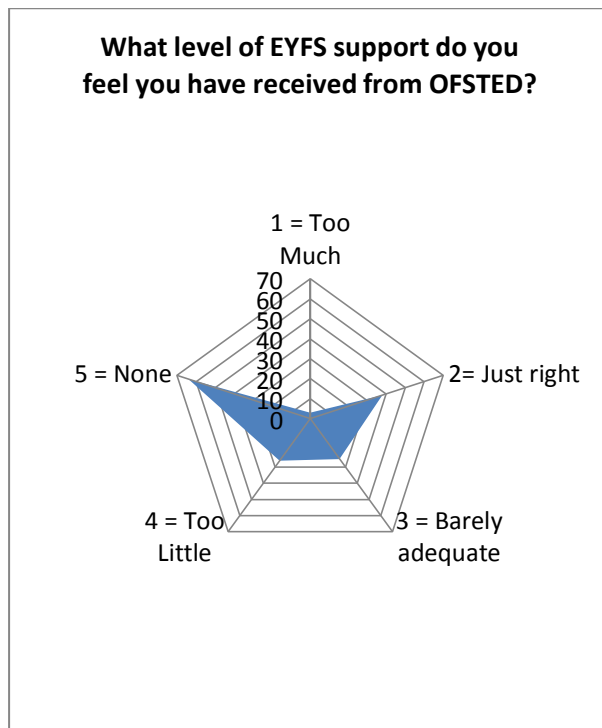


Figure 54 - Q.20A. Data Distribution

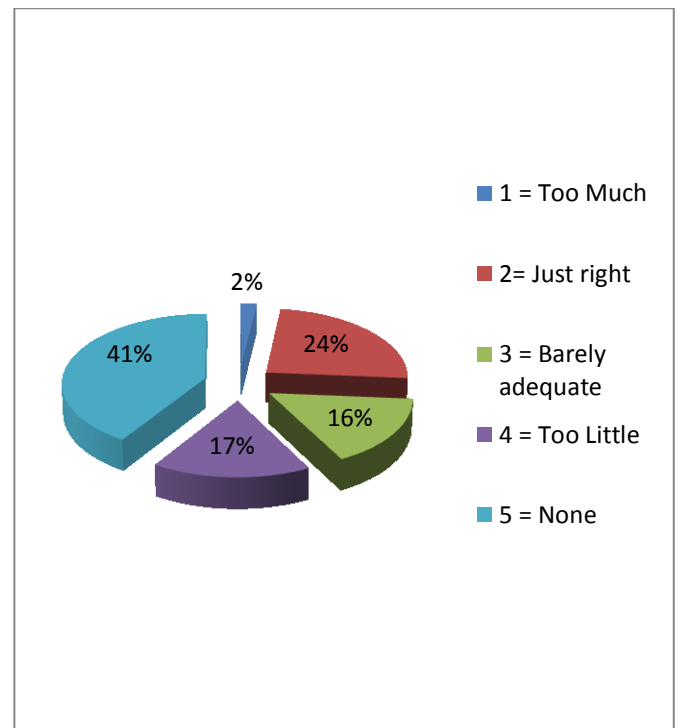


Figure 55 - Q.20A. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from OFSTED?

Ofsted do not appear to have the confidence of these childminders when it comes to EYFS support. 74% believed that Ofsted failed to provide sufficient support with 41% feeling they received no support at all from them.

### Q.20B. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from the Local Authority?

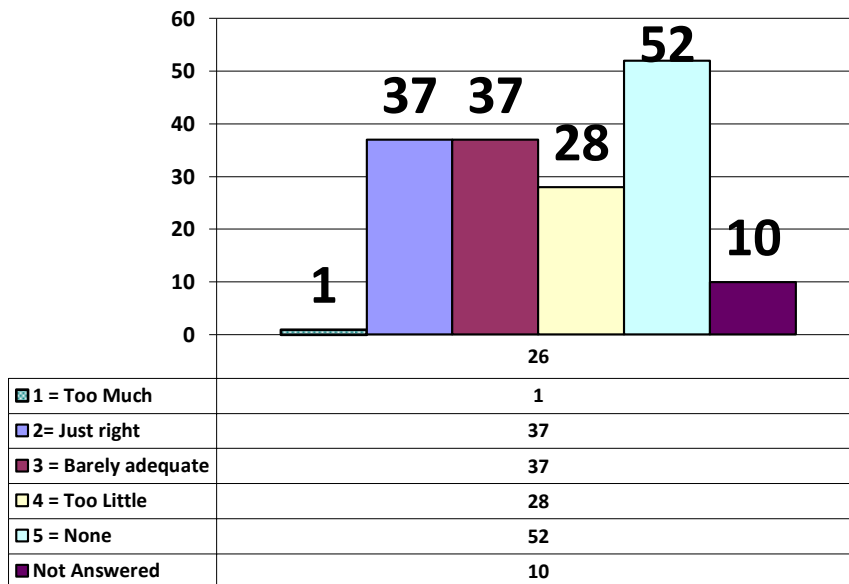


Figure 56 - Q.20B. Data Count

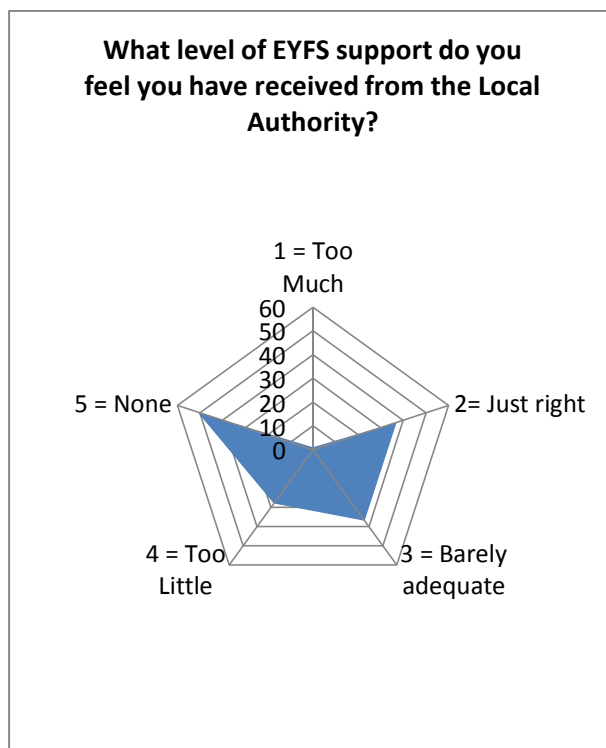


Figure 57 - Q.20B. Data Distribution

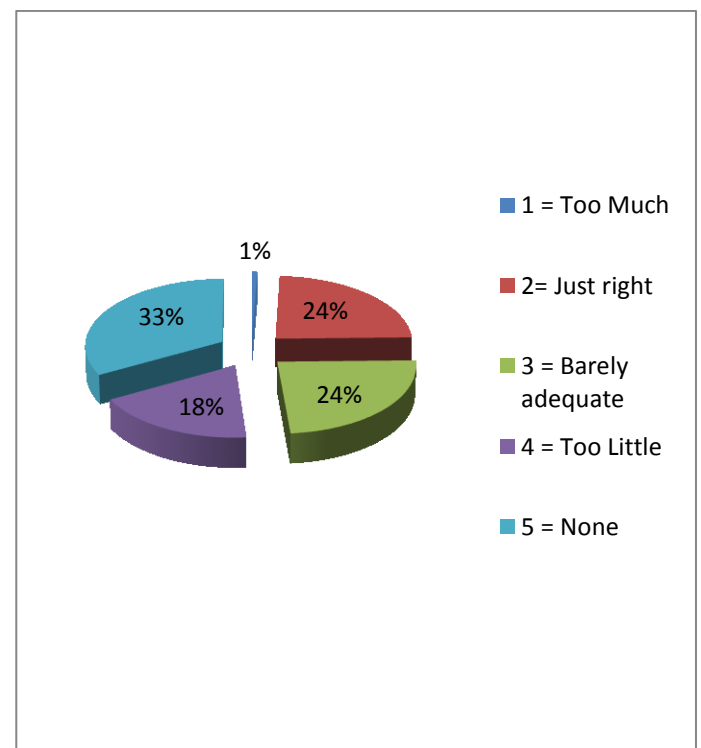


Figure 58 - Q.20B. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from the Local Authority?

Only 24% believed the Local Authority offered sufficient EYFS support to childminders. An overwhelming 74% felt they received less than they required with 33% citing they received no support at all.

### Q.20C. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from National Childminding Association?

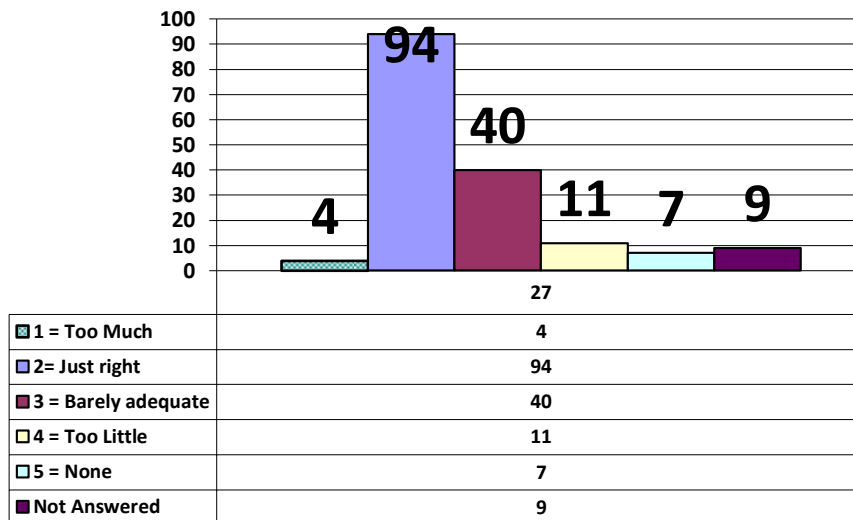


Figure 59 - Q.20C. Data Count

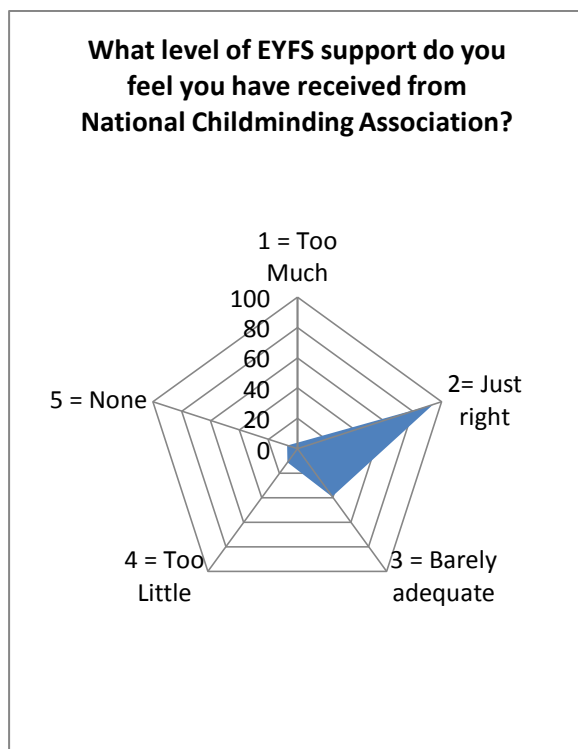


Figure 60 - Q.20C. Data Distribution

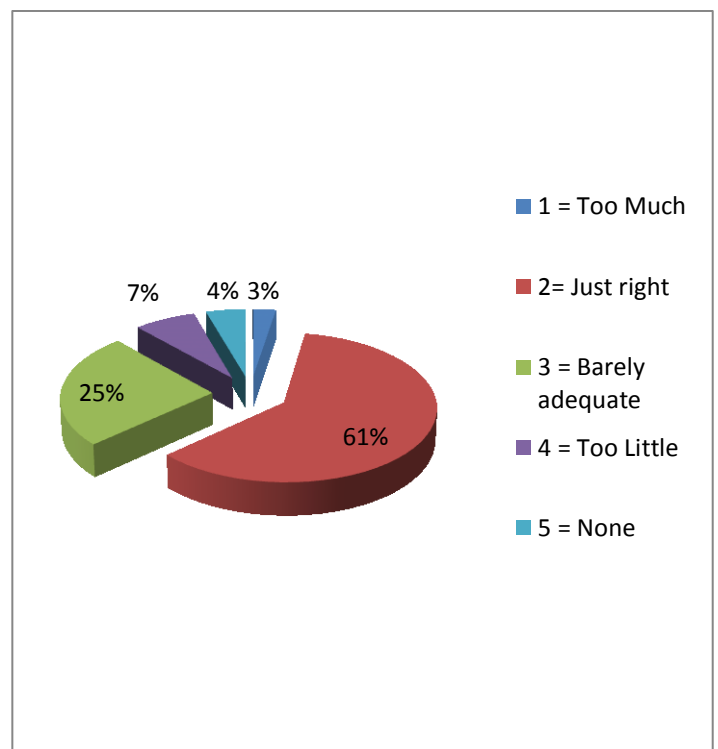


Figure 61 - Q.20C. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from National Childminding Association?

NCMA fared better than Ofsted and the Local Authority when it came to offering childminders EYFS support. 61% were happy with the efforts of NCMA whilst 36% still felt that they had received not enough. Of those, only 4% stated they had not received any support from NCMA.

### Q.20D. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from your NCMA Network Local Coordinator?

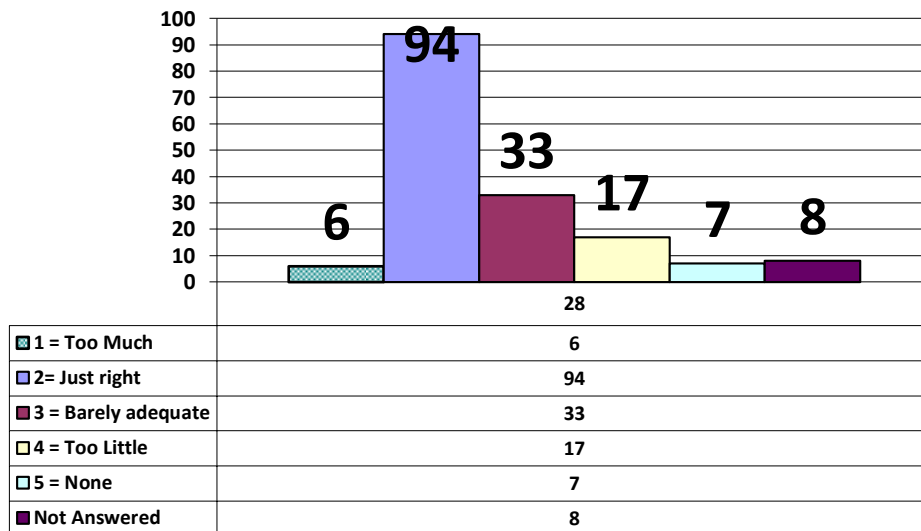


Figure 62 - Q.20D. Data Count

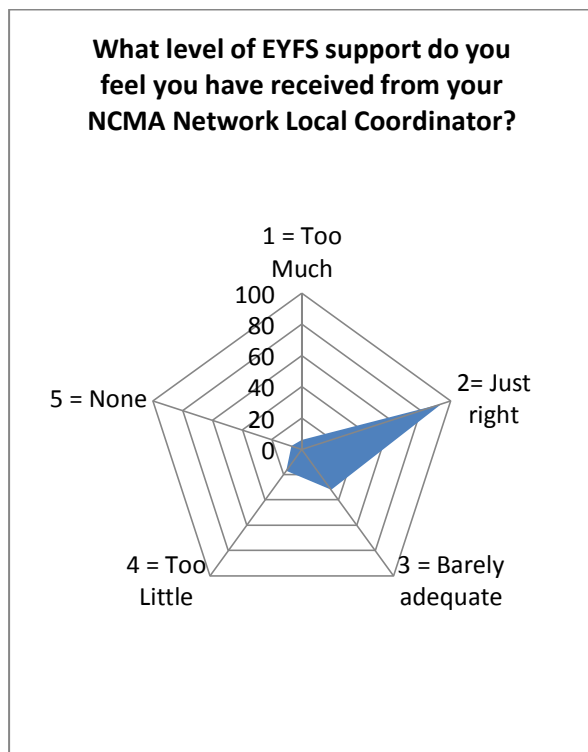


Figure 63 - Q.20D. Data Distribution

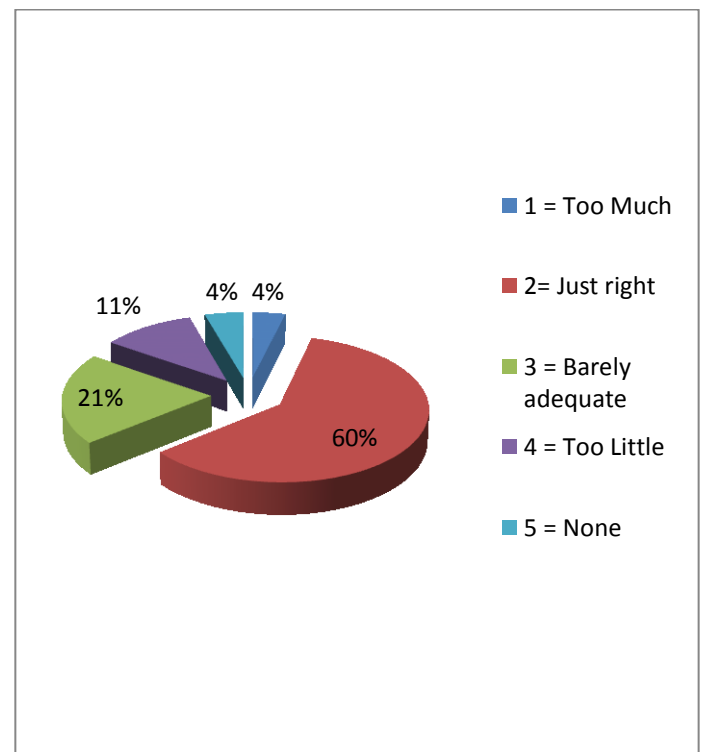


Figure 64 - Q.20D. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from your NCMA Network Local Coordinator?

The Network coordinators are clearly offering their childminders a lot of support with EYFS. 60% of replies cite that they are happy with the support from their coordinator. 35% do feel they have not received enough support with 4% stating they have not received any support from a coordinator.

**Q.20E. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Peer / colleague Childminders?**

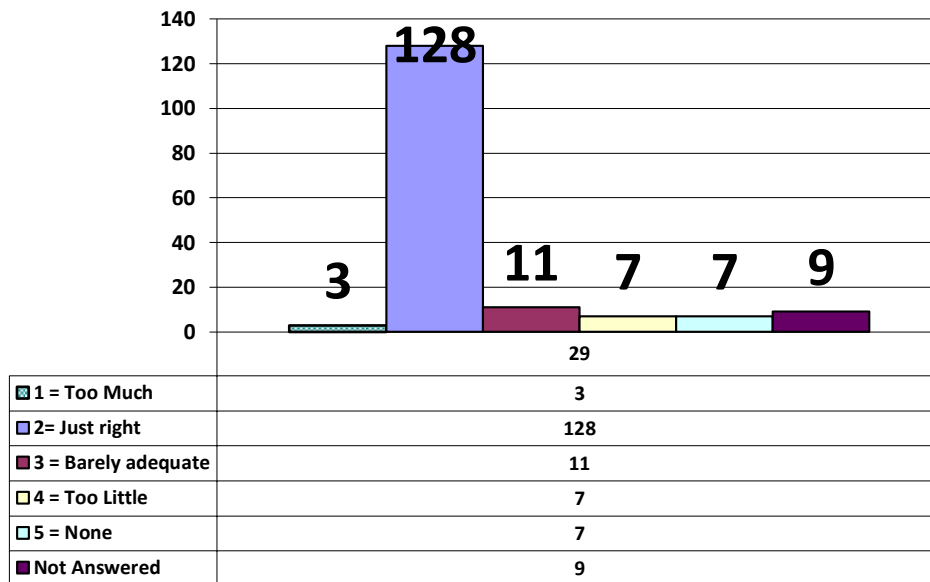


Figure 65 - Q.20E. Data Count

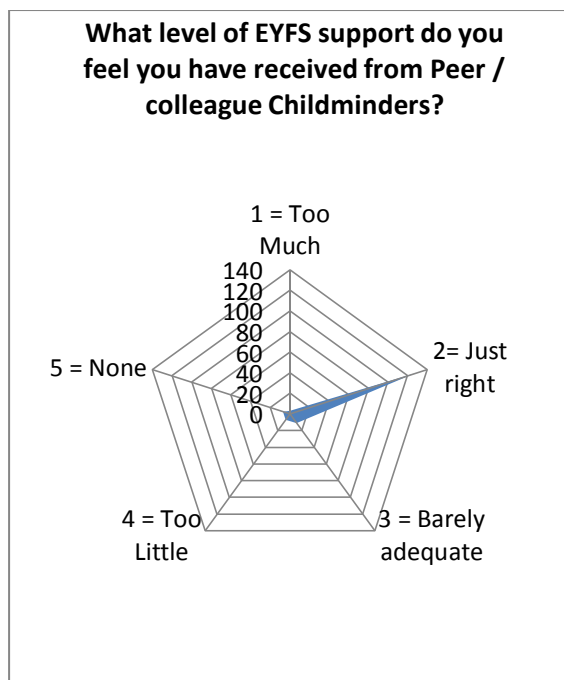


Figure 66 - Q.20E. Data Distribution

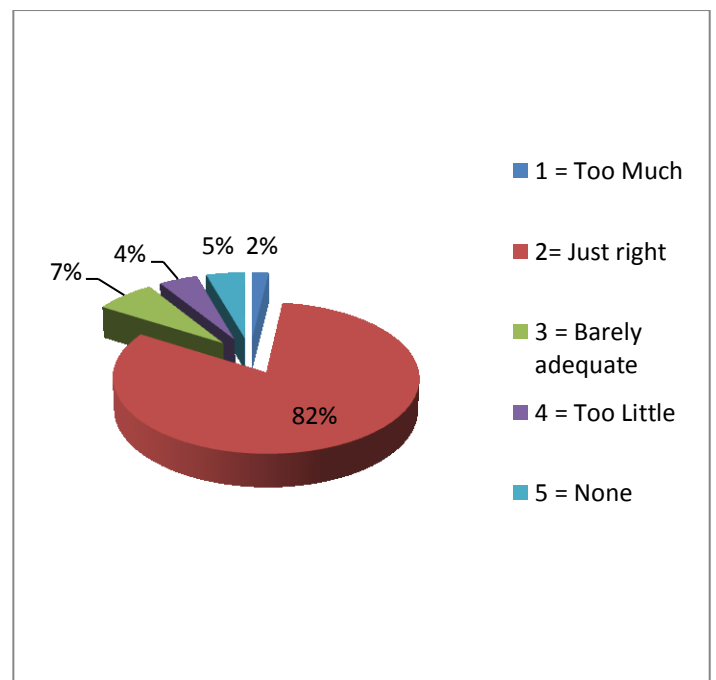


Figure 67 - Q.20E. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Peer / colleague Childminders?

Peers and colleagues are clearly very highly thought of where EYFS support is concerned. 82% believed their peers and colleagues offer just the right amount of support with only 16% feeling they were not being given the support they would like. 5% felt they had not received any support at all.



**Q.20F. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Others?**

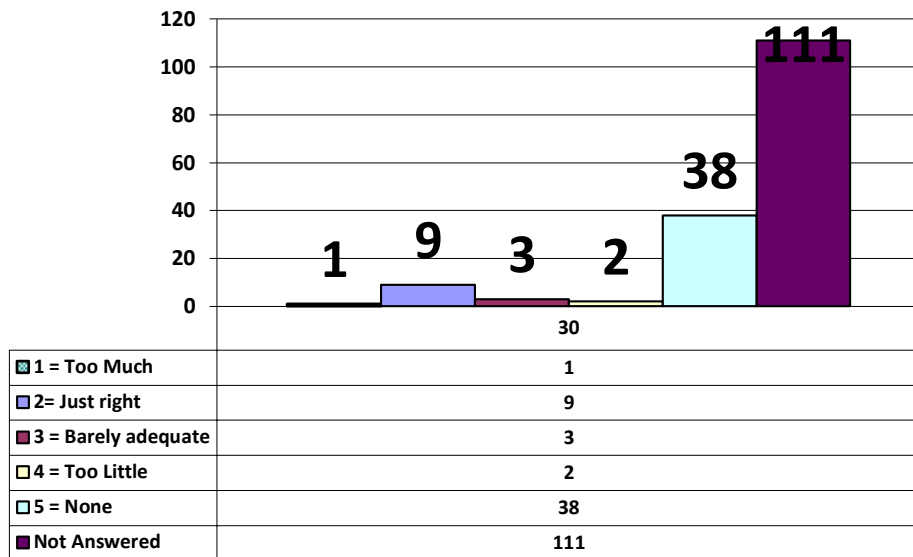


Figure 68 - Q.20F. Data Count

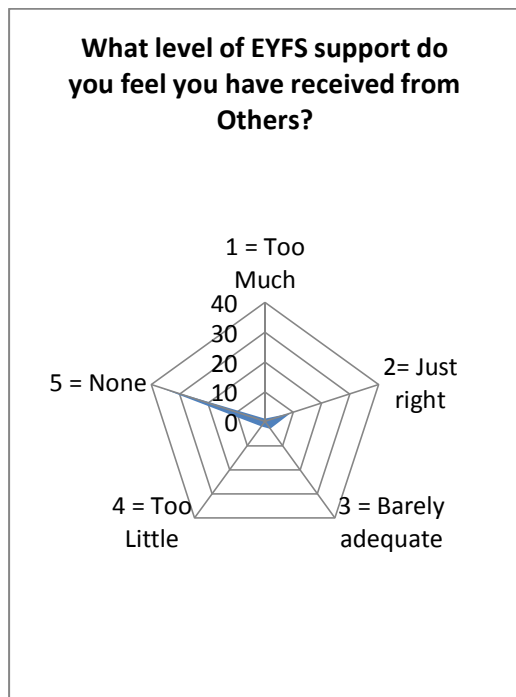


Figure 69 - Q.20F. Data Distribution

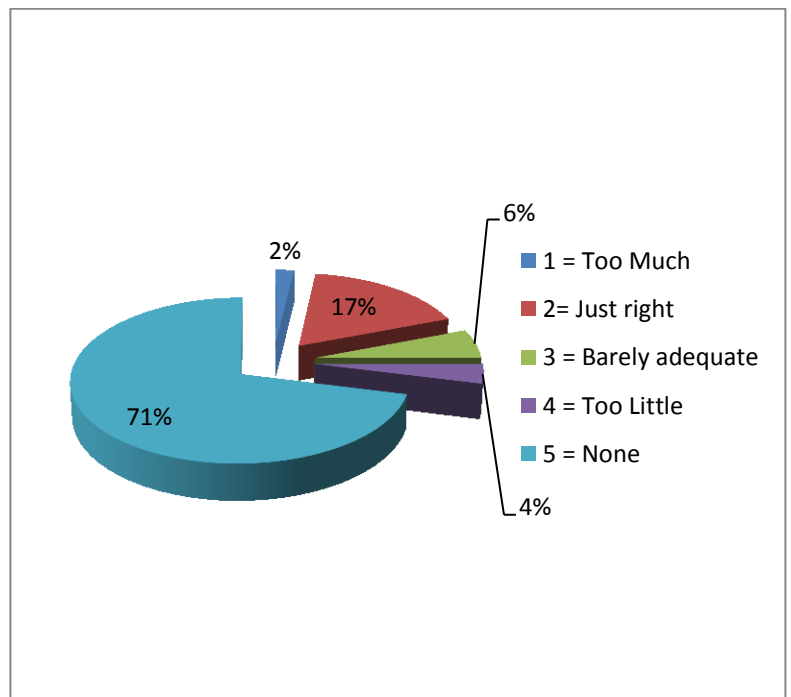


Figure 70 - Q.20F. What level of EYFS support do you feel you have received from Others?

Almost three quarters of the respondents left this question unanswered. Of those who offered an opinion of others giving EYFS support most felt they had received no support from anyone else.

**Q.21. How much EYFS related training have you received in the last year?**

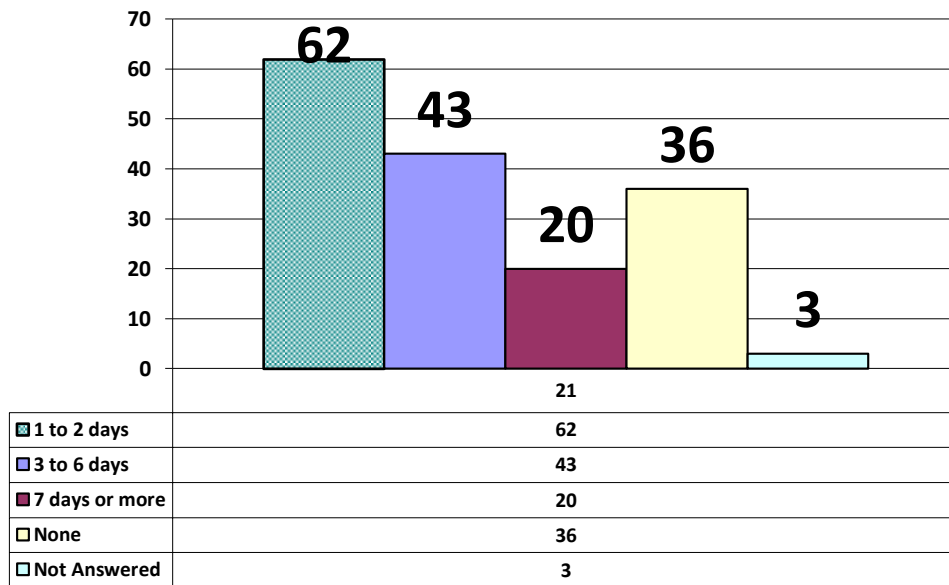


Figure 71 - Q.21. Data Count

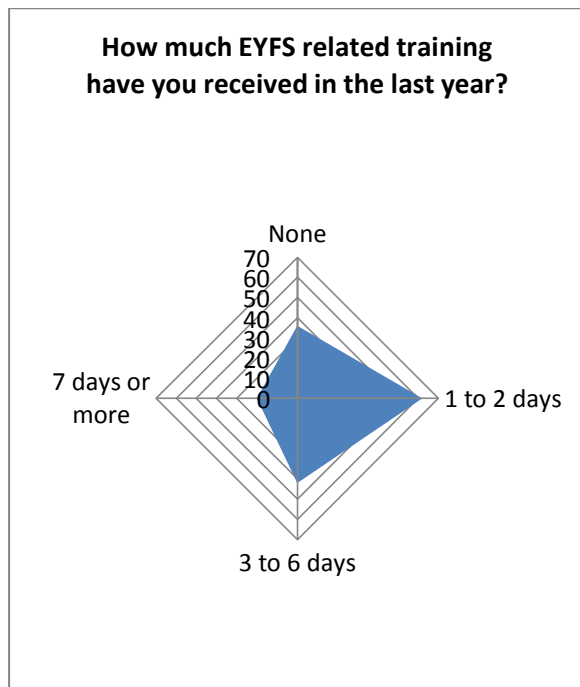


Figure 72 - Q.21. Data Distribution

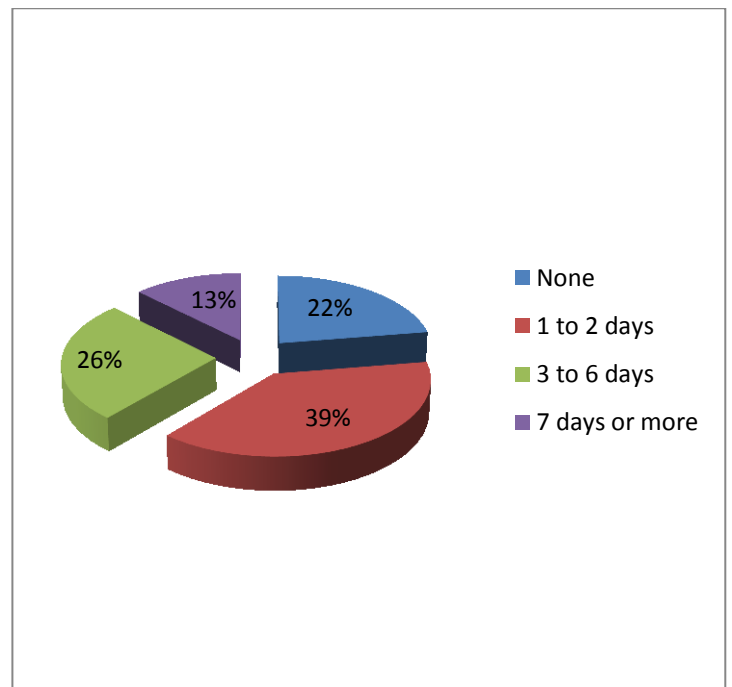


Figure 73 - Q.21. How much EYFS related training have you received in the last year?

This question is also biased by the number of network childminders answering the questionnaire. A requirement of membership of the network is that childminders attend regular Continuous Professional Development [CPD] training throughout the year. As such, 88% stated they had received one or more days EYFS related training with only 22% declaring they had not completed any.

**Q.22. Are you aware of the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review?**

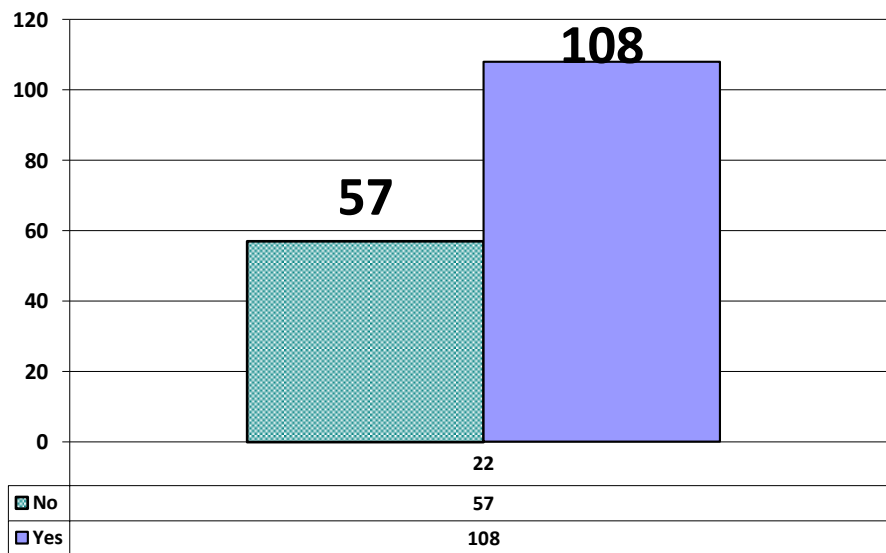


Figure 74 - Q.22. Data Count

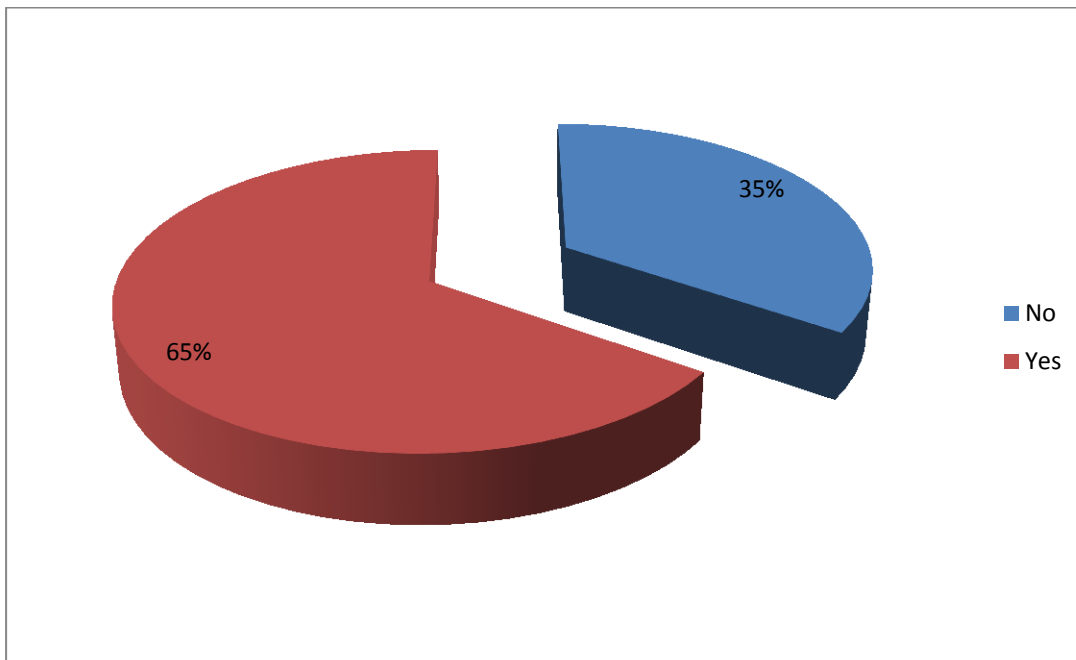


Figure 75 - Q.22. Are you aware of the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review?

Two thirds of those answering this question were aware of the EYFS review currently being conducted by Dame Clare Tickell.

**Q.23. Did you respond to the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review?**

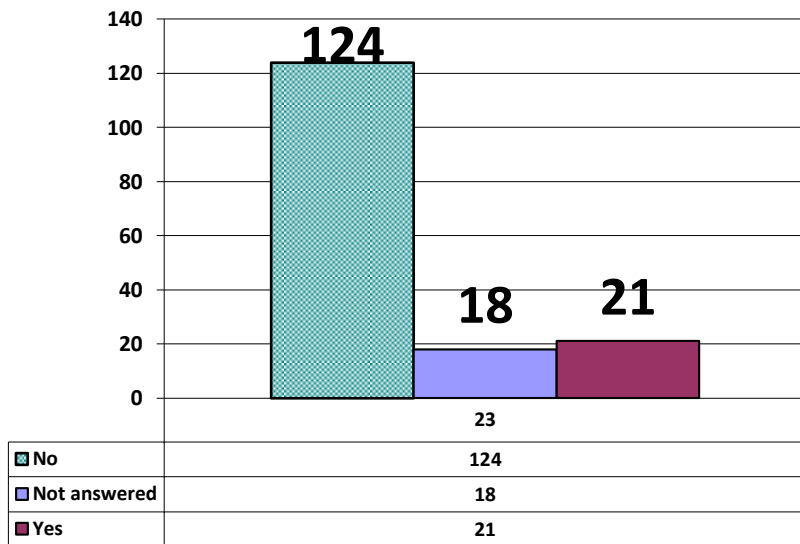


Figure 76 - Q.23. Data Count

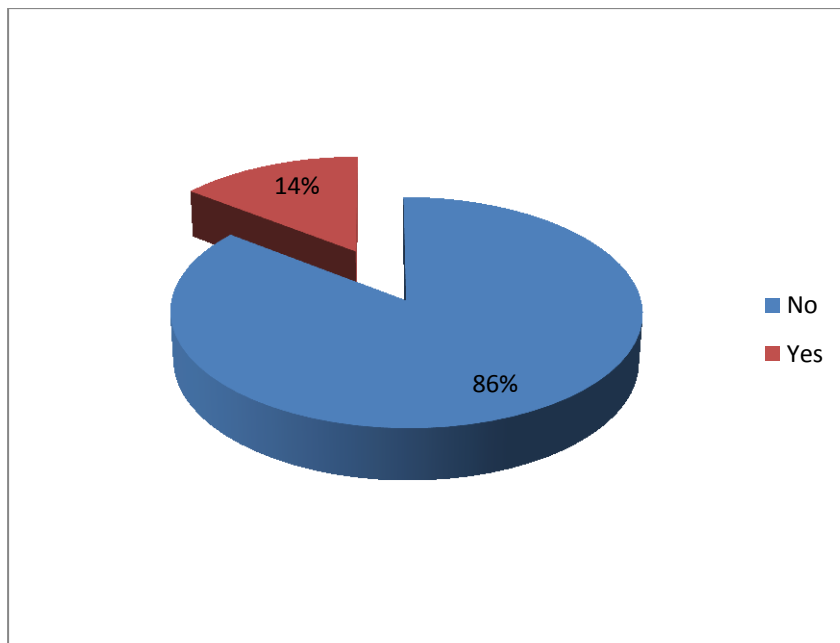


Figure 77 - Q.23. Did you respond to the Dame Clare Tickell EYFS Review?

Only 14% of those answering this question had responded to the EYFS review currently being conducted by Dame Tickell.

**Q.24. Are you aware of the development of a high quality interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS?**

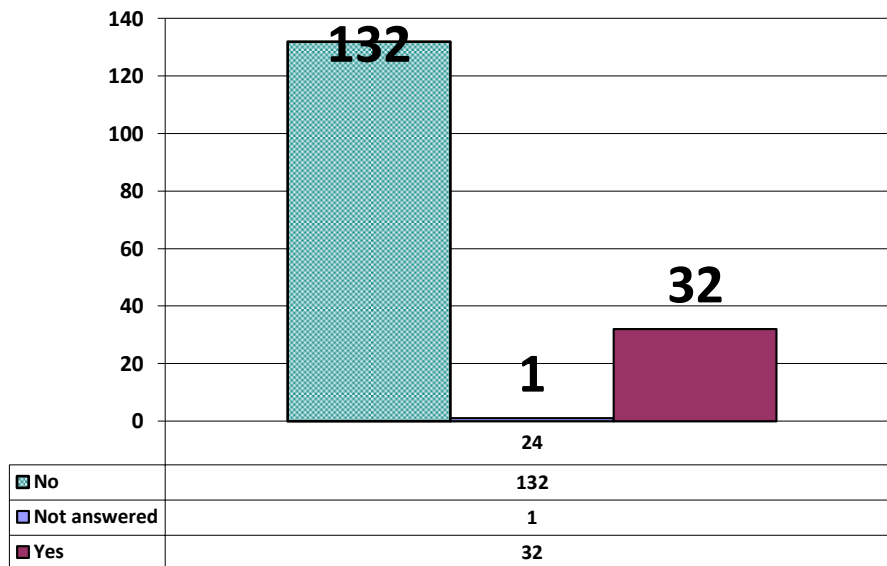


Figure 78 - Q.24. Data Count

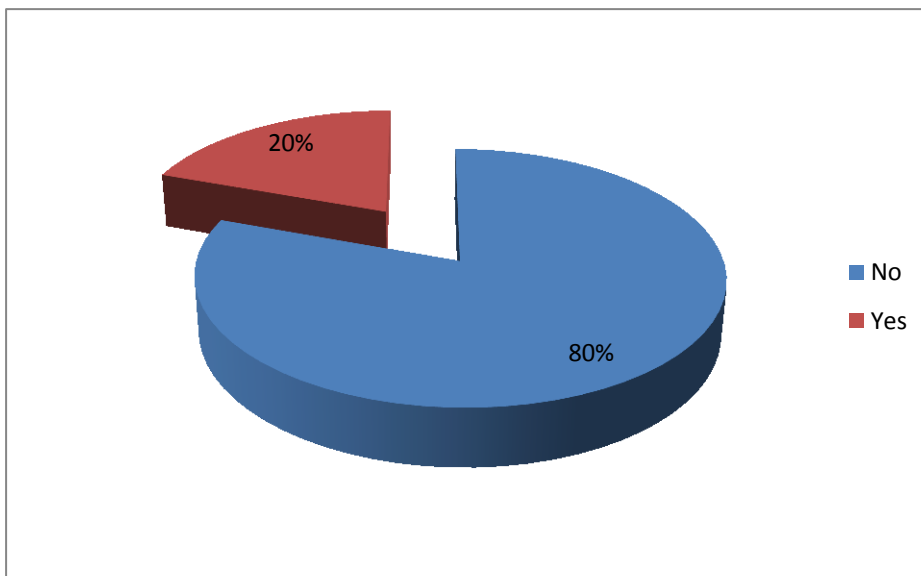


Figure 79 - Q.24. Are you aware of the development of a high quality interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS?

One of the major complaints of the current EYFS cited by surveys is the lack of a usable and user-friendly interactive on-line facility. One of the recommendations of the Tickell Review is for the new revised version of EYFS is to address this problem. Currently, however, only 20% of the replies indicate that they are of this on-going work.

**Q.25. Would you make use of an interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS?**

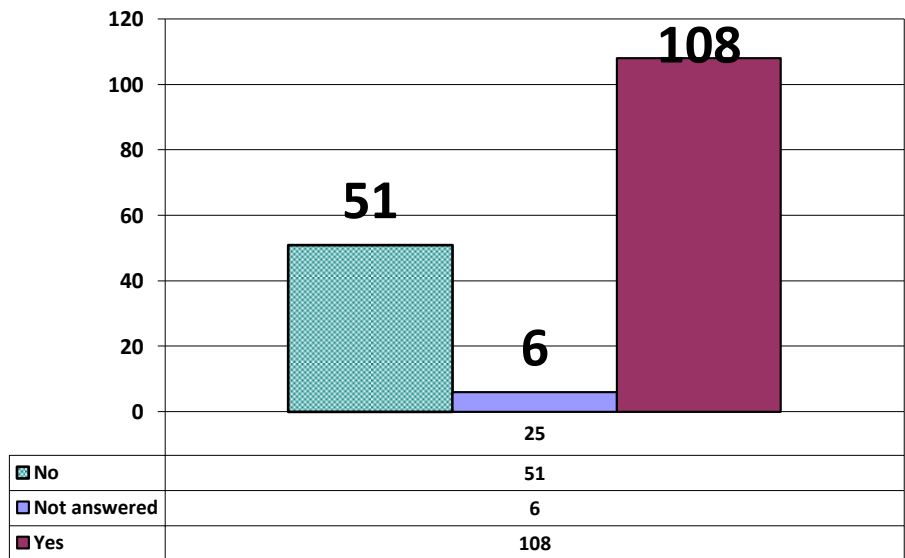


Figure 80 - Q.25. Data Count

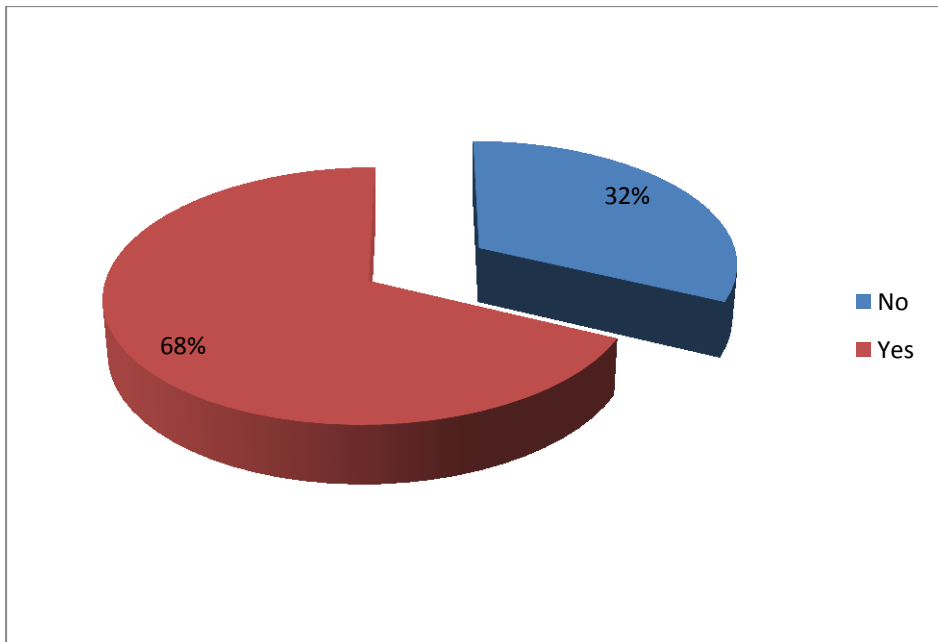


Figure 81 - Q.25. Would you make use of an interactive on-line version of the revised EYFS?

Whilst a good proportion (68%) said they would make use of an improved on-line facility, there is still roughly one-third (32%) who have yet to be convinced of the benefits of such a system.

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