

Introduction

To be able to provide ELC models which will meet fully the needs and preferences of all working and non-working parents along with the individual needs of the child offer a range of complex and diverse set of requirements.

Consider a basic full time employment week of 35-40 hours per week between core hours of 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and add into this any travel time to a childcare provision to drop off/pick up children and then travel to place of employment it is apparent that it is already beyond the 1140 hours. This is only one example of how family circumstances may present itself, in reality, we know there are some many more versions taking into account part-time, shift patterns, education and training and family make up and circumstance, to name but a few.

Any models will have some type of parameters and that meeting the expectations and needs of everyone is not going to be achievable, this is a realistic fact. However, this said, it is envisaged that options for the 1140hours which will ultimately be introduced will meet the needs of majority and substantially contribute and support the needs of those we know require a more individually tailored solution to fully meet their requirements.

We sent out 2000 individual surveys (with return envelopes) to every parent who had enrolled their child for the current year. In addition to this we handed out surveys to parents of children 0-4 years and parents to be at consultation events, through allied health professionals, partner providers, childminders and staff. An online version was on our website and promoted widely.

Our assumption is that parents who required the biggest change are those who responded. Of those who responded findings show that: 55% intend to use full year provision; our assumptions of provision being 75% from local authority and 25% from funded providers is accurate. Phase 3 will allow us to test out uptake levels in the range of provision available and continue to evolve our planning.

We had 586 responses in total. 352 responses were from parents of 3-5 year olds. This is a response rate of 18% from our current parent body. 234 were from parents of 2 year olds and under.

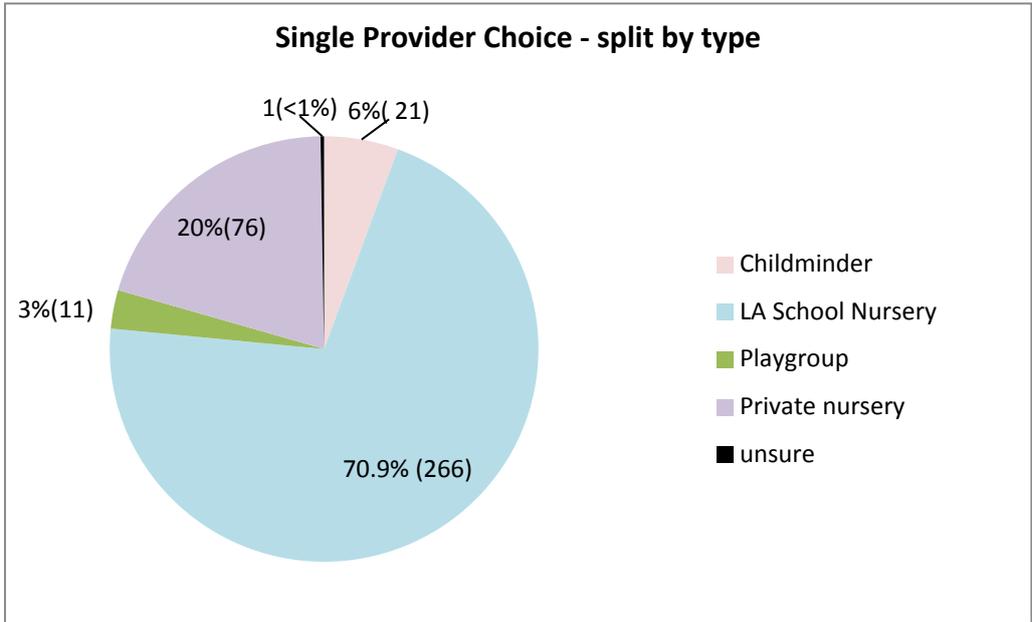
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Family Engagement – Provider choice

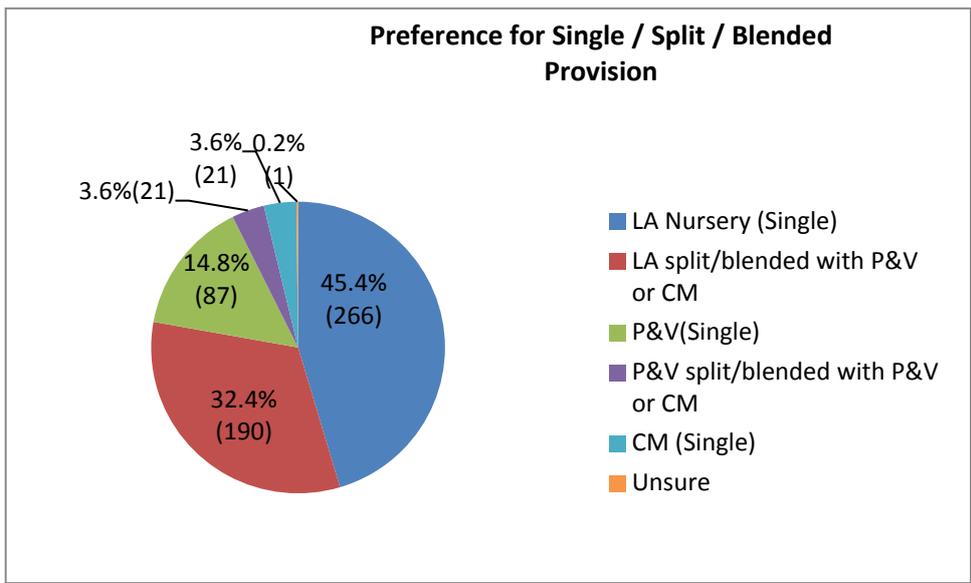
From the responses received, 127 respondents stated they will be extending their family during 2017. Whilst the majority of the respondents were parents/carers there were 12 responses under the 'other' category, from which some identified themselves as Grandparents, ELC workforce or a local resident.

Of the 586 respondents 375 (64%) identified their preference for a single provider. The highest percentage preference for a single provision type is for Local Authority Nursery (70.9%) followed by 23% opting for group provision in the Private and Voluntary Sector (Playgroup or Day Nursery) and

6% stating a childminder as their choice of single provider with the remaining parents unsure as to their choice.



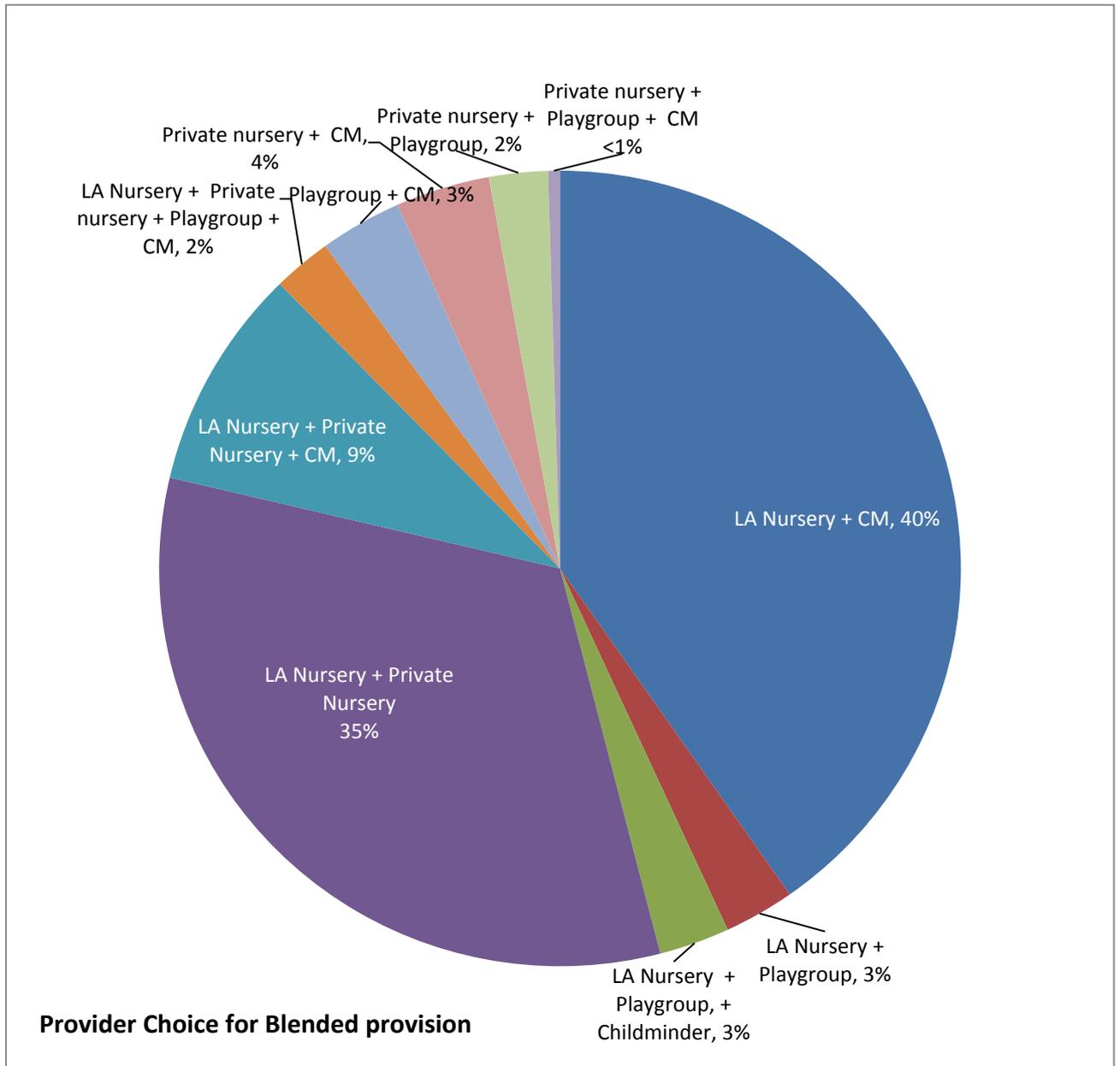
Where ELC is only available within the local authority school/nursery hours and there is limited or no childminders willing to take pick-up and/or drop-off at another ELC setting respondents state this to be problematic for the working parent or those looking at potential employment. There are 211 survey respondents stating a preference for the blended option involving two or multiple providers. The highest number of parents preferring a blended approach with the LA Nursery provision and either another group provision (day nursery or playgroup) or childminder; less than 50% of this number opting for a blended approach with group provision in the private and voluntary sector and childminders.



It is evident that all current provision type has a role to play in supporting the needs of parents and carers, with an equal number of respondents favouring Childminders as their single provider as well

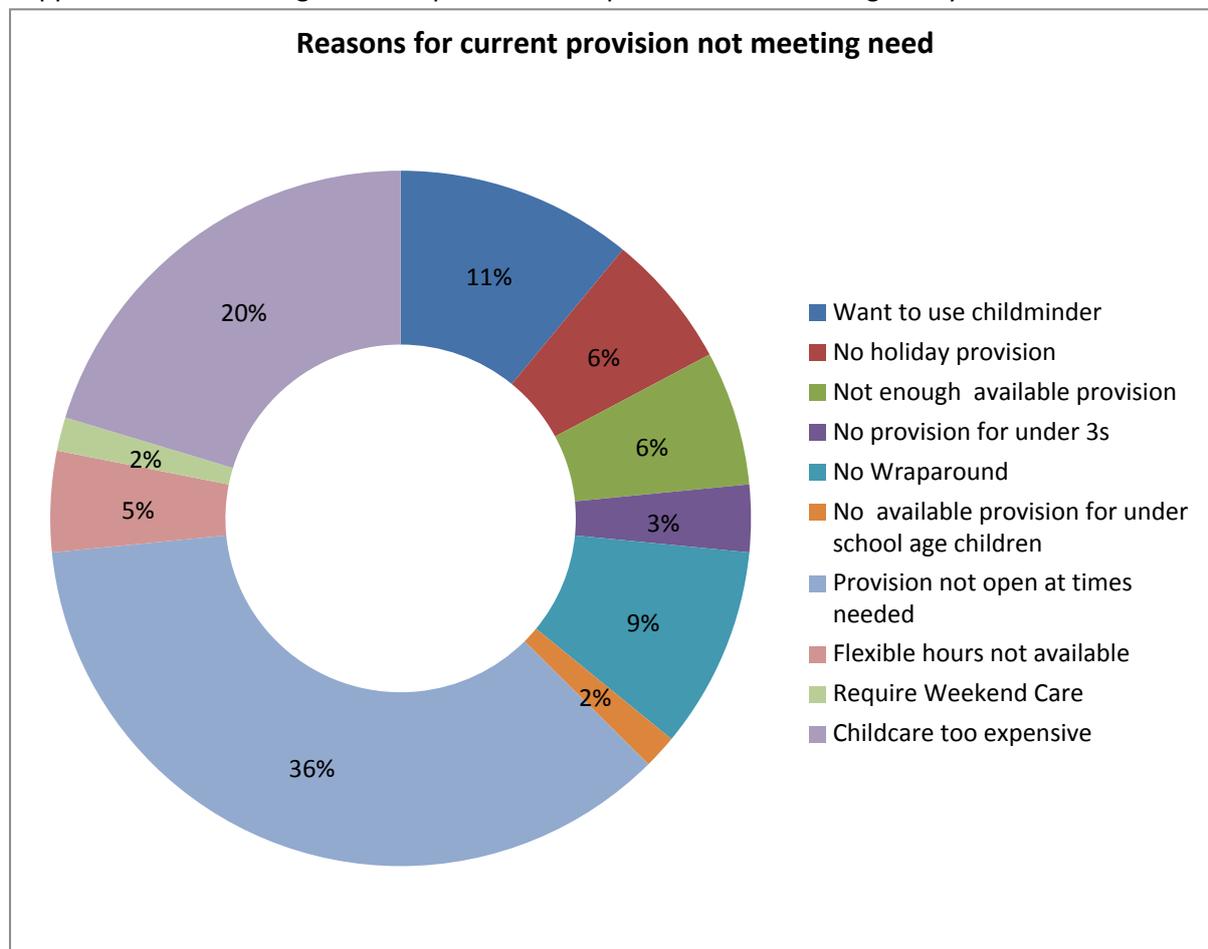
Appendix 3(a) - 1140 hours ELC Family Survey Responses Commentary

as in a blended approach with group provision in the private and voluntary sector. However, it is recognised that here is a substantial preference for using group provision either in the P&V sector or within Local Authority nurseries. The latter featuring significantly in these choices whether as a single provider or within a blended approach.



Not meeting needs: There are currently 42 parents/carers who stated that their current provider does not meet their needs for a variety of reasons.

Supportive information given in responses where provision isn't meeting family need:



“Husband works 50 hours a week and I work 25. We don't have any family nearby to help with childcare so our only option is to pay for both nursery and a childminder for after nursery. The extra hours would make a huge financial difference to our lives as it is expensive to pay for childcare.”

“I can't work extra hours because the private childcare cost would be too high”

“Both parents work shifts - we basically need childcare that is flexible according to our variable rotas but also covers 24/7 if required (nights/evenings/weekends) so grandparents are our only option”

“There is only one choice of childcare in my catchment area and although my youngest has now just started school there is no flexibility in the childcare here. There is no before school care, after school care or holiday care.”

“A lack of flexibility in the provision of funded ELC by our local authority nursery means that we currently need to use 3 different child care settings (local authority nursery/ private nursery and wrap around care from registered childminder) to access our funded allocation,

whilst also covering our hours at work. This is logistically difficult and introduces an added element of stress for my child on days that they are required to move from one child care setting to another, part way through the day.”

“This is not going to help me in any way because my kids will be in school in 2020! I wish this had been started earlier so it would have benefited our family”

Parents of some children feel that their child’s individual needs mean that attending a smaller setting/home setting is best, and by having the choice to use this type of provision either as a single provider or as part of a blended model is preferred. They felt this often enables the child extend their attendance hours gradually, which is an additional benefit/consideration for them.

Being able to replace wraparound costs with funded hours is seen as a benefit as it will contribute to affordability. Additionally, it enables, for some, to have more disposable income as less salary costs are apportioned to ELC costs.

It would also appear that respondents feel that a wider choice of provision and flexibility on the use of funded hours will more ably support work commitments and employment opportunities. One example being that by enabling wider daytime employment choices as opposed to evening work which negate childcare costs with the support from partner/spouse/family or friends.

There is also the recognition from respondents that options must equally support working and non-working parents. As one person stated “being a working mother, I need to organise my work and additional childcare around school nursery times. This has had a massive financial impact on our household. Personally, I feel childcare provisions are only aimed at unemployed parents or parents who are in a place financially not to work. Childcare is penalizing those who do want to work.”

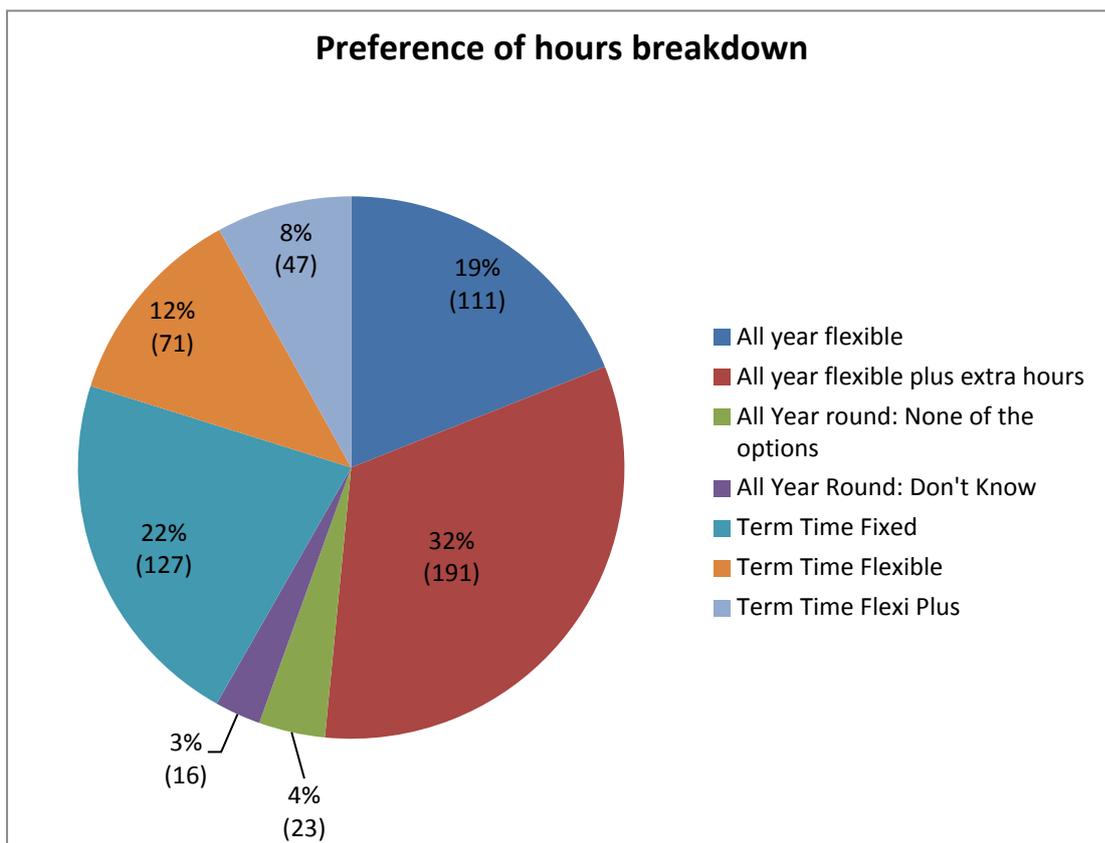
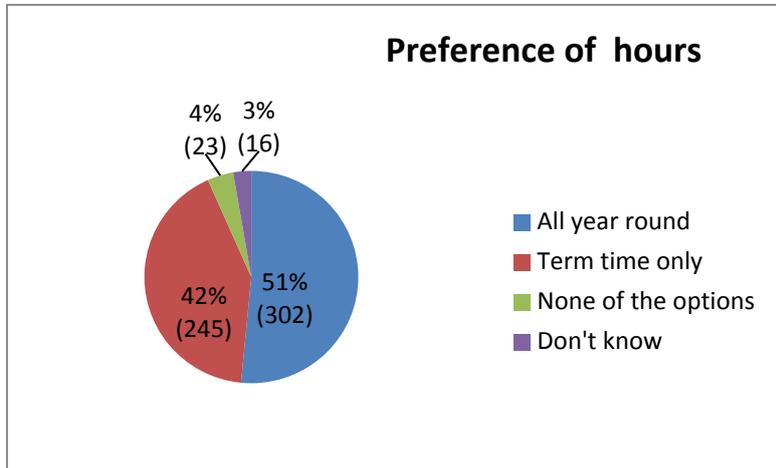
This may be reflected through the higher demand for being able to access the funded hours in all year round. In some day nurseries this is available by stretching the hours throughout the year, although the majority of models currently are geared towards 38 weeks/Term Time only. The expansion of hours with flexibility is a way of helping to address this and offer a wider choice to better suit the varied employment patterns and working arrangements of the majority of people.

Preference of location to access to ELC services

For the majority their preference was split quite evenly between ELC which is close to home or sibling school, followed by being close to work although there were some who didn’t have a preference or didn’t mind. Where ‘other’ was chosen the reasons given was because they wanted something ‘close to transport hub (Tweedbank or Stow) as they commute or stated they just wanted ‘ the best care and experience my child can get locally /in the best environment for my child.’ One person did state that they were ‘currently using the best of a bad lot’. The remainder preferred somewhere which suite both home & work and one specified a provision type (childminder) as opposed to a location.

Preferences taking the 1140 hours

Although generally services are required five days per week, Monday to Friday there were others citing use of various days for parents who worked between one or four days per week, and for a few their working week does extend over seven days to include Saturday and Sunday. The latter tending to relying on informal family arrangements, although a minority of childminders do state they offer their service during these days, by arrangement, it was not apparent that these were used by these respondents or a consideration.

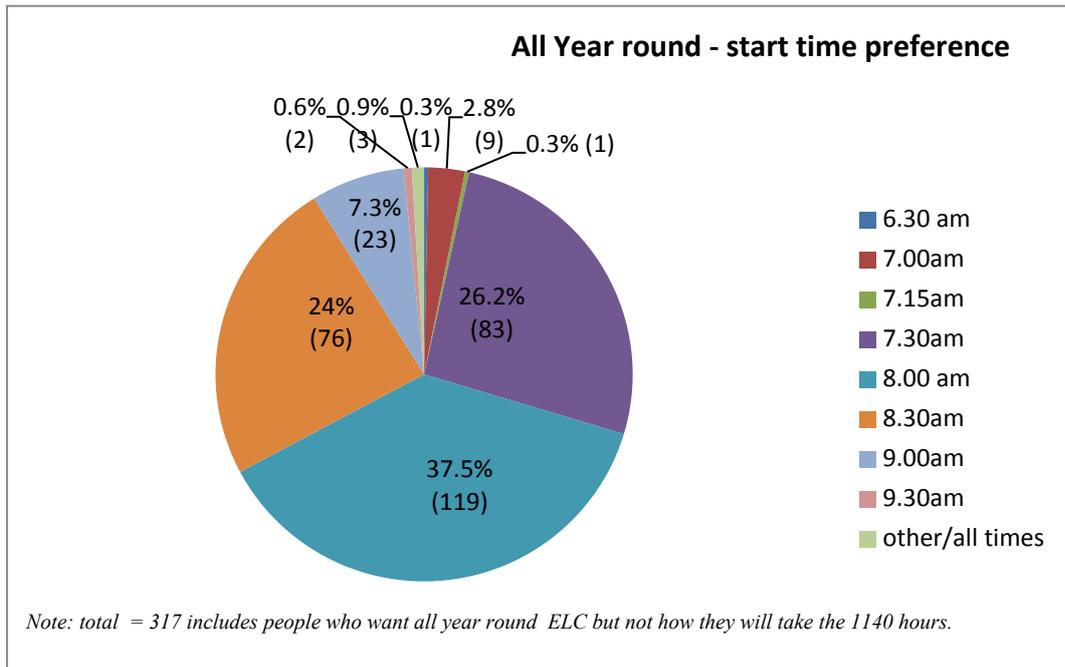


Whilst some people know that they will require all year round care they are unsure as to how they will use the increased hours. Where 'other' was chosen as a response it was due to wishing to use a childminder for funded hours or because it won't apply to them as their children will no longer be in ELC but in school.

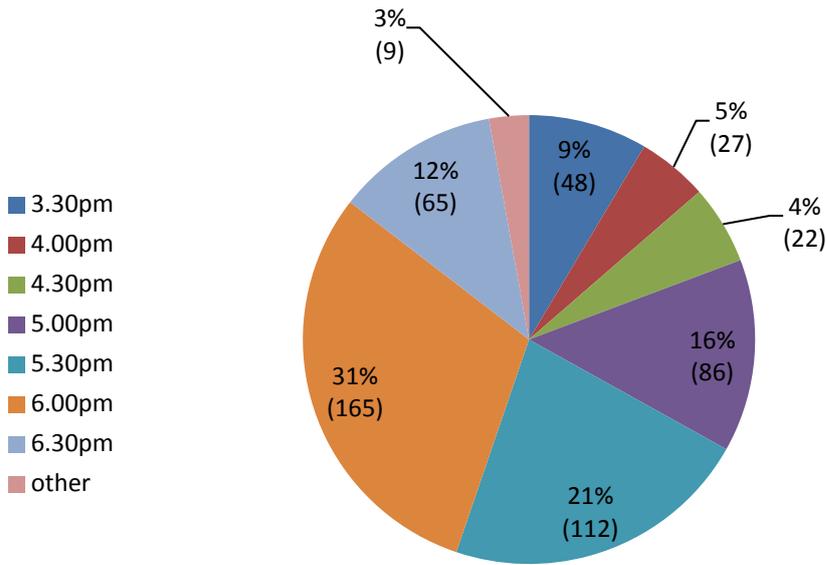
For one working parent they welcomed any/all of the options whilst another felt that although they will use the year round flexible with extra hours option ' 0800 is too late to enable a drop off and a commute to Edinburgh for work. It needs to be 0730 at the latest. 1800 is also a little early probably needs to be a fraction later say 1815.'

Preference for use of hours

47% of respondents stated they would use all 1140 hours with 15% stating they would buy additional hours . 18% felt they would only use some of the hours whilst 20% didn't know how they would use the expansion of hours.

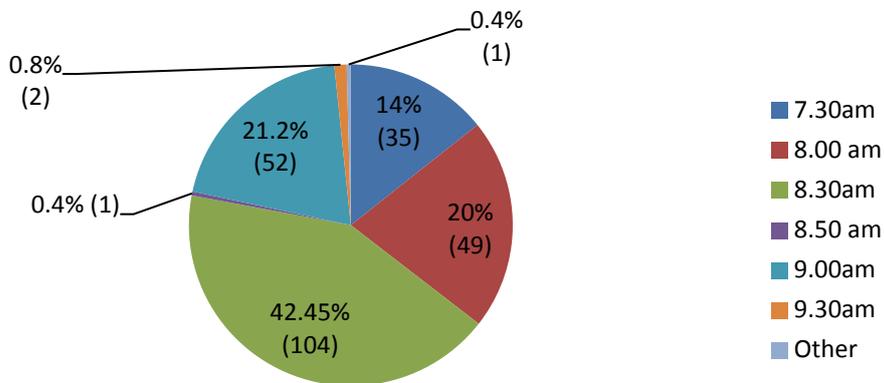


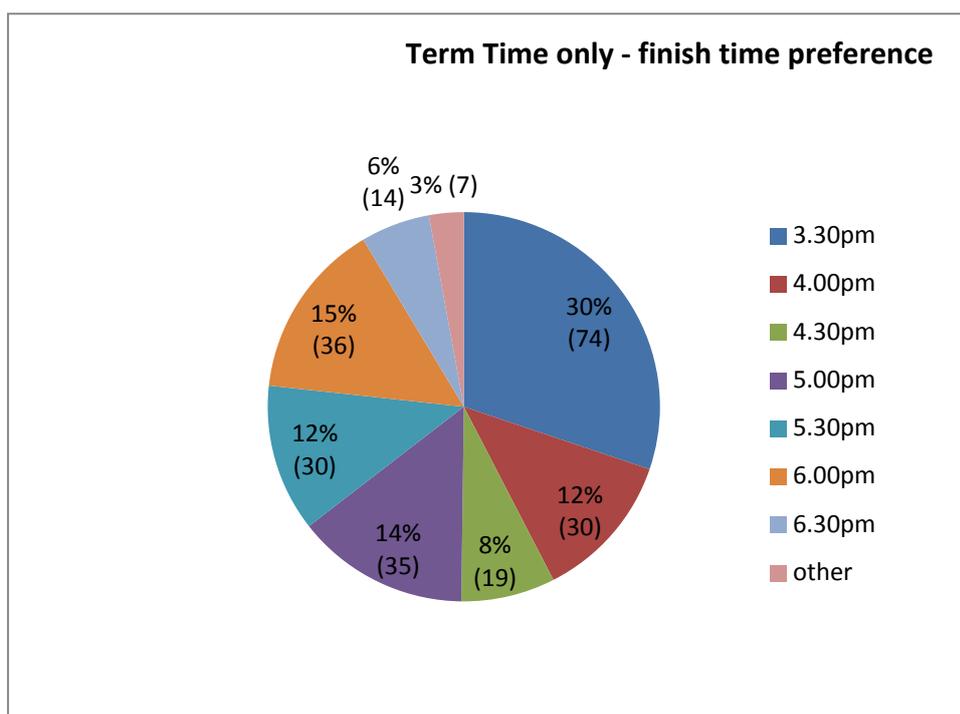
All Year Round - finish time preference



Note: total = 317 includes people who want all year round cELC but not how they will take the 1140 hours.

Term Time only - start time preference





Comparing start times across those who wish Term Time only and those opting for All year round ELC would appear to indicate the peak core start times between 07:30 a.m. and 08:30 a.m. and the peak core finish times between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. being used more in for the all year round requirement.

Start times	7.00am	7.15am	7.30am	8.00 am	8.30am	9.00am	9.30am	other	Totals
Term time only	35	52	104	1	49	3	1	0	245
All Year round	9	1	83	119	76	23	2	4	317

End times	3.30pm	4.00pm	4.30pm	5.00pm	5.30pm	6.00pm	6.30pm	other	Totals
Term time only	74	30	19	35	30	36	14	7	245
All Year round	27	16	18	44	70	96	37	9	317

Note: total of 317 includes people who know they want all year round ELC but do not know how they will take the 1140 hours

General additional comments from respondents

“Find it quite frustrating that you cannot use funded hours in a childminder setting. Why not?”

“think the increase in hours for all families is absurd without some kind of means testing/qualification by combined salary of parents as we do not all need free childcare. This is especially true at a time where cuts are being made from our education/schools “

“This money/funding could be better spent in my opinion & only provided for the families who cannot afford childcare. The same could be said for the ridiculous Scot Gov spend on baby boxes.”

“I would prefer to send my child to a childminder as I do now and to have the option to use the extra funded time with the childminder”.

Appendix 3(a) - 1140 hours ELC Family Survey Responses Commentary

“ To use only a childminder for ELC 3 and use a childminder and school nursery for ELC 4”

“Personally we feel 600 hours is more than enough for such young children to be in childcare and would not use more “

“The current hours available are more than sufficient/ Nursery hours as they are at present. “

“As a stay at home mum who has given up work in order to raise my children, I am happy with the funded hours as they presently are. I feel that the needs of my children are more important than free childcare.”