



Department
for Education

Pulse Surveys of Childcare and Early Years Providers 2024

Research report

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Introduction

Since the summer of 2020 the Department for Education (DfE) has conducted a series of Provider Pulse Surveys designed to capture evidence about the childcare and early years sector. This report outlines findings from the eighth and ninth waves of the research, which were carried out in May and July 2024.

On the eighth wave of the survey, questions were asked on a range of topics. These included:

- Entitlements expansion
- Capacity and places
- Workforce
- Funding
- Wraparound care
- Early Years Foundation Stage framework changes
- Early Years Education Recovery programmes
- Childminders

On the ninth wave, a condensed survey was conducted. Some questions from the May survey were repeated in a bid for the Department to gather evidence on how quickly the Early Years workforce and places typically change on a month-by-month basis. Questions focused on:

- Entitlements expansion
- Capacity and places
- Workforce
- Waitlists
- Early Years Educator Level 3 criteria

Background

The Government has confirmed its commitment¹ to deliver the expansion in funded childcare entitlements first announced by the previous government at the 2023 Spring Budget. The measures announced will expand the existing system by offering up to 30 funded hours of childcare per week over 38 weeks of the year to children aged 9 months and over whose parents meet the same income eligibility criteria as applied to the existing 30 hours entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-places-and-workforce-need/early-years-places-and-workforce-need>

The policy is being delivered through a phased rollout, with 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year offered to eligible 2-year-olds from April 2024 and to eligible children under 2 from September 2024. The new entitlement will be offered in full from September 2025.

As a result of the entitlement expansion, recent pulse surveys have focused on collecting data to monitor the sector and therefore seeks to understand the effect of these reforms on childcare and early years providers. The surveys also collect data on topics such as childcare and early years providers' workforces, financial positions and responses to specific early years policy interventions such as changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Surveys

Both surveys were 10-20 minute web surveys, asked of a sample of group-based providers (GBPs), school-based providers (SBPs), and childminders (CMs) in England. Fieldwork took place across May (18th May to 4th June) and July (24th June to 22nd July) 2024. All those sampled had participated in the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP)² that took place in spring/summer 2023 and had agreed to be recontacted for future research.

Overarchingly, the research aimed to:

- Assess provider delivery of the Spring Budget 2023 childcare reforms so far and assess market sufficiency.
- Explore provider appetite towards expanding, including identification of the barriers they face.
- Monitor the childcare and early years workforce and understand the challenges faced by providers in recruiting and retaining staff.
- Assess how the financial position of providers has changed overtime.
- Explore provider appetite to expand wraparound provision and the staff they use to deliver such provision.
- Explore provider waitlists and how they have changed over time.
- Explore childminders' caring for relatives and wanting to remain in the profession.
- Monitor provider responses to changes in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.
- Understand provider awareness and engagement in the Early Years Education Recovery programmes.
- Capture provider views about the impact of the current Early Years Educator Level 3 qualifications criteria on practitioner skills, knowledge, confidence and impact.

² [Childcare and early years provider survey, Reporting year 2023](#)

Data and reporting conventions

The surveys were sampled from participants in the 2023 Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP)³ who agreed to be recontacted for future research.

8,336 providers were invited to complete the May survey, of whom 1,478 took part, totalling an 18 per cent response rate and consisting of:

- 89 school-based providers (6 per cent response rate)
- 687 group-based providers (16 per cent response rate)
- 702 childminders (26 per cent response rate)

8,306 providers were invited to complete the July survey, of whom 1,331 took part, totalling a 16 per cent response rate:

- 67 school-based providers (5 per cent response rate)
- 575 group-based providers (14 per cent response rate)
- 689 childminders (25 per cent response rate)

The data has been weighted to provide a stand-alone snapshot that is representative of all providers in England as well as childminders, school-based providers and group-based providers separately.

Some questions were only asked of certain provider types and have been flagged accordingly. For example, only childminders were asked about caring for related children, whereas only school-based providers and group-based providers were asked questions about their workforce, such as numbers of vacancies and applications.

In some instances, comparisons have been made with previous waves of the Pulse Survey and the 2023 Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP). The reader is advised to interpret these with caution, due to contextual differences in survey timings and questionnaire design.

Occasionally differences by deprivation band are reported. Deprivation status quintiles are defined by a provider's ranking on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)⁴, which is derived from postcodes.

Figures based on less than 30 responses should be treated with caution and have been flagged in the chart footnotes throughout the report. Similarly, figures with less than 15 responses have been excluded. Results from school-based providers are the most commonly excluded due to the lower response rates from this group. However, it is

³ [Childcare and early years provider survey, Reporting year 2023](#)

⁴ Measure of deprivation is calculated using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). This measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. Further detail can be found here: [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

important to flag that where breakdowns at the provider-type level are not available due to the small number of responses, they are still included in the overall percentages for 'all' providers, unless stated otherwise.

In some instances, comparisons have been made across the May and July surveys where questions were repeated. However, these comparisons should be interpreted with caution, as no statistical significance testing has taken place.

Results may not also equal 100 per cent due to rounding.

Executive summary

Since the summer of 2020 the Department for Education (DfE) has conducted a series of Provider Pulse Surveys designed to capture evidence about the childcare and early years sector. This report outlines findings from the eighth and ninth wave of the research, which were carried out in May and July 2024.

Ten topics were covered across the two surveys: the entitlements expansion; capacity and places; workforce; funding; Early Years Foundation Stage framework changes; waiting lists; childminders; wraparound care; Early Years Education Recovery programmes; and, Early Years Educator Level 3 criteria.

Entitlements expansion

- From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds became able to claim 15 hours per week of funded childcare.
- The majority of providers⁵ (60 per cent in May, 64 per cent in July) were not facing any challenges delivering the 15 hours of funded childcare per week for working parents of 2-year-olds.
- Among providers who reported facing challenges in July, group-based providers were most likely to report not having enough staff (59 per cent) followed by a lack of space (50 per cent), whilst childminders were most likely to report insufficient funding rates (36 per cent) and a lack of funds to expand premises (23 per cent).

Capacity and places

- In May, 17 per cent of providers who looked after under 3s said that they were likely to offer more places to children under 3 by September 2025⁶. In July, 17 per cent of providers who looked after under 3s said they were likely to offer more places to children under 3 by this time next year⁷.
- In May, 9 per cent of providers who do not currently look after under 3s said they were likely to start to offer places to children under 3 by September 2025. In July, 11 per cent of providers who do not currently look after under 3s said they were likely to start to offer places to children under 3 by this time next year.

⁵ who looked after under 3s and responded to the survey

⁶ Under the previous Conservative government, in the 2023 Spring Budget the Government announced that entitlement to free childcare would be extended so that, by September 2025, all eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months onwards would be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare per week (for 38 weeks a year).

⁷ References to 'September 2025' were changed to 'this time next year' in the July survey to reflect fieldwork taking place during the pre-election period, which followed the announcement of a General Election.

- In May, 70 per cent of providers said they are currently on track to deliver all of these additional places by September 2025. In July, 70 per cent of providers said they are currently on track to deliver all of these additional places by this time next year.

Workforce

- In July, the majority of providers (67 per cent) reported that their staffing levels have remained the same since May 2024. 20 per cent reported an increase and 13 per cent reported a decrease.
- In July, group-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available and typically received 7 (5 in May) applications per vacancy, while school-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available, and typically received 14 (3 in May) applications per vacancy.
- On average, it took group-based providers 14 weeks (13 in May) to fill a vacant post in when reporting in July, compared to 8 (17 in May) weeks for school-based providers.
- The most common actions taken by providers in relation to staffing issues were: ask managers to work with children more to meet ratios (63 per cent in July); have more staff working overtime (52 per cent in July) and increase pay (48 per cent in July)

Funding

- In the May survey, there was a slight increase in the proportion of providers who reported their current income covers their costs (47 per cent) versus those reporting as such in November 2023 (43 per cent).
- 20 per cent of providers overall, (10 per cent of group-based providers, 11 per cent of school-based providers and 30 per cent of childminders) said that they thought the funding rates for 2024-2025 set by their local authority would increase their profitability.
- Providers who thought their profitability would increase because of the new funding rates were most likely to anticipate spending the additional revenue on learning materials and improving the quality of their provision.

Early Years Foundation Stage framework changes

- In September 2023 and January 2024, several changes were made to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework⁸.
- The May survey showed that the most common flexibilities providers adopted as a result of these changes were: 55 per cent of providers had altered their approach to mealtimes (to ensure children are within sight and hearing), and 40 per cent of both group-based and school-based providers had increased their 2-year-old staff:child ratios to 1:5.
- 23 per cent of providers said the changes had improved the quality of care and early education they provide, and 16 per cent of providers said the changes had increased the number of children they can care for and educate.
- However, providers reported that the changes were more likely to have worsened than improved both staff recruitment (group-based providers - 28 per cent vs 7 per cent, school-based providers – 17 per cent vs 4 per cent) and staff retention (group based-providers - 19 per cent vs 9 per cent, school-based providers – 8 per cent vs 7 per cent).

Waiting lists

- Providers were asked a series of questions in July around waiting lists, specifically about “children who are on a waiting list to start immediately, rather than by choice to start in the future.”
- 54 per cent of group-based providers, 21 per cent of school-based providers and 40 per cent of childminders had at least 1 child on their waiting lists. Of these providers, group-based providers had on average 8 children on their waiting list, school-based providers an average of 3, and childminders had on average 1 child on their waiting list.
- For providers who said they have children on a waiting list, the most common reason was due to a lack of physical capacity (55 per cent). 44 per cent of providers said it was because they could not accommodate the hours / days required.
- 61 per cent of providers with a waiting list reported that since the April 2024 entitlements expansion the number of children on their waiting list has increased.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Childminders

- The vast majority (75 per cent) of childminders did not care for under school-aged children related⁹ to themselves in the 12 months to May 2024. Of those childminders who did care for at least 1 child related to them, nearly half (44 per cent) would not make any changes as a result of the entitlements expansion, but almost a third (30 per cent) would place the child/children in another setting.
- In May 2024, 59 per cent of childminders reported they were considering leaving the profession at some point, with 11 per cent considering leaving within the next year. Results show very similar proportions to when the same question was asked in the November 2023 Pulse survey.

Wraparound

- Wraparound childcare refers to provision directly before and after the school day during school term time for primary school age children. Under the previous Conservative government, there was a commitment to provide funding to start to rollout a national wraparound programme from September 2024.
- Of those providers currently offering wraparound care, in the May wave 31 per cent of group-based providers, 21 per cent of school-based providers and 18 per cent of childminders said they intend to expand to offer more places and/or hours in September 2024.
- The vast majority (92 per cent) of providers who do not currently offer wraparound care do not plan to start offering wraparound care from September 2024
- The most frequently given reasons for not having plans to expand or start offering wraparound care were a lack of space or facilities (53 per cent of group-based providers, 33 per cent of school-based providers, 46 per cent of childminders) and not deeming it financial viable (37 per cent of group-based providers, 54 per cent of school-based providers, 24 per cent of childminders).

Early Years Education Recovery (EYER) programmes

- The EYER programme is a package of workforce training, qualifications and support for the early years sector to help address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children.

⁹ A relative to a child refers to: a grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister, whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership.

- The strand providers had most commonly engaged with was the Early Years Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) training programme (41 per cent of all providers).
- The stand providers were most interested in engaging with or engaging with again in the future was the EYFS Online Child Development Training (47 per cent of providers).

Early Years Educator Level 3 qualifications criteria

- In July, nearly all (83 per cent to 98 per cent) of providers agreed with a series of statements around practitioner skills, knowledge, confidence and impact.

Entitlements Expansion

Challenges in delivering the expanded entitlements

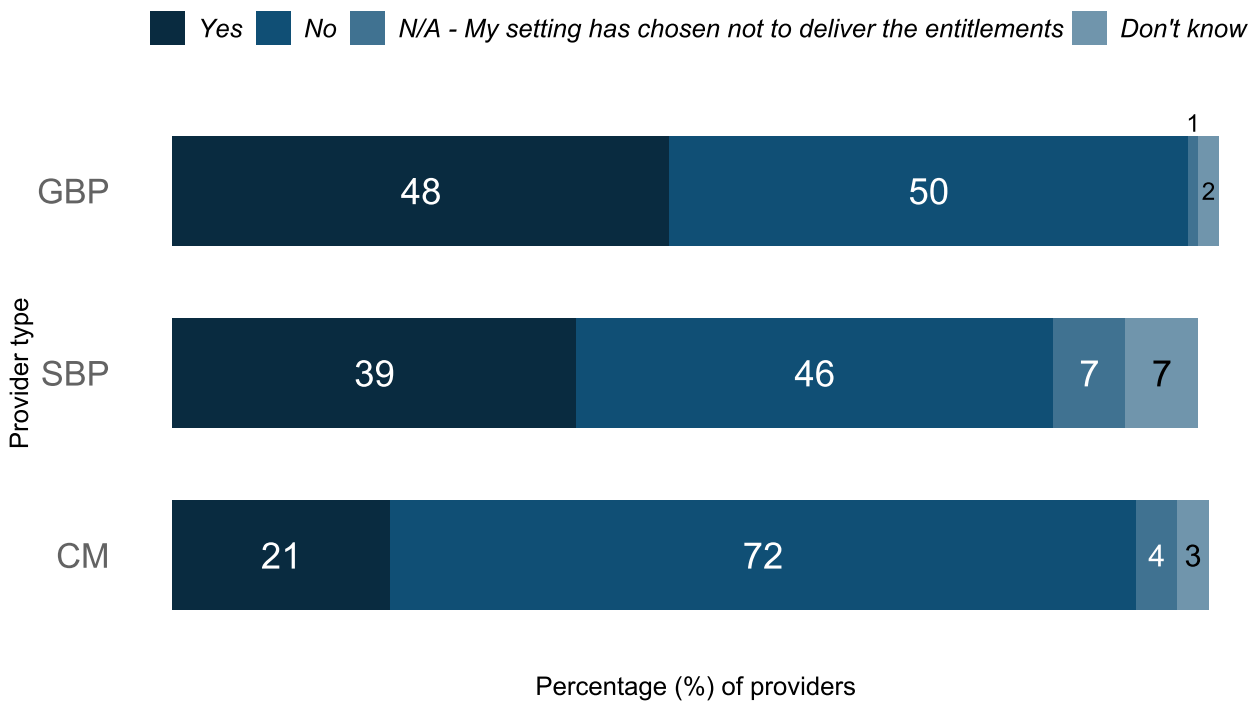
From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds became able to claim 15 hours per week of funded childcare. Providers who reported that they provide childcare for children aged under 3 years old were asked whether they were facing any challenges that made it difficult to deliver the 15 hours of free childcare per week.

In the May survey, 1 per cent of group-based providers, 7 per cent of school-based providers and 4 per cent of childminders (2 per cent of providers overall) said that they had chosen not to deliver the entitlements. Results were similar in the July survey, with 3 per cent of group-based providers, 10 per cent of school-based providers and 3 per cent of childminders (3 per cent of providers overall) reporting this.

Results from the May survey showed that 35 per cent of all providers (who said they provide childcare for children aged under 3) reported facing challenges, meanwhile 60 per cent were not facing any challenges. In July, results were similar at 30 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively.

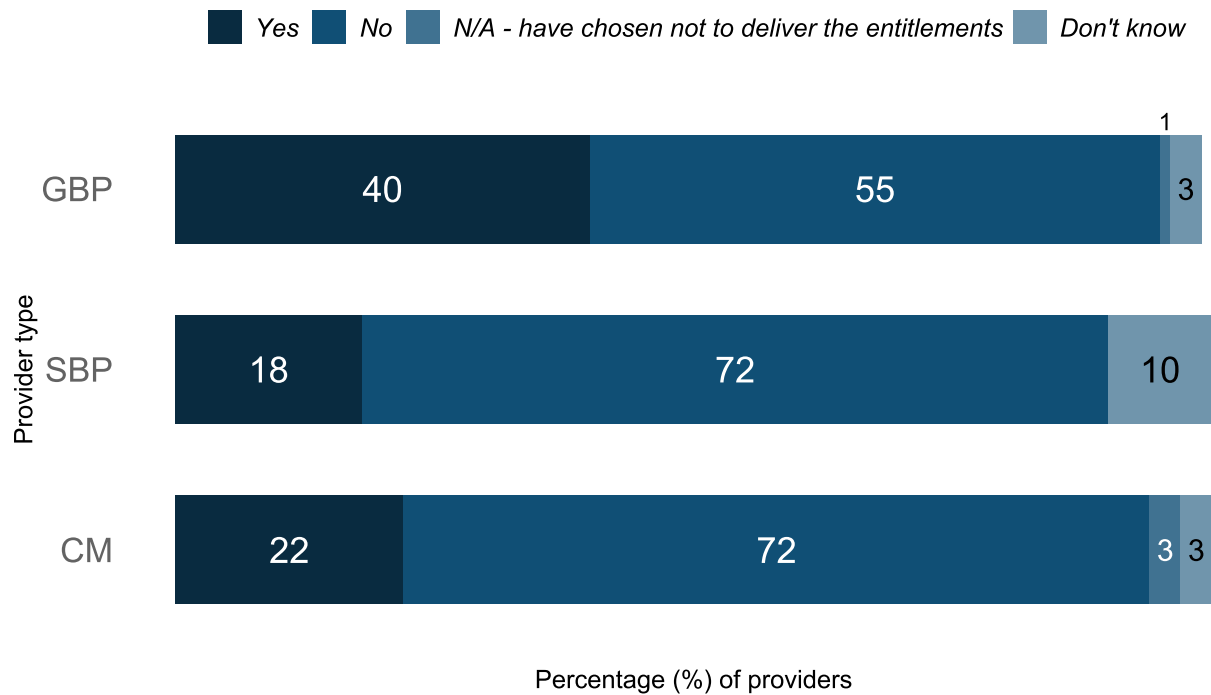
Results differed slightly based on provider type: in May, childminders were the least likely to report facing any challenges, meanwhile across both surveys group-based providers were the most likely to report they were facing challenges. In the July survey, fewer school-based providers reported facing challenges (18 per cent, compared to 39 per cent in May).

Figure 1 May survey: Whether providers are facing challenges making it difficult to deliver the 15 hours of funded childcare per week



Unweighted bases: GBP n=655, SBP n=38, CM n=649

Figure 2 July survey: Whether providers are facing challenges making it difficult to deliver the 15 hours of funded childcare per week



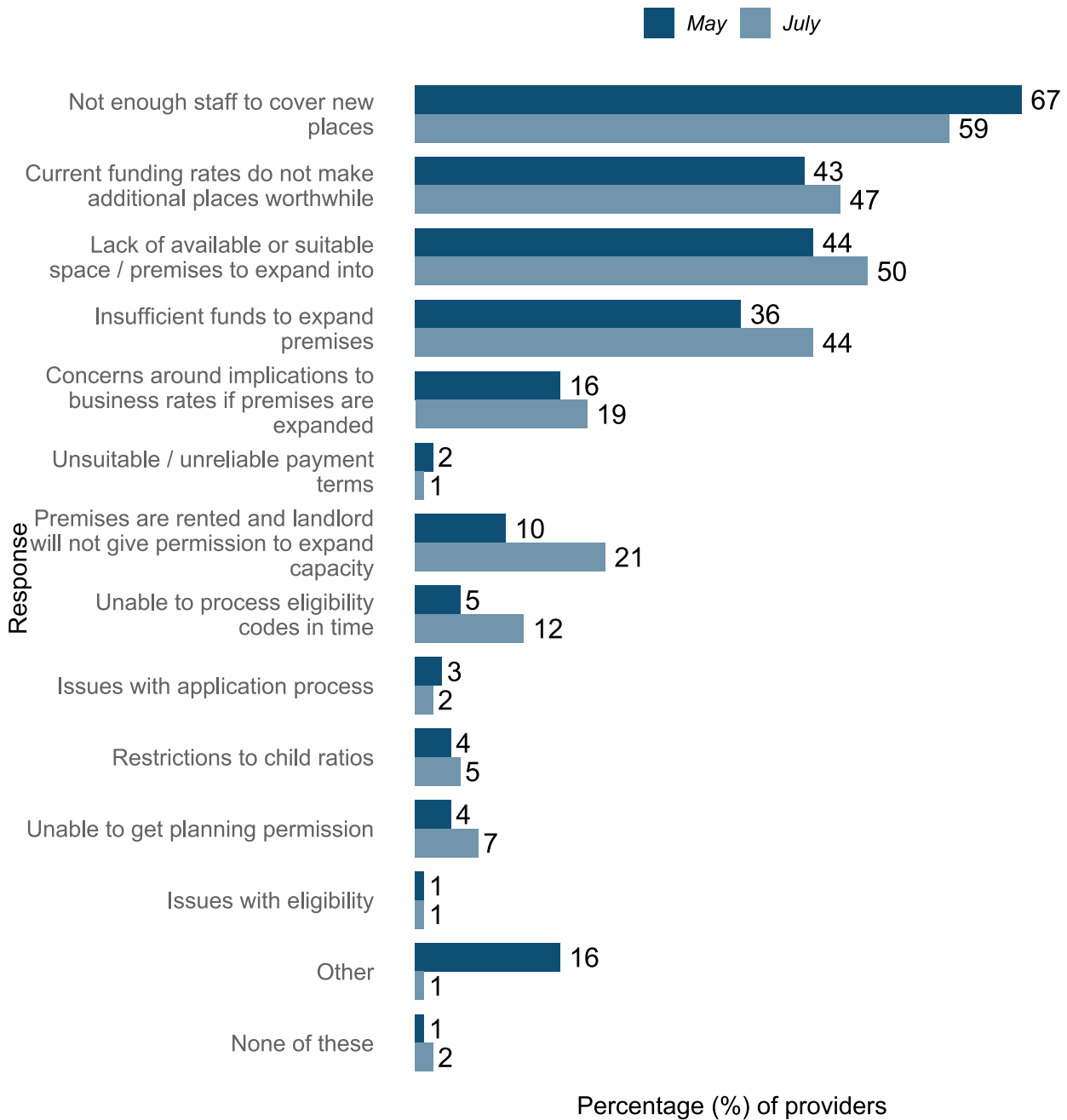
Unweighted bases: GBP n=546, SBP n=25, CM n=645
 Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.

Challenges

Across all providers who said they were having challenges, in May the most common barrier was 'not having enough staff or childminder assistants to cover new places' (53 per cent of providers), and the second most common barrier across all providers was 'funding rates not making additional places worthwhile' (40 per cent). In July, the most reported barriers were the same as the May survey. The same size proportion of providers cited a lack of staff as insufficient funding rates (42 per cent).

For group-based providers who faced difficulties, the most commonly reported barrier across both surveys was not having enough staff to cover new places (67 per cent in May and 59 per cent in July).

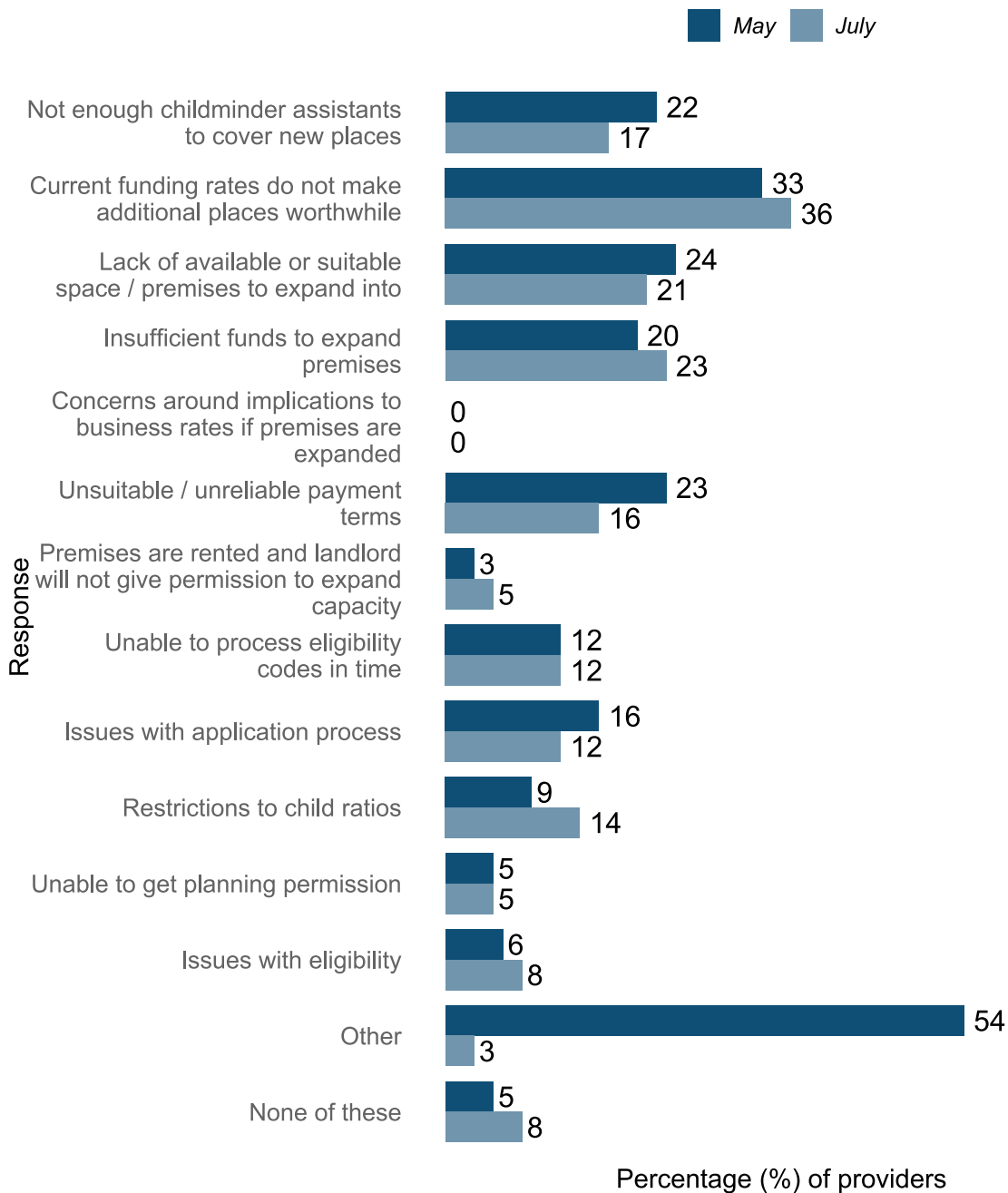
Figure 3: Which challenges group-based providers are facing in delivering the 15 hours of funded childcare per week



Unweighted bases: 307 (May), 220 (July)

For childminders who faced difficulties, the biggest barrier cited was funding rates not making additional places worthwhile (33 per cent in May and 36 per cent in July).

Figure 4: Which challenges Childminders are facing in delivering the 15 hours of funded childcare per week



Unweighted bases: 133 (May), 136 (July)

Results for school-based providers are not shown due to small sample sizes.

Capacity and places

Providers were asked a series of questions around their capacity. For both surveys, capacity was defined as ‘the maximum number of children that they / the setting can provide care for at any one time, within the physical space available’. As this definition of capacity is new comparisons to previous surveys (such as the November 2023 pulse survey) cannot be made.

Maximum capacity

Providers were asked about their maximum capacity given actual staffing levels and assuming necessary staffing levels. Across both surveys, school-based providers had on average slightly higher capacity levels than group-based providers. The number of additional places if necessary staffing levels were achieved varied between 1 and 4.

May:

Table 1 May survey: Capacity levels

Provider Type	Maximum capacity given actual staffing levels	Maximum capacity assuming necessary staffing levels	Number of additional places if necessary staffing levels were achieved
Group-based providers	42 places	46 places	4
School-based providers	45 places	48 places	3

July:

Table 2 July survey: Capacity levels

Provider Type	Maximum capacity given actual staffing levels	Maximum capacity assuming necessary staffing levels	Number of additional places if necessary staffing levels were achieved
Group-based providers	42 places	46 places	4
School-based providers	47 places	48 places	1

Changes since last Ofsted inspection

The Department were interested in understanding whether providers' maximum capacity was likely to have changed since their most recent Ofsted inspection to feed into modelling on providers' places.

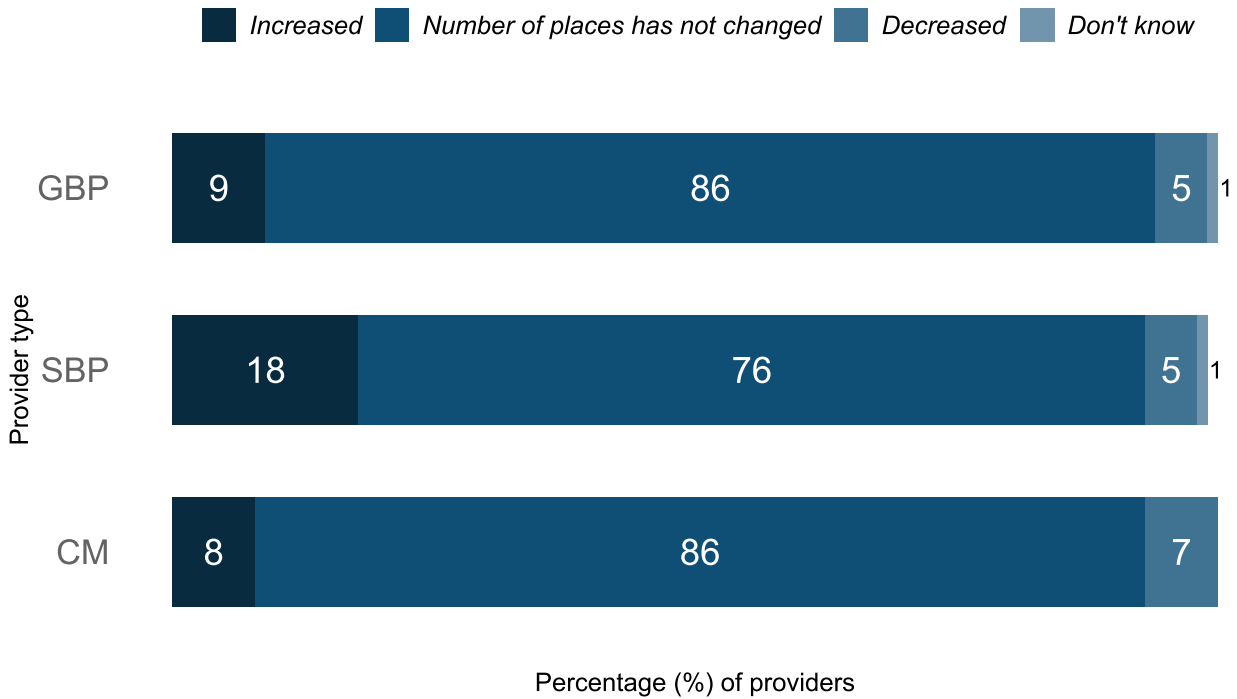
Across both surveys, the majority of providers reported that their maximum physical capacity has not changed since their last Ofsted inspection (85 per cent in May; 83 per cent in July), with slightly more providers reporting that their maximum capacity has increased than decreased (see Figures 5 and 6).

In May, of those who reported that their maximum capacity has changed since their last Ofsted inspection, overall 47 per cent of providers notified Ofsted; 41 per cent did not notify Ofsted; 12 per cent did not know if they notified Ofsted. Results differed by provider type: childminders were almost certain to know if they did or did not notify Ofsted, whereas 57 per cent of school-based providers were unsure¹⁰

In July, slightly more providers reported that they notified Ofsted and fewer providers did not know if they notified Ofsted: 55 per cent of providers notified Ofsted; 40 per cent of providers did not notify Ofsted; and 6 per cent did not know if they notified Ofsted.

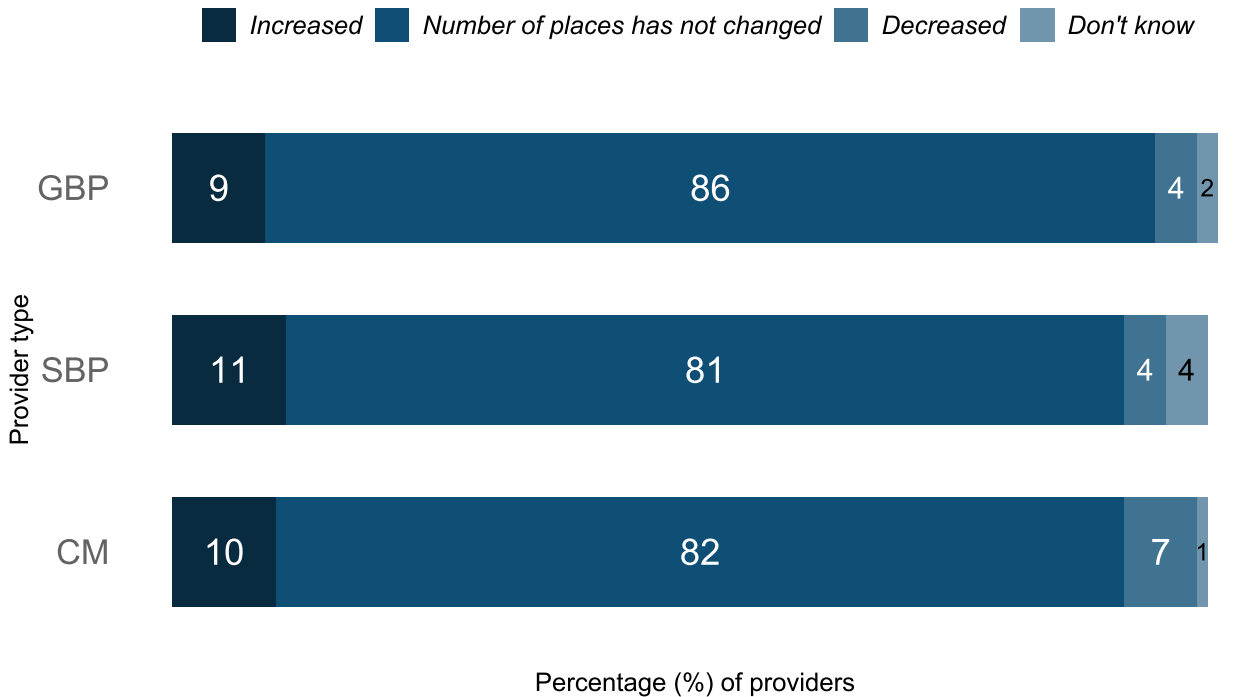
¹⁰ Please note, the way that school-based providers report on their capacity will vary depending on whether or not their provision is registered with Ofsted on the early years register, or as part of the school.

Figure 5 May survey: Whether the provider's maximum physical capacity has increased or decreased since their last Ofsted inspection



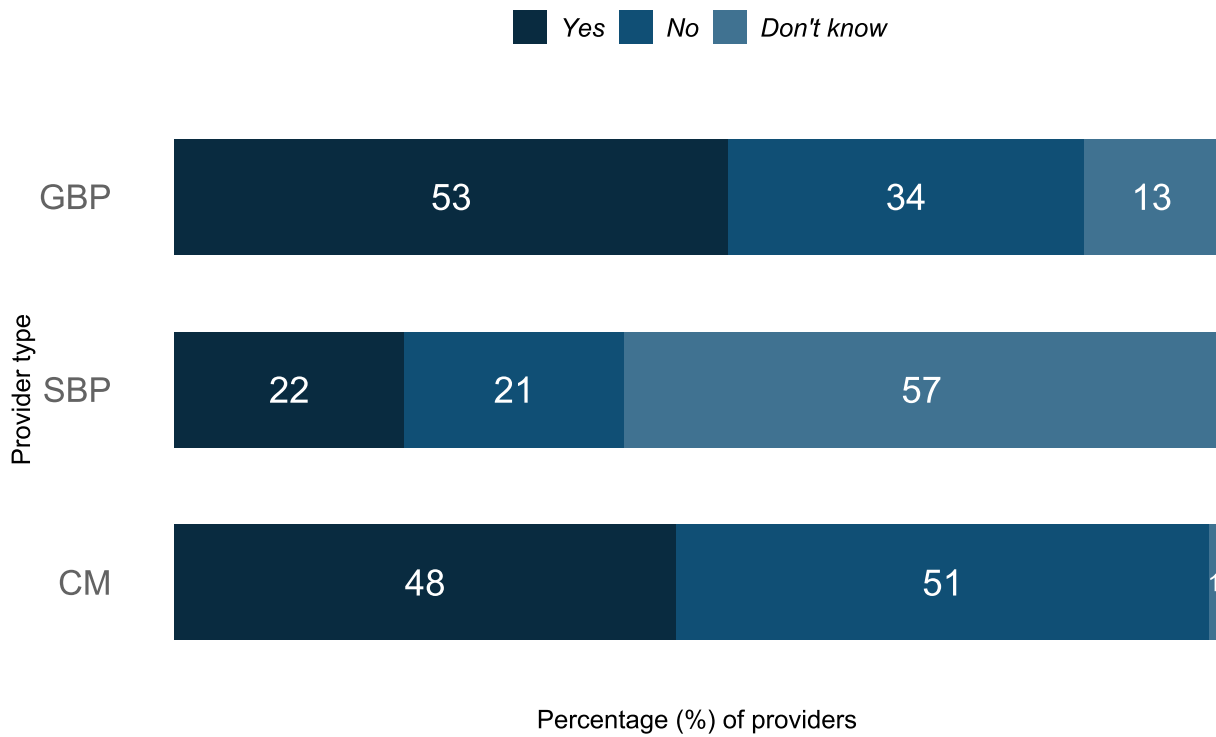
Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89, CM n=702

Figure 6 July survey: Whether the provider's maximum physical capacity has increased or decreased since their last Ofsted inspection



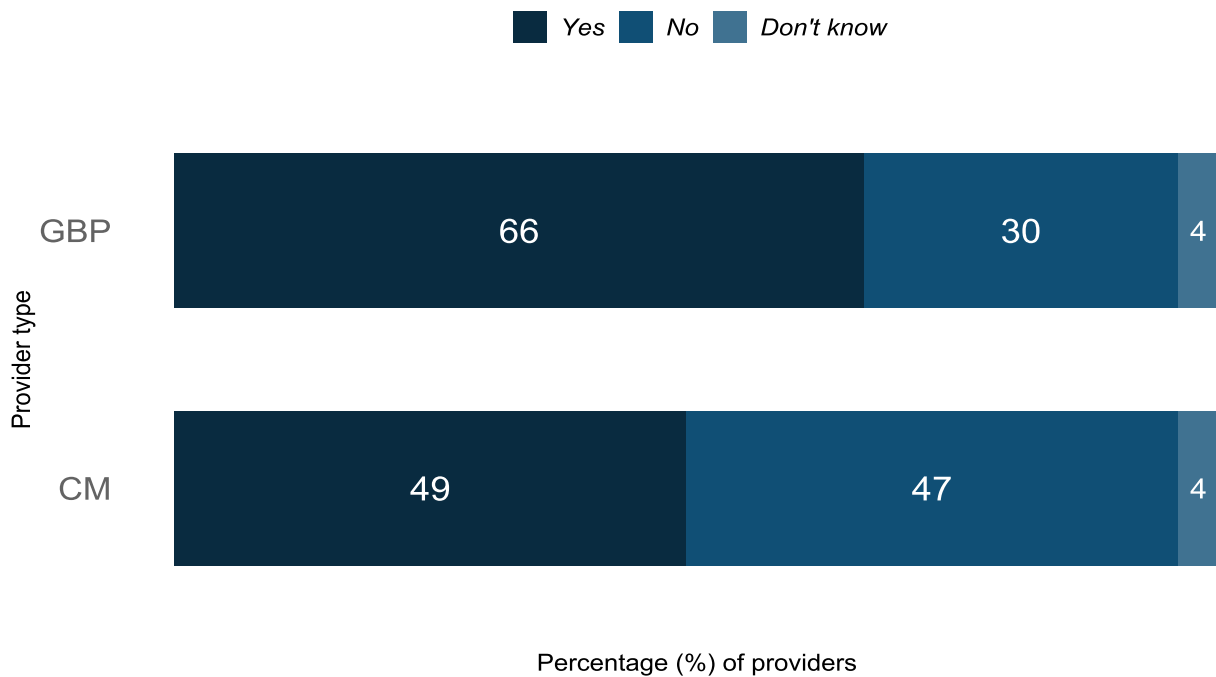
Unweighted bases: GBP n=575, SBP n=67, CM n=689

Figure 7 May survey: Whether providers notified Ofsted of their change in capacity



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=93, SBP n=19, CM n=100
 Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.*

Figure 8 July survey: Whether providers notified Ofsted of their change in capacity



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=73, CM n=113
 Note: results from school-based providers are excluded due to small sample size.*

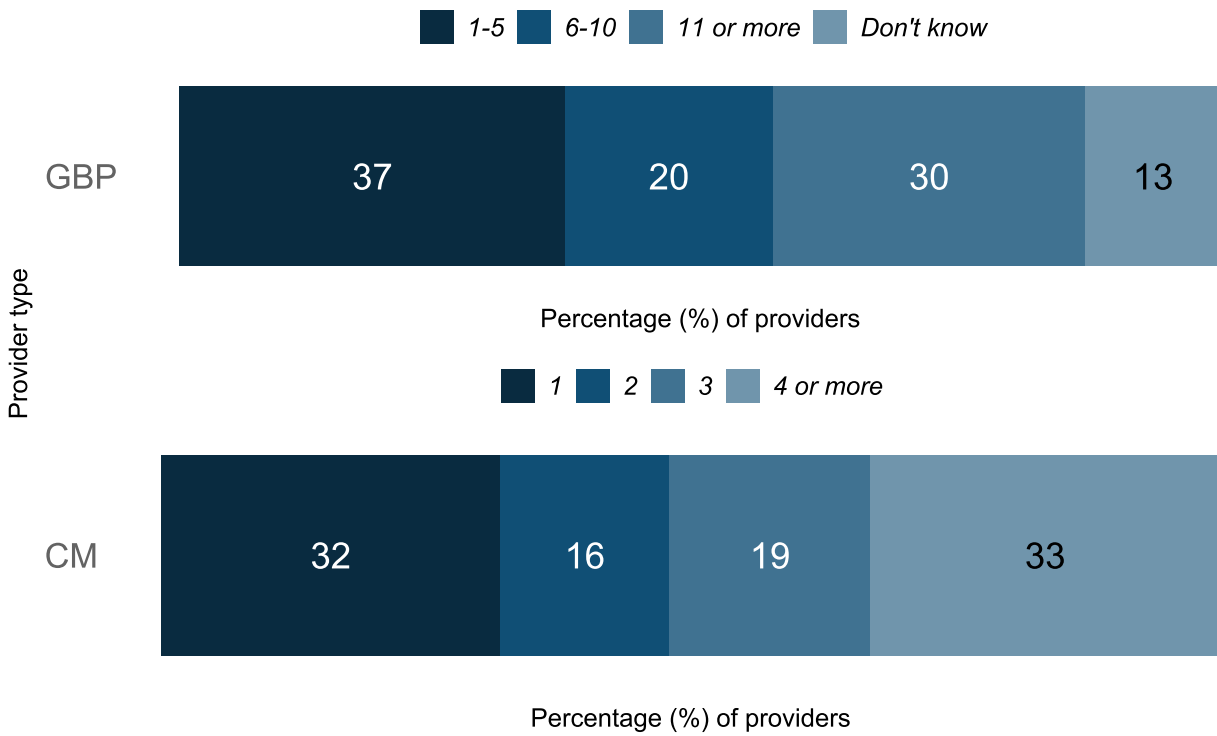
Providers who increased their capacity

Across both surveys, for group-based providers who said their capacity had increased (9 per cent in both surveys), their capacity had increased by 12 places. For childminders who reported this (8 per cent in May and 10 per cent in July), this was on average by 3 places in both surveys.

Providers who decreased their capacity

On average, for group-based providers who said their capacity had decreased (5 per cent in May and 4 per cent in July), this decreased by 14 places across both surveys. For childminders (7 per cent in both May and July), this was on average by 3 places across both surveys.

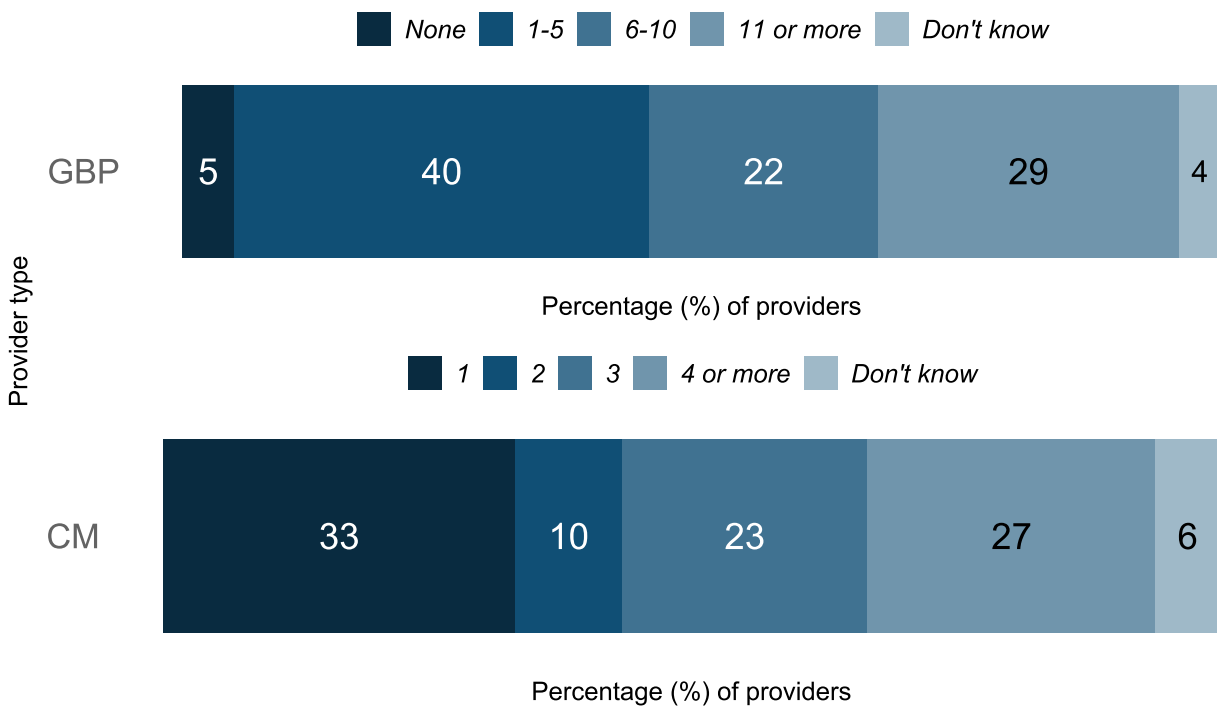
Figure 9 May survey: How many places providers have increased their maximum capacity by



Unweighted bases: GBP n=60, CM n=49

Note: Results from school-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

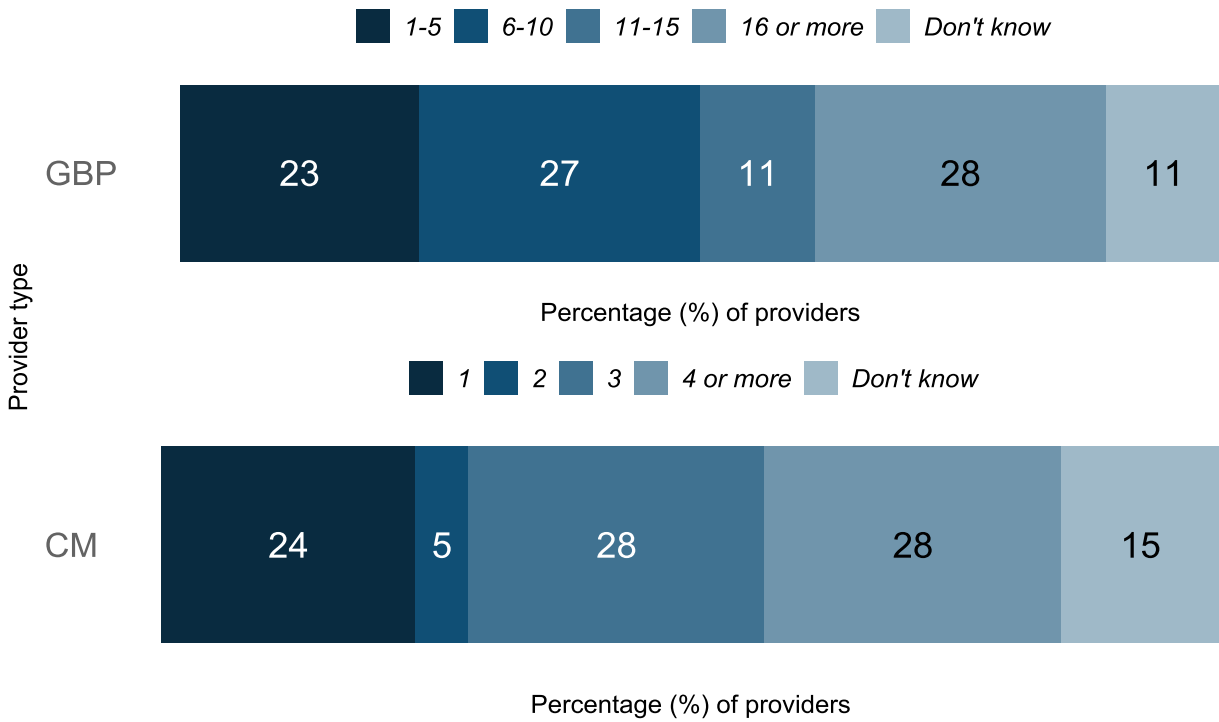
Figure 10 July survey: How many places providers have increased their maximum capacity by



Unweighted bases: GBP n=53, CM n=60

Note: Results from School-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

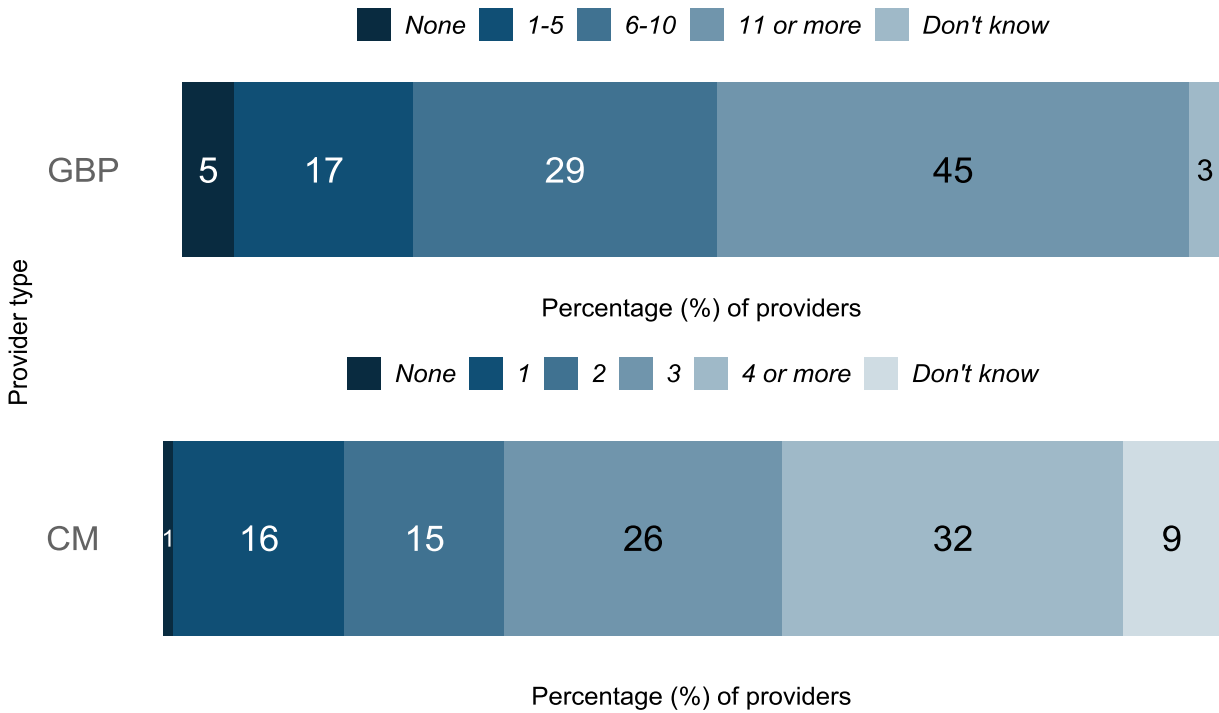
Figure 11 May survey: How many places providers have decreased their maximum capacity by



Unweighted bases: GBP n=33, CM n=51

Note: Results from School-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

Figure 6 July survey: How many places providers have decreased their maximum capacity by



Unweighted bases: GBP n=20, CM n=53
Note: GBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.
Results from school-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

Places for children aged under 3

Both surveys sought to understand whether in light of changes to the funded childcare entitlements¹¹, providers were likely to offer more places, or start to offer places, to children aged under 3.

It is important to note that, due to the announcement of the 2024 General Election, the question wording and time periods asked about differed slightly across surveys. Whilst the May survey asked explicitly about changes by September 2025¹², the July survey instead focused on 'this time next year'. Therefore, due to the difference in time periods direct comparisons should not be made across surveys.

In May group-based providers who said they were likely to increase the maximum capacity of their setting for under 3s¹³ will on average increase their capacity by 13 places, and childminders by 3 places¹⁴, by September 2025. Results were similar in July, with group-based providers¹⁵ on average increasing their capacity by 10 places¹⁶, and childminders¹⁷ by 4 places, by 'this time next year'.

For childminders, data suggests that the majority of additional places for under 3s will come from childminders already in the under 3s market, as opposed to childminders who do not currently look after under 3s. Most childminders said they were unlikely to start to offer places where they do not currently look after under 3s.

¹¹ By September 2025, all eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months onwards would be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare per week (for 38 weeks a year).

¹² Under the previous Conservative Government, in the 2023 Spring Budget the Government announced that entitlement to free childcare would be extended so that, by September 2025, all eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months onwards would be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare per week (for 38 weeks a year). Further details can be found here: [Spring Budget 2023 factsheet – Labour Market Measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118222/Spring_Budget_2023_factsheet_-_Labour_Market_Measures_GOV.UK.pdf)

¹³ GBPs who will either offer more places to under 3s (17%) or start to offer places to under 3s (18%) by September 2025

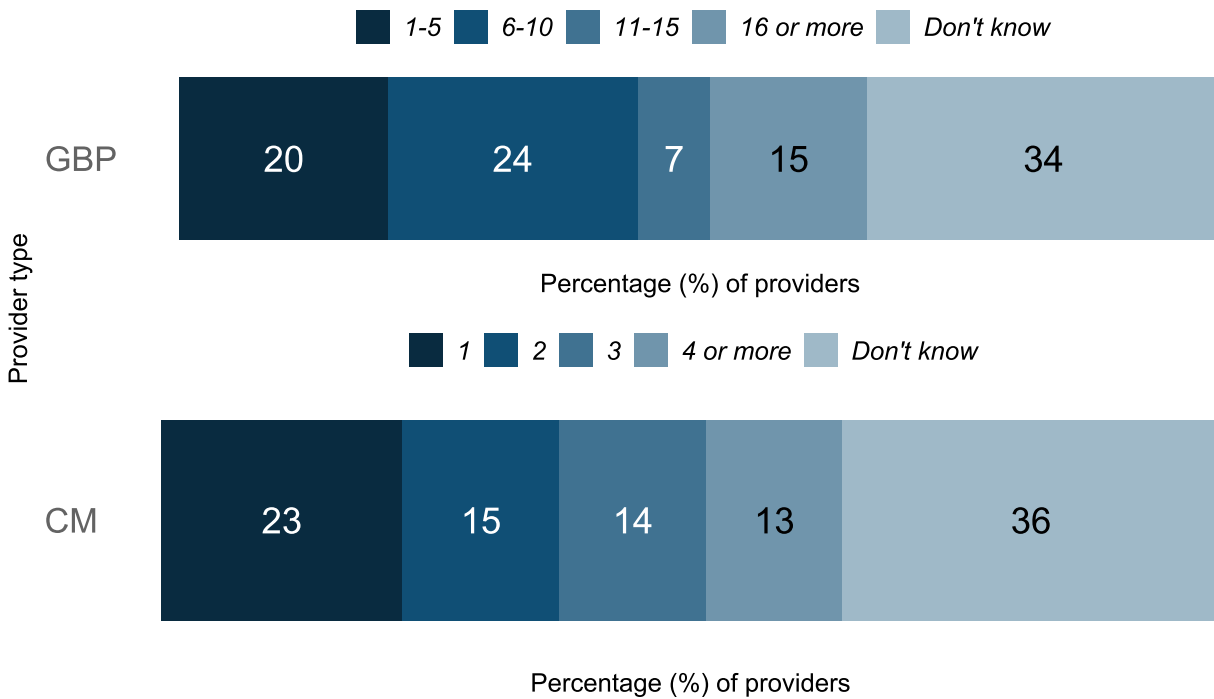
¹⁴ Childminders who will either offer more places to under 3s (16%) or start to offer places to under 3s (4%) by September 2025

¹⁵ GBPs who will either offer more places to under 3s (22%) or start to offer places to under 3s (5%) by September 2025

¹⁶ Mean calculated excluding those providers who said "none".

¹⁷ Childminders who will either offer more places to under 3s (13%) or start to offer places to under 3s (15%) by September 2025

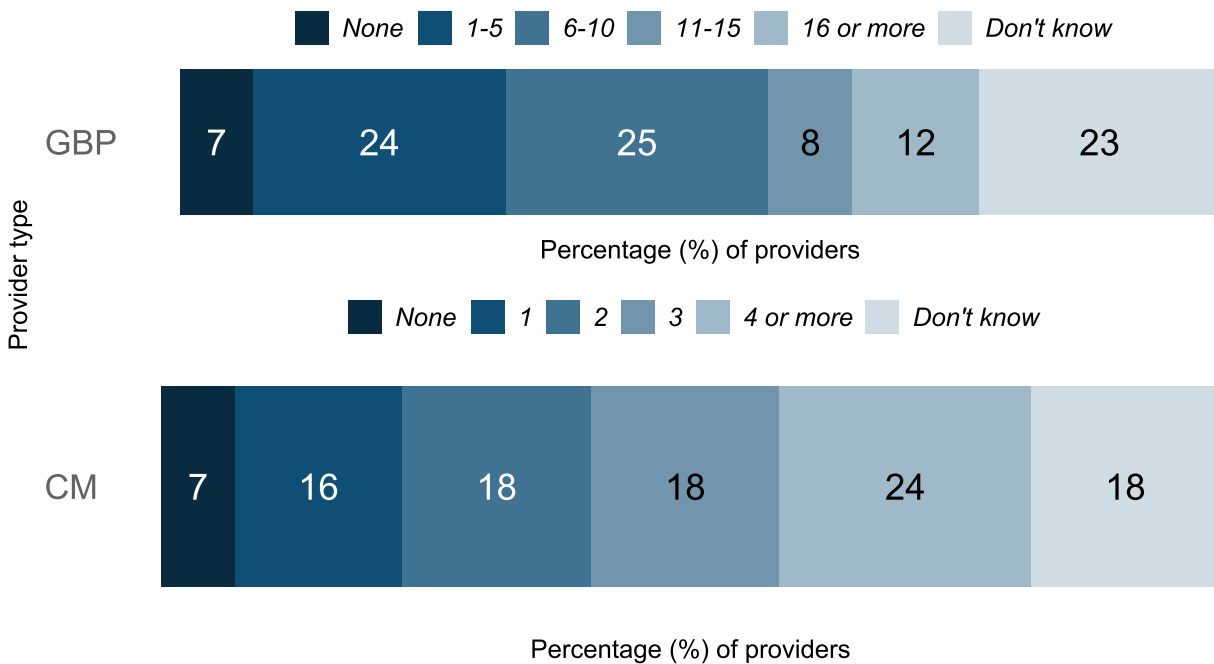
Figure 7 May survey: How many additional places for under 3s are providers likely to have added by September 2025



Unweighted bases: GBP n=108, CM n=99

Note: Results from school-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

Figure 8 July survey: How many additional places for under 3s are providers likely to have added by this time next year



Unweighted bases: GBP n=114, CM n=81

Note: Results from school-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

Likelihood of offering more places to children aged under 3

Results from May show that 17 per cent of providers¹⁸ overall who already look after children under the age of 3 said they were likely to increase their maximum capacity to offer more places to under 3s by September 2025. Results were similar across group-based providers and childminders.

Results in July were similar, with 17 per cent of providers¹⁹ overall who already look after children under the age of 3 said they were likely to increase their maximum capacity to offer more places to under 3s, by 'this time next year'²⁰. However, results differed by provider type: school-based providers were almost evenly split in whether they were likely or unlikely to offer more places to under 3s (41 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively), whereas group-based providers and childminders were far more likely to say they were unlikely.

By deprivation band

There were no significant differences across deprivation band.

In May, 27 per cent of providers in the most deprived areas²¹ said they were likely to offer more places to children aged under 3 (26 per cent in July), and 62 per cent said they were unlikely (60 per cent in July).

For the least deprived areas, in May 12 per cent (14 per cent in July) of providers said they were likely to offer more places to children under 3 and 82 per cent (79 per cent in July) were unlikely.

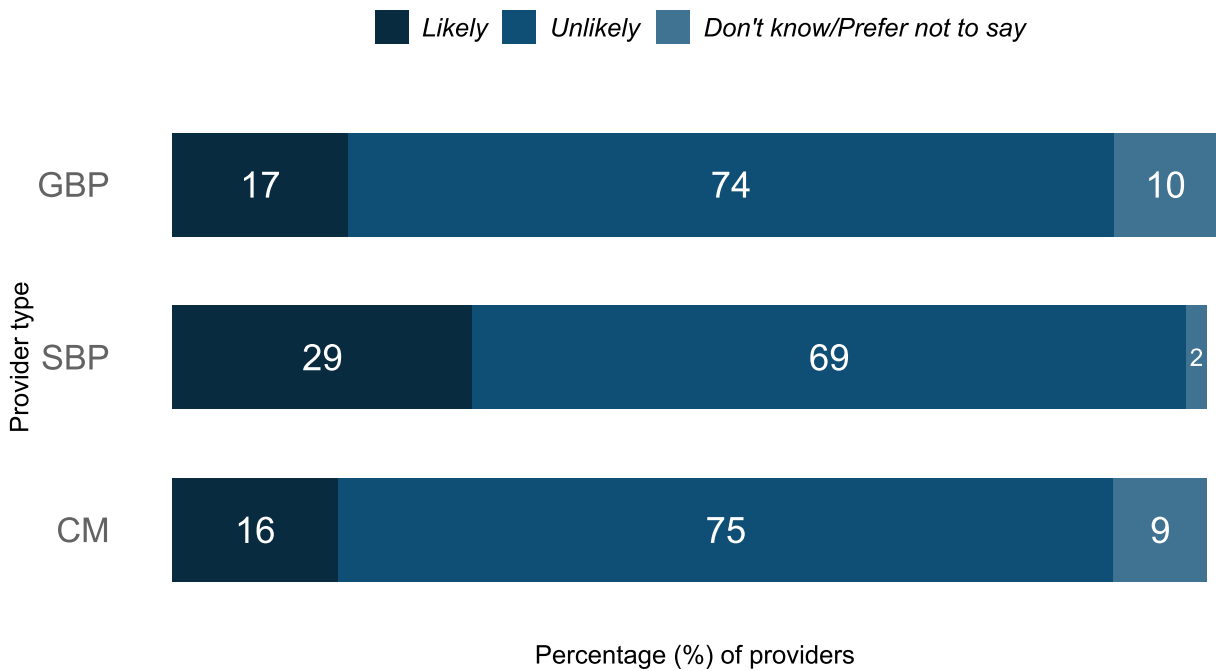
¹⁸ This question was asked to only those providers who said they already provide care for children under the age of 3.

¹⁹ This question was asked to only those providers who said they already provide care for children under the age of 3.

²⁰ Due to the announcement of the general election, the July survey asked about providers' plans for 'this time next year', rather than September 2025 (as asked in the May survey).

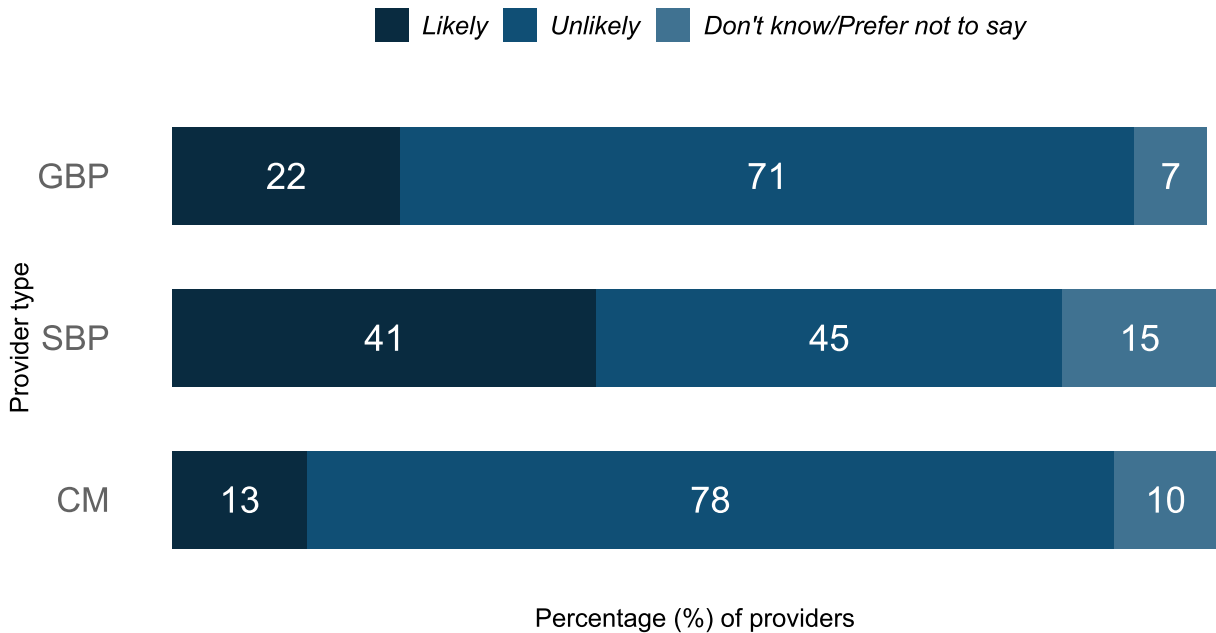
²¹ Measure of deprivation is calculated using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). This measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. Further detail can be found here: [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Figure 9 May survey: Whether providers are likely to offer more places to under 3s, by September 2025



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=655, SBP n=38, CM n=649
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

Figure 10 July survey: Whether providers are likely to offer more places to under 3s, by this time next year



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=546, SBP n=25, CM n=645
Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.
Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

Likelihood of starting to offer places to children aged under 3

In the May survey, 18 per cent of group-based providers, 9 per cent of school-based providers and 4 per cent of childminders (9 per cent of providers²² overall) who do not currently look after children under the age of 3 said they were likely to increase their maximum capacity to start to offer places to under 3s by September 2025.

In July 5 per cent of group based providers, 11 per cent of school based providers and 15 per cent of childminders (11 per cent of providers overall²³) reported they were likely to increase their maximum capacity to start to offer places to under 3s by 'this time next year'²⁴.

By deprivation band

Across both surveys, results were similar across all deprivation bands.

²² This question was asked to only those providers who said they do not currently provide care for children under the age of 3.

²³ This question was asked to only those providers who said they do not currently provide care for children under the age of 3.

²⁴ As previously mentioned, it is important to flag that results from the July survey are not directly comparable to May due to the difference in time periods asked about (May focused on September 2025, whereas July asked about 'this time next year').

Figure 11 May survey: Whether providers are likely to start to offer places to under 3s, by September 2025

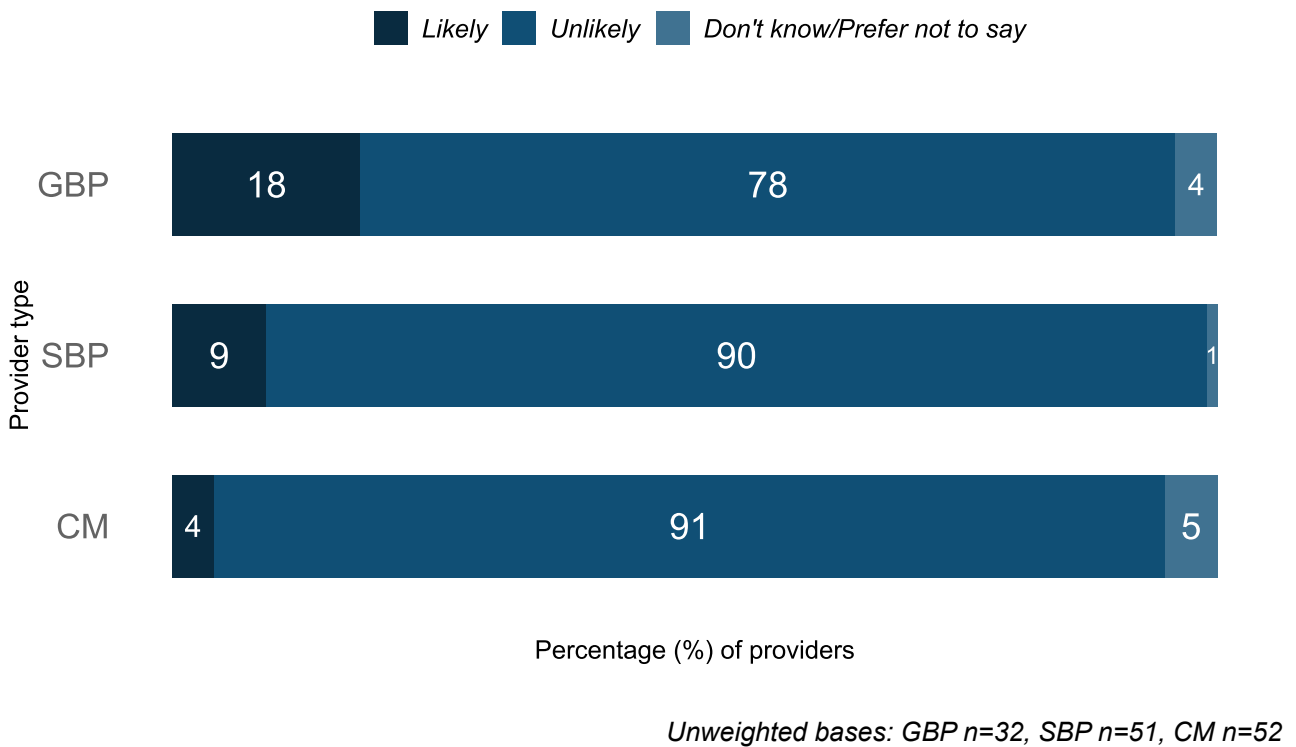
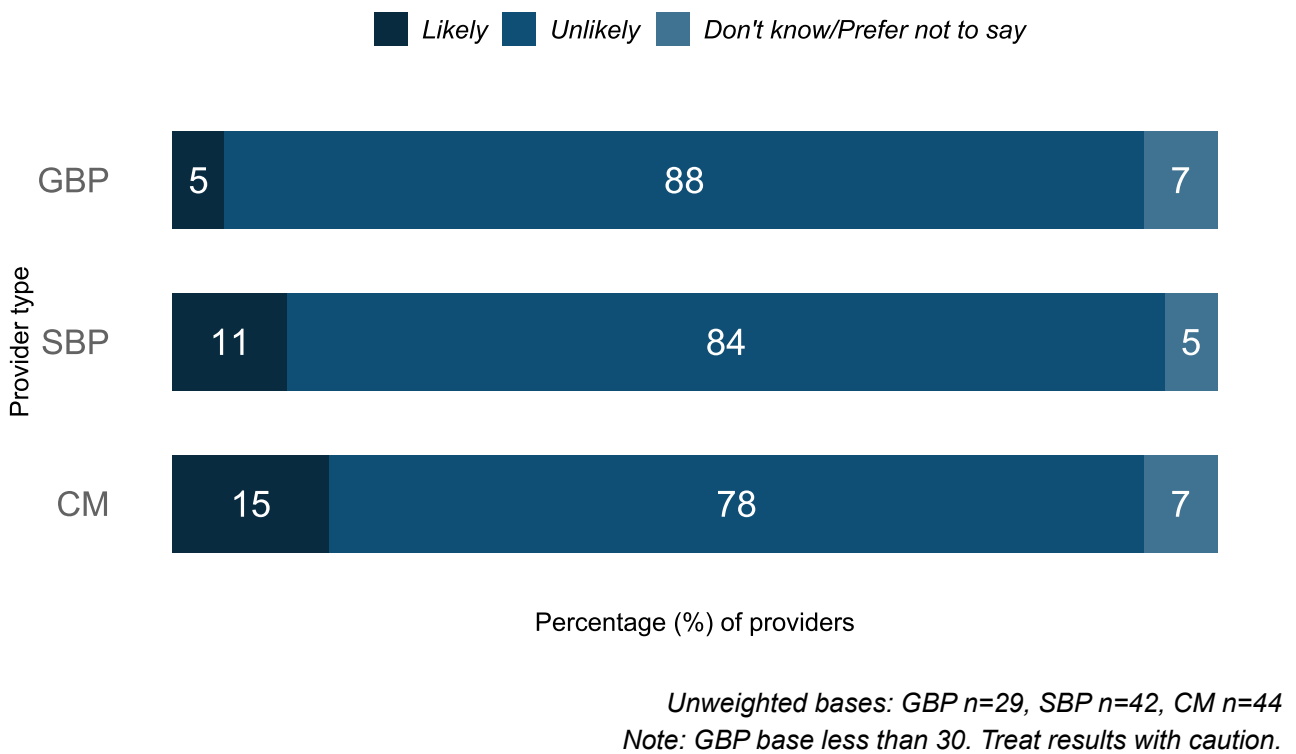


Figure 12 July survey: Whether providers are likely to start to offer places to under 3s, by this time next year



Additional places

Providers who said they were likely to increase the maximum capacity of their setting to offer places to under 3s²⁵ were asked by how many places they would increase this by. Results from school-based providers are excluded due to low response rates.

Data suggests that the majority of additional places for under 3s will come from providers already in the under 3s market, as opposed to providers entering this market where they are currently not already.

In July, group-based providers reported they will, on average, increase their maximum capacity for under 3s by 10 places (13 in May). Childminders will on average adjust their existing provision to increase their maximum capacity for under 3s by 4 places (3 in May).

Results from the May survey show that the majority of providers (70 per cent) who will increase their maximum capacity for under 3s²⁶ reported they are on track to deliver the additional places by September 2025. Group-based and school-based providers are on track to deliver just over half (58 per cent) of these places by September 2024, meanwhile childminders are on track to deliver 83 per cent of places by September 2024.

In the July survey, results also showed that the majority of providers who will increase their maximum capacity for under 3s²⁷ reported they are on track to deliver these additional places by this time next year (70 per cent). Group-based and school-based providers reported that they are on track to deliver over two thirds (69 per cent) of these places by September 2024, meanwhile childminders reported they are on track to deliver 60 per cent of places by September 2024.

²⁵ Either start to offer places to under 3s, or offer more places to under 3s.

²⁶ Either start to offer places to under 3s, or offer more places to under 3s.

²⁷ Either start to offer places to under 3s, or offer more places to under 3s.

Figure 13 May survey: Whether providers are on track to deliver additional places for under 3s by September 2025

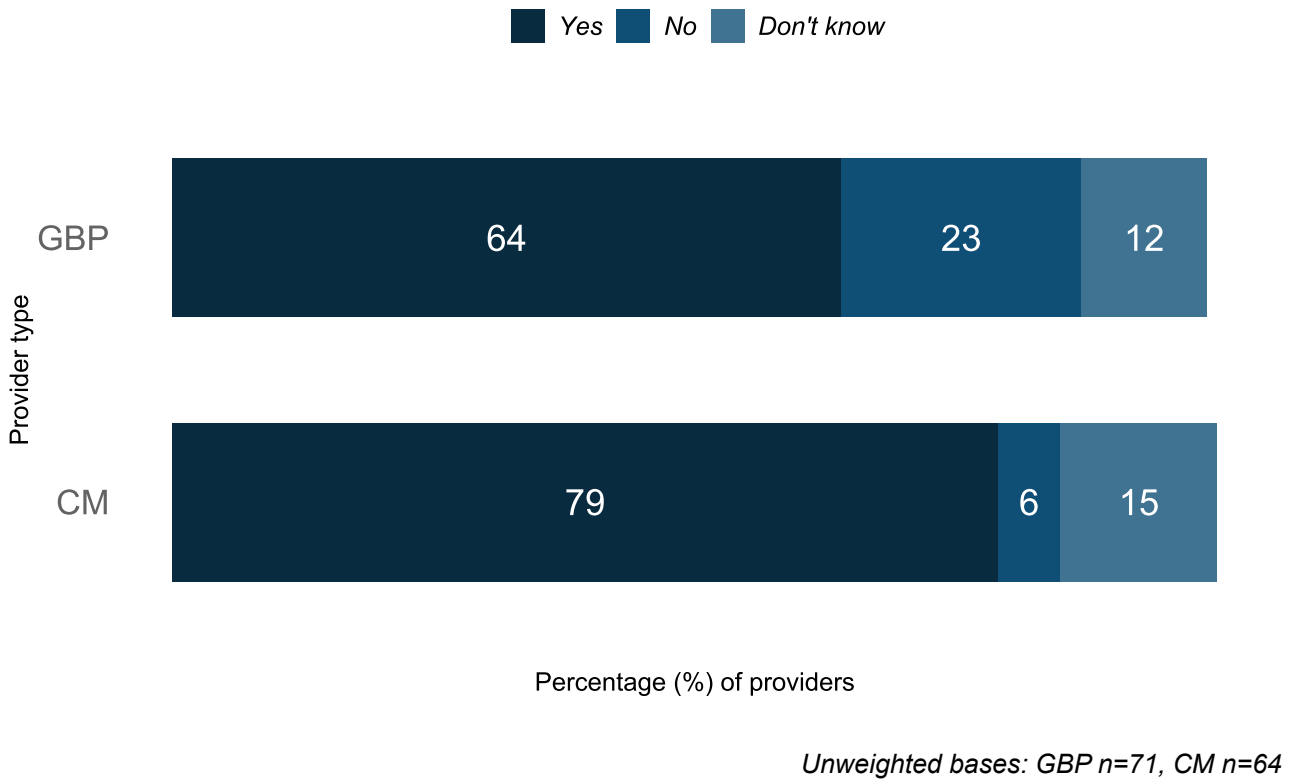
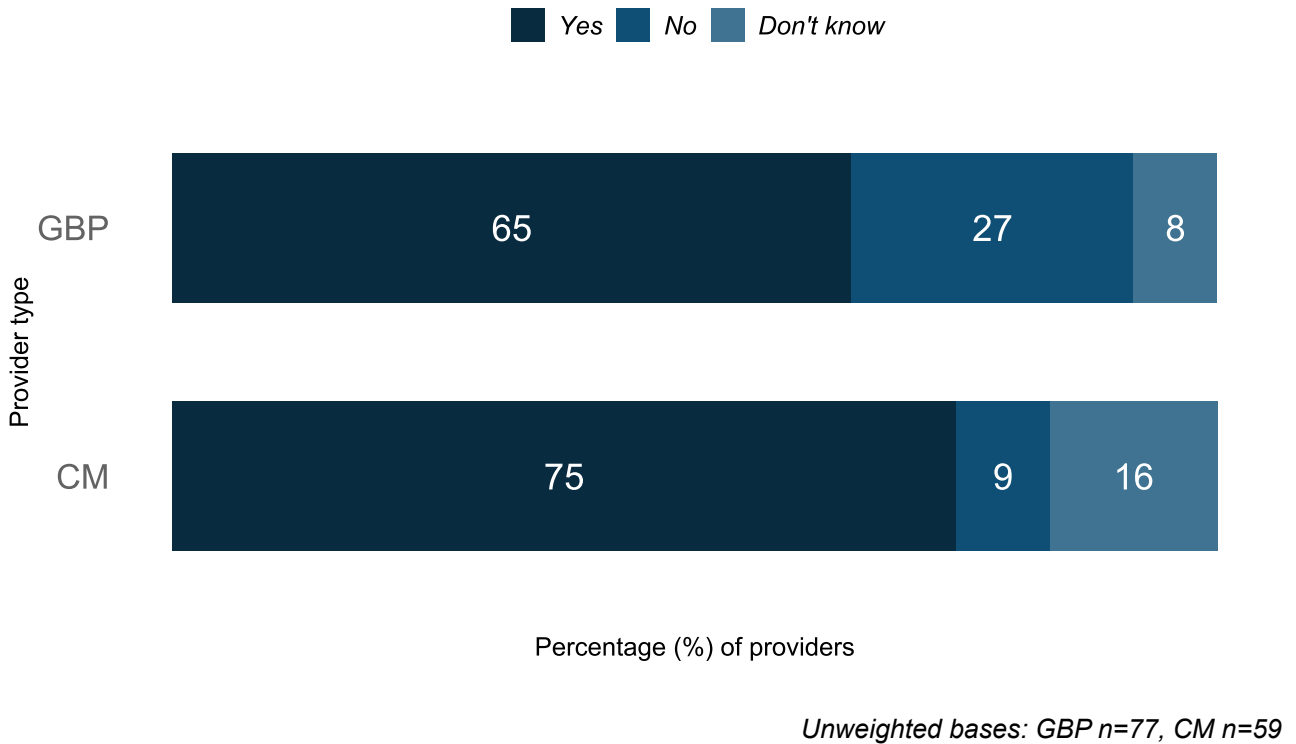


Figure 14 July survey: Whether providers are on track to deliver additional places for under 3s by this time next year



Workforce

Group-based and school-based providers were asked a series of questions regarding their workforce. References to ‘providers’ in this section excludes childminders, as the questions were focused on staff.

Both the May and July pulse surveys asked providers about changes to the size of their workforce and recent recruitment patterns. May’s survey focused on changes since April 2024, and July’s survey focused on changes since May 2024.

The majority of providers said their staffing remained the same in both surveys, with 63 per cent of providers in May and 67 per cent of providers in July reporting that their staffing levels had stayed the same since the month prior.

Table 3: Changes in staffing levels

	May survey: Changes since April 2024	May survey: Changes since April 2024	July survey: Changes since May 2024	July survey: Changes since May 2024
Provider type	GBP	SBP	GBP	SBP
Increased staffing	18%	17%	19%	23%
Decreased staffing	19%	15%	14%	3%
Remained the same	63%	68%	66%	74%

Size of the workforce

The number of paid staff at providers remained similar across May and July.

Group-based providers:

On average group-based providers had 11 paid staff²⁸ in May, and 12 in July. Staffing had increased at 18 per cent of group-based providers (19 per cent in July) and had decreased at 19 per cent (14 per cent in July).

The May survey showed that at group-based providers where staffing had increased, it increased on average by 2 staff members (3 in July), and where it had decreased it was on average by 2 members (also 2 in July).

²⁸ rounded to nearest whole staff. Excludes a small number of providers who didn’t know/preferred not to say their no. of staff.

School-based providers:

School-based providers had 6 paid staff on average²⁹ in May, and 8 in July. Staffing had increased at 17 per cent of school-based providers (23 per cent in July) and decreased at 15 per cent. At the July survey, however, only 3 per cent of school-based providers reported a decrease.

Vacancies

In May group-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available, while school-based providers had none on average. In July, both group-based and school-based providers had on average 1 vacancy available.

$$\text{vacancy rate} = \frac{\text{vacancies}}{(\text{total current staff} + \text{vacancies})}$$

In May the weighted mean vacancy rate³⁰ was 8 per cent at group-based providers and 2 per cent at school-based providers. Results were similar in the July survey (7 per cent at group-based providers and 4 per cent at school-based providers).

Average applications per vacancy and time to fill a post

In November 2023's Pulse Survey³¹, both group-based providers and school-based providers reported an average of 5 applications per vacancy across the last 12 months.

The May survey showed that on average since the start of the year, group-based providers have had 5 applications per vacancy and school-based providers have had 3. On average, it took group-based providers 13 weeks to fill a vacant post whereas school-based providers took 17 weeks.

In July's survey, the rate of applications notably increased and the time taken to fill posts has shortened substantially at school-based providers. Since the beginning of the year, group-based providers reported on average 7 applications per vacancy, whereas school-based providers on average saw 14 applications per vacancy. On average, it took group-based providers approximately 14 weeks to fill a vacant post, and 8 weeks for school-based providers (representing a large decrease from the 17 weeks reported in the May survey).

²⁹ rounded to nearest whole staff. Excludes a small number of providers who didn't know/preferred not to say their no. of staff.

³⁰ Provider level vacancy rates were calculated as number of vacancies divided by total current staff plus vacancies. The weighted mean of these rates was then calculated.

³¹ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

Staff:child ratios

In the July survey providers were asked about their average staff to child ratios since the introduction of the changes to the EYFS in September 2023³².

2-year-olds

On average, the staff:child ratios at group-based providers for 2-year-olds were 1:4.0.

3- and 4-year-olds

On average, the staff:child ratios at group-based providers for 3- and 4-year-olds were 1:7, and 1:8 at school-based providers³³.

Staffing issues and associated actions

In the May survey, providers reported that the most common action they have had to take because of staffing issues was to ask managers to work with the children more than they usually would to ensure staff:child ratios are met (72 per cent). They were least likely to shut down rooms in their settings. In July, the most common action was also to ask managers to work with the children more than they usually would to ensure staff:child ratios are met (63 per cent).

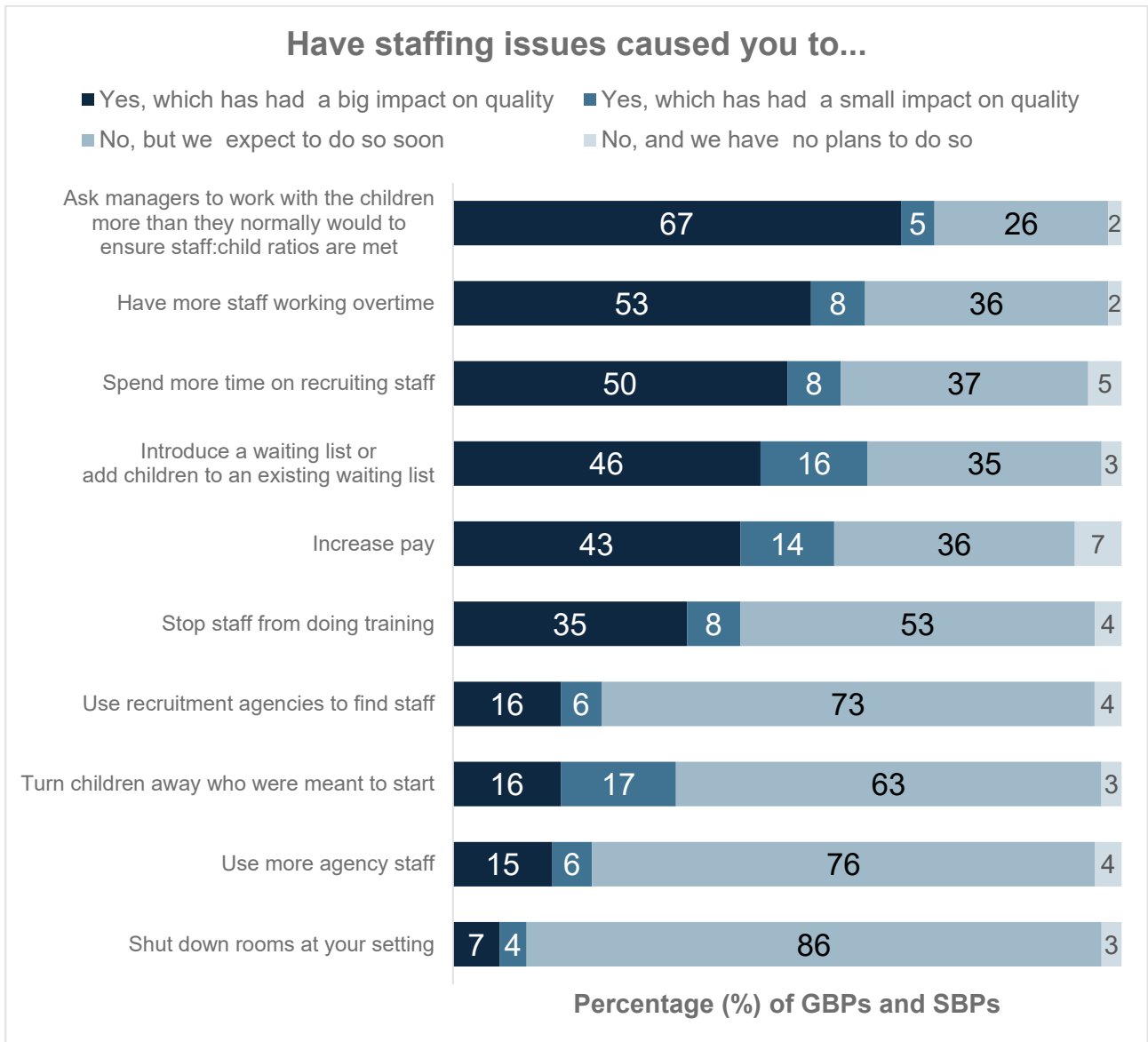
The May results were then broken down by whether the provider said earlier in the survey that they were having difficulty delivering the entitlements due to staffing issues. 93 per cent of these providers said they had to ask managers to work with the children more than they usually would, and 90 per cent said they had to introduce a waiting list or add children to an existing waiting list.

In July, overall the most common action taken to help meet staffing requirements in response to **increased demand** was increasing pay to improve retention (with 42 per cent of providers doing so). However, results differed between group-based and school-based providers: 46 per cent of group-based providers and only 1 per cent of school-based providers had taken this action. 66 per cent of school-based providers had not taken any of the listed actions in response to increased demand, or hadn't had any increased demand.

³² On 4 September 2023, the statutory minimum staff:child ratios in England for 2-year-olds was changed from 1:4 to 1:5 in an amendment to the EYFS.

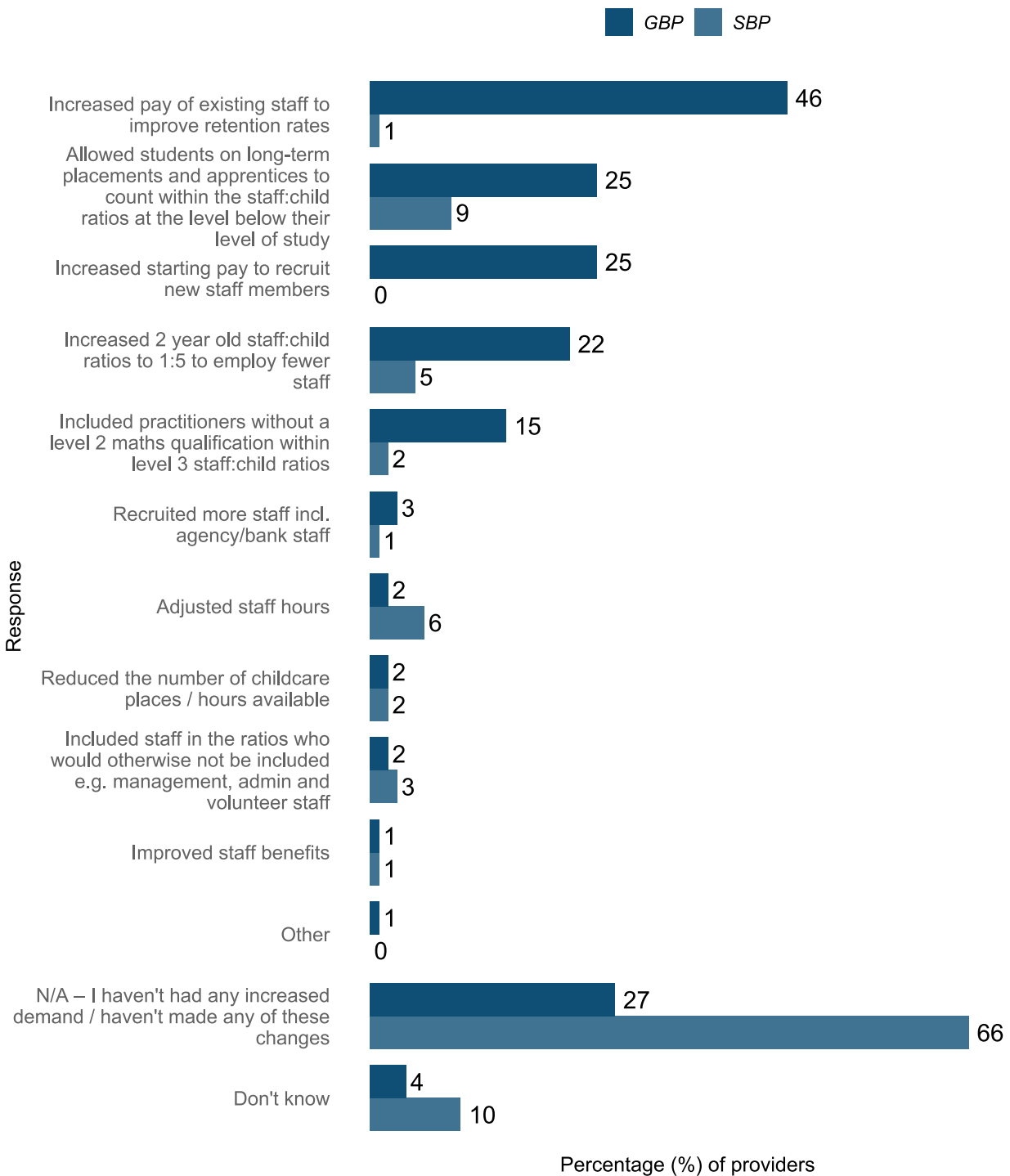
³³ Statutory minimum staff:child ratio in England for 3-and-4- year olds is 1:13.

Figure 15 May survey: Actions taken following staffing issues



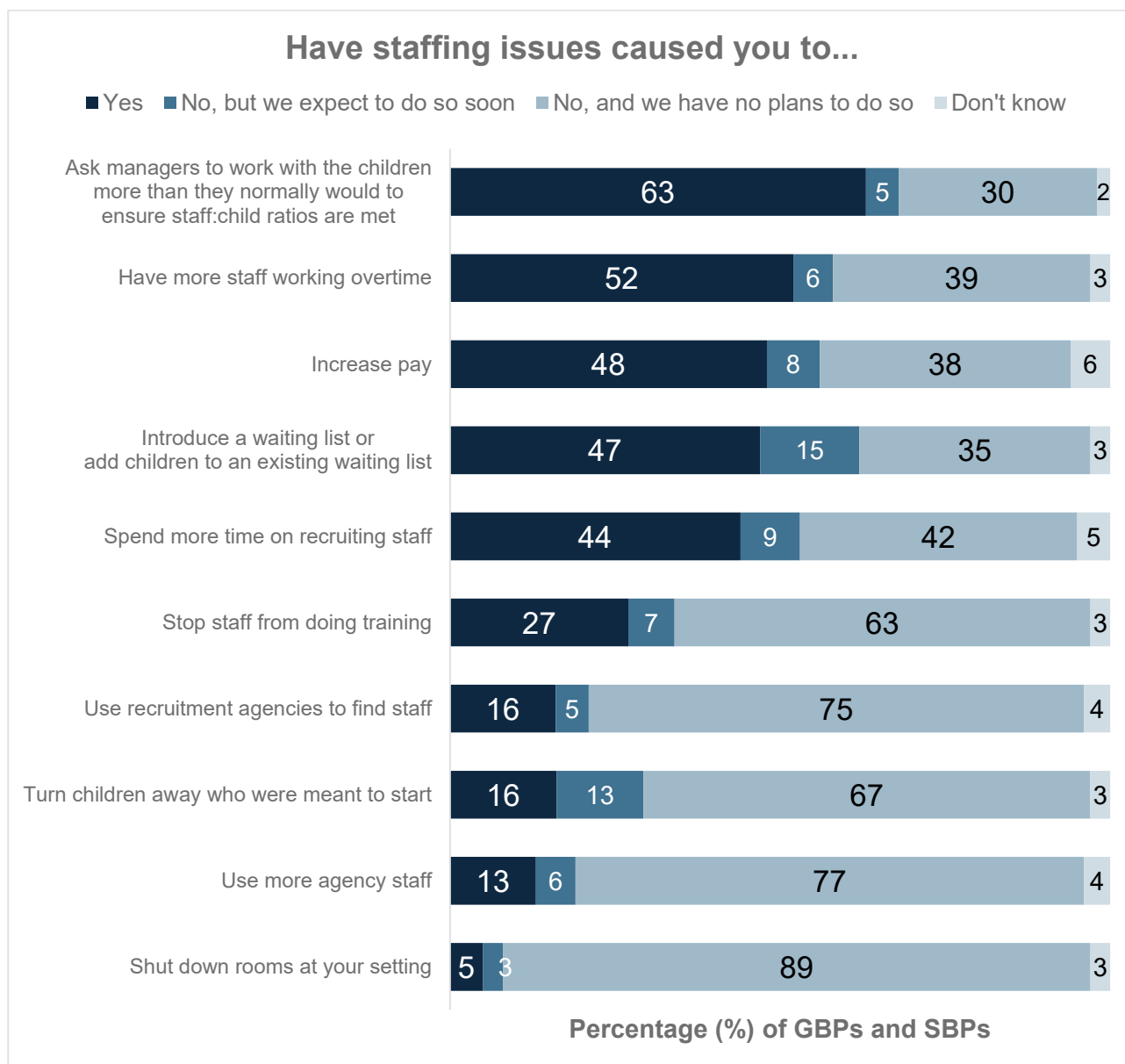
Unweighted bases: Group-based providers and School-based providers n=776

Figure 16 July survey: Actions providers have taken to meet staffing requirements, in response to increased demand



Unweighted bases: Group-based providers n=575, School-based providers n=67

Figure 17 July survey: Actions taken following staffing issues



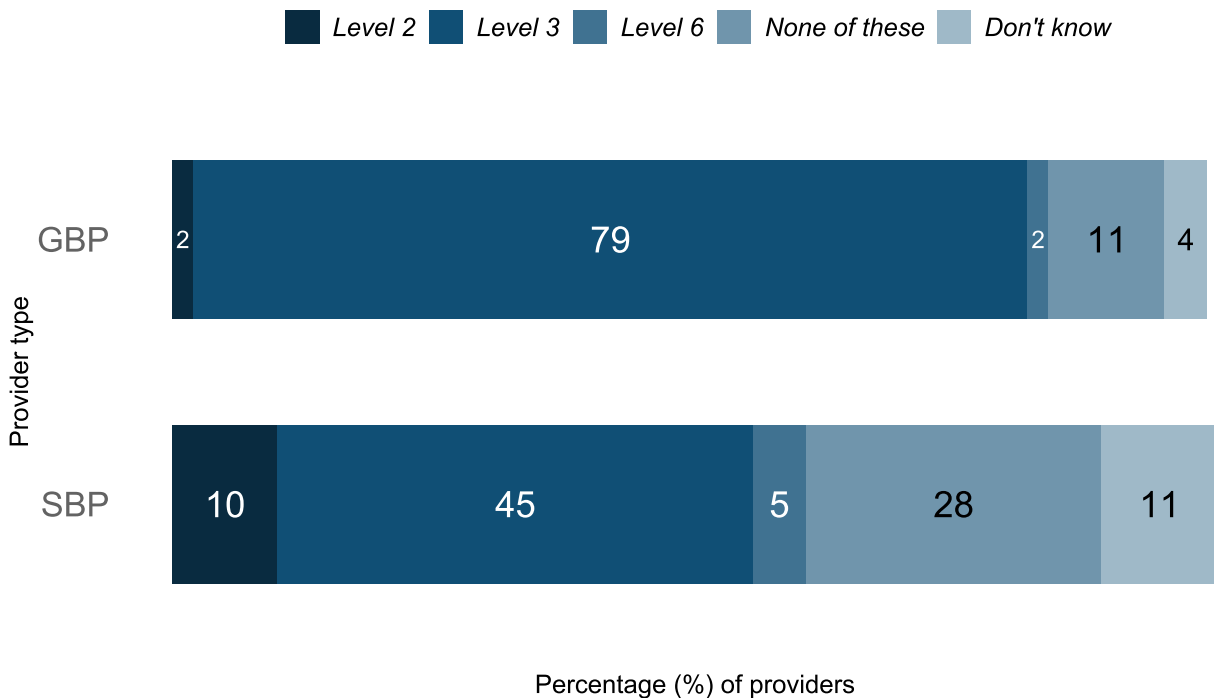
Unweighted bases: Group-based providers and School-based providers n=642

Providers who said staffing issues were a challenge in relation to delivering the April 2024 entitlements reported taking broadly similar actions across both surveys. For example, a large majority of providers had to ask managers to work with the children more than they usually would (93 per cent in May and 90 per cent in July) and/or introduce a waiting list or add children to an existing waiting list (90 per cent in May and 81 per cent in July).

Recruitment by qualification group

In the May survey, providers were asked which qualification group they typically find the most difficult to recruit, to which providers reported they had the most difficulty recruiting staff qualified at Level 3. However, this was most prominent at group-based providers (79 per cent), similar to results at the time of the November 2023 pulse survey³⁴ where 80 per cent of group-based providers found this group difficult to recruit.

Figure 18: Which qualification group providers found most difficult to recruit for



Unweighted bases: Group-based providers n=687, School-based providers n=89

³⁴ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Funding

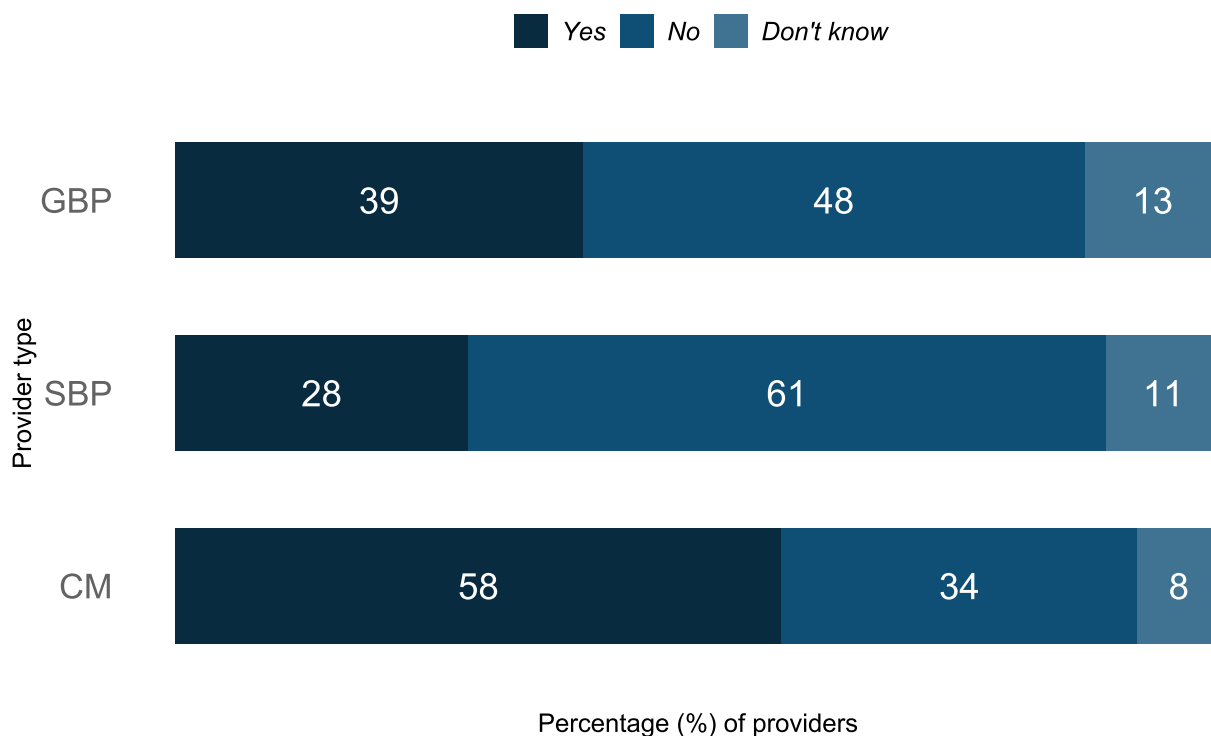
In the May survey providers were asked a series of questions around their income and the perceived impact of the confirmed national funding rates.

Income sufficiency

47 per cent of providers surveyed said their current income covers their costs, a slight increase from 43 per cent in November 2023's survey³⁵. Childminders were the most likely to report this, with 58 per cent saying their income covers costs. Conversely, school-based providers were the most likely to say their income does **not** cover their costs, with 61 per cent reporting this, up from 48 per cent in November's survey.

May

Figure 19: Whether income is sufficient to cover the costs of delivering childcare



Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89, CM n=702

³⁵ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

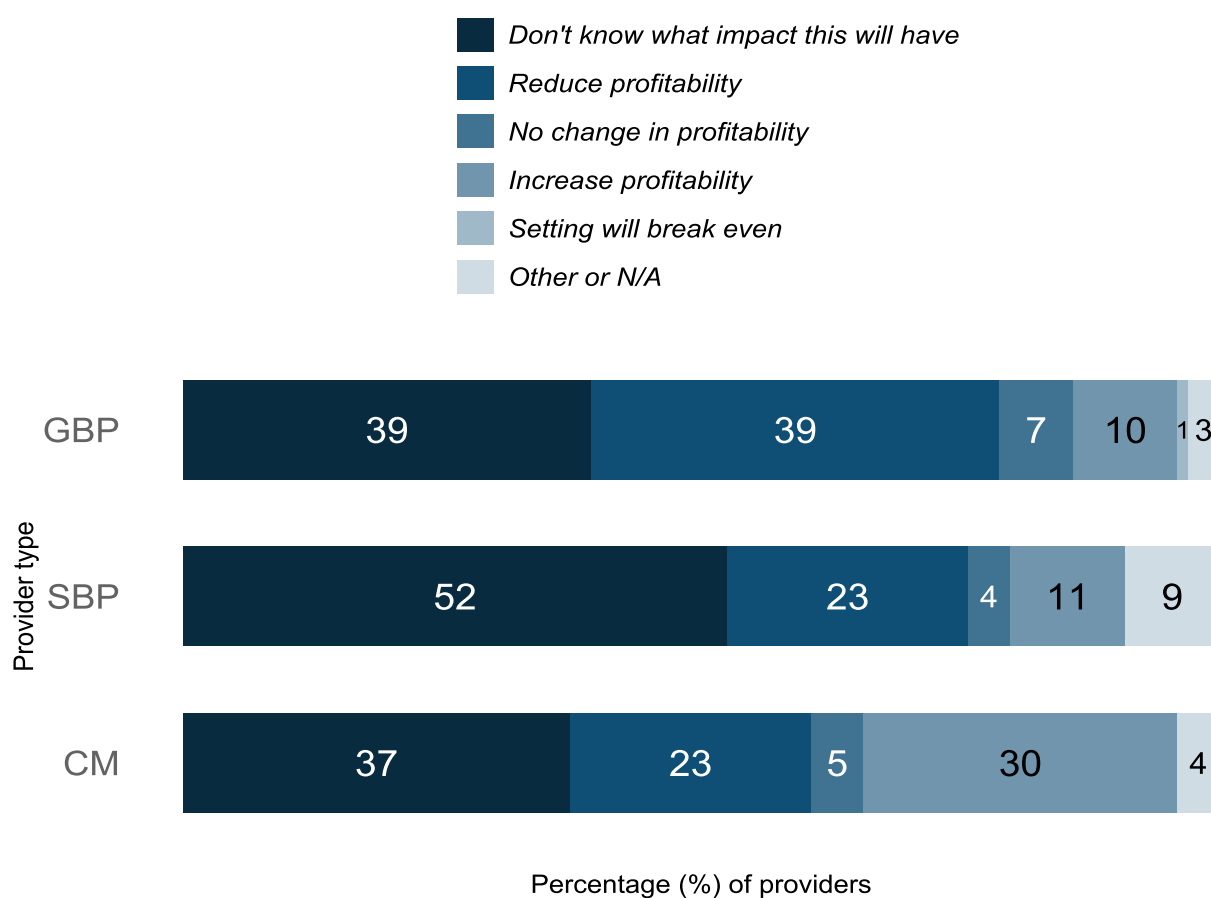
Funding rates

In the November 2023 pulse survey³⁶ providers were asked for their views on the suggested indicative 2024-2025 national funding rates, to which 37 per cent of all providers thought would increase profitability, 13 per cent thought it would reduce profitability, and 36 per cent weren't sure of the impact³⁷.

Since the November 2023 survey, national funding rates were confirmed as £11.22 per hour for under 2s, £8.28 per hour for 2-year-olds, and £5.88 per hour for 3-and-4 year olds. These rates get paid to local authorities, who are then able to set their funding rates for providers.

In May providers were asked how they thought changes to local authority funding rates would affect their profitability. Figure 26 shows the majority of providers (39 per cent overall) didn't know what impact the rates would have. 31 per cent of providers overall thought the rates would reduce their profitability, and 20 per cent thought they would increase their profitability.

Figure 20: How providers think the new local authority funding rates will affect their profitability



³⁶ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

³⁷ Indicative rates were £11.06 per hour for under 2s and £8.17 per hour for 2 year olds.

Additional revenue

Providers who thought that profitability would increase due to the new funding rates anticipated spending the additional revenue in a range of ways.

Across all providers, the most common items to spend on were learning materials and improving quality of provision.

74 per cent of group-based providers said they would spend additional revenue on increasing staff pay (77 per cent in November 2023³⁸), with 69 per cent also investing in staff training (64 per cent in November 2023³⁹) and 60 per cent spending on support for staff (54 per cent in November 2023⁴⁰).

Childminders were most likely to spend additional revenue on learning materials (70 per cent, compared to 78 per cent in November 2023⁴¹), followed by improving quality of provision (54 per cent, compared to 68 per cent in November 2023⁴²).

³⁸ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

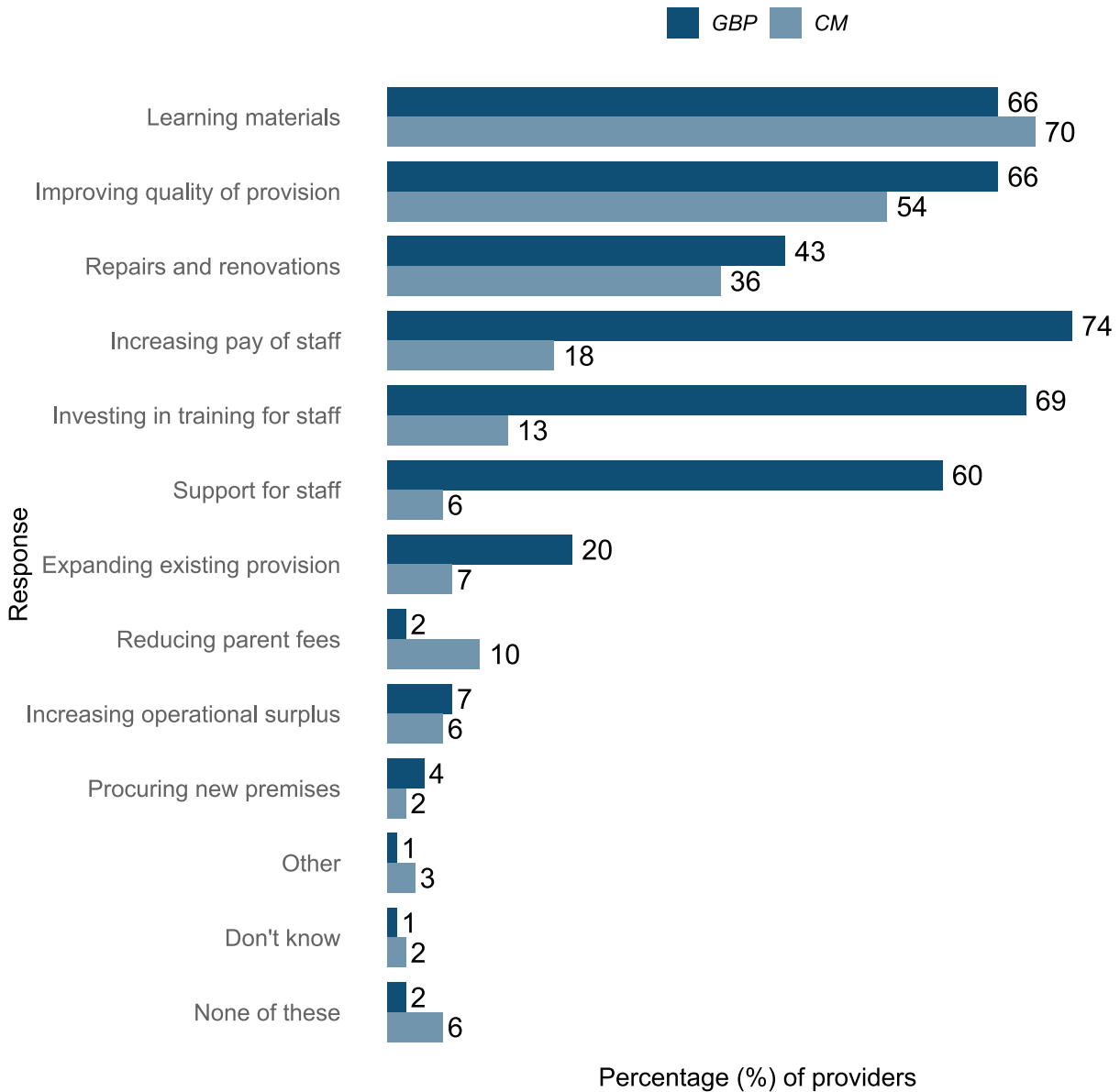
³⁹ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

⁴⁰ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

⁴¹ [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

⁴² [Pulse survey of childcare and early years providers](#)

Figure 21: Where providers anticipate spending potential additional revenue



Unweighted bases: GBP n=73, CM n=221

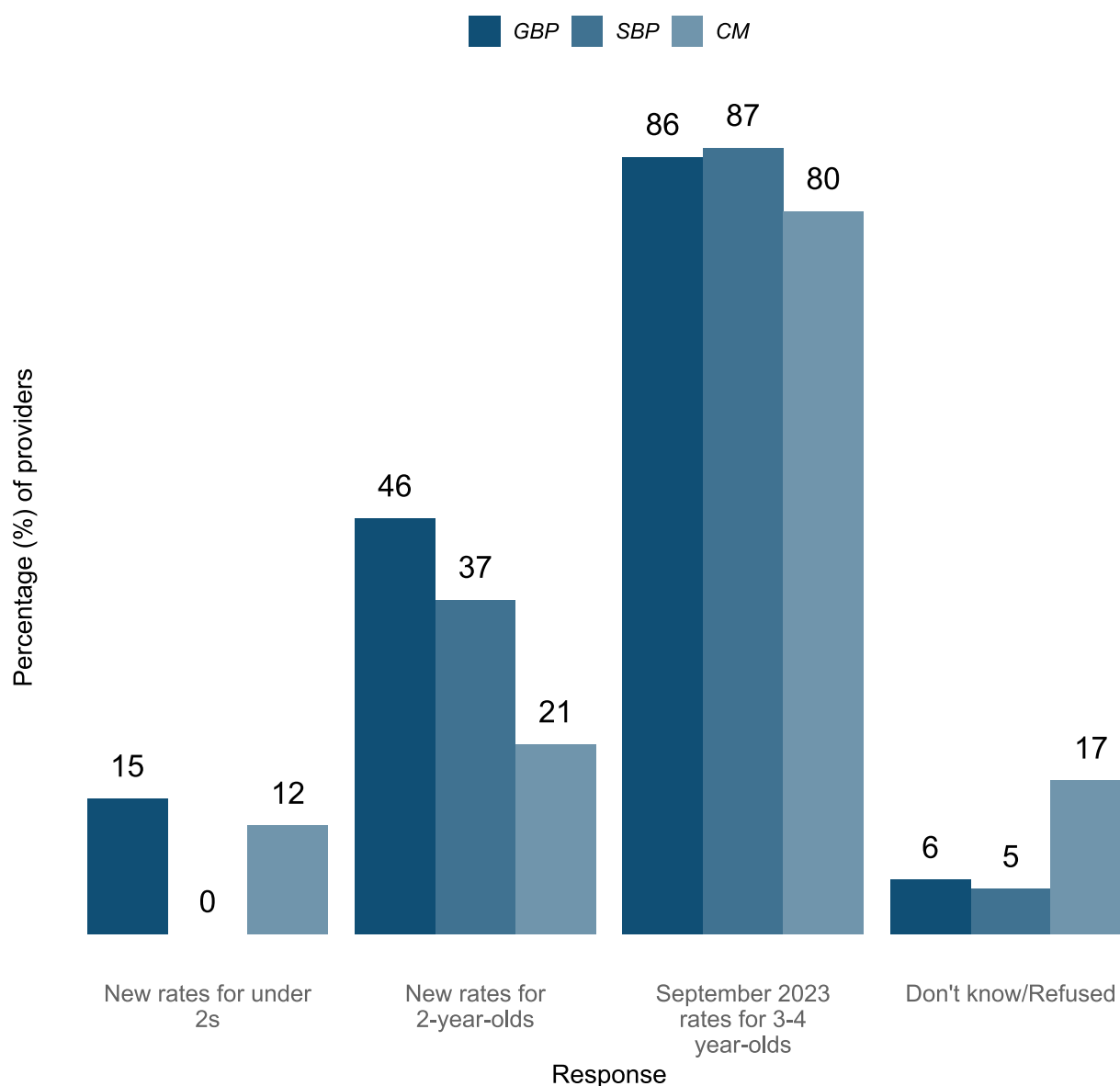
Note: Results from School-based providers excluded due to small sample size.

Those who selected numerous answer options were then asked a follow up question asking where they anticipated spending most of the additional revenue. 31 per cent of providers answered 'improving quality of provision'. Results for this answer were similar across group-based providers and childminders (32 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively), however results for the remaining answer options mostly differed. For example, 36 per cent of childminders said they would spend most of the money on learning materials; for group-based providers this was 3 per cent. A much greater proportion of group-based providers said they were likely to spend most of the money on increasing pay of staff.

Reasons for potential decline in profitability

Providers who thought profitability would decrease due to local rate changes were asked which rates they thought would cause this⁴³. 84 per cent thought it would be due to the September 2023 rates for 3- and 4-year-olds, with 36 per cent also pointing to the rates for 2-year-olds.

Figure 22: Which funding rates providers think will cause profitability to decrease



Unweighted bases: GBP n=274, SBP n=23, CM n=163

Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution

⁴³ This was a multi-code question so providers were able to select more than one response.

Response to EYFS framework changes

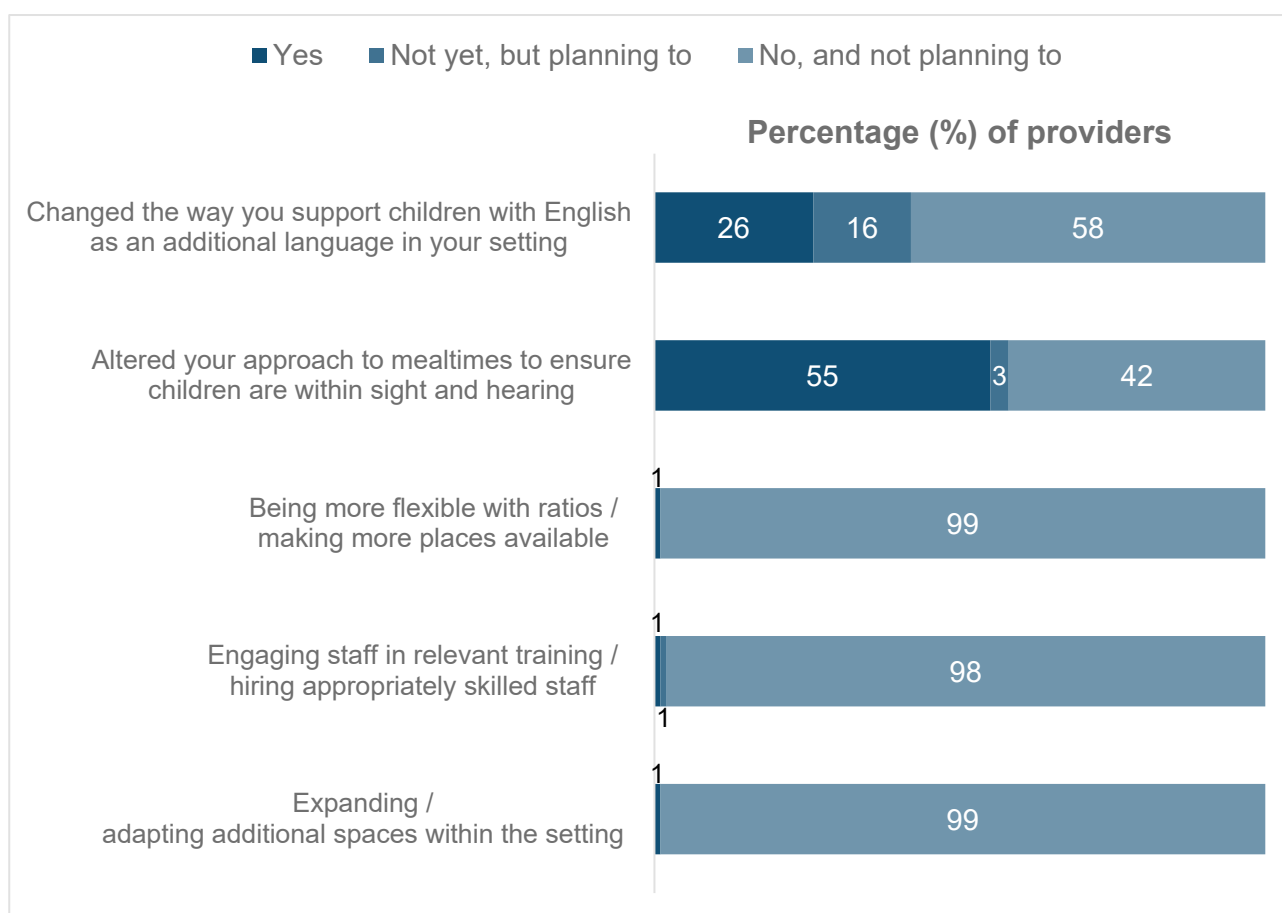
In May, providers were asked a series of questions in relation to recent changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

- In September 2023, EYFS changes included: increasing the staff:child ratios for two-year-olds from 1:4 to 1:5, clarifying childminder flexibilities in ratios, and updating requirements for supervision whilst eating.
- In January 2024, the changes included: updating qualification requirements and allowing childminder assistants to be a child’s key person.

Adoption of flexibilities

Some EYFS changes were relevant to all provider types (group-based, school-based and childminders). Most commonly, 55 per cent of all providers had “altered their approach to mealtimes to ensure children are within sight and hearing”.

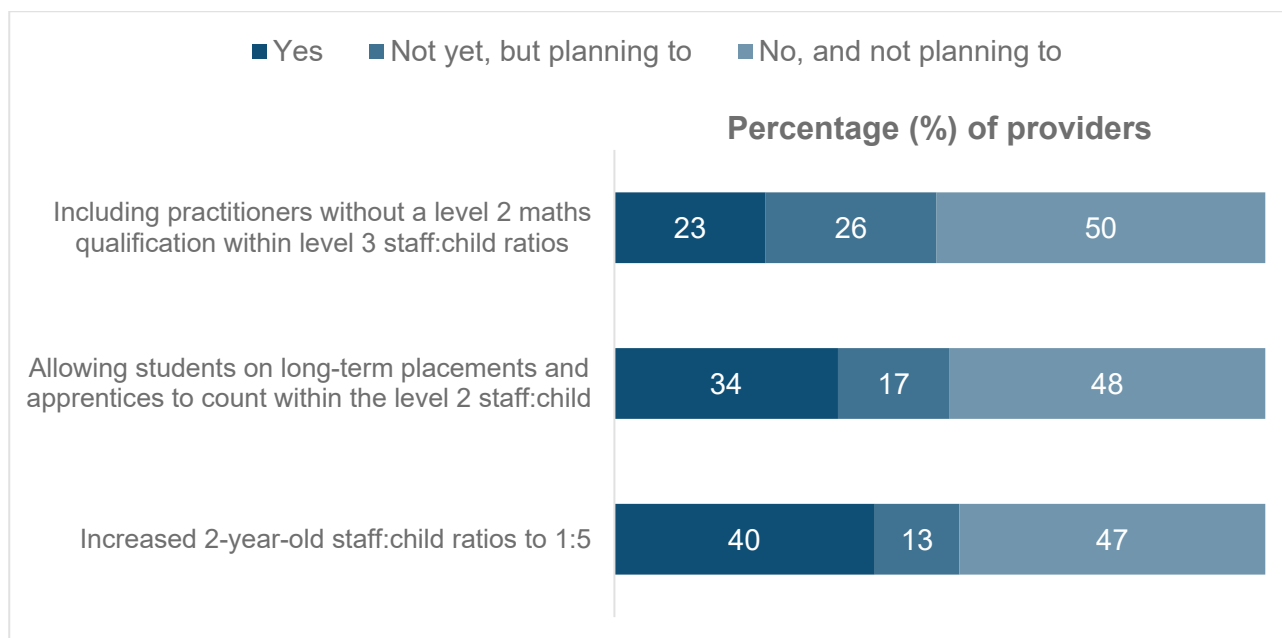
Figure 23: Have providers adopted these EYFS flexibilities?



Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89, CM n=702

Of the flexibilities available to only group- and school- based providers, increasing 2-year-old staff:child ratios to 1:5 was the most adopted (40 per cent). 46 per cent of providers in the “most deprived” areas had adopted the new ratios, whilst providers in the “less deprived” areas had the lowest proportion of providers making the change (35 per cent).

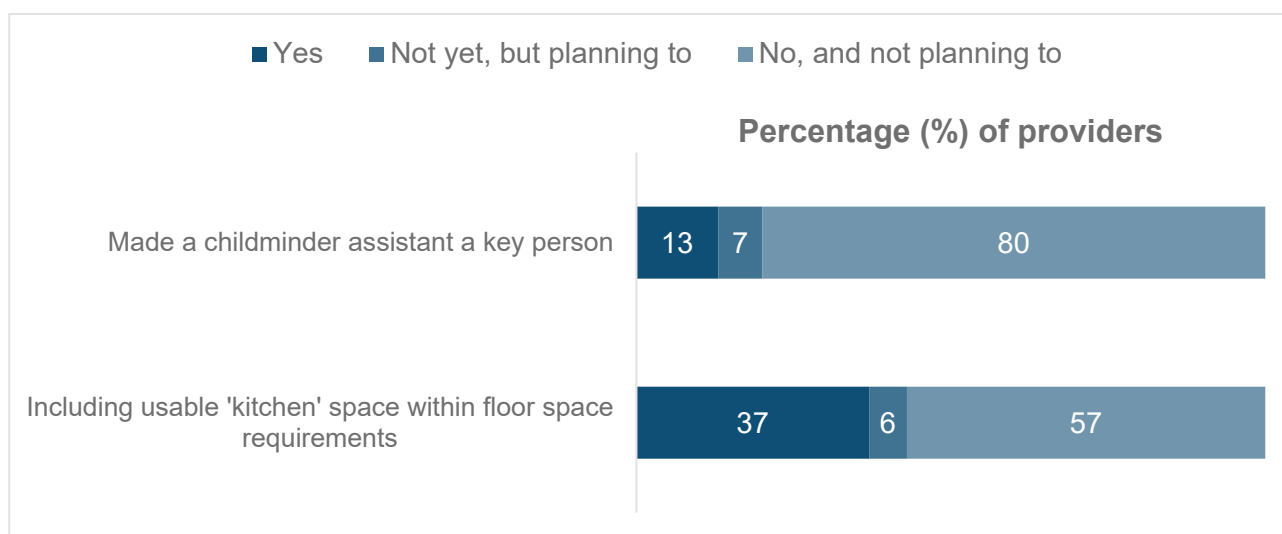
Figure 24: Have group-based and school-based providers adopted these EYFS flexibilities?



Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89

The majority of childminders had no plans to adopt either of two new childminder flexibilities. However, 13 per cent of childminders made a childminder assistant a key person, and 37 per cent of childminders had included usable kitchen space in floor space requirements.

Figure 25: Have childminders adopted these EYFS flexibilities?



Unweighted bases: CM n=702

Impact of EYFS changes

Providers who made changes in response to EYFS updates were asked about various impacts the changes they made have had.

Ability to recruit staff/childminder assistants

Overall, around half of providers (50%) surveyed said that the changes had no impact on their ability to recruit or retain staff.

Ability to retain staff/childminder assistants

The majority of providers (56%) who have made changes said that the changes have had no impact on their ability to retain staff or childminding assistants.

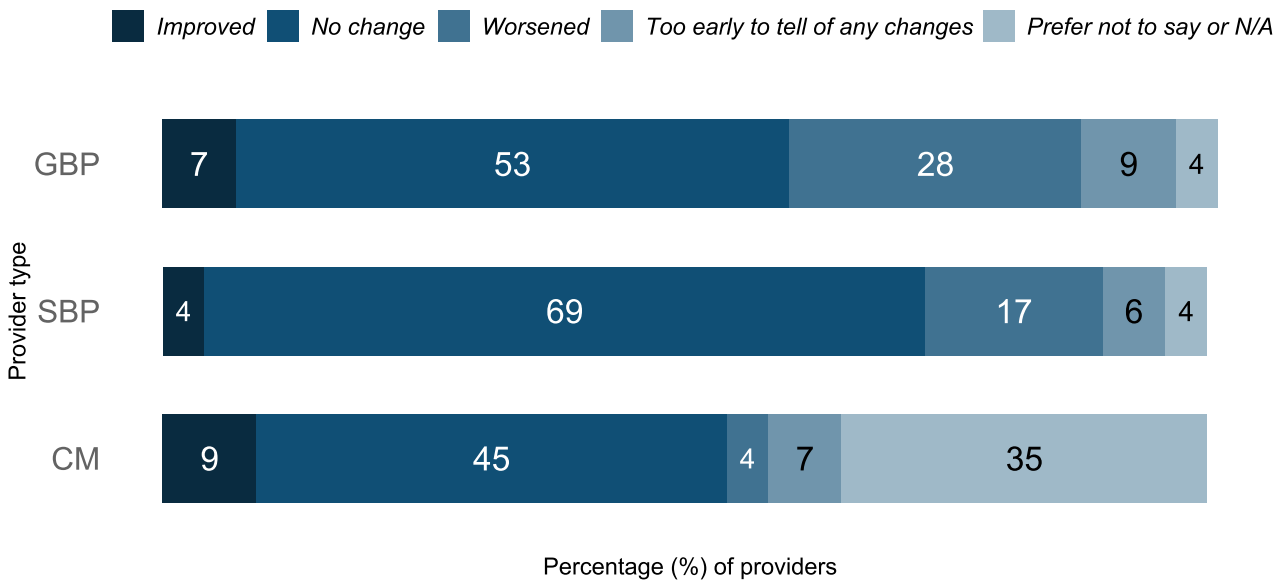
Quality of care and early education

The majority of providers (64%) said changes had no impact on the quality of care and early education they could provide. More group-based providers and childminders said it had improved [this] than worsened, although slightly more school-based said it had worsened than improved.

Capacity of setting

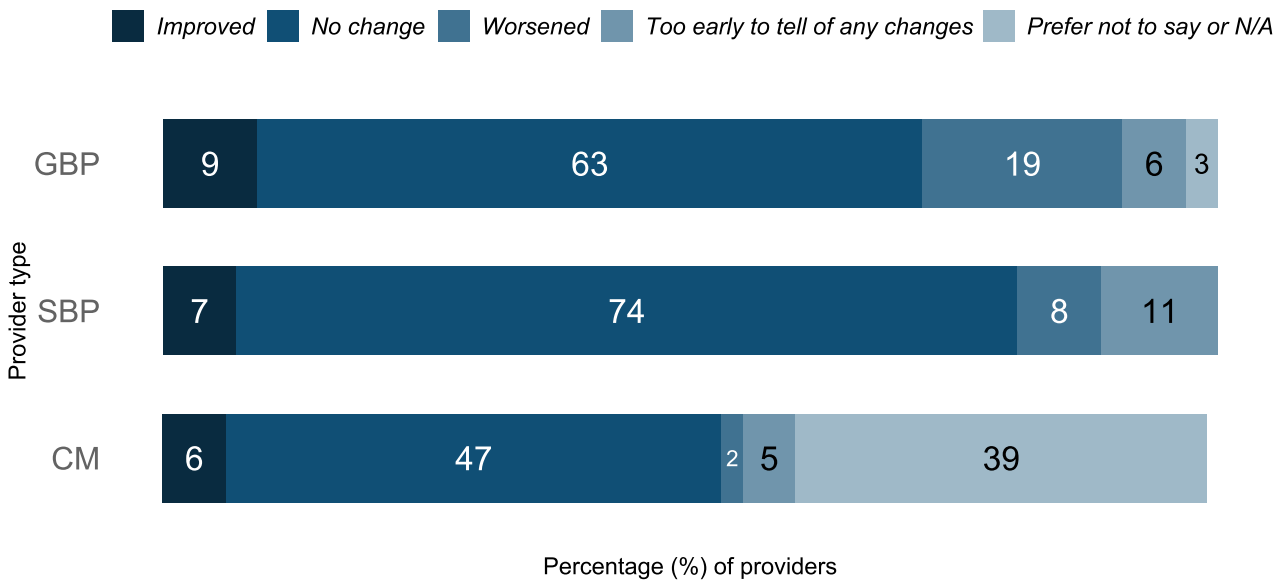
Most providers (70%) reported no change to their capacity. Of those who did report a change, more providers said they had increased capacity than those who said they had decreased.

Figure 26: Impact of EYFS changes on ability to recruit staff or childminder assistants



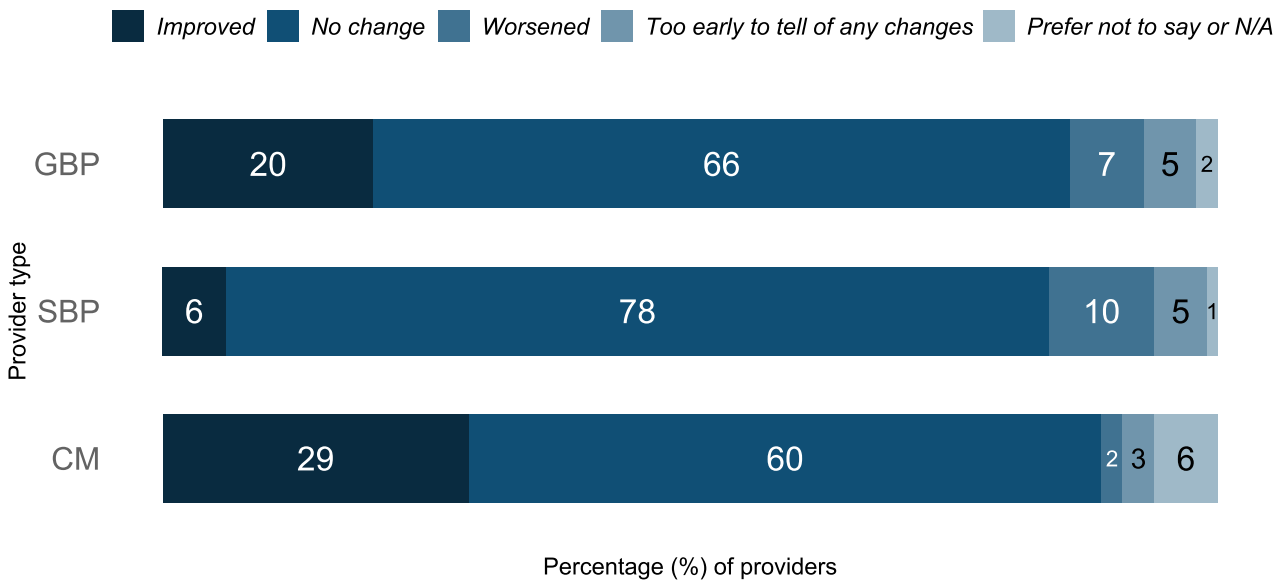
Unweighted bases: GBP n=548, SBP n=53, CM n=534

Figure 27: Impact of EYFS changes on ability to retain staff or childminder assistants



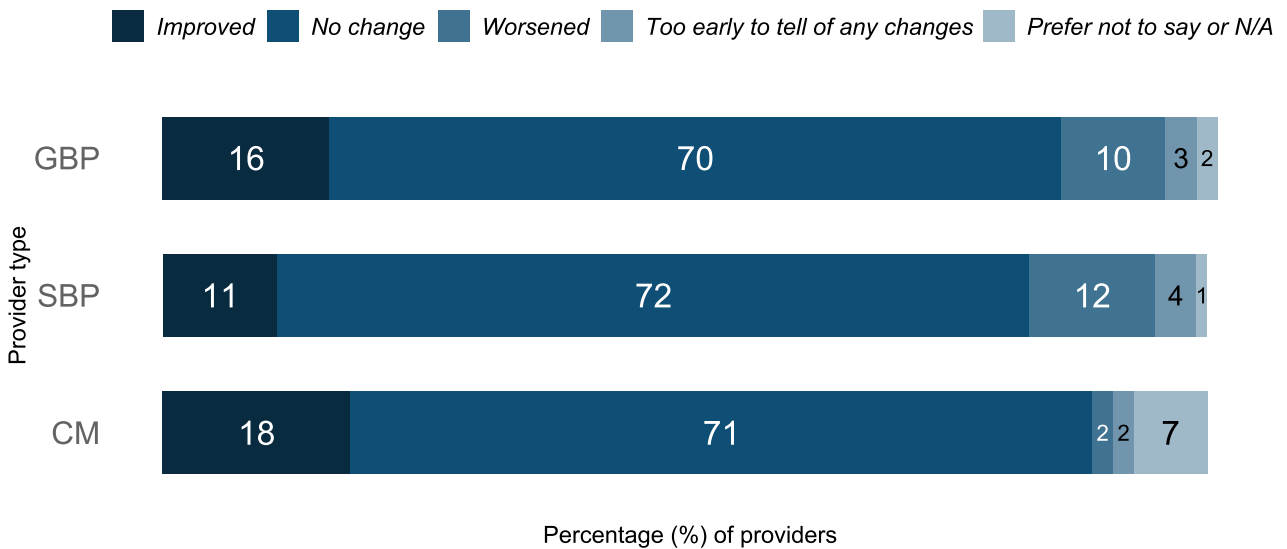
Unweighted bases: GBP n=548, SBP n=53, CM n=534

Figure 28: Impact of EYFS changes on the quality of care and early education



Unweighted bases: GBP n=548, SBP n=53, CM n=534

Figure 29: Impact of EYFS changes on the number of children the setting has capacity to provide care and education for



Unweighted bases: GBP n=548, SBP n=53, CM n=534

Waiting lists

In the July survey, providers were asked a new series of questions around waiting lists. In the survey, we specified: “We are interested in finding out about ONLY children who are on a waiting list to start immediately, rather than by choice to start in the future.”

How common are waiting lists and how many children are on them?

54 per cent of group-based providers, 21 per cent of school-based providers, and 40 per cent of childminders had at least one child on their waiting lists.

For providers who had **at least one child** on their waiting list, the table below shows the average size of waiting lists by provider type:

Table 4: Average number of children on waiting lists, at each provider type

	GBP	SBP	CM
Mean	14	12	4
Median	8	4	3

*Unweighted bases: GBP n=312, SBP n=15, CM n=276
Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.*

By deprivation band

43 per cent of providers in the ‘most deprived’ areas, 47 per cent in ‘averagely deprived’ areas and 46 per cent in the ‘least deprived’ areas had **at least one child** on their waiting list.

The table below shows the average size of waiting lists by deprivation band, for providers with **at least one child** on their waiting list:

Table 5: Average number of children on waiting lists, in each deprivation band

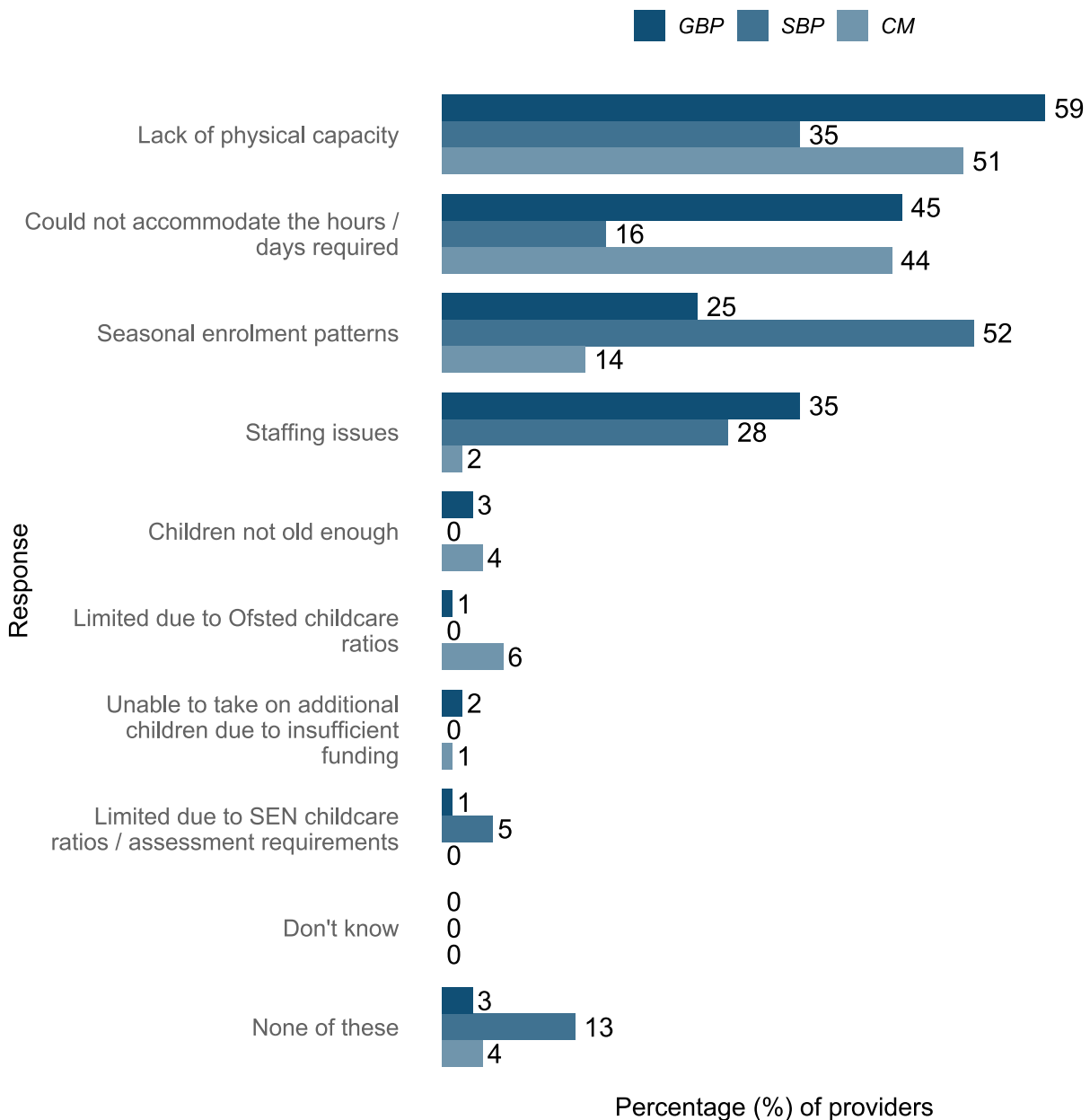
	Most deprived	Deprived	Average	Less deprived	Least deprived
Mean	11	7	10	9	7
Median	4	4	4	5	4

*Unweighted bases: Most deprived 166, 232, 310, 323, Least deprived 300
Note: Treat results with caution.*

Reasons for having a waiting list

The most common reason for having a waiting list was lack of physical capacity, cited by 59 per cent of group-based providers and 51 per cent of childminders (55 per cent of providers overall). The second most common reason was where the provider could not accommodate the hours / days required.

Figure 30 July survey: Main reasons providers have a waiting list



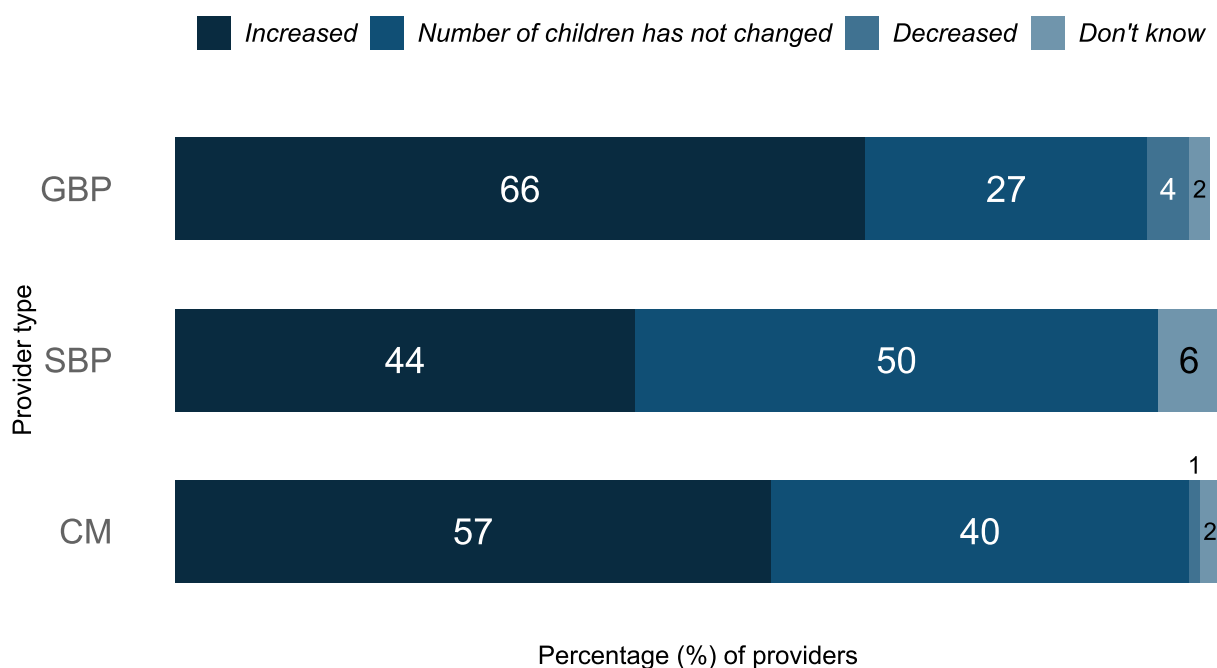
*Unweighted bases: GBP n=312, SBP n=15, CM n=276
Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.*

For providers who gave more than one reason for having a waiting list, 45 per cent of providers said a lack a physical capacity was the most dominant reason.

Change in size of waiting lists

Since the April 2024 entitlements expansion, waiting lists have increased at 61 per cent of providers, most commonly at group-based providers. Very few providers said their waiting lists had decreased. This links to findings reported earlier in the workforce section which suggest that there is unmet demand; in May 90 per cent and in July 81 per cent of group- and school-based providers reported introducing a waiting list, or adding children to an existing waiting list as a result of staffing issues in relation to delivering the April 2024 entitlements.

Figure 31: Whether the number of children on the waiting list has changed since the April 2024 entitlements expansion



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=312, SBP n=15, CM n=276
Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.*

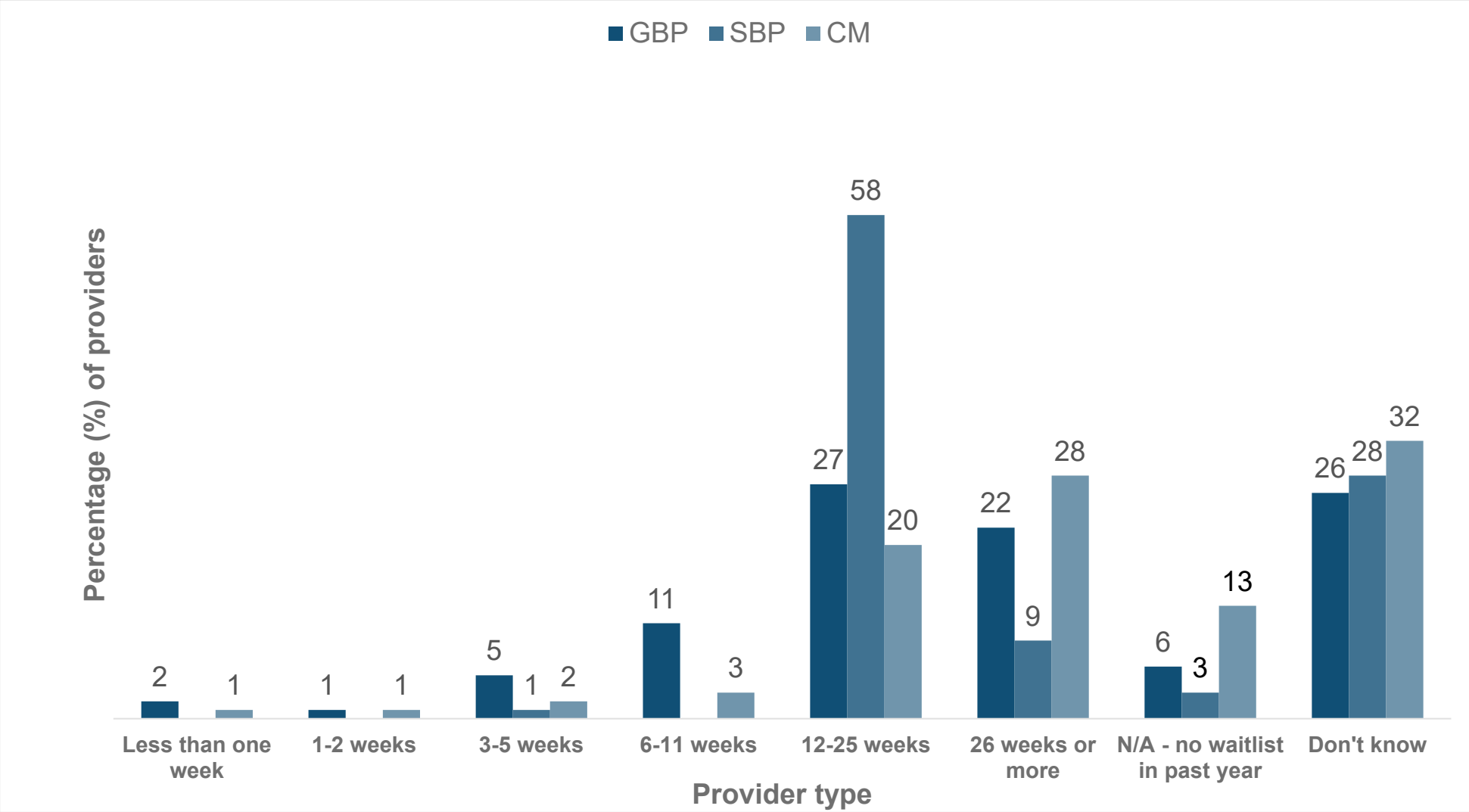
Weeks on waiting lists

The median number of weeks⁴⁴ a provider took to offer a child on their waiting list the number of days or hours required was 16 weeks at group-based providers and 26 at childminders. The sample of school-based providers for this question was small, but most took 12-25 weeks.

A notable proportion of providers did not know how many weeks it was taking.

⁴⁴ On average since the start of 2024

Figure 32: On average, how long it took for a child on a waiting list to be offered the number of days or hours they required



*Unweighted bases: GBP n=312, SBP n=15, CM n=276
 Note: SBP base less than 30. Treat results with caution.*

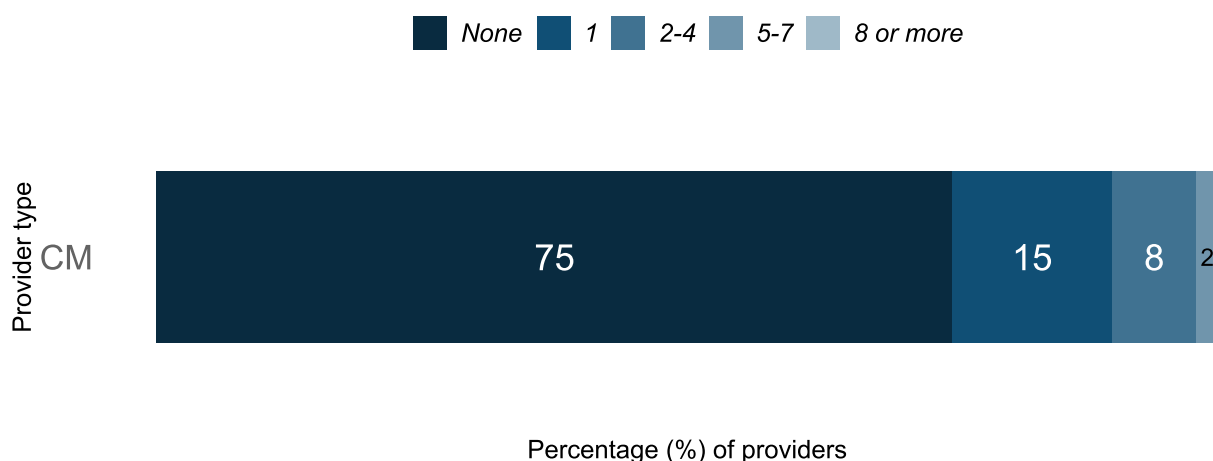
Childminders questions

The May survey asked childminders a series of questions around caring for children related to them, if this would be impacted by the new entitlements, and whether they have any intentions to leave the childminding profession.

Caring for relatives

A relative to a child refers to: a grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister, whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership. In the last 12 months, the vast majority (75 per cent) of childminders did not care for under school-aged children related to themselves.

Figure 33: Number of under-school aged relatives childminders have cared for in the last 12 months



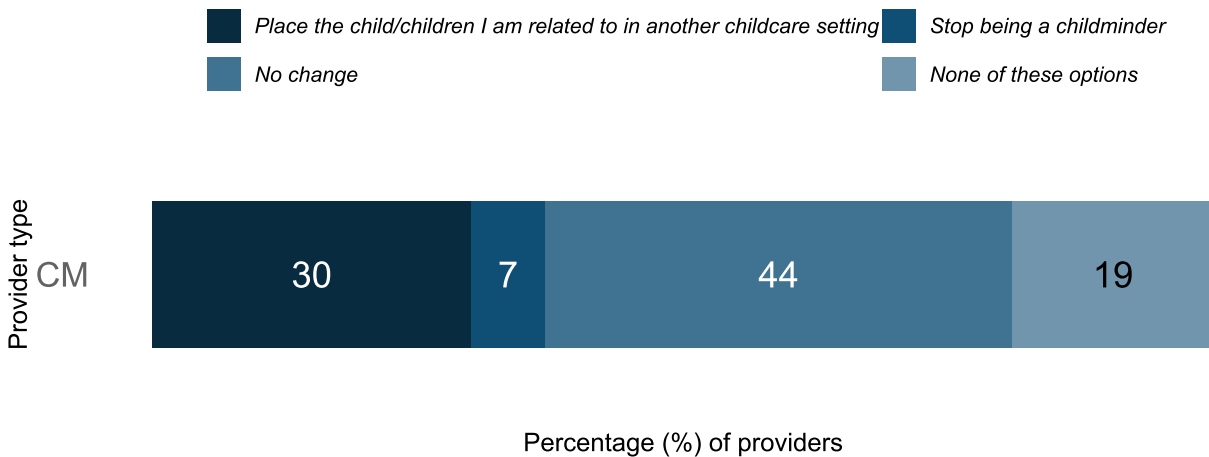
Unweighted bases: CM n=702

When it comes to the funded childcare entitlements, the term childcare excludes care provided for a child by:

- a person with parental responsibility for the child;
- a relative of the child, including parent or step-parent; and,
- person who is a foster parent to the child, either privately or placed by a local authority or voluntary organisation.

Of those childminders who did care for at least 1 child related to them, nearly half (44 per cent) would not make any changes, but almost a third (30 per cent) would place the child/children in another setting as a result of the new entitlements.

Figure 34: Whether providers will change the way they care for the related child/children, as a result of the new entitlements

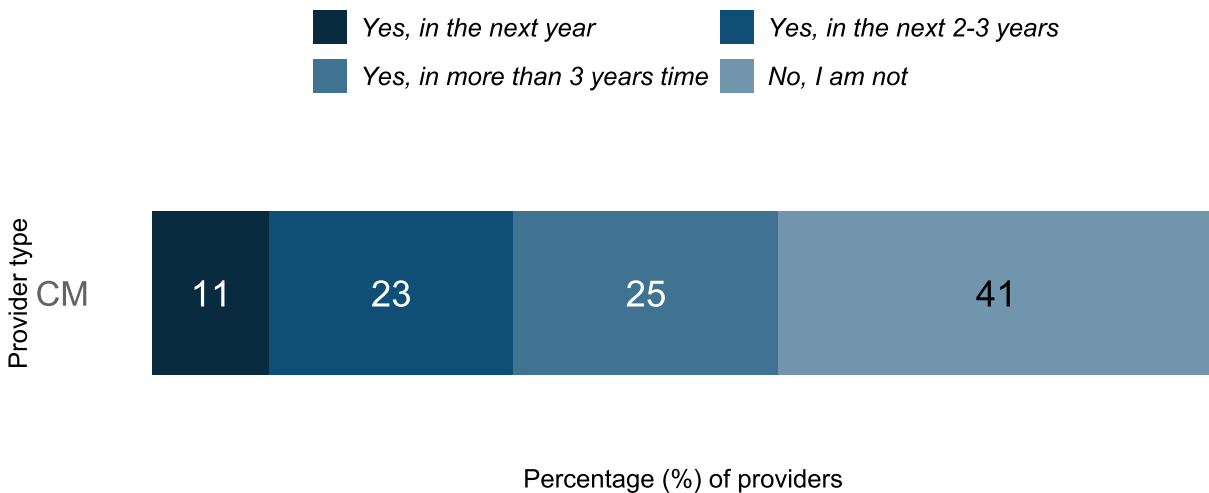


Unweighted bases: CM n=177

Leaving the profession

Overall, 59 per cent of childminders are considering leaving the profession at some point. 34 per cent are considering leaving within the next three years (11 per cent in the next year, 23 per cent in the next two-three years). 41 per cent said they were not considering leaving the profession. Proportions were very similar to those reported in the November 2023 Pulse survey.

Figure 35: Whether childminders are considering leaving the profession



Unweighted bases: CM n=702

Wraparound Care

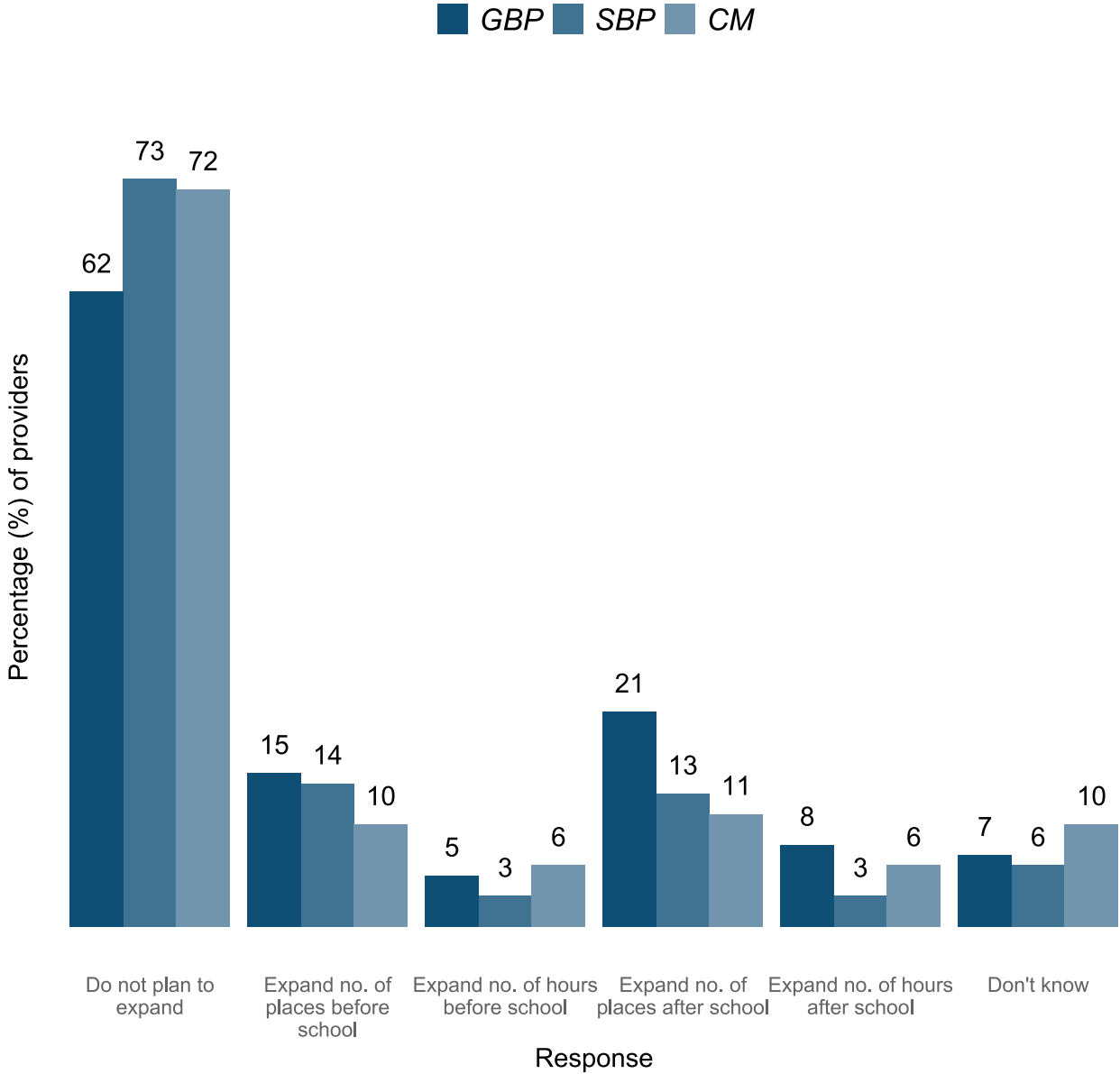
Wraparound childcare refers to provision directly before and after the school day during school term time for school age children. This provision can be offered by school-based providers, group-based providers and childminders, and can be run on a school site or at another setting in the area.

In May's survey, almost three-quarters (73 per cent) of school-based providers, two thirds (68 per cent) of childminders and just over a quarter (26 per cent) of group-based providers reported offering some form of wraparound care (either before school, after school or both before and after school).

September 2024 expansion intentions

In the 2023 Spring Budget, the government announced an investment of £289m for a national wraparound programme, to enable all families who need it to access wraparound childcare from 8am to 6pm. New places will be starting to roll out in September 2024, however of those currently offering wraparound care, only 31 per cent of group-based providers, 21 per cent of school-based providers and 18 per cent of childminders intend to expand to offer more places and/or hours in September 2024. The vast majority (92 per cent) of providers who do not currently offer wraparound care do not plan to start offering wraparound care from September 2024.

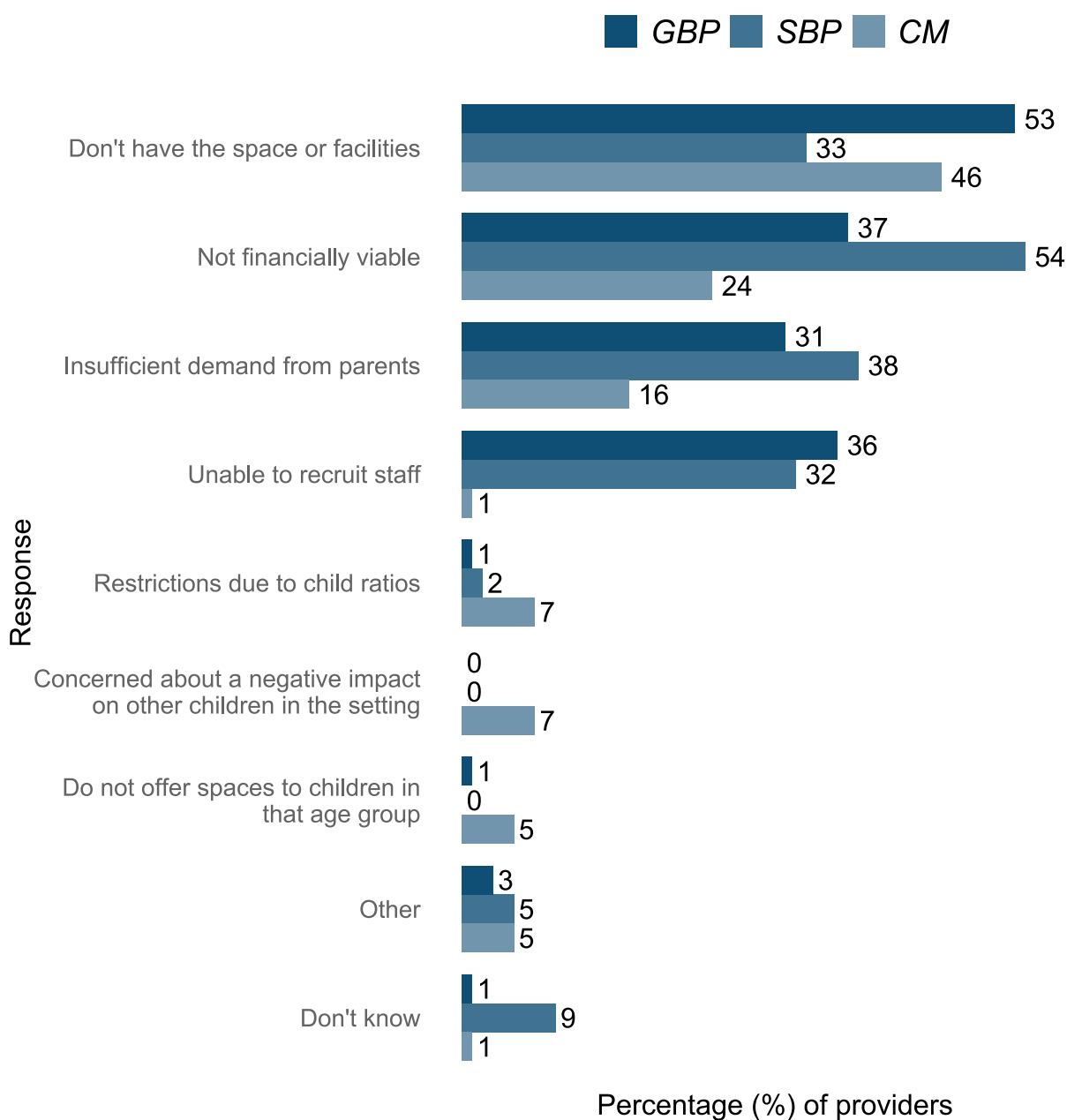
Figure 36: Whether providers plan to expand the number of places or hours for their wraparound care, from September 2024



Unweighted bases: GBP n=172, SBP n=63, CM n=488

The most frequently given reasons for not having plans to expand or start offering wraparound care were a lack of space or facilities (53 per cent of group-based providers, 33 per cent of school-based provider, 46 per cent of childminders) and not deeming it financial viable (37 per cent of group-based providers, 54 per cent of school-based providers, 24 per cent of childminders).

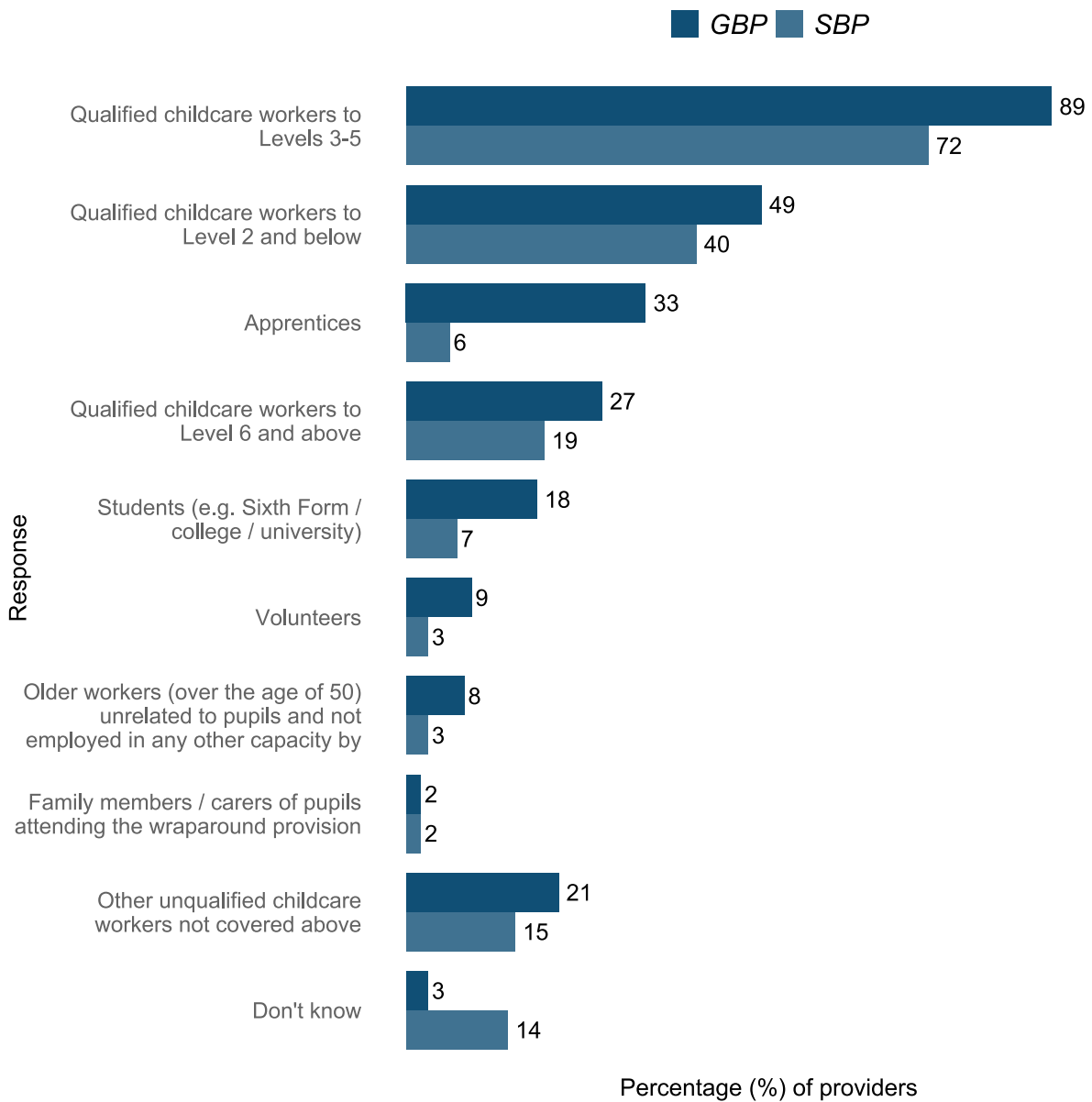
Figure 37: Reasons why some providers are not planning to offer or expand their wraparound care from September 2024



Unweighted bases: GBP n=590, SBP n=68, CM n=560

Additionally, school and group-based providers were asked who they were most likely to use to deliver wraparound care. They were most likely to use childcare workers qualified to Levels 3-5 to deliver wraparound care (89 per cent of group-based providers and 72 per cent of school-based providers). Providers were least likely to say that they used family members or carers of pupils attending the wraparound provision (2 per cent each).

Figure 38: Which groups of staff providers have used to deliver wraparound childcare since the start of the academic year



Unweighted bases: GBP n=172, SBP n=63

Early Years Education Recovery (EYER) programme

The EYER programme⁴⁵ is a package of workforce training, qualifications and support for the early years sector to help address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children. The programme includes a range of activity strands that provide targeted support to practitioners, leaders and settings.

In May, providers were asked a series of questions on their awareness and engagement in the different strands of the EYER programme.

Awareness and engagement with strands of the programme

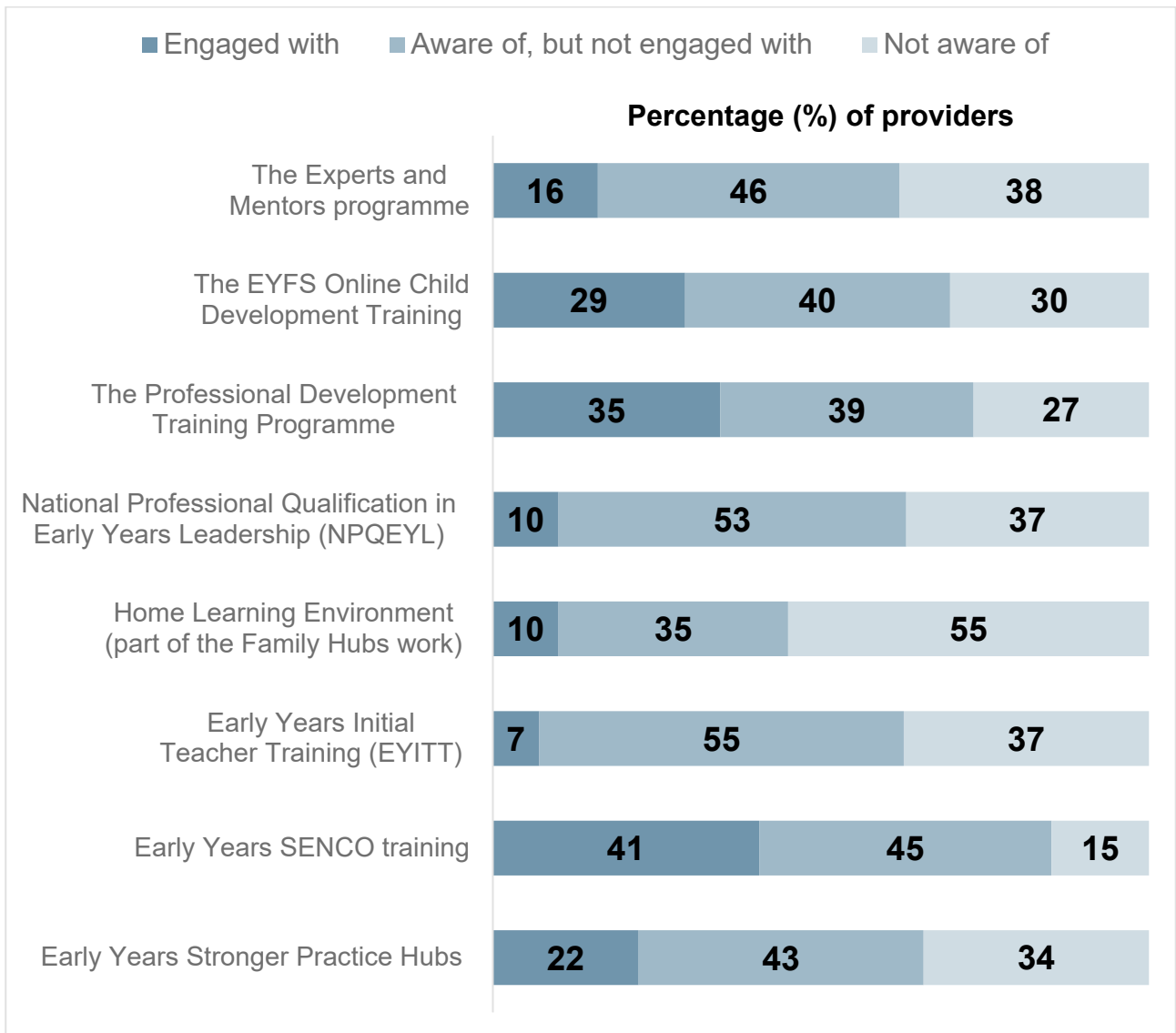
The strand providers had most commonly engaged with was the Early Years Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) training programme (41 per cent of all providers). 62 per cent of group-based providers, 20 per cent of school-based providers and 23 per cent of childminders engaged with this programme.

The strand providers were most aware of but had not engaged with was the Early Years Initial Teacher Training programme (55 per cent of all providers).

Whilst the strand with the lowest awareness was the Home Learning Environment programme, with 55 per cent of providers unaware.

⁴⁵ [Early years education recovery programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Figure 39: Which strands of the Early Years Education Recovery Programme providers were aware of or had engaged with

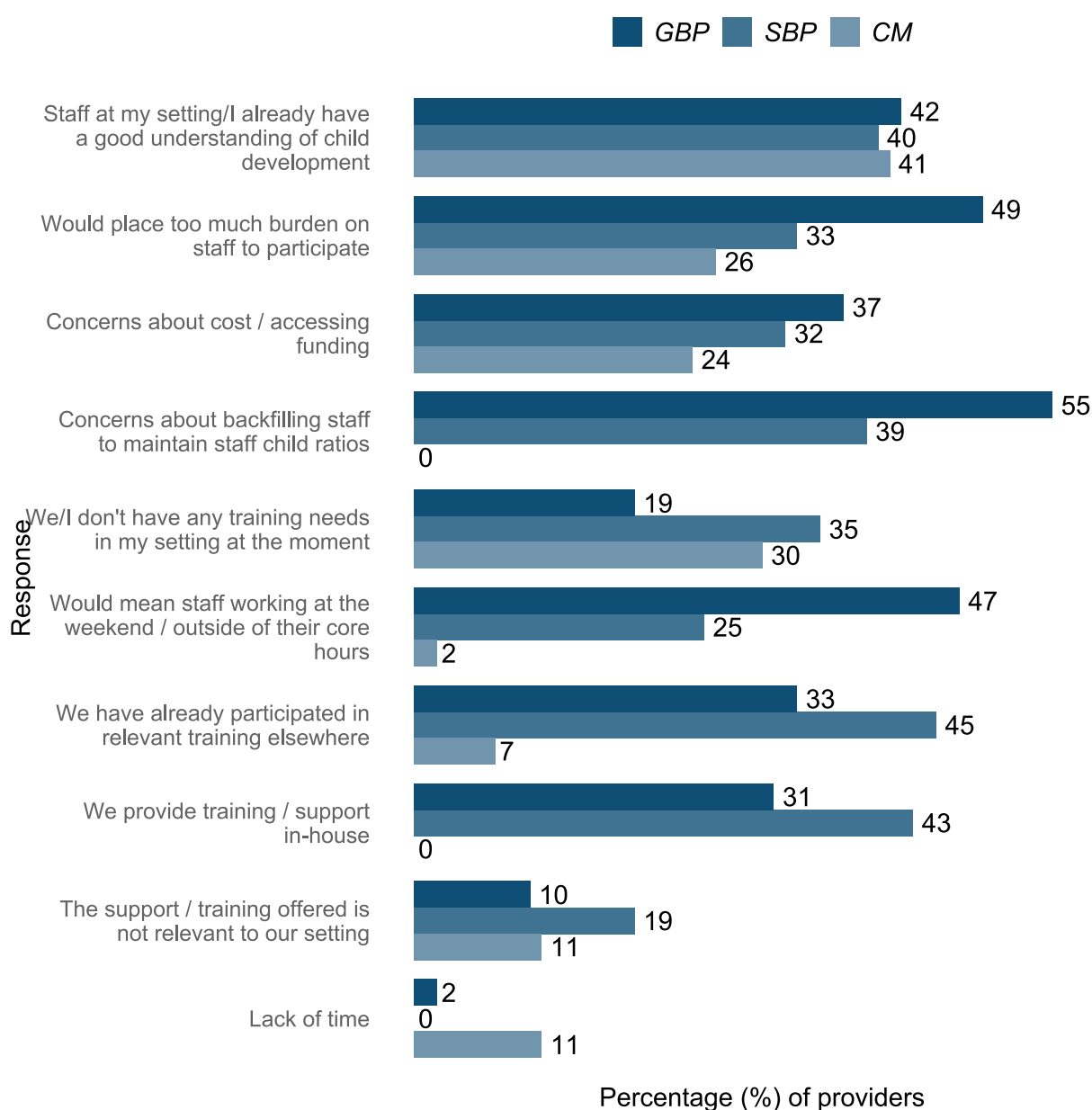


Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89, CM n=702

Reasons for not engaging

When asked for the main reasons they have not engaged with a strand or strands of the programme, the most popular reasons varied by provider type. Group-based providers were most likely to report they were concerned about backfilling staff to maintain ratios (55 per cent), school-based providers most frequently reported they were already participating in relevant training elsewhere (45 per cent) and the top reason given by childminders was that they already have a good understanding of child development (41 per cent).

Figure 40: Main reasons that providers have not engaged with strands of the EYER programme

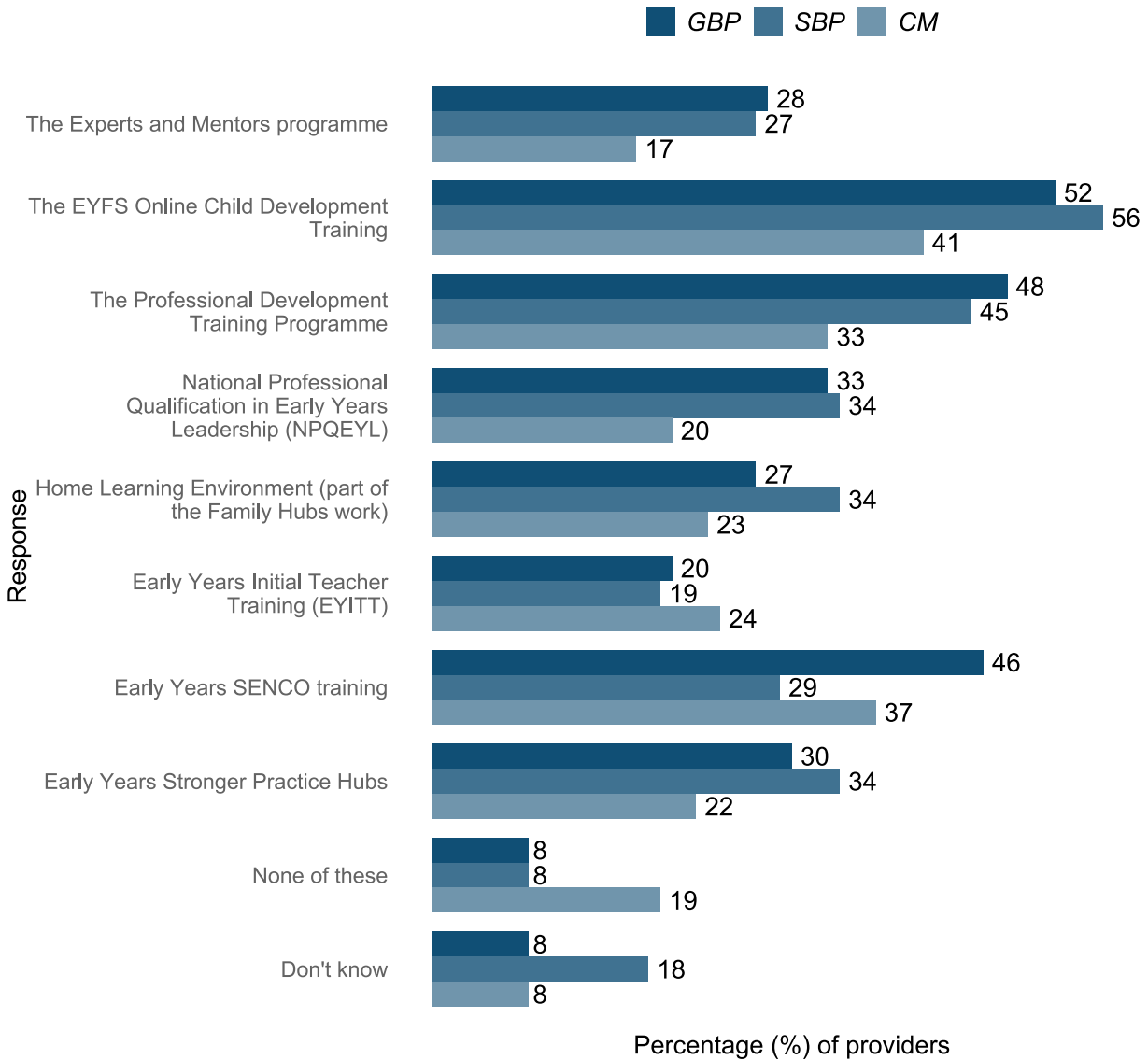


Unweighted bases: GBP n=631, SBP n=80, CM n=628

Future engagement

The strand all provider types were most interested in engaging with or engaging with again in the future was the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) Online Child Development Training, mentioned by 47 per cent of providers.

Figure 41: Which EYER strands providers would be interested in engaging or re-engaging with



Unweighted bases: GBP n=687, SBP n=89, CM n=702

Early Years Educator L3 Criteria

In the July survey, providers were asked a series of statements about the impact of the current Early Years Educator Level 3 qualifications criteria⁴⁶ on practitioner skills, knowledge, confidence and impact. Nearly all (92-98 per cent) providers agreed with statements around their confidence in their practitioner skills and understanding. The lowest agreement (83 per cent) was for confidence in leading appropriate activities for 0- to 2-year-olds.

⁴⁶ [Early years qualification requirements and standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/standards/early-years-qualification-requirements-and-standards)

Table 6: Whether providers agreed or disagreed with statements regarding the Early Years Educator Level 3 qualifications criteria, on practitioners' skills, knowledge, confidence and impact (per cent responding in each category)

Response	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Prefer not to say
Are confident leading appropriate activities for typically developing 0- to 2-year-olds	83	10	2	5
Are confident leading appropriate activities for typically developing 2- to 4-year-olds	96	3	1	1
Are confident leading appropriate activities for children with developmental or language delays	92	4	3	1
Have a good understanding of how babies and children learn and develop	94	4	1	1
Have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures, responsibilities and signs of harm	98	1	1	0
Have a good understanding of their role in children's health and wellbeing	97	2	1	0
Can recognise when a child requires additional support	96	2	1	0
Can lead activities that include areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage	96	2	1	1
Can work in partnership with others (key person, colleague, parents and/or carers or other	96	2	1	0
Can provide effective early years education that prepares children for school	96	2	1	1

Unweighted bases: GBP n=567, SBP n=65, CM n=508



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