

What are the needs of pregnant young women and young mothers of school age?

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Findings from European study: UK survey

- Lack of child care
- Young mothers do not wish to return to school
- Some schools are reluctant to re-integrate young mothers
- Peer pressure affects a young mother's return to school.
- Non-attendance at school has been associated with young mothers before their pregnancy
- Young mothers feel more grown up than their peers.



What the government want

- Teenagers who become parents should not lose out on opportunities for the future. Young parents should have the chance to complete their education and prepare to support themselves and their family.
- 1. Better co-ordination so that pregnant teenagers get advice and support to stop them falling through the cracks;
- 2. under 16 year old mothers will be required to finish their full time education, and be given help with child care to ensure this happens.

Standards Fund Grant

- Breaking down barriers to education including issues relating to childcare and transport,
- Working with educational establishments to change prevailing negative perceptions of pregnant young women and young mothers at an institutional level and develop quick and effective methods of referral,
- Successfully reintegrating and re-engaging pregnant young women and young mothers into mainstream and alternative education,
- Working with young women to capitalise on renewed motivation to succeed for the sake of their child.



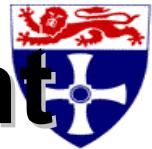
Problems with the current situation in England

- **LEAs: little known about the numbers, educational activities and/or needs of pregnant young women and young mothers.**
- **Many young women failed to receive home tuition:**
 - schools were unaware of correct procedure or
 - trying to conceal that there was a pregnancy at their school.
- **Schools not seeing it as their duty to make sure that pregnant young women and young mothers were comfortable at school,**
- **Schools not facilitating flexible or alternative provision to encourage their continued engagement.**
- **Lack of flexibility over schools uniforms**
- **Schools disallowing water in classrooms**



Problems with the current situation in England

- **Evidence of bad practice in the following areas was found in a number of LEAs:**
 - Removing pregnant young women from school roles.
 - Incorrect attendance records at school
 - Forced maternity leave.
 - Admission refusals for Year 11 mothers who had missed a substantial amount of Year 10.
 - Pregnant young women and young mothers being made to feel unwelcome and hence choosing to leave of their own accord,
 - Pregnant young women being told, that on health and safety grounds, school was not the best place for them.

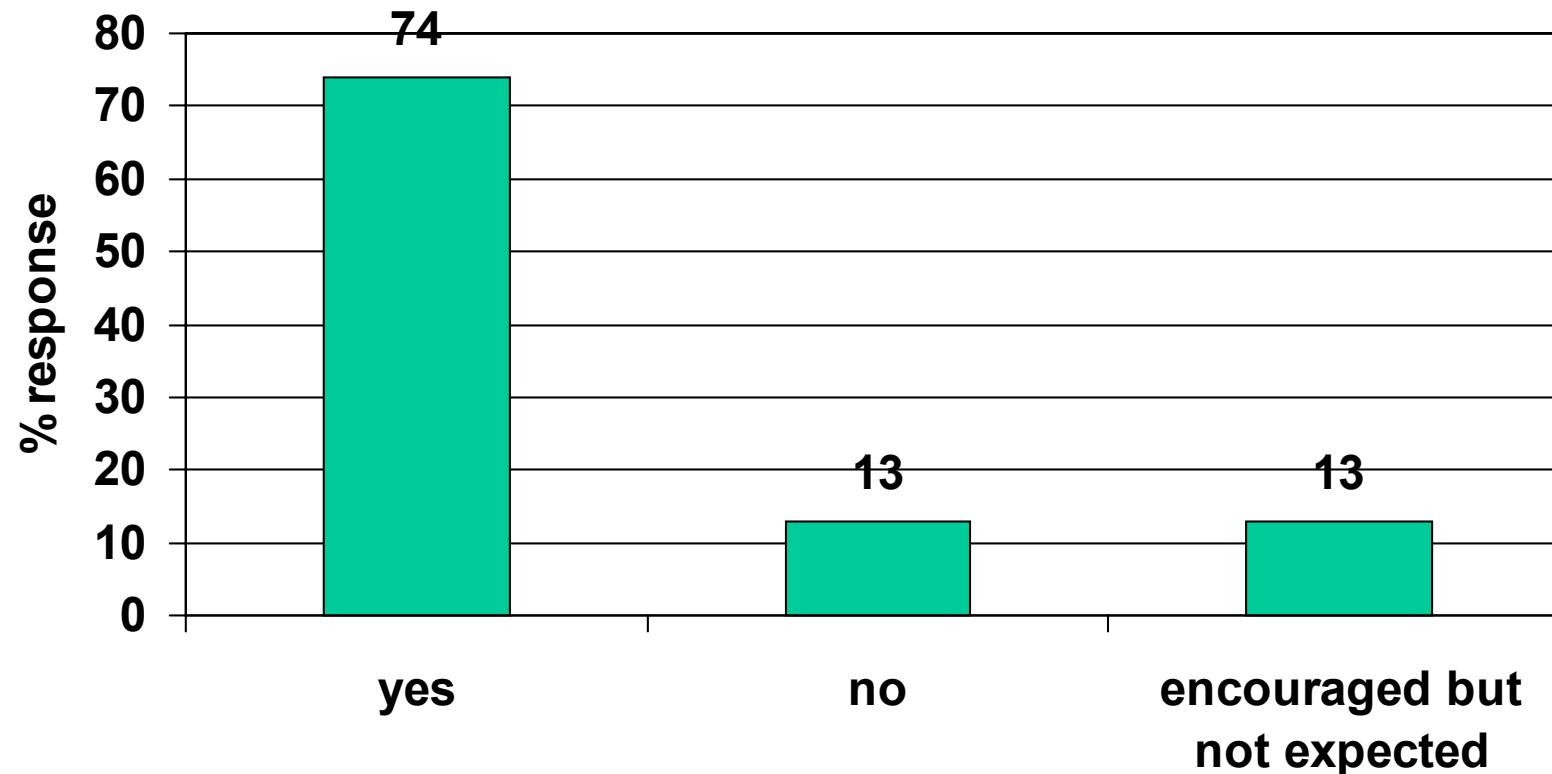


Factors related to engagement with education

- 1. Enjoyment of school prior to pregnancy**
- 2. School attitudes to pregnancy and motherhood—teachers and pupils**
- 3. Alternatives to mainstream school**
- 4. Levels of one-on-one support from a reintegration officer (or equivalent)**
- 5. Levels of work support during maternity leave**
- 6. Family support (or lack of it)**
- 7. Childcare**
- 8. Being allowed to be a mum.**

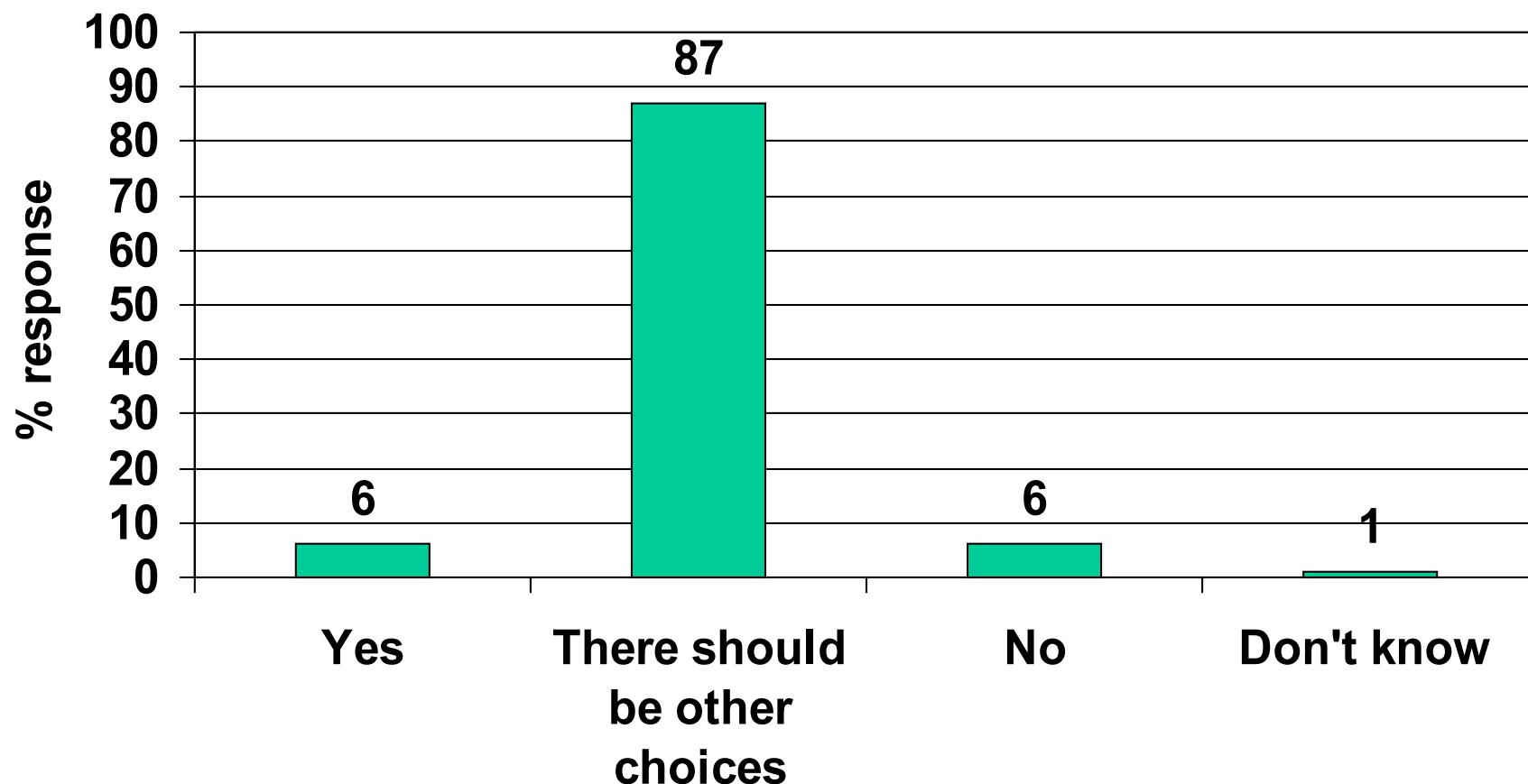


Do you think young mothers should be expected to return to some form of education after birth?

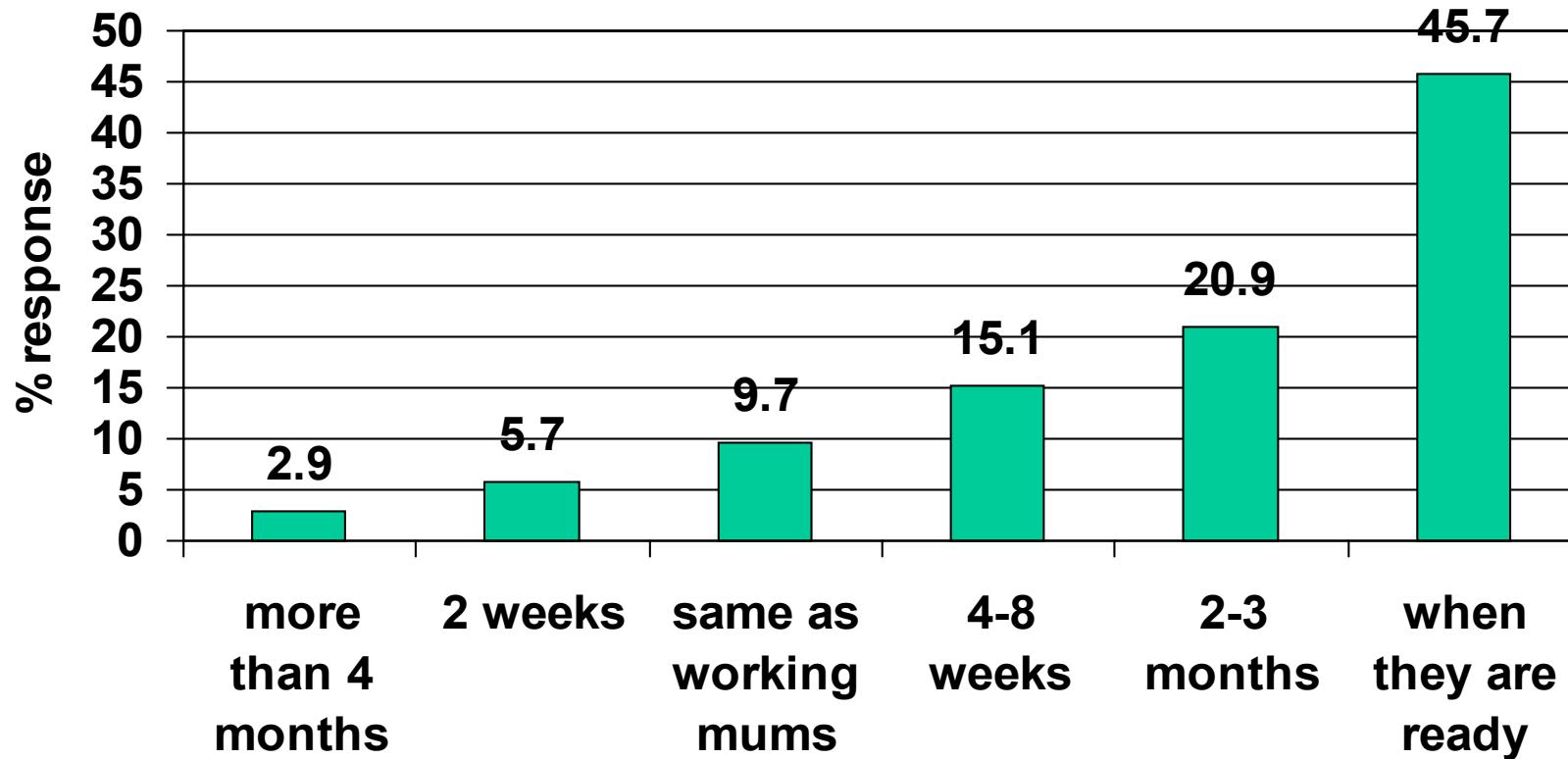




Do you think the government should encourage young mothers back to mainstream school after birth?



When should mothers be expected to return to education after having their baby?



**What help do you think young mothers should get to return to education? What would make it easier?
(Percentage %)**



Childcare	100
Alternative provisions	51
Recognition of 'mother' status	26
Positive support from teachers (especially 1-on-1)	26
Support from reintegration officer (or equivalent)	23
Transport	20
Flexible timetables	19
Parenting skills support	13
Education provision with good environment	10

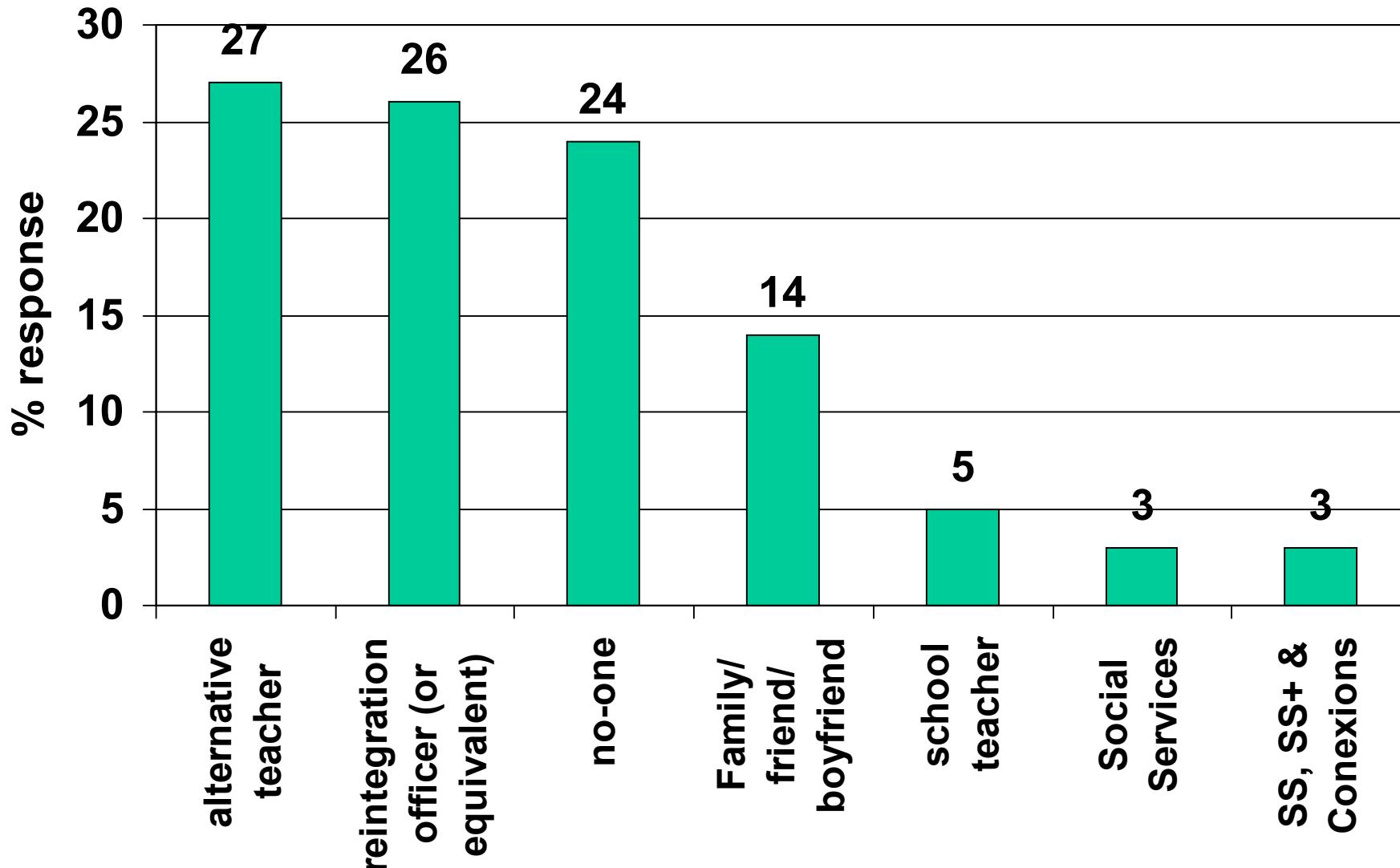
Childcare provision, choices and issues (Percentage %)

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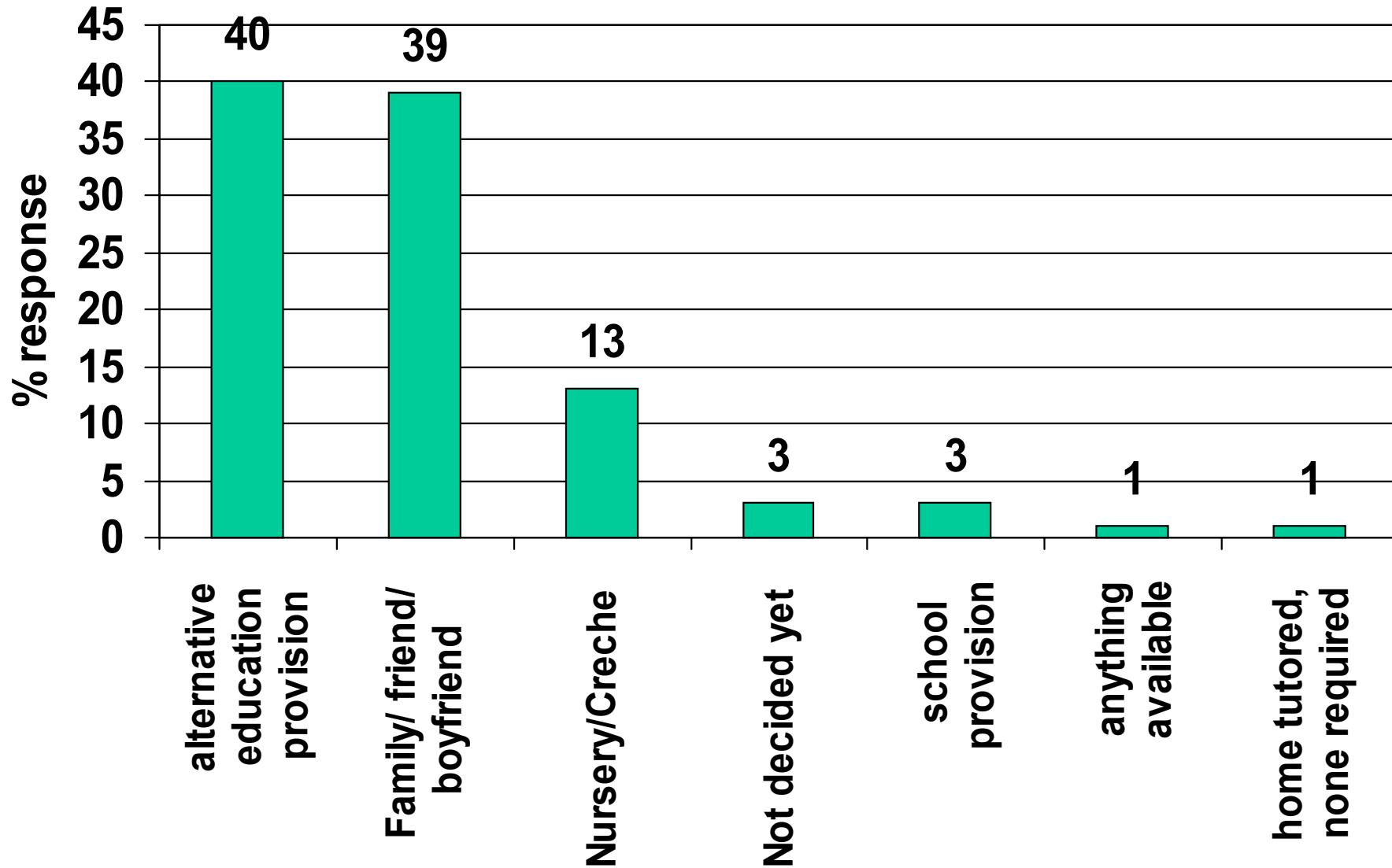


Alternative education site with onsite childcare	53
Childcare (general/nursery/crèche)	36
School onsite	19
Childcare (general) if you don't have family	17
Easier access to childcare	14
Free/ low cost	14
More childcare choices	13
Near to education site	4
Homework time childcare	3
Safe childcare	3

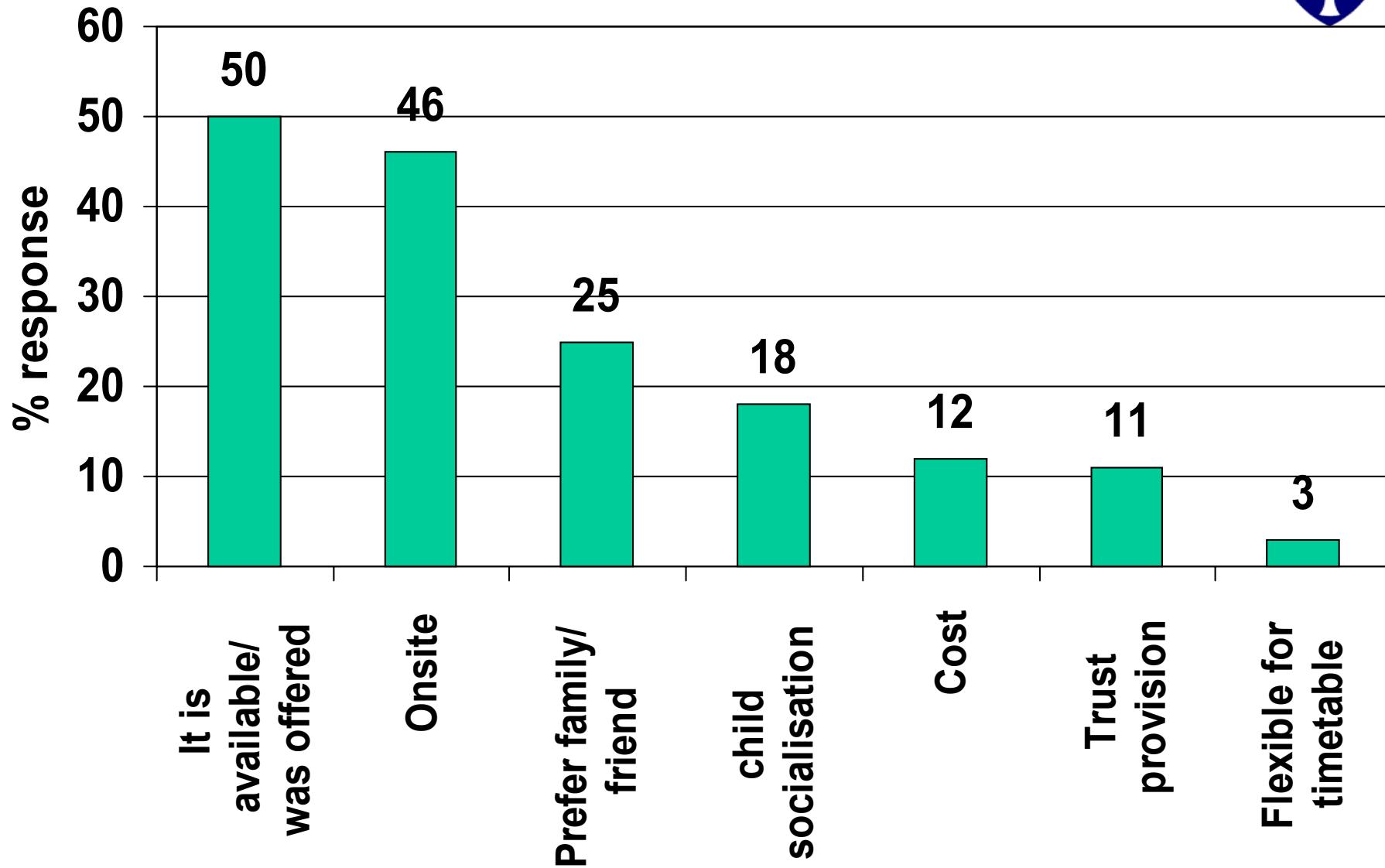
Did anyone talk to you about/ help you with your childcare needs?



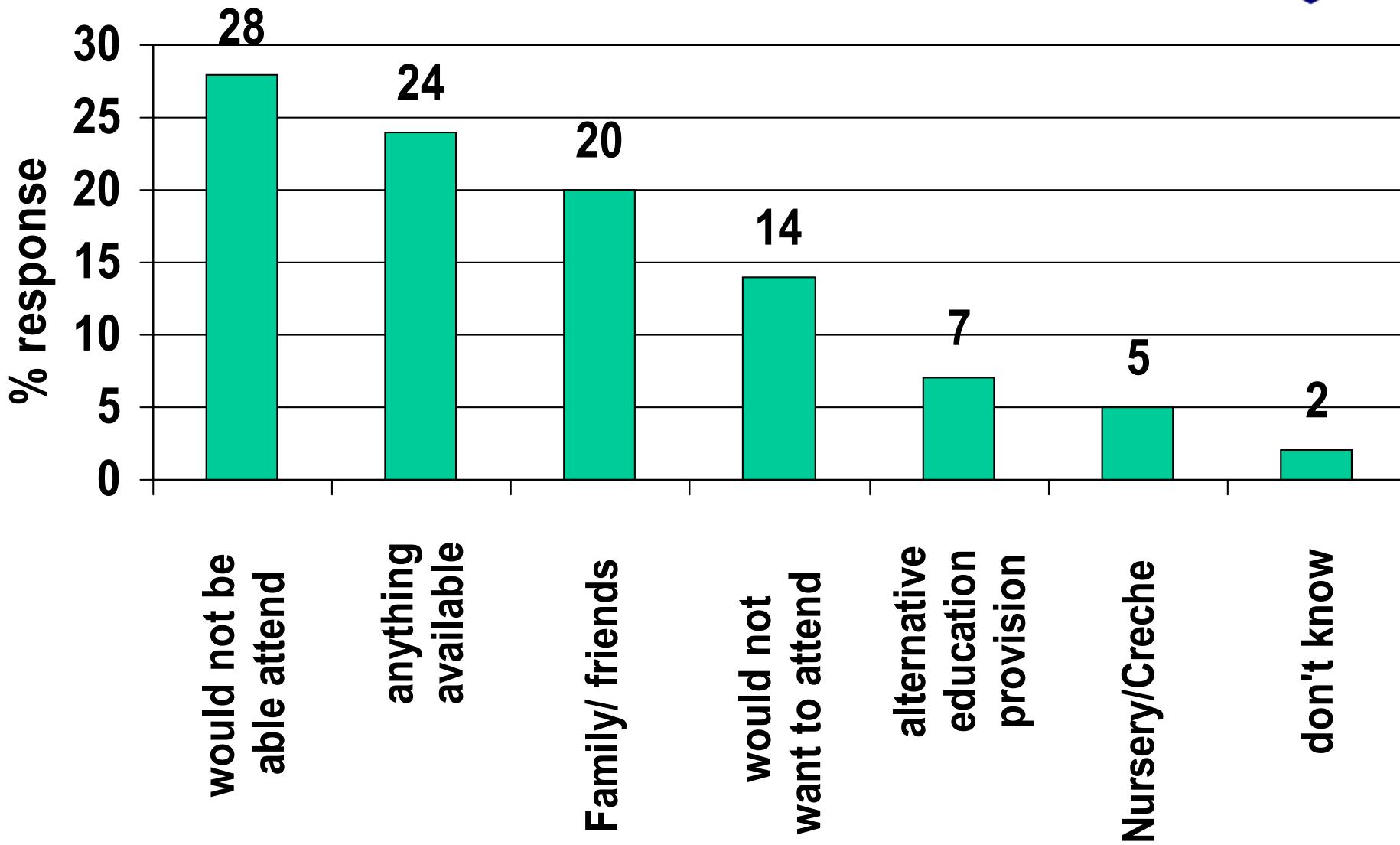
What childcare did you/ are you going to use?



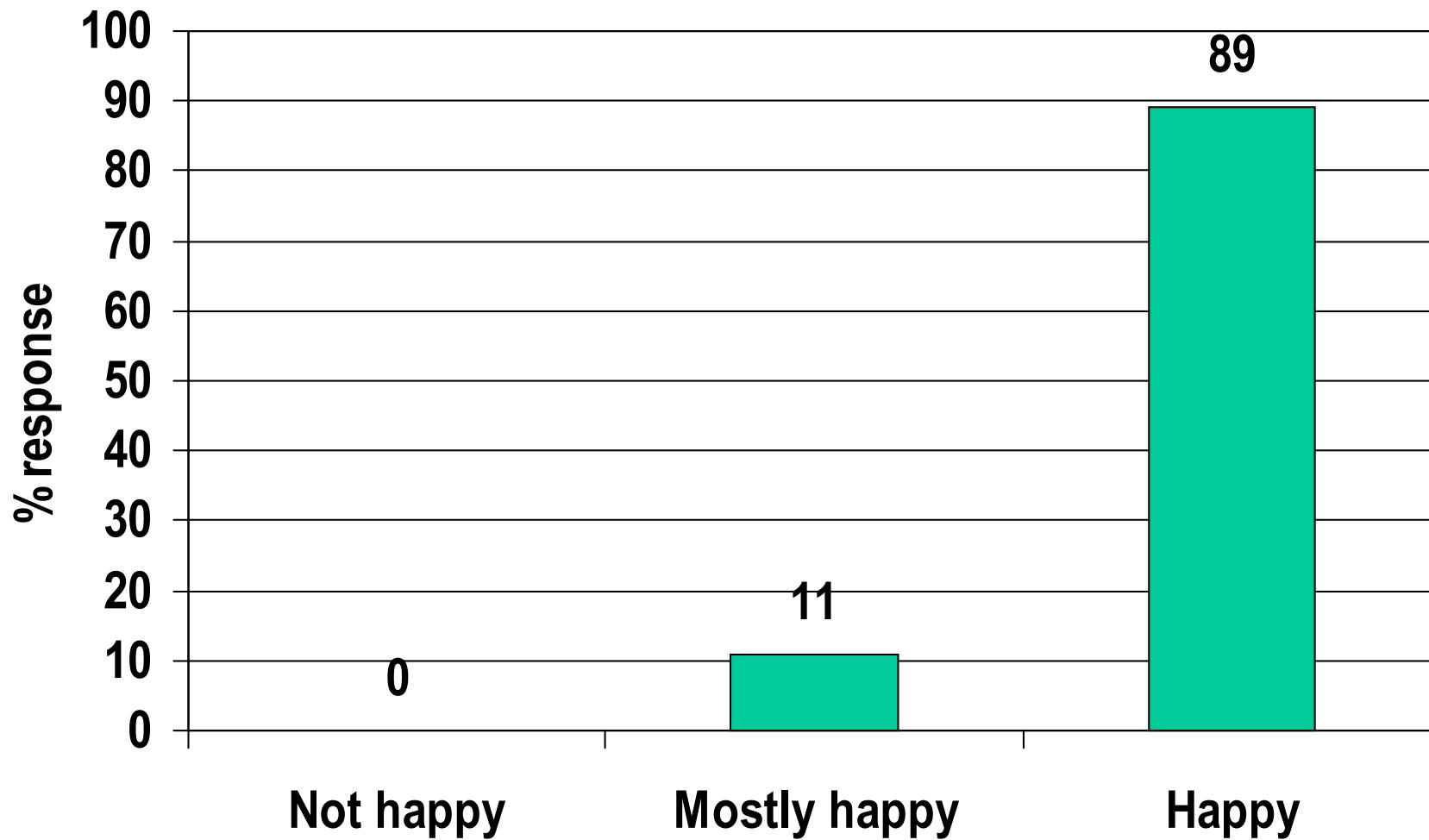
Why chose that childcare?



If that was not available what would you use?



How did you feel about your childcare?





Please ask us...

And also, don't you know what I think about the government, well it's like good what you're doing now actually asking us what matters, but I think they need somebody, Tony Blair would be nice! or whoever to sit down and actually ask us, because sometimes they make all these decisions and they don't actually speak to us. And it's important that they meet people like me so those narrow minded people who think oh well she's a teenage mother she won't amount to anything can actually meet people have done it or are doing it and see that it can be done. Because otherwise we all get labelled and once you're labelled, that's it, people treat you differently and you think well why do I bother?

Elisa-Jade, aged 18, mother and trainee legal executive.