



# **Accessible (Easy Read) 0-18 years survey: descriptive data and analysis of the survey findings**

There were 9 responses to the children, 18 years and under, accessible survey (Easy Read). For some questions, responses were received from all 9 respondents. For other questions, responses from a smaller sample of less than 9. The number of respondents completing each question is given in the description of the results. The design of the survey meant for some questions respondents were able to select more than one option, often selecting 2 or 3 responses. The descriptive results are described in detail for each question.

The questions and the results are grouped into 5 sections and the questions addressed in each section are given.

- Section 1 gives the demographic data about the respondents who completed the survey.
- Section 2 describes the respondents' background history of receiving SLT.
- Section 3 describes the respondents' experiences of SLT during lockdown (March to June 2021).
- Section 4 describes the delivery of SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020) and the respondents' experiences of this.
- Section 5 details the respondents' experiences of SLT during and after the end of lockdown.

The quantitative descriptive data is given along with the qualitative data. Qualitative data originates from the free text comments for some of the questions. These comments have been grouped into categories for ease of reference.

## Section 1: Demographic data of the respondents

The demographic data is presented first. This data was obtained from the following questions;

Question 1: What is your postcode?

Question 2: Which country do you live in?

Question 3: Please tell us who you are.

Question 30: How old are you?

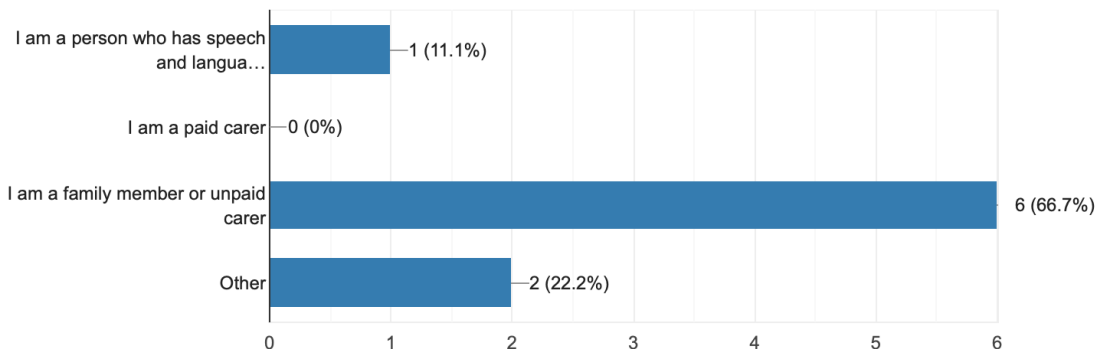
Question 31: How would you describe your gender?

Question 32: What is your ethnicity?

### Who were the respondents?

Of the 9 people who completed the 0-18 years easy read survey:

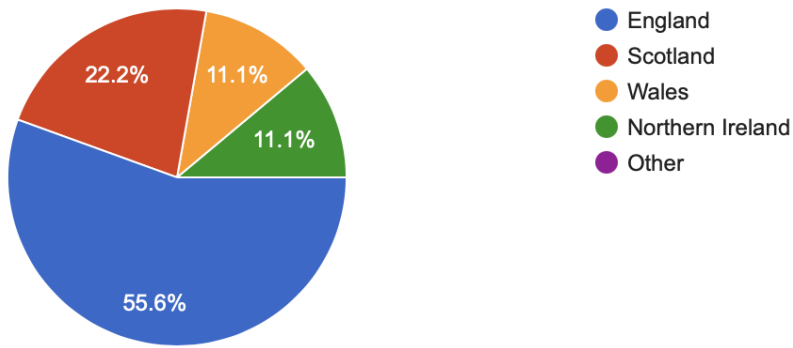
- 6 respondents (67%) were family members or unpaid carers of children and young people receiving SLT.
- 1 (11%) was a person receiving SLT.
- 2 (22%) identified as other.



All 9 respondents were receiving or had received SLT at the time of the survey.

### Country

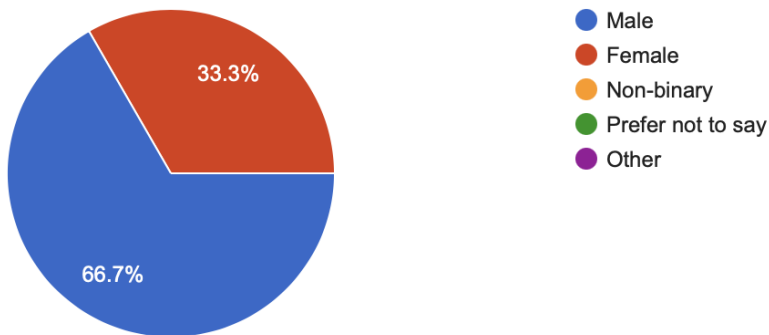
- 5 of the 9 respondents 5(6%) were living in England.
- 2 (22%) in Scotland.
- 1 (11%) in Wales.
- 1 (11%) in Northern Ireland.



### Gender

With respect to gender:

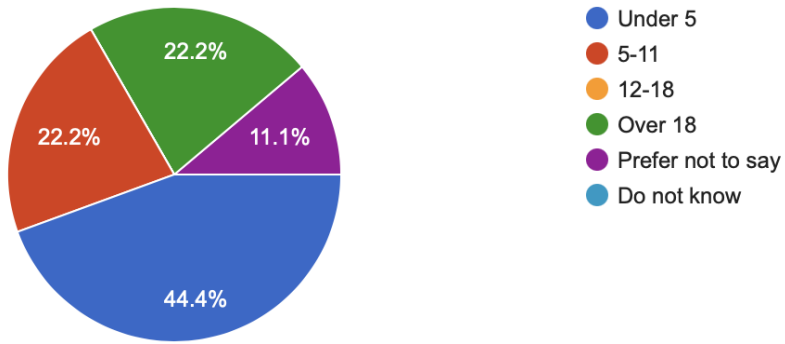
- 6 (67%) identified as male.
- 3 (33%) identified as female.



### Age

With respect to age:

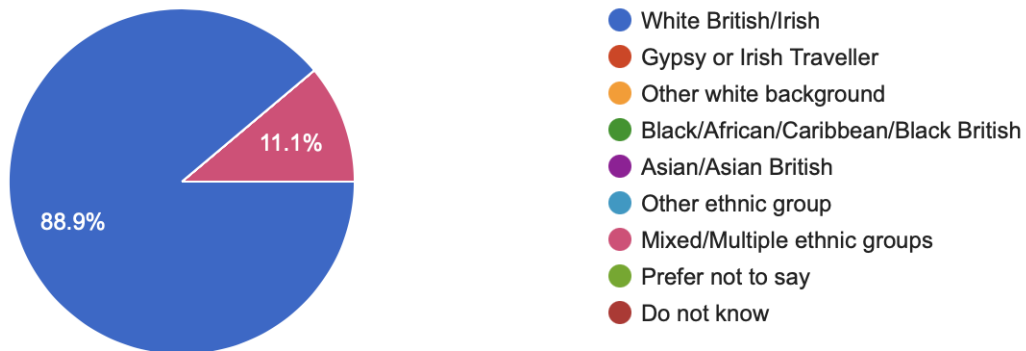
- 4 respondents (44%) were under 5 years of age.
- 2 (22%) were aged between 5 and 11 years.
- 2 (22%) were aged 18 years.
- 1 (11%) preferred not to say.



### Ethnicity

With respect to ethnicity:

- 8 of the 9 respondents (89%) identified as White British.
- 1 (11%) as mixed/multiple ethnic groups.



## Section 2: Background history of receiving SLT

In this section, the reasons for receiving SLT ever and when SLT started are presented. This covers the following survey questions:

Question 7: Why are you having SLT?

Question 6: What does SLT help you with?

Question 5: When did you start having SLT?

Question 24: How does your SLT help you?

Question 11: How did you have your SLT before the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

### Condition

The survey asked respondents to identify the condition for which they were receiving SLT. All 9 respondents identified their condition(s) with several respondents selecting more than one condition indicating complex comorbidities.

- 4 respondents (44%) identified with autism.
- 2 (22%) with hearing loss/deafness.
- 2 (22%) with a stammer.
- 2 (22%) with a learning disability.
- 1 (11%) with a brain injury.
- 1 (11%) with a developmental delay.
- 1 (11%) with selective mutism.
- 1 (11%) with a speech sound disorder.

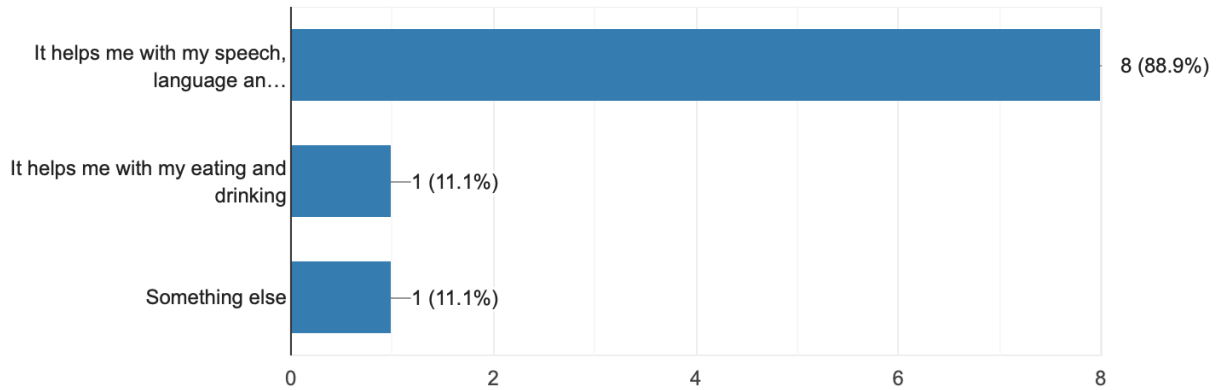
2 respondents (22%) were waiting for a diagnosis.

### Reason for having speech and language therapy

All 9 respondents confirmed the reasons for receipt of SLT.

- 8 of the 9 respondents (89%) confirmed receipt of SLT for speech, language and communication.
- 1 (11%) for eating and drinking.

1 respondent (11%) reported needing support for something else.



### When speech and language therapy started

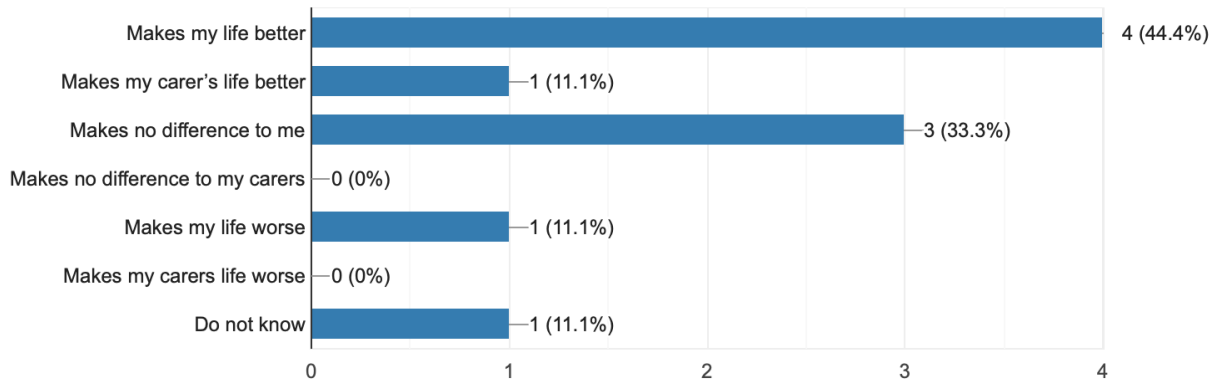
All 9 respondents were in receipt for SLT before March 2020.



### How speech and language therapy helps

All 9 respondents described how SLT helps them.

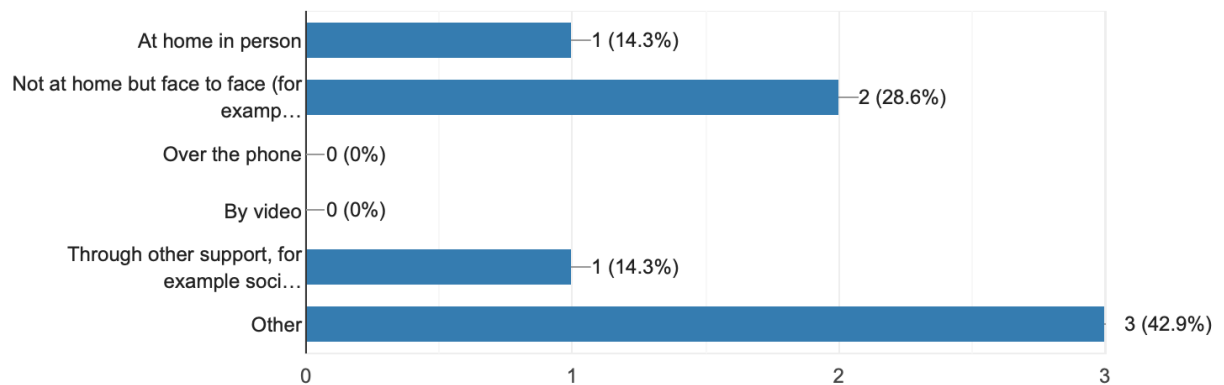
- 5 of the 9 respondents (55%) considered SLT makes their life better or the lives of their carers better.
- 3 respondents (33%) reported SLT makes no difference to them.
- 1 respondent (11%) reported SLT makes his/her life worse.
- 1 respondent (11%) did not know.



### How speech and language therapy was delivered before lockdown

Six of the 9 respondents reported how their SLT was delivered before lockdown.

- 3 of the 6 respondents (50%) received SLT in person either at home or in another location.
- 3 respondents (50%) received SLT another way.



## Section 3: Experiences of SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020)

In this section, the experiences of receiving SLT during lockdown are presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 8: Did your SLT change during lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 9: What happened to your SLT appointments?

### Changes to speech and language therapy

All 9 respondents reported changes in their receipt of SLT.

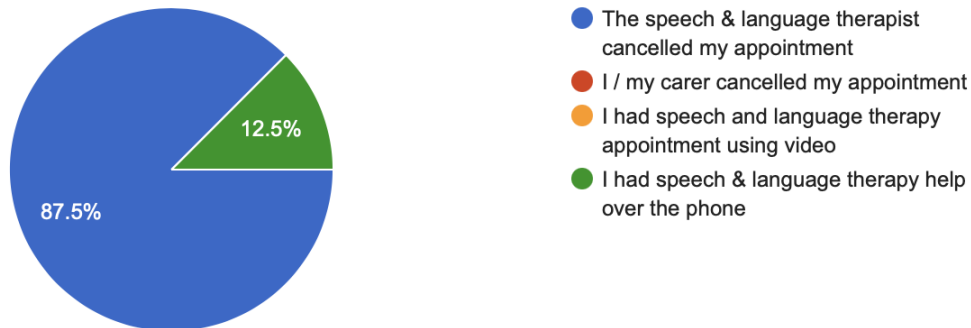
- 8 of the 9 respondents (89%) received no SLT during lockdown.
- 1 respondent (11%) did not know.



### What happened to speech and language therapy appointments

8 of the 9 respondents were able to report what happened to their SLT appointments.

- For 7 respondents (88%), the SLT service cancelled their appointments.
- 1 respondent (12%) received SLT over the phone.





## **Section 4: Delivery of SLT and experiences of SLT delivery during lockdown (March to June 2020)**

In this section, how SLT was delivered during lockdown is presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 12: Did you get SLT in person during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 13: Did you get your SLT over the phone during the first virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 14: How was your SLT over the phone?

Question 15: Did you get your SLT by video during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 16: How was your SLT help on video (online)?

Question 17: How easy was it to use the computer/laptop/tablet/smartphone?

Question 18: Did you get your SLT through other support, for example social media or printed materials during the virus lockdown (March to June 2020)?

Question 19: Did you get help updating things on your communication support tools (for example communication pictures, communication books, electronic aids)?

Question 21: What has it been like if you have to wear a mask during your SLT?

Question 22: What has it been like if your SLT has to wear a mask during your SLT?

### **Delivery of speech and language therapy**

All 9 respondents reported on the delivery of SLT during lockdown,

- None received SLT in person during lockdown.
- None received SLT by phone or online during lockdown.
- None received SLT for other support such as printed materials or social media.

### **Communication tools**

All 9 respondents reported if they received help to update things on their communication support tools.

6 respondents (67%) reported not having any communication support tools. Of the remaining 3 respondents:

- 2 (22%) did not receive any help.
- 1 (11%) did receive help.

## Face masks

Respondents were asked if they or their speech and language therapist had worn a mask during their appointments and their experiences of this.

Of the 8 respondents:

- 5 (63%) reported not wearing a mask.
- 3 (38%) did.

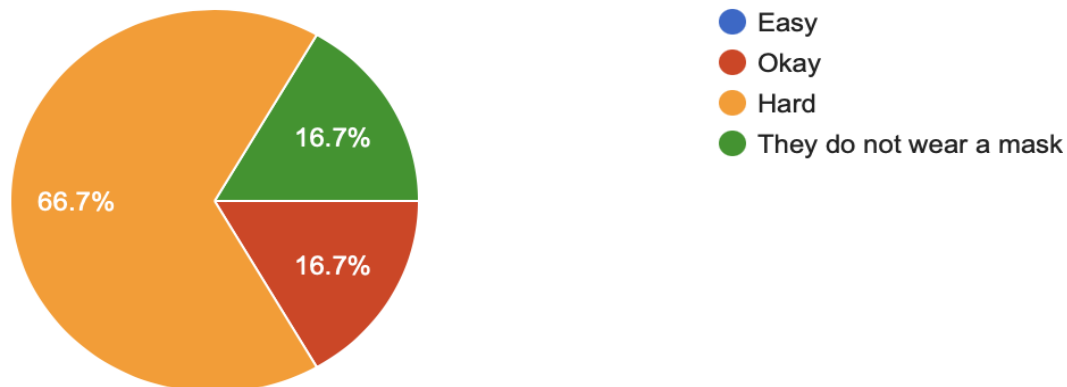
Of the 3 who did wear a mask, all found it hard.



Five respondents reported their speech and language therapist wore a mask. Of these 5 respondents:

- 4 (67%) found it hard.
- 1 (17%) found it 'OK'.

None found it easy.



## Section 5 : Experiences of SLT during and after the end of lockdown (March-June 2020)

In this section, data on people's experiences of SLT during and after lockdown is presented. This covers the survey questions of:

Question 23: Has your communication or swallowing become worse during COVID-19?

Question 15: If you had less SLT help during lockdown (March to June 2020) tick the things it made worse.

Question 26: If you are a family member or carer of someone who had less SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020) tick the things it made worse for you.

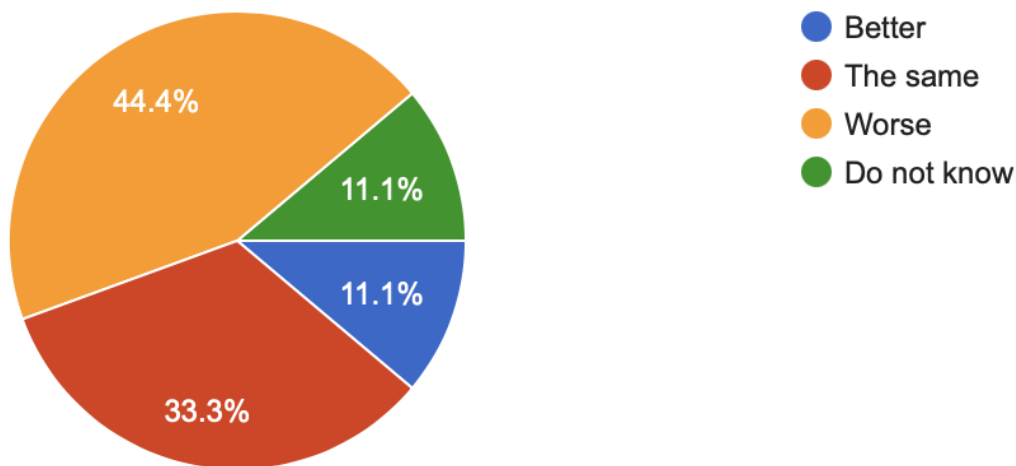
Question 27: Are you worried about getting your SLT help in the future?

Question 28: What are you worried about (if you don't have SLT help)?

### Impact on communication and swallowing

All 9 respondents reported if their communication or swallowing became worse during the lockdown.

- 1 respondent (11%) felt their communication or swallowing was better.
- 3 (33%) reported it was the same.
- 4 (44%) reported it was worse.
- 1 respondent (11%) did not know.



## Impact on people's lives of having less speech and language therapy

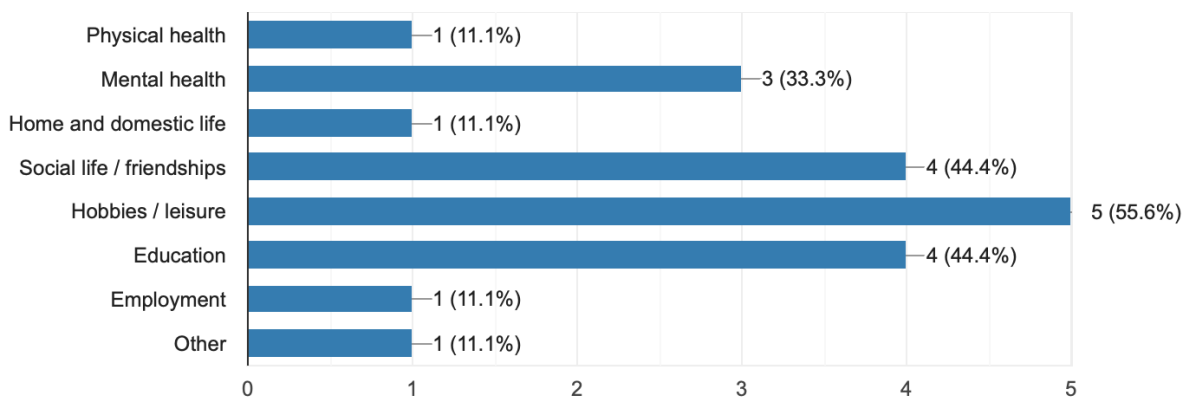
All 9 respondents confirmed they had less SLT during lockdown (March to June 2020). These 9 respondents identified aspects that were now worse for them because of having less SLT. Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The aspect with the most responses was hobbies/leisure (n=5) (56%).

This was followed by:

- Education (n=4) (44%)
- Mental health (n=3) (33%).
- Home and domestic life (n=1) (11%).
- Physical health (n=1) (11%).
- Employment (n=1) (11%).

1 respondent (11%) reported it made other aspects of their life worse.



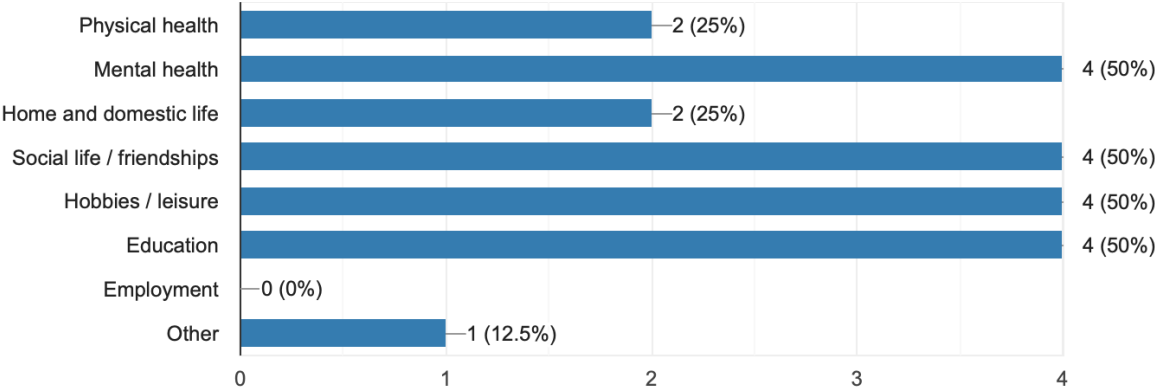
## Impact on families and carers of having less speech and language therapy

Family members and carers were also asked to describe the impact of less SLT on their own lives. 8 of the 9 respondents described this impact on their own lives. Respondents were able to select more than one option.

The aspects that families and carers said had got worse for them were:

- Social life and friendships (n=4) (50%).
- Mental health (n=4) (50%).
- Hobbies and leisure (n=4) (50%).
- Education (n=4) (50%).
- Home and domestic life (n=2) (25%).
- Physical health (n=2) (25%).

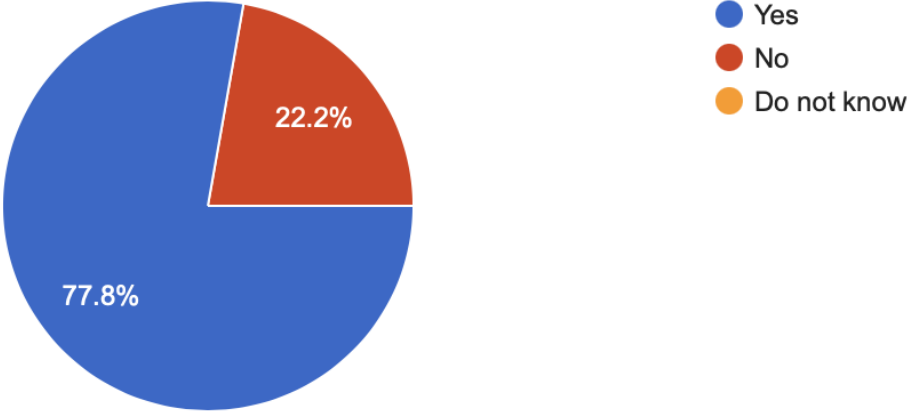
1 respondent (13%) reported it made other aspects of their life worse.



**Access to speech and language therapy in the future**

All 9 respondents described if they were concerned about receiving SLT in the future.

- 7 respondents (78%) were concerned.
- 2 (22%) were not concerned.



**Considerations for the descriptive analysis**

Response rates varied across the 28 questions in the survey with some questions receiving a complete response rate of 9 responses and others a minimum of 4 responses. This variation in responses did limit the extent of the descriptive analysis completed. Some of the questions in the survey overlapped in content, which meant there was not always a consistent response rate across these questions. This means there were some differences in the responses received to questions asking the same content.