

The cloud shows that the most frequent words/ phrases were “support”, “home”, “worried”, “Food”, “school” and “work”; all of which relate the main areas of concern. Two particular questions asked that demonstrated the level of anxiety relating to the pandemic were about being worried and the impact on wellbeing.

How worried are you about the current corona virus pandemic?



94 responses

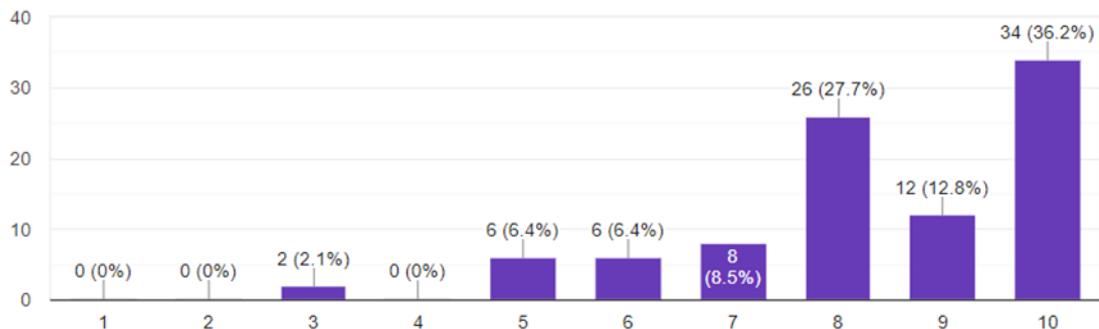


Fig. 1 Parental response rating how worried they are about the Covid-19 Pandemic

How would you rate the impact on your well being?

94 responses

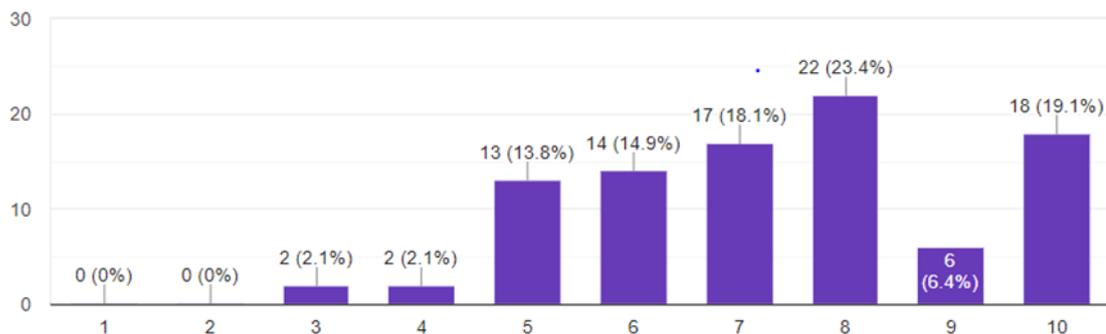


Fig. 2 Covid-19 Pandemic impact on parental well being

Some of the comments received from parent carers who took the survey are as follows:

“Getting harder to keep a difficult child on an even keel. Not sure what will happen if one of actually gets sick. I’m a single parent with no support in a corona virus risk group, with a child who displays self injurious behaviours when melting down, and suicidal thoughts”

“My mental health has taken a nose dive because my daughter is not coping being out of school for her own safety. We feel isolated and lonely.”

“Dealing with a Special Needs child at home without the school hours relief is very draining. This impacts my health, job and anxiety levels. It impacts on the atmosphere in the household at a time when my older son too who is studying for his A Levels.”

"I am a single mum and the only person supporting my daughter when her activities close. She is violent towards me when anxious and confused and cannot entertain herself beyond short periods. I am fearful of my ability to continue to support her for 12 weeks + on my own without help. I will find this very stressful. I work part time (self employed) from home round my daughter's activities. With these stopping I am currently extracting myself from my work commitments which will have knock ons on my own mental health and some financial implications"

"We're a family of 6 all children between 1-13 and the older 3 are finding it hard being kept in when their sister is lashin out so much due to being anxious and stressed without the normal routine"

"We are staying home but the whole situation is keeping me up at night I'm having to do sugars more often due to diet change watch her cry over routine changes be sick over anxiety she thinks shes gonna get no food n die she eats upto 10 times a day so having to pay extra for what's left in shops is financially hard on us"

COVID-19 Survey 2

Now that schools are closed, how worried are you about the current corona virus pandemic?

52 responses

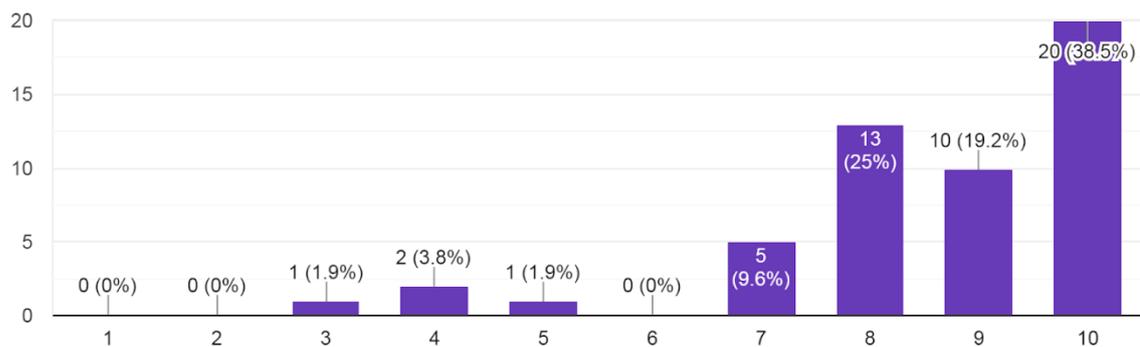


Fig. 3 Parental response rating how worried they are about the Covid-19 Pandemic school closures

Has school closure had an impact upon your child/young person with SEND, and the family as a whole?

52 responses

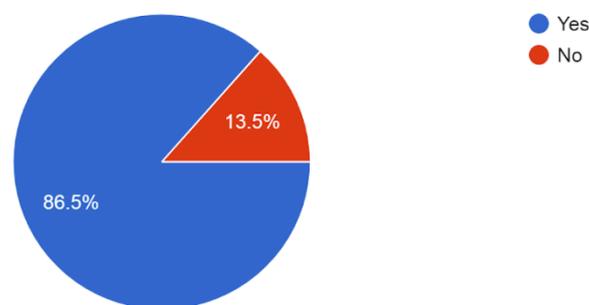


Fig. 3 Parental response rating about how school closures had impacted the family.

Both questions demonstrated that anxiety was still high and the impact on families was also high.

Over 50% of those who responded also felt their finances had been impacted.

Has the current situation had an impact on the family finances?

52 responses

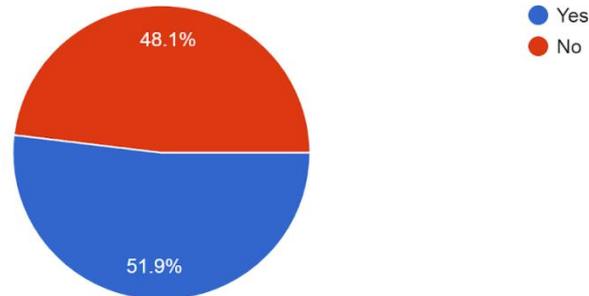


Fig. 4 Parental response rating about how family finances had been impacted.

Parents said themselves that:

Struggling to buy food and get treats for easter and birthday in and bits for are family night and have cross kids they can't go away for few days for Easter and we'd baking day which struggling to get what's needed

Food is more expensive and had to get hold of goods he will eat

Father has own business, which currently falls outside the Furlough or Self -Employed measures. However, all work has been cancelled - therefore no income for business.

Spending more than usual

Cheap items are not available for food and toiletries. Disposable nappies are not available and so have had to spend money on large reusable nappies. Very expensive. So is washing them at high temperatures.

Educational Support Survey

A further survey was conducted which received 12 responses. The survey looked at support from educational settings.

In answer to the question "is you school making regular welfare calls to you, to check on the well-being of your child and the rest f the family" 66.7% responded yes and 33.7% responded no.

Facebook Polls

Have you had contact/support from your child's school during lockdown?

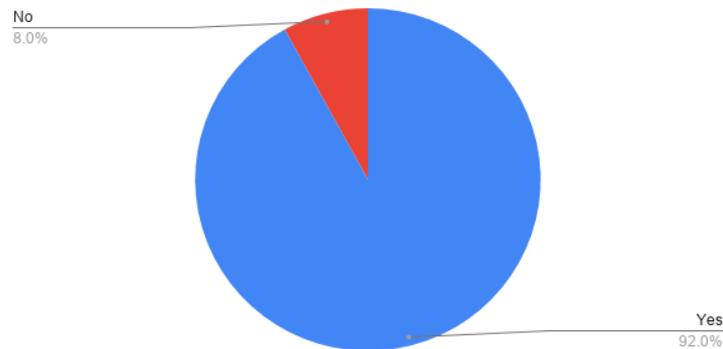


Fig. 5 Support during lock down

Has your child's school been providing you work during lockdown?

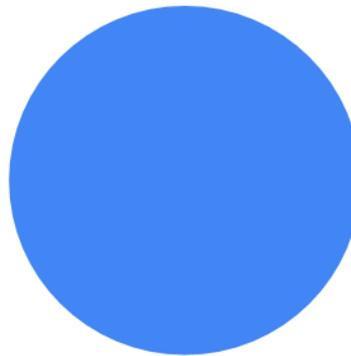


Fig. 6 Work being provided during lock down

Two Facebook polls were utilised to establish if contact had been made with families and if work was being supplied by settings.

How have FVP responded

1. FVP responded to the initial survey by conducting the second survey and setting up a phone line and email address for families to seek support.
2. A food support programme has also been established by FVP which links to free food supplied by Fare share
3. The responses to all surveys and polls have also been shared with Peterborough City Council Senior Officers

Where FVP have shared this Topic of Importance

1. FVP Website
2. FVP Social Media Channels
3. Peterborough City Council Commissioners

Next Steps and Areas for Consideration

1. FVP to explore new ways of supporting families during Lock Down
2. For PCC to consider the following in relation to the Local Offer specifically:
 - a. Setting up a page containing SEND specific information relating to COVID-19
 - b. Sharing information relating to support available during COVID-19
3. For PCC to consider different ways of still delivering the parent carer hub/ setting up a hotline direct to SENI services.
4. For PCC to look to new/ innovative ways of communicating with parent carers, especially relating to educational support availability.

Timescales

1. FVP will endeavour to pass the Topic of Interest to the LA within one weeks of completion and they will look to respond within four weeks. The timescales have been shortened in response to the pandemic