



Snapshot of Parents' Experiences of Childcare & Afterschool Care

February 2013

Voices of Parents

- *Many, many parents included comments about their current experiences of childcare & afterschool care*

Respondents

- 1,213 parents
- 74% were in a couple
- 26% were parenting alone.
- 1,978 children
- 788 - pre-school age
- 908 - primary
- 282 - secondary

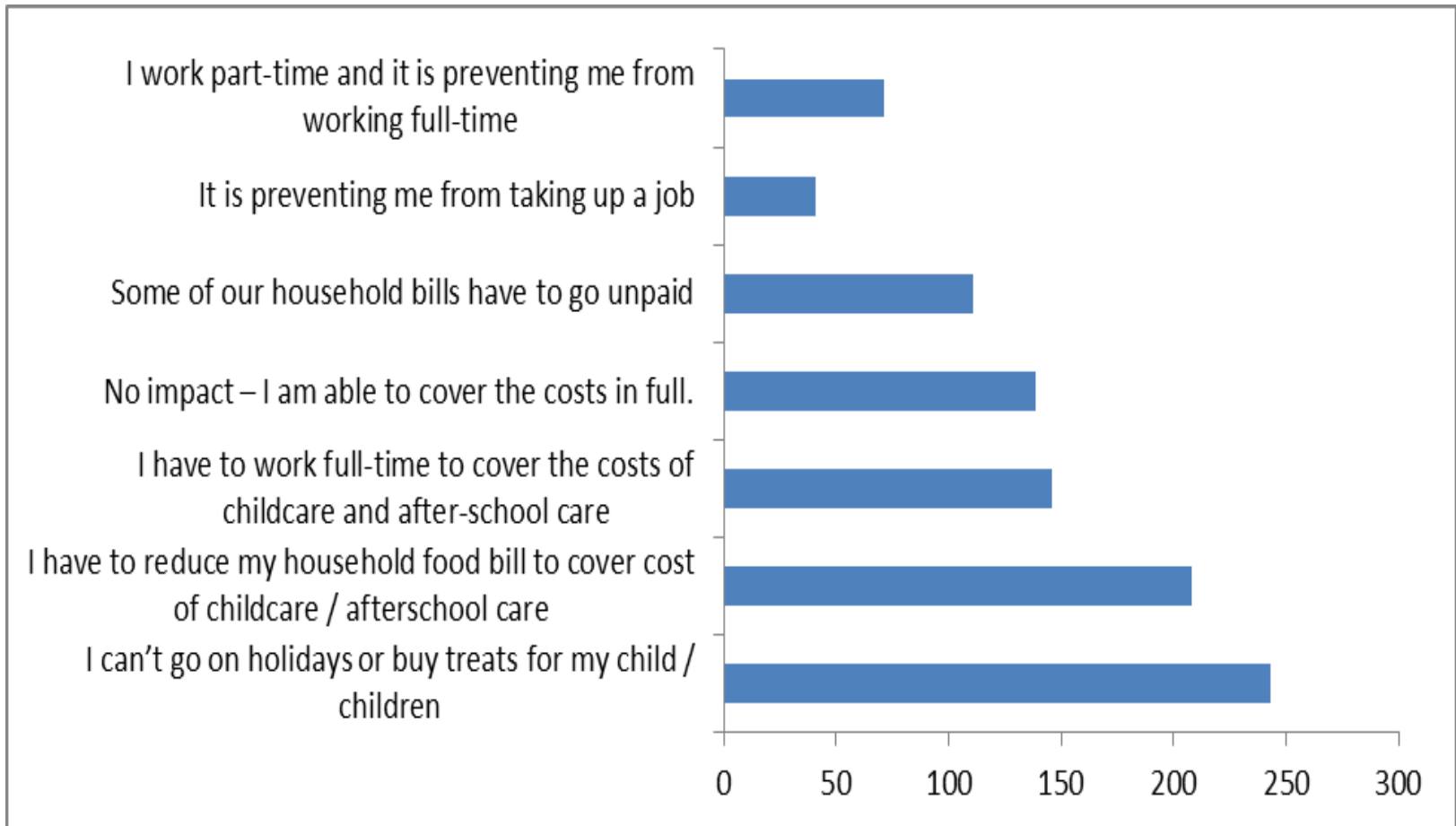
“After Childcare costs I earn no more than if living on social welfare, but work for my own fulfilment”

Evidence of 'juggling'

- Centre-based service
- Relatives
- Afterschool care
- Most parents used 1 type but some using multiple options *per child* (inc parental leave)

“We take parental leave 4 afternoons for afterschool care”

Current Impact Of Costs



“We have another 18 months of this situation until the youngest starts school. I'm counting the days. All our financial cushions are gone. There is nothing left”

Choices

- **Current Options**

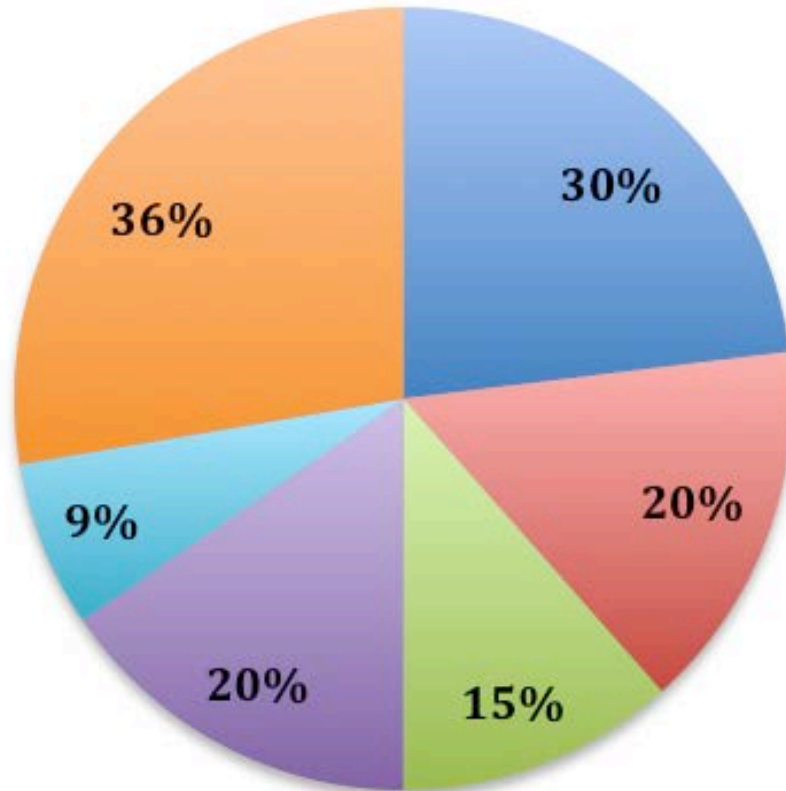
- Staff competence and quality of service provided topped the poll.
- Affordability, location and offering a recreational focus.

- **Future Investment**

- All staff and childminders be appropriately trained and vetted
- All services be registered, regulated and inspected

“Tightening of belt in all areas but able to make costs due to 2 wages. Larger than my mortgage”

In an Ideal World



■ Centre-based services

■ Registered Childminder

■ Relative

■ School based afterschool care

■ Non-school based afterschool care

■ Flexible work practices

“Causing stress in the home ..”

The Future

- **When asked would they accept an increase in taxes to help fund childcare and afterschool care services, 75% of those who responded said Yes**