

Appendix 2

0-2 childcare policy Engagement and consultation summary

Introduction

1. This paper sets out the engagement and consultation that took place for the proposed City of London Corporation 0-2 childcare policy.
2. A six-week public consultation on 0-2 childcare was carried out. This included an online survey (hard copies were also made available) and two drop-in sessions to allow residents and interested people to share their views in-person.

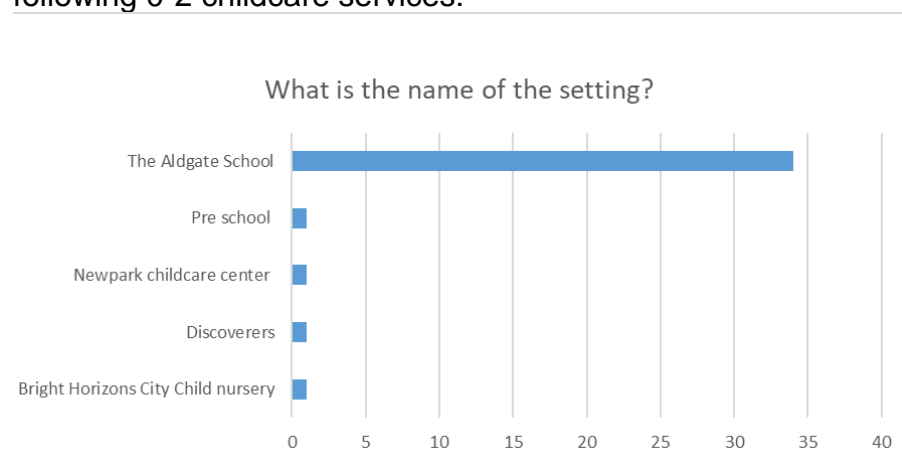
Public consultation

3. We wanted to know what is important to residents and other stakeholders to help inform the development of a 0-2 childcare policy. A survey was created to achieve this which included options for the 0-2 childcare policy from September 2026. A public consultation period was undertaken to gather feedback from parents and carers accessing or planning to access 0-2 childcare in the City of London, professionals who work in childcare or related settings in the City of London and other interested stakeholders including elected Members.
4. The consultation was open for six weeks (24 March to 2 May 2025). Six weeks was considered to be proportionate for this consultation.
5. The consultation information was sent by email directly to:
 - The Aldgate School
 - the Portal Trust (via The Aldgate School)
 - 0-2 childcare settings in the City of London
 - the City Parent Carer Forum
 - the City of London and Barbican parent carer networks, and the City of London women's network via the parent carer one
6. The consultation was promoted through:
 - the City Corporation website
 - the Family Information Service website – news page and 'What's On' page – and weekly on social media channels
 - City Living, our resident newsletter
 - posters in Golden Lane and Portsoken Community Centres
 - posters and newsletters by our estate offices
 - Healthwatch City of London newsletter

7. Hard copies of the survey were placed in the three City of London libraries and the Neaman Practice (the City of London's only GP surgery) but no responses were collected.
8. Hard copies were also available at The Aldgate School and nine completed surveys were received.
9. Translations of the consultation were offered but none were requested.
10. Two in-person events were held during the consultation period, one at The Aldgate School and one at the Sir Ralph Perring Centre on Golden Lane estate.

Online survey response data

11. There were 151 responses to the online consultation survey within the consultation period. Within this (respondents could tick multiple boxes if appropriate):
 - 85 respondents were City of London residents
 - 38 respondents access 0-2 childcare in the City of London
 - 4 respondents access 0-2 childcare outside of the City of London
 - 53 responders said that they may access childcare in the City of London in the next five years, 2025-2030
 - 56 respondents currently do not access 0-2 childcare
12. Those who access 0-2 childcare were asked to name the setting that they used. Respondents who access 0-2 childcare within the City of London named the following 0-2 childcare services:

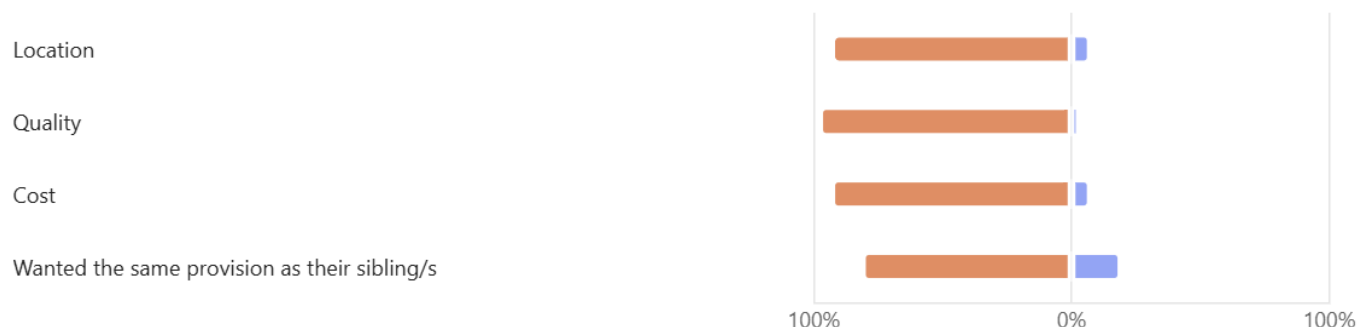


Four respondents said that they access 0-2 childcare settings outside of the City of London. They gave the following answers:

- Popcorn Nursery
- Wandsworth Day Nursery
- Childminder
- Unspecified nursery

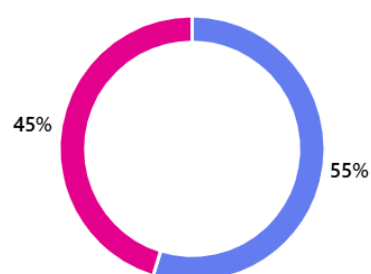
13. Question: What was important to you when you selected 0-2 childcare provision?

● Yes, this was important to me ● No, this wasn't important to me



14. Question: Is there anything else that was important to you?

● Yes 23
● No 19



15. The 23 respondents that answered yes that there was something else important to them when selecting 0-2 childcare provision, were asked to share what that was. The points raised covered:

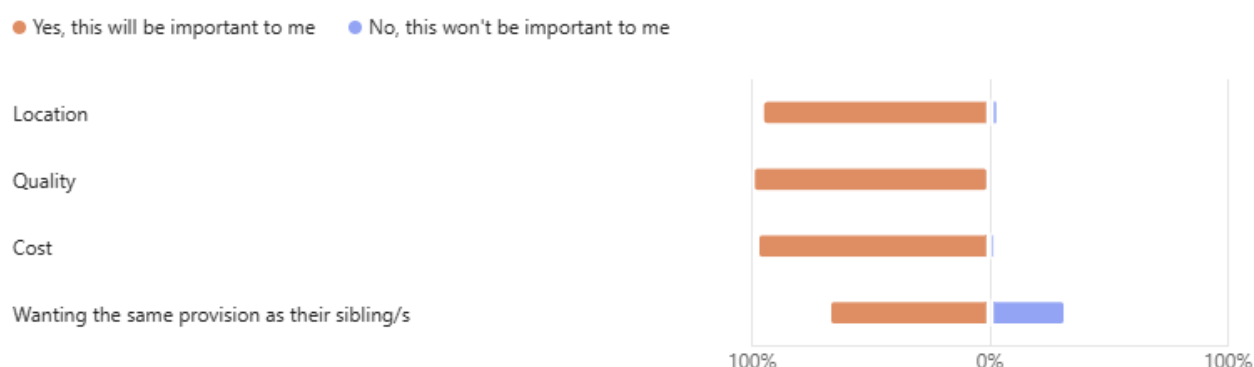
- ease of accessibility
- the subsidy for users of The Aldgate School

Other things that were mentioned, but not directly related to the 0-2 childcare policy included:

- community feel
- quality outdoor space
- continuity of nursery into school
- inter-age interaction



16. The 53 respondents that said that they may access 0-2 childcare in the next five years, 2025-2030 were asked: What do you think will be important to you when choosing this? The answers were as follows:



17. The respondents that said that they may access 0-2 childcare in the next five years, 2025-2030 were also asked: Is there anything else that you think will be important to you? The results are shown below:



18. The 21 respondents that answered yes that there was something else that may be important to them when selecting 0-2 childcare provision, were asked to share what that was. The points raised covered:

- the subsidy for users of The Aldgate School
- accessibility

Other things that were mentioned, but not directly related to the 0-2 childcare policy include:

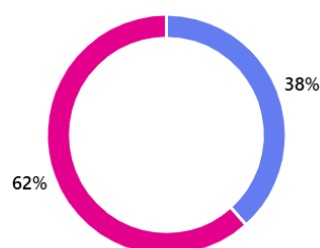
- quality of staff
- outdoor space
- care provision close to workplace
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision

19. Question: We have developed some options for 0-2 childcare in the City of London from September 2026. Please rank the options so that the one you would most like to see as part of a 0-2 Childcare Policy is at the top. The results were:

1. keep the subsidy for 0-2 childcare provision at The Aldgate School as it is, for City of London residents and non-residents. 75% of respondents ranked this first
2. change the subsidy to The Aldgate School for childcare provision so that there are different levels of subsidy for City residents and non-City residents. 50% of respondents ranked this second
3. change the subsidy to The Aldgate School for childcare provision so that it is only for City of London residents 36% of respondents ranked this third
4. explore a combination of a subsidy to The Aldgate School 0-2 childcare provision and a review of the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme. 36% of respondents ranked this fourth
5. review the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme eligibility criteria so more families can access it and remove the subsidy to The Aldgate School. 54% of respondents ranked this fifth
6. remove the subsidy for childcare provision at The Aldgate School and the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme. 87% of respondents ranked this sixth

20. Question: Is there anything you'd like to share about why you picked your top option?

● Yes 58
● No 93



21. From those who answered yes, the reasonings for their top options were:

- keeping the continuity of a system 'that isn't broken'
- no other subsidised options in the City
- need for accessible childcare to all

One respondent raised that the implications of the options that remove the subsidy weren't shared.

Other things that were mentioned, but not directly related to the 0-2 childcare policy include:

- convenience of dropping off children of different ages.
- ease for City workers



22. Question: If the City Corporation subsidises childcare provision for resident families through the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme from September 2026, what criteria should we use? Please rank in order of preference so that the most important to you is at the top. The respondents' rankings are below:

1. family income. 50% of respondents ranked this first
2. additional needs of child. 34% of respondents ranked this second
3. additional needs of parents/carers. 37% of respondents ranked this third

23. Respondents were asked: Is there anything else you think we should consider as eligibility criteria for subsidised childcare provision?

- yes - 27 respondents
- no - 124 respondents

Those who responded yes, there is something else we should consider as eligibility criteria for subsidised childcare provision, gave the following suggestions:

- access for City of London employees
- number of children
- siblings in the school
- single parent status
- socio-economic backgrounds
- NHS worker schemes

24. Question: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your thoughts on any future City Corporation 0-2 Childcare Policy? Do you have any comments, positively or negatively, about the impact of any potential change on your family?

- yes - 45
- no - 106

Those who responded yes expressed the following thoughts and comments:

- consult with those who most need the service
- the City Corporation's 0-2 childcare policy needs to guarantee continuity
- the 0-2 childcare provision is vital supporting families and workers

Hard copies from The Aldgate School

25. Nine hard copies were collected by The Aldgate School and passed to the City Corporation.

26. One respondent seeks a lease between the freeholder of the school and the City Corporation for the use of the space at the school for 0-2 childcare. This is a matter for the Governing Body and the freeholder as the Governing Body is responsible for all aspects of the school's management and services delivery, being a Voluntary Aided school.

27. The following results of the survey is based on the other eight responses.

28. Of the 8 respondents:

- two access 0-2 childcare in the City of London
- one accesses 0-2 childcare outside of the City of London
- two may access 0-2 childcare in the City of London in the next five years 2025-2030
- two currently do not access 0-2 childcare.
- one respondent left this section blank.

29. Both participants that access 0-2 childcare in the City of London use The Aldgate School. The respondent who accesses 0-2 childcare outside of the City of London did not disclose the setting they use.

30. Question: If you do access 0-2 childcare, what was the important to you when you selected your provision?

- Five respondents ticked the boxes for location, quality and cost. Four respondents ticked the box for wanting the same provision as their sibling/s.
- Note: one respondent that filled out this question earlier stated that they do not currently access 0-2 childcare, and one accesses 0-2 childcare outside of the City of London.

31. When asked if there was anything else that was important to them when selecting their provision, participants responded with views around:

- the quality of staff
- the quality of service
- affordable childcare

32. Question: If you said that you may access 0-2 childcare in the next five years, 2025-2030, what do you think will be important to you when choosing this?

- Five participants ticked boxes for location, quality and cost. Four respondents ticked the box for wanting the same provision as their sibling/s.

- Note: three participants that filled out this question earlier stated that they either access childcare within the City of London, outside of the City of London and or do not access 0-2 childcare provision.

33. Question: We have developed some options for 0-2 childcare in the City of London from September 2026. Please rank the options so that the one you would most like to see as part of a 0-2 Childcare Policy is at the top. The results were:

1. keep the subsidy for 0-2 childcare provision at The Aldgate School as it is, for City of London residents and non-residents. 100% of respondents ranked this first
2. explore a combination of a subsidy to The Aldgate School 0-2 childcare provision and a review of the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme. 87% of respondents ranked this as second
3. change the subsidy to The Aldgate School for childcare provision so that there are different levels of subsidy for City residents and non-City residents. 75% of respondents ranked this third
4. review the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme eligibility criteria so more families can access it and remove the subsidy to The Aldgate School. 50% of respondents ranked this as fourth
5. change the subsidy to The Aldgate School for childcare provision so that it is only for City of London residents. 62% ranked this as fifth
6. remove the subsidy for childcare provision at The Aldgate School and the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme. 100% of respondents ranked this sixth

34. Question: If the City Corporation subsidises childcare provision for resident families through the City Childcare Accessibility Scheme from September 2026, what criteria show we use? Please rank the options 1-3 where 1 is most important to you:

1. family income. 87% ranked this first.
2. additional needs of the parents/carers. 50% ranked this second. 50% ranked this third.
3. additional needs of child. 50% ranked this second. 50% ranked this third.

35. No comments were left when participants were asked about anything else we should consider as eligibility criteria for subsidised childcare provision.

36. No comments were left when participants were asked if there was anything else they would like to tell us about their thoughts on any future City Corporation 0-2 Childcare Policy.

Drop-in sessions

37. 10 parents and carers attended the drop-in session at The Aldgate School and 3 at the session on the Golden Lane Estate. Some of the participants disclosed that they had also completed the online consultation survey, therefore duplication of responses should be considered here.

38. Views shared at the two drop-in sessions have been summarised and themed below.

39. A key theme was around subsidy and affordability. Responses highlighted the following:

- the financial support was viewed as a meaningful way to assist families, with a response noting that subsidy for a short-term period, for example two years, per child would be reasonable and not a long-term financial commitment for the City
- one respondent shared their belief that subsidies represent a relatively small cost compared to other City of London Corporation expenditures.
- one respondent raised concerns regarding the transparency and clarity in communicating the details of the subsidy programme. Comments pointed to a need for better circulation of information to ensure that all stakeholders fully understand.
- one respondent shared that they thought the subsidy should only be for City of London residents
- there was a strong desire among three respondents to retain the subsidies for childcare. Parents and carers recognised that the financial assistance plays a pivotal role in making high-quality childcare facilities accessible to families, fostering inclusivity and alleviating financial strain

40. Another key theme that emerged was around accessibility and the commute. Responses highlighted the following:

- feedback emphasised that the location and ease of access are critical considerations for childcare, particularly for families that are balancing childcare with other responsibilities
- proximity to the services emerged as a key theme, with respondents generally agreeing that the time it took to access the service was reasonable and worthwhile when considering the quality of the service. Different methods of accessing the service such as by foot or public transport was highlighted as an advantage for childcare facilities like The Aldgate School, especially for residents of areas such as the Golden Lane Estate
- Limited mobility was raised by one attendee as an issue in accessing childcare
- 6 in-person respondents shared that they would agree to a fee increase or means-tested subsidy to access 0-2 childcare at The Aldgate School.

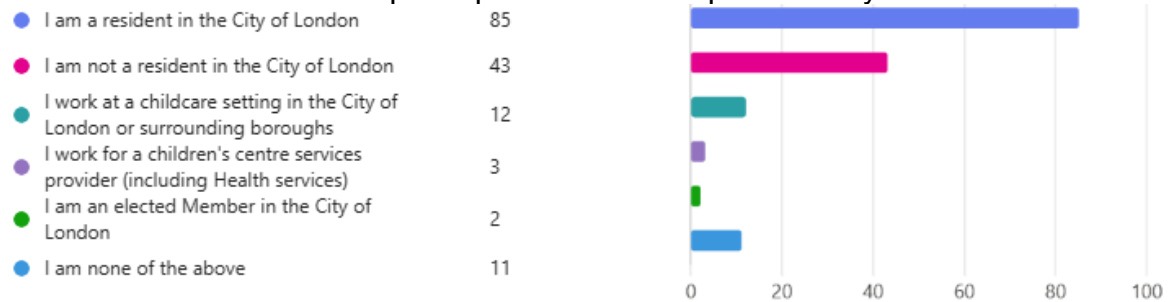
41. Other notable views that are not directly relevant to the 0-2 childcare policy but were captured included the importance of continuity of education, community and social benefits, outdoor space and facilities as well as staff quality. This feedback has been shared separately with the Early Years and Education team.

Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion (EEDI)

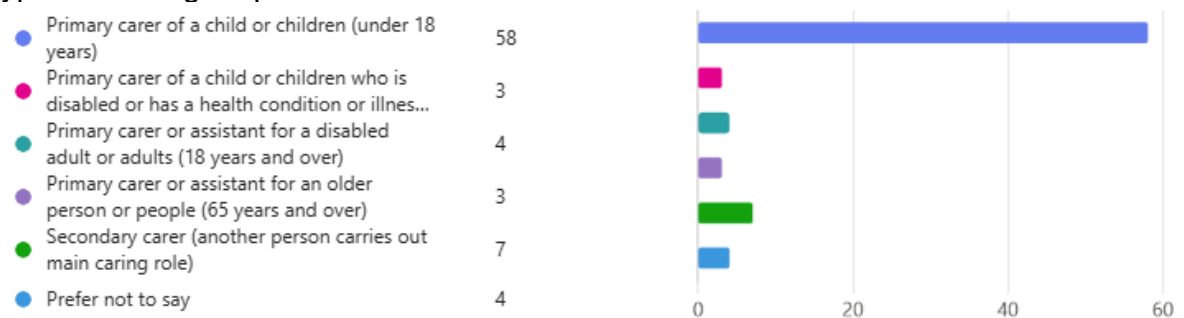
42. Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion data was collected from the online consultation survey and the hardcopies from The Aldgate School.

The online consultation survey:

43. The table below shows the participants relationship to the City of London:

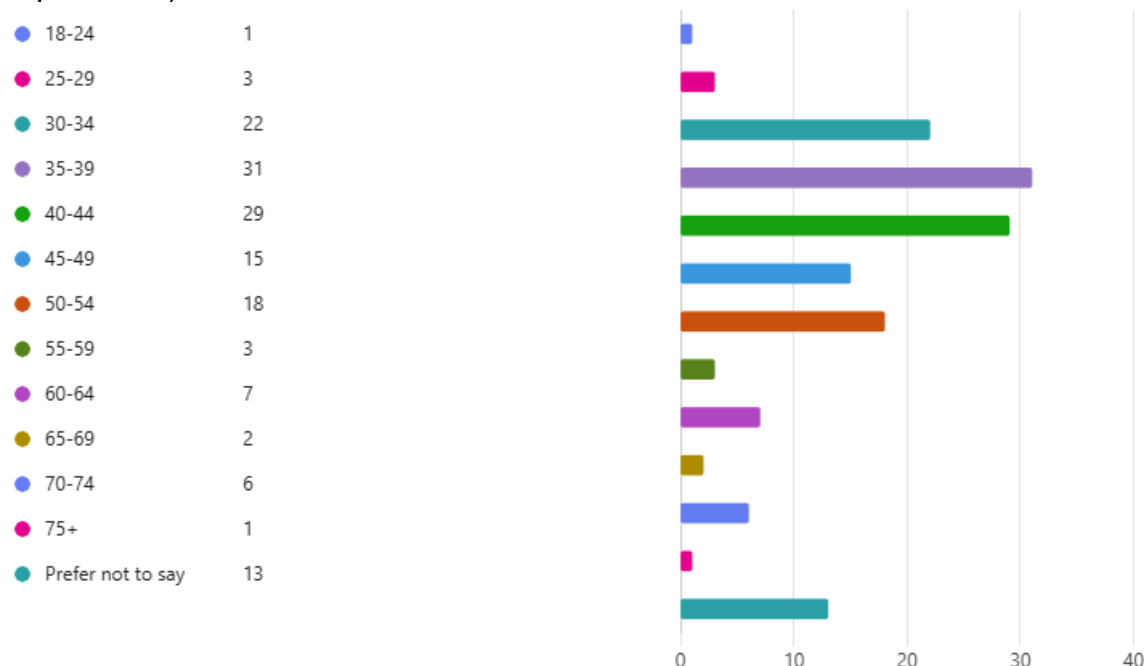


44. 73 respondents stated to have caring responsibilities. The breakdown of the types of caring responsibilities is shown below:

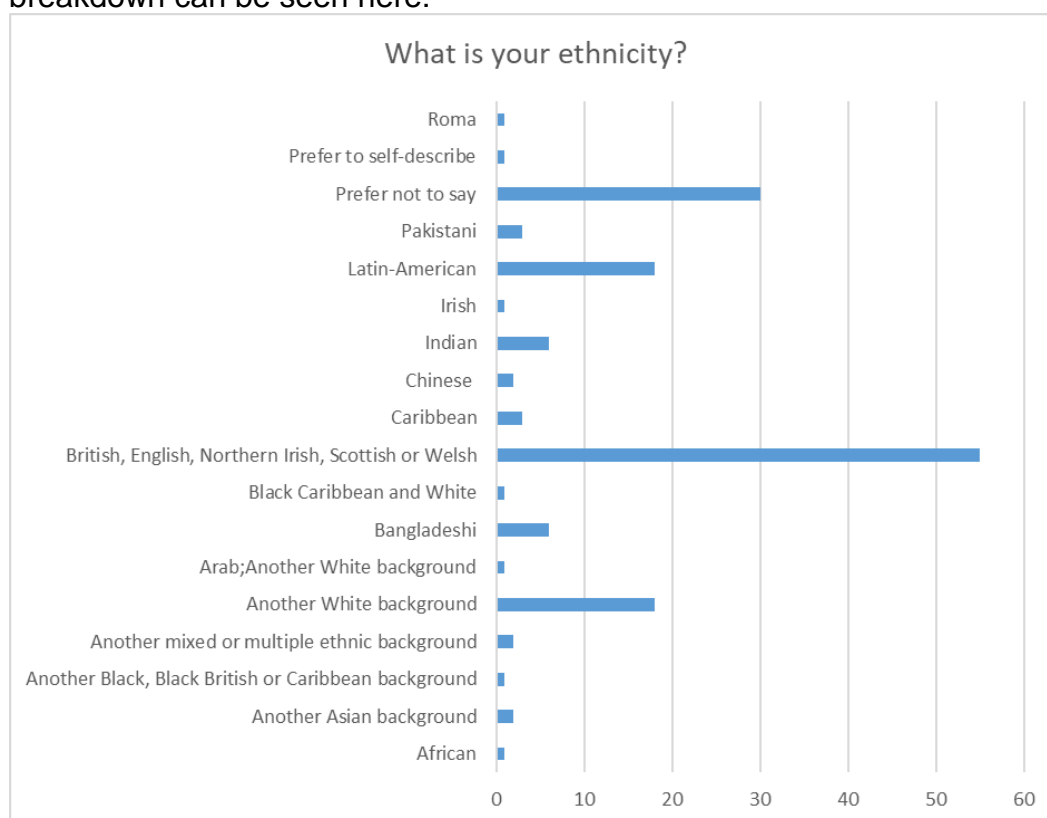


Survey results continue on the next page.

45. The majority of responses came from people aged 30-54 (125 respondents). The age group that had the highest number of responses were 35-39 (31 respondents).

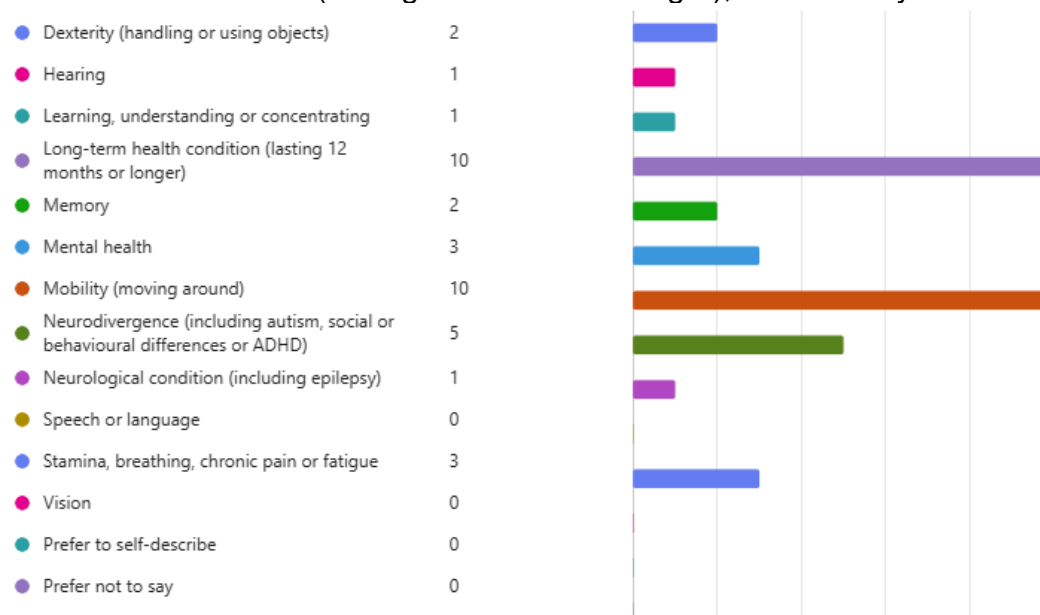


46. Most of the responses to the consultation came from those with British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh backgrounds (56 respondents). There was also a number of responses from other white backgrounds and Latin-American. A full breakdown can be seen here:



47. 93 of the responses to the consultation came from women. 39 responses came from men. There was one non-binary respondent. 18 respondents preferred not to state their gender. One respondent stated that they were trans-gender. 16 respondents preferred not to say whether they were transgender.

48. 19 respondents described themselves as disabled, have an impairment, long-term health condition or access need. The category of impairment, health condition or access needs that had the highest numbers of responses were long-term health conditions (lasting 12 months or longer), and mobility.



The hardcopies from The Aldgate School

49. Most of the respondents who filled out hardcopies of the consultation survey preferred to not disclose or left blank the EDI fields of the form.

The data below is from those who did disclose their EDI data:

- there was one respondent who chose man when disclosing their gender
- there were three respondents who chose woman when disclosing their gender
- respondents aged between 35-44
- two respondents stated that they were the primary caregiver of a child (under 18 years old)
- the ethnicity of those who responded included, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Indian
- no participants identified as trans
- no participants disclosed having a disability, impairment, long-term health condition or access need

How were the consultation findings used?

50. The consultation findings were reviewed and taken into consideration in the development of the proposed City of London 0-2 childcare policy. Feedback not directly related to this policy has been shared with the Education and Early Years team for separate review.