



Northern Lights Business Park  
Rossfield Road  
Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire  
CH65 0AE  
t: 0151 356 3176  
e: info@cheshireyoungcarers.com

## **Remote Learning Survey- January / February 2021**

### Introduction-

Cheshire Young Carers supports children who are young carers in Cheshire.

In January 2021 Ofsted published a report on remote education research (home schooling) where the findings appeared to mirror the feedback from young carers and families in Cheshire. As part of our proactive welfare calls over the first two weeks in February Cheshire Young Carers conducted a piece of research to compare the experiences of young carers (and their families) in Cheshire East & West with the national benchmarks from the Ofsted research.

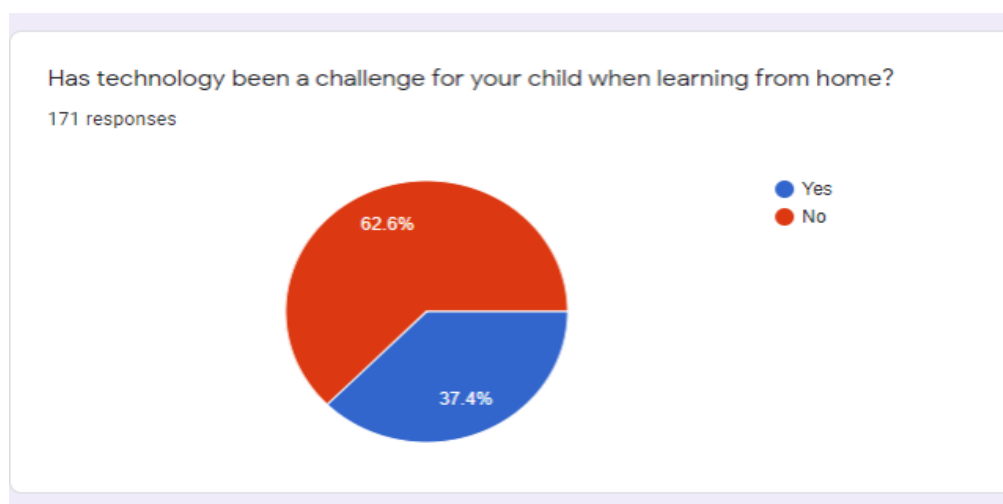
171 young carer families participated in our research. Of the 171 participants, 76 of them were from Cheshire East (44.4%) and 95 of them were from Cheshire West (55.6%). The data for each question has been broken down into Cheshire East and Cheshire West.

The data in this report has also been compared to the national average which was undertaken by the DFE and Ofsted in January 2021. The Link to the report is here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-research/remote-education-research>.

Since March 2020, the need for and the expectations placed on remote education have changed considerably. Since January 2021, remote education has been a requirement by all schools, so that pupils can continue with their learning.

Question 1-

**Has technology been a challenge for your child when learning from home?**



	Cheshire West		Cheshire East		Total Cheshire		National
Technology NOT an issue	59	34.8%	48	27.8%	107	62.6%	
Technology HAD been an issue	36	20.8%	28	16.6%	64	37.4%	34%

Cheshire East		
Technology NOT an issue	48	63%
Technology HAD been an issue	28	37%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Technology NOT an issue	59	62%
Technology HAD been an issue	36	38%
Total responses	95	

**Comment**

*37% of our participants stated that Technology had been an issue for them in regard to remote learning. Nationally young carers are already likely to be nine grades below their peer group at GCSE, therefore anything that makes this situation more difficult is cause for concern.*

Question 2-

## Has motivation been a challenge for your child when learning from home?



	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Motivation NOT an issue	28	20.8%	36	16.6%	64	37.4%	
Motivation HAD been an issue	48	34.8%	59	27.8%	107	62.6%	36%

Cheshire East		
Motivation NOT an issue	28	37%
Motivation HAD been an issue	48	63%
Total responses	76	

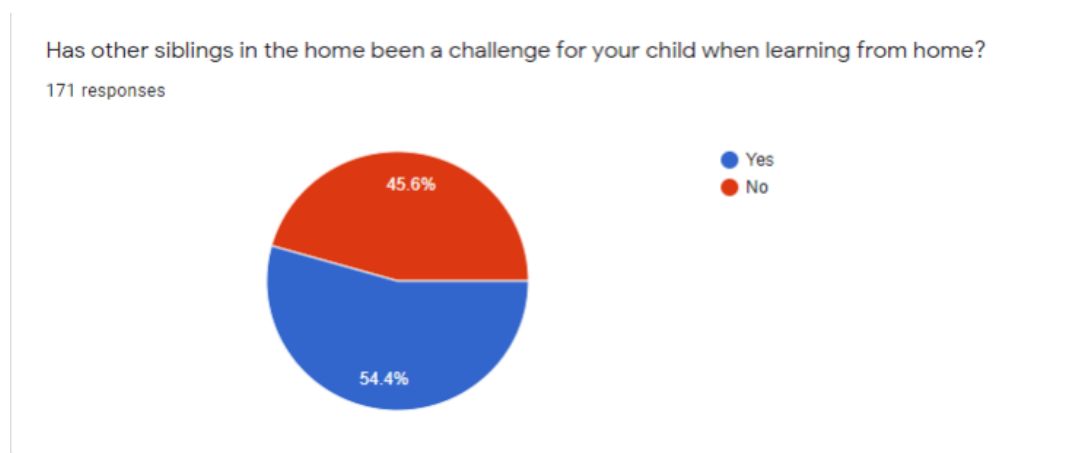
Cheshire West		
Motivation NOT an issue	36	38%
Motivation HAD been an issue	59	62%
Total responses	95	

### Comment

*Compared to the National average where 36% of participants stated that motivation had been an issue, we had a higher response as 62.6% of young carer participants stated that motivation had been an issue with remote learning.*

### Question 3-

## Have other siblings in the home been a challenge for your child when learning from home?



	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Other siblings NOT an issue	35	25.4%	43	20.2%	78	45.6%	
Other Siblings HAD been an issue	41	30.2%	52	24.2%	93	54.4%	18%

Cheshire East		
Other siblings NOT an issue	35	46%
Other siblings HAD been an issue	41	54%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Other siblings NOT an issue	43	45%
Other siblings HAD been an issue	52	55%
Total responses	95	

### Comment

*Compared to the National average where 18% of participants stated that other siblings in the home had been an issue, we had a much higher response as 54.4% of our participants stated that they had also found other siblings in the home had been an issue with remote learning. This reflects on the caring role that young carers have.*

Question 4-

**Does your child's school offer live lessons?**



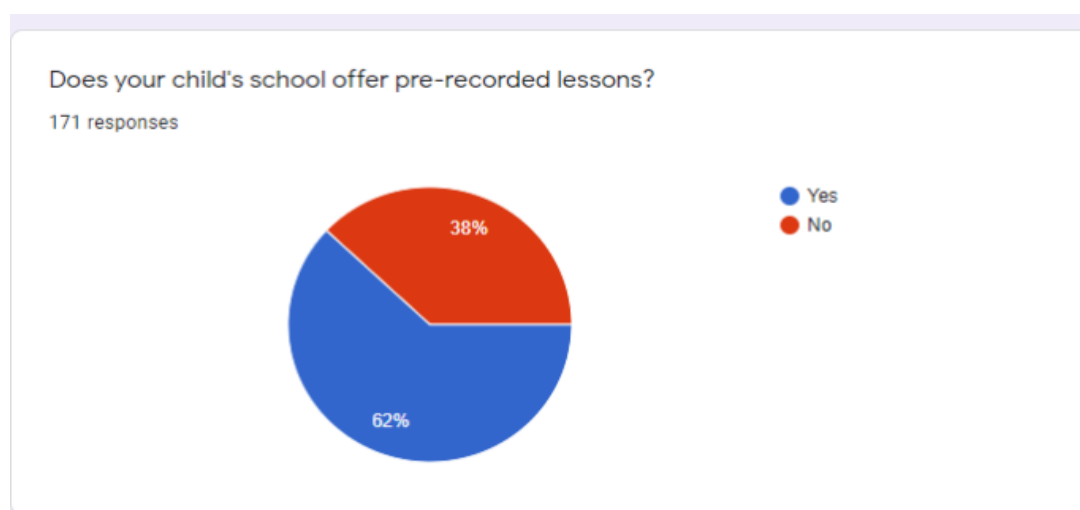
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
School does NOT offer live lessons	18	13.0%	22	10.4%	40	23.4%	
School DOES offer live lessons	58	42.6%	73	34.0%	131	76.6%	74% of Secondary Schools, 35% of Primary schools.

Cheshire East		
School does NOT offer live lessons	18	24%
School DOES offer live lessons	58	76%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
School does NOT offer live lessons	22	23%
School DOES offer live lessons	73	77%
Total responses	95	

Question 5-

## Does your child's school offer pre-recorded lessons?



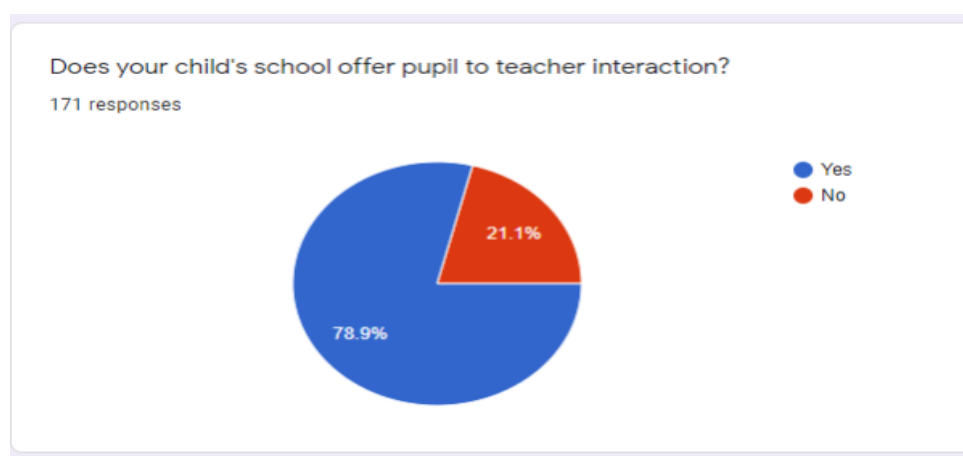
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
School does NOT offer pre-recorded lessons	29	21.1%	36	16.9%	65	38%	
School DOES offer pre-recorded lessons	47	34.5%	59	27.5%	106	62%	44% of Secondary schools, 39% of Primary schools.

Cheshire East		
School does NOT offer pre-recorded lessons	29	38%
School DOES offer pre-recorded lessons	47	62%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
School does NOT offer pre-recorded lessons	36	38%
School DOES offer pre-recorded lessons	59	62%
Total responses	95	

Question 6-

## Does your child's school offer pupil to teacher interaction?



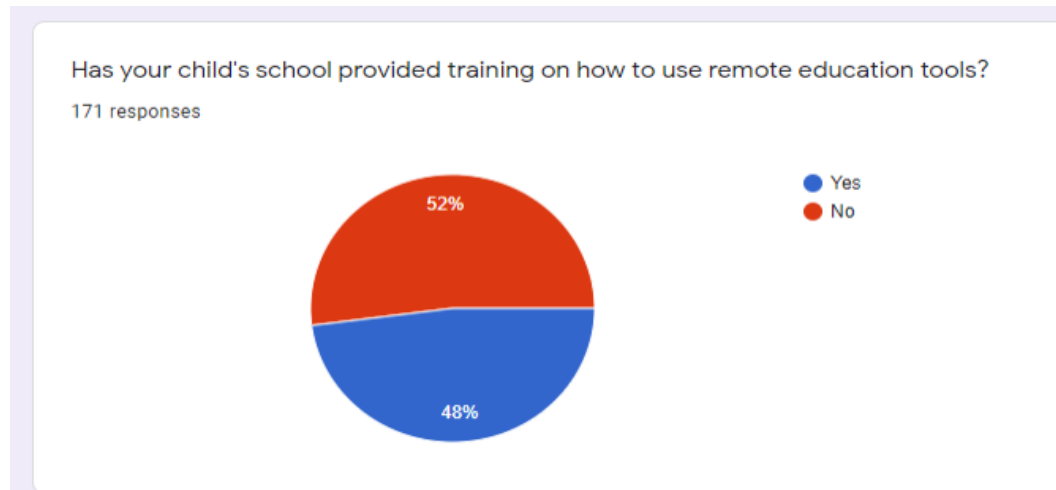
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
School does NOT offer pupil to teacher interaction	16	11.7%	20	9.4%	36	21.1%	
School DOES offer pupil to teacher interaction	60	43.9%	75	35.0%	135	78.9%	17% of Secondary schools, 12% of Primary schools.

Cheshire East		
School does NOT offer pupil to teacher interaction	16	21%
School DOES offer pupil to teacher interaction	60	79%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
School does NOT offer pupil to teacher interaction	20	21%
School DOES offer pupil to teacher interaction	75	79%
Total responses	95	

Question 7-

## Has your child's school provided training on how to use remote education tools?



	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
School does NOT offer training	40	28.9%	49	23.1%	89	52%	
School DOES offer training	36	26.7%	46	21.3%	82	48%	40%

Cheshire East		
School does NOT offer training	40	53%
School DOES offer training	36	47%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
School does NOT offer training	49	52%
School DOES offer training	46	48%
Total responses	95	



Question 8-

**Have you received any contact from your child's school by email?**



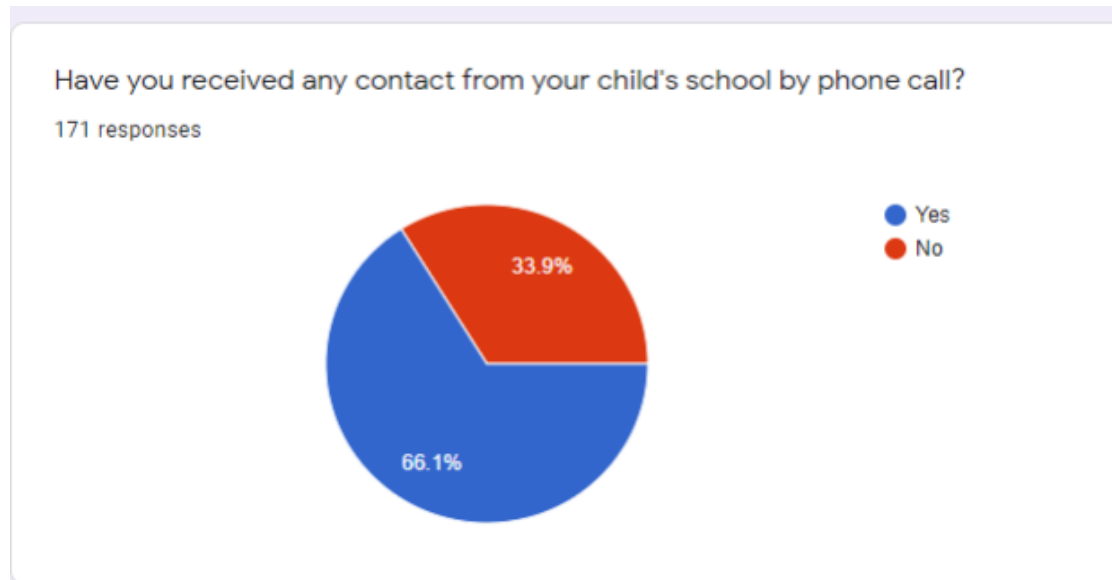
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been contacted by email	11	7.8%	13	6.2%	24	14%	
HAS been contacted by email	65	47.8%	82	38.2%	147	86%	

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been contacted by email	11	14%
HAS been contacted by email	65	86%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Has NOT been contacted by email	13	14%
HAS been contacted by email	82	86%
Total responses	95	

Question 9-

## Have you received any contact from your child's school by phone call?



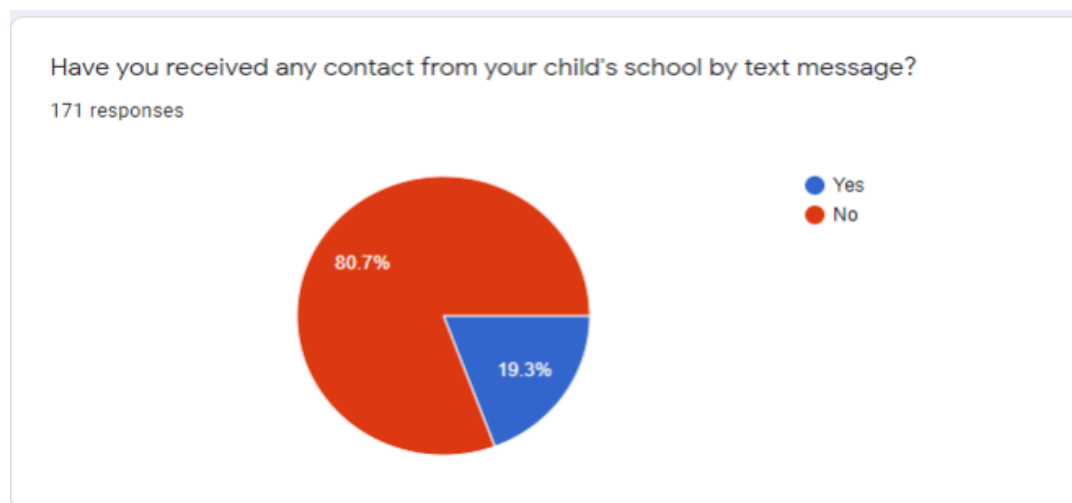
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been contacted by phone call	26	18.8%	32	15.1%	58	33.9%	
HAS been contacted by phone call	50	36.8%	63	29.3%	113	66.1%	

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been contacted By phone call	26	34%
HAS been contacted by phone call	50	66%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Has NOT been contacted By phone call	32	34%
HAS been contacted by phone call	63	66%
Total responses	95	

Question 10-

## Have you received any contact from your child's school by text message?



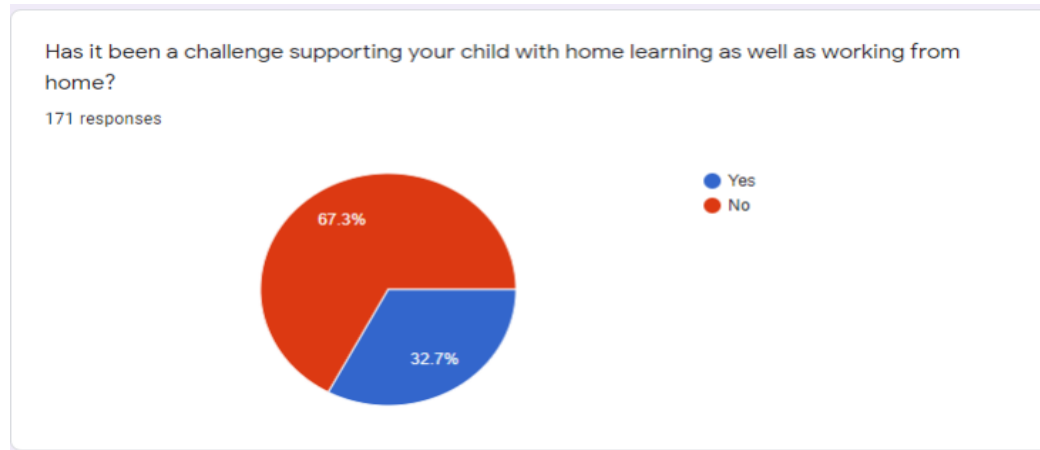
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been contacted by text message	61	44.9%	77	35.8%	138	80.7%	
HAS been contacted by text message	15	10.7%	18	8.6%	33	19.3%	

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been contacted By text message	61	80%
HAS been contacted by text message	15	20%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Has NOT been contacted By text message	77	81%
HAS been contacted by text message	18	19%
Total responses	95	

Question 11-

**Has it been a challenge supporting your child with home learning as well as working from home?**



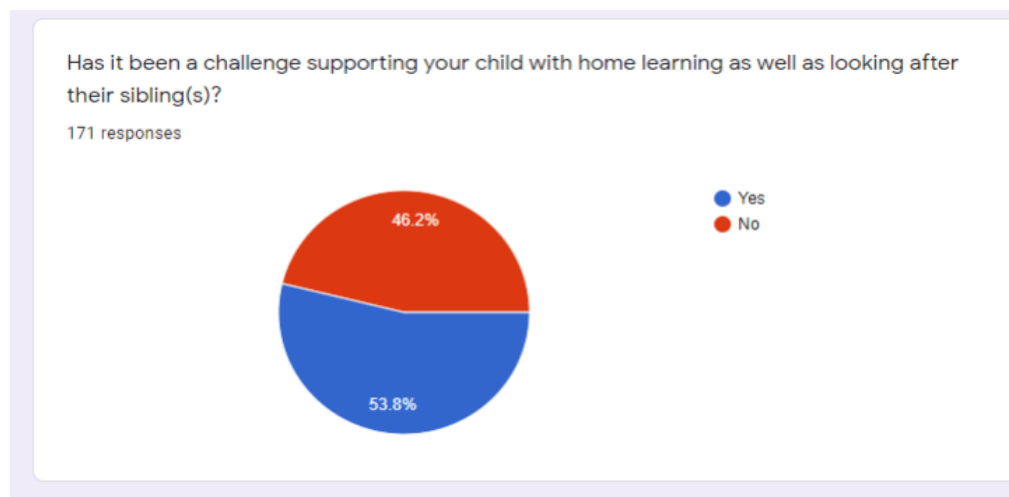
	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been a challenge	51	37.4%	64	29.9%	115	67.3%	
HAS been a challenge	25	18.2%	31	14.5%	56	32.7%	

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been a challenge	51	67%
HAS been a challenge	25	33%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Has NOT been a challenge	64	67%
HAS been a challenge	31	33%
Total responses	95	

Question 12-

**Has it been a challenge supporting your child with home learning as well as looking after their siblings?**



	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been a challenge	35	25.7%	44	20.5%	79	46.2%	
HAS been a challenge	41	29.9%	51	23.9%	92	53.8%	18%

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been a challenge	35	46%
HAS been a challenge	41	54%
Total responses	76	

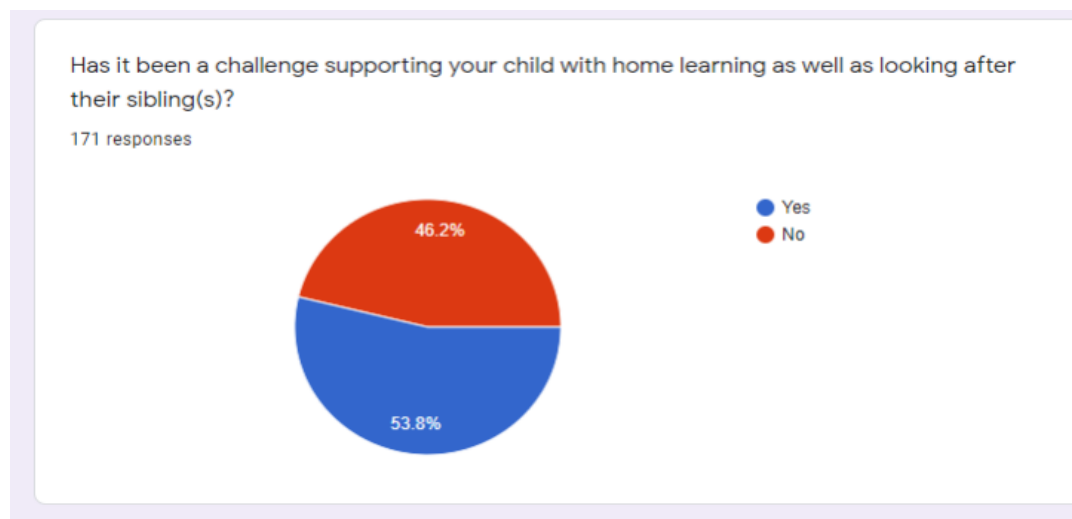
Cheshire West		
Has NOT been a challenge	44	46%
HAS been a challenge	51	54%
Total responses	95	

*Comment*

*The National average showed that 18% of participants struggled with balancing learning between siblings compared more than 50% of our total participants. This is further indication of the challenges within family dynamics of young carer families.*

Question 13-

**Has it been a challenge supporting your child with home learning whilst having no access to interventions?**



	Cheshire East		Cheshire West		Total Cheshire		National
Has NOT been a challenge	40	29.6%	51	23.6%	91	53.2%	
HAS been a challenge	36	26.0%	44	20.8%	80	46.8%	

Cheshire East		
Has NOT been a challenge	40	53%
HAS been a challenge	36	47%
Total responses	76	

Cheshire West		
Has NOT been a challenge	51	54%
HAS been a challenge	44	46%
Total responses	95	

Below is a list of all comments made at the end of the survey by the participants.

- Thank you for calling
- sometimes school doesn't explain things well which makes it hard to teach from home
- different school start times for different children makes things hard. YC don't want to ask for support from school
- missing friends and social side of school
- school assumes everyone has technology and understanding of how to access home learning
- amount of work is too high, sometimes they struggle to finish and have very long days. difficulty accessing/affording pen, paper, and printer ink
- I keep 'in the know' with Google Classroom as I can check their activities and that they're doing their work which is handy
- They have now adapted well to virtual learning and are working more successfully than during the first lockdown
- Too much schoolwork being given
- School have been very supportive
- Contacted school to explain it was a challenge doing the virtual learning, so we are now just working through tasks sent by school rather than having to be online and school have been very understanding
- child is achieving good results
- She has adapted well to virtual learning. Her brother is attending school as he has an EHCP, so this helps as she has a break from him and no distractions whilst she's working
- struggling with exercise and devices
- school sends videos out of instructions, but child doesn't always understand them
- We have an on-Apple computer which is quite slow, so he's been trying to do work on his phone which has been challenging. Dad is working from home also and he doesn't want to disturb him to ask for support. School have been very supportive; we called last week and luckily they have now offered him a place which has been so much better for him.
- My children are all different ages, so it has been difficult to help them all and occupy the youngest
- Looking forward to them going back to school!
- I'm very lucky as I am furloughed so can spend my time helping the girls with their schoolwork.
- Not much contact from the school at all
- No 1:1 with the teachers, just a generic email sent to all parents
- He's getting on really well with online learning, no problems and school call us once or twice a week which has been brilliant.
- Only had one phone call from her tutor
- No pupil to teacher interaction at all from the high school and only a phone call from the pastoral team
- We have found it helps taking regular breaks and getting outside/taking the dog for a walk
- Mum has a brain injury so struggles to help with home learning

- YC is struggling with mental health. YC's personal tutor is very poor but gran doesn't think it is the college as they're good with her other son
- She has adapted well to online learning
- Brother is at school, so he doesn't have any distractions and is getting on well with home learning
- Brother at school so she is getting a break from him and getting on well with online learning
- She is getting on well with home learning and also keeping busy with lots of online activities including CYC's
- Very impressed with how school is handling things
- School have been very organised, and he has Zoom lessons 8.30am-3pm which keeps him busy
- Motivation is the biggest issue; school doesn't seem to offer support with this
- Technology was an issue as he was just using his phone, but he now has a device on loan
- Prefers learning from home due to previous bullying
- School is helpful when needed, but not proactive about offering help/guidance without being asked
- We are working on paper worksheets
- School have provided a structured timetable which works well
- School have now sent an iPad to the home
- Sibling is attending school
- We have a Support Worker who acts as a 'go between' with school and that has been really helpful. School also now do a Flexible Friday with no live lessons but chance for the pupils to catch up on work from the week.
- Tablet provided by the school but school staff not communicating with each other
- Sharing laptop with siblings and no contact from the college at all
- Tablet provided for by the school
- School has been in touch often but juggling 4 children is difficult
- Internet is intermittent, and mum has health issues which makes it hard to access at the correct times
- As the YC is older she can work by herself, parent feels they would struggle if she was younger. brother can be challenging, and school is her normal respite
- Motivation has decreased throughout lockdown
- Coping much better now she has a place at school as she has the support she needs from teachers etc.
- I only hear off the college when something needs to be submitted
- We get a generic email every Friday from the school
- Luckily, we bought her a laptop for Christmas and we are saving for a decent printer as there is a lot of work to print out for Science; school have been very understanding though
- He has also had messages from school via Teams
- Only had one phone call from school throughout which was only from reception
- Young Carer refusing to participate in remote learning, just causes daily arguments



- Young carer has a 1:1 in school so it is hard at home as he has two siblings
- It has been very difficult helping both the young carer and his siblings with all of their lessons.
- We have to have 4 live lessons at the same time which is very difficult
- The school have been very helpful
- I'm very disappointed that I have had no contact from school at all
- Online learning is following the normal school day and lessons
- Great communication with the school
- School refuser- will not engage in education in any way
- Being at home 24/7 has been difficult. would prefer all children in full time as some are some aren't
- ADHD has caused YC to struggle a lot. School has provided a laptop but also send paperwork as it helps with concentration
- I am still working so unable to provide much support
- We are completing paper worksheets but accessing the virtual lessons
- Young carer is getting on great and working very hard
- Both Young Carers access their lessons from their rooms and just get on with it, they are doing so well
- School only contact for negative reasons- lateness and work not being completed etc
- Getting on really well
- All contact is negative and generic- no well-being checks on the pupils
- They are doing well with home learning
- The main challenge has been his health issues, but school have been very understanding
- Causing a lot of arguments in the house.
- She's engaging well with lessons and getting out for exercise regularly
- School provided all devices needed
- Much prefers learning from home than being in school
- It has been difficult sometimes as I have to go to work in the afternoons so I can't check that she's getting the work done
- Both doing better than we anticipated with the lockdown and me shielding
- They are doing well with remote learning despite the circumstances and me having to shield



## How many Young Carers are there in Cheshire?

In October 2019 the BBC undertook research with Nottingham University, which states 1 in 5 children in education are young carers. In Cheshire that translates to c37,219 children who are likely to be young carers. The majority do not receive any statutory support and c32% are likely to be providing high levels of care meaning that without the support offered by young carers families would have probably have to rely on social services more.

Area	Total School Children	Estimated number of young carers in Cheshire	Estimated number providing high level of care
Cheshire West & Chester	52,317	11,510	3,683
Cheshire East	59,317	13,174	4,216
Halton	22,075	4,857	1,554
Warrington	34,898	7,678	2,457
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>169,172</b>	<b>37,219</b>	<b>11,910</b>

## Cheshire Young Carers

Cheshire Young Carers provides respite support for young carers in Cheshire, particularly in school holiday periods when young carers feel most isolated.

They tend to be socially excluded, performing below their peer group at school and regularly feel they are being bullied. A young carer is a child aged 6 to 18 who carries out activities that can be defined as “providing care” for a parent/guardian or sibling. Many of them do not qualify for any kind of statutory support. The carer role they undertake can range from occasionally looking after a sibling to supporting an adult with medical interventions, general housework, preparing meals and generally running the household. A significant number of young carers are in single-parent families, many are in low-income families, many struggle with schoolwork and some received very little positive reinforcement at home.

The next page provides a brief overview of the support options offered to young carers.

## **This is what we do.....**

### **Working with Schools.**

We have developed a unique assessment tool, which accurately measures the impact a caring role is having upon a young carers' attainment, attendance and emotional wellbeing in schools. We are delivering on-going staff briefings, assemblies and PSHE work so we can identify and support more young carers. This in turn will increase the number of referrals into our respite activities. We work closely with schools to set up in-school after school clubs specifically tailored for their educational needs. Cheshire Young Carers aim to improve both attendance rates and educational outcomes amongst these young people and make a real difference to a young carer's future.

The **three-step** plan is as follows;

1. **To identify** - Cheshire Young Carers have a number of strategies to help Schools raise the awareness of young carers in school. The strategies will provide both school staff and pupils with the relevant information regarding young carers, so that they and you can make informed choices.
2. **To assess** - Our unique "Assessment Tool" provides schools with a practical means of quantifying the amount of care a young carer is undertaking. As a consequence, a school may then tailor support on an individual basis; thereby improving educational outcomes. The tool not only provides the school with a clear indication in terms of the level of support a young carer requires but may be used to present Ofsted with an evidence-based account of how the school is actively supporting their vulnerable pupil category.
3. **Action plan** - Using the information from the assessment tool to devise pupil centered action plans to support each pupil with simple, time limited strategies have been designed to generate a significant increase in educational outcomes.

### **School Holiday Programmes**

These programmes have been designed to overcome a key period of stress for young carers when they can be expected to provide 24/7 support. Our focus on this area is a direct result of feedback from young carers. We now offer activity programmes during every school holiday period with a variety of activities based around Cheshire and on many occasions provide meals.

### **Regular Drop in Sessions**

These sessions operate in a number of centres across Cheshire on a bi-weekly basis. They are designed to offer young carers engaging activities that are fun and to crucially help break down isolation amongst young carers.

### **YAC Programme (Teenagers)**

The young adult carers (YAC) programme is designed for our teenager cohort is designed to provide stimulating activities that they design themselves, to create like-minded friendship groups and to improve independence amongst this age group.

### **In To Work Programme**

This complements our YAC programme by taking small groups of teenagers into places of work with the aim of broadening their horizons, showing them different employment opportunities and encouraging them to focus on educational attainment to achieve their life goals.

### **Residential Experiences**

These are always the most valued experiences for young carers and within the funds available we try to provide as many of these as possible. They take significant staff resources and tend to be expensive, but the feedback is always staggeringly positive

### **One to One Support Packages**

With our limited resources we are only able to support a small number of children in this programme, however it does allow us to support some of the most vulnerable young carers in Cheshire