



Bolton Together Early Years Delivery Report January - March 2025

Bolton

Together

1.0 Introduction

Welcome to our January to March 2025 Bolton Together Early Years Report. This quarter, the 10 funded VCSE providers have continued to support Bolton families and developed new offers, with new short term funding.

Key areas of support from January to March have included:

- Infant feeding support.
- Walking and Wheeling with Bumps, Boobs and Buggies.
- Pause, Engage, Play - offering Parent Engagement opportunities specifically for fathers.
- Solihull parenting groups.
- Stay-and-play sessions.
- Parent Engagement.
- Perinatal and parent-infant mental health support.

2.0 Bolton Together Update

Bolton Together has continued to build on our successful early years delivery through targeted support, resource sharing, and accessible information. Notable achievements during this period include:

- Co-developed the Family Hub Welcome Video and contributed to the Family Hub Workforce Matrix, ensuring consistent messaging and clarity across teams.
- Met with Cheshire East Family Hubs to share and exchange good practice, building regional collaboration.
- Planned and hosted a successful celebration event, bringing together providers and partners to recognise achievements.
- Worked in partnership with Public Health's Let's Keep Bolton Moving to produce a filmed session featuring some of our providers.
- Collaborated with Family Hub teams to launch new Family Hub social media pages, and shared these platforms with providers to improve reach and visibility for families.
- Supported the regular update of the Family Hub Guide, ensuring it remains current and relevant.
- Held our quarterly partnership meeting at Bolton Wanderers Stadium, strengthening stakeholder relationships and shared priorities.
- Delivered a safeguarding briefing event for members in partnership with the Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Developed a presentation for inclusion in the Network Bites training, contributing to professional development across early years staff.
- Contributed to Infant Feeding and Perinatal Infant Mental Health mapping to inform local strategy and provision.
- Joined the Compassion Circle programme to embed trauma-informed practice across our work.
- Identified key service gaps and strategically allocated funding to address unmet needs.
- Maintained a consistent presence at all Family Hub Operational meetings.
- Participated in the Blackrod Family Hub Network meeting.
- Attended the Bolton Deaf Society Workshop, with plans to have our Early Years Providers attend training.
- Six quality visits have been completed. The findings will be compiled into a report and shared with our board. These findings are also discussed with our commissioned providers, highlighting both areas of good practice and opportunities for joined up working. Examples include; adding Bolton's new Stop Smoking information to the resources shared with parents attending Breastfeeding Together's Safer Sleep workshops, and clarifying risk reporting processes within Family Hubs to ensure Family Hub Risk Assessments are updated alongside providers' own assessments.

Bolton Together Celebration Evening

In February we held our first celebration evening to recognise the hard work and dedication of our members and the work they do for children, young people and families across Bolton.

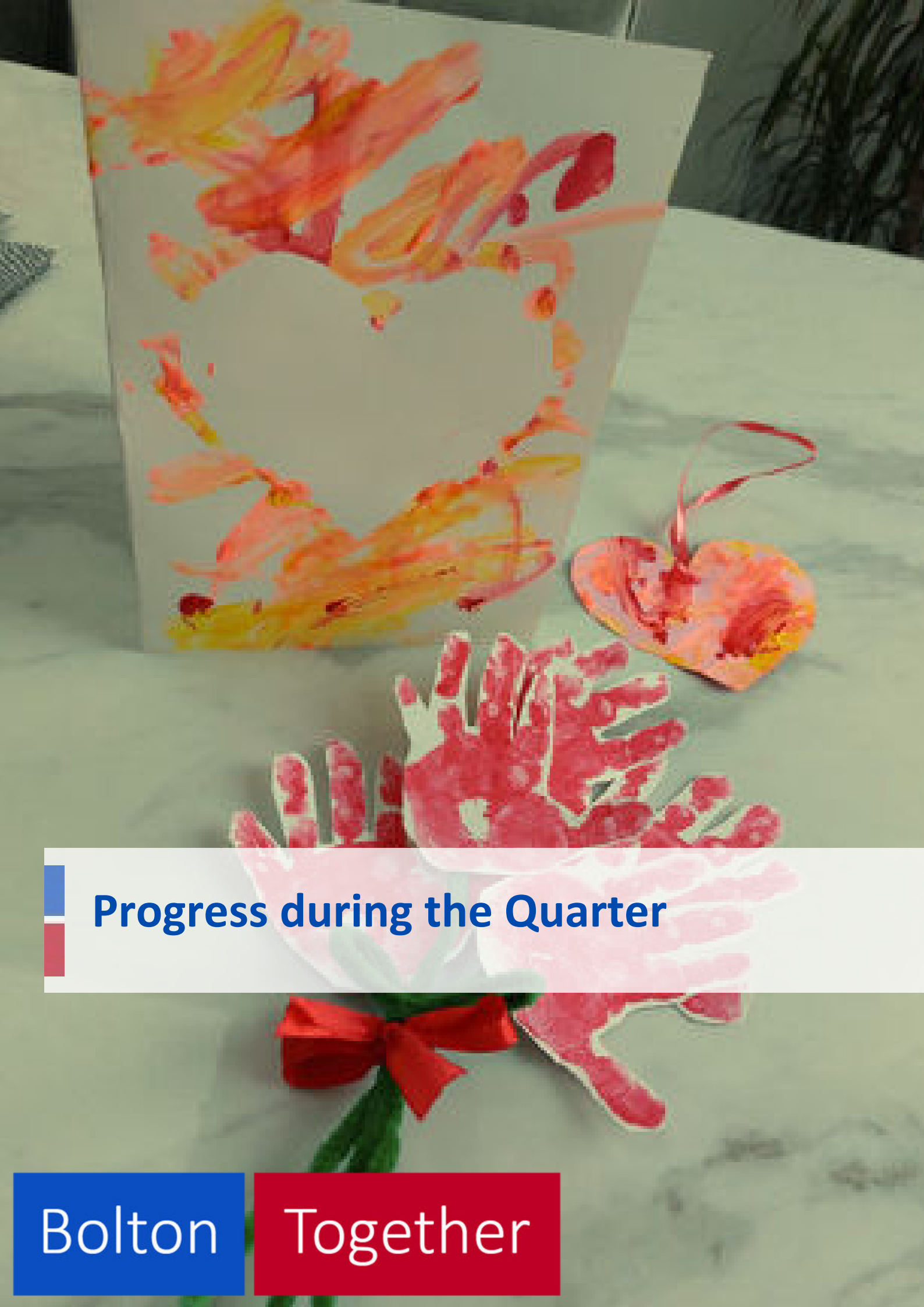


(Julie Lomax Photography)

The evening was a fantastic success which brought partners, practitioners, volunteers and commissioners together. The event shone a light on the often-unseen dedication of frontline delivery. We had incredibly inspiring award nominations and heartfelt speeches in recognition of the contribution each VCSE has made. The event captured the collaboration, creativity and care that defines our sector.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who helped make it happen,

Thank You



Progress during the Quarter

Bolton

Together

3.0 Progress During the Quarter: Introduction

In this section the quantitative and qualitative data collected over the quarter is presented.

3.1 Progress During the Quarter: Infant Feeding

Breastfeeding Together were founded in 2015 and are a registered Charity specialising in Peer Support, Infant Feeding and Parenting. Bolton Together commissioned Breastfeeding Together as part of the Family Hubs Network in September 2023. They are embedded in the Family Hubs across Bolton, and, in addition to the continued delivery of their Infant Feeding Support service, between January and March 2025 they have also:

- Supported key awareness days such as, Parent Mental Health Day, International Day of Women & Girls in Science, World Sleep Day, International Women's Day and many more.
- Provided information and support to pregnant and/or breastfeeding women of Muslim faith during Ramadan Mubarak, regarding fasting, as breastfeeding is considered an act of worship.
- Delivered a training course in January, training 10 new volunteers as Breastfeeding Peer Supporters. Volunteers completed Breastfeeding Together's accredited training: Breastfeeding Peer Support 1 and 2.

“Thank you for the support and the courses you offer. I feel it has been extremely beneficial”



(Breastfeeding Together)

- Continued to build on existing, and create new, excellent working relationships with both statutory and VCFSE organisations across Bolton.
- Continued to regularly deliver from and visit Family Hubs to provide updates and distribute service information leaflets.
- Shared Breastfeeding Together service information with:
 - Bolton Together partners
 - Groups
 - Health Clinics
 - GP Practices throughout the borough.
- Maintained regular communication with community midwife teams and health visiting teams, including attending clinic to update them about the different services provided.

3.1.1 Quantitative Data

Total No of Home Visits	164
Number of Parents accessing Plan and Prepare for Parenting sessions	29
Number of parents accessing One to One Infant Feeding Support targeted at 6 weeks onwards.	63
% reporting improved outcome measures	100%
Number of Preparing to Breastfeed sessions delivered	8
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Breastfeeding)	100%
Number of Plan and Prepare for Parenting sessions	7
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Parenting)	100%
Number of Infant feeding peer support drop-in groups offered	76
% of parents reporting improved outcomes (Peer support)	100%
No of parents attending Infant Feeding Drop in Groups	180

Number of parents supported at Bolton Foundation Trust Hospital	403
Infant Feeding Peer Support Offer at Bolton Foundation Trust Hospital	88 Days
Number of Equipment Hires	31
Number of parents accessing Live Web Chat service Available 7-10 pm, 7 days/week	35
Total Number of correspondence via telephone/text support	1887 Instances

The data demonstrates an increase in attendance at Preparing to Breastfeed sessions from 16 parents last quarter to 29 this quarter. In addition, Bolton Hospital Maternity Ward had a volunteer available every day.

Staff and Volunteers

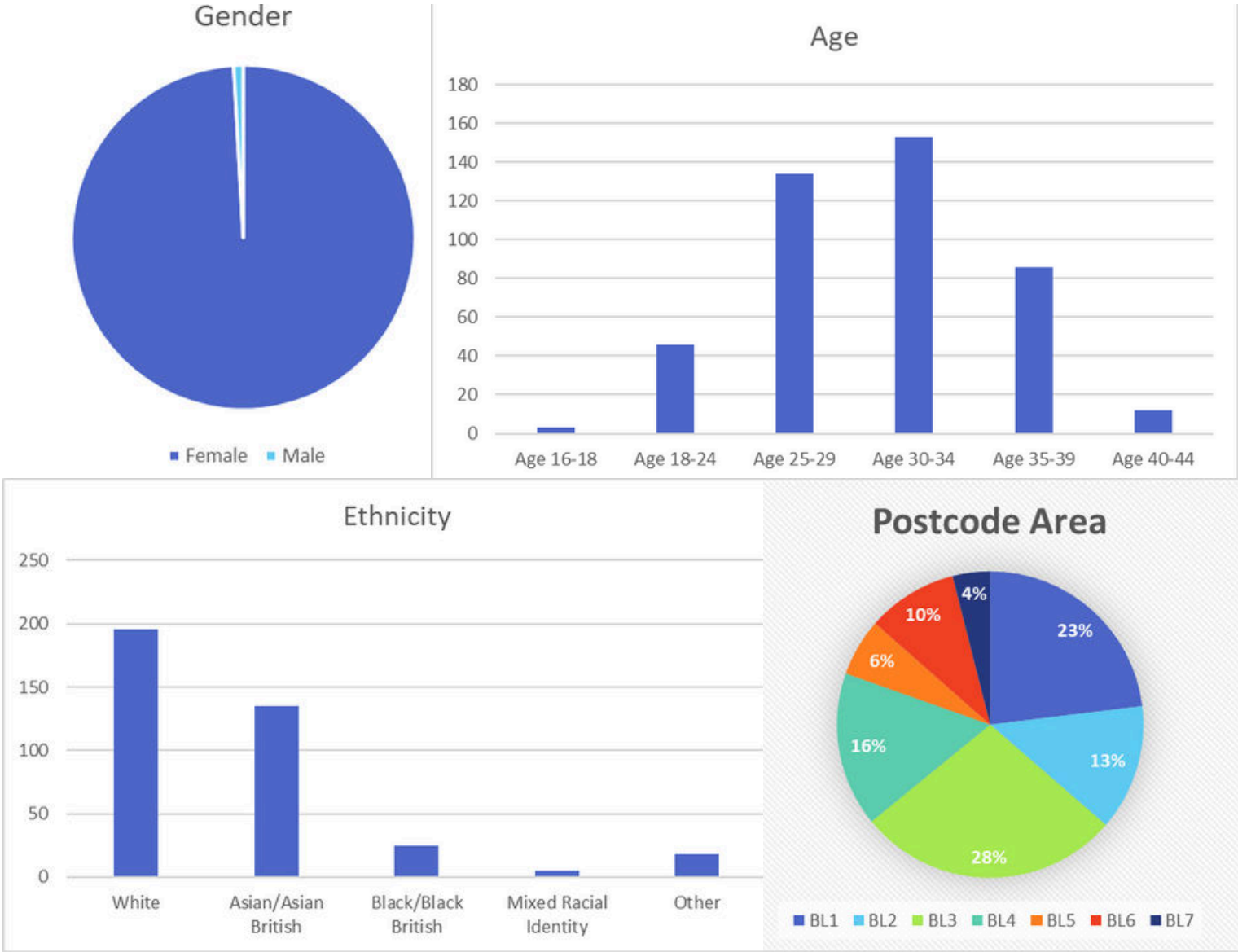
Breastfeeding Together deliver accredited Volunteer Breastfeeding Peer Support Training and completed the latest delivery in January at Tonge Family Hub. 10 learners successfully completed the training. Learners develop the skills and knowledge they need to provide families with effective emotional and practical breastfeeding peer support. On completion of the training learners will be able to support mothers and parents to make informed feeding choices and are equipped to promote and protect breastfeeding.



1887 telephone
calls and text
message support

(Breastfeeding Together, Volunteer Training)

3..1.2 Parent Demographics



(Breastfeeding Together)

“I contacted the team in the middle of the night and got such a quick reply in the morning with everything I needed to know. Put it into practise and breastfeeding became easier again. The team are just amazing and genuinely want to help. Can’t recommend them enough”.

164 Home Visits!

Walking and Wheeling with Bumps, Boobs and Buggies

In November 2024 Bolton Together and Breastfeeding Together were successfully funded by the GM Walking and Wheeling Grant to run a short project from January to March 2025. The project delivered **23 walking group sessions**, directly **benefitted 46 people**. Of these, **15 were new families** Breastfeeding Together had not previously worked with.

Key outcomes included:

- Increased motivation and routine for new mums.
- Reduced social isolation and opportunities to form friendships.
- Improved confidence breastfeeding in public.
- Encouragement to continue walking and exercising independently.

"The walking groups have helped motivate me to get dressed in the morning and it's been really nice to meet other new mums, chat, share experiences and exercise at the same time without even realising!"

- The walks were short and gentle to ensure accessibility for parents with toddlers.
- In addition to new exercise habits, some mums breastfed outdoors for the first time during the walks, supported by staff, which helped build lasting confidence.
- A Walking and Wheeling Champion was recruited to promote the groups, engage families, and support new attendees.
- Some mums now meet independently for walks before or after our weekly drop-in sessions.
- Parents learned new local walking routes, helping them continue exercising regularly.

"Since the walking groups have stopped, I have continued to go for a walk after Horwich Group each Monday. Thank you for helping me get my mojo back!"



(Breastfeeding Together)

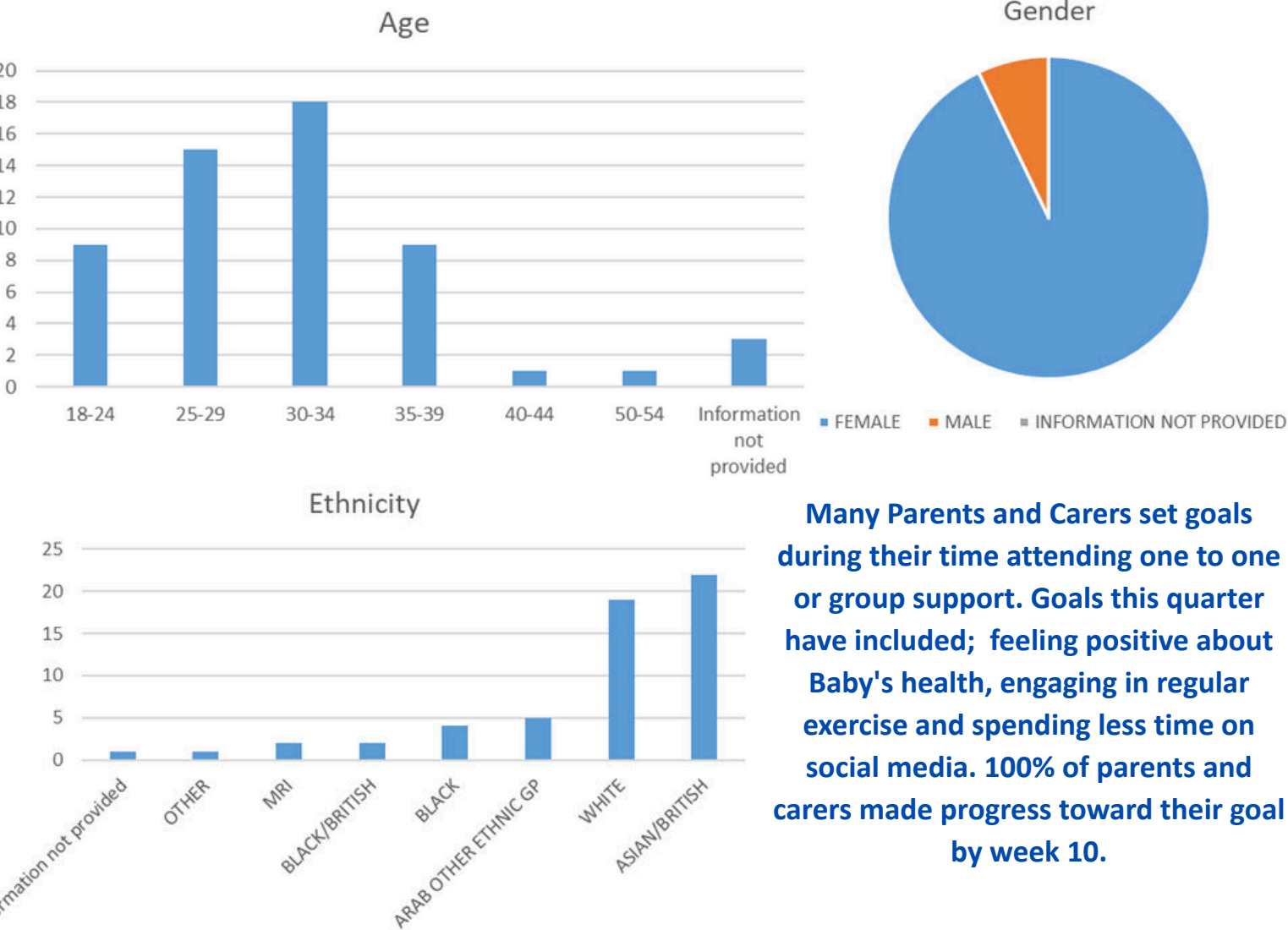
Finally, the walking groups helped strengthen the wider support networks for mums, welcoming partners, grandparents, and friends. These strong networks significantly support breastfeeding success and overall wellbeing. **Due to the clear benefits and ongoing demand, Bolton Together will fund Bumps, Boobs and Buggies to extend this wonderful initiative for 2025/26.**

3.2 Progress During the Quarter: Perinatal Infant Mental Health Support

3.2.1 Family Hub Funded Quantitative Data

Number of parents receiving one-to-one support	35
Number of parents accessing peer support groups	23
Average % of parents feeling more confident	90%
% of parents felt helped to build a better relationship with baby	95%
% of parents reporting they felt listened to	100%

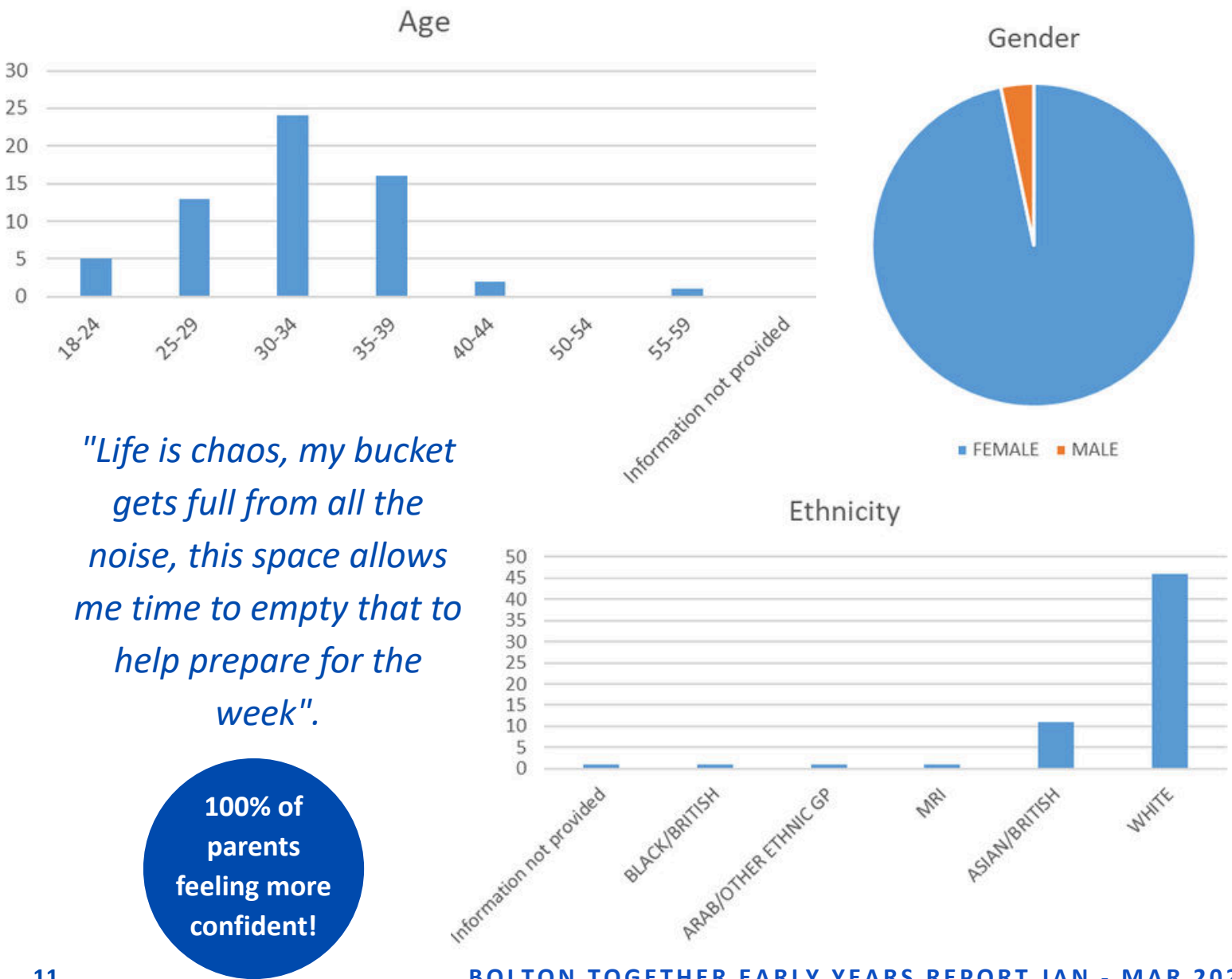
3.2.2 Parent Demographics Family Hub Funded Delivery



3.2.3 NHS GM Integrated Care Funded PIMH Delivery- Quantitative Data

Number of parents receiving one-to-one support	20
Number of parents attending peer support groups	39
Average % of parents feeling more confident	100%
% of parents felt helped to build a better relationship with baby	100%

3.2.4 Parent Demographics NHS GM Integrated Care Funded Delivery

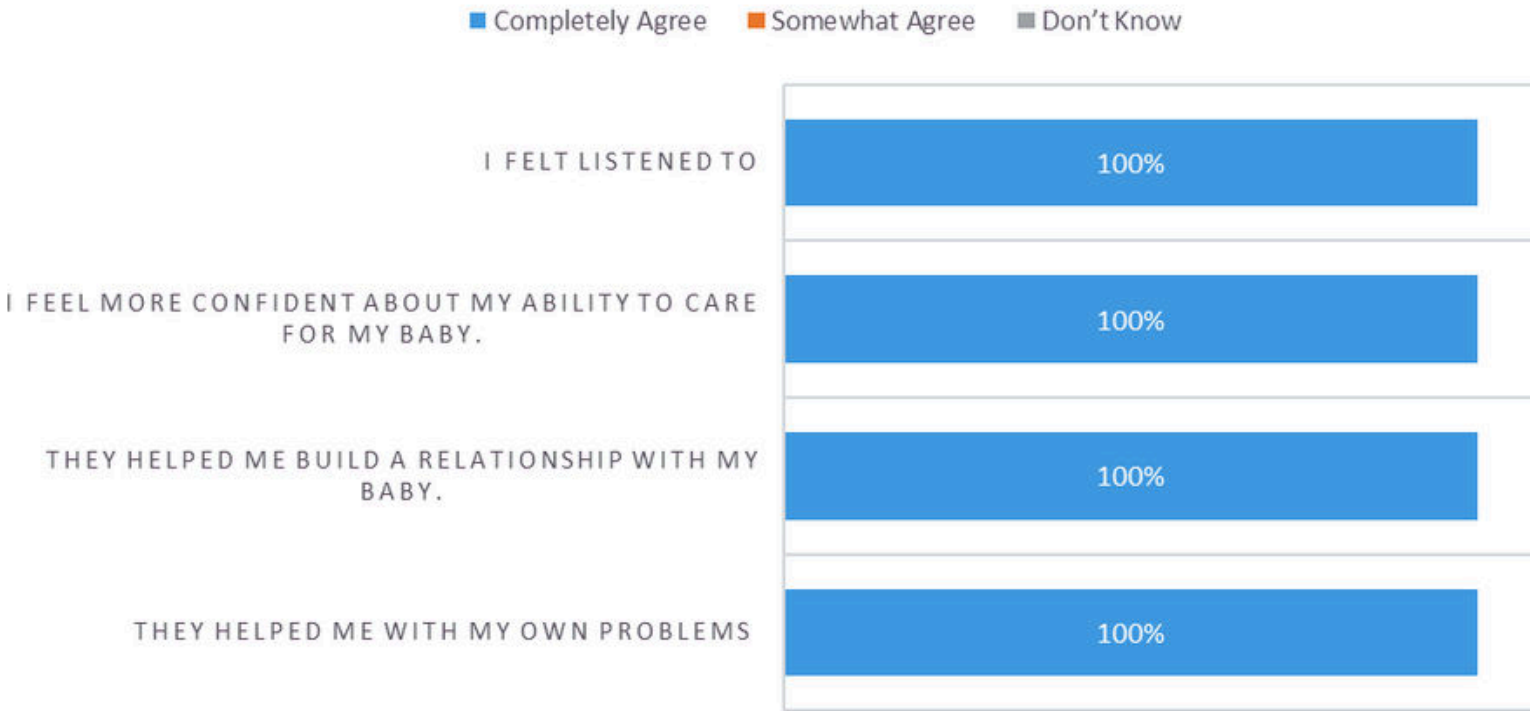


“Through the ongoing support of our team and the relationships mum has built with other mothers at the sessions, she feels more confident and better equipped to manage the challenges of early motherhood”. (Bolton Toy Library)



100% of parents and carers made progress toward their goals!

(Bolton Toy Library)



(Bolton Wanderers in the Community)

‘Parenting interventions play an important role in supporting parental mental health by reflecting on experience, building parenting skills and strengthening parent-child relationships’. (Department for Education: Parenting through adversity. Foundations. Available at: [Parenting Through Adversity Department For Education, Foundations, 2025](#))

Home-Start HOST Diversity Coordinator

During the last quarter, the Diversity Coordinator has supported 15 parents and 25 children. 4 volunteers work with the Diversity Coordinator to provide support for families at home, in addition to connecting them with services in Family Hubs and across Bolton. This Diversity Co-ordinator utilises Goal Based Outcomes with parents and carers. These include goals for parent/carers and child focused goals.

This quarter parents and carers set goals such as:

Parent/Carer Goals:

- Establish a consistent feeding regime, where Mum understands his needs.
- Improve relationship.
- Being able to understand my child better (emotionally, speech).

Child Focused Goals:

- Make my child feel included and loved by helping with his baby brother, having special time with a parent, and playing together.
- Have opportunities to explore new surroundings and socialise.

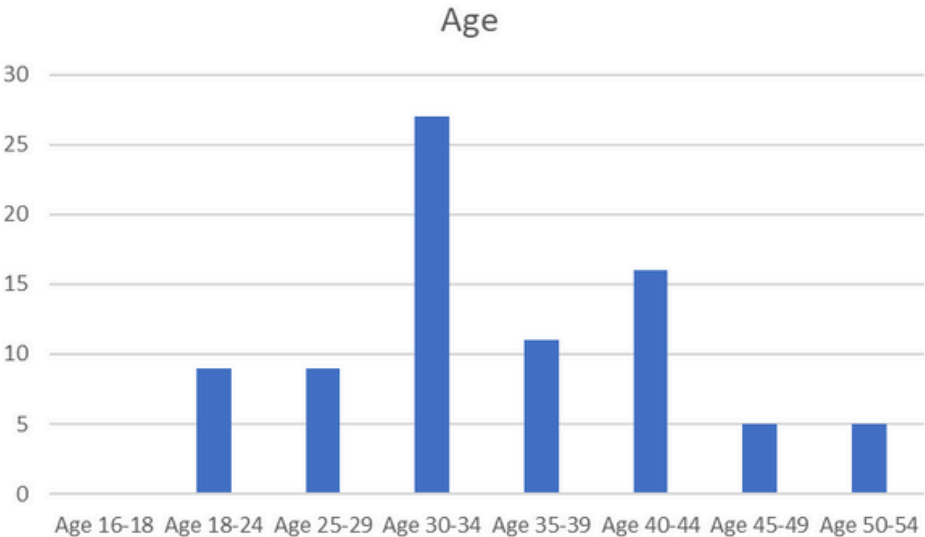
100% of Parents and Carers made progress toward their goals within the 10 week period between setting a goal and reviewing it.

3.3 Progress During the Quarter: Parent Engagement in Co-design

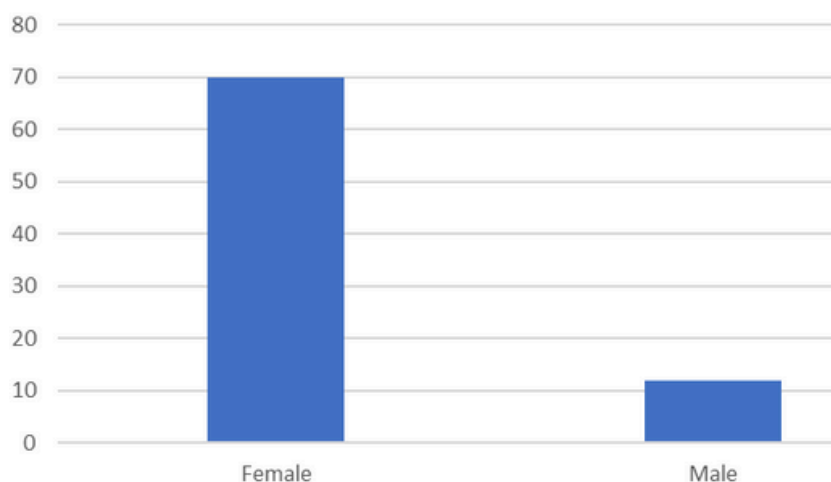
3.3.1 Quantitative Data

Number of parents attending the bimonthly panel	9
Number of parents engaged in Family Hub delivery and development this Quarter	90
Number of panels held	2

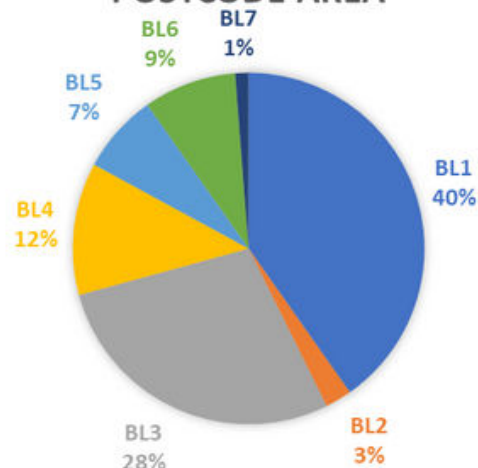
3.3.2 Parent Demographics



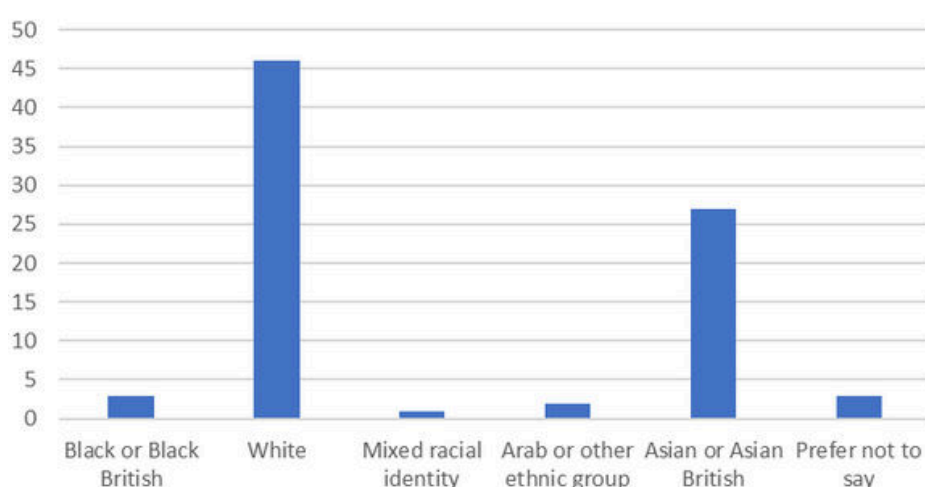
Gender



POSTCODE AREA



Ethnicity



90 parents and carers shared their feedback this quarter. That's doubled from last quarter!

3.3.3 Parent and Carer Engagement Feedback Update

A member of the Bolton Safeguarding Partnership attended a panel meeting to explore how to better engage parents and children in safeguarding discussions. The panel provided several important insights and recommendations. There was also discussion about differing views on the definition of neglect—for example, a parent suggested screen time could be neglectful. The panel recommended:

- A designated safeguarding contact within each Family Hub.
- Clear guidance on reporting concerns in the community.
- Information in Family Hub guides on identifying and reporting domestic abuse (DA).
- Strengthening relationships between staff and parents to reduce feelings of judgement.

In addition, when considering the wider Family Hub model, the panel made suggestions for further development based on gaps identified in discussion with fellow parents/carers:

- Parents highlighted a lack of SEND groups for children over five.
- Recommendations included structured sessions for 5+ with a booking system.
- Introduction of Makaton or sign language classes for all families.

Questionnaire Consultation

- 83 parents/carers completed the Family Hub questionnaire this quarter.
- Based on parent feedback the questionnaire format was adapted with tick-boxes for accessibility, increasing responses.
- Paper-based, face-to-face methods led to higher completion than digital formats.

Common Themes for Improvement

- Cooking/Baking classes for older children.
- Food tasting for fussy eaters.
- Craft and sports sessions, specifically for older children.
- Better promotion of Family Hub services, especially for ages 5+.
- Emotional health support sessions for children.

Parents/carers were engaged with through a range of community events and group sessions:

- Thomasson Memorial School Group Session: Engaged with parents at Tonge Family Hub, children aged 0-2, including those with hearing loss.
- Playgroup at the local Mosque: The Diversity Worker gathered feedback from parents on early years support.
- Andy's Man Club: Partnered with this group at Harvey Start Well Centre to gather insights from fathers.
- Basketball Match at Horwich Leisure Centre: Reached parents in a sports setting.
- Markland Hill Primary School: Scheduled to consult parents during school pick-up, following an introduction at the basketball match.

You Said, We Did

We inform Bolton Toy Library of the efforts made to action the feedback collected from parents and carers who then inform families, ensuring contributors know their voice is heard.

- We are arranging a training workshop with The Deaf Society in Bolton to support Bolton Together Early Years Providers to enhance their understanding of British Sign Language (BSL) and develop accessible sessions for BSL users.
- The Family Hub SEND offer currently does not extend to children over the age of five. We have shared parent and carer feedback with the relevant Family Hub teams and understand that, while provision for older children is not yet available, it may be developed in the future. The SEND section of the Family Hub Guide highlights other services, such as BLGC, which offers sessions for older children at their venue.
- Cooking classes for children aged 8 and over are available at the hubs on Saturdays, delivered by Cooking Wizards. Parents and carers have been informed of this to ensure they are aware of the full offer. Additionally, a Saturday Flyer has been developed in partnership to clearly communicate Saturday activities.
- We continue to share feedback, including requests for sports clubs and emotional health support, with commissioners. We also recognise that many services in Bolton, although not operating within Family Hubs, offer such support locally. We ensure these services are highlighted to parents and carers.

New Offer

Pause.Engage.Play: Male Parents and Carers Engagement

This initiative is funded as a short term project to fill the gap in the demographic patterns we see in parent carer feedback, in that feedback is predominantly female.

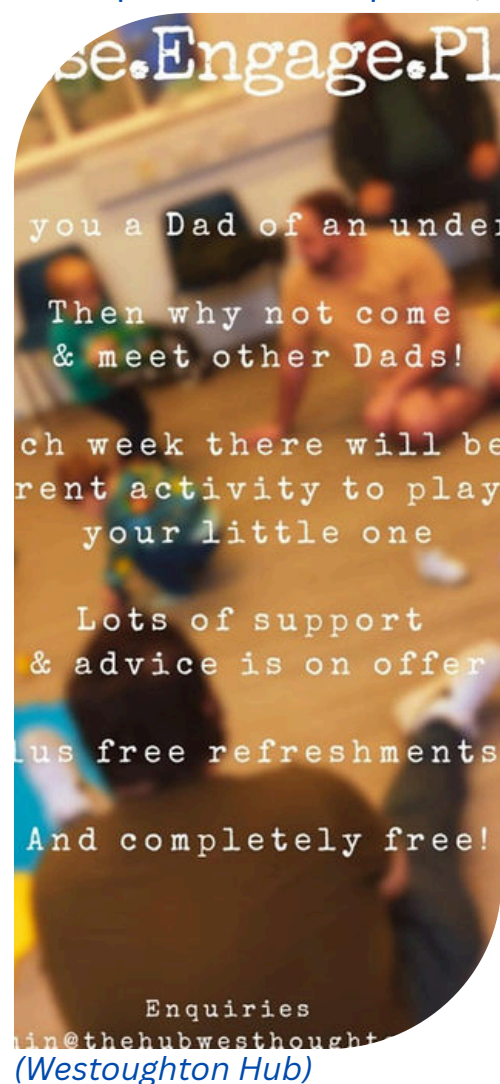
Westhoughton Hub were successful in their application to this fund and have delivered 6 engagement sessions, conducted 10 interviews, 1 focus group, and gathered feedback at a community event. In addition, they created and shared a survey which is also available to access from the Family Hub Guide.

Attendance has been lower than expected despite promotion efforts. Across the 6 sessions delivered, a **total of 25 dads have attended of which, 10 have attended one to one feedback interviews**. While sharing the questionnaire via social media yielded a slow response, paper copies distributed face-to-face proved more successful. Looking ahead to the next quarter, plans to increase engagement include hosting Easter and Summer events and speaking to local male parents and carers, increased participation in school activities to boost questionnaire responses, and scheduling a second focus group.

Feedback collected to date includes:

- An ask for structured, male-focused sessions.
- Clearer communication about what's on offer.
- Inclusive activities for SEN children.
- Ensuring that future events continue to build a supportive and engaging environment for all participants.

**25 Dads gave
their feedback
this quarter!**



4.0 Progress During the Quarter:

Expansion of Stay and Play Provision for under Fives

Family Hub Funded Expansion of Stay and Play Provision:

- 5 Providers deliver Stay and Play Provision. 15 sessions per week are delivered across various Family Hubs, Start Well and Community Centres.

Start Well Commission Expansion of Stay and Play Provision:

- 3 Providers deliver Stay and Play Provision. 12 Sessions per week are delivered across Family Hubs, Start Well and community centres.

661 Families
stayed and
played with us!

4.1 Quantitative Data

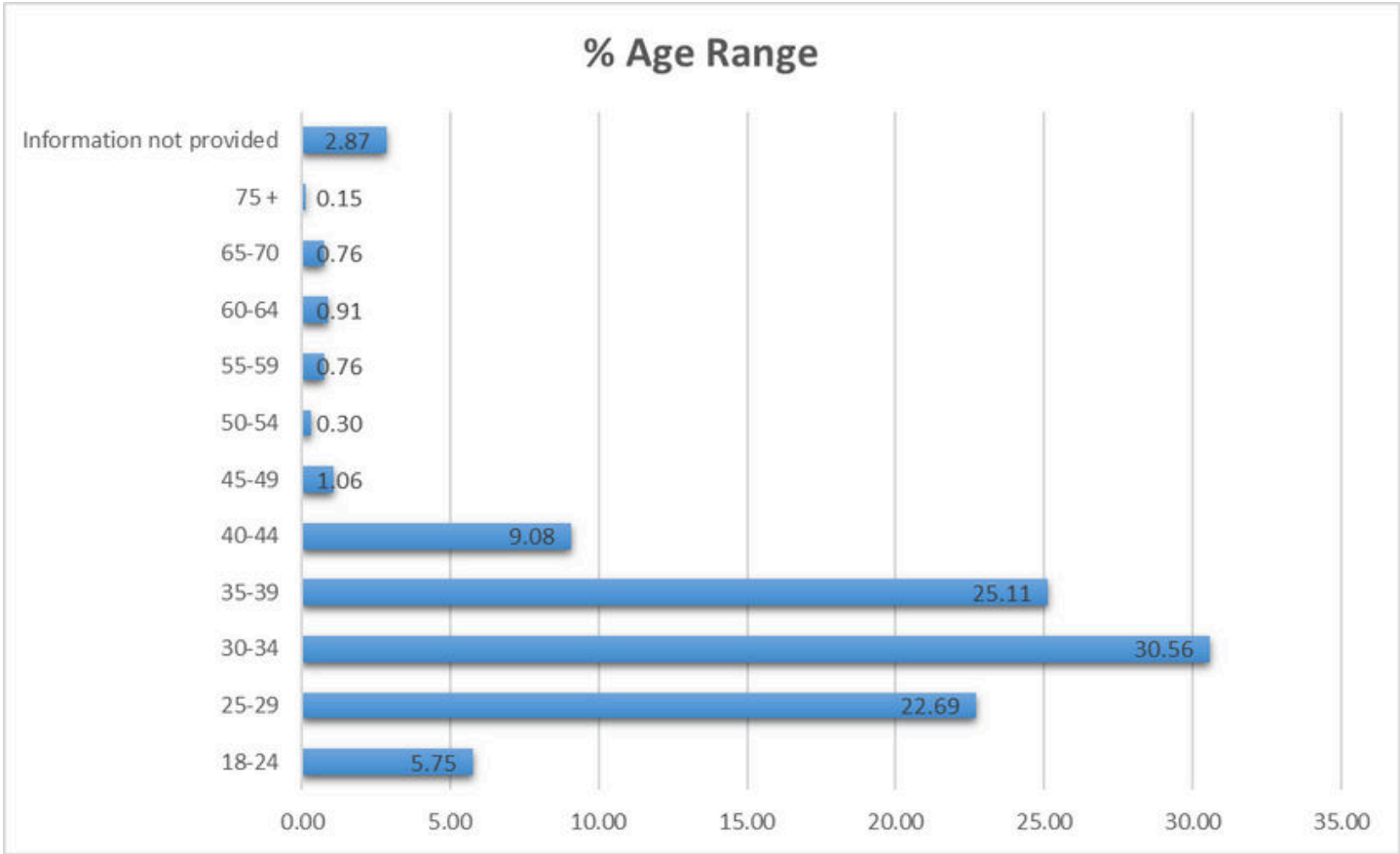
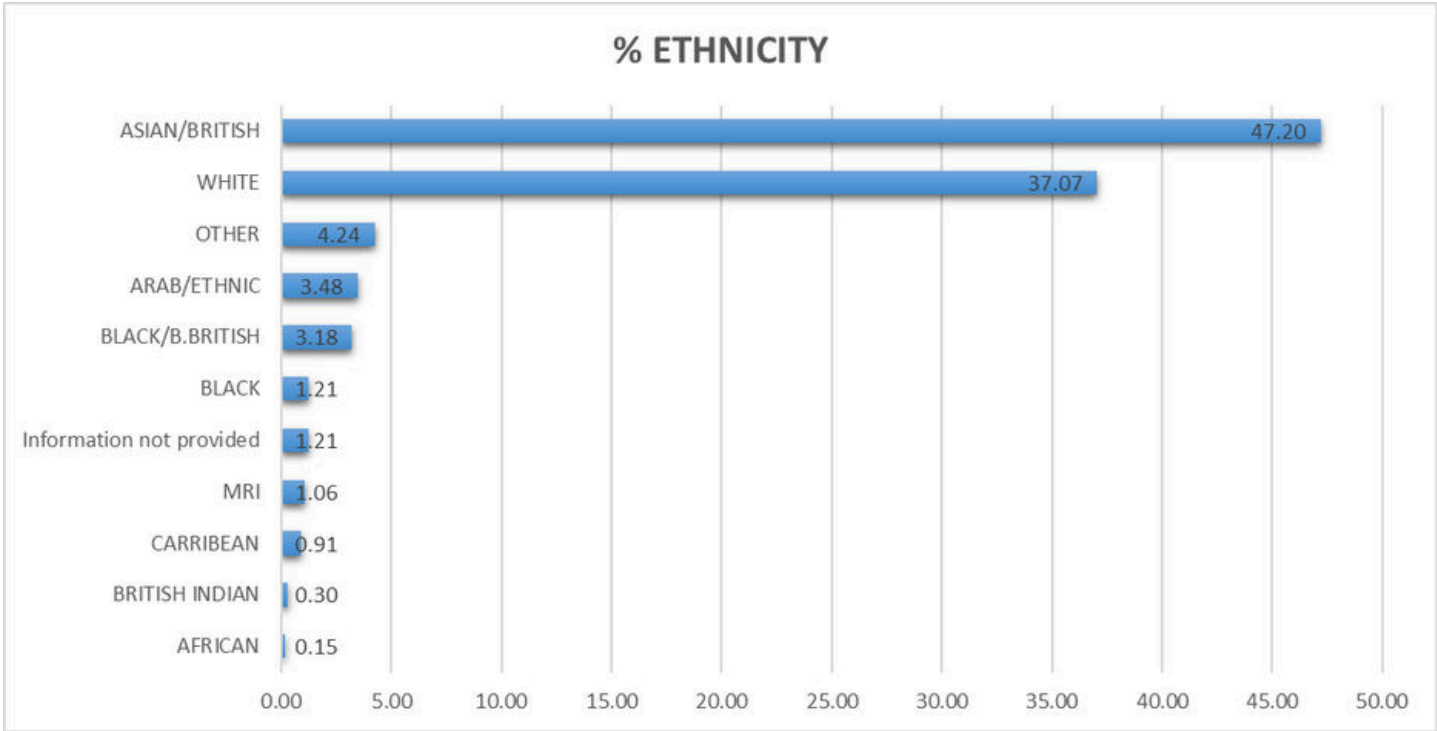
Programme	Families Reached
Family Hub Funded Stay and Plays	218
Start Well Commission	443

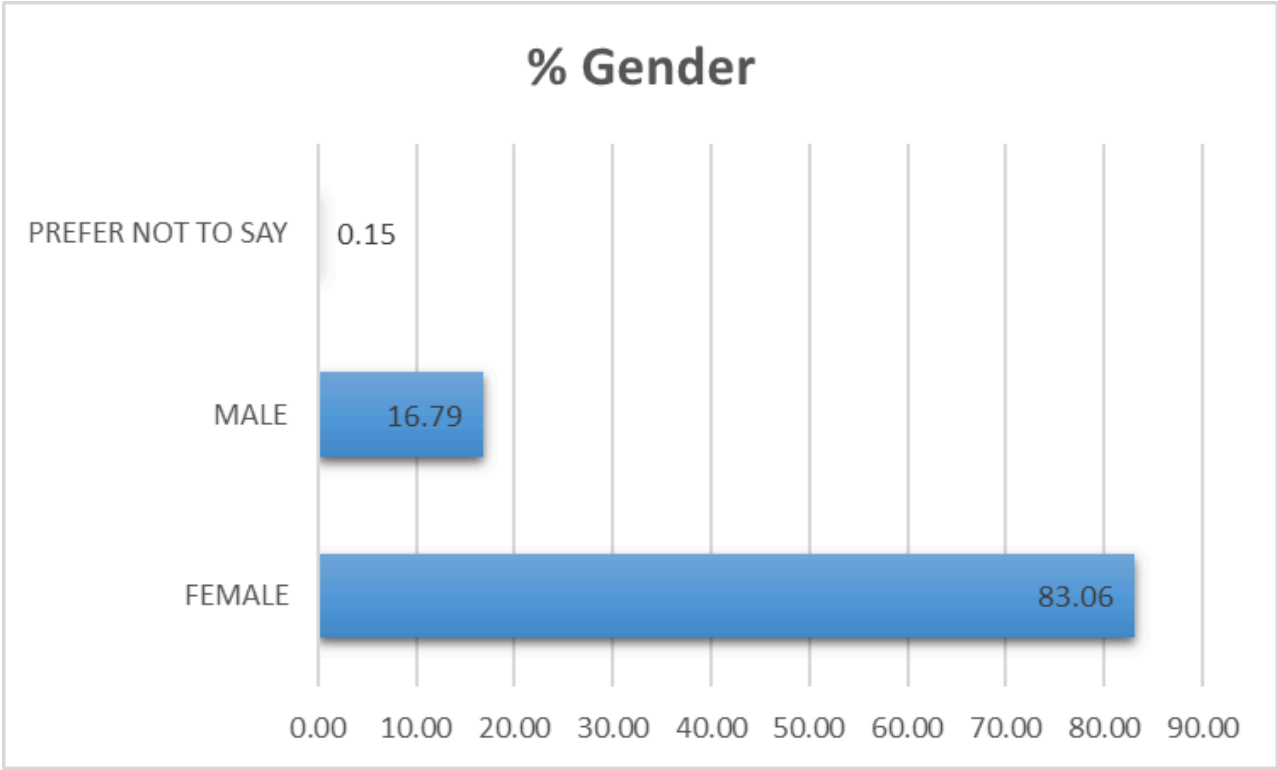


(Little Bats Learning)

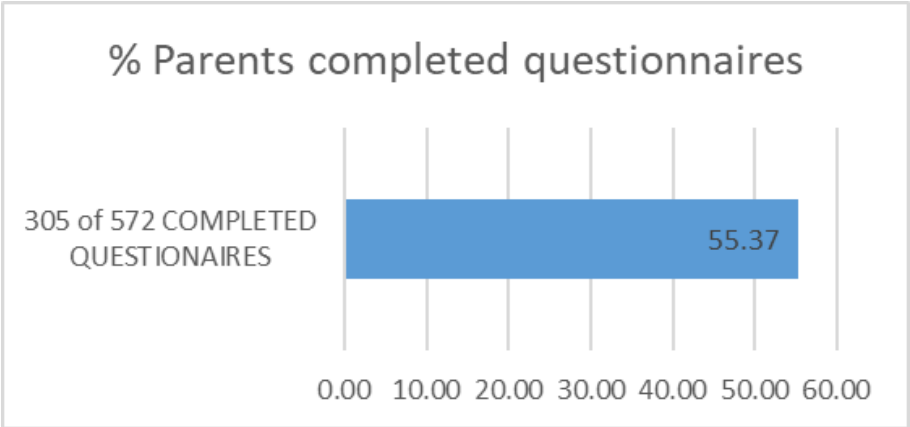
4.1.1 Stay and Play Parent Demographics

This data is representative of both Start Well and Family Hub Funded provision.





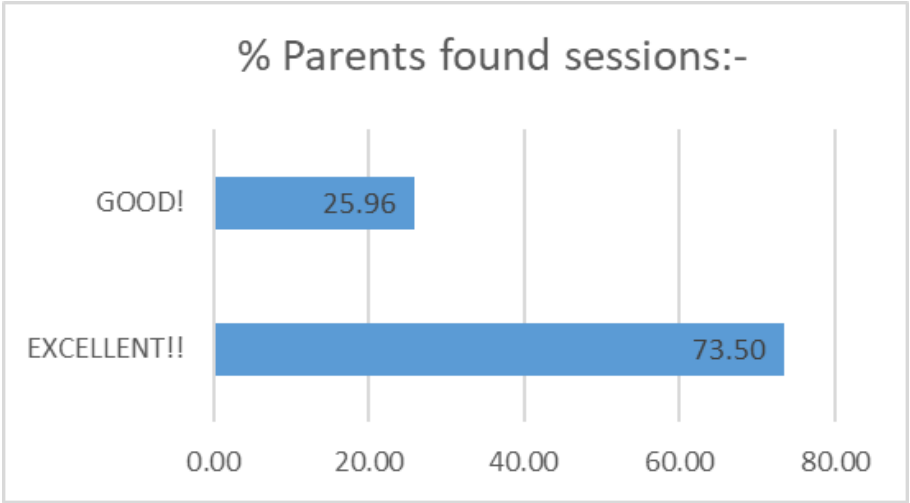
4.1.2 Questionnaire Feedback



(Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

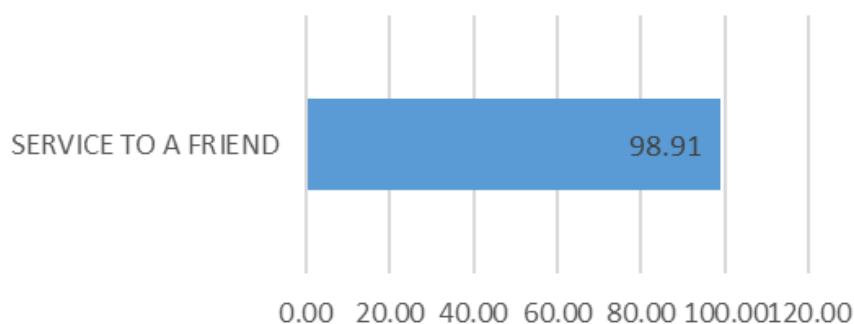


(Lancashire Wildlife Trust)



This quarter, we’ve observed a notable increase in the diversity of families attending Stay and Play sessions, with a rise in participation from Male parents and carers and Black, Black British, and Caribbean parents and carers.

% Parents recommend:

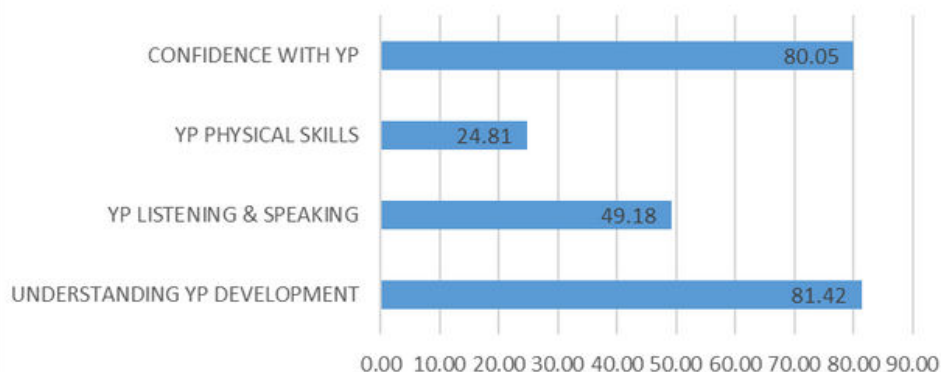


(Little Bats Learning)

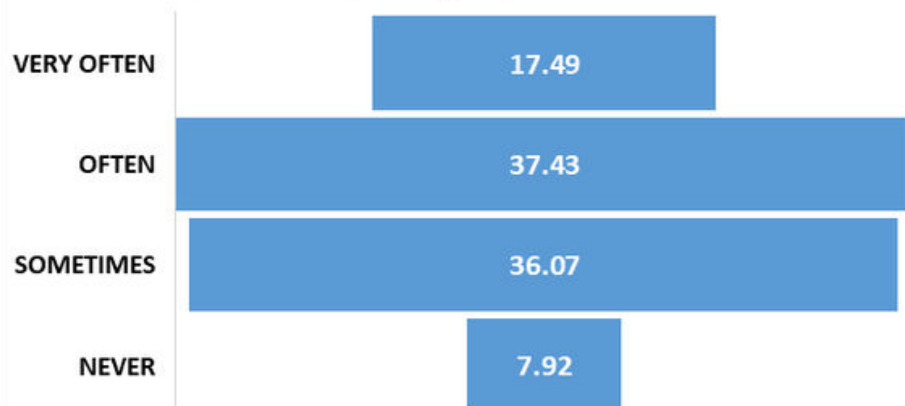


(Little Bats Learning)

% Parents observe increase in:



% of Parents using activities at home:-

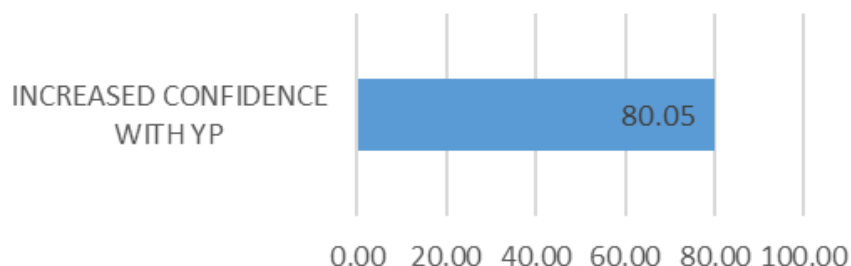


(Little Bats Learning)



(Little Bats Learning)

% Parents



We plan to increase the number of parents and carers using activities at home and are working with our providers to identify the best way to do this, including sharing guides and resources.

5.0 Progress During the Quarter: The Solihull Approach

The Solihull Approach Groups are coordinated by Families Together, a sub-division of Breastfeeding Together. The Families Together Team include both staff and Volunteer Parenting Practitioners who have completed the 2-day Solihull Foundation course, Train the Trainer and Parenting Group Facilitators Training. Families Together lead the delivery with co-delivery providers and partners including Flowhession Foundation who offer a Bilingual practitioner, skilled as a translator and the Family Hub Practitioner Team.

This quarter:

- **5 Solihull Groups were delivered to completion.**
- **26 families started the course.**
- **20 parents/carers completed the full 10 weeks.**
- **That's a 77% completion rate.**
- **The groups were delivered at Harvey Family Hub, Horwich Hub, Bright Meadows Family Hub, Farnworth Family Hub and Oxford Grove Family Hub ensuring a Borough wide reach.**



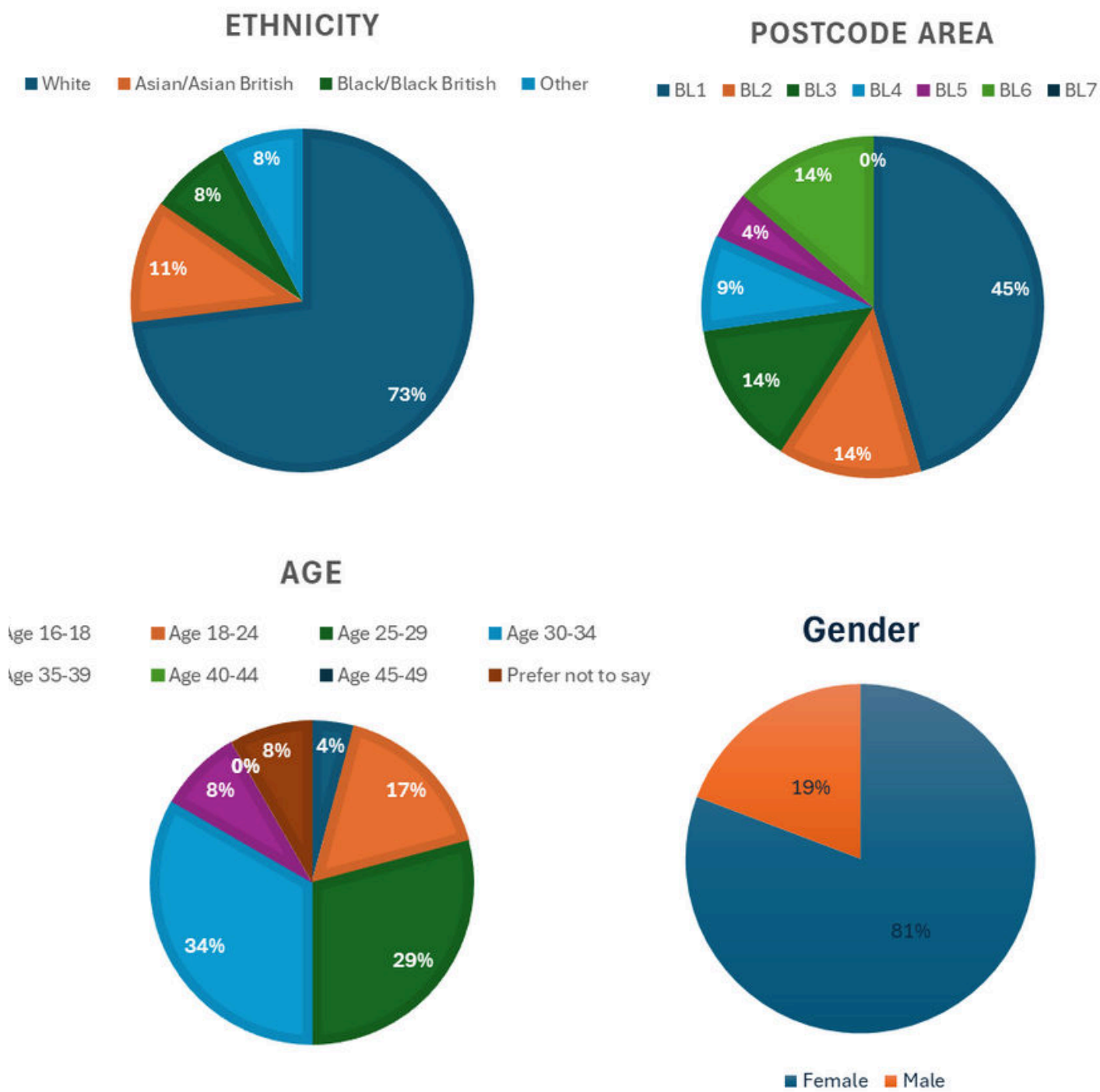
(Families Together)

“I think about the bigger picture more, react calmer. Think about explaining things more to my children to calm a situation. I’ve really enjoyed the group. I feel positive about handling situations more calmly and my children enjoyed coming too!”

On completion of the 10-week parenting group parents/families are able to access the second part of the programme and receive continued support via aftercare. This includes:

- Regular exit groups within the Family Hubs for families to practice their newly acquired parenting methods with support and guidance from Solihull Parenting Facilitators.
- Regular calls and messages to check in with them.
- A WhatsApp group where informative, relevant and up to date information. Tips are shared to encourage and support families to utilise the skills gained, embedding them into parenting and family life.

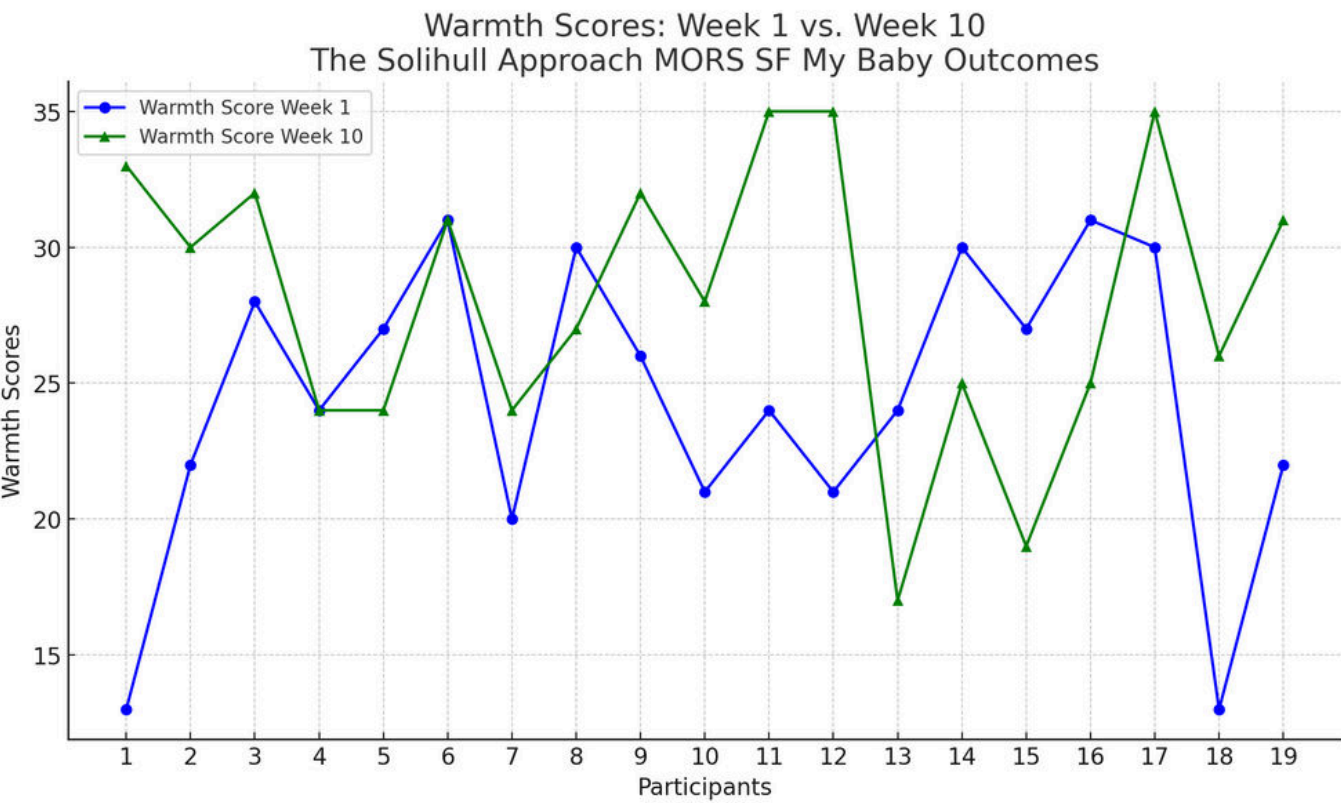
5.1.1 The Solihull Approach Parent Demographics



“I heard about the Solihull approach course from my daughter’s playgroup teacher. When I attended on week 1 of the course, I felt really nervous and honestly didn’t think it would work but as the course continued I felt more comfortable, and I joined in more. Sometimes it felt a bit intense when I realised and reflected on situations that I didn’t know I was doing wrong. The facilitators made it really easy for me to become confident in myself on what steps I could take to become a better parent and to help me understand my child’s behaviour better”.

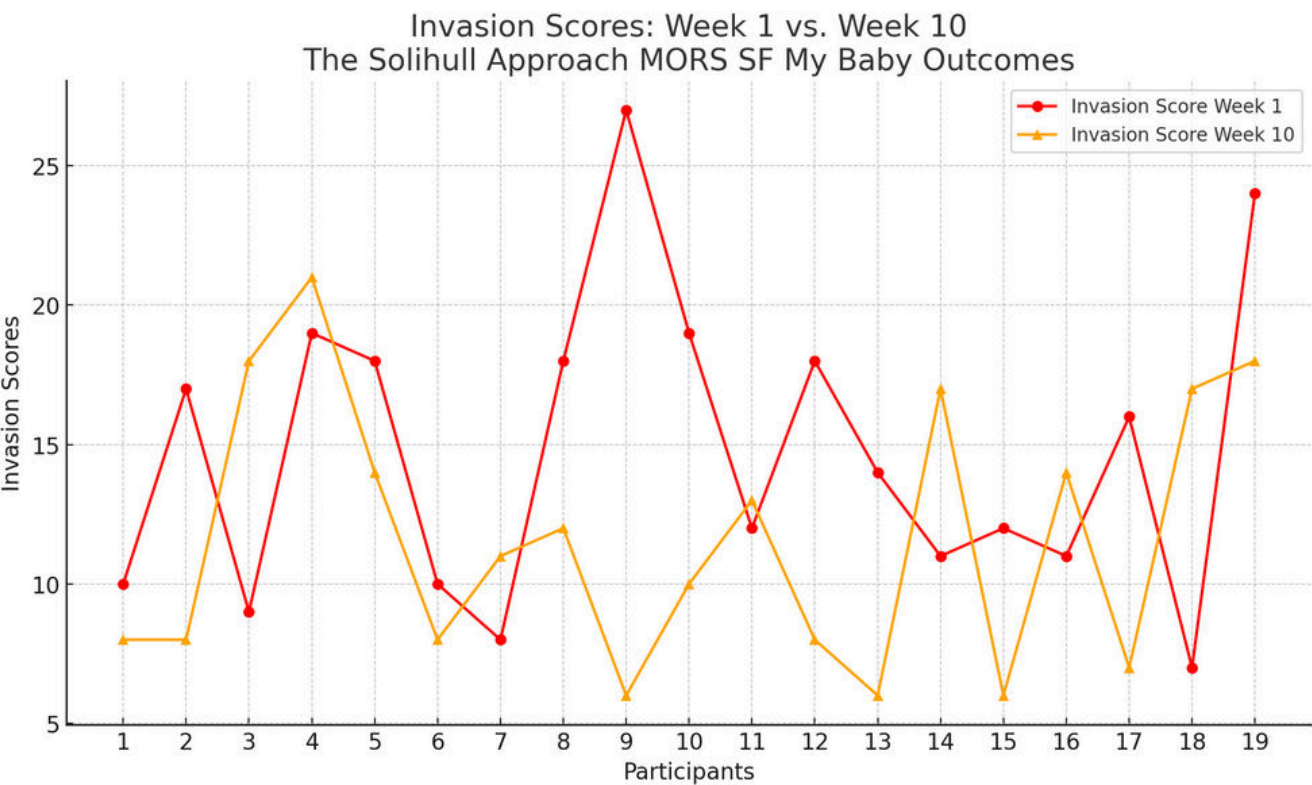
Solihull continues to reflect the diversity of the Bolton population, with ongoing engagement from Black and Black British families, male parents and carers, and young parents.

The Solihull Approach MORS SF My Baby Outcomes



Warmth Scores: Week 1 vs. Week 10

This chart compares participants' warmth scores from Week 1 to Week 10. You can see the increase in scores for most participants, reflecting improved warmth in parent-infant relationships over time. This suggests an improvement in participants' warmth-related behaviours or perceptions over the 10-week period.



Invasion Scores: Week 1 vs. Week 10

The chart tracks invasion scores from Week 1 to Week 10, illustrating a general decrease for most participants. You can see reductions in invasion for many participants, complementing the improvements shown in the warmth scores. Both charts reveal meaningful changes, with improvement being a predominant theme, suggesting the efficacy of the intervention.

Warmth Score: This score measures the degree of positive, nurturing feelings expressed towards baby. An increase in this score indicates improved warmth and bonding over time.

Invasion Score: This score reflects the degree of perceived interference or intrusion by the baby in the parent's life. A decrease in this score suggests reduced feelings of invasion, indicating that parents feel more comfortable and less overwhelmed by their responsibilities.

Each participant in this dataset showed improvement in their scores over the 10 weeks, demonstrating enhanced parent-child bonding and reduced stress or tension associated with caregiving.

“Since starting the course, I’ve become more patient in myself and my parenting. I now notice and understand what my children need in different situations. Everybody made it easier; the vibe was quite happy and there was no judgement at all. I suffer with anxiety, and everyone made it easy for me and my child. Doing the course has made me realise there are things I thought I was doing right that maybe I wasn’t. My parenting has improved so thank you!”



(Breastfeeding Together)



(Lancashire Wildlife Trust)



Case Studies & Testimonials

Bolton

Together

Loving the Crafts

"We enjoy the different themes that happen in the messy play area, and it allows my children to express themselves with their imagination with crafts. This is one of many activities at the session which my children are always interested in going towards."



Fa and mum feel understood

14 month old Fa is a very clingy baby. He attends the sessions with his mother, but separation anxiety is a major obstacle. From the very first session, Fa would cry inconsolably the moment mum tried to put him down or move away. Mum was worried. The structured routine of the group provides a sense of security and helps reduce his anxiety. Mum also found support and understanding from other parents in the group.



Listening and sharing

A family with a 3-year-old son who has additional needs have been finding busier social settings are difficult for him. We offered tailored activities to develop his learning such as pair word cards, and 'toolbox' toys where he can learn to build different things. We provided a calm space to avoid overstimulation. We listened to the parents and provided advice, sharing our own lived experience of caring for children with additional needs. Now the parents and their son come into group feeling more relaxed and confident in a social setting.



Finding a breastfeeding community

"I don't have any family members who live close to me and the few mums that I did know in the area all chose to formula feed so I felt a little bit alone at the start of my journey. I first attended one of the groups after being suggested by another peer supporter who dropped in to one of the baby groups at the family hub and I'm so glad that I went. Over the weeks and months that followed the ladies and peer supporters who attended that group soon became my village and that class became the highlight of my week. Not only have I made friends with the peer supporters but I now also have mum friends who I see outside of these sessions".



'The session is good to improve her confidence in playing with other kids, especially as she is my only child.'



Singing is Fun!

We have a child who has been attending Stay & Play for a year now, he loves coming every week exploring toys and playing. At the end of the session we sing, and he has never joined in with this. We encourage him yet he spends the time running around. Over the last couple of weeks, he has slowly started to join in with the actions. A week later Mum told me he had been asking for the song at home and doing the actions.

Pause.Engage.Play

A Dad and a Grandad attended a session with their 2 year old. Dad explained he is often the one who isn't able to bring his child to a regular weekday playgroup. He was encouraged by there being a space to be able to do so that is local to him. He finds the barrier of attending a standard playgroup is, it is mainly mums who are in attendance.



Building Skills with the right support

A attends the session with his mother, who requires significant support in managing his behaviour. Staff have provided consistent guidance and reassurance to help both A and his mother navigate these challenges. By modelling positive behaviour management strategies, they have supported her in setting boundaries and reinforcing positive interactions. Through ongoing support, A has shown progress in his ability to engage with activities and follow guidance. His mother has gained confidence in managing his behaviour within the group setting, feeling more supported and less isolated. The sessions have played a crucial role in creating a positive and inclusive environment, allowing both Um and his mother to build resilience, confidence, and stronger social connections.



Feeling heard



This parent of a 1 year old has struggled in the loss of an unidentified pregnancy. She feels such loss but has felt guilty of feeling bereaved, when she was unaware she was originally pregnant. She came to the group and with the support of others with similar experiences we helped her through.

Noticing Baby

Parents were able to sit with their baby on the floor as this was an action for at home and just watch their baby and notice what she was doing. This gave the opportunity to think about what their babies favourite toy was and how much she has progressed as they were noticing that she was rolling around much more. With encouragement both parents started to do this without any embarrassment attached as other parents were also doing the same. Dad reported that he felt part of the group as there were other dads attending.



HSH Diversity Coordinator

I provided containment, helping mum process her emotions around Child 1's emotional adjustment to his baby brother and reassured her that his reaction was a normal response to change. Through attunement, I supported mum in recognising Child 1's emotional cues and encouraged reciprocity by involving him in small caregiving tasks and strengthening their bond. I helped mum develop attunement to Child 2's feeding cues, building confidence in recognising hunger and fullness signals. We explored ways to increase Dad's involvement in daily routines and discussed how fasting could affect breastfeeding, allowing Mum to make an informed decision that best supports both her and Child 2. I encouraged mum to attend groups in the Great Lever family hub for socialisation.

As a result, mum has begun to feel more confident in understanding Child 1's emotions and is gradually learning to respond to his need for connection with reassurance. She has started introducing small caregiving tasks for Child 1 to help him feel included, though she is still navigating some challenges in sibling bonding. Mum is second-guessing herself less often and feels more at ease with combination feeding. Mum has also started reflecting on ways to involve Dad and is becoming more open to communicating her needs, understanding that even small cor



(Flowhesion Foundation)



Key Progress & Next Steps

Bolton

Together

6.0 Key Progress and Next Steps

6.1 Key Progress

In the last quarter we planned to:

- Continue to support our providers to deliver essential services to the families of Bolton by representing them at both strategic and operational meetings, working in partnership and ensuring the effective coordination of training, support and information sharing.
- Continue to work closely with the Family Hub Teams to develop the Family Hub Guide, Family Hubs Social Media pages, website and Workforce Newsletter to ensure families and staff teams have the right information at the right time.
- Implement initiatives to reach those Bolton groups identified as seldom heard.
- Providers would complete Baby Friendly Initiative Training to support Family Hubs on their Journey toward UNICEF accreditation.

We have attended each Family Hub Operational meeting, liaised with Family Hub Teams to develop the Family Hub Guide, Workforce Newsletter and Social Media pages while also updating our providers to ensure clarity of communication for staff, volunteers and families. All of our Early Years providers have completed BFI training including 9 volunteers. We began the delivery of a male parents and carers engagement session on Saturdays across two venues; The Hub Westhoughton and Oxford Grove Family Hub.

7.0 Summary

At Bolton Together, we have worked diligently to strengthen partnerships and deliver innovative programmes that address the unique needs of families in our community.

Key highlights include:

- 10 new volunteers completed Breastfeeding Together Accredited Training.
- All providers completed BFI training including 9 volunteers.
- We have agreed an additional year of funding, building on successes, and strengthening areas for further development through detailed analysis of data and reporting, and identifying gaps alongside partners.
- There's been an increase in participation from Male parents and carers and Black, Black British, and Caribbean parents and carers.

Next Quarter:

- We will confirm and agree new Service Level Agreements (SLA) for additional funds and extension of funding with our members.
- We will facilitate the Expression Of Interest (EOI) process and allocate funds for a provider to deliver the new male parent carer project.
- We will strengthen the feedback from Parent Engagement through the production of a feedback poster to be included on the Family Hub website and noticeboards in Family Hubs.
- We will be planning for the two-year celebration event of the VCSE Family Hub Delivery, showcasing good practice, hearing from providers and families and providing an opportunity for stakeholders to shape the future delivery in Bolton.

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Greater Manchester

**Breastfeeding
Together**
Don't mind the Door Support to families

**Families
Together**
Empowering Families Through Peer Support

**BOLTON
mhIST**
Mental Health Independent Support Team
Promoting positive mental health
Working in your community

**PROUD 2B
parents**



**in the
community**
One Club, One Community, One Town

**Little
Bats
Learning**

**The Wildlife Trust for
Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**

**HOME
START
HOST**

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 **Bolton
Family Hubs
Network**

We extend our thanks to our providers, commissioners and partners for their support and collaboration in working towards our shared goal to provide better experiences for families in Bolton, ensuring every child has a better start in life.

For further information please contact:

Katrina Fletcher: Programme Manager - Children and Families



Katrina.fletcher@boltontogogether.org.uk



07756286407