

Appendix A – Phased DCATCH (HBP) Withdrawal Consultation Survey Feedback

- The consultation feedback data presented within this appendix was generated using an online survey which ran from 7 November to 5 December 2018, where responses were invited from the parents/carers currently accessing DCATCH (HBP) and also from the wider network of parents/carers of disabled children through engagement of the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum (NPCF).
- Three proposals were presented within the consultation survey for parents/carers to assess and provide an opinion, these are summarised as follows:
 - Proposal 1 – Immediate Service Withdrawal
 - Proposal 2 – Immediate Increase in Parental Contribution, Service Remains Open
 - Proposal 3 – Phased Service Withdrawal (Recommended Option)
- The responses to the proposals presented within the consultation survey are given within tables 1 -3.

Data for those currently in receipt of DCATCH							
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered
Proposal 1	0	0	0	1	20	0	0
Proposal 2	4	4	0	7	5	0	1
Proposal 3	1	1	6	1	10	1	1
Total with DCATCH		21					

Table 1. Consultation responses from parents/carers currently in receipt of DCATCH (HBP).

Data for those who do not currently receive DCATCH							
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered
Proposal 1	3	2	6	11	17	7	0
Proposal 2	4	13	8	6	12	3	0
Proposal 3	2	9	8	7	15	5	0
Total not receiving DCATCH		46					

Table 2. Consultation responses from parents/carers who do not currently receive DCATCH but form part of the wider network of parents/carers of disabled children/young people.

Total responses related to DCATCH proposals							
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered
Proposal 1	3	2	6	12	37	7	0
Proposal 2	8	17	8	13	17	3	1
Proposal 3	3	10	14	8	25	6	1
Total Responses		67					

Table 3. The combined consultation responses from both cohorts of parents/carers consulted through the online survey.

- The results presented within tables 1-3 have been broken down by proposed option within figures 1-3, so that the response from each cohort and from the cohorts combined can be seen for each proposed option.

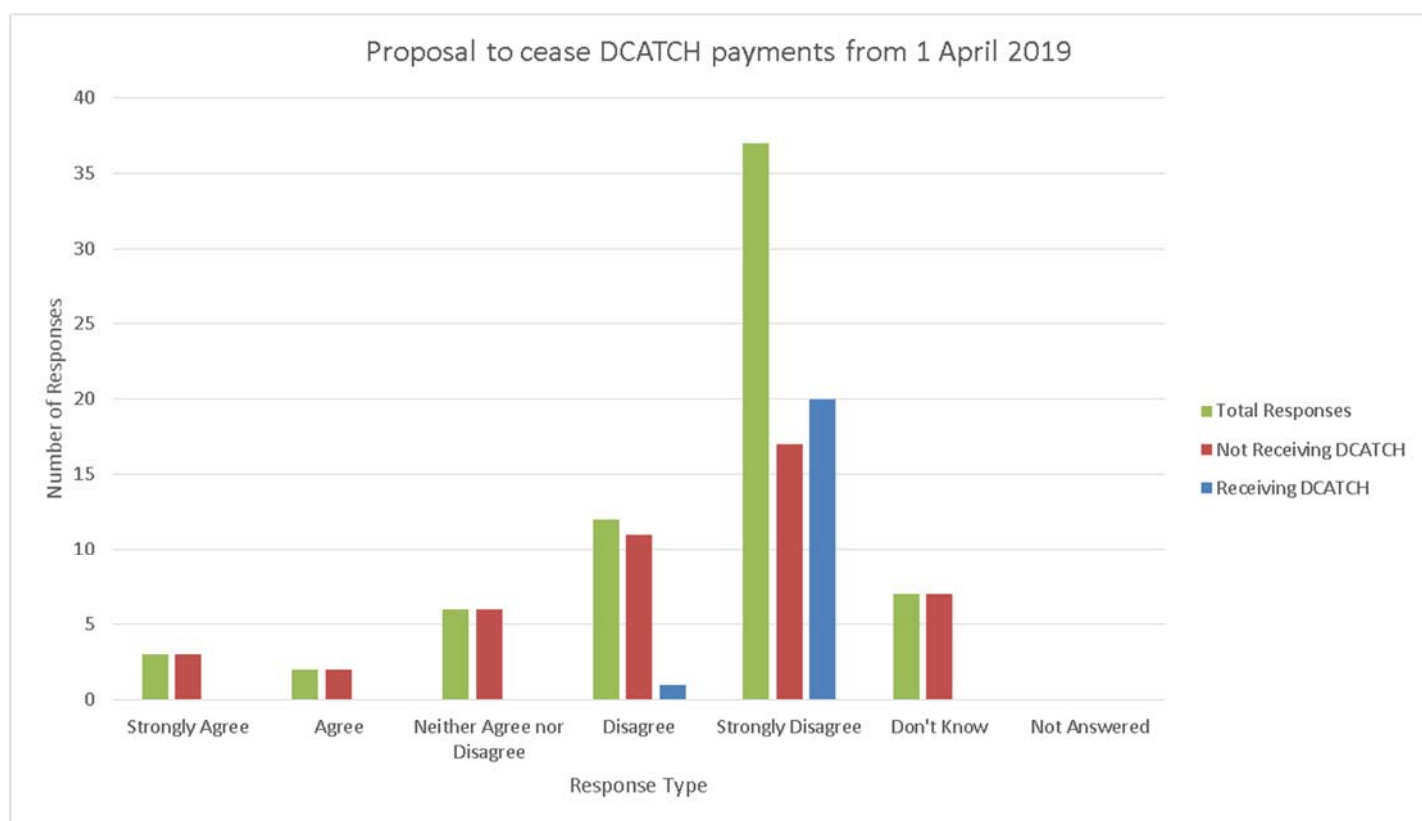


Figure 1. The consultation results showing the response from each cohort to the proposal to withdraw DCATCH immediately, from April 2019.

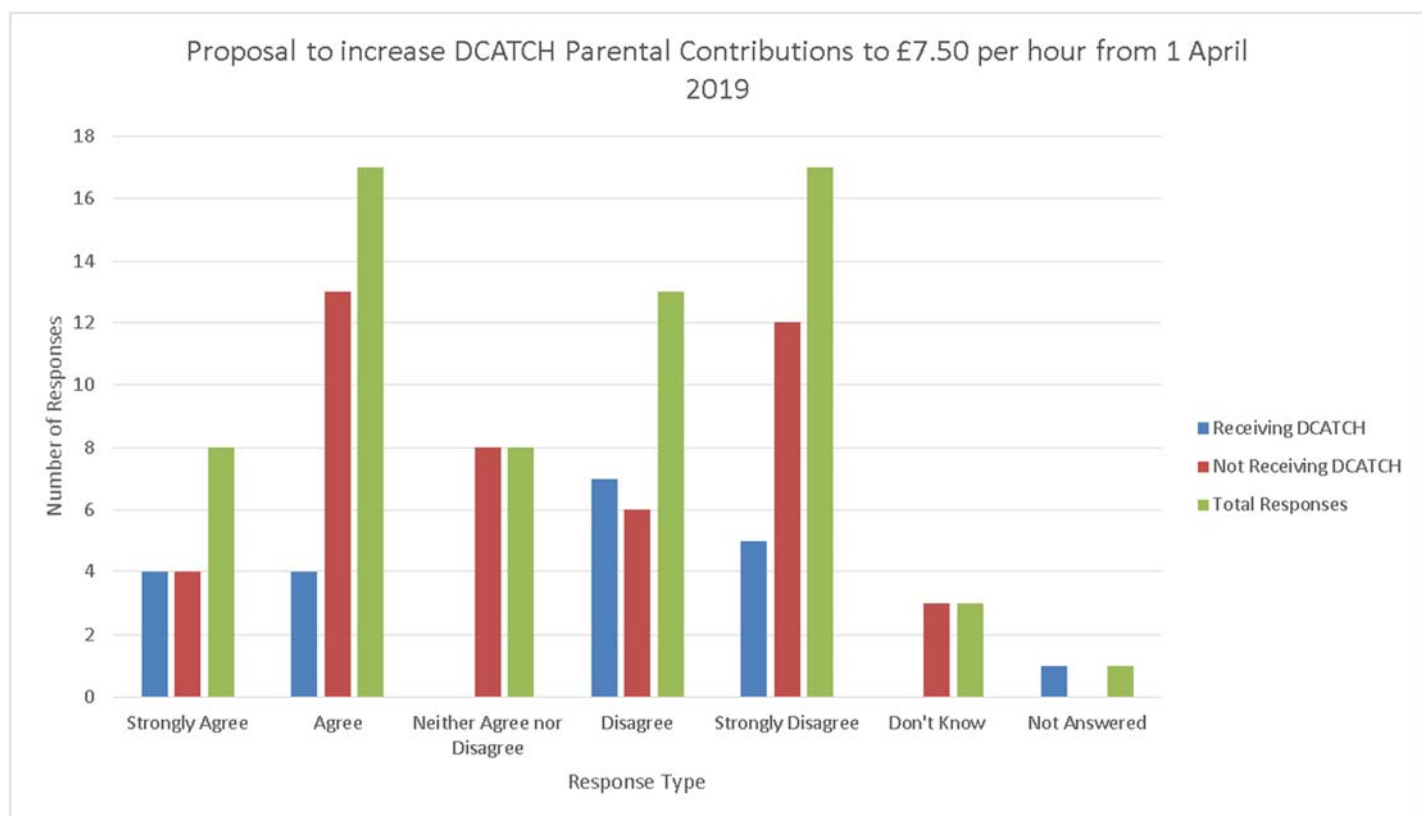


Figure 2. The consultation results showing the response from each cohort to the proposal to increase parental contributions immediately from £3.50 to £7.50 per hour for each child, with the service to remain active.

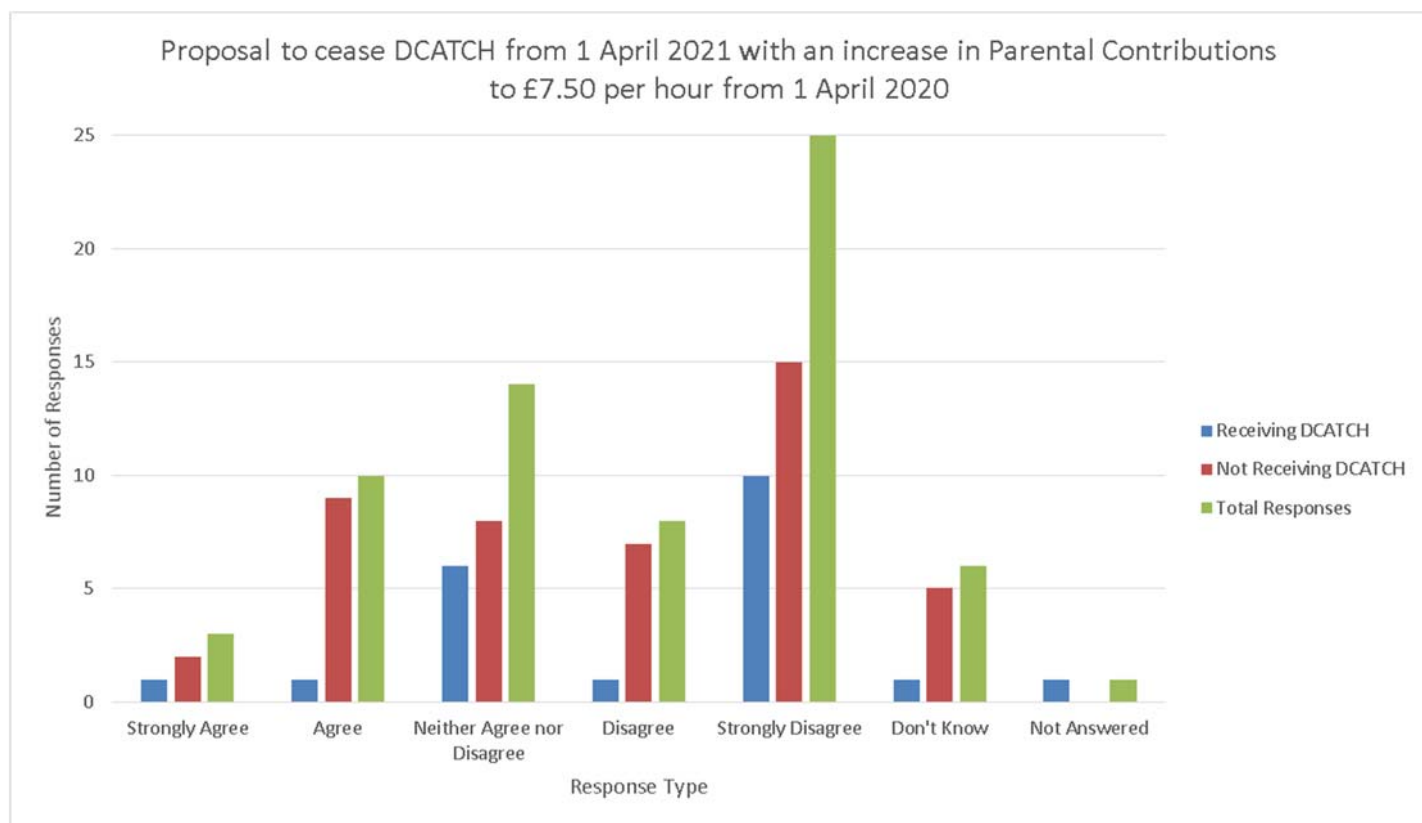


Figure 3. The consultation results showing the response from each cohort to the proposal for a phased withdrawal of the service, with the direct payment element being withdrawn from April 2020, and the provider service element seeing an increased parental contribution from £3.50 to £7.50 per hour from this time, with the provider service element being withdrawn from April 2021.

- In addition to enabling parents/carers to indicate levels of preference for the proposed options for the future of the DCATCH (HBP) service the consultation also enabled parents/carers to provide comments on each option, these are broadly negative and are summarised in the following table.

Summary of Comments Received & NCC Contextual Information

Phased Withdrawal of DCATCH (HBP) Service	
Parent/Carer Comment	NCC Comment
<p>Summary of Parents/Carer comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents/carers feel that they cannot rely on providers to be able to cover shifts at short notice. Parents/carers feel that if they are unable to access the workplace they will not get a break from caring. Parents/carers feel that family's needs are not taken into consideration by the options presented. Some parents/carers feel that service withdrawal could lead to family breakup. Parents/carers have commented that while this option would have an impact it is the best option of those presented due to the time given to parents/carers to make adjustments. Some parents/carers have commented that life with disabled children is difficult and withdrawal of the DCATCH (HBP) service would make things worse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCATCH (HBP) is not provided on the basis of a needs assessment, it is a service designed to help parents/carers access the workplace and is not a Short Break designed to help parents/carers to continue in their caring role. We understand the difficulties which would be faced by parents/carers in making alternative arrangements, and as such have put forward this option in order to provide as much notice as possible to parents/carers to assist them in making alternative arrangements. While NCC acknowledges that withdrawing services has the potential to cause difficulties for families, DCATCH (HBP) is not a social care service and has not been provided on the basis of preventing escalation into social care, as such the withdrawal of this service should have no impact upon the numbers of children/young people accessing social care services. We understand that caring for a disabled child/young person comes with many additional costs that parents/carers of non-disabled children/young people do not face, and as such will ensure that the Local Offer is updated with information regarding central government benefits which can assist parents/carers of disabled children/young people with the cost of living.
Immediate Withdrawal of DCATCH (HBP) Service	
<p>Summary of Parents/Carer comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of the service would mean no longer being able to access the workplace. Parents are concerned that if they cannot work they will experience financial hardship with the consequence that they may be unable to pay their mortgages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC recognises that withdrawing this service has the potential to place an additional financial burden upon parents/carers of disabled children which may affect their ability to work. This is why the preferred option aims to give as much notice as possible to parents/carers to make alternative arrangements with employers. Additionally, NCC officers will ensure that the Local Offer is updated with information regarding central government benefits which can assist parents/carers of disabled children/young people with the cost of living. We understand that caring for a disabled child/young person comes with many additional costs that parents/carers of non-disabled children/young people do not face, and as such will ensure that the Local Offer is updated with information regarding central government benefits which can assist parents/carers of disabled children/young people with the cost of living.

Immediate Increase in DCATCH (HBP) Parental Contributions from £3.50 to £7.50 per hour	
<p>Summary of Parent/Carer comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cost is so much higher for the specialist care required compared to child care for children without disabilities and that parents/carers would be unable to meet those costs. ▪ Parents/carers feel penalised for their children requiring specialist services. ▪ Parents/carers report that most 'out of school' clubs do not take children above the age of 12, so without this service the provision does not exist. ▪ Parents/carers say that if they cannot meet the cost of childcare they will be unable to access the workplace. ▪ Parents/carers feel their children are unable to access mainstream childcare and have no alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We understand that caring for a disabled child/young person comes with many additional costs that parents/carers of non-disabled children/young people do not face, and as such will ensure that the Local Offer is updated with information regarding central government benefits which can assist parents/carers of disabled children/young people with the cost of living. ▪ DCATCH (HBP) is a service provided to individual children/young people within their own home, the cost associated with this type of care cannot be directly compared with the cost of care provided within a group based setting, such as school holiday clubs. ▪ DCATCH (HBP) has been provided on the basis of supporting working parents/carers with the cost of childcare and is not provided as a Short Break. Parents/carers can apply for a Short Break online through the Local Offer.

Table 4. Representative summary of the feedback received from parents/carers in regard to the options presented within the consultation which ran from 7 November to 5 December 2018, contrasted with NCC comments to provide context to the parent/carers comments.