



Young Carers snapshot poll

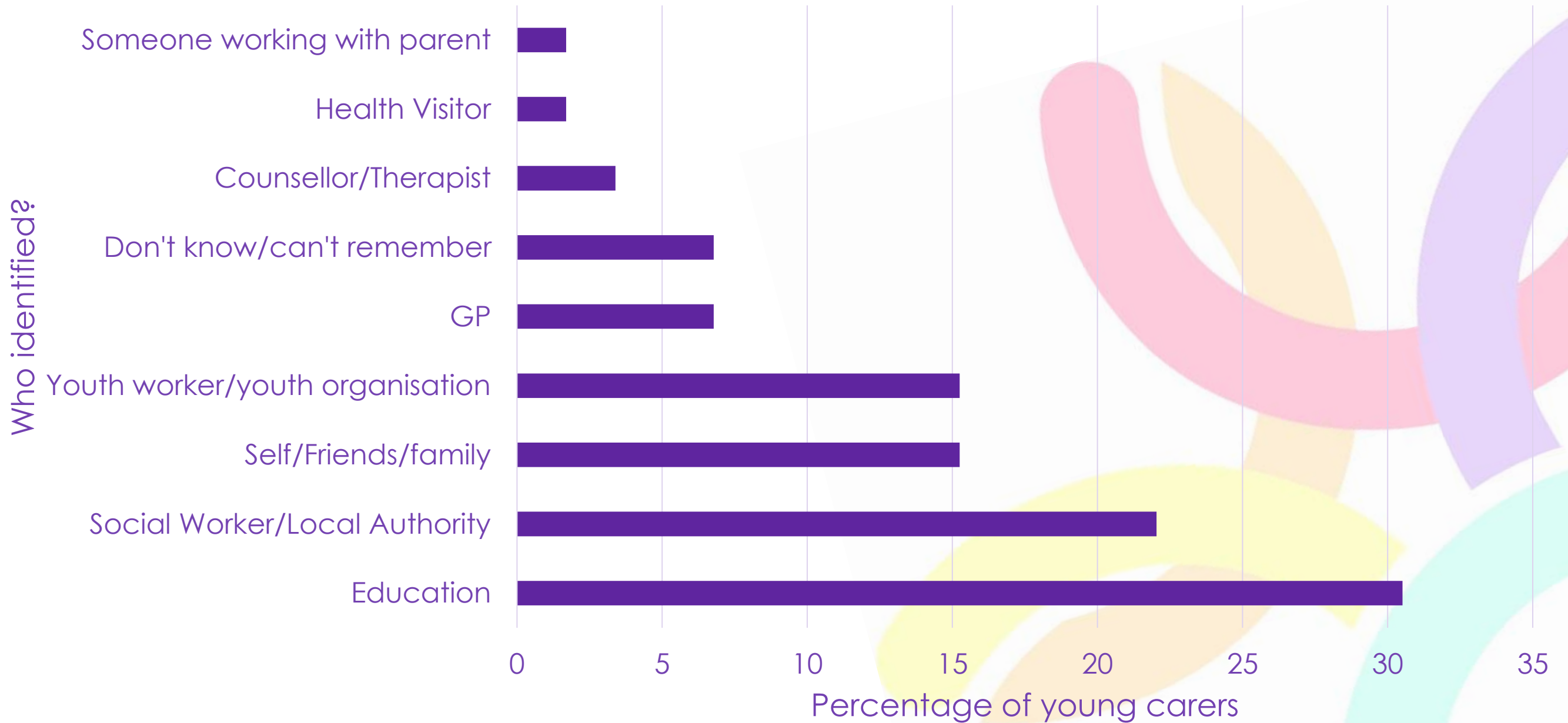
February 2022



What did young carers say?

- ✿ 59 young carers from across the country completed the survey
- ✿ The average age they started caring was 7. On average, they were linked into support at the age of 10.
- ✿ There were some young carers caring for over 10 years without being identified or supported as a young carer
- ✿ Only just over half reported having had a young carers assessment (34% didn't know if they'd had one and 12% said they hadn't)

Who identified them?



What difference did support make?

- ✿ *“The school has given me much more support and I am able to express how I feel freely”*
- ✿ *“I’m on a mentoring course and it helps me learn how to communicate better with my brother and listen to my mum”*
- ✿ *“I've had people to support me through some of the worst times in my life. And through some of the best.”*
- ✿ *“I can relate to others like me in my age group and we can discuss our lives as young carers and how it has affected us, this has improved my mental health. I feel more relaxed and not so stressed all the time.”*
- ✿ *So much difference - I feel supported and not alone“*

Recommendations

1. Given lack of identification within hospitals, the Health and Care Bill should be amended so as to ensure that hospitals have a duty to identify any potential young carers before a patient is discharged.
2. The commitment in the adult social care reform white paper to '*amend the school census, at the earliest opportunity, to include young carers*' is one which is highly welcomed but needs to be implemented as a priority.
3. Ofsted should ensure:
 - that local authority children's services are complying with their statutory duties towards young carers,
 - that school and college staff, and particularly designated safeguarding leads are '*alert to the needs of*' young carers ('*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' statutory guidance for schools and colleges')
4. CQC also need to play a key role in ensuring that health and care services have systems in place to pro-actively identify potential young carers.