

# Police Community Support Officer Consultation 2018

Report

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

**Lancashire**

County  
Council



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## 1. Executive summary

This report summarises the responses to Lancashire County Council's Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) consultations 2018. Two separate questionnaires were developed for the Early Action and Schools based PCSOs, and the Safer Travel PCSOs. There are currently seventeen PCSOs jointly funded by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary.

Online questionnaires could be accessed from [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk).

The fieldwork ran for six weeks from 5 March 2018 until 15 April 2018. In total, 204 completed questionnaires were returned for both consultations (46 for Early Action and Schools, and 158 for Safer Travel).

The findings presented in this report are not representative of the views of the population of Lancashire and should only be taken to represent the views of people who were made aware of the consultation, had the opportunity to respond and felt compelled to.

### 1.1 Key findings

#### **Fifteen Early Action and School based PCSOs**

- Responding to whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to remove part-funding, 91% of respondents strongly disagreed and no respondents strongly agreed.
- When asked why they agreed or disagreed with the proposal, 43% of those responding to the question said it was an important/vital/invaluable service.
- When asked how removing the part-funding would impact on them the most common responses were that the support provided to young people would be reduced/stopped and would have a negative impact on young people (59%) and there would be a negative impact on other services (e.g. police, Young Addaction, schools' pastoral service).
- Respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to say. 50% of the respondents said that it was an important service and 15% said to keep the posts.

#### **Two Safer Travel PCSOs**

- Responding to whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to remove part-funding, 85% of respondents strongly disagreed and 6% strongly agreed.
- When asked why they disagreed with the proposal, 27% of those responding to the question said PCSOs provide important support for behaviour management in schools.
- When asked how removing the part-funding would impact on them the most common responses were that there would be a decrease in public/public safety on public transport (24%) and it would be a loss of a valuable external resource for schools and/or bus companies (14%).
- Respondents were asked if there was anything else they would like to say and we received 73 varying replies. 23% of respondents said that PCSOs increased public safety and removing them can only make it worse and 19% said that other services should be cut before the PCSOs.

## 2. Introduction

Like many councils across the country, Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge due to continued funding cuts by Government, rising costs and rising demand for the services we provide.

We are committed to providing the best services we can to the people of Lancashire, particularly to the most vulnerable in our communities. However the council's financial position remains extremely challenging, with a forecasted funding gap of £144m in 2021/22. Because of this, we still need to make some difficult decisions in order to make further savings.

At Full Council on 8th February 2018, Full Council agreed to consult on the proposed removal of part-funding the police community support officers (PCSOs). There are currently seventeen PCSOs jointly funded by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary.

### **Early Action and Schools**

Fifteen PCSOs work within early action and schools across the county, jointly funded by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary. Originally, the posts were part-funded in areas that needed extra support for young people. Since then the constabulary has moved to an early action model and the PCSOs now support both young people and their families

Early action teams work with children, young people, adults and families. For example, they work with 7-17 year olds who are causing low-level anti-social behaviour or are at risk of future offending behaviour. They offer interventions on knife crime, gangs, anti-social behaviour, internet safety, crimes and consequences, alcohol and drugs – implications and the law, and a racist incident package.

They also work with partner agencies to offer specific support to families as part of ongoing social care.

The early action PCSOs work in a dedicated early action role, or a more general role but carrying out early action work.

The consultation asked for the public's views about the proposal to remove the part-funding of the PCSOs and ceasing their work.

### **Safer Travel**

Two of the seventeen PCSOs work as safer travel PCSOs to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime on the bus network across Lancashire, including the unitary authority area of Blackburn with Darwen.

To do this the PCSOs:

- Investigate reports of anti-social behaviour on the bus network, including bullying, criminal damage, and verbal or physical assaults, both on buses and at bus stations.

- Provide easy access to confidential reporting for victims of bullying and anti-social behaviour.
- Work with school pupils, parents, schools and bus operators to change the behaviour of offenders, prevent future incidents and keep young people out of the criminal justice system. Serious and repeat offenders are banned from using bus services.
- Carry out undercover operations to identify and deal with those causing problems on particular bus services.
- Conduct document checks on taxi drivers providing home to school services, on their licences and clearances.
- Conduct evening operations with neighbourhood police to target behaviour, such as missile attacks directed at public transport and taxis.

### 3. Methodology

Two consultations were set up to ensure the different service users had chance to report on the relevant service. For both consultations online questionnaires could be accessed from [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk).

The fieldwork ran for six weeks from 5 March until 15 April 2018. In total, 204 completed questionnaires were returned online.

The questionnaire asked respondents whether they agreed with the proposal to remove the part-funding of PCSOs and why and what the impact on them would be if the part-funding ceased.

#### 3.1 Limitations

The findings presented in this report are not representative of the views of the population of Lancashire and should only be taken to represent the views of people who, were made aware of the consultation, had the opportunity to respond and felt compelled to.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

## 4. Main consultation findings

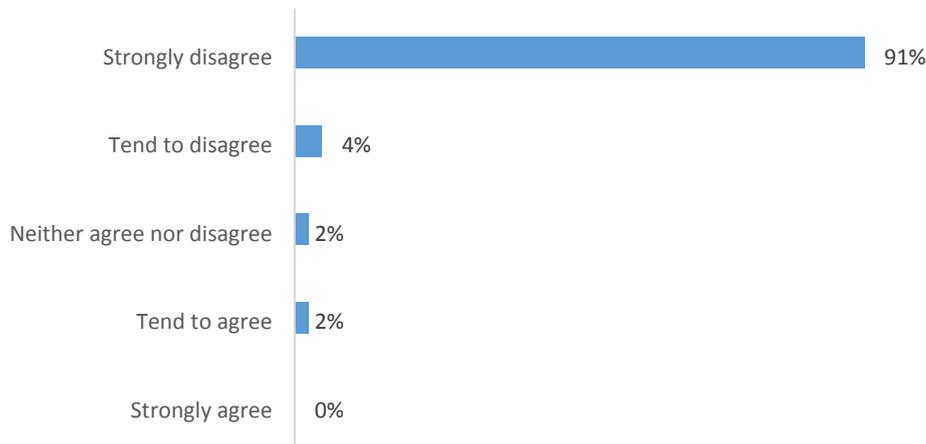
### Removal of part-funding for fifteen Early Action and Schools PCSOs and two Safer Travel PCSOs

First, respondents were asked how strongly do they agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the part-funding for the fifteen early action and schools PCSOs, and two safer travel PCSOs.

Respondents were most likely to say that they strongly **disagree** with the proposal to remove the part-funding, with 91% responding this way for Early Action and Schools PCSOs and 85% responding this way for the Safer Travel PCSOs.

#### Chart 1a: Early Action and Schools

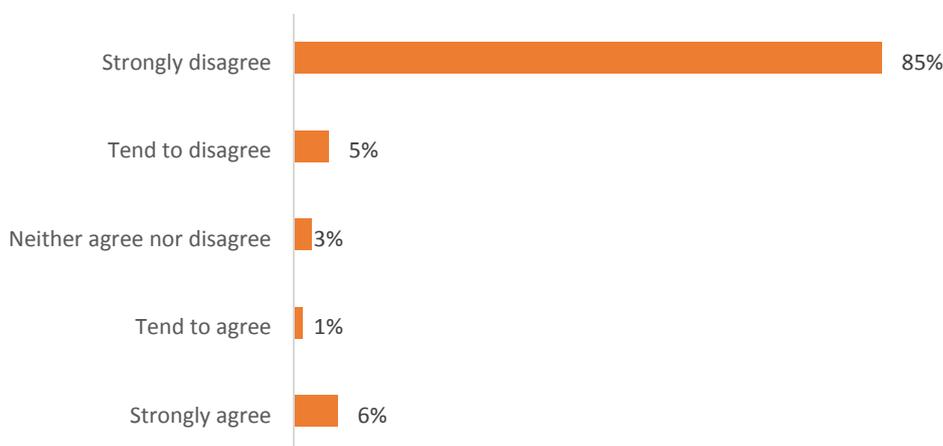
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the part-funding for the fifteen early action and schools PCSOs?



Base of all respondents (46)

#### Chart 1b: Safer Travel

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the part-funding for the two safer travel PCSOs?



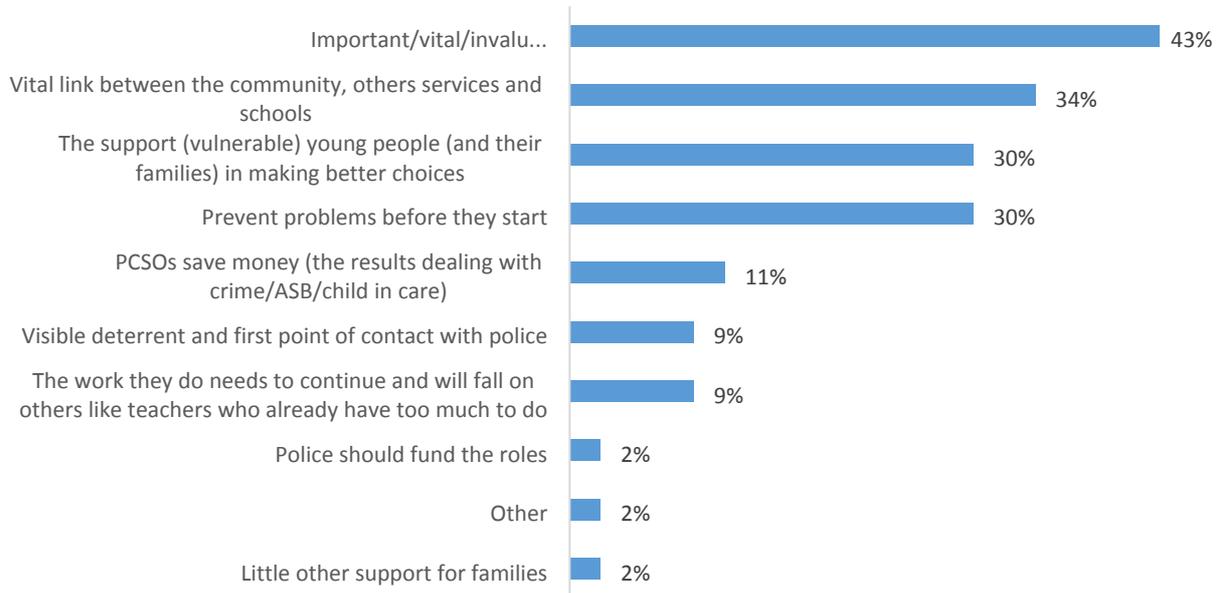
Base of all respondents (158)

Respondents were then asked why they agreed or disagreed with the proposal. 43% of respondents (Early Action and Schools) identified that the PCSOs provide an important and invaluable service. 27% of respondents (Safer Travel) identified that PCSOs provide important support for behaviour management in schools.

2% of respondents (Early Action and Schools) identified that the Police should fund the roles and 1% of respondents (Safer Travel) identified that parents and pupils view public transport as outside the remit of schools.

**Chart 2a: Early Action and Schools**

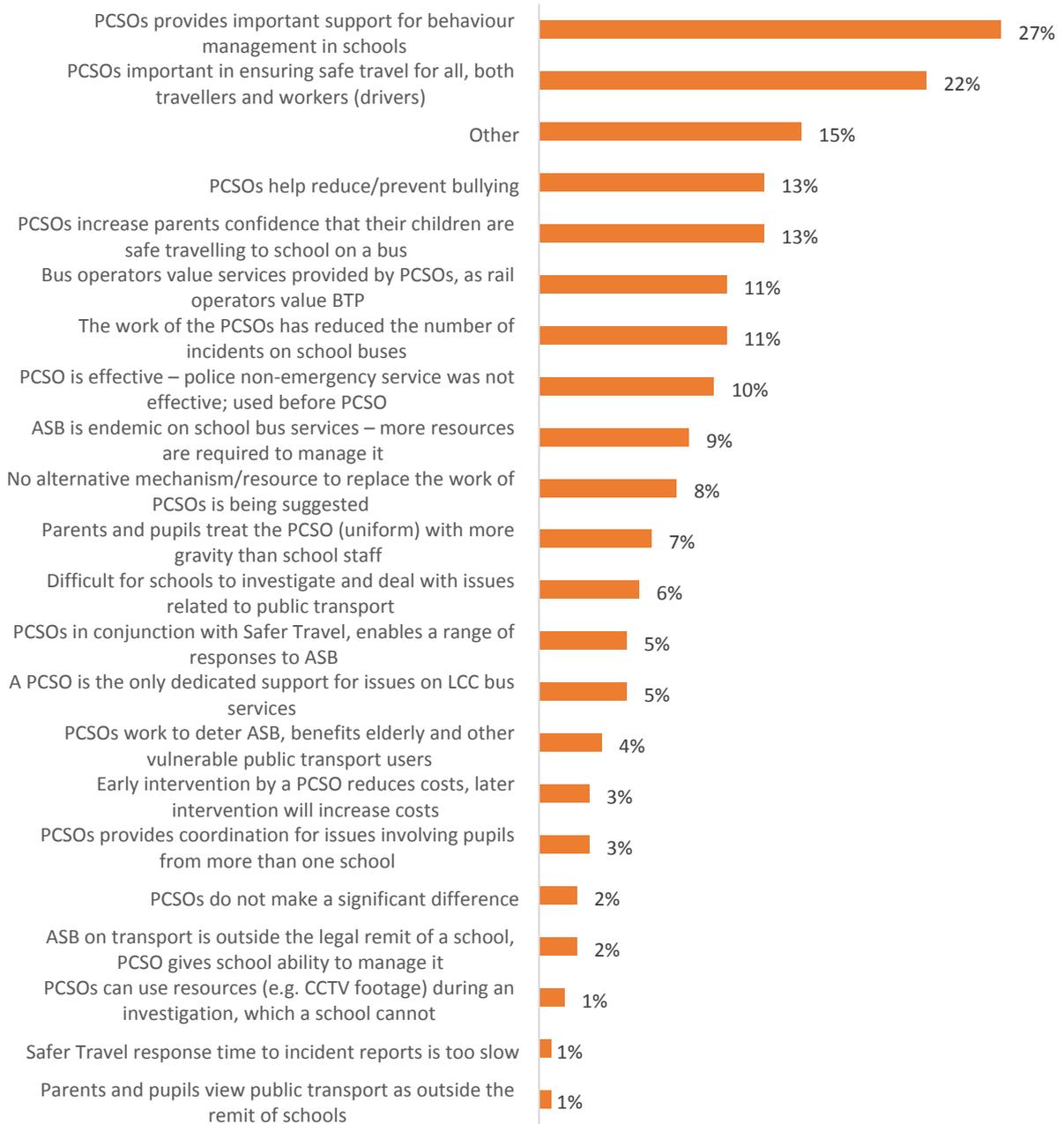
Why do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the part-funding for the fifteen early action and schools PCSOs?



Base of all respondents (44)

**Chart 2b: Safer Travel**

Why do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove the part-funding for the two Safer Travel PCSOs?



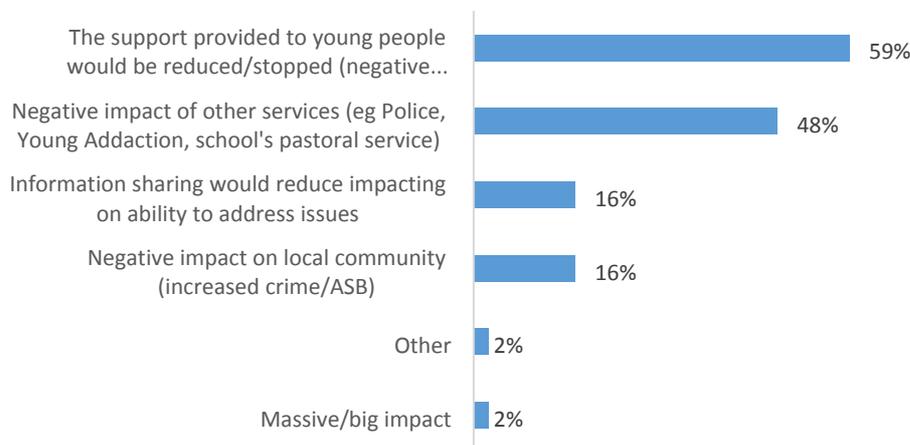
Base of all respondents (138)

Respondents were then asked if the fifteen early action and schools PCSOs were removed and the services they provide ceased how would this impact on them.

59% of respondents to the Early Action and Schools PCSO consultation identified that if the support provided to young people was to be reduced this would have a negative impact on young people. 16% of respondents identified that there would be a negative impact on the local community (increased crime and anti-social behaviour) and the same percentage of people identified that decreased information sharing would reduce the impact on the ability to address local issues.

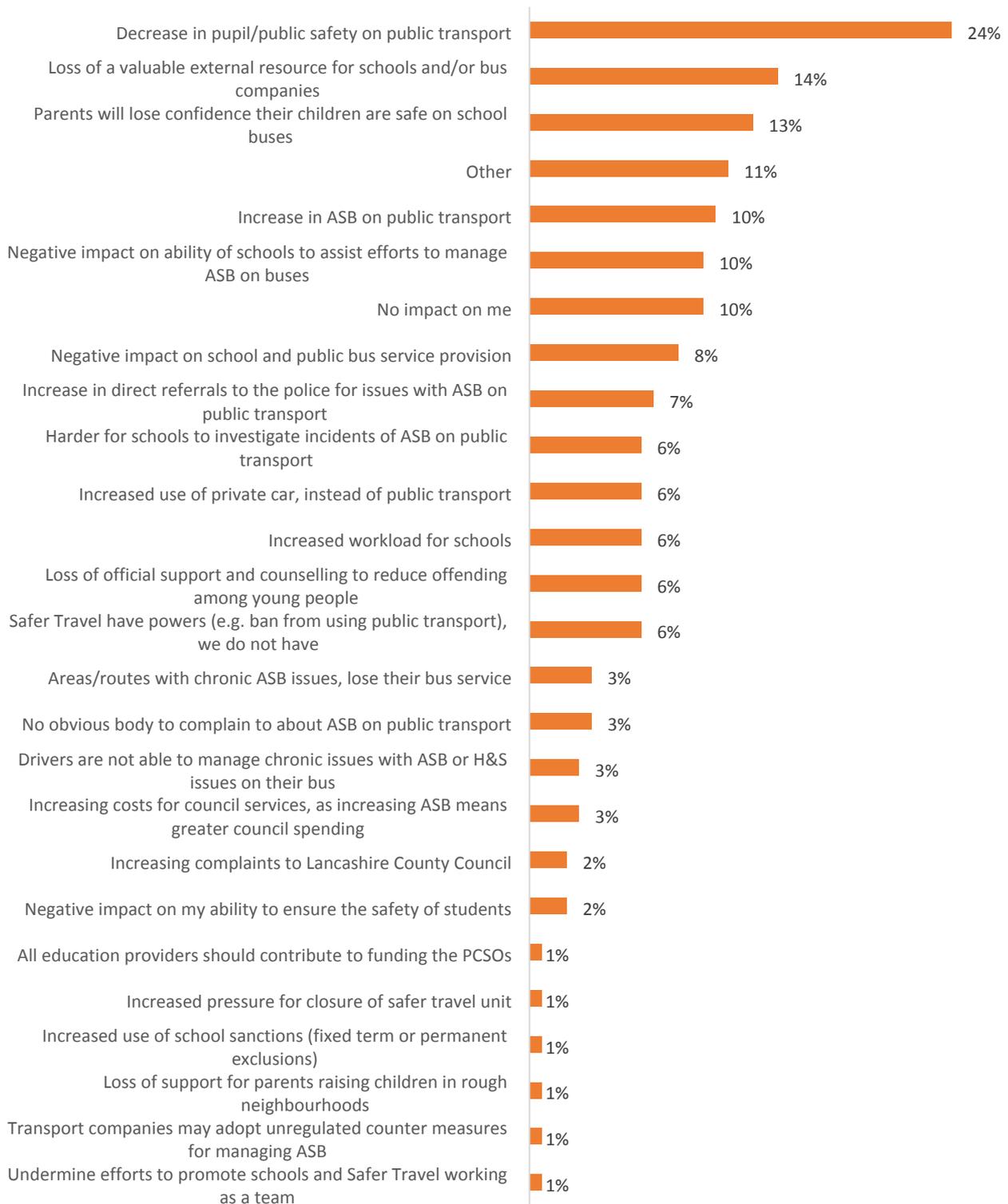
24% of respondents to the Safer Travel PCSO consultation identified there would be a decrease in pupil and public safety on public transport and 1% identified that transport companies may adopt unregulated counter measures for managing anti-social behaviour.

### Chart 3a: Early Action and Schools



Base of all respondents (44)

**Chart 3b: Safer Travel**



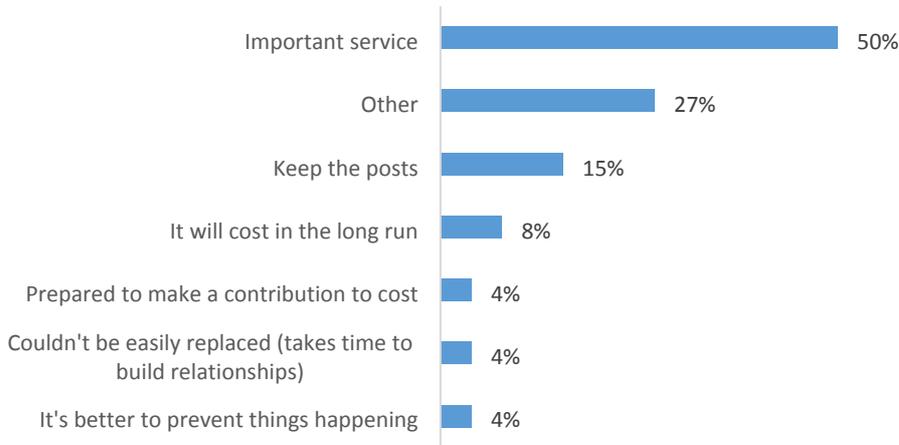
Base of all respondents (144)

Respondents were asked finally if there was anything else they would like to tell us.

50% of respondents to the Early Action and Schools PCSO consultation identified that this was an important service and 4% of respondents identified that it is better to prevent things from happening.

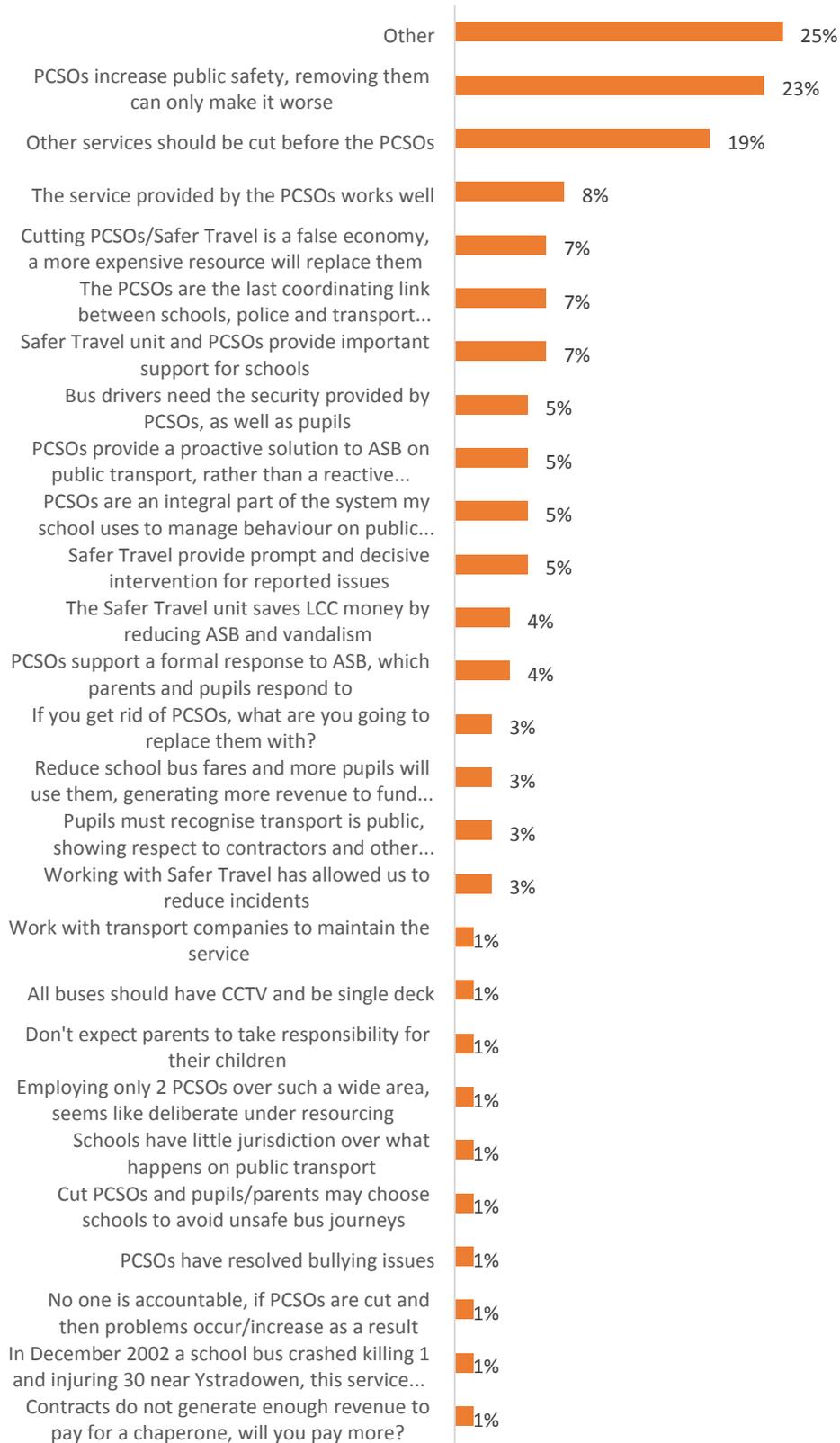
23% of respondents to the Safer Travel PCSO consultation identified that PCSOs increase public safety and removing them can only make it worse and 1% identified that no-one is accountable and if the PCSOs are cut, then problems will occur and increase as a result.

**Chart 4a: Early Action and Schools**



**Base of all respondents (26)**

**Chart 4b: Safer Travel**



Base of all respondents (73)

## Appendix 1: Demographic Breakdown

### A: Early Action and Schools

### B: Safer Travel

**Table 1a: Are you?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
Male	36%	16
Female	60%	27
Prefer not to say	4%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table 1b: Are you?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
Male	37%	57
Female	55%	86
Prefer not to say	8%	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>

**Table 2a: Have you ever been identified as transgender?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
Yes	0%	0
No	93%	42
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table 2b: Have you ever been identified as transgender?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
Yes	1%	1
No	90%	135
Prefer not to say	9%	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>

**Table 3a: What was your age on your last birthday?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
20-34	11%	5
35-64	84%	38
Prefer not to say	4%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table 3b: What was your age on your last birthday?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
16-19	1%	1
20-34	9%	14
35-64	81%	126
65-74	1%	2
Prefer not to say	8%	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>

**Table 4a: Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
Yes	2%	1
No	91%	42
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>

**Table 4b: Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
Yes	3%	5
No	86%	133
Prefer not to say	11%	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>

**Table 5a: What best describes your ethnic background?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
White	89%	40
Asian or Asian British	2%	1
Black or Black British	2%	1
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table 5b: What best describes your ethnic background?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
White	84%	131
Asian or Asian British	1%	1
Black or Black British	1%	2
Mixed Race	1%	1
Prefer not to say	13%	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>

**Table 6a: What is your religion?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
No religion	30%	14
Christian	61%	28
Muslim	2%	1
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>

**Table 6b: What is your religion?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
No religion	25%	14
Christian	61%	28
Buddhist	1%	2
Muslim	1%	1
Prefer not to say	12%	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>

**Table 7a: How would you describe your sexual orientation?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
Heterosexual	87%	40
Gay man	4%	2
Lesbian / gay woman	2%	1
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>

**Table 7b: How would you describe your sexual orientation?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
Heterosexual	82%	125
Bisexual	1%	1
Lesbian / gay woman	1%	1
Prefer not to say	17%	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>

**Table 8a: Are there any disabled children and young people in your household?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
Yes	7%	3
No	87%	39
Prefer not to say	7%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table 8b: Are there any disabled children and young people aged under 25 in your household?**

Safer Travel	%	Count
Yes	6%	9
No	84%	129
Prefer not to say	10%	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>154</b>

**Table 9a: Are you..?**

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
A Lancashire resident	29%	23
A Parent/carer of a pupil currently at a Lancashire school	8%	6
A member of school staff at a Lancashire school	29%	23
An employee of Lancashire Constabulary	3%	2
An employee of Lancashire County Council	10%	8
A Community Safety Partnership	6%	5
A member of a voluntary or community organisation	13%	10
Other	4%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>

Table 9b: Are you responding to this proposal as..?

Safer Travel	%	Count
A Lancashire resident	34%	99
A Parent/carer of a pupil currently at a Lancashire school	22%	62
A member of school staff at a Lancashire school	20%	58
A bus operator	7%	21
A bus/taxi driver	0%	0
An employee of Lancashire Constabulary	1%	2
An employee of Blackburn with Darwen Council	0%	0
An employee of Lancashire County Council	8%	23
An elected member of Lancashire County Council	0%	0
An elected member of a Lancashire district council	0%	0
An elected member of a parish or town council in Lancashire	0%	0
A Community Safety Partnership	1%	3
A member of a voluntary of community organisation	4%	11
Other	3%	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>288</b>

Table 10a: Are there any children or young people in your household?

Early Action and Schools	%	Count
No, but expecting	0%	0
Yes, aged under 5	10%	5
Yes, aged 5-8	8%	4
Yes, aged 9-11	10%	5
Yes, aged 12-16	16%	8
Yes, aged 17-19	10%	5
No children aged under 20	41%	21
Prefer not to say	6%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>51</b>

Table 10b: Are there any children or young people in your household?

Safer Travel	%	Count
No, but expecting	2%	4
Yes, aged under 5	7%	14
Yes, aged 5-8	11%	23
Yes, aged 9-11	13%	28
Yes, aged 12-16	27%	58
Yes, aged 17-19	14%	29
No children aged under 20	21%	44
Prefer not to say	6%	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>213</b>