



One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS): Survey of Glasgow Single Parents' Policy Priorities

September 2015

1. Summary Results Executive Summary

1.1 Summary of objectives

Following research conducted by Napier University and funded by Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) it was identified that single parents were negatively impacted by welfare reform.

Recommendations in the report led Glasgow City Council's Poverty Leadership Panel and partners to fund a Development Manager post to work across agencies to take forward the recommendations. A Single Parent Project Advisor based at OPFS supports the work plan of the Single Parent Development Manager to improve the way in which the city's services 'serve' single parents and to increase collaboration across relevant public, voluntary and private providers.

It was felt that it was a vital part of this process to consult single parents about what they believe are the top priorities for change for Glasgow to more effectively support single parents. An on-line survey of single parents in Glasgow was carried out backed up with paper-based responses to the survey from single parents attending local OPFS hubs. There were 99 individual responses. Three key areas are: childcare; welfare reform and employment. This information will be used to influence service planning and development, and aid the project in planning and evidencing the priorities of the project.

1.2 Summary of the results

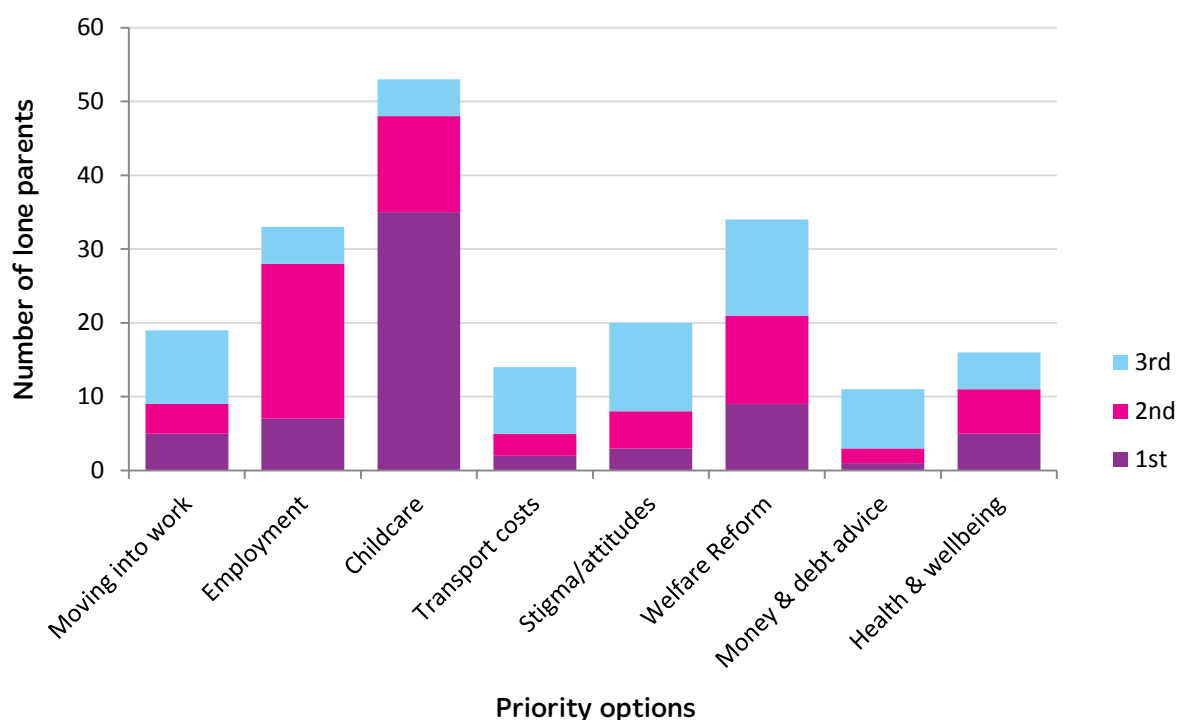
The clear top priority identified by single parents in Glasgow is **childcare**. Parents responded saying they want more affordable, quality, flexible childcare. The vast majority (85.48%) selected 'Childcare' within their top three priorities, with over half (56%) of parents surveyed choosing this as their number one priority.

In second position, **welfare reform** was selected by over half (54.84%) as one of their top three priorities to enable their path to employment or sustain current employment.



The third top priority identified by single parents surveyed was “**employment, single parent friendly work placements with opportunities to move into sustainable employment.**” Over half of participants, (53.23%) selected this within their top three priorities, of which 11% and 34% selected this as their first and second top priority respectively.

Single parents' top priorities (Glasgow)



1.3 Methodology

- Survey population: 93% of survey participants were female single parents, and 8% are single fathers. This is representative of the 6% single parent father’s in Glasgow in the 2011 census.
- Age categories of single parent respondents were: 3% aged 19 or under; 6% aged 20–24, 38% aged 25–34, 44% aged 35–45; 9% over the age of 45.
- Over half of survey respondents (56%) reported to have one child, over a quarter (27%) have two children, 14% have three children, and a minority of 3% of respondents have four or more children.
- Almost half of all single parents that participated in the survey (49%), have children of school age (5–12). Almost a third of participants (31%) have pre-school children aged 3–5, with a further fifth (20%) with pre-school children aged 0–2. A quarter (25%) have children of secondary school age, 13–16, and 8% have children aged 17+.



- The employment status of survey participants is mainly from single parents not currently in paid work (52%), almost a third (30%) are currently working between 16–29 hours per week. Less than one sixth of respondents (15%), are working 30 plus hours per week, and only two single parents that participated in the survey (3%) are working between 1 and 15 hours per week. That accounts for a total of 48% in paid work, which is representative of 49.5% of single parents in paid work in the GCPH research paper of October 2014.

1.4 Results and discussion

The clear priority identified by single parents in Glasgow is **childcare**, they want more affordable, quality, flexible childcare. The vast majority (85.48%) selected **childcare** within their top three priorities, with over half (56%) of parents surveyed choosing this as their number one priority.

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Further options were placed as:

- **Stigma/attitudes** of single parents as fourth top priority. 32% within top three priorities.
- Fifth priority was **moving into work**, which was described as more specialist single parent employment advisers to offer confidence and work skills training. Almost a third (31%) selected this within their top three priorities.
- Sixth priority was **health and wellbeing** support to enable transition to employment or sustain current employment, over a quarter (26%) selected this within their top three.
- Seventh priority was discounted **travel** on public transport, almost a quarter (23%) choose this within their top three, though less than 5% choose this as their number one priority.
- The final priority, with less than a fifth (18%), selected **money and debt advice** within their top three priorities.

Supporting and inspiring single parent families across Scotland



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