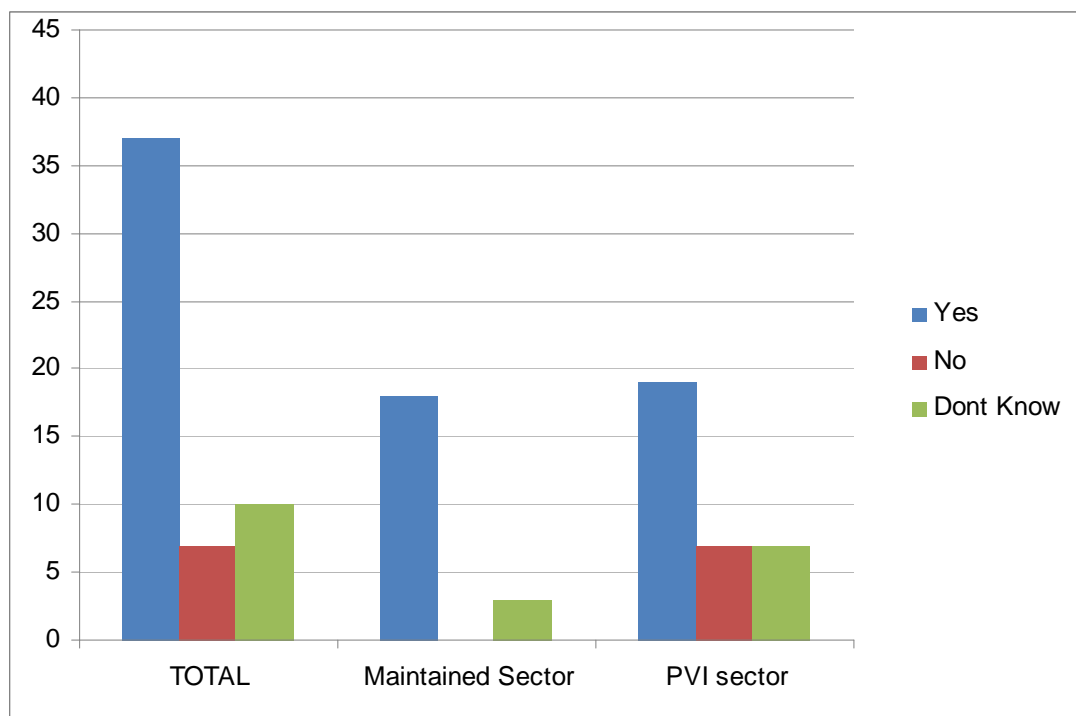


Early Years Single Funding Formula Consultation Questionnaire Response Summary November 2009

Total number of returns: 54
 Maintained Sector: 21 (39%)
 PVI Sector: 33 (61%)

Q1. Do you agree with the three differential base rates for each of the types of setting?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	37	7	10
Maintained Sector	18	0	3
PVI sector	19	7	7



Maintained

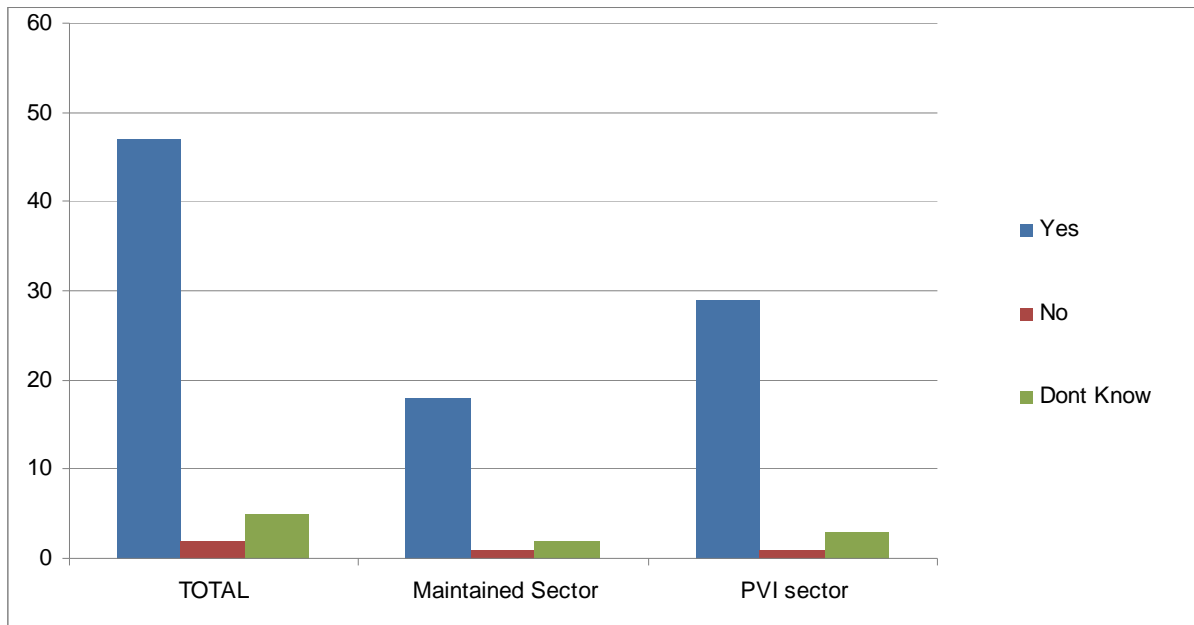
- Different pay scales should be reflected

PVI

- The process should be open and honest. Has the fact that staff costs in PVI are limited by income – qualified staff in PVI earn less because of income.
- If we are all working to EYFS and have the same quality of care, it shouldn't be different
- Provided it is truly cost reflective
- If all settings work to EYFS should all get same base rate – this is a divisive move
- Would need to know how the base rates have been reached
- I am concerned about settings that have satisfactory Ofsted ratings who are involved in projects with the LA to improve practice, losing out due to a lower rating than others.
- We are all working to the same standards and all have same quality of care.

Q2. Do you agree that the mandatory factor for deprivation should be measured against children attending a setting as opposed to the geographic location of the setting itself?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	47	2	5
Maintained Sector	18	1	2
PVI sector	29	1	3



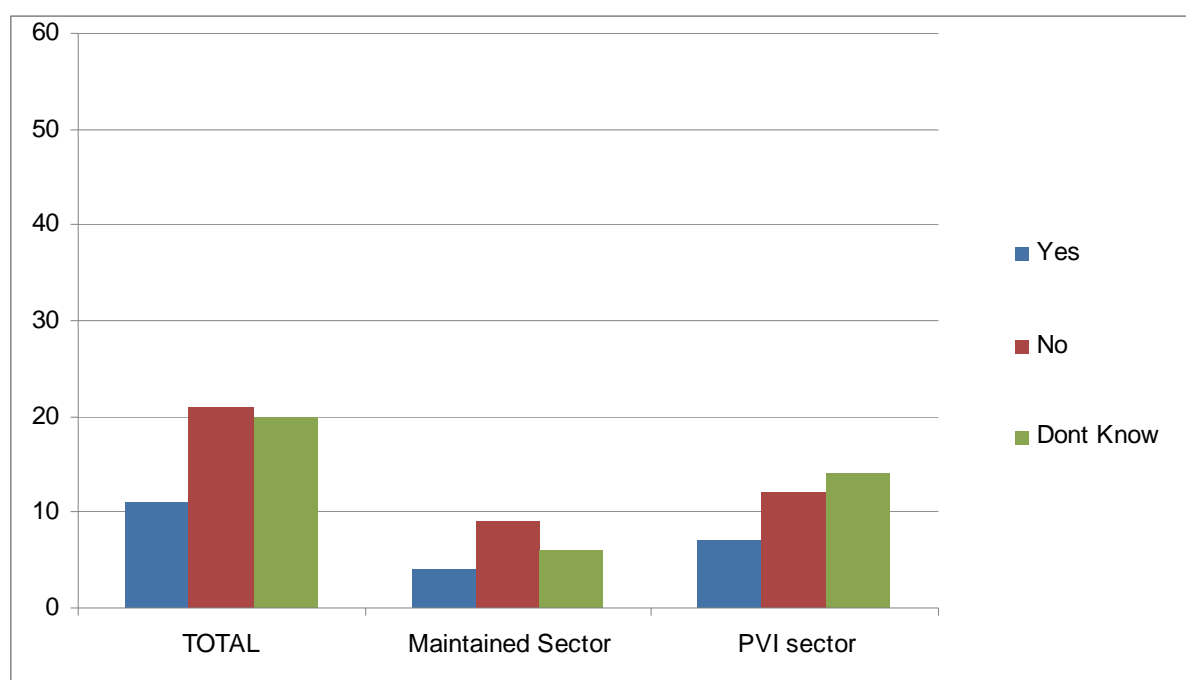
Maintained

PVI

- Don't like the post code lottery
- Our setting is not in a deprived area but this should not matter as the funding should be the same
- All children should receive the best start in life... all families have different financial circumstances and we shouldn't have to ask parents this information.
- We get a lot of non-funded children not being able to afford fees , so if we had more per child funded, it would help with sustainability

Q3. Do you foresee any issues with using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to measure the relative deprivation of children attending settings/schools to determine a deprivation rate?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	11	21	20
Maintained Sector	4	9	6
PVI sector	7	12	14



Maintained

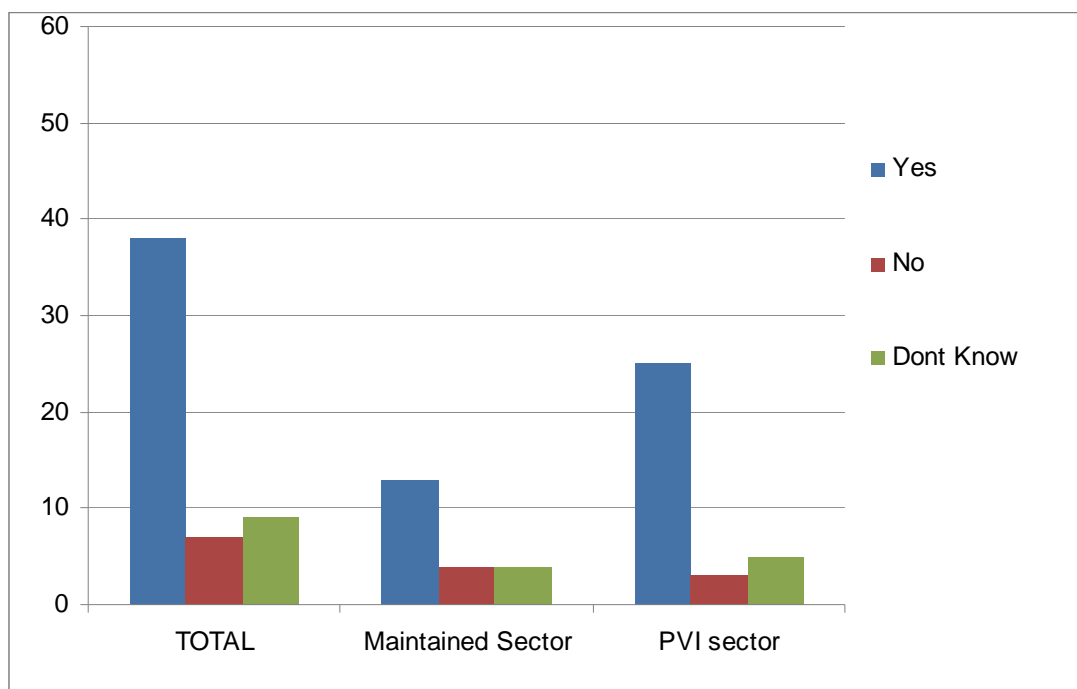
- There may be variations in income annually owing to particular cohorts – faith schools.
- Is all the data available for FS1
- Setting in deprived area but affluent children attend

PVI

- Children from deprived areas can have a rich home learning environment and vice versa
- Don't understand the question
- Parents who may have recently lost their jobs should not have to produce documents showing they are on low incomes
- If worked out by post code not so much
- A child's circumstances can change rapidly – there can also be pockets of deprivation in comfortable postcodes.
- Settings on the border of a deprived area may get children from the deprived area but not actually have an address that is in the deprived area.
- Some families may be overlooked due to them living in a 'good' postcode area – there are always exceptions.

Q4. Do you agree that a 'quality' factor be included within the formula in accordance with DCSF recommendations?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	38	7	9
Maintained Sector	13	4	4
PVI sector	25	3	5



Maintained

- Settings that are more in need of support require additional funding
- Good progress can be made with pupils but age related expectations still not met i.e. pupils arrive 'below' par
- Wider indicator than Ofsted judgements required as these can last up to 6 years
- Quality settings can be a historical judgement
- Settings in different areas may be at a disadvantage
- May be counter productive – should have outreach to support those not meeting standards
- ECAT should be considered also
- Quality judgements based on outcomes do not take enough account of entry levels, mobility and EAL – all can have negative impact in terms of Ofsted judgements. A school with relative low attainment may also be making good progress.
- Other national quality schemes should be considered – Quality Mark; Investors in Pupils
- Ofsted have a lot of variations – no consistency

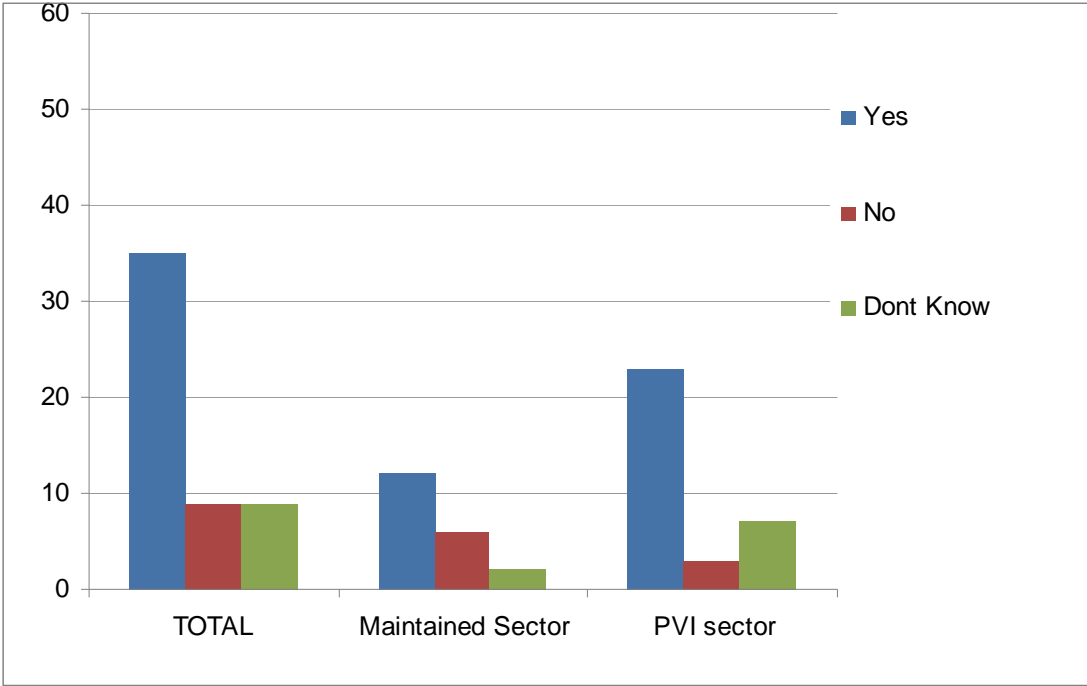
PVI

- Yes but against Ofsted judgement and staff training/qualifications
- If a nursery is of poor quality, it is usually because of lack of funds – they should receive more not less.
- It is difficult to meet the increase number of varying quality indicators in a small setting with a small number of staff and funding.
- It is unfair to settings over the sector – Children's Centres are going to be rewarded when they are staffed differently and in private sector this is not always achievable.

Q5. If a 'quality' factor were to be included within the formula, do you agree with the use of the following indicators?

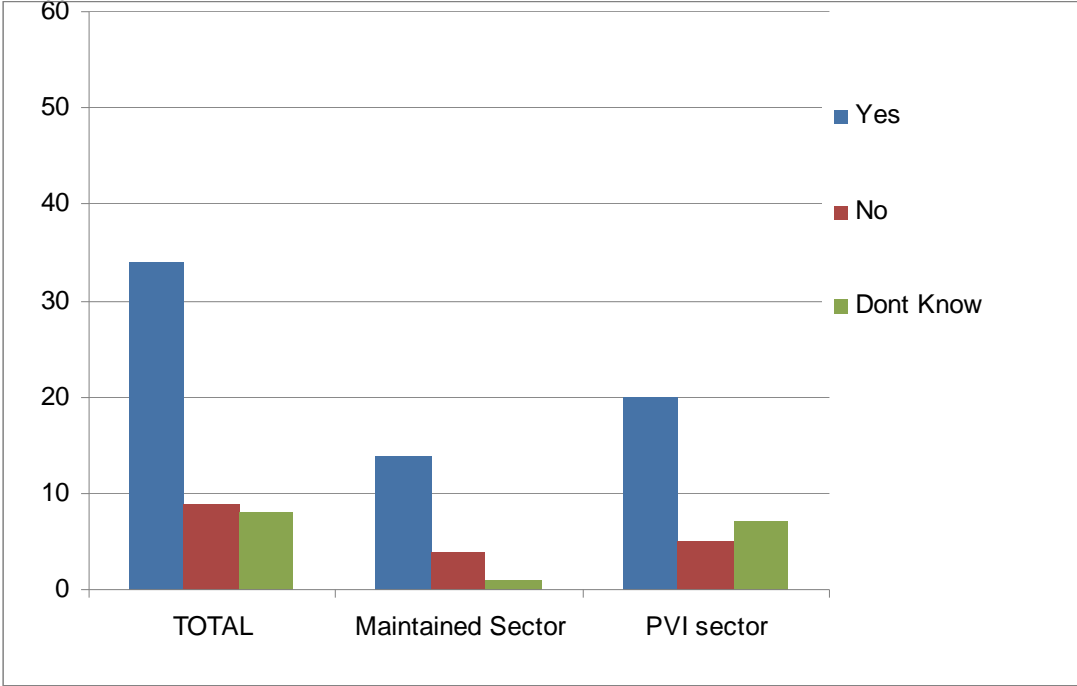
Ofsted Judgement in the Foundation Stage?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	35	9	9
Maintained Sector	12	6	2
PVI sector	23	3	7



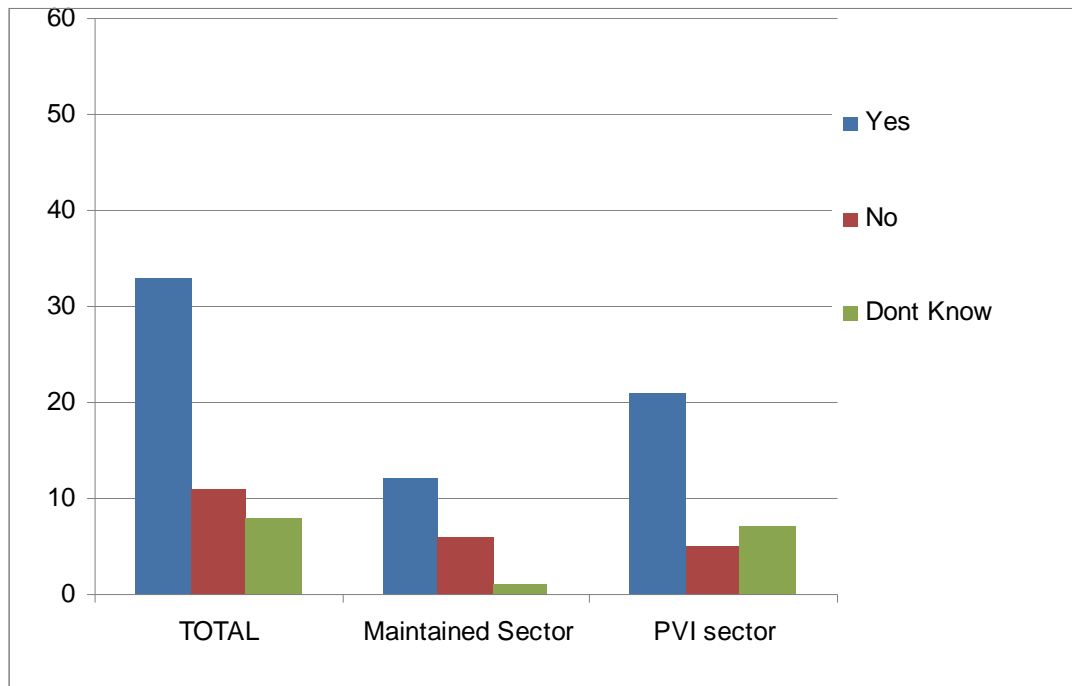
Commitment towards the Quality in Action Scheme?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	34	9	8
Maintained Sector	14	4	1
PVI sector	20	5	7



Achievement of the Quality in Action Scheme?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	33	11	8
Maintained Sector	12	6	1
PVI sector	21	5	7



Maintained

- Ofsted inspection judgements not consistent
- Ofsted new regime a concern
- Ofsted judgement should be taken on its entirety rather than on a key stage
- Ofsted – 3 years between judgements

- QIA is self-assessment so room for falsifying
- QIA needs clarifying
- QIA toolkit time consuming
- QIA onerous – quality mark fairer that more settings could achieve
- QIA appropriate for PVI; more rigorous Ofsted inspection for Maintained schools
- Use Early years Quality Mark too

- Use a selection of Quality schemes
- SIP to judge
- Positive external judgements may precede attainment

PVI

- Quality - Maybe other awards such as Basic Skills
- Quality – this should include Basic Skills Quality Mark

- Ofsted – is a snapshot indicator lasting ½ day over a 3 year cycle
- Ofsted – judgements have previously been made on the funded children – doesn't show a true judgement of the practice – Quality Marks show this.
- Ofsted – what if a setting is not Ofsted registered but registered with ISI
- Ofsted – is a national body applying national standards – settings can have good Ofsted grades and be committed to quality without going through QIA

- QIA – a commitment is very vague – this should be time bound as a minimum otherwise why bother?
- QIA – length of time to achieve

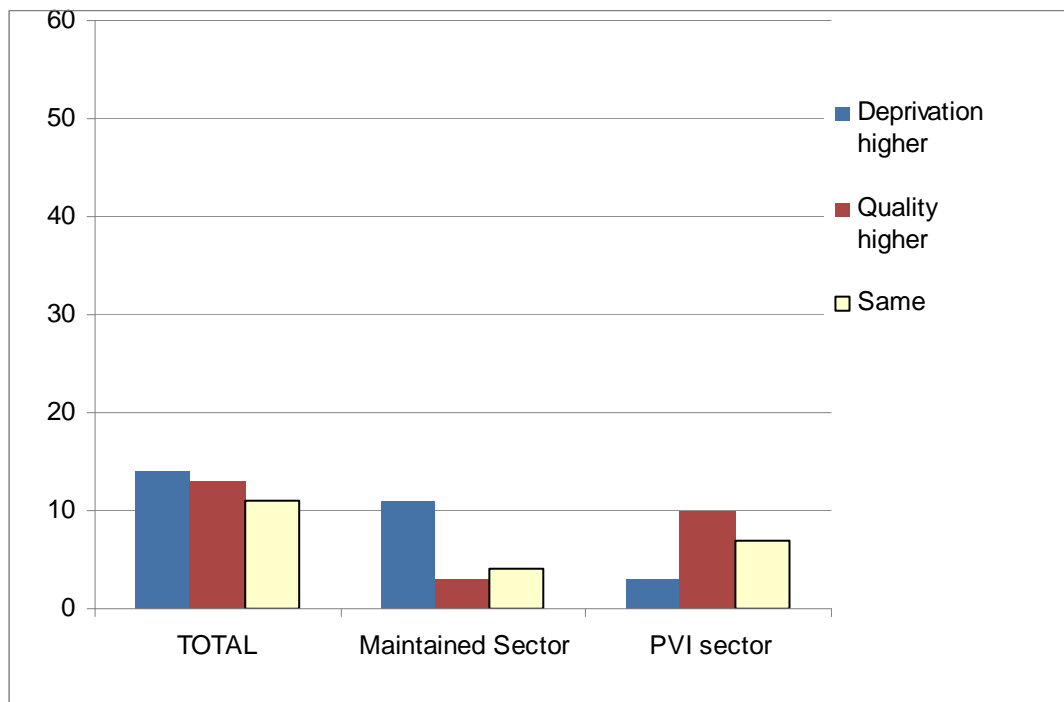
- Staff are gaining higher qualifications to provide higher quality care/education
- Staff qualification levels

- Every setting should be of good quality but the judgement should take into account happy parents and children

- Not achievable by all – not a true formula

Q6. If a 'quality' factor were to be included within the formula, should it be weighted more than deprivation, less than deprivation or about the same?

	Deprivation higher	Quality higher	Same
TOTAL	14	13	11
Maintained Sector	11	3	4
PVI sector	3	10	7



Maintained

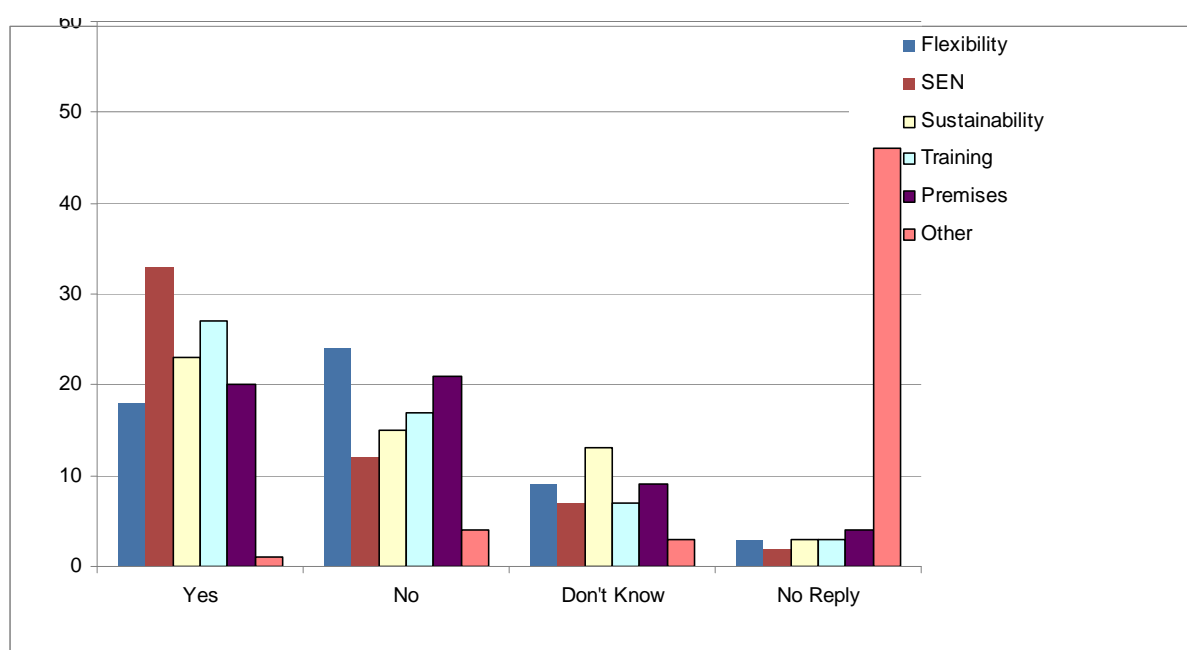
- Quality higher – all children should reach their potential and at least average profile scores

PVI

- It costs more to put quality into the setting
- We should all be working towards quality practice
- Quality should be consistent whether in a deprived area or not
- Better quality settings should improve the outcomes for identified deprivation

Q7. Do you feel strongly that any of the other factors put forward by the DCSF for consideration, should be included in Rotherham's formula?

	Flexibility	SEN	Sustainability	Training	Premises	Other
Yes	18	33	23	27	20	1
No	24	12	15	17	21	4
Don't Know	9	7	13	7	9	3
No Reply	3	2	3	3	4	46
Maint Yes	5	15	7	8	7	0
Maint No	10	3	7	8	9	3
Maint Don't Know	5	3	6	4	4	1
Maint No Reply	1	0	1	1	1	17
PVI Yes	13	18	16	19	13	1
PVI No	14	9	8	9	12	1
PVI Don't Know	4	4	7	3	5	2
PVI No Reply	2	2	2	2	3	29



Maintained

- SEN – additional staffing costs
- SEN – high number of pupils should attract funding
- SEN – training linked to
- SEN to be included if Inclusion Grant to be discontinued

- Flexibility – full provision limits ability to provide flexibility
- Flexibility – provides a better balance of provision to parents/carers

- Premises conditions – costs
- Premises – rest areas needed

PVI

- To provide quality care we feel all the above need to be included
- Diversity, sustainability, well qualified staff.... Is a must to deliver good EY education and should be rewarded
- Ensures flexibility and inclusion for everyone... hope it doesn't include more paper work

- Flexibility definitely – parents are offered choice and needs are met
- Flexibility – if settings are meeting parents needs flexibly this needs reflecting
- Flexibility – 15 hours entitlement demands flexibility and this should be rewarded
- Depending on how a parent wishes to use the hours, it could have an effect on sustainability

- SEN – children may need differentiation of activities/resources at a cost
- SEN – may require different activities/resources
- SEN – higher staffing for SEN
- SEN – there are a number of settings that put barriers in the way of SEN children because of increased work load and cost

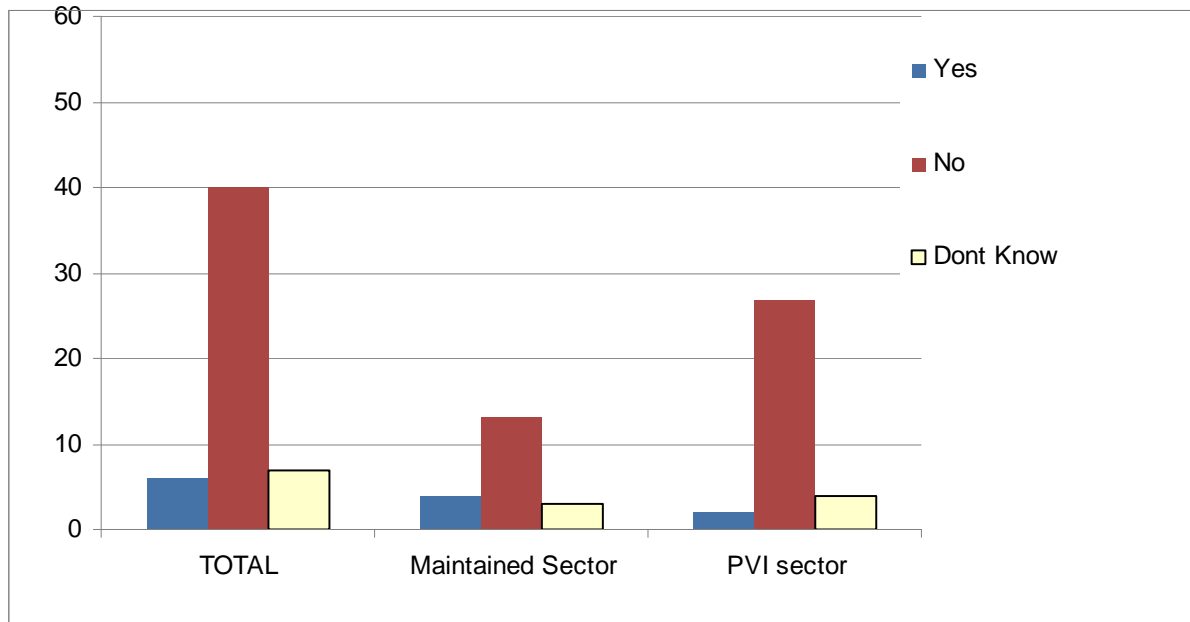
- Staff are gaining higher qualifications to provide higher quality care/education
- Quality of staff – training and qualifications should be taken into account – not a quality accreditation
- Training – is needed to improve the setting and is difficult to fund.
- Although training is funded, it still comes at a cost to the setting and it would be beneficial if this were recognised
- Well trained staff improve quality and best practice

- Premises – decorating, outdoor areas
- Premises – continued maintenance and development of premises where quality is in evidence will maintain sustainability and growth

- Sustainability – dips in birth rates and schools policies on taking children is difficult to maintain sustainability

Q8. Do you foresee any funding issues arising from the termly counts?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	6	40	7
Maintained Sector	4	13	3
PVI sector	2	27	4



Maintained

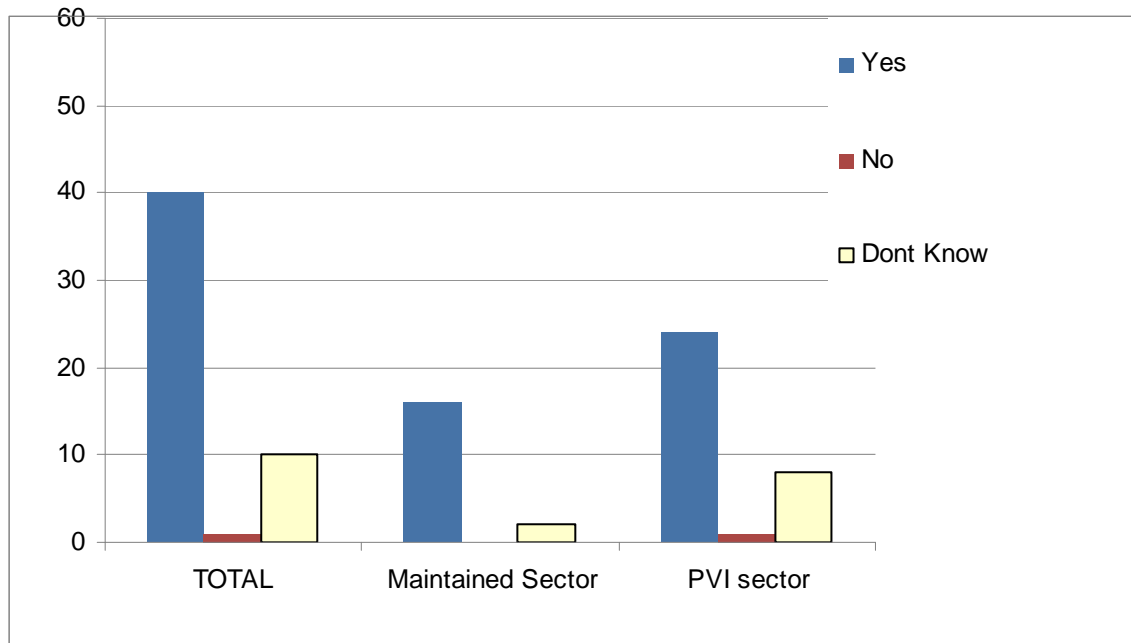
- Stability of provision potentially compromised in maintained – use to knowing budget in advance
- Staffing issues for planning budget each financial year
- Compromise of planned, phased introduction of children
- If always same day of week, not a true count

PVI

- Some issues will arise due to children attending state schools in Sept term
- The schools which we feed into will take 4's earlier – it could lead to our pre-school closure

Q9. Do you agree that a protection factor should be applied to limit any gains or losses for each school/setting?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
TOTAL	40	1	10
Maintained Sector	16	0	2
PVI sector	24	1	8



Maintained

- Depends on how it works – FS soaking up budget disproportionately
- Unemployment is impacting on take-up of day care – will the base rate be adjusted regularly
- Need to protect staff

PVI

- How long would a transitional protection last? Agree with limiting losses but not gains.
- Settings are at risk once protection is removed

Q10. Do you have any other comments?

Maintained

- Staffing ratios will require additional funding
- SEN
- Old building conditions

PVI

- We are struggling to keep our heads above water since the Children's Centres were opened and we need all the help we can get
- We are more concerned with how parents may use the hours for sustainability and staffing reasons
- These proposals have very concerning implications for the future viability of our setting. The level of flexibility we can offer is restricted by the physical environment in which we operate. We hope therefore that RMBC will allow us to charge for time above 15 hrs in order to secure our future.
- What we currently charge per session to non NEF children is higher than NEF, therefore we are running at a considerable loss. Highering the number of hours or having to be more flexible may considerably affect our sustainability.
- Please can we get information before parents as they are receiving information independently and it is frustrating for parents if we cannot clarify the situation.