



National Association of Care Catering – Meals on Wheels Report 2023

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Context

- The research has been undertaken in 2016 / 2018 / 2023
- Methodology
 - Desk- based research
 - Survey
 - Contacting Local Authorities Directly

Local authority service delivery models

- Local authority prepare and distribute
- Local authority buy and distribute
- Local authority tender and subsidise
- Local authority tender and service is standalone
- Local authority signpost only

Background

Second World War

National Assistance Act 1948

National Assistance Act (Amendment) Act
1962

The Care Act 2014

Results



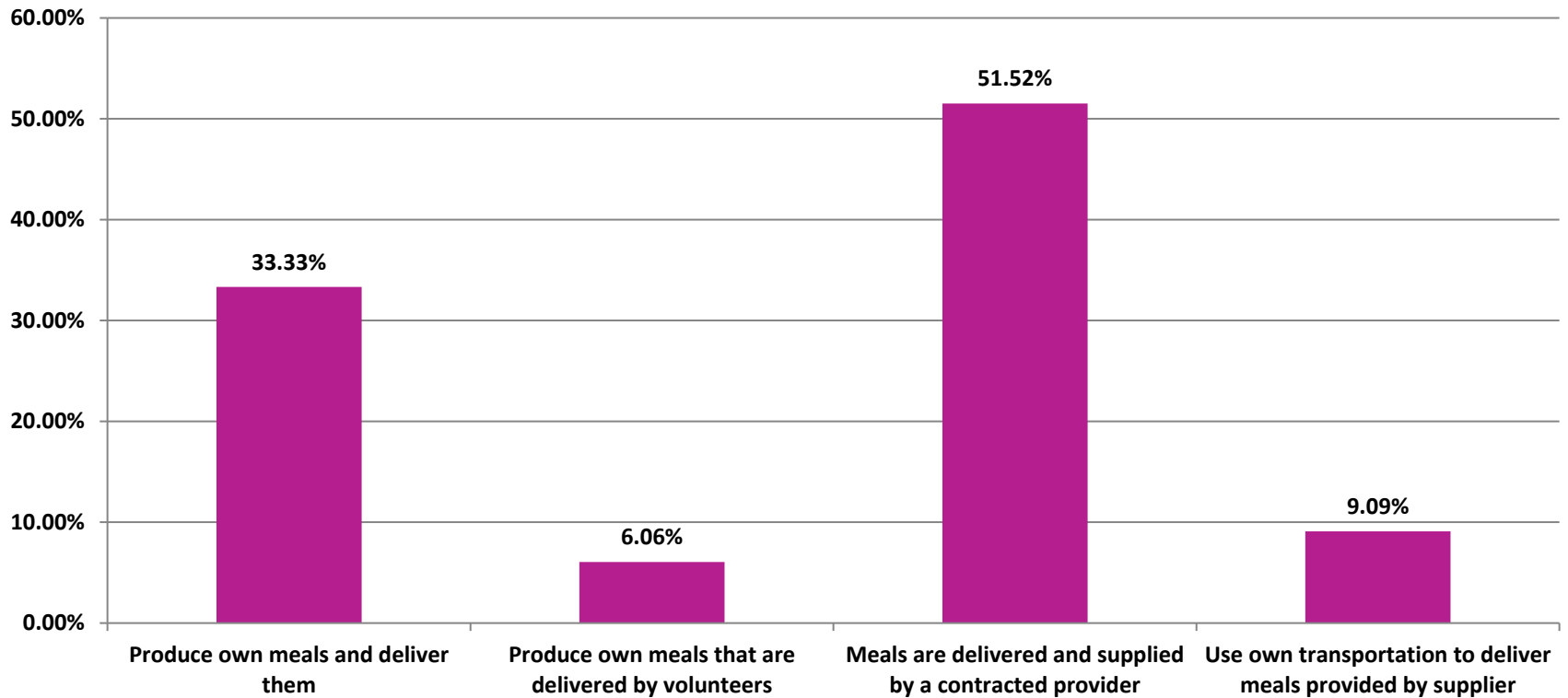
LA's providing Meals on Wheels

Country	Region	MOW Service 2016	MOW Service 2018	MOW Service 2023
England	East of England	64%	45%	18%
	East Midlands	50%	50%	25%
	London	59%	41%	13%
	North East	25%	17%	8%
	North West	17%	13%	9%
	South East	33%	39%	17%
	South West	53%	41%	31%
	West Midlands	53%	47%	33%
	Yorkshire & The Humber	44%	20%	20%
England Average		43%	36%	18%
Northern Ireland		100%	80%	80%
Scotland		75%	61%	61%
Wales		50%	45%	36%
UK		48%	42%	29%

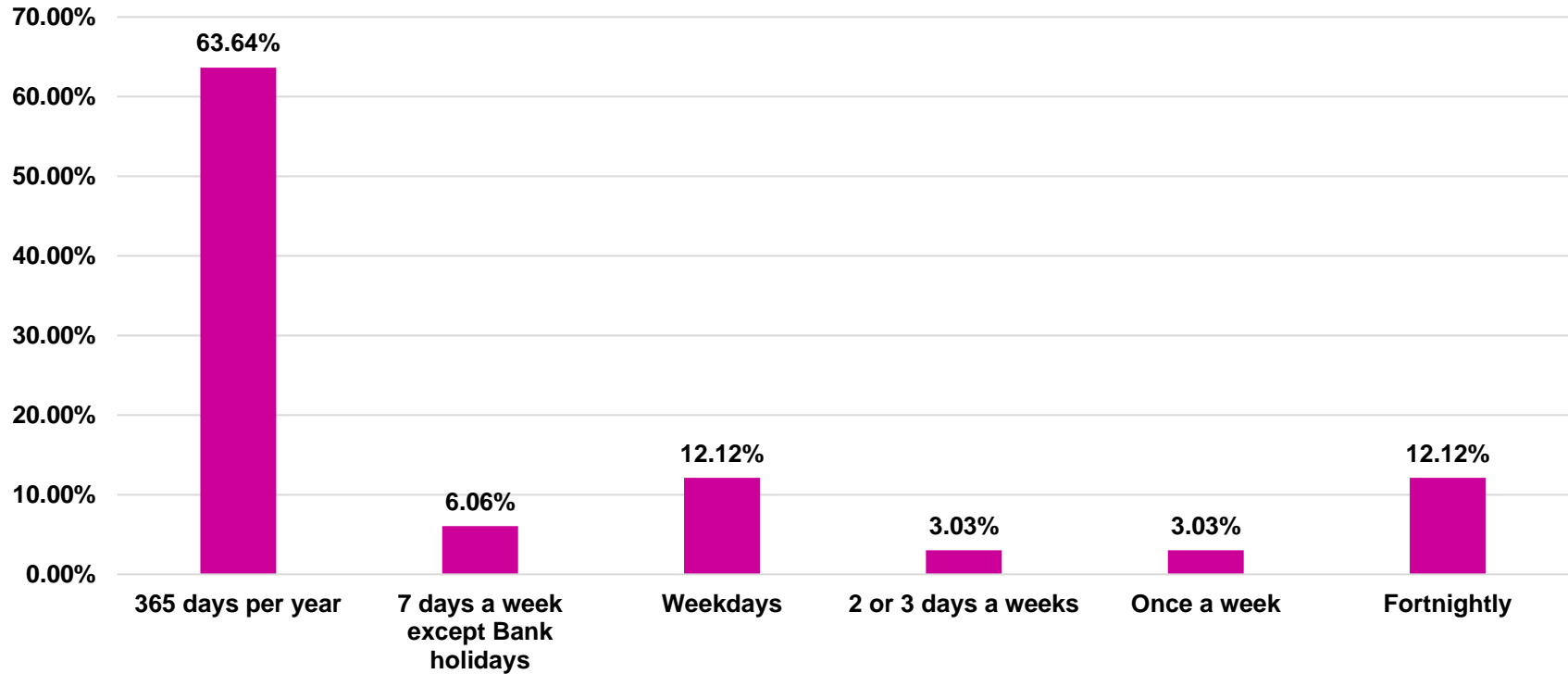
Cost of service provision

Country	Region	MOW Service 2016	MOW Service 2018	MOW Service 2023
England	East of England	£4.97	£4.74	£5.25
	East Midlands	£5.59	£4.40	£6.79
	London	£4.50	£3.87	£4.34
	North East	£4.56	£3.20	£6.70
	North West	£4.25	£4.17	£5.45
	South East	£4.22	£5.35	£6.62
	South West	£4.43	£5.02	£6.64
	West Midlands	£4.61	£4.33	£4.35
	Yorkshire & The Humber	£4.82	£4.58	£7.33
England average		£4.85	£4.40	£5.57
Northern Ireland		£1.90	£1.90	£1.90
Scotland		£3.24	£3.25	£4.14
Wales		£4.48	£4.85	£5.23
UK		£4.30	£3.60	£4.82

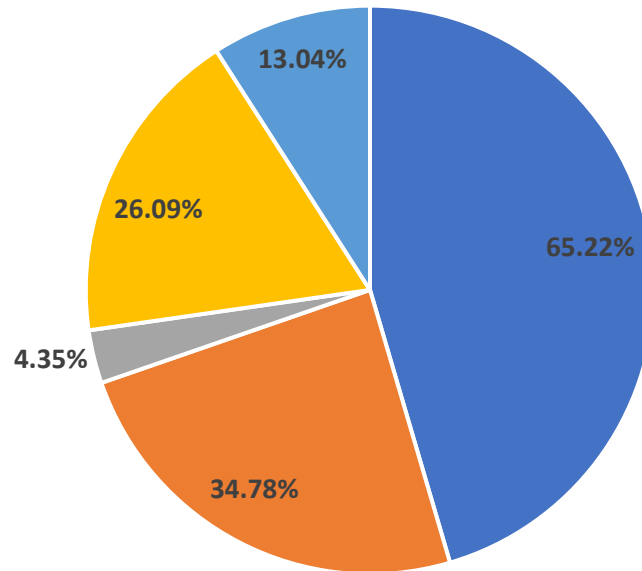
How is the meals service organised



When are meals delivered



How are meals delivered



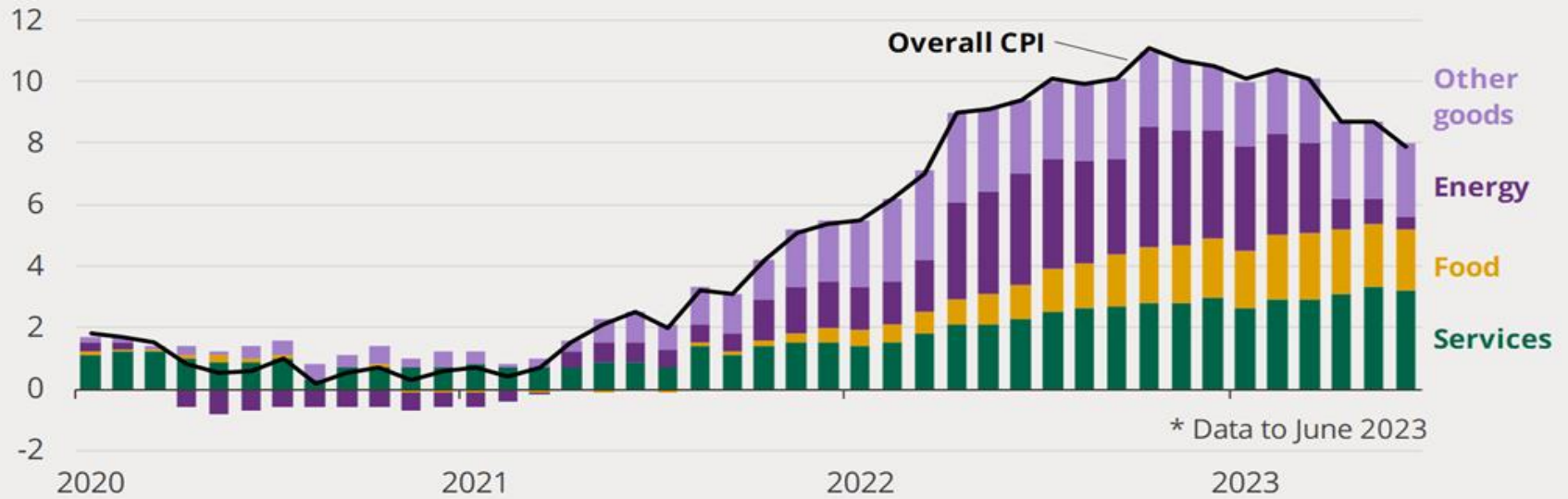
■ Hot - Regenerated ■ Hot - Fresh Cooked ■ Chilled ■ Frozen ■ Other

Challenges

- Local government finance
- Volunteer and staff recruitment
- Inflationary costs

Energy and other goods drove inflation higher in 2022

Percentage point contributions to annual CPI inflation rate



* Data to June 2023

Note: Food includes non-alcoholic drinks

Source: Reproduced from Bank of England, Monetary Policy Report – August 2023, Chart 2.2

Benefits

- Support with cost of living
- Supporting independent living
- Reduces loneliness

Conclusions

- Local authorities providing the service has declined from **66%** in **2014** to **29%** in **2023**
- The UK average for the cost of a two-course meal has increased from **£4.03** in **2018** to **£4.81** in **2023**
- Meals on Wheels provide an essential preventative service
- Meals on Wheels is element of the solution for wider council strategies
- NHS funding is not used to support the service
- Increased budget pressures are resulting in councils reviewing their provision

Case Studies

- Fife Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- West Sussex County Council



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