



Association for Public Service Excellence



association for public service excellence

Local authority education catering service

More than just a service



www.apse.org.uk

Overview

- Policy and literature review
- The case for school meals
- Service delivery models
- Identification of the challenges
- School catering in context
- Link between the benefits of school meals and the value of LA catering
- What good look like
- Recommendations



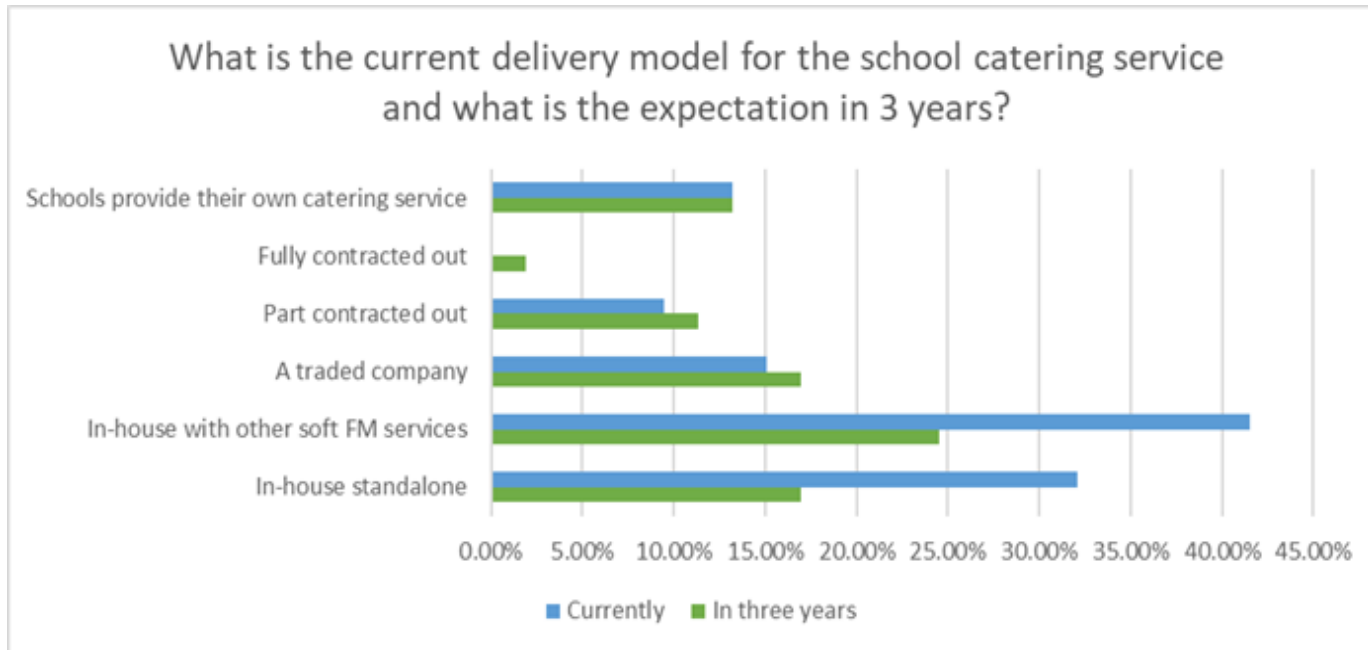
The case for school meals

- Health, wellbeing and childhood obesity
- Poverty

Service delivery models

- Inhouse
- Outsourced/ contracted to an external organisation
- Arm's length external organisations
- Partnership / shared service agreements
- Joint venture
- Social enterprise / community-led companies

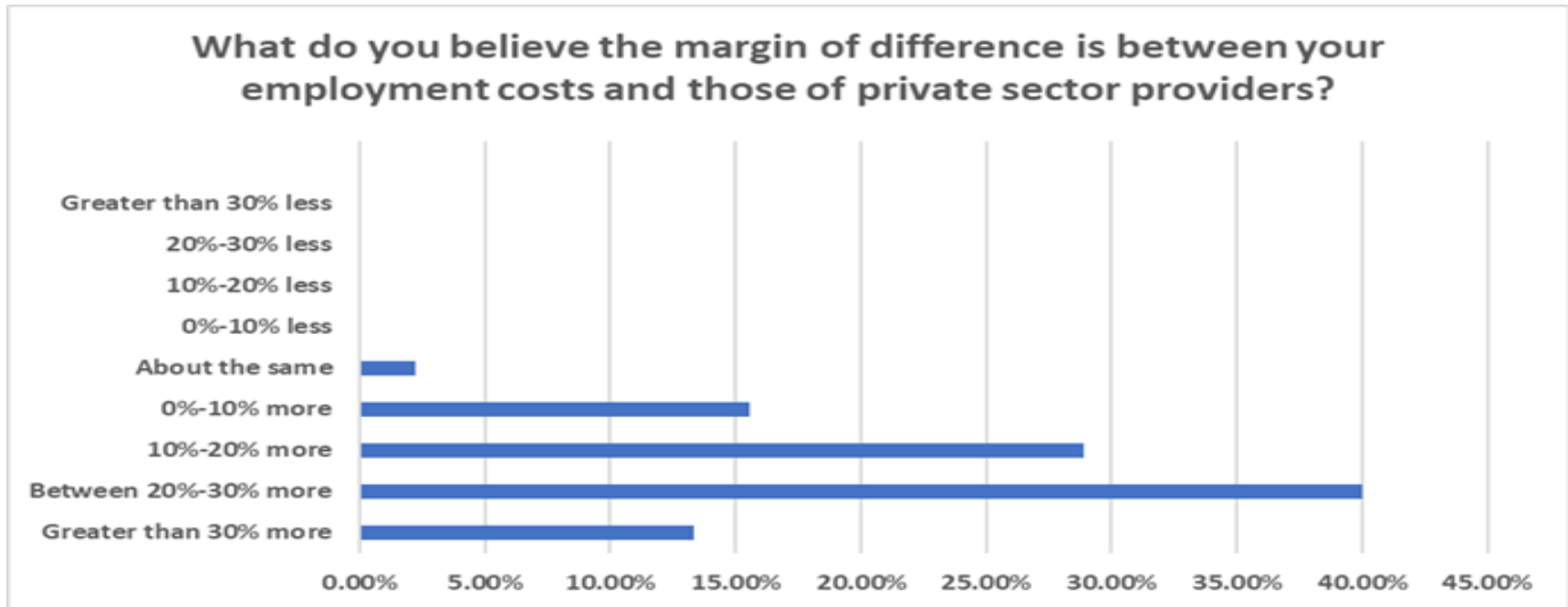
Service delivery models Current and expectation in 3 years



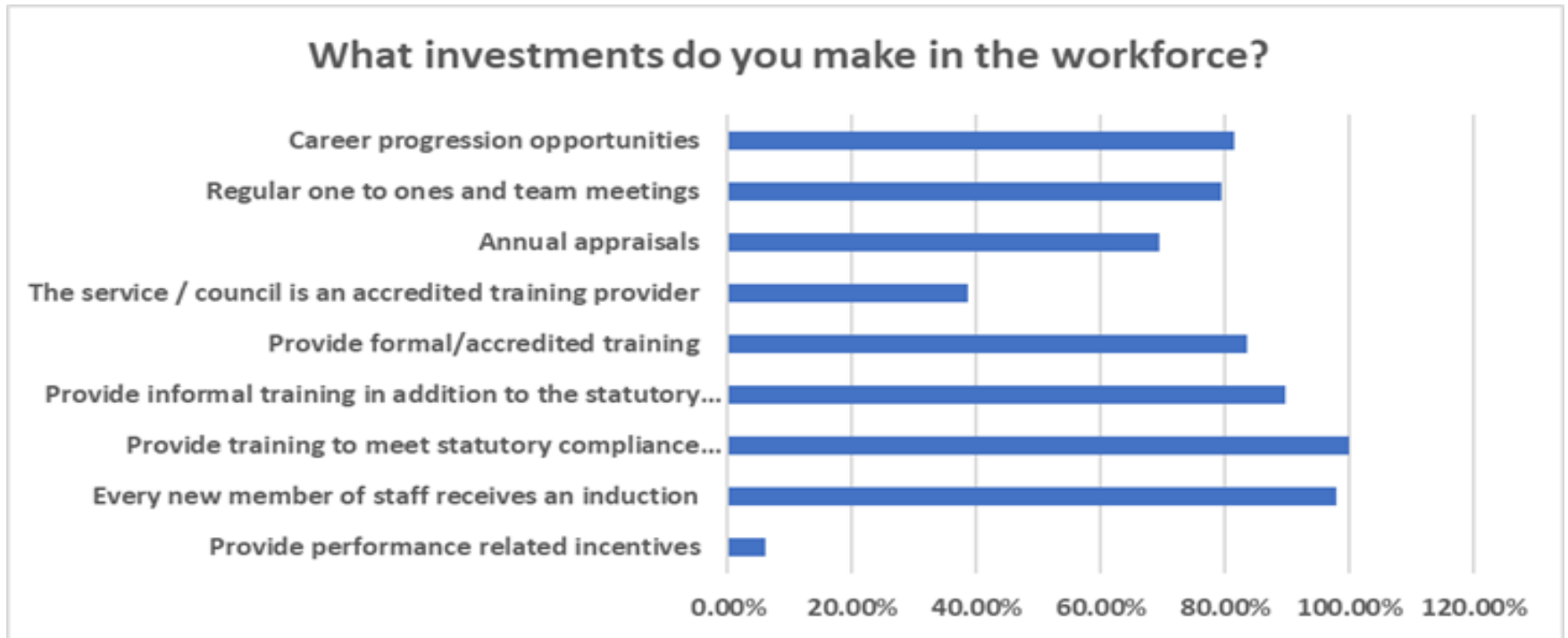
Financial aspect of school meals

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The funding per meal for FSM is adequate	0.00%	25.53%	10.64%	10.64%	29.79%	10.64%	12.50%
The eligibility criteria / threshold for FSM is appropriate	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	20.83%	27.08%	14.58%	10.64%
Eligible children should be auto enrolled	59.57%	31.91%	4.26%	4.26%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FSM funding is too complicated	13.04%	17.39%	17.39%	34.78%	4.35%	4.35%	2.13%
FSM funding should be ringfenced	57.45%	17.02%	8.51%	14.89%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

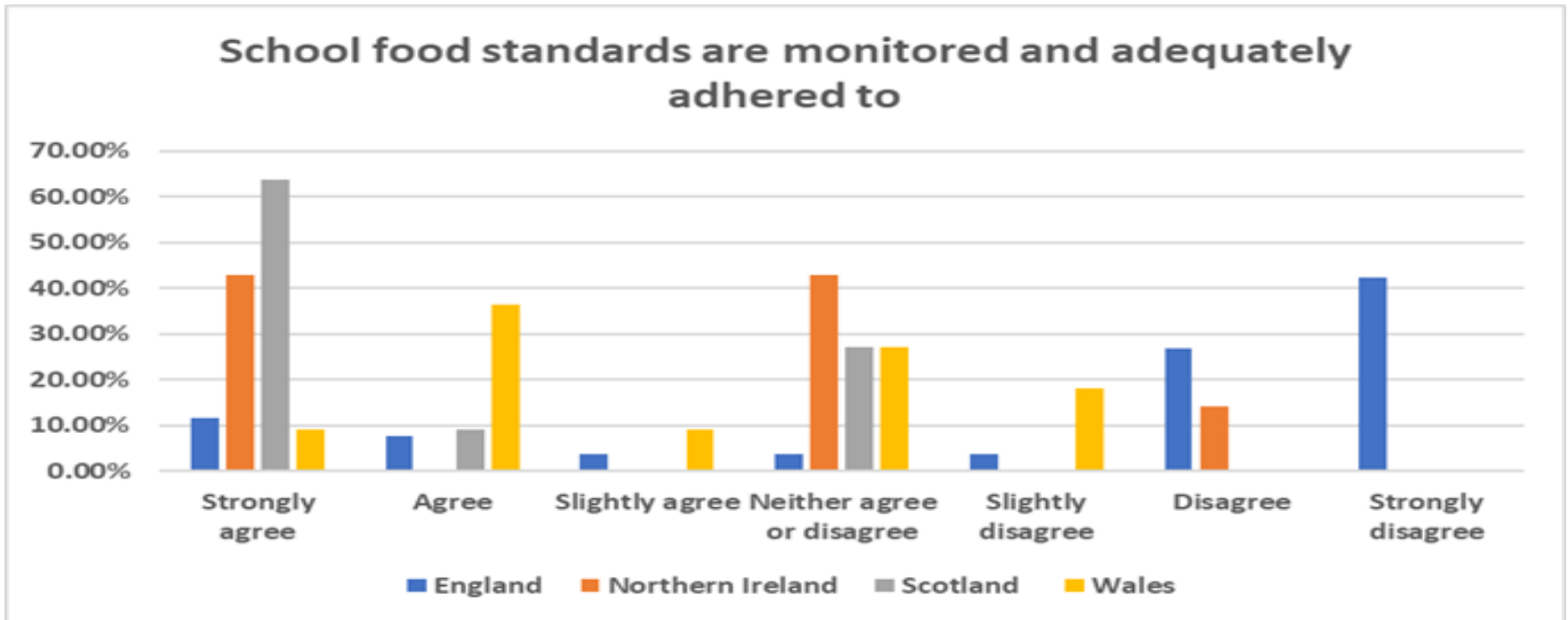
Pay and conditions



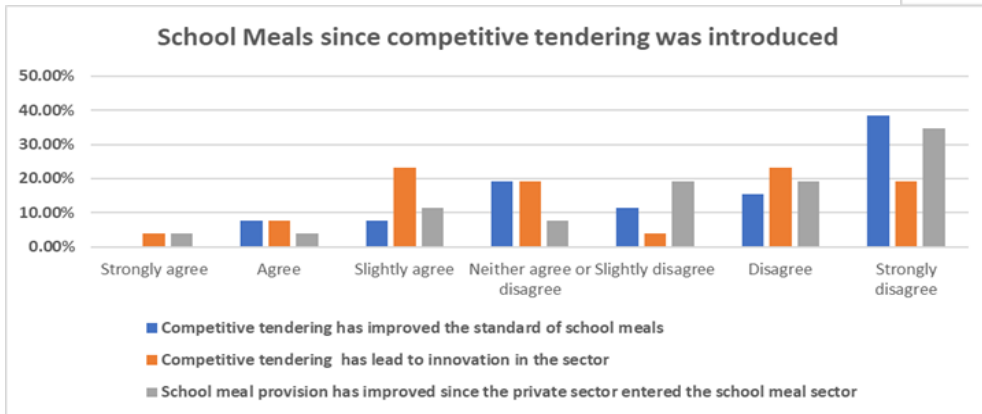
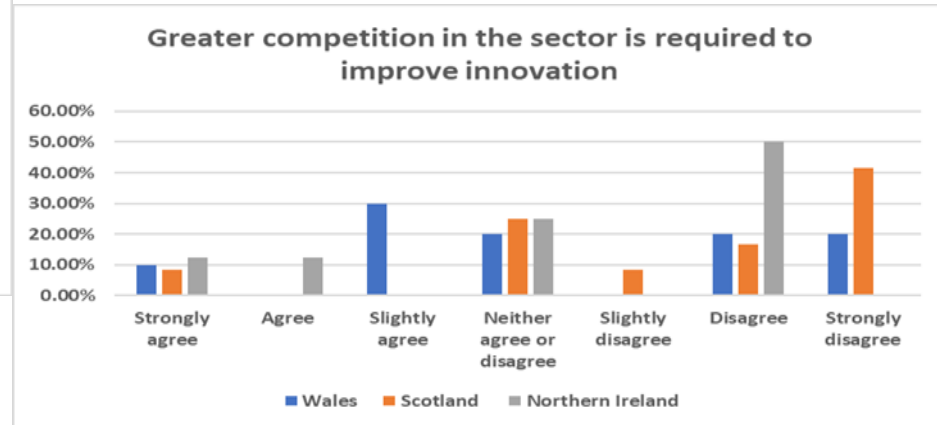
Investment in the workforce



School food standards



Greater competition



Challenges

- Funding not keeping pace with overheads
- Funding disparities
- Funding not being ring-fenced
- Changes in government policy
- Academisation
- Disconnect between awarding bodies
- Flexibility, resilience and responsiveness to the sector

Benefits of local authority catering services

- Pay
- Pensions
- Procurement
- Surplus
- Obesity strategies and health and wellbeing
- Support for key worker children

What good looks like

- Poverty
- Climate change
- Health and wellbeing
- Accountability and transparency
- Re-investment in public services

Recommendations

1. The wide-reaching socio-economic value of school catering needs to be recognised
2. Funding should reflect the broader value of school catering rather than simply the cost of the school meal
3. Funding for school meals needs to be ringfenced
4. Market-based models do not serve the sector well and ought to be re-evaluated.
5. Subsidy is not a dirty word

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