



Impact of food cost on school meals report summary

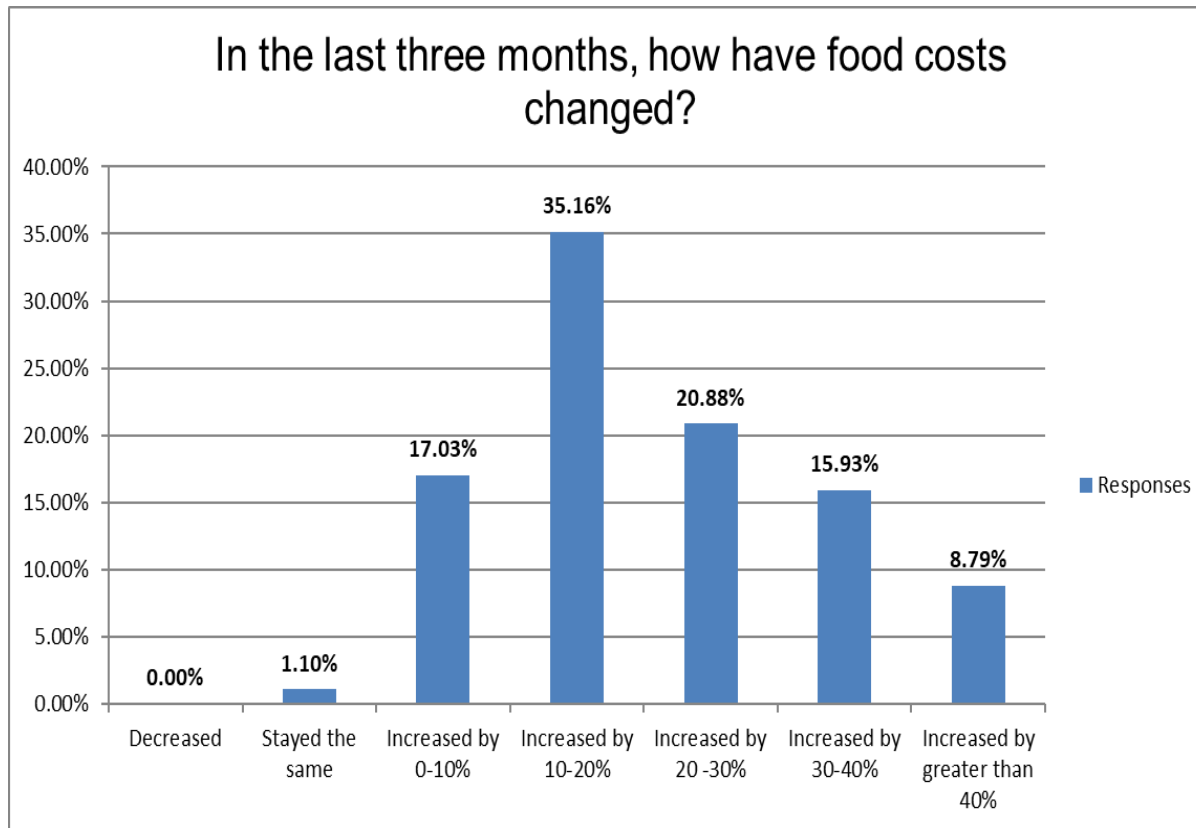
**APSE Scotland Soft
FM Advisory Group**

15 November 2022

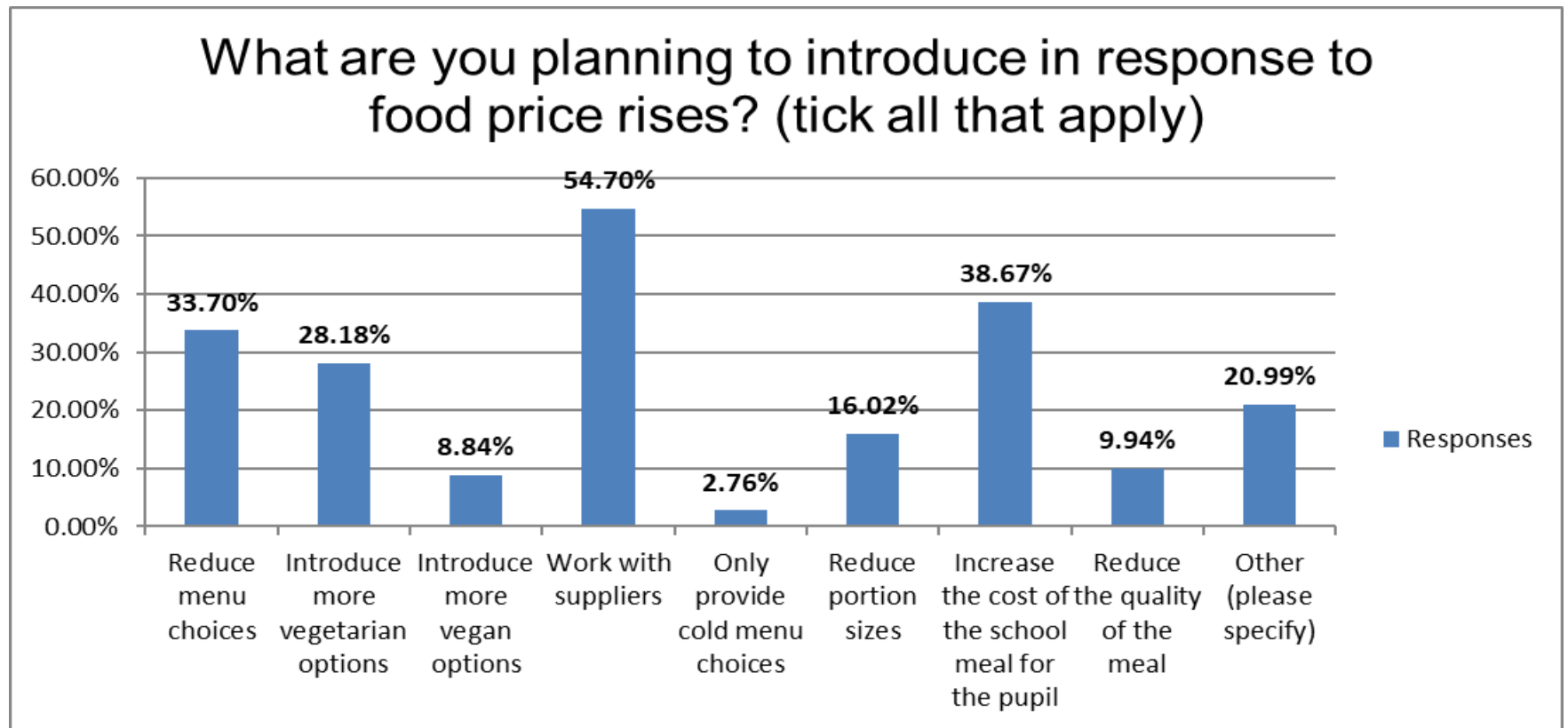
Background

- The cost-of-living crisis in the UK began in 2021 and saw prices of everyday essentials increase faster than household incomes, at first brought about by the withdrawal of restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic and changes brought about by Brexit.
- The situation has been further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine with the restriction on the supply of food products such as grains and the related sanctions having a direct impact on the cost of energy and fuel.
- With the gap between wages and benefits, and the cost of essentials such as food and utility bills increasing, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for School Food wanted to gain a snapshot of how the crisis and in particular the increasing cost of food was impacting on school food.

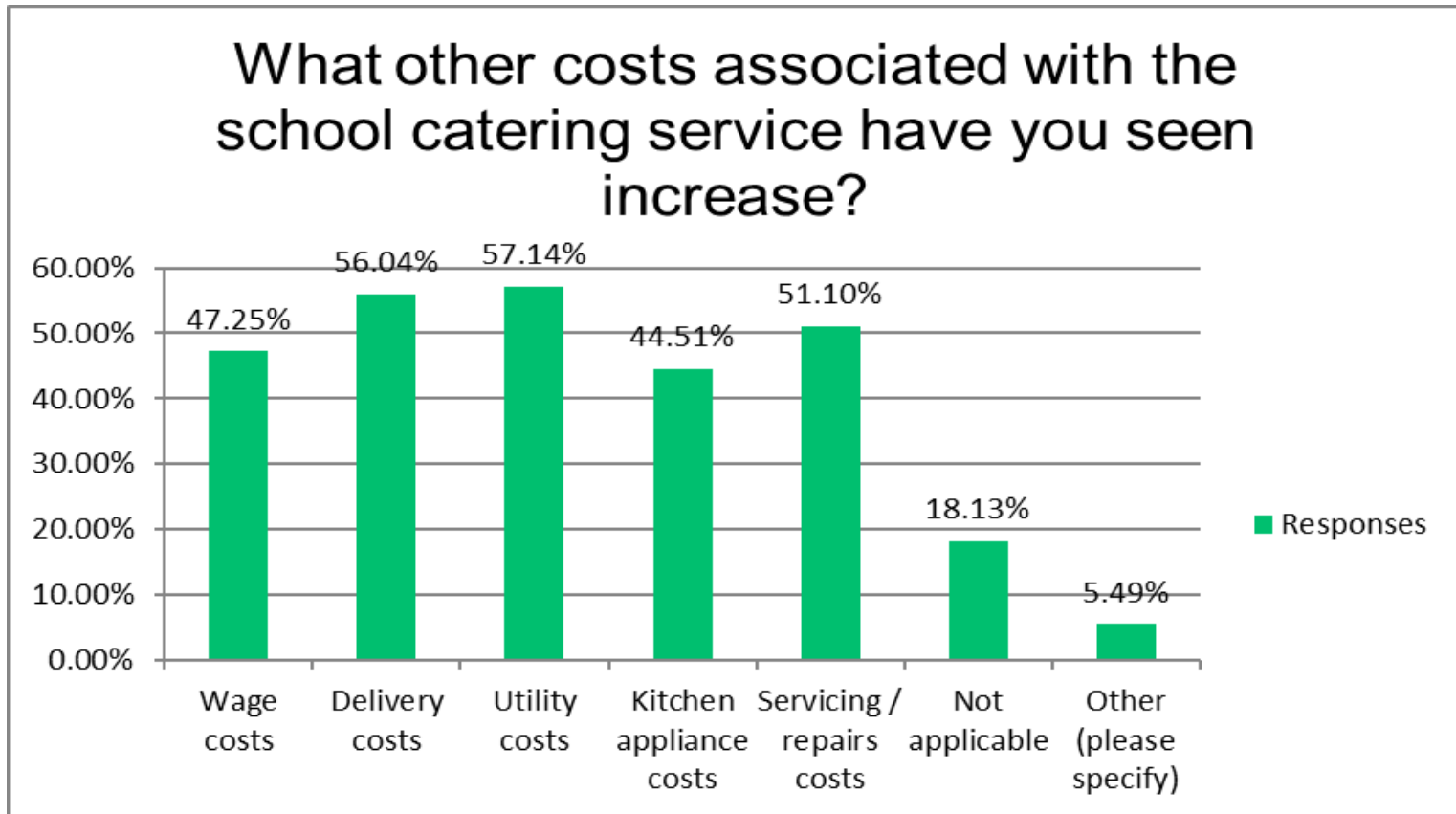
Overview of results



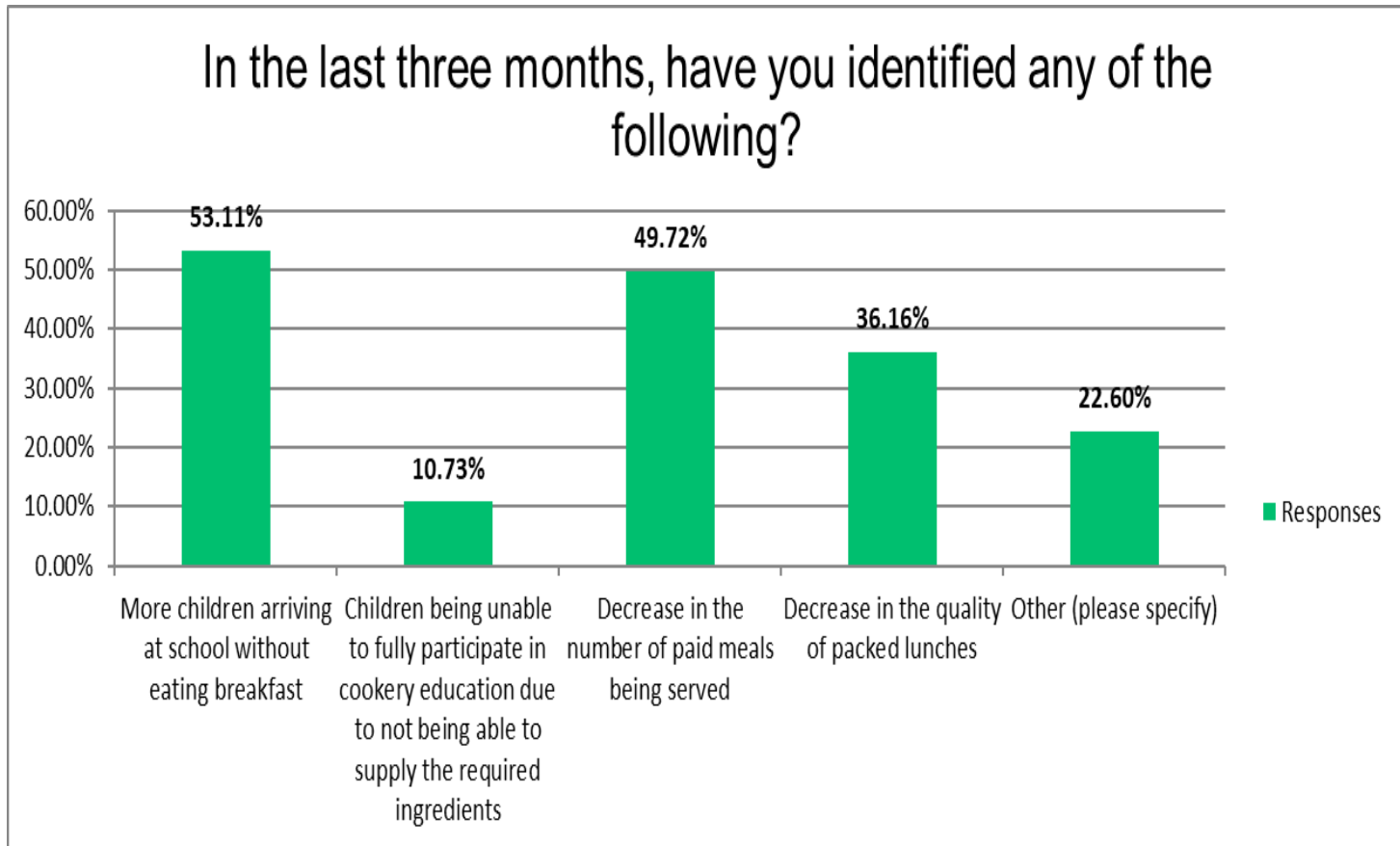
Overview of results continued



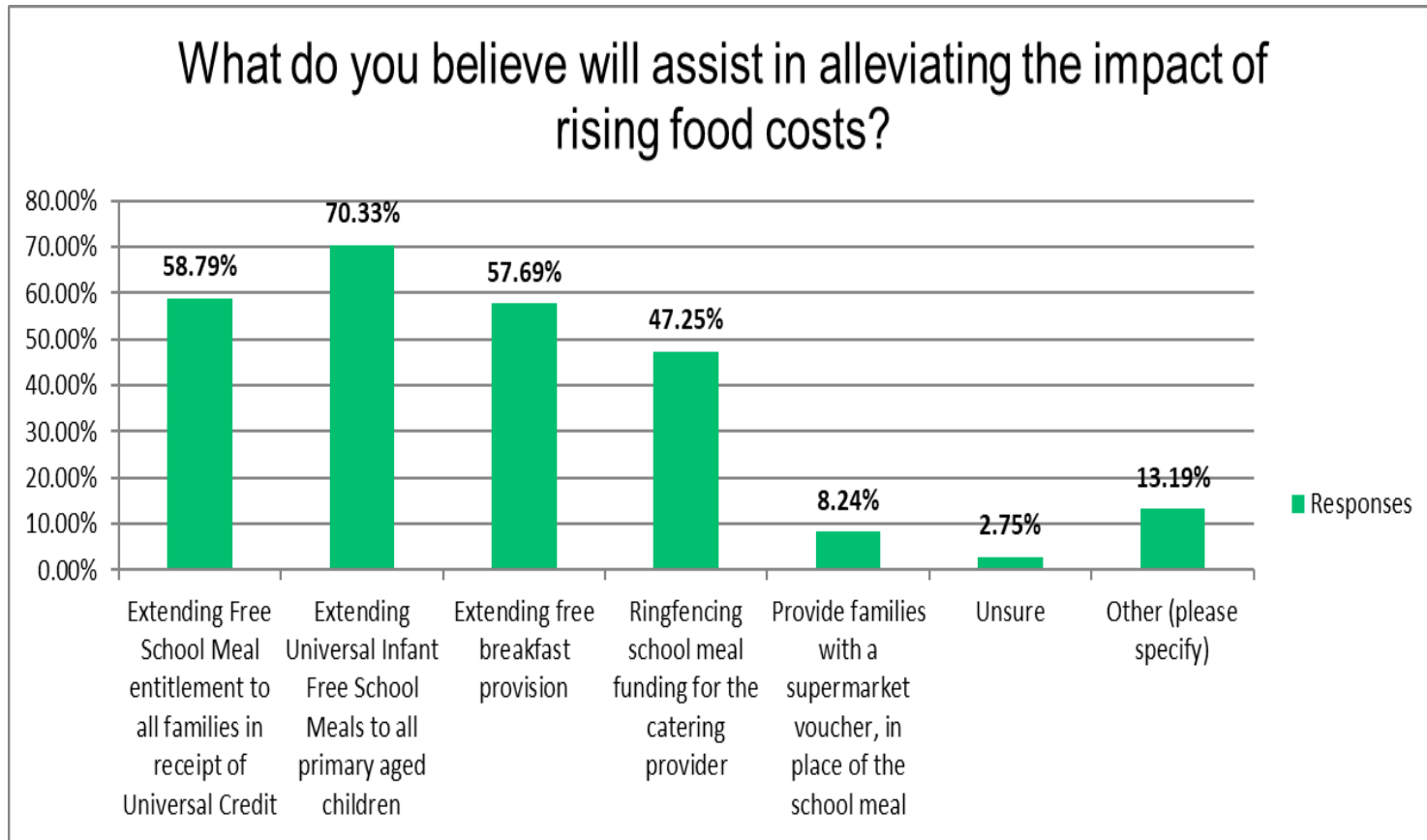
Overview of results continued



Overview of results continued



Overview of results continued



Examples of the impact of the increase in cost of food on school food

Impact on quality

‘Looking at the origin of the supply and taking what is available at the best price to meet the School Food Standards. The School Food Standards are not being fulfilled due to cost pressures so this will have a longer-term impact. Food consumed outside of school is often cheaper foods and full of fats and sugars we need to maintain the Standards.’

‘Buying budget produce and having to bulk up with other things to make enough food.’

‘The rise in produce means schools are limited in what they can purchase to make healthy food.’

Examples of the impact of the increase in cost of food on school food

Impact on the menu

'Difficult to create dishes to come in budget.'

'Less choice, and last-minute substitutions.'

'Our menu has reduced in variety of dishes offered, there is less meat and fish on the menu. We have a two-week rolling menu now rather than a 3- or 4-week rolling menu.'

Examples of the impact of the increase in cost of food on school food

Impact on price

'Every invoice has between 10 and 20 % increase every delivery.'

'Classic supply and demand impacts - increased use of pulses / beans is capitalised on by supply chain increases'

'We have seen on average a 15% rise in the cost of all our goods, we are also experiencing shortages on our deliveries. We are having to juggle the menus on an almost daily basis'

Examples of the impact of the increase in cost of food on school food

Impact on the service

‘Reduced contribution to supporting the kitchen and service provision with equipment repairs and replacement. Schools under pressure with their budgets and where might have had a slight surplus on the accounts now running with deficits.’

‘Significant challenges to procure core products and at a price that is sustainable to make a basic nutritious meal which is affordable and allows caterers to provide a decent service.’

Contact details

Louise Melville, Principal Advisor

Email: Lmelville@apse.org.uk

Phone: 01698 459051

Association for Public Service Excellence (Scotland)

Brandon House Business Centre, Unit 18-20,
23-25 Brandon Street, Hamilton, ML3 6DA.

telephone: 01698 459051

web: www.apse.org.uk

