



Association for Public Service Excellence



association for public service excellence

**Local authority education catering service**

More than just a service



[www.apse.org.uk](http://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

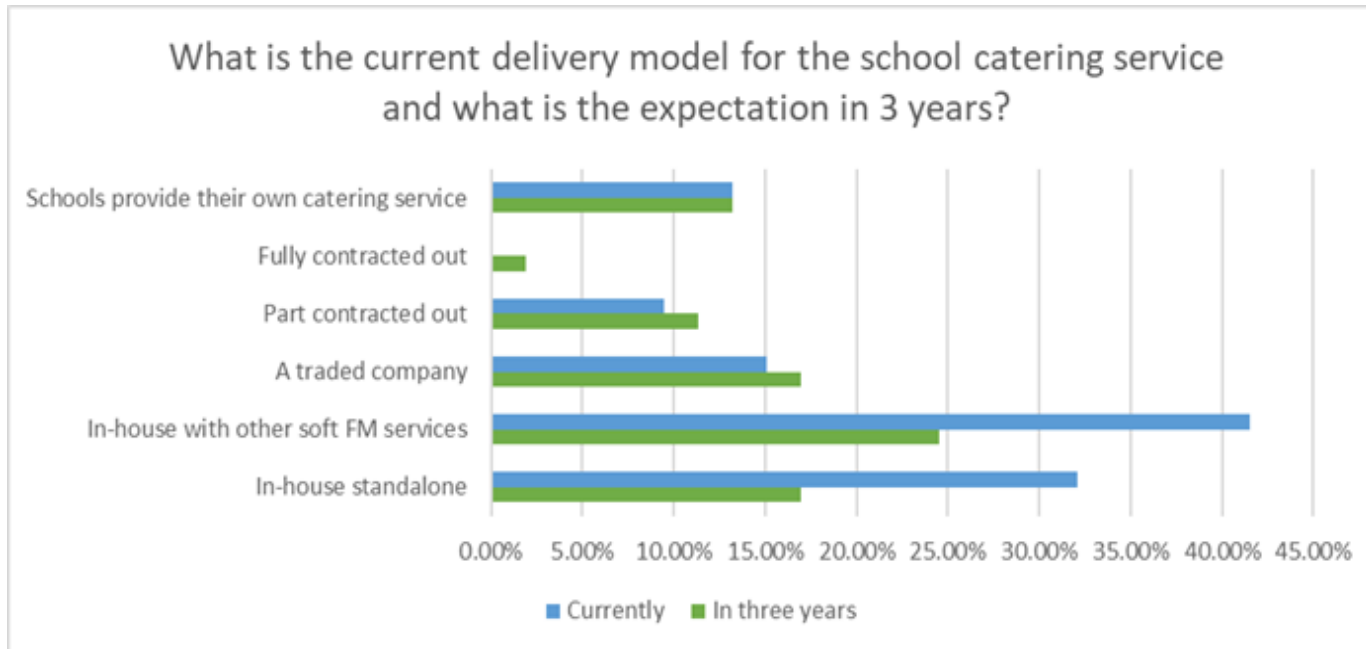
# The case for school meals

- Health, wellbeing and childhood obesity
- Poverty
- Economic
- Sustainability

# 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

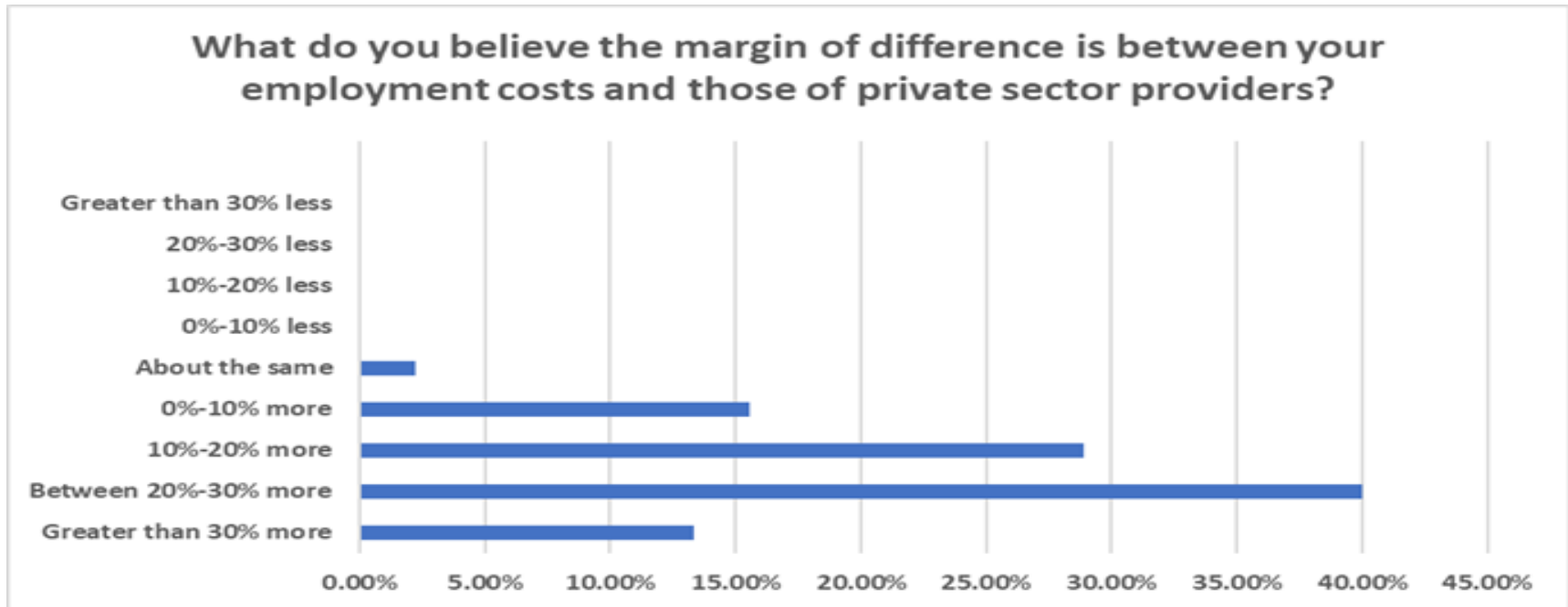
# Service delivery models Current and expectation in 3 years



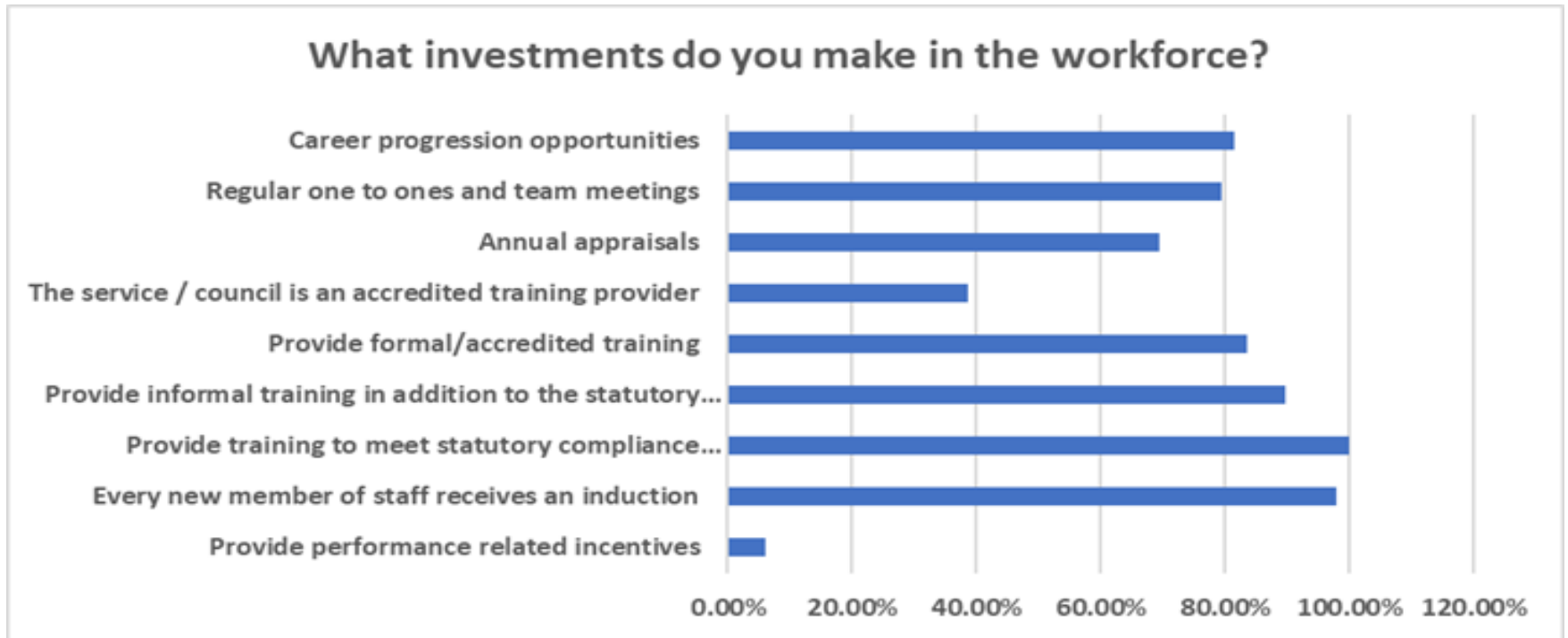
# Financial aspect of school meals

	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%	<b>29.79%</b>	10.64%	12.50%
The eligibility criteria / threshold for FSM is appropriate	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	20.83%	<b>27.08%</b>	14.58%	10.64%
Eligible children should be auto enrolled	<b>59.57%</b>	31.91%	4.26%	4.26%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FSM funding is too complicated	13.04%	17.39%	17.39%	<b>34.78%</b>	4.35%	4.35%	2.13%
FSM funding should be ringfenced	<b>57.45%</b>	17.02%	8.51%	14.89%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

# Pay and conditions

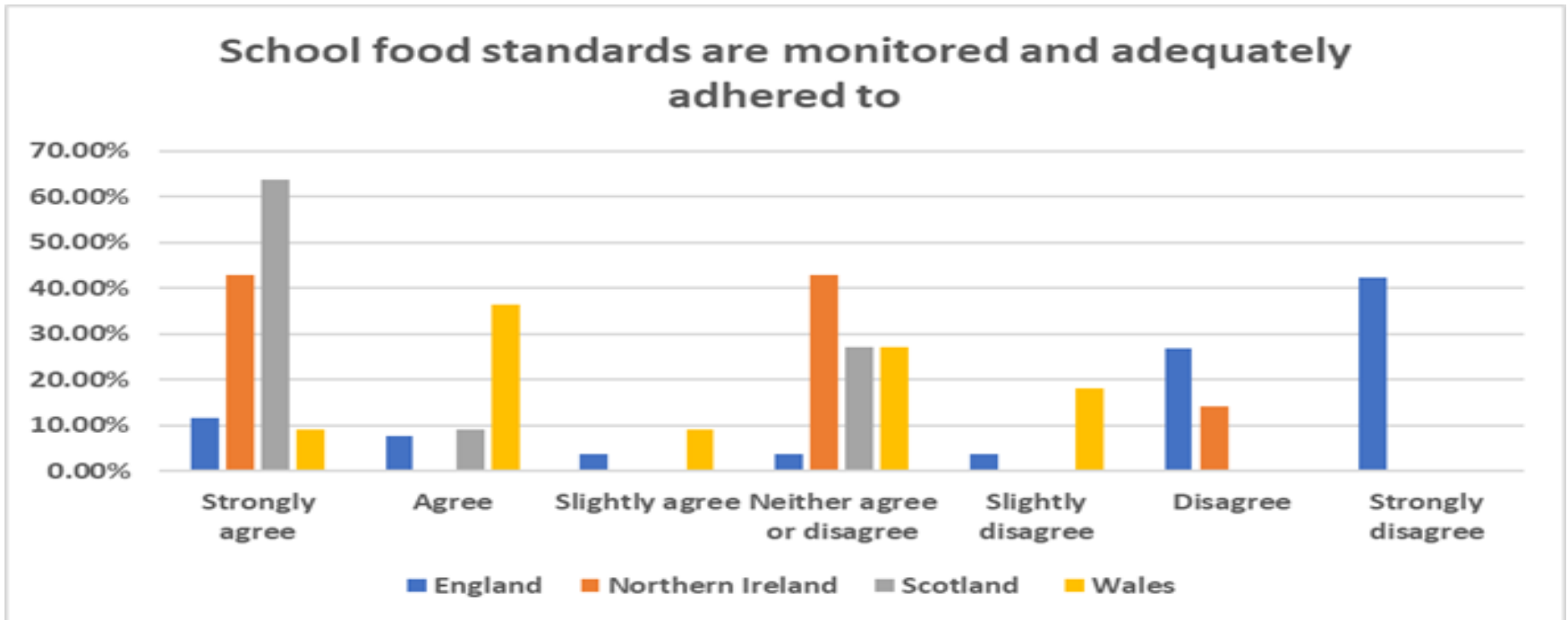


# Investment in the workforce

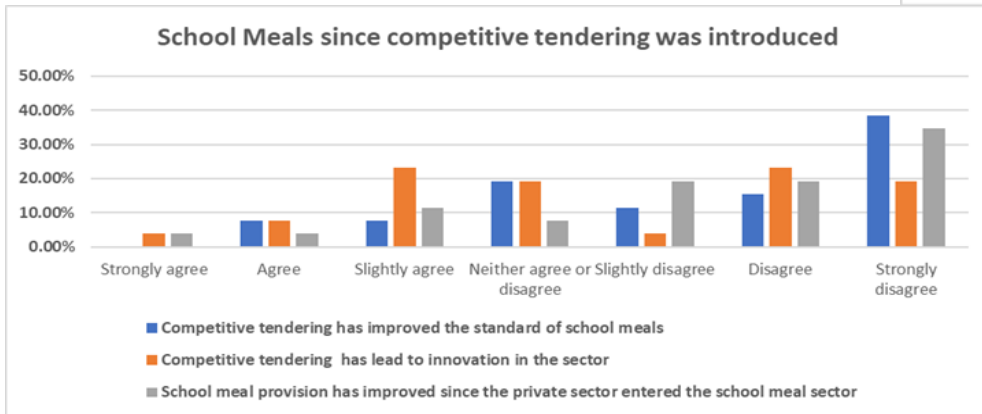
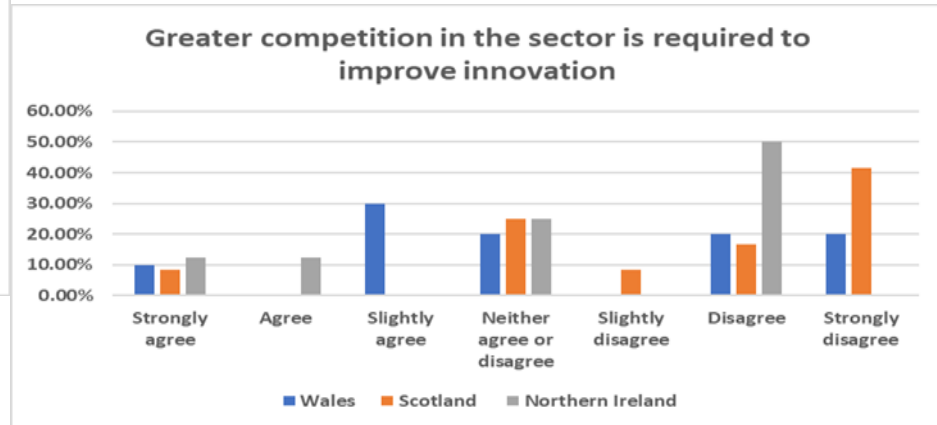




# School food standards



# 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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