

# Feedback from the consultation

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation on the parent web survey. We have carefully considered all feedback and provide our responses below.

To support clarity and transparency, responses have been anonymised and summarised. Where appropriate, similar points have been grouped together. This approach has been used solely to make the feedback easier to follow, but please be assured that all individual responses were reviewed in full.

While we greatly value all suggestions, it has not always been possible to accommodate every request. The survey is limited to 20 minutes in length, and we must balance a range of needs - including maintaining parent engagement and collecting essential contact information to support continued participation from both parents and cohort members.

Below, you will find a summary of the key suggestions received, along with the decisions we made and the reasons behind them. A final version of the [questionnaire is also available here](#).

## Suggestions for changes to existing questions

Question number	Summary of feedback	Response
2 and 3	We received specific comments about making sure that part-time residents are included when collecting information about household members.	We have added additional instructions to the question to ensure this takes place. These instructions reflect the instructions given at MCS8.
4	We received feedback to avoid using the term 'natural' in relation to children/parents and to instead use the term 'birth, biological or adoptive parent'.	We have amended the wording to reflect this.

Question number	Summary of feedback	Response
18	<p>The question relates to the main reason the cohort member is living with the parents. We received comments about the wording of this and the response categories.</p> <p>Specifically, it was suggested that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- make the wording sound less like 'owner-occupied' accommodation</li> <li>- include response categories for those saving for their own home and those living in parental accommodation in order to support the family financially</li> </ul>	<p>We have completely revised the question, have changed the answers categories and made it a multiple response question. There is now an answer category for those living with their parents in order to save for a large purchase (including as a deposit for a house).</p> <p>We carefully considered including an option related to providing financial help for parents. However, on balance, we decided not to include it as a separate answer category. This decision was based on several factors, including sensitivity to how parents may perceive the reasons for their involvement, overlap with existing categories, and its likely relatively low frequency.</p> <p>We do however, have an 'other -specify category' and will be able to record cases where parents expressed this as a concern.</p>
19	<p>It was suggested that the time period for this question about likelihood of moving back in with parents should be reduced from five to three years.</p>	<p>We have changed the reference period for this question and it is now three years.</p>
20	<p>We received a request to change the focus of this question to satisfaction with co-residence as opposed to satisfaction with the accommodation more broadly</p>	<p>We have made this change.</p>
28 and 29	<p>We received a number of comments about this question. It relates to financial transfers between the parent and cohort member.</p> <p>Comments covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the period to which the question related</li> <li>- the answer categories provided</li> <li>- the sums of money involved</li> </ul>	<p>Given the variation in comments, we took the opportunity to revisit and revise several aspects of this question. We have revised the time period so that it is 'since they turned 18' as we feel this is a clearly memorable point in people's lives.</p> <p>Regarding the categories, we have completely revised them to ensure a broad range of reasons for giving money are included—such as education costs, housing costs, and other common expenses. Parents will be able to select all options that apply, and an 'Other – please specify' option will also be available.</p>

Question number	Summary of feedback	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The inclusion of money given by the partner as well as the parent being surveyed.</li> </ul> <p>Comments were also made about question 29 and whether we should collect amounts for each category. There were also requests to include partners contributions.</p>	<p>Regarding parents' partners - we have changed the wording so that gifts given by the survey parent or their partner are included.</p> <p>Regarding the amounts given - we felt that the range of amounts given could be large and some will have given amounts in single payments and others will have done it instalments. Rather than specify a threshold we have given examples of what should be covered.</p> <p>We concluded that it would be too difficult for parents to provide an amount given separately for each category – but will ask a banded question in which parents will be asked to provide an estimate of the total.</p>
31	The question relates to how often the parent meets with the cohort member. We were asked to include contact with parent's partner	<p>We have added this as an additional separate question as level of contact could vary considerably between the two parents.</p> <p>Note that in most, but not all cases, the parent's partner will be the cohort member's other parent. Where parents are separated, parents will not be able to give accurate information about cohort member contact with the other parent and so we have restricted this to resident partners rather than other parents.</p> <p>The new question is listed as NEW 9.</p>
32	The question relates to how often the parent has other forms of contact with the cohort member (such as telephone or messaging) as above we were asked to include contact with parent's partner.	As above
37	The question relates to whether the cohort member has children. We were asked whether this should specify step/adoptive or birth children.	<p>We agree that additional instructions are helpful and have included them.</p> <p>We would also like to note that detailed information on this topic has been collected directly from the cohort member in the main age 23 survey. This question is asked purely for routing purposes</p>

Question number	Summary of feedback	Response
		and we have decided to remove the question asking about the number of children. This frees up space for other questions.
39	<p>This question refers to help given to the cohort members by the parent.</p> <p>We received comments about widening this to include help from the cohort members other parent and also some detailed comments about the response categories.</p>	<p>We have completely redesigned this question, splitting it into two separate questions to improve clarity and gather more precise information. These now focus on help given in the form of childcare and help given in the form of advice.</p> <p>The questions ask about help provided by the parent and their partner (but not the other parent in the case of separation).</p> <p>We felt that certain types of help - such as shopping and cooking - would be difficult to interpret when parents and cohort members live together, as it would be unclear whether these activities are intended as support for the cohort member or simply part of everyday family life. For this reason, these items have now been removed.</p>
42	The question relates to longstanding illnesses. We had a request to divide up the question and ask separately about physical and mental health conditions.	The question used is one of the harmonised ONS questions and so we have retained it in order to ensure comparability with other sources.
43	This is a question about life satisfaction. We were asked to break down the question and ask about satisfaction with different aspects of life.	As this question is harmonised across all our longitudinal surveys, we are unable to adapt it solely for the parent web survey to ensure consistency across studies.
46 and 47	We were asked to change the answer categories for the smoking and vaping questions so the option for question 2 of the smoking question mirrored that for the vaping question.	While we agree that there are merits to revising the answer categories, these were the same categories used with cohort members at MCS8. We believe that the benefits of maintaining consistency between the two surveys outweigh the potential advantages of altering the wording.

Question number	Summary of feedback	Response
48	We had a request to change the alcohol consumption question to be more in line with those asked at earlier sweeps.	This is a harmonised question which is part of Audit -PC and has been used for adults across cohorts and sweeps. The same question was asked of parents at MCS6.

## Suggestions for new topics/questions

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
NEW - Questions about non-resident other parents	Gather information about whether the cohort member is living with the other (birth/adoptive) parent (i.e. <b>not</b> the parent being surveyed) and about financial and other support that that parent might be providing.	We will establish whether the parent's partner is the cohort member's other birth parent. If the cohort member is not living with the parent we will not however establish who they are living with – though we will have recorded this in the Age 23 Survey. We felt that asking about financial support from other parents was too sensitive to ask in this web survey.
NEW - request to get blood samples or DNA samples from parents	Obtain biological samples such as blood samples for DNA extraction.	This parent survey will be conducted online only and so we are unable to do this but it is worth noting that we have collected cohort member and parent DNA samples in the past (at MCS6) and these may be of interest to users seeking this type of information.
NEW -victimisation questions (parents)	Ask victimisation questions (including whether someone has made an unwelcome sexual approach in the past 12 months, whether the partner has used force and a question about emotional abuse). There were also other requests for similar questions on controlling behaviour and resulting victimisation for the parent themselves.	<p>These are important topics but we have asked about them before and we have limited space for this online questionnaire.</p> <p>We are also keen that this online survey should minimise content which could be perceived as distressing. A key aim</p>

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
		is to encourage parents' ongoing participation, which also helps us maintain contact with the cohort members.
NEW - victimisation questions (cohort member)	Ask questions on cohort members experience of victimisation and the impacts of risky behaviour	<p>These questions should be asked directly of the cohort members themselves.</p> <p>It is very likely that we will include such questions at the next main sweep of the survey but we do not think we should ask the parents about the cohort members' experiences because they will not have full knowledge.</p>
NEW - cohort member violence to parent	Include a question about whether the parent had ever been harmed or made to feel unsafe by the cohort member	We recognise that this is an important topic within families and there is a lack of information on it. However, this is a very sensitive question and we felt that asking it may impact our long-term relationship with the parent and / or cohort member.
NEW - victimisation from online activity	Include a question on whether someone has sent pictures or rumours to CM by mobile phone/email/social media	We feel these questions should be asked directly of the cohort member as parents are less likely to know. We have also asked similar questions at previous sweeps of the survey.
NEW - parents perception of impact of domestic abuse	Past domestic abuse can impact the child and the request here is for how parents perceive the impact of abuse on the cohort member	<p>These are deeply sensitive issues, and while we recognise their importance, we are mindful of not including too many sensitive questions in this sweep.</p> <p>Additionally, we believe that the most accurate information is best obtained directly from the cohort member, reflecting their own perspective on the impact.</p>
NEW - online versus real life	We had a request to include a question on the extent to which respondents were more connected and happier online than in real life.	We will ask parents about social media use – but we felt that these specific questions would be better asked of cohort members than of parents.

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
NEW - change in attitudes stemming from online content	To include a include a question about whether parent has noticed any changes in their child's attitude or language around gender, equality, relationships or women that might be influenced by online content.	We agree that this is an important topic – but felt that in order to maximise the utility of such questions we'd need to have collected information about participant views on gender equality – and unfortunately no such measures were included in the Age 23 Survey.
NEW - Social media questions	Include a question around amount of time spent on social media.	This is included as NEW 26
NEW- languages spoken at home	Include questions on languages spoken at home.	We asked some questions about this at MCS 6. Although there may be gaps in the data, we believe it is now too late to accurately assess the impact on the cohort member. However, the information collected in earlier sweeps will provide valuable insights on this topic.
NEW -perception of adulthood	To introduce questions on whether parents perceive the cohort members as 'grown up'.	We found these questions difficult to adapt for parents of 25-year-olds. However, we believe it would be worthwhile to consider asking the cohort members themselves in a future sweep.
NEW - drug taking	Include questions on parental drug taking.	This survey focuses on drinking, vaping, and smoking. Information on drug use for both parents and cohort members has been collected in previous sweeps. Due to space limitations, we are unable to include it again in this brief web survey.
NEW - oral health	Include questions on oral health so this can be related to general health and self-esteem and other key factors.	This is clearly an important topic but one where the focus should be the cohort member themselves. This is because we have the broadest range of data directly about the cohort member and can see the many areas this will impact on. Datasets for the parents will be much more limited and will be focussed on how their lives impact the cohort members.

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
		<p>For this generation, we have questions in NCDS and BCS70 which ask about the number of own teeth and satisfaction with oral health.</p> <p>However, the topic of oral health may well be of key importance for the MCS generation too and we recommend putting forward the case for its inclusion for future cohort member surveys.</p>
NEW - parental university and tertiary education experiences	Include questions about where parents attended university and what they studied to enable comparisons with their children's experiences and to explore whether parental experiences influence cohort members' educational choices.	<p>We gave this careful consideration. However, to gain a complete understanding, we would need to capture both parents' experiences, which we are unable to do in this survey.</p> <p>In addition, such questions can be technically complex as they require more advanced coding (especially where foreign institutions are involved) which is beyond the scope of what we can achieve for this survey.</p>
NEW - Occupation information	Include questions on parents and partners occupation.	<p>We have included a full set of questions on occupation for both the responding parent and their partner. These questions are designed to allow for full SOC coding as well as to give general information on occupation.</p> <p>These are listed as NEW 1- NEW 8.</p>
NEW - questions on zero hours contracts	Include questions on zero hours contracts alongside employment information.	These are included for both parent and partner (NEW 4 and NEW 8).
NEW - careers advice	Include questions on providing guidance and support in helping cohort members explore career options.	We have included a question on parental advice about a range of matters (including career advice). This is listed as NEW 13. Although it is part of a wider question,



New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
New - expectations about staying in the same town	Include a question on expectations about cohort member moving to a different town.	We feel that this is a question that should be asked about cohort members themselves as their parents may not be fully aware of the cohort members' own expectations. However, we have included a question on parents' expectations about the cohort member moving out of the family home in the next three years (question 19)
NEW - careers advice	Include questions on careers advice the cohort member may have received.	We feel the parent is unlikely to know the full range of advice received by the cohort member. As such, we feel this question is better directed to the cohort member themselves.
NEW - possibility of accommodating cohort member in the family home	Include questions on whether parents could accommodate cohort members in the family home if they wanted to.	We ask a range of questions about the home (e.g. number of rooms, number of people living there and type of accommodation). However, including more hypothetical questions in a survey like this can be challenging.
NEW - cohort member rent	Ask whether the cohort member contributes to rent.	This is included in the main Age 23 Survey.
NEW - parent control of screen time	Include questions on whether parents had implemented controls on cohort members' screen time.	The cohort members are now 25 so we could not ask this of their current situation and we think it would be difficult to collect retrospectively.
NEW attitudinal questions	We received a number of requests to include attitudinal questions on a range of topics.	We have included a range of attitudinal questions (NEW 21 - NEW 25). These cover attitudes to democracy, attitudes to the environment and attitudes to wealth distribution. There is limited space on the survey so we are restricted in the number of such questions we can ask but the questions proposed are the same as those asked of the cohort members in the Age 23 Survey. This will enable researchers to trace how attitudes are passed between generations and explore the impact of social attitudes on a variety of other

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
		factors. They also specifically cover environmental attitudes which was mentioned as a key concern.
NEW - menopause questions	Include questions on perimenopause, menopause and related experiences.	Questions on perimenopause, menopause, and related experiences are included in both BCS70 and NCDS surveys. These are asked directly to cohort members, allowing for a broader range of questions and more in-depth longitudinal analysis.
NEW forced mobility and housing security	Include questions on whether the cohort member has had to move unexpectedly due to evictions or if they have had difficulty paying rent and mortgages.	Housing is a vital topic, and the Age 23 Survey includes a wide range of questions about housing. These cover topics about suitability of the accommodation, rent/mortgage costs and periods of homelessness (both with and without parents).
NEW - young adult carings	Include questions on cohort members caring for their parents or others.	We have included questions on caring responsibilities in the main Age 23 Survey questionnaire.
NEW - gender identity	Include questions on gender identity of parents and cohort members.	We have included questions on sex, gender and sexual identity of parents.
NEW - rent contributions	Ask if those living with their parents contribute to rent and household expenses.	This information is collected from cohort members in the Age 23 Survey.
NEW - relationship commitment	Ask about commitment to the relationship (for those married or in a relationship).	This survey is primarily about the parent and their relationship with the cohort member. The topic of commitment and motivation in relationships is interesting and important but we feel that this would be better placed in a cohort member main survey where we are longitudinally following the cohort members' own relationships. We would encourage submissions around this topic to future consultations for main sweeps of the study.

New question request	Summary of additional question	Response
NEW - parent knowledge of mental health	Include questions about parents' knowledge of any mental health conditions experienced by cohort members.	We gave this careful consideration and, while we recognise the importance of parental knowledge, support, and understanding of cohort members' mental health conditions, we had ethical concerns about asking parents directly about their now adult children. We believe that to capture this valuable data, it should be asked of the cohort member themselves.
NEW - parental neurodiverse conditions	Ask about neurodiverse conditions or learning difficulties diagnosed in childhood.	The NCDS Age 62 Survey included a retrospective question on childhood diagnoses of neurodiverse conditions. We considered asking a similar question of MCS parents – but felt that to obtain a full picture of how parental neurodivergence could impact the cohort member it would be necessary to obtain this information with regard to both parents which would be difficult to do in the web survey.