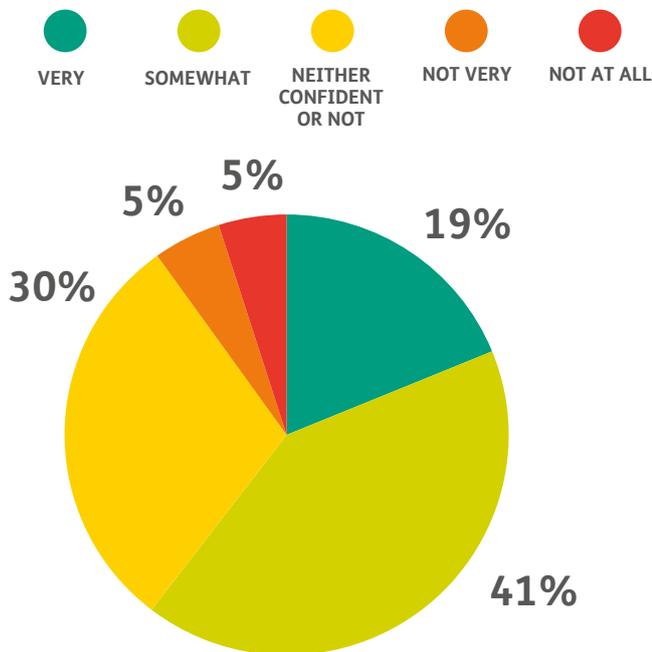


Youth Justice Sector

The Youth Justice Sector was made up of forty-seven respondents. These included youth support workers, supervisors, social workers and some leaders working mostly within a youth justice setting.

Ninety-eight percent of this sector recognised the importance of SLC skills to the young people they work with - just one person was unsure about whether or not these skills are important to young people. This group had extremely low levels of confidence in supporting SLC development with less than one fifth (19%) 'very' confident in their ability to support SLC development and a significant number of respondents reporting low confidence levels (40%).

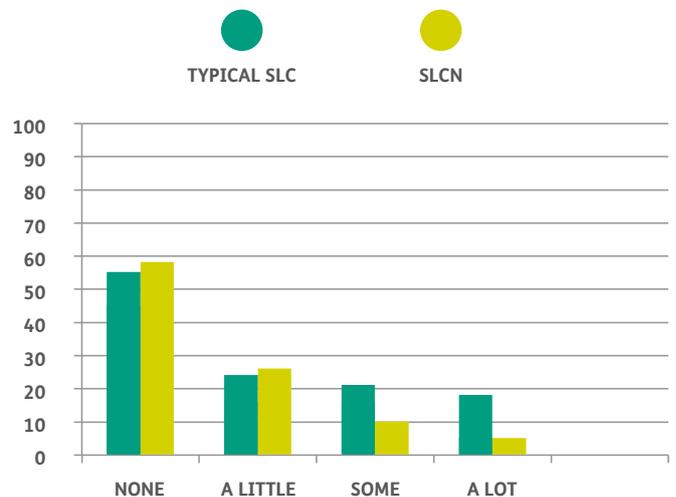
CONFIDENCE IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S SLC DEVELOPMENT



Initial Training and CPD

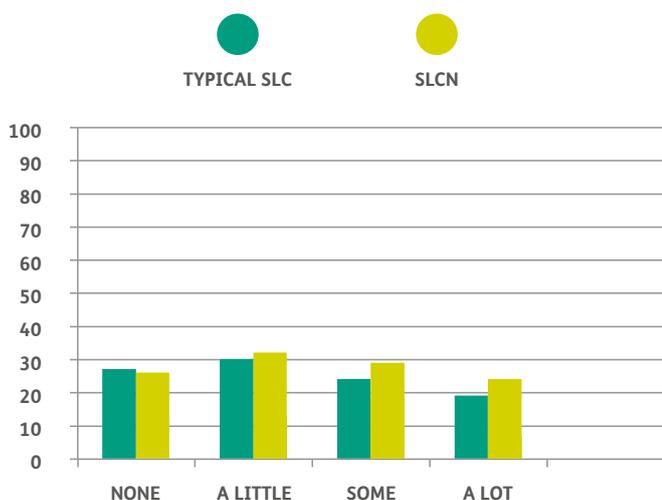
Significant numbers again (55%) had received no learning at all in typical SLC development in their initial training, increasing to 58% for learning around SLCN. This is not necessarily surprising given the multiple routes into and roles within the youth justice system. TCT has previously undertaken work with the youth justice sector, to improve support for the many young people within the youth justice system who have SLCN, and future programmes should look to develop this further.

AMOUNT OF INITIAL TRAINING RECEIVED



More than a quarter of respondents are yet to receive any CPD around SLC (27%) or SLCN (25%), despite the evidence of the prevalence of SLCN amongst this group. This is disappointing given the effort that has gone into raising awareness around the extremely high prevalence of SLCN in this population over recent years.

AMOUNT OF CPD RECEIVED



Barriers

Lack of budget was recognised by the vast majority (84%) as a significant barrier to accessing learning in this area. More than half (57%) felt that staff capacity was an issue as well as a lack of relevant opportunities (56%). Again 86% felt that support from senior management to access CPD opportunities was only a minor barrier or challenge.

Motivation and Preferences

Consistent with most other sectors, webinars were selected the least (4%) preferred training formats. Face to face training (85%), formal, accredited training (63%) and mentoring, coaching and observation opportunities with specialist colleagues (41%) were the most selected options. Ninety-two percent of this sector reported they were motivated to engage in CPD opportunities to improve their practice and three quarters (73%) saw it as essential to their role. Whilst 30% reported that they work closely with a young person with SLCN, this does not correlate with what we know about prevalence of SLCN amongst this population of young people, which suggests much higher numbers.

Training Needs

Respondents in this sector of the workforce felt their training priorities included 'talking to parents about SLCN' (62%) and 'supporting young people with SLCN' (50%).

The suggestions by this sector for bridging the training gaps were diverse. Some individuals suggested whole training days or inset days, but specialist training, regular updates and supportive strategies were also put forward by this part of the workforce.

Consistent with the FE sector, there is a clear lack of training and opportunities available to this sector. It is critical that this gap is bridged considering the significant impact that this could have on life opportunities and the risk to reoffending.

"I would ideally like to have training days that focus on specifics as opposed to cramming lots of bits into a half day slot"

"Regular training with SLC professionals who could demonstrate new strategies/approaches, talk about current research etc"

"Specific to teenagers who have had undiagnosed difficulties"