BASW survey on how much ‘direct’ time social workers spend with children and families

- We asked these six questions and had over 350 responses;
  - How many hours do you work a week on average?
  - On average, how many hours of your working week do you spend face-to-face with children, young people, parents or carers?
  - On average, how many hours of your working week do you spend on the phone with children, young people, parents or carers?
  - How many hours of your working week do you spend on a computer or doing paperwork, on average?
  - How many hours of your working week do you spend on reflective practice, on average?
  - Do you have any comments about your current balance between direct relationship based work and paperwork/administrative duties

BASW survey on how much ‘direct’ time social workers spend with children and families

- ‘How many hours do you work a week on average?’ The results from the survey concluded that the average number of hours the 356 respondents worked was;

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How many hours of your working week do you spend on a computer or doing paperwork, on average?

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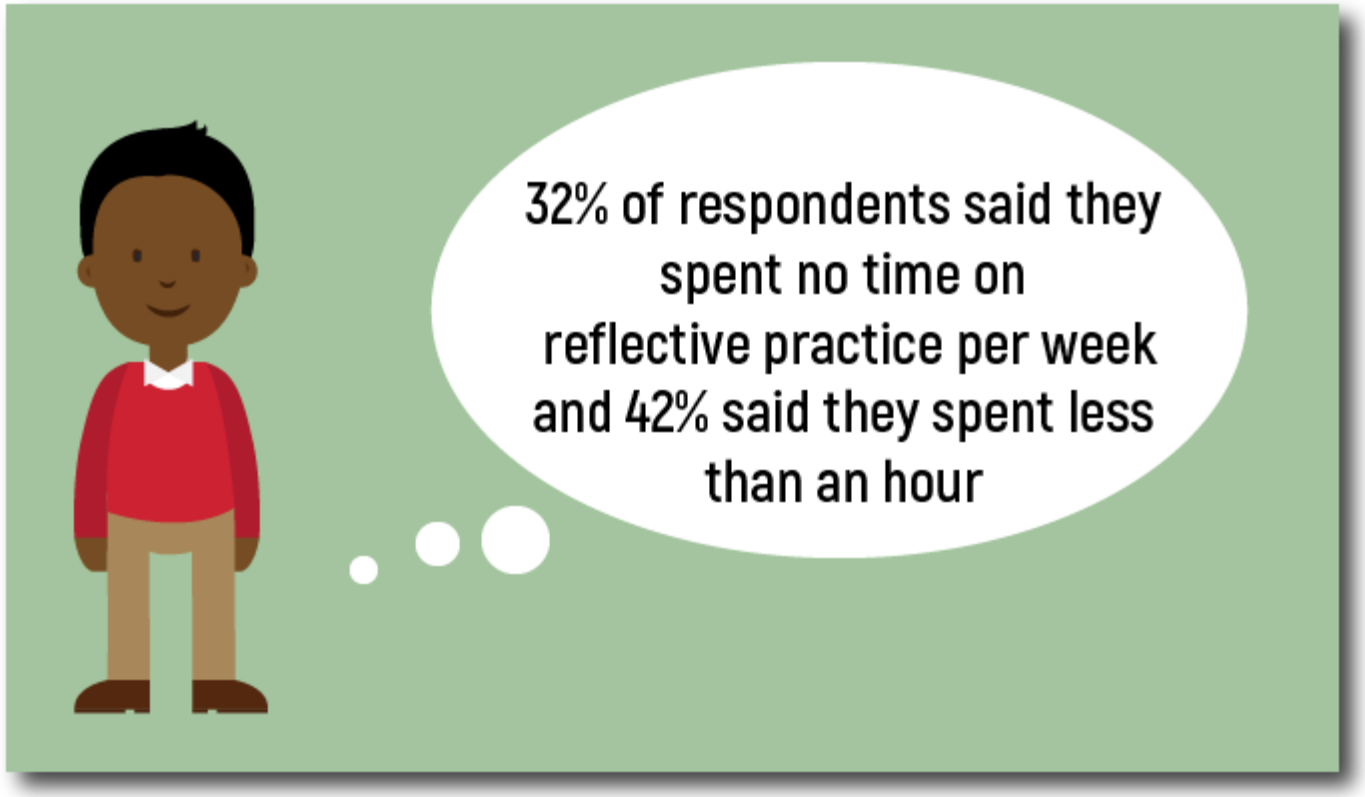
How many hours of your working week do you spend on reflective practice, on average?



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On average, how many hours of your working week do you spend face-to-face with children, young people, parents or carers?

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APPG for social work – The funding crisis in children's services

- Professor Donald Forrester from Cardiff University along with researchers from Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work and Social Care have recently been involved in 3 major DfE-funded evaluations
- Information has been gathered from over 8 LA's, 600 audio recordings of social workers and families and 200 recordings of supervisions
- This has given more evidence of the impact of the funding crisis on social work practice

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APPG for social work – The funding crisis in children's services

- Government funding for social services has dropped significantly since 2010
- There was an almost 29% drop in local spending power (National Audit Office, 2018)
- Early help and preventative support services have had substantial cuts.
- More deprived LA's have seen 45.6% cuts, while relatively affluent LA's have seen 28.3% cuts (Webb and Bywaters, 2018)

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Key findings…

- There is reduced spending but increase in demand
- Between 2010 to 2017, the number of children with a child protection plan rose by 24% and the number of looked after children by 9%
- Data showed the challenge to continue good practice skills when the LA had resources cut or reduced

Key findings…

- Families are more likely to report good working relationships, agreed goals, lower levels of stress and higher life ratings when their social worker demonstrates good levels of skill
- These benefits are only evident when there is sufficiently frequent contact

Key findings…

- When workers receive regular supervision and support with manageable caseloads and sufficient time to work in direct contact with the families, workers show enhanced practice skills and create better outcomes for families they work with (Wilkins, Lynch and Antonopoulou, 2018)

The 80/20 campaign

…for more direct, relationship-based contact with children

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“Children in care deserve the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations, and they tell us that stable relationships are an essential part of building their lives and achieving their potential. Therefore, I think the 80/20 campaign is an important opportunity to improve the experiences of children in care.”

Anne Longfield OBE Children’s Commissioner for England

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