



Across the UK, one in three families depend on grandparents for childcare and, in some circumstances, grandparents foster their grandchildren. Recent research has found that more than one third of the young people reported that their grandparent was the most important person in their life, after their parents or siblings, and one in four teenagers said that they talked to their grandparents about problems they could not discuss with their parents. Little is known about the extent of grandparents' participation in supporting families in Wales and Children in Wales is keen to get a clearer picture through this survey.

Children in Wales is the national umbrella organisation for those working with children and young people in Wales, and our aims are to promote the interests of these groups and take action to meet their needs. We are a registered charity and an independent non-governmental organisation.

**Grandparents may be biological, step-grandparents or any individual fulfilling that role in a child's life*

1. Are you a (please tick more than one box if applicable)

- Grandmother
- Grandfather
- Great-grandmother
- Great-grandfather

2. Are you

- Working
- Retired
- Housewife/Househusband
- Unemployed

3. Which age group do you fit into?

- 30 – 40yrs
- 40 – 50 yrs
- 50 – 60 yrs
- 60 – 70yrs
- 70 – 80 yrs
- Over 80yrs

4. How many grandchildren do you have? Boys _____ Girls _____

5. From how many households do they come? _____

6. Have you ever needed to take time off work to help with your grandchildren?

- Often
- Sometimes
- Never
- Use Annual Leave

7. Is your employer sympathetic to these requests? Yes No

8. Have you had to give up work in order to help out? Yes No

9. Do you ever help out financially with your grandchildren? Yes No

If yes, is this financial support...

To help your children make ends meet For extras/treats

10. Has this financial support ever caused YOU financial hardship?

Yes No

11. Do you live in the same household as your grandchildren? Yes No

12. We recognise that grandchildren today may be spread over a number of households, some of which live close by, whilst others may be further away and difficult to visit

- a) How many households are close to you? _____
b) How many households are further away? _____

13. If you have answered (a) to Q.12, how often do you see these grandchildren?

- Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Not often
 Never

14. If you have answered (b) to Q.12, how often do you see these grandchildren?

- Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Not often
 Never

15. Around one in three children in Wales will have experienced family breakdown by the time they reach their early teens. If this applies to your grandchildren's family, have you found it difficult to retain regular contact following divorce or separation?

Yes No Not Applicable

16. As a result of family breakdown, do any of your grandchildren now live in a single parent household? If this is the case, do you now find yourself doing more to help out?

A little bit A lot No difference Not Applicable

Please turn over to continue

17. We would like to find out exactly how you spend time with your grandchildren
(please tick more than one box if applicable)

- Baby sit (allow their parents free time)
- Provide childcare (whilst parents are at work)
- Provide emergency cover (when a child is sick)
- Provide transport (school run, out of school activities, routine health appointments)
- Provide respite care (for a seriously ill or disabled child)
- Just social visits (none of the above)

18. Do your grandchildren ever turn to you when they have concerns or problems?

Yes No Too young

19. Has helping out ever had a negative impact on your own social life or leisure activities?

Yes No

20. When unforeseen circumstances prevent parents from carrying out their parental duties, grandparents often take on the task of raising their grandchildren. Are you the primary care giver to any of your grandchildren?

Yes (please answer questions 21, 22 and 23) No (please go to question 24)

21. If yes, has this arrangement been legally formalised or is it informal?

- Formal (eg, Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Foster Carer)
- Informal

22. Is this arrangement permanent, semi-permanent or temporary?

Permanent Semi-permanent Temporary

23. Have you ever received any financial help for this role?

Yes No

24. Is there anything else you would like to say about being a grandparent?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey