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We champion the wider
family who care for children

Poll Findings

Grandparents Plus Survey Findings

In February 2010 Grandparents Plus commissioned YouGov to conduct an online survey of 1103 grandparents to find out their views on flexible working, grandparent leave and rewarding grandparents who provide significant periods of childcare through tax credits or childcare vouchers.

Characteristics of grandparents taking part in the survey

- 34% of grandparents in the survey work part-time, (of which 15% of grandparents aged 45-54, 28% of 55-64s, 54% of 65+).
- 28% of grandparents in the survey work full-time, (of which 28% of grandparents aged 45-54, 29% of 55-64s, 27% of 65+).
- 16% of grandparents say they provide childcare for their grandchildren, (of which 18% of grandparents aged 45-54, 19% of 55-64s, 11% of 65+).
- 27% of grandparents say they provide care for elderly friends or relatives, (of which 53% of grandparents aged 45-54, 31% of 55-64s, 5% of 65+).
- 29% of all grandparents say they live in households with children.

Summary

There is strong support among grandparents for the idea of making it possible either through tax credits or childcare vouchers to pay grandparents who provide significant amounts of childcare so that parents can work with 70% supporting this proposal.

39% of grandparents back extending the right to request flexible working to grandparents providing childcare. 42% back extending it to all older workers. 46% of those grandparents who are providing childcare for their grandchildren say they would work flexibly if it were an option.

38% of grandparents back the idea of an entitlement to a period of 'granny leave' for grandparents to take in their own right. This figure is higher for working class (C2DE) grandparents (45%) than middle class (ABC1) grandparents (30%).

39% of grandparents back the idea of a period of leave that the mother or father could transfer to the grandparent instead of taking themselves. This figure rises to 44% for 45-54 year old grandparents.

Key survey findings

Tax credits/childcare vouchers

- There is strong backing in the survey for the idea of paying grandparents who provide significant amounts of childcare to enable parents to work, through tax credits or childcare vouchers. 70% of all grandparents in the survey support the proposal, with 72% of 55-64s backing the idea. This falls to 61% of over 65s.
- Support for the idea is strongest among C2DE grandparents, (73% back the idea compared with 66% of ABC1s), and those who are working (75% of full-time working and 73% of part-time working grandparents agree, compared with 64% of those who are retired).

Flexible working for grandparents providing childcare

- 39% of grandparents believe that grandparents who are providing childcare should be offered the right to request flexible working.
- There is particularly strong support for this (45%) among grandparents with children living in the household.
- Support for the measure is also strong among younger grandparents (44% of 45 to 54 year olds back it) and C2DE grandparents (42% compared to 36% of ABC1 grandparents). The figure is 39% for 55-64 year olds and 38% to over 65s.

Take up of flexible working

- 46% of all grandparents who provide childcare for their grandchildren say they would work flexibly if it was an option (compared to just 9% who would not).

Flexible working for older workers

- There is even greater support for a right to request flexible working being extended to all older workers, with 42% of grandparents backing the idea.
- A right to request flexible working for older workers is particularly popular among part-time workers who are also grandparents (47% back it) and among 45 to 54 year old grandparents (with 47% backing the idea). The figure for 55 to 64 year olds is 44% and for over 65s it is 36%.

Period of “granny” leave

- 38% of all grandparents agree that grandparents should be entitled in their own right to an additional period of leave in the way that fathers are entitled to paternity leave and mothers to maternity leave. This view is held more strongly among grandparents working full-time (42%) than

retired (30%) grandparents. However 38% of grandparents disagree with the idea. Younger grandparents are considerably more supportive than older grandparents. This breaks down by age as follows:

- 45-54s: Agree: 53% Disagree: 26%
- 55-64s: Agree: 38% Disagree: 39%
- 65+: Agree: 30% Disagree: 44%

- 45% of working class (C2DE) grandparents back the idea of “granny leave” for grandparents in their own right, compared to 30% of middle class (ABC1) grandparents.
- 39% of all grandparents support the option a period of leave that the mother or father could transfer to the grandparent, instead of taking themselves. This figure rises to 44% for those aged 45-54. For 55-64 year olds it is 36% and 41% for over 65s.

Note: All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 4366 adults (1103 grandparents). Fieldwork was undertaken between 5th - 8th February 2010. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

Because the YouGov survey used an online poll and internet penetration among those aged 70 or over is lower, the sample is skewed towards younger grandparents. This means for example that the number of grandparents in the survey who are still working is higher than for all grandparents in the population.