

# The Families Federations and the MOD Armed Forces Covenant

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# Who are we?



A **voice** for military families and serving personnel



Provide **confidential** information, advice, and signposting support



Present **evidence** to the Armed Forces, MOD, government departments, local authorities and others



We work 'holistically' alongside key **stakeholders**



**Independent** organisations

# Our role with the Armed Forces Covenant:

- Advocate for serving personnel and families
- Highlight single Service nuances, as appropriate.
- Engage with Schools, Local Authorities, MOD, DWP, Home Office, Employers and the NHS to help alleviate the challenges of service life
- Collate the evidence from the enquiries and casework
- Formal Observations on Covenant Annual Report
- Engage with policy makers to effect change; gave evidence at Defence Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill; stakeholder representation for new draft Statutory Guidance.

**The Armed Forces Covenant is delivered through everyday systems.  
Not through policy documents.**

**“Service life interacts with multiple public systems — and when those systems don’t align, families experience disadvantage.”**

**The Covenant is not experienced in policy papers.**



## Families Federations Interactive Quiz

1. We will present a “scenario” on some common Covenant-related topics for you to consider.
2. Scan to join the quiz.
3. Your responses will appear on screen.
4. The questions (and answers!) are to get us all thinking about support under the Covenant.





# Which area are you representing today?



19 Local Authority



6 NHS



2 Employer



23 MOD



2 Education



6 Other Govt Dept

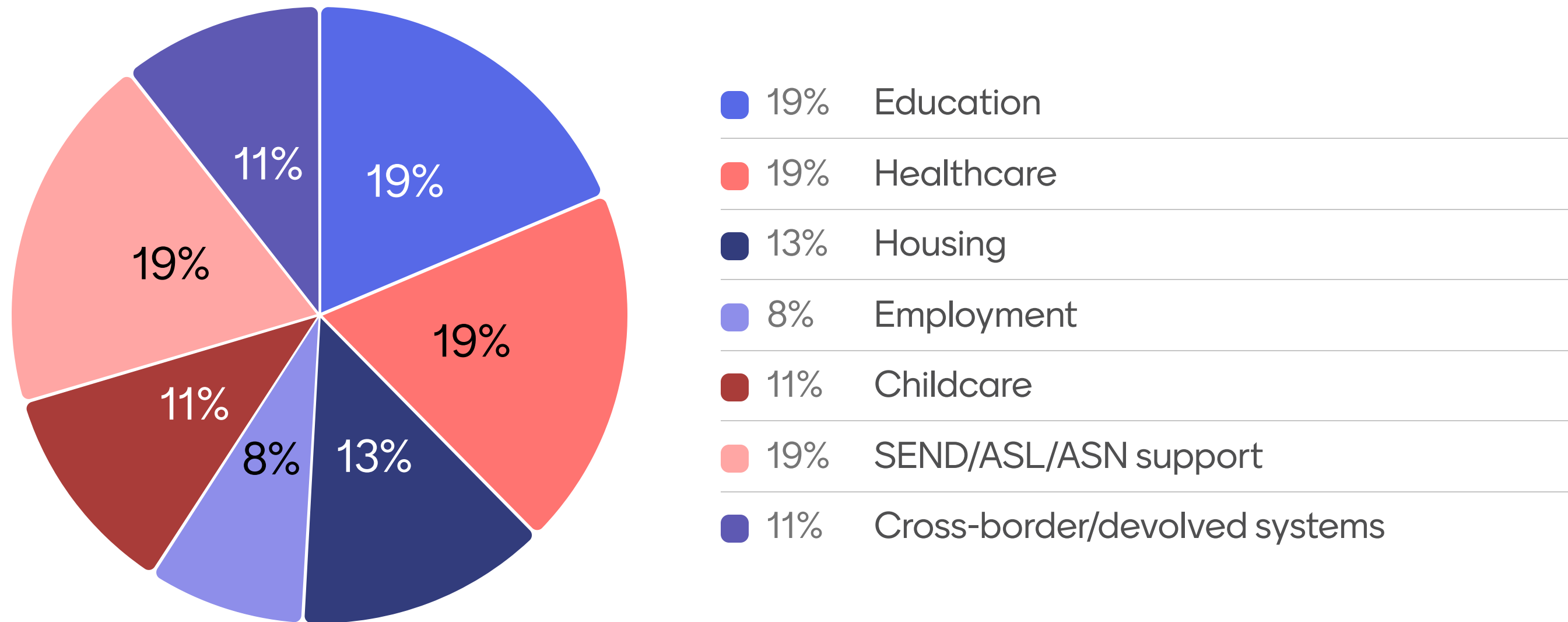


36 Charity



8 Other

# Which systems do you think military families find hardest to navigate during mobility?



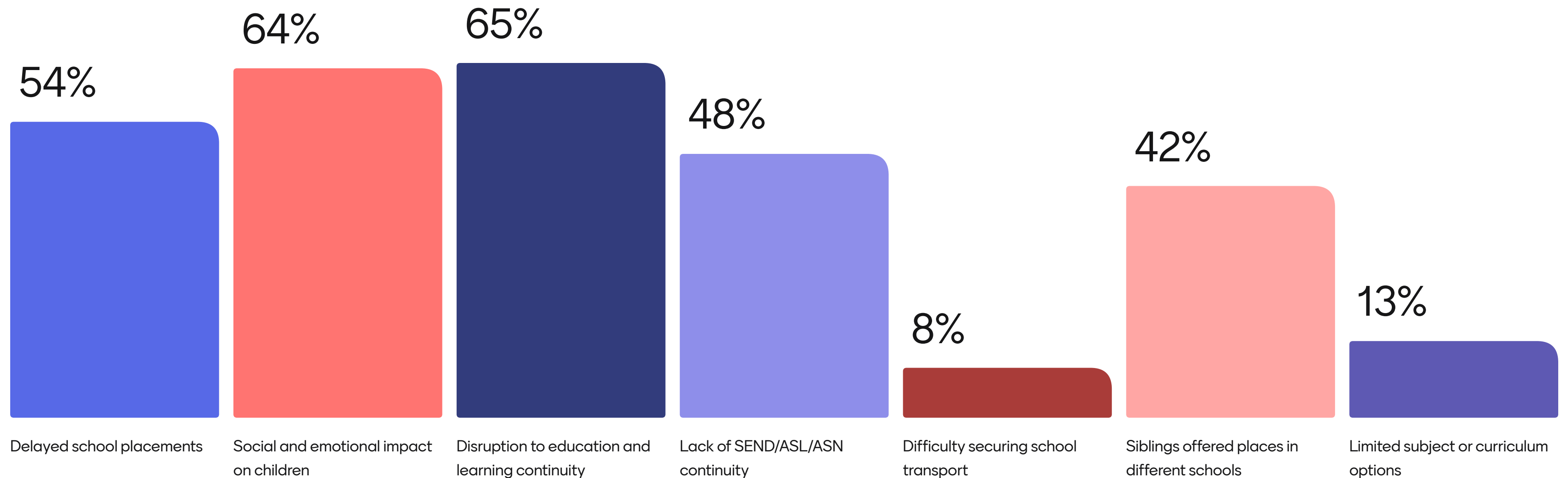
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*“There is no “this is what you need to do”. If it would, it would have been so nice, in a perfect world, “we know you have a medical condition, a medically complex child. So here is a list of things that we know you’ll need to do. So, here you need to call this person, ring this person”...some simple direction with some, not just names as well, but things I might need.” (Extract from ‘Duty and Care Report’)*

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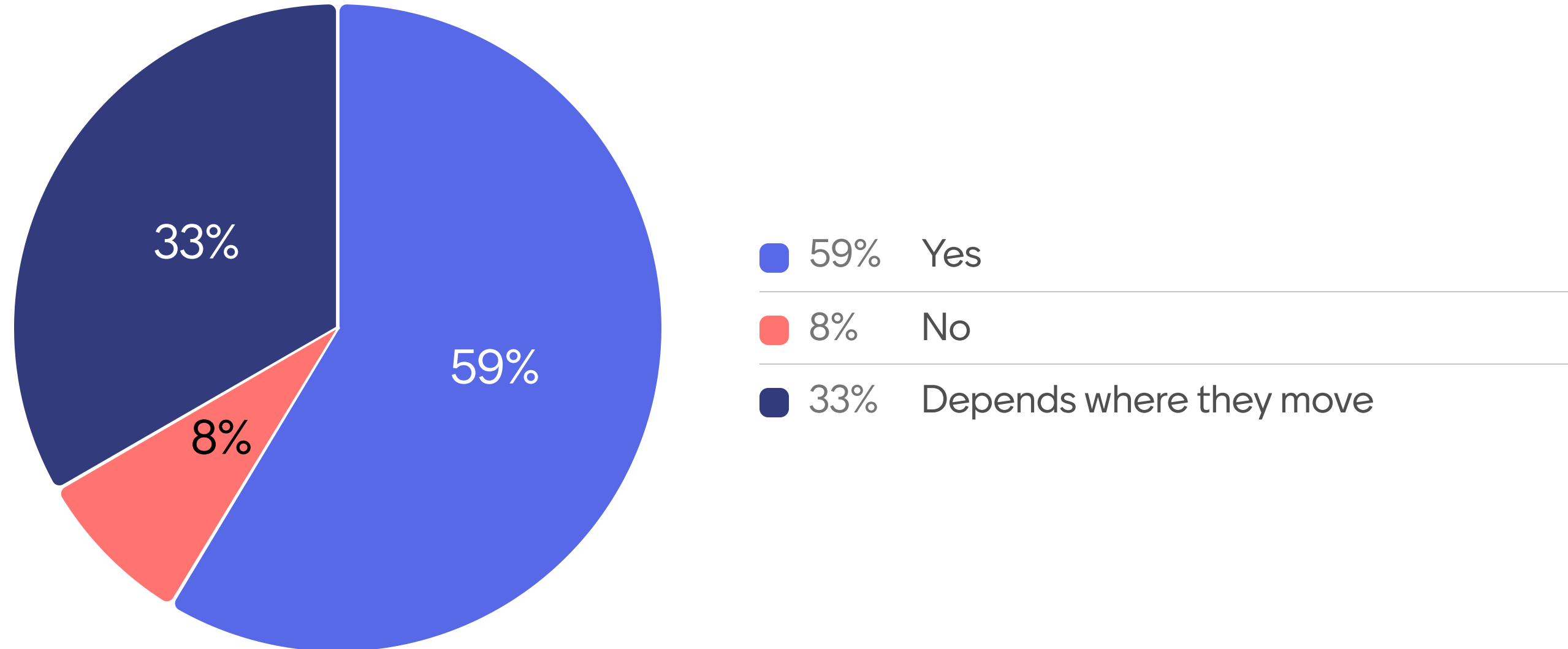
## School Admissions

A military family receives a posting during the school year and moves after normal admissions deadlines. What challenges are they most likely to face?



## NHS Waiting Lists

A military family member moves while on an NHS specialist waiting list. Do Covenant principles ensure they aren't disadvantaged by mobility?



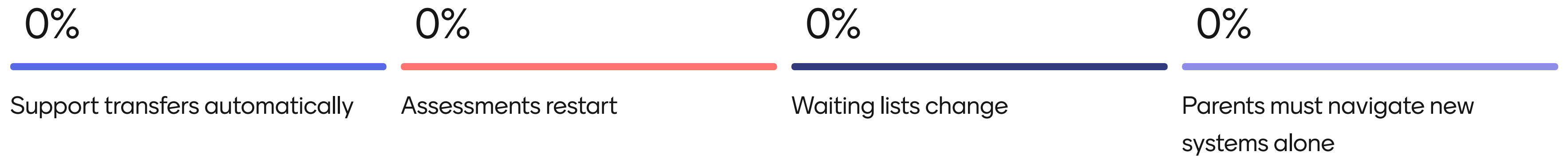
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*“When moving from a posting in Scotland to England my child’s data has not been sent down properly. It has been six months now and I am hounded by letters saying I need to get my child vaccinated, even though he was vaccinated in Scotland. I’ve rung my GP’s office multiple times and took in his red book, but the problem hasn’t been resolved as apparently they don’t send digital records from NHS Scotland to NHS England. **As a serving family we do not get a choice where we move**, it should be easier for records to be sent between the two to ensure the right care and treatment is provided.” (Serving family member)*

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Mobility Between Nations

On posting, a family moves from a devolved nation to England. Their child receives additional educational support. What often happens?



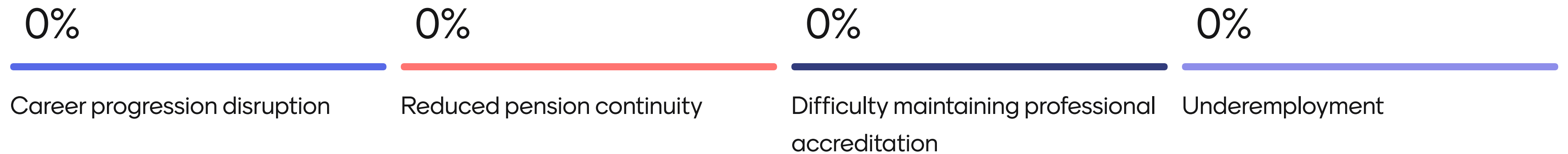
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*“Each area applies the law in its own way. **There's no standard process.** It's a fight. Reports aren't always accepted when commissioned by another local authority. There's not enough specialist provision and securing it can take years, by which time it's time to move again. Moving between countries, even within Great Britain also creates problems with continuation of education and provision as not all areas have EHCPs. **It's a massive additional long term stress, enough to cause us to consider breaking the family up.**” (Serving family member)*

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Spousal Employment

A military partner moves location 5 times in 8 years. In terms of employment, which impact is most likely?



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**Quote from AFF 2024 Spouse and Partner Employment Survey**

*“My husband would love to be more involved, but we made the decision for me to stay in the home which we owned and the job which I am currently in. My current job is fulfilling and provides a good salary. We couldn't afford for me to move with him and live off just his salary. I don't want to get a job just to 'earn money' I need a job which is fulfilling which uses the skills which I have worked hard to develop over years.”*

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- The Families Federations lead on advocacy and have the ear of decision makers.
- Acting as a critical friend, we provide agility and an independent voice.
- The Covenant succeeds when systems work together — because Service families experience them all at once.
- Independent family voice of the Families Federations helps bridge the gaps.



## How to contact us:



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