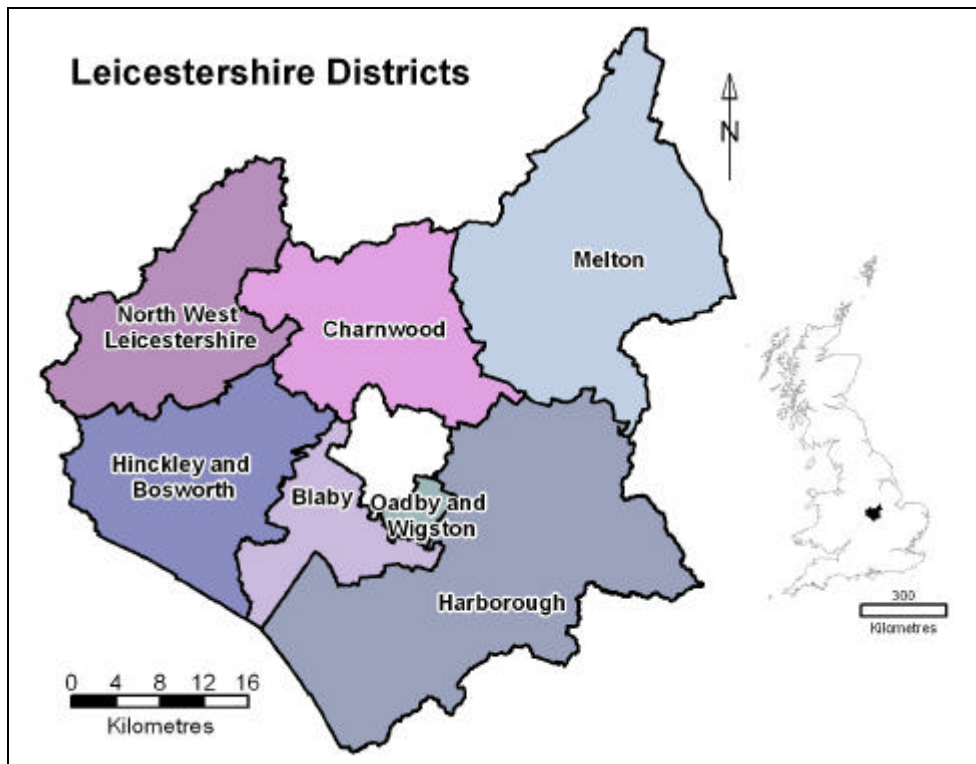




East Midlands Life and Work Survey 2003:

Results for Charnwood



Leicestershire Learning + Skills Council

INTRODUCTION

The East Midlands Life and Work Survey 2003 set out to build on and further develop a collaborative model of research that had undertaken successive household surveys in partnership since 1994. However, in recognition of the changing institutional context with which the survey was conducted, a fundamental review of content, sampling methodology and respondent profile was undertaken.

This resulted in the use of a changed sampling methodology and revised questionnaire. In this context, it is important to note that the survey did not replicate previous household surveys, and so comparisons with those previous surveys are not meaningful.

A core sample of 14,000 interviews was achieved across the region, with a significant boosted sample in Leicestershire LSC of 5,320 interviews. The survey collected information from a robust and representative sample of residents including those economically active and economically inactive with residents aged 16-74 interviewed in their homes. The sample itself was selected using a systematic random probability technique to ensure relatively consistent levels of statistical reliability for each LSC, SSP and LAD area.

Sample Profile

Figure 1: Charnwood Sample Profile

<i>Age</i>	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-74
	22%	22%	22%	15%	8%	4%	7%
<i>Gender</i>	Male			Female			
	49.1%			50.9%			
<i>Ethnicity</i>	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other		
	93%	1%	6%	0%	1%		
Long-term Illness or Disability				13.7%			

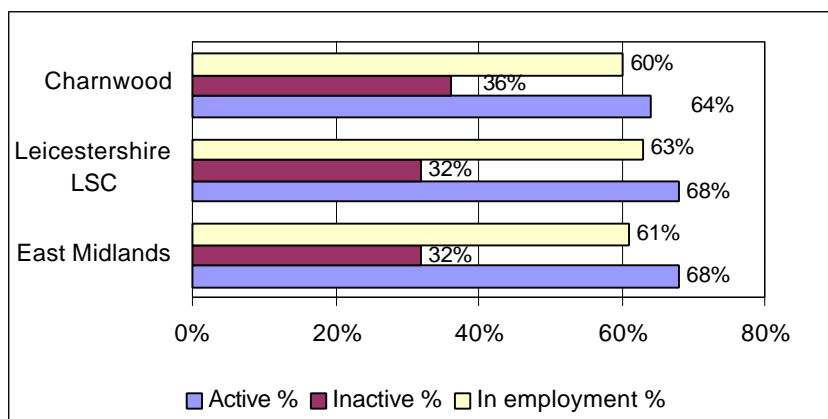
The percentages shown are based on 1,070 interviews for the Charnwood Local Authority area.

EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Economic Activity

Figure 2 illustrates that a smaller proportion of respondents from Charnwood are both economically active (in employment or unemployed claiming/not claiming job-seekers allowance) and/or in employment than is the case in Leicestershire LSC and the East Midlands as a whole.

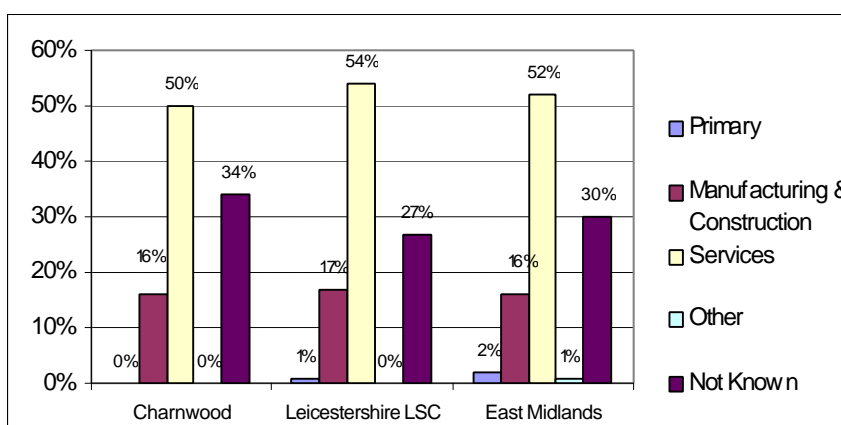
Figure 2: Economically Active and Employment Status



Base: All Respondents

Approximately 50% of employed respondents in Charnwood are employed in the service sector, lower than both the equivalent LSC and regional figures. In contrast, manufacturing and construction account for 16% of respondents (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Employment Activity

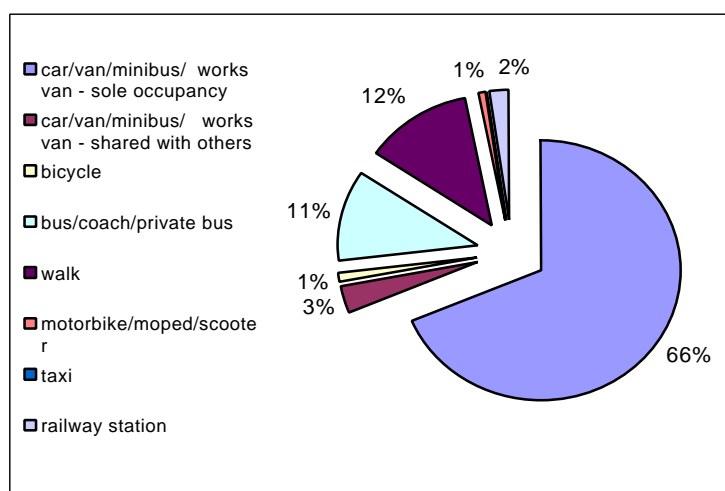


Base: In Employment

Travel to Work

Two thirds (66%) of respondents in Charnwood spend less than 20 minutes travelling to work whilst just 1% of the respondents spent more than one hour travelling to work. Despite relatively short journey times overall, the majority (66%) of those surveyed travel to work in a 'car/van/ minibus/works van' where they are the sole occupant, whilst 12% walk to work (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Travel to Work Methods

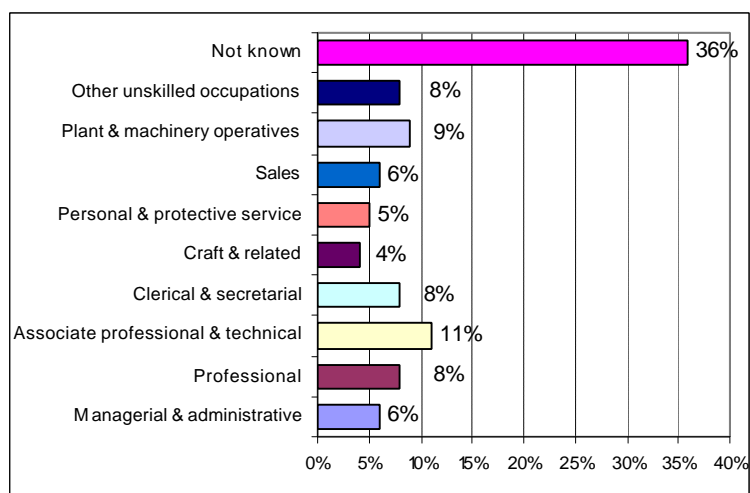


Base: In Employment

Work Characteristics

A high proportion of Charnwood respondents (99%) are in a job they feel to be permanent, higher than the county and regional figures of 97% and 96% respectively.

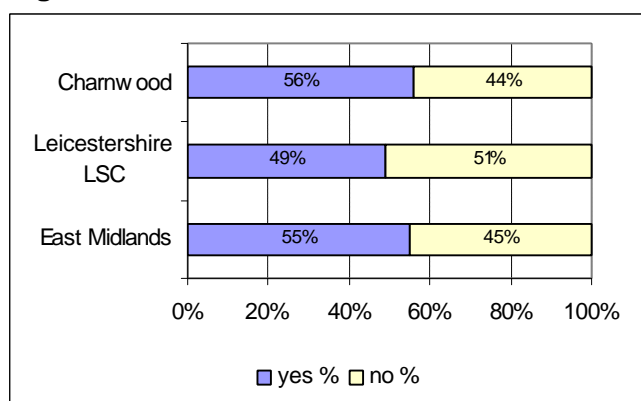
The largest group of respondents to the survey (11%) work in 'associate professional & technical' jobs followed by 'plant & machinery operatives' (9%). 'Craft & related' jobs accounted for just 4% of respondents in employment in Charnwood (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Occupational Classification

Base: In Employment

Use of ICT

Just over half (56%) of respondents in Charwood use a PC at work, above the proportions recorded for both Leicestershire LSC and the East Midlands as a whole (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Use of ICT at Work

Base: In Employment

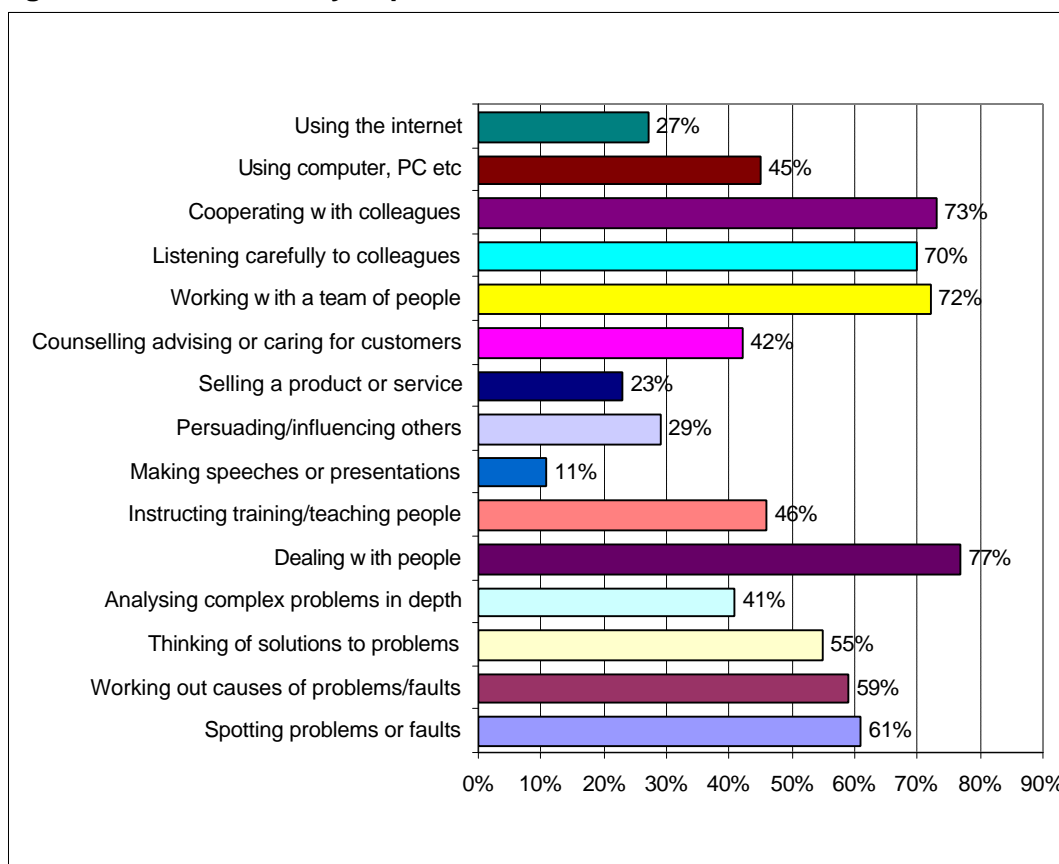
SKILLS ISSUES

Skills Requirements

Almost half of all employed respondents (46%) said that no qualifications would be needed to get the type of job they are doing if someone were applying today, slightly less than the figure for the East Midlands as a whole (48%). Otherwise a requirement for GCSE grades A-C and a degree featured most prominently.

The most important key skills identified by employed Charnwood were interpersonal skills such as co-operating with/listening to colleagues and dealing with people (Figure 7). The findings in Charnwood are consistent with the results from other areas and the 2003 Employer Skill Survey, which identified a shortage of technical, practical and generic skills including communication, customer service and problem solving skills.

Figure 7: Essential / Very Important Skills in Current Job



Base: In Employment, multiple response

Qualifications

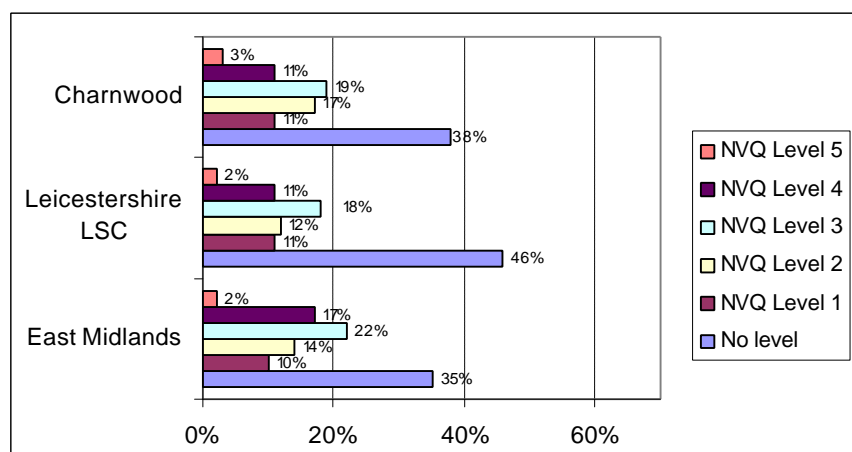
A third (33%) of respondents from Charnwood stated that they do not have any qualifications. Further variations exist within Leicestershire LSC and beyond, including 29% of the respondents from Charnwood having qualifications connected with work (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Current Qualifications

	School	College/ University	Connected with work	Government schemes	None
Charnwood	51%	34%	29%	2%	33%
Leicestershire LSC	49%	32%	21%	2%	36%
East Midlands	54%	37%	26%	3%	30%

Base: All Respondents, Multiple Response

Figure 9 indicates how the wide range of qualifications held by economically active respondents aged 16-59/65 equates to the various levels of NVQ. The survey reveals that a smaller proportion of respondents in Charnwood have no NVQ qualifications than the LSC area but greater than the region as a whole.

Figure 9: NVQ Equivalence

Base: Respondents Economically Active

Employer Learning Provision and Job Security / Satisfaction

In contrast to estimates relating to payment for training undertaken in the last 12 months at a LSC and regional level, 54% of Charnwood respondents received training paid for by their employer. Nearly one in three respondents paid for their own training (Figure 10).

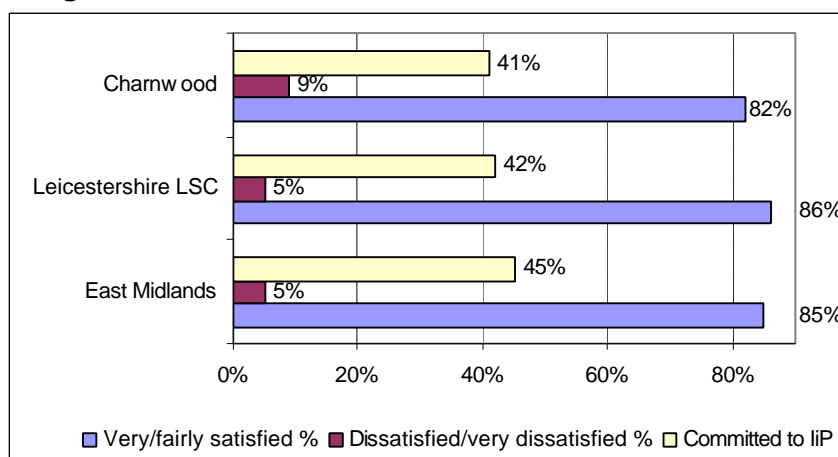
Figure 10: Who Paid for Training Learning

	Employer	You personally	No cost involved	Other
Charnwood	54%	29%	12%	5%
Leicestershire LSC	42%	25%	27%	10%
East Midlands	49%	19%	25%	9%

Base: Undertaken Training/Learning in last 12 months

Figure 11 illustrates both respondents' feelings of job satisfaction/dissatisfaction and the proportion of employers committed or recognised as an Investor in People (IiP). More than four in five Charnwood respondents are either very or fairly happy with their job.

Figure 11: Job Satisfaction and Commitment to Investors in People



Base: In Employment

Skills Demand

Figure 12 depicts the type of skills which respondents believe they need to develop over the next 12 months in terms of both work and personal development.

Figure 12: Skills Needed

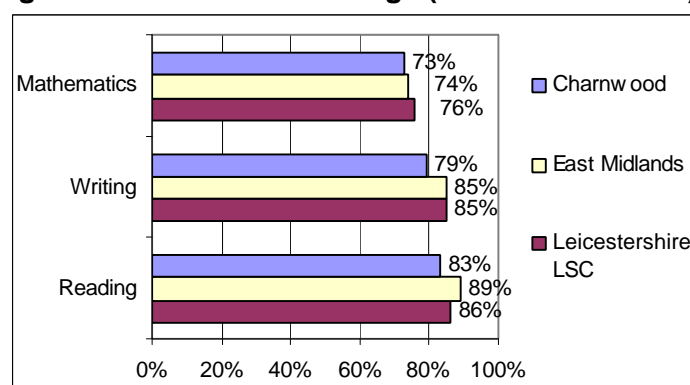
Skills	Work-based	Personal-based
Practical skills	12%	<1%
IT skills/use of computer packages	9%	4%
Health and safety	8%	3%
Management skills	8%	1%
Caring/empathy skills	7%	1%
Supervisory skills	6%	2%
Quality standards	6%	1%
Business skills	5%	1%
Flexible skills	5%	1%
Technician skills	3%	0%
Foreign language	3%	4%
Basic numeracy skills	3%	3%
Basic literacy skills	2%	1%
Other skills	5%	14%
None	34%	61%
Don't know	14%	15%
Not applicable	12%	0%

Base: All Respondents

Basic Skills Needs

Although slightly below the Leicestershire LSC average, around four fifths of Charnwood respondents felt their reading and writing skills were either good or excellent. However, just less than one in three respondents believed their mathematical skills to be either moderate or poor (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Basic Skills Ratings (Good or Excellent)



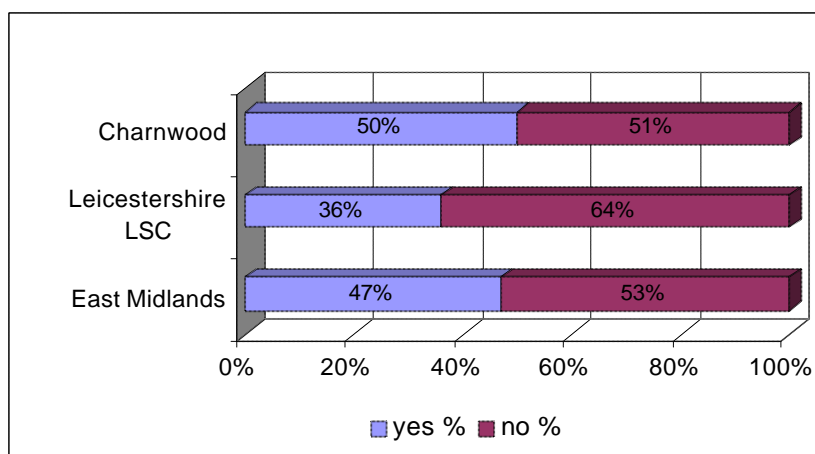
Source: All Respondents

The survey estimates that 94% of Charnwood respondents speak English as their first language compared to 91% in the Leicestershire LSC area as a whole.

PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING AND LEARNING

Training Undertaken

Half of employed respondents in Charnwood had not received specific training for the type of work they are currently undertaking. In contrast, over a third of Leicestershire LSC respondents and almost half of respondents in the East Midlands overall had received training for their current type of work (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Having Undertaken Training for Current Type of Work

Base: In Employment

37% of survey respondents in Charnwood have not participated in any training or learning since leaving school, below the equivalent county of 40% above the regional 28%. In addition, 12% of Charnwood respondents are currently benefiting from training/learning – a greater proportion than in either Leicestershire LSC or the East Midlands overall (Figure 15).

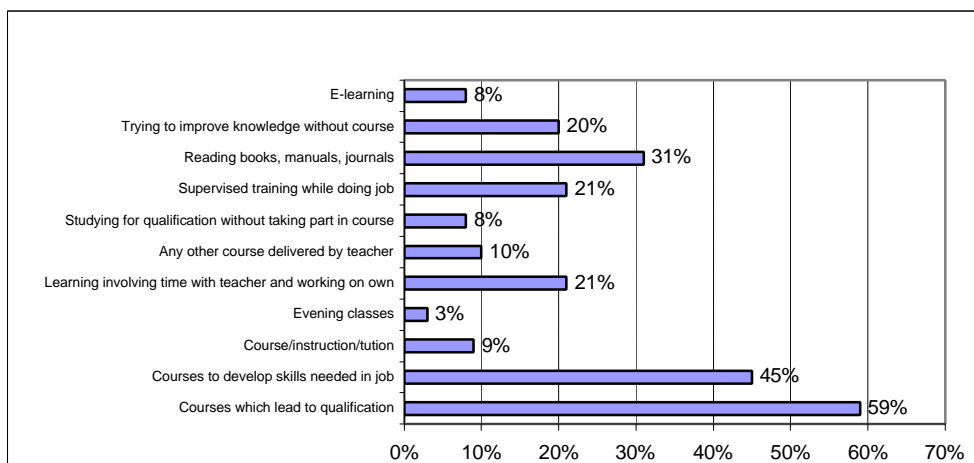
Figure 15: Most Recent Participation in Training/Learning

	Currently	Within last Year	In last 1-3 Years	More than 3 Years	Not since school
Charnwood	12%	8%	32%	11%	37%
Leicestershire LSC	10%	8%	22%	21%	40%
East Midlands	11%	11%	23%	29%	28%

Base: All Respondents

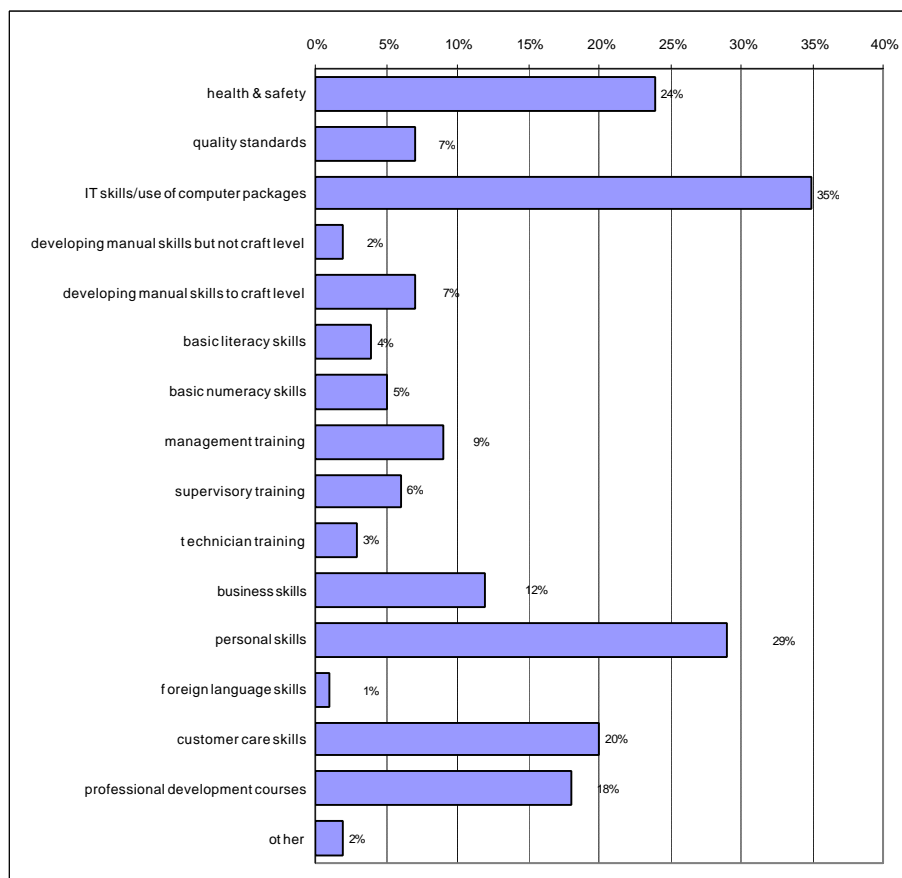
Types of Training Undertaken and Location

Of Charnwood respondents who have undertaken training or learning in the last 12 months, the majority (59%) have involved courses leading to a qualification (delivered by a teacher, lecturer, tutor or instructor). 45% of training/learning featured courses to develop skills needed in jobs (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Types of Training/Learning Undertaken in Past 12 Months

Base: Undertaken Training/Learning in last 12 months, Multiple Response

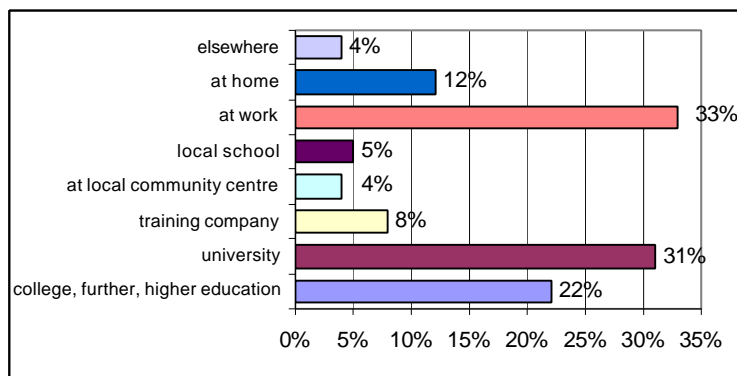
Figure 17 profiles the key subject matter in which training and learning was undertaken in the last 12 months. Prominent amongst subjects are IT skills/use of computer packages (35%), personal skills (29%) and health and safety (24%).

Figure 17: Subject of Training/Learning

Base: Undertaken Training/Learning in last 12 Months, Multiple Response

33% of training/learning in the last 12 months by Charnwood respondents had been completed at work with a further 31% completed at university (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Where Training/Learning Undertaken

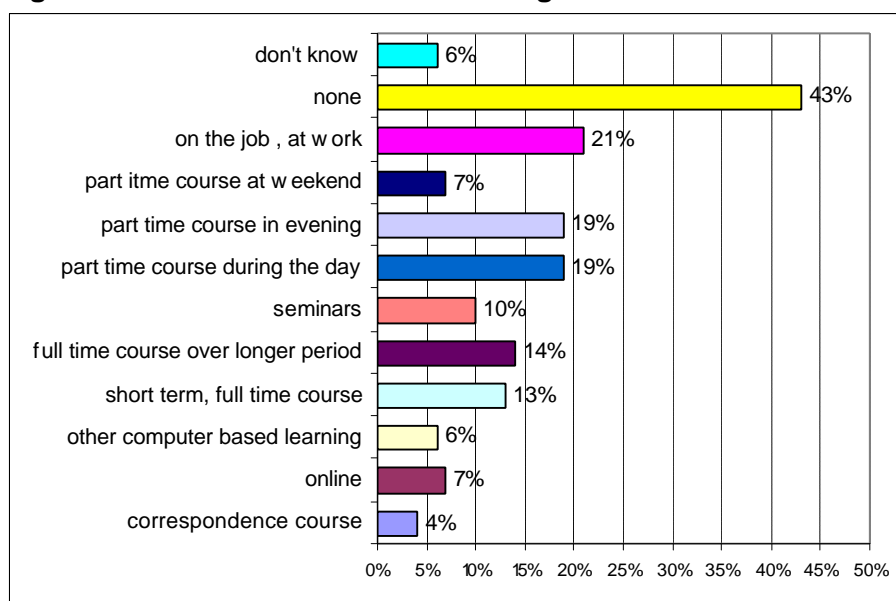


Base: Undertaken Training/Learning in last 12 months

Preferred Methods and Locations

Responses to the survey from Charnwood residents revealed particular demand for undertaking training/learning on the job, at work followed by part-time courses in the evening and day (Figure 19).

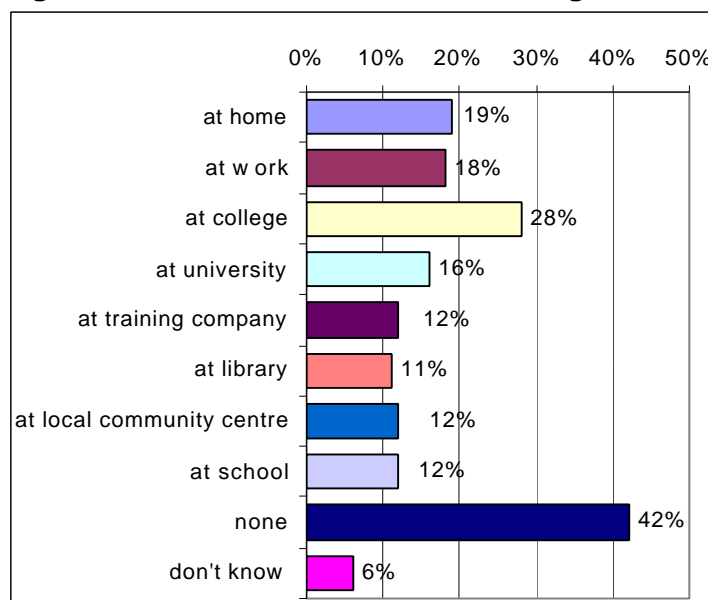
Figure 19: Preferred Method of Training



Base: All Respondents

College-based courses proved to be the most popular training methods amongst Charnwood respondents (28%) followed by home and work-based training options (Figure 20).

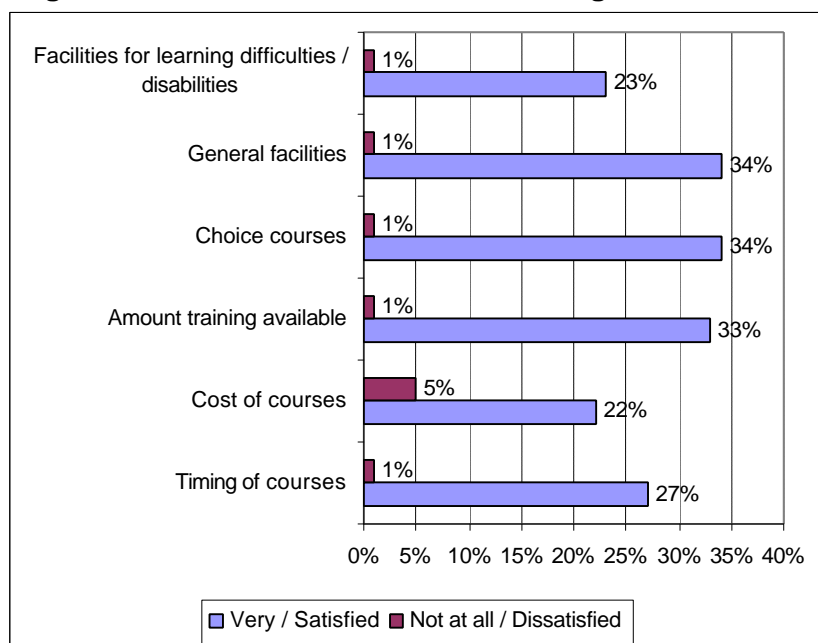
Figure 20: Preferred Location for Training



Base: All Respondents

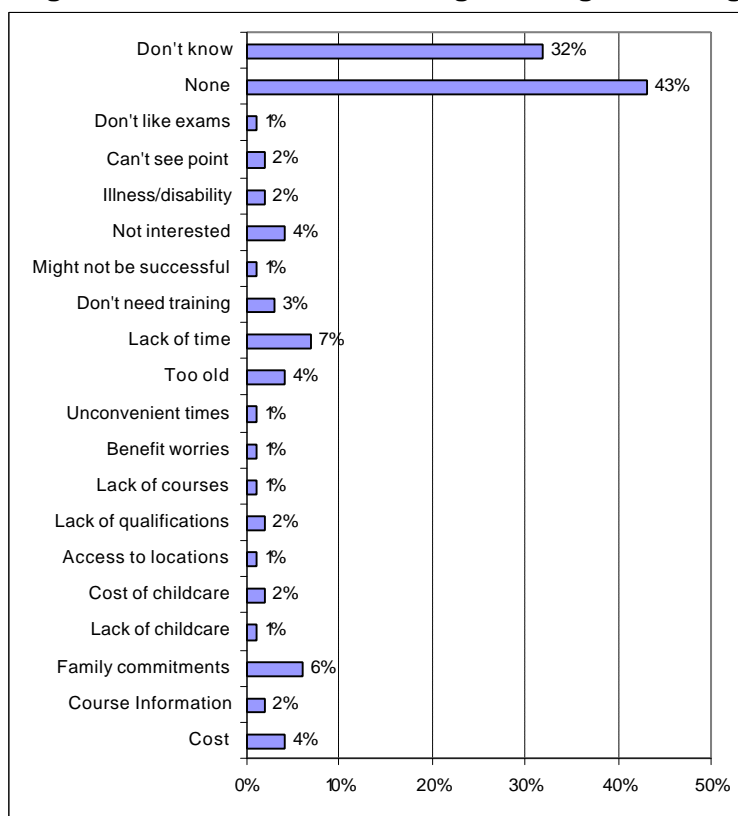
LOCAL PROVISION

Charnwood residents were asked to rate how satisfied they are with training and learning provision locally. On the whole people were generally satisfied with local provision with 34% of respondents each stating that they were satisfied or very satisfied with both the general facilities and choice of courses available. 5% of Charnwood respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the cost of courses available locally (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Satisfaction with Local Training Provision

Source: All Respondents

When asked to specify factors or issues preventing Charnwood residents from (further) developing their skills, over two-fifths (43%) stated that there were no specific barriers to accessing further learning/training whilst almost a third (32%) didn't know. The most prevalent barriers to accessing (further) learning/training amongst Charnwood respondents appears to be a lack of time and family commitments as stated by 7% and 6% of respondents respectively (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Barriers to Accessing Training / Learning

Source: All Respondents

Key Issues for Charnwood

- o High rates of economic inactivity
- o High rates of PC-use at work
- o High recognition of need for interpersonal skills
- o High proportion of qualifications from work
- o High receipt of employer-funded training
- o Comparatively high levels of job dissatisfaction
- o Need to develop practical skills
- o High level of training for current occupation
- o General satisfaction with local training provision