

# Digital Exclusion is a Reality: Raising Awareness of the Digital Divide

EAEA Conference: Outreach and Access in Times of Crisis and Beyond  
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Alex Stevenson

National Learning and Work Institute, UK and EAEA Executive Board

@LWalexs

# Workshop Aims

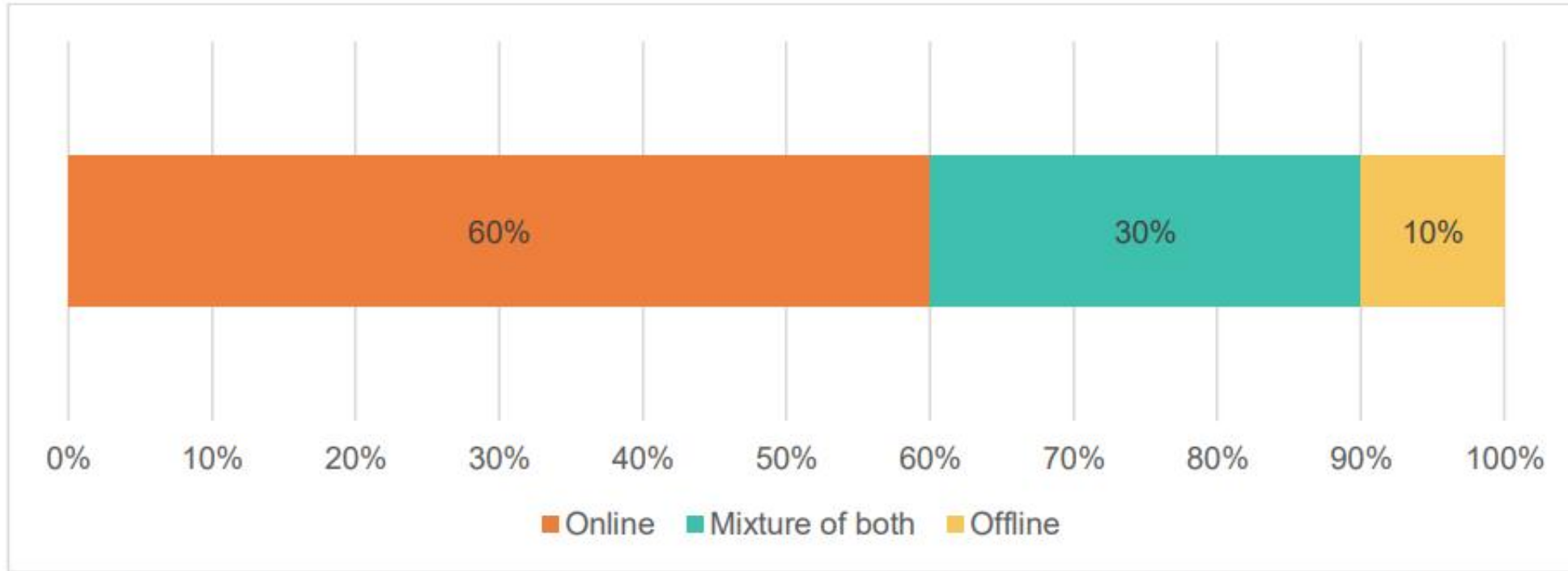
- To share experiences of how digital exclusion has affected access to adult learning and education during the pandemic
- To identify key lessons learned, and opportunities in policy and practice to address digital exclusion in adult learning and education

# Learning through Lockdown: UK Experience

- The [2020 Adult Participation in Learning Survey](#) sought to understand whether people used increased time at home during lockdown to learn.
- Nationally representative dataset of **5,190 adults aged 18+** across the UK.
- **43% of adults (22m) have engaged in learning** since the beginning of lockdown.
- Typical participation rates are lower – but the 2020 survey is not directly comparable to previous surveys.

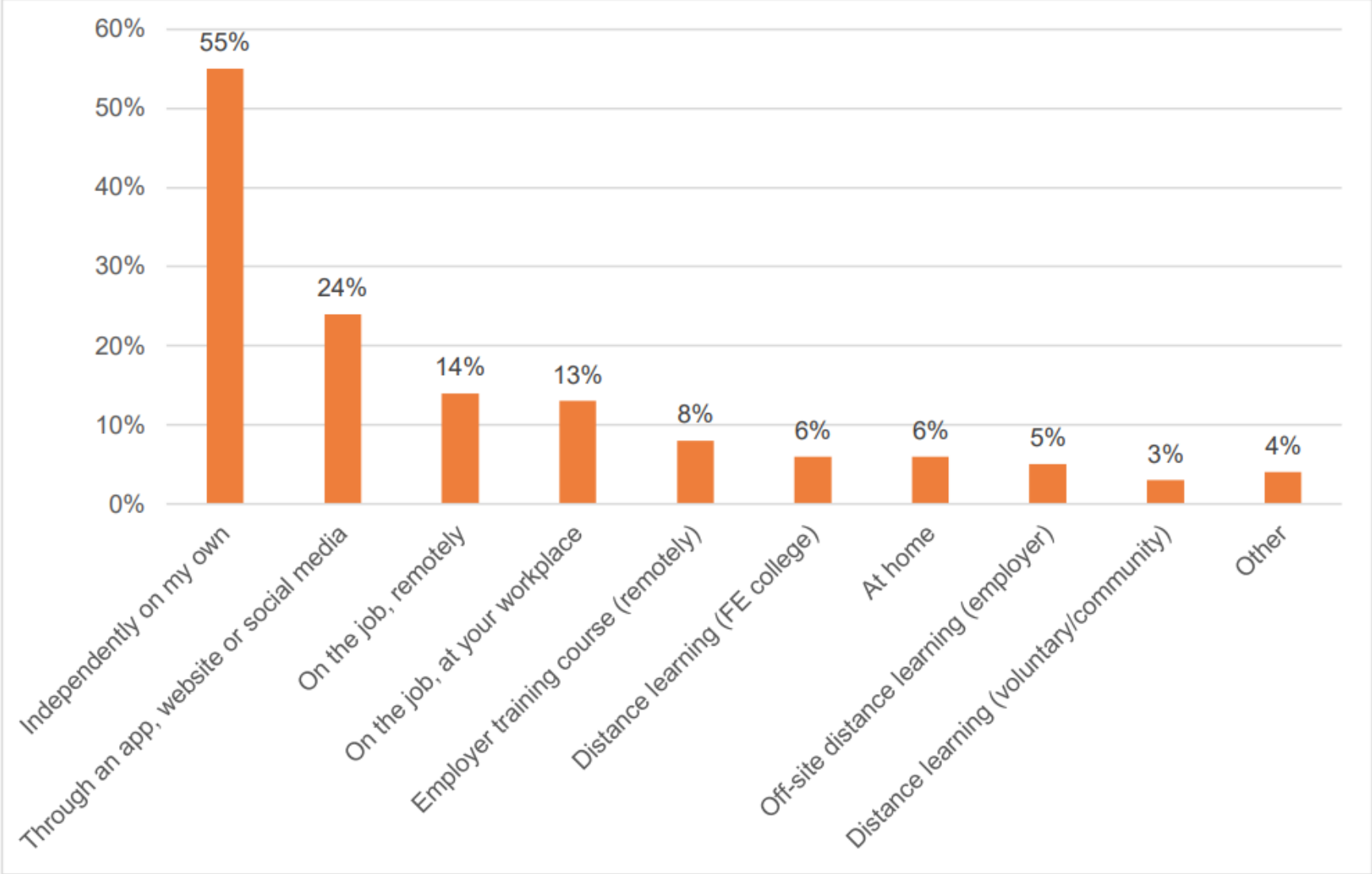
*‘Learning can mean practising, studying or reading about something. It can also mean being taught, instructed or coached. This is so you can develop skills, knowledge, abilities or understanding of something. Learning can also be called education or training. You can do it regularly (each day or month) or you can do it for a short period of time. It can be full time, or part time, done at home, at work, or in another place like a college. Learning does not have to lead to a qualification. We are interested in any learning you have done, whether or not it was finished.’*

**Figure 1: Whether learning since the beginning of lockdown has been mostly online, offline or a mixture of both**



Base: all respondents who have engaged in learning since lockdown. Weighted base = 2,228

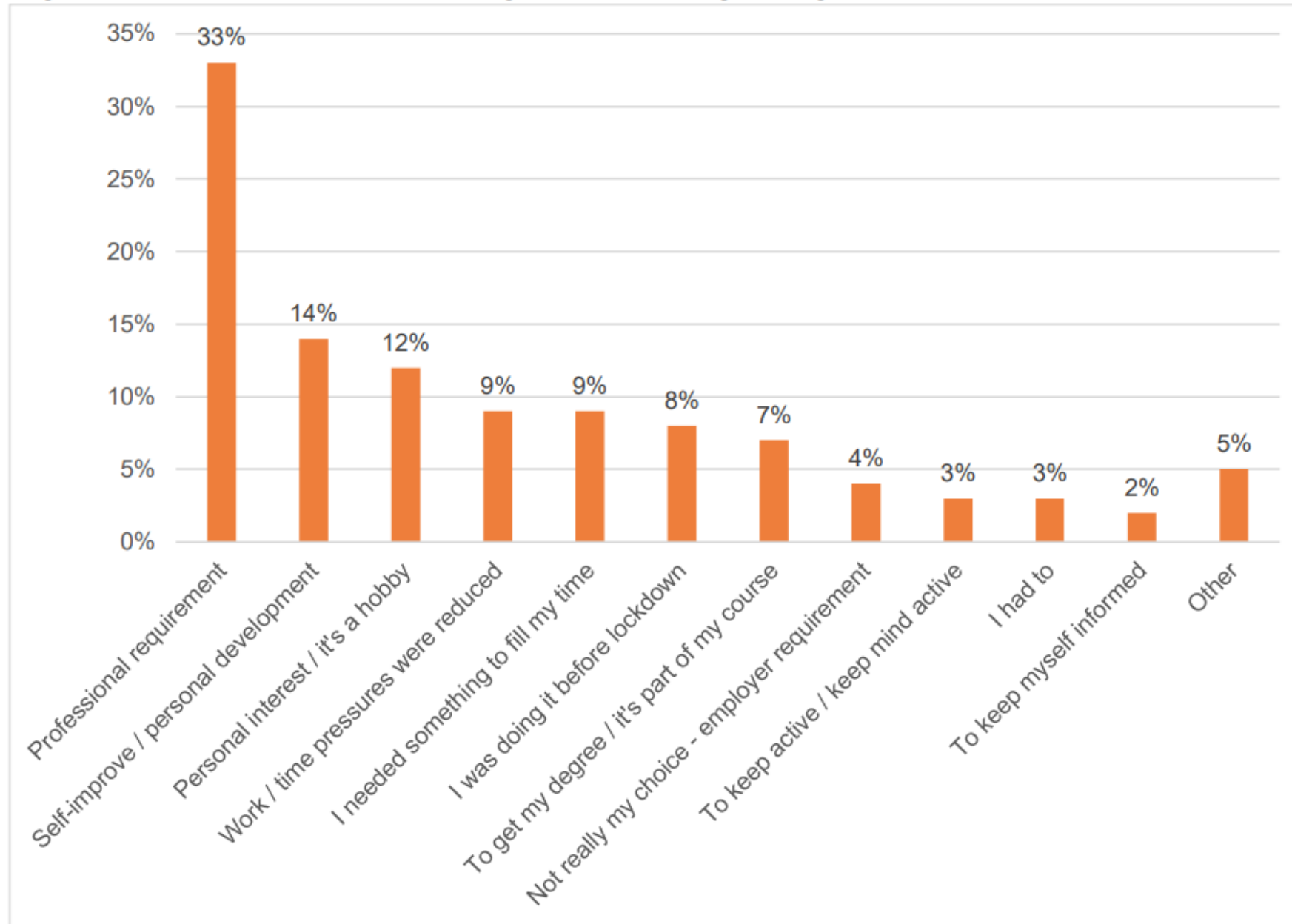
**Figure 2: How learners have learnt since the beginning of lockdown**



Base: all respondents who have engaged in learning since lockdown. Weighted base = 2,228

Note: Respondents could give more than one answer

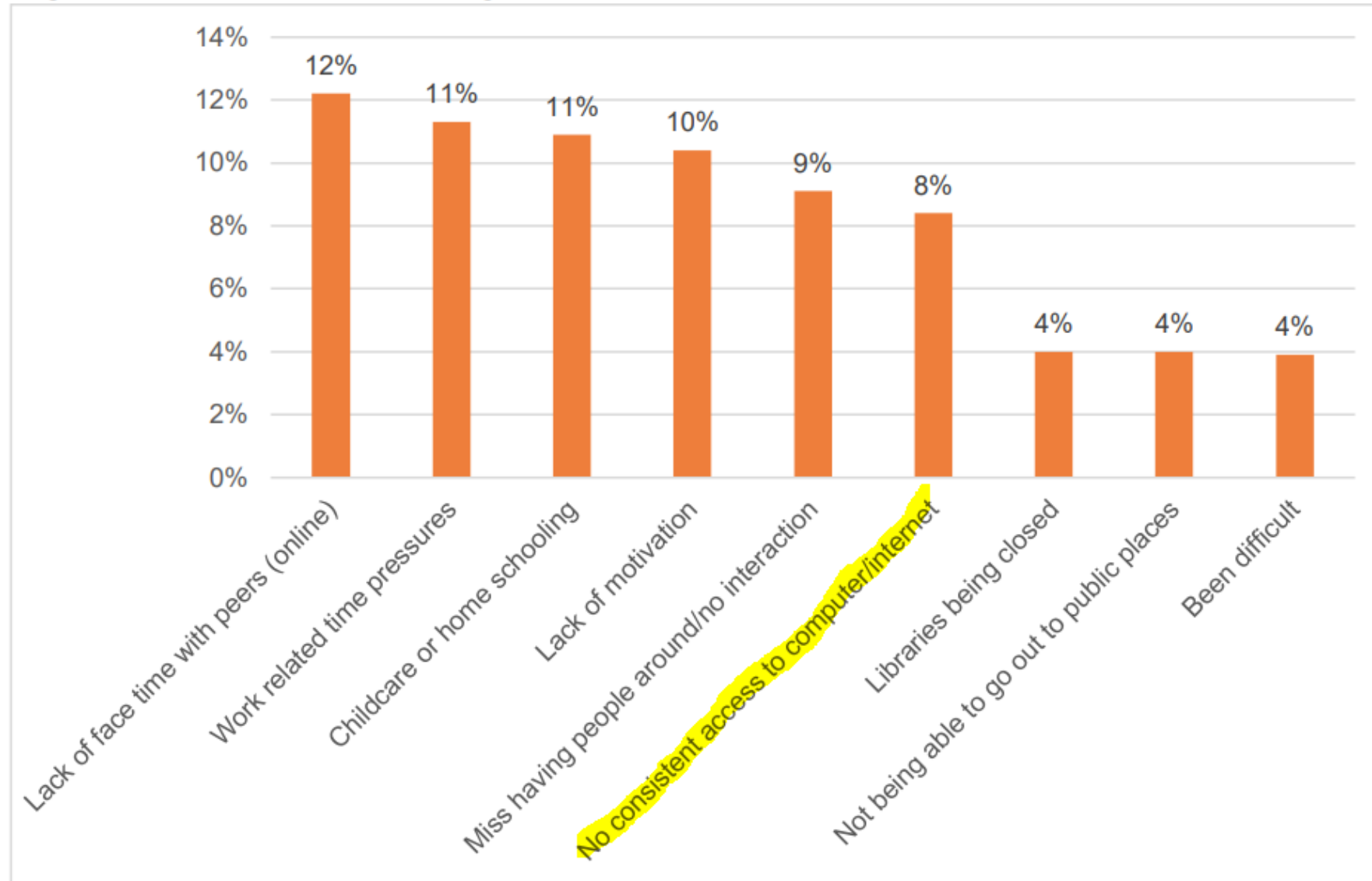
**Figure 4: Motivations for learning since the beginning of lockdown**



Base: all respondents who have engaged in learning since lockdown. Weighted base = 2,228

Note: Respondents could give more than one answer

**Figure 5: Barriers to learning since lockdown**



Base: all who have engaged in learning since lockdown and have identified a challenge to learning during lockdown. Multi-choice open answer question. Weighted base = 1,264

Note: Respondents could give more than one answer.

# Provider Experience

## Challenges

- Moving courses online quickly
- Learners' digital skills
- Practitioners' digital skills
- Growing awareness of impact of digital exclusion for some learners

## Opportunities

- (Relative) stability of funding
- Experiment with new kinds of delivery
- Develop learners' digital skills
- Address practical barriers such as digital poverty
- Highlight wider social outcomes of learning

### 2020 Participation Survey

- Just one in five (20%) adults who left school at the first opportunity took part in lockdown learning, compared to three in five (57%) adults who stayed in education until 21
- Adults in lower socio economic groups (29%) were half as likely to take part in lockdown learning compared to adults in higher socio economic groups (57%)
- Just one in three (34%) adults who were out of work took part in lockdown learning, compared to over half (52%) of those who were in employment



# Promising practices

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Name of borough

SEARCH

## Professional Learning and Development

EDUCATION & TRAINING  
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Information regarding the ETF's current coronavirus (COVID-19) position - [read more](#)



### Adapting content quickly to deliver online (Code: C0733)

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Digital

This webinar will show how you can take a class presentation and quickly adapt it for online use and look at the inclusion of audio, video and the use of notes to assist learners.

We will explore how you can combine tools (Nearpod with Skype/Zoom or Teams) to make structured but interactive online sessions using your presentation as a starting point.

Enhance Digital Teaching Modules will support this webinar.

# Over to you ... breakout discussions

## Breakout 1 – Experiences and Challenges

- In your experience, how has Covid-19 affected access to adult education and learning? What are the challenges?
- Who is missing out on opportunities to learn?

## Breakout 2 – Opportunities in Policy and in Practice

- What have we learned, that will benefit policy and practice?
- What are the opportunities to implement these lessons, at the European and/or national levels?