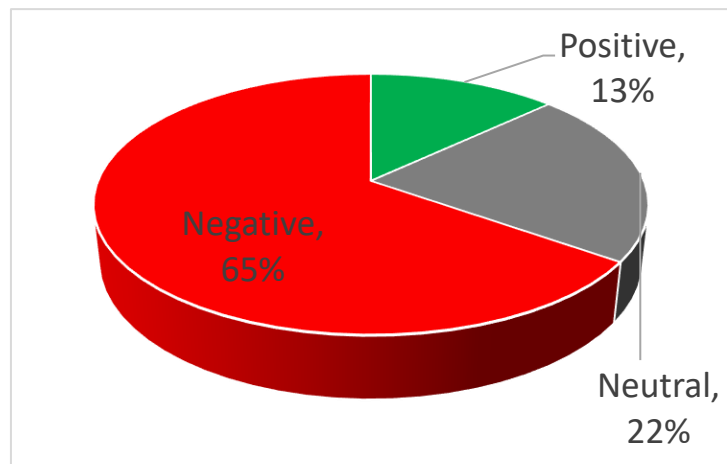


Disabled People in Bucks –Poll Report for w/c 25 May 2020

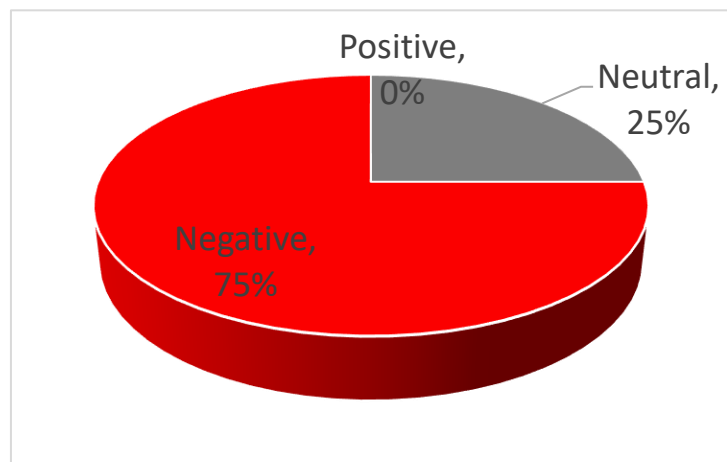
Question 1 - ‘This week, what has been the impact of coronavirus on you personally?’

This week, nearly two-thirds of people polled reported that coronavirus was having a negative effect on them, with a quarter reporting a neutral effect and just over a tenth (13%) reporting a positive impact.



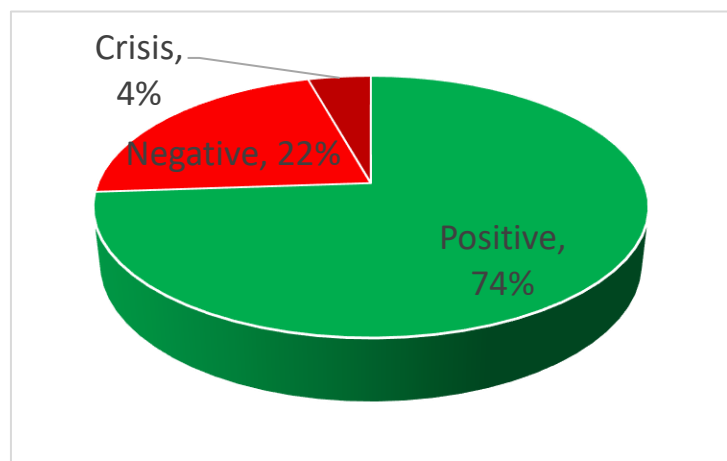
Question 2 - ‘This week, what has been the impact of coronavirus on your family or household?’

Three-quarters of those polled reported a negative impact on family or household, with the remaining quarter neutral. There were no positive reports.



Question 3 - ‘This week, have you been able to get enough food for you and your household?’

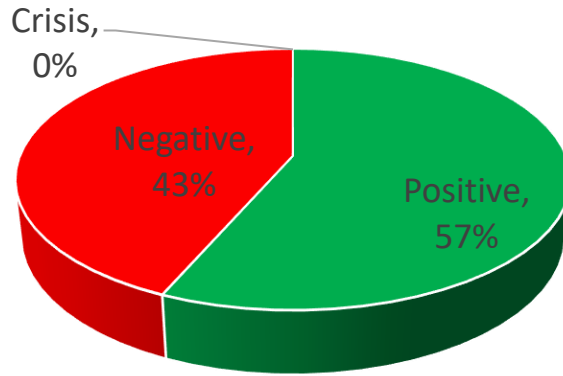
While nearly three-quarters reported no problems, a quarter did report food problems with a small number reporting a food crisis.





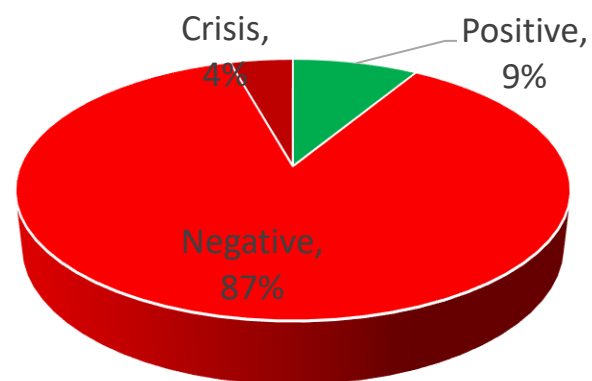
Question 4 - 'This week, have you had enough money to cope with your bills and other outgoings?'

Over half reported no money problems, but more than 4 in 10 respondents had money problems.



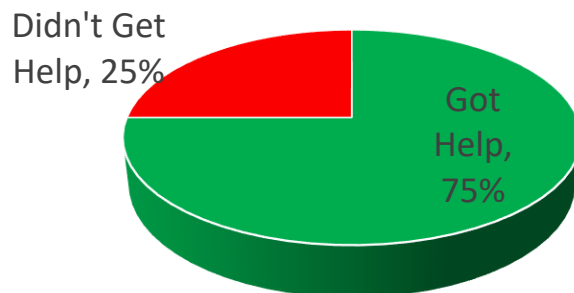
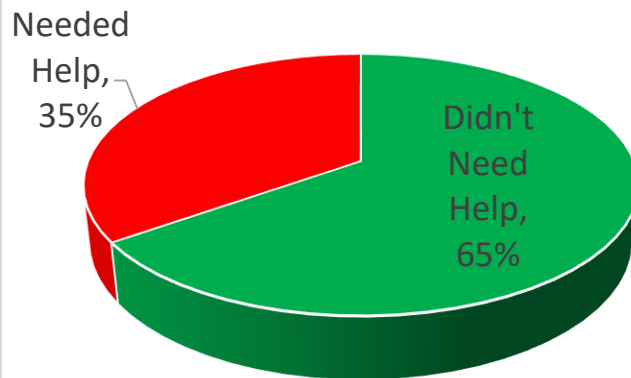
Question 5 - 'This week, how has you and your household's mental health been?'

Respondents reported an overwhelmingly negative impact on mental health (91%) with a small number in mental health crisis.



Question 6 - 'This week, how much help have you and your household needed from outside bodies like the council or voluntary organisations?'

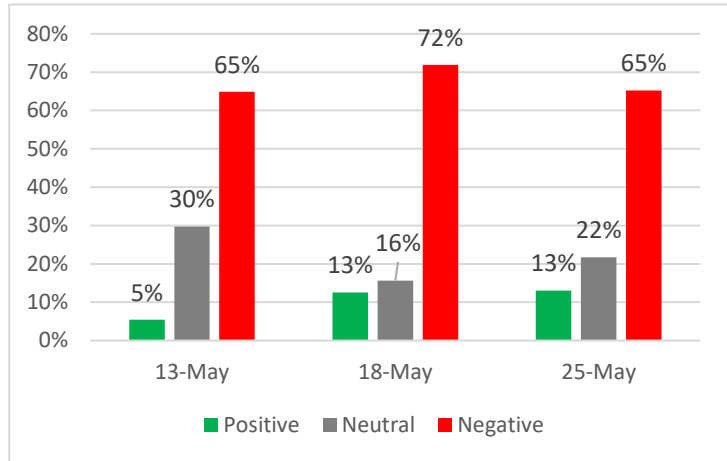
While nearly two-thirds reported needing no help, a quarter of those who did need help reporting not getting the help they needed.





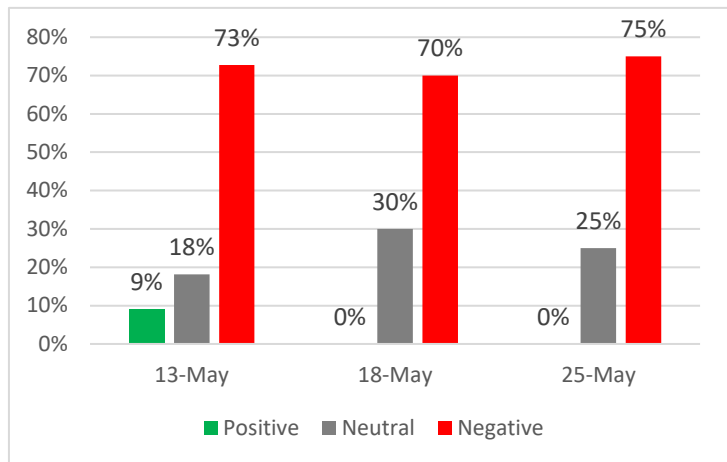
Impact on individuals personally (Q1) – Cross-weekly trends

Date from three weeks suggests a broadly stable picture, with a significant majority reporting a negative impact. Those reporting no effect are reducing slowly, while those reporting a positive impact is slowly increasing.



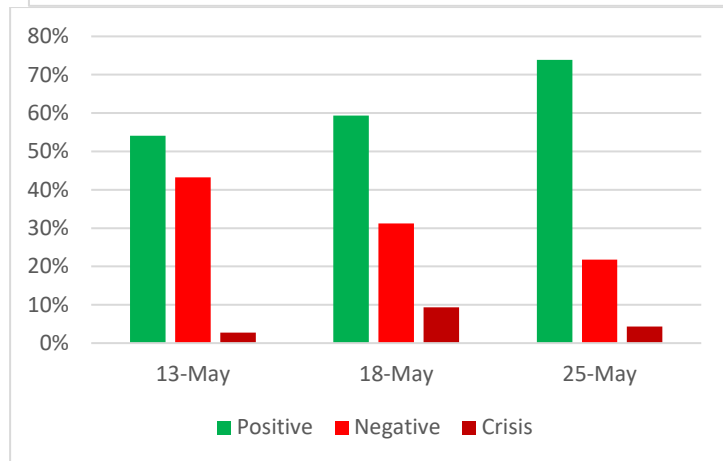
Impact on families or households (Q2) – Cross-weekly trends

Data from 3 weeks shows a continued overwhelmingly negative impact. An initial small number of positive reports has stopped, while neutral impacts has increased. The overall trend is of worsening impact.



Availability of food (Q3) – Cross-weekly trends

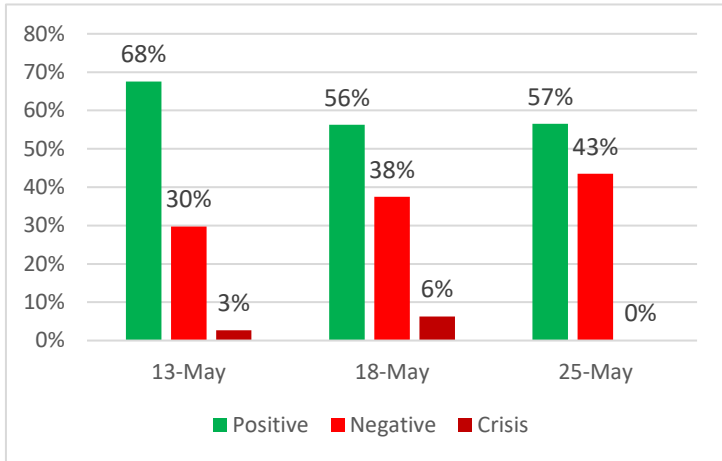
The data from three weeks shows a positive trend, with fewer reports of difficulties obtaining food.





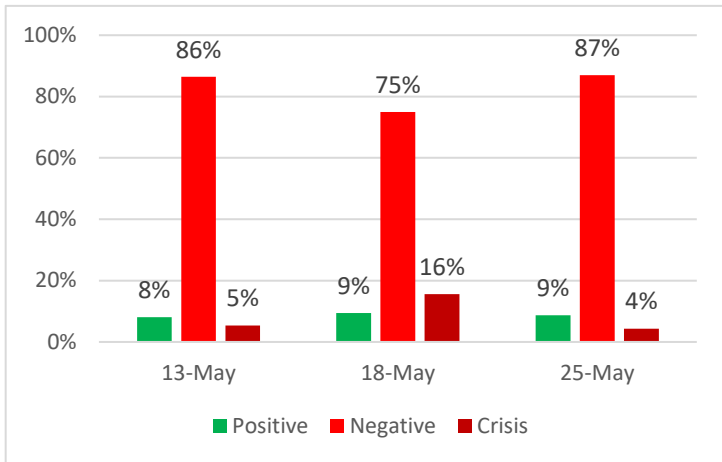
Availability of necessary money (Q4) – Cross-weekly trends

Data from three weeks shows a clear negative trend. The number of people reporting money difficulties is increasing sharply.



Mental health of household (Q5) – Cross-weekly trends

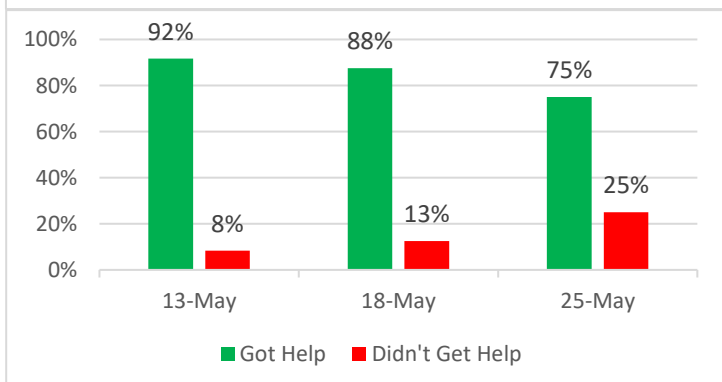
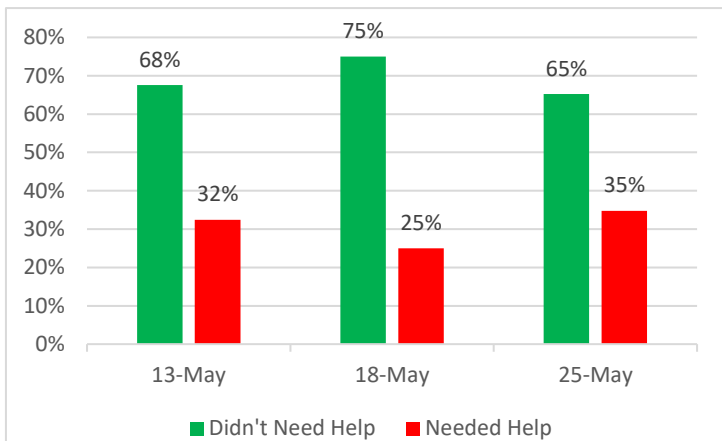
Data from three weeks shows a broadly stable picture of an overwhelmingly negative impact on people's mental health.



Numbers needing help and numbers getting it (Q6) – Cross-weekly trends

Data from three weeks shows a broadly stable picture, with between two-thirds and three-quarters of respondents needing no help.

However, of those needing help, the trend is negative, with a steady increase in people reporting that they could not obtain the help they needed.



Conclusion

Analysis of the data from three successive weeks of responses from broadly the same poll panel shows clear trends.

The impact of the pandemic on disabled individuals in Bucks and their households remains overwhelmingly negative, particularly on their mental health, but thankfully this negative impact is remaining relatively stable.

In practical matters, however, the picture is mixed. Less disabled people are reporting food difficulties, perhaps due to the growing efficiency of the national shielding service and local volunteer schemes, but the number of disabled people reporting money difficulties is sharply increasing. Similarly, while the number of disabled people needing help from outside bodies is relatively stable, the number of people who could not get the help they needed has increased significantly.

The three key messages from the BuDS Insight Poll Panel for Buckinghamshire policy-makers and service-providers are thus:

1. Disabled people in Bucks are overwhelmingly being badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in their mental health. Local services to support disabled people and households with a disabled member must step up to this challenge
2. There are clear signs of a growing financial crisis for disabled people and households with a disabled member. This needs to be addressed by money advice services and by local grant-making bodies, as well as by the national social security system.
3. While most disabled people did not need help from an outside body, a growing percentage of those who do need help can't get it. This may point to a reduction in frontline support or, perhaps more likely, that those frontline support systems cannot help disabled people with their most pressing problems, especially financial.