

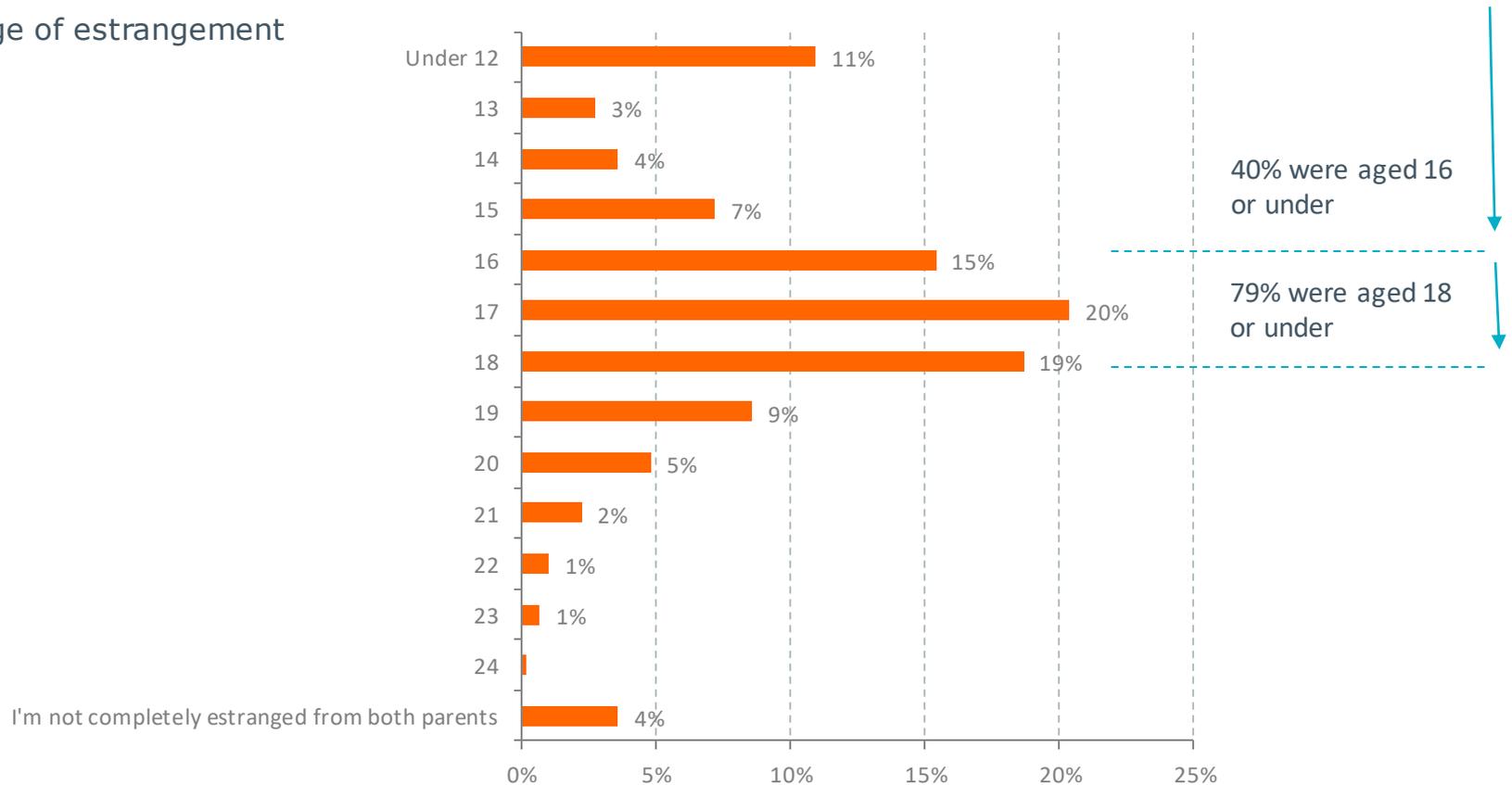


## Targeting support to estranged students...

This presentation includes data and verbatim from work with Student Finance England.

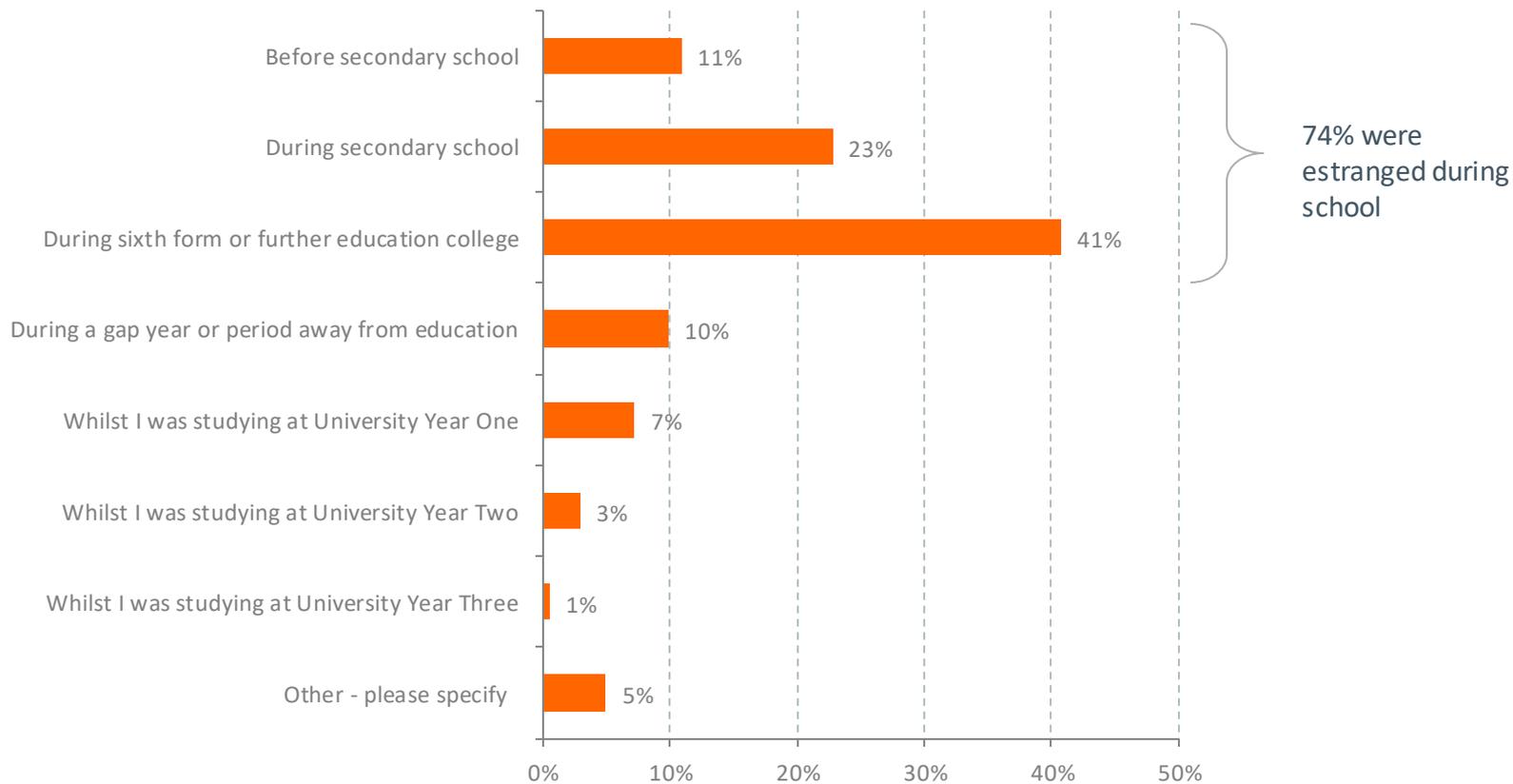
Our data suggests that estranged students are most likely to break away from their family between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age.

### Age of estrangement

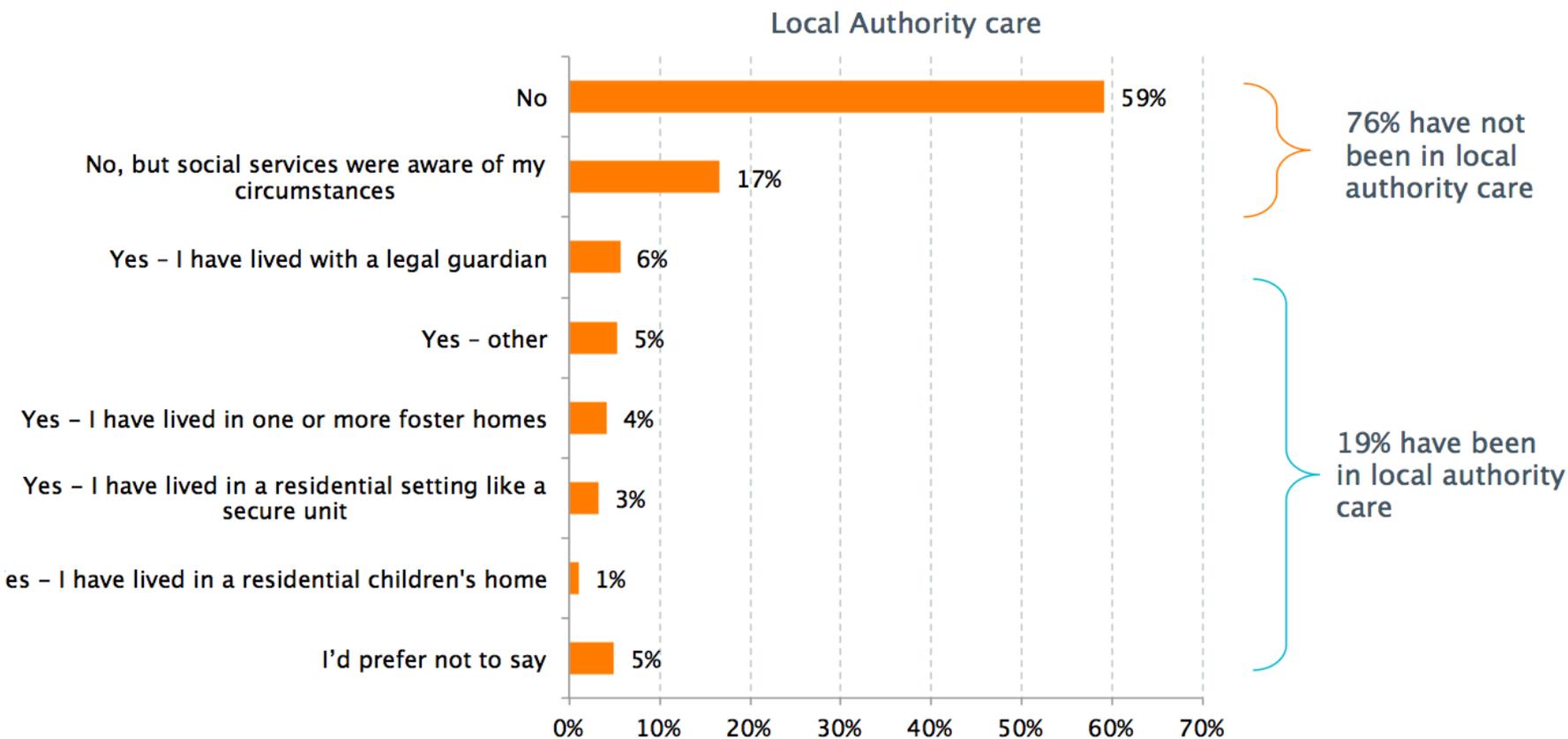


**Our data shows that estranged students were more likely to be in school, and particularly FE and sixth form colleges, when they broke with family capital.**

### Education phase and estrangement



Our data also shows that estranged young people are not necessarily involved in the local authority care system.



## Why did these students become estranged from their family?

Domestic Abuse – emotional, physical, sexual

Rejection by new family members – step parents or conflict with new step siblings

Rejection of individual values – coming out as LGBTQI, transitioning to another gender

Rejection of their family's religious beliefs or rituals

Criminality in the family

Forced marriage – honour based violence

Parental drug and alcohol misuse/addiction

Parental mental health struggles

Disagreement over personal political values

...

Finding a place to call home is a significant issue for many young people aged between 16 and 18, who do not have a supportive or functional family network. 1/3 of our study had registered homeless pre-entry.

**“I was living in a homeless shelter in Kings Cross”**

**“The summer between BTEC Level 1 and 2, I had fully become estranged from my parents and had to leave my home. I had to sleep on friends settees and live out of a suitcase for months.”**

**“I had my own home before university, all be it in a my a bed and breakfast.”**

**“When I left my parents house I was going to go into a hostel, but I managed to find the property which didn't charge rent upfront. Since moving into the property I have had a lot of difficulties with my landlord. The police, housing standards and Shelter are working together to help his tenants.”**

**“During my last year of college I moved into a hostel (Bristol Foyer) after sofa surfing for a while.”**

## How can we target and reach these students pre-entry?

### Community Outreach Approaches

Homelessness



Homelessness Hostels  
Foyers  
Bed and Breakfasts  
Local Council Information

Reasons for estrangement



Forming relationships with third sector local charities working on specific issues – drugs and alcohol, LGBTQI+, Honour Based Violence.

Local counseling organisations/services may act as a signpost for your support.

How can we target and find these students pre-entry?

Engaging with FE Colleges

Welfare/Support workers

Courses of Study



Tutors  
Counsellors  
...

A-Level retakes  
BTEC courses  
Foundation Courses

## How can we target and find these students pre-entry?

### Engaging with Schools

Communicating your aims with  
your point of contact



Wellbeing advisors providing  
pastoral support

Form teachers

Estranged students are more likely to  
undertake certain courses of study



Social studies  
Social sciences  
Teaching  
Business  
Creative arts subjects  
English

**How can we help estranged students feel understood and help them feel that they can belong and matter as part of the HE community?**

One aspect of engagement is key: non judgmental messaging  
Forget the word estranged...

Are you struggling with your family relationships? Are you concerned about how you will support yourself whilst you study?

Are you no longer in contact with your parents or family? There is non judgmental help and support available at our university for you...

Are you unsure about how you will secure university accommodation without the support of your family? We can help you...

Are you struggling with homelessness? We can help you to achieve your potential...

Not everybody has a supportive family. If you are studying alone, we can help you...