

The National Bobath Cerebral Palsy Centre

Cost-of-living Crisis

Survey Results 2023

Things are NOT improving for families living with CP

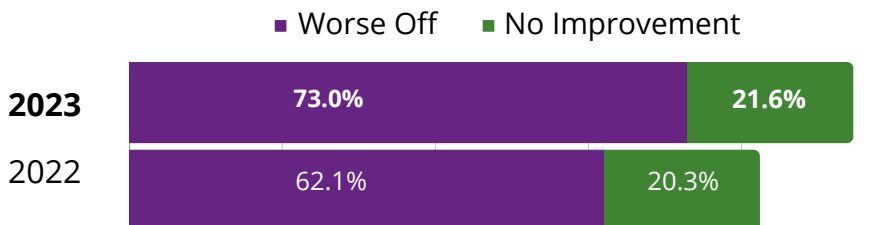
Last year we surveyed people and families living with CP, to see how they were coping with the cost-of-living crisis. In November 2023 we've followed up that survey* and our findings show that the CP Community is even more *disproportionately experiencing hardship*, due to the added on-costs associated with their disabilities.

94.6%

of people living with CP have either seen no improvement in their financial circumstances or are worse off than in 2022



Q: Compared to Last Year are you Better or Worse Off?



"We are not doing Christmas this year, we just cannot afford it"

"I layer up with clothes and an extra blanket on the bed."

*38 families surveyed

Families living with CP are NOT coping with bills

We wanted to understand the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the basics of housing, food and fuel for families living with CP. According to Scope, The Disability Price Tag* - the extra cost of disability - is the equivalent to 63% of household income after housing costs. Some of the responses show a declining picture.

Q: What do you Expect Financially in 2024?

68.6% of people living with CP expect to be financially worse off in 2024.



57.8% of households will be cutting back this Christmas, worrying about the cost, feeling isolated, buying fewer gifts and Christmas treats.



45.9% of households are experiencing fuel insecurity, significantly cutting down on heating & unable to afford adequate energy for their needs.
(National Average 13.4%)



39.5% of households are experiencing food insecurity and are cutting down on food, buying poorer quality food, using food banks, relying on food gifts or skipping meals.
(National Average 17%)



24.3% of households have struggled to pay the rent or mortgage in the last 12 months.



"...food that is suitable for the issues I have around digestion is more expensive than your average food..."

Access to Therapy is getting **WORSE**



80%

of the respondents in our survey have had difficulty accessing treatment on the NHS.



70%

rated the quality of NHS services as 'below expectation'.



60%

have only been able to access NHS treatment once in a whole year.

Regular therapy is required by people living with CP. Therapy can help manage pain, prevent complications, maintain mobility or, in the case of babies and young children, support families.

Our survey shows NHS treatment for many families falls below expectations, is completely inaccessible or too infrequent.

47.4%

of the respondents in our survey pay for private physiotherapy services.

47.1%

of our respondents want to pay for private physiotherapy services to help with cerebral palsy but are **unable to financially**.

"With the colder weather I am needing the central heating on because if I get cold my pain and stiffness are much worse."

Q: How will the cost-of-living crisis impact your ability to continue to pay for private services?

Significantly reduce the frequency of sessions

33.3%

Stop having private physiotherapy entirely

18.5%

People are turning to private therapy to make up the shortfall but the Cost-of-Living Crisis is reducing their ability to pay

100%

of the respondents in our survey agree that people should receive **free physiotherapy services from the NHS** to help with cerebral palsy throughout their life.

***“We cannot afford to pay for physio or equipment for our child which means their life is affected and they are not helped to reach their full potential!
Really depressing.”***

If you agree that people with CP should receive **free specialist therapy** throughout their lives, please sign and share our petition.

change.org/freetherapyforCP



Scan the QR code

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National Bobath
CEREBRAL PALSY CENTRE

**SUPPORTING CP.
FOR LIFE.**