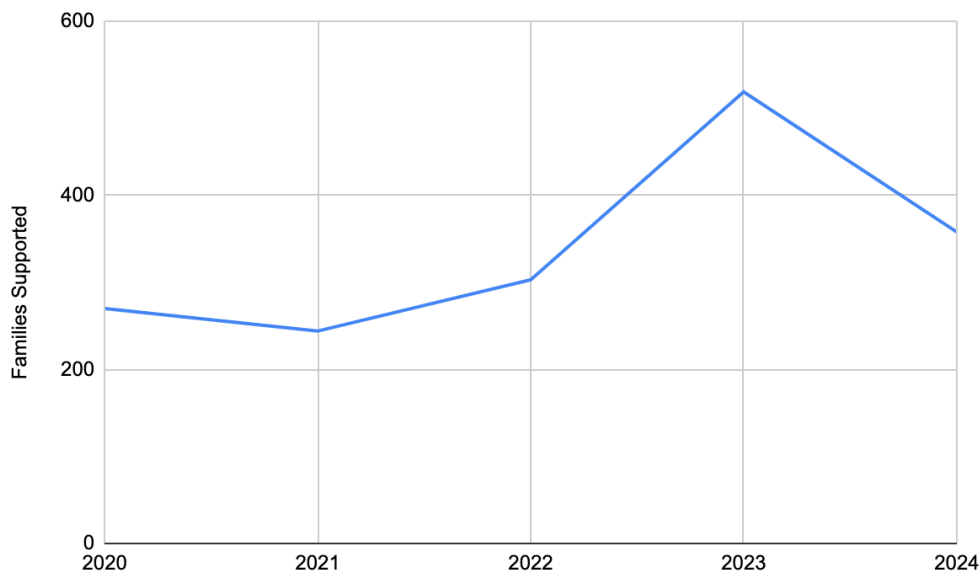


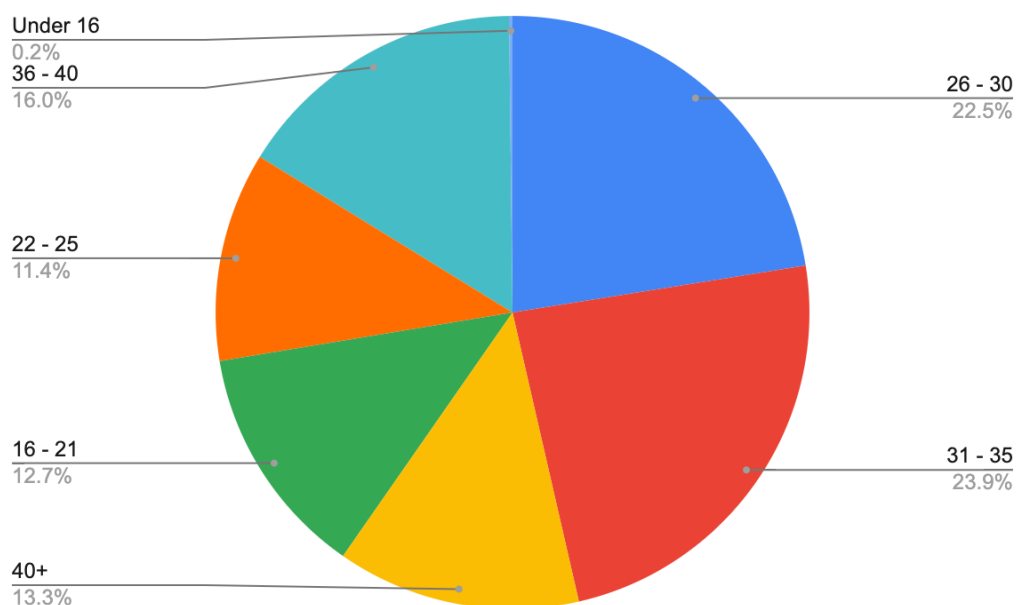
AGM: Baby Bank Annual Report September 2023 to September 2024

Referral Information



Excluding a slight decrease in early 2021 (due to covid restrictions) the number of referrals to the baby bank has increased year on year, with 358 referrals made in the year 2024 to date.

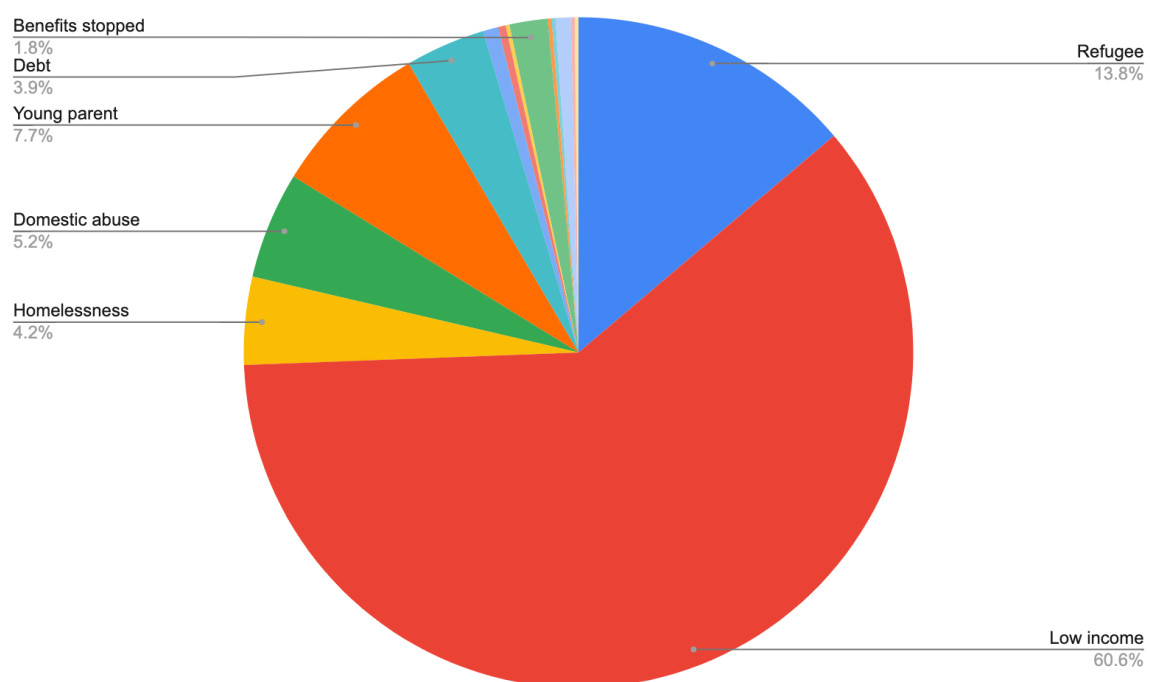
Between September 2023 and September 2024 (AGM reporting year) we took **543 referrals** for families in the local area and supported over **650 children**. This is an increase of approximately 24% (97 referrals) on the previous year.



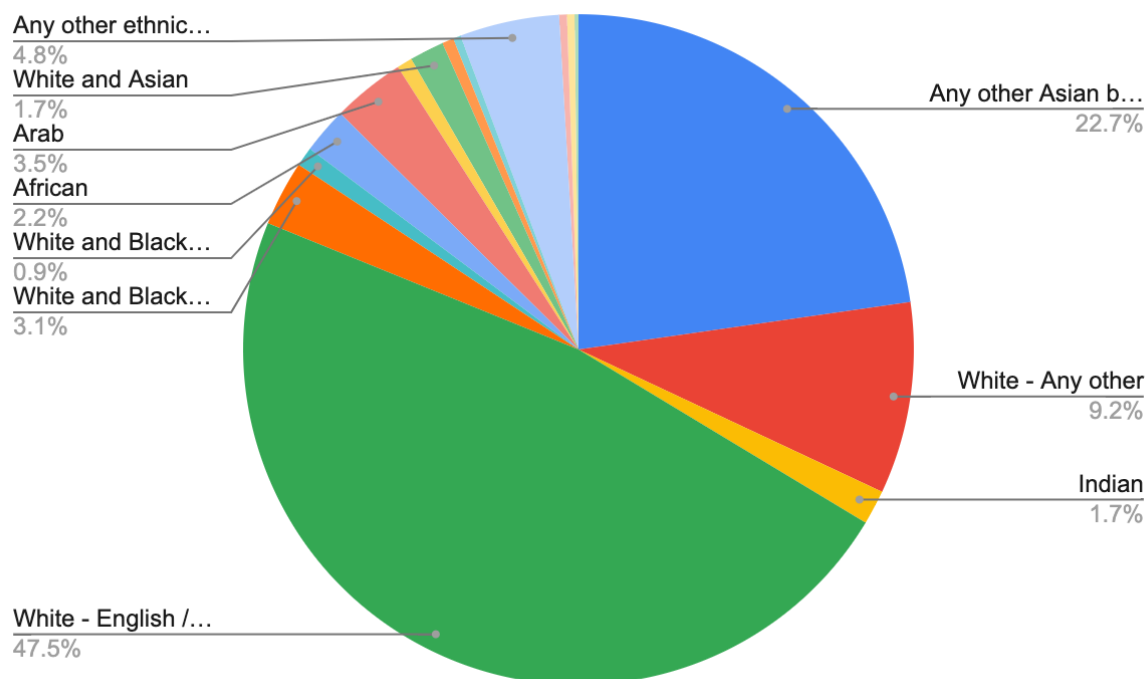
As with the previous year, we have seen a slight decrease in younger parents seeking support and an increase in older parents seeking support. This is likely due to the cost of living, as well as changes in groups using the service including an increase in refugee families.

The % of clients who reported they were experiencing domestic abuse declined between 2022 and 2023/4 down to 15% (previously 17%, and in 2021 30%), this could be due to covid restrictions lifting and more individuals able to escape from abusive relationships.

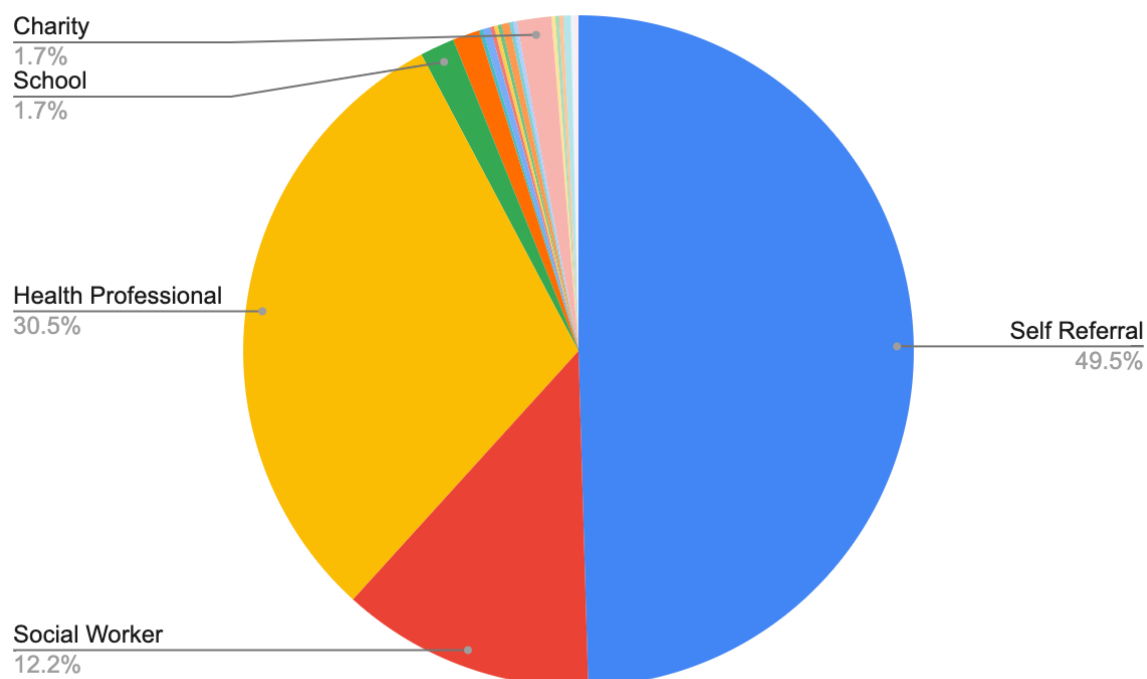
The number of clients experiencing mental health difficulties also decreased sharply in 2023/24 down to 26% (vs. 47% the previous year).



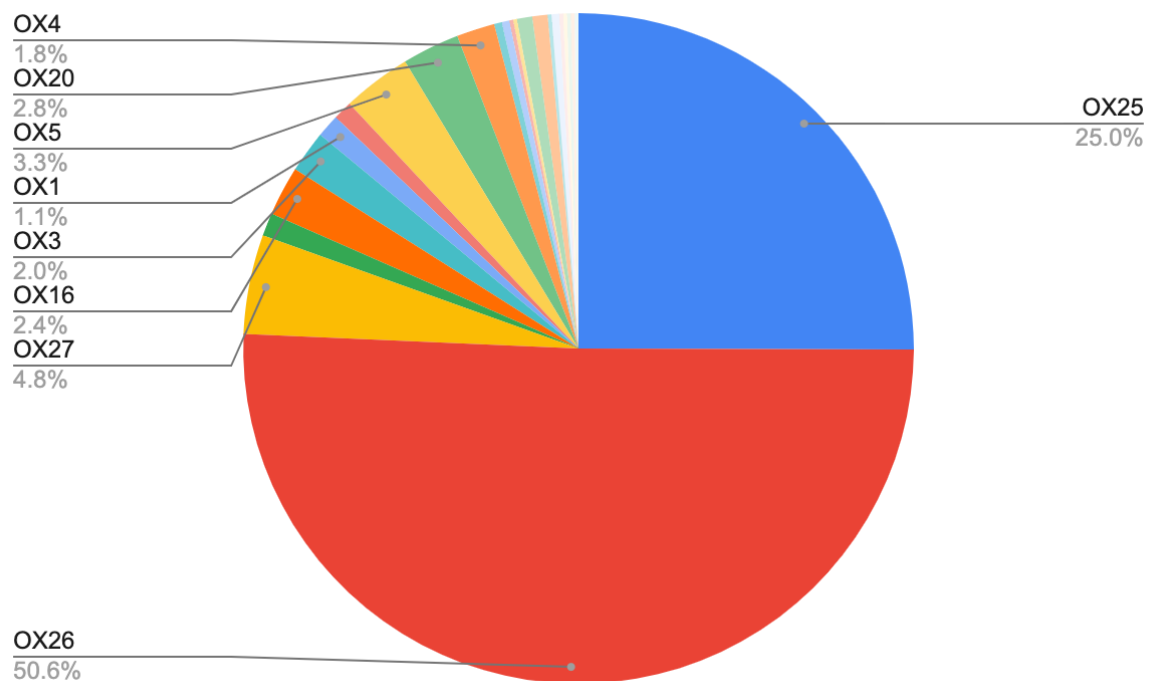
The number of referrals due to low income or debt decreased in 2023/4 from 73% to 65%. The most marked category of increase is that of refugees which was not a category in 2021 but in 2022 represented 5% of referrals, and in 2023/4 represents nearly 14% of referrals with the majority of refugees fleeing war in Ukraine and political unrest in Afghanistan. The largest single category of families seeking support are, as in previous years white British families (47.5%), however our reach into different communities has increased and particularly into the refugee community which represents a large increase in Asian and White - other categories.



Referral Network



Self referrals have decreased slightly since last year, but referrals from health professionals have increased - this is likely due to our new rules requiring a professional referral for formula and after two self referrals. Referrals from schools have also decreased, as have social work referrals. Among health professionals we receive most referrals from the midwives (18%) and health visiting teams (59%).



OX26 postcodes have decreased this year whereas OX25 have seen a large increase from 9% to 25% - this is likely due to OX25 being Ambroseden where we know the majority of our refugee families live. We also have a wider range of postcodes this year, indicating we have a wider reach than last year.