Sheffield Learn COVID recovery festival

Governing in COVID & beyond

Emma Knights, OBE

Chief Executive, National Governance Association

The independent organisation for school governors, trustees and clerks

www.nga.org.uk

In the next hour

- Results of 2020 Governance Survey: completed from end of April & May
- Moving to remote governance
- Governing in the COVID recovery year

© NGA 2020

School Governance 2020

Report on the regional results of the School Governance in 2020 survey

The independent organisation for school governors, trustees and clerks

www.nga.org.uk

School Governance 2020

6864 governors, trustees and academy committee members responded to the annual school governance survey

Six reports:

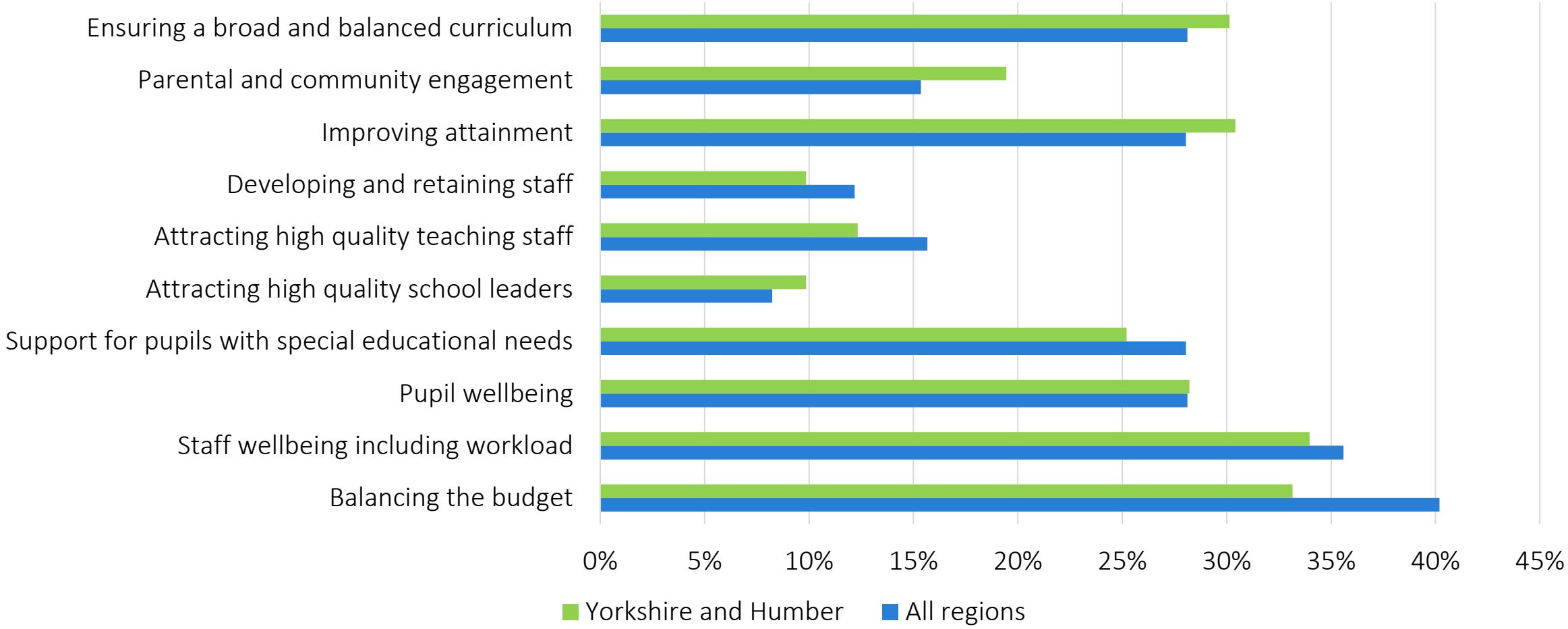
- Staffing and leadership
- Finance and funding
- Governance volunteers
- Governance practice
- Multi academy trust governance

Coming soon…

- Pupils, communities and accountability

© NGA 2020

What are the top five issues facing England's schools according to respondents?



© NGA 2020

Top five issues for Yorkshire & Humber

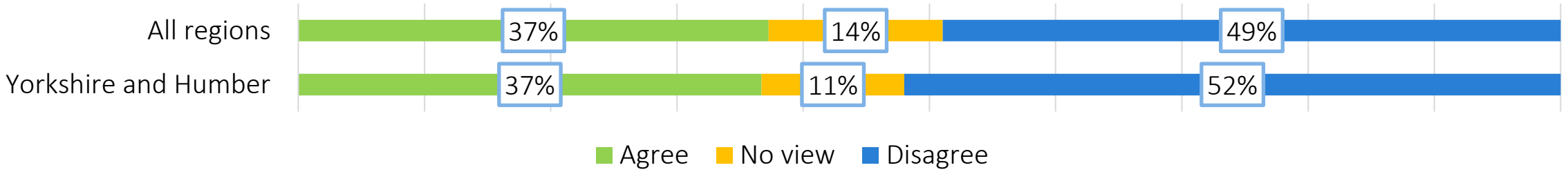
Yorkshire and Humber	Nationally
1. Staff wellbeing and workload (34%)	1. Balancing the budget (40%)
2. Balancing the budget (33%)	2. Staff wellbeing and workload (36%)
3. Improving attainment (30%)	3. Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum (28%)
4. Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum (30%)	4. Improving attainment (28%)
5. Pupil wellbeing (28%)	5. Support for pupils with special educational needs (28%)

© NGA 2020

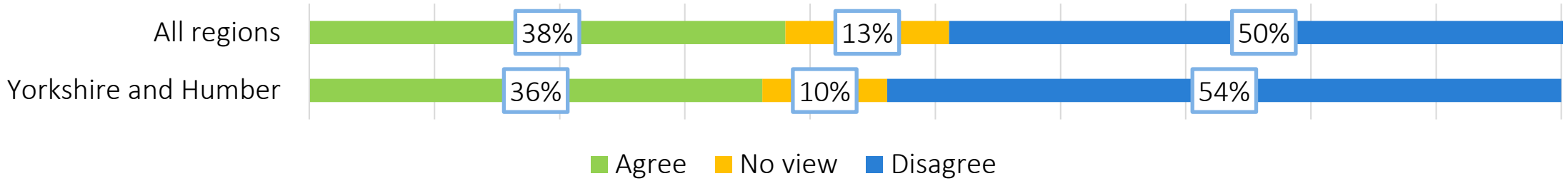
Leadership and staffing: Recruitment

- Respondents from Yorkshire and Humber matched the national level of concern attracting high quality senior leaders and teaching staff:

To what extent do respondents agree or disagree that it is difficult to attract high quality candidates for senior leadership posts at their school/trust:

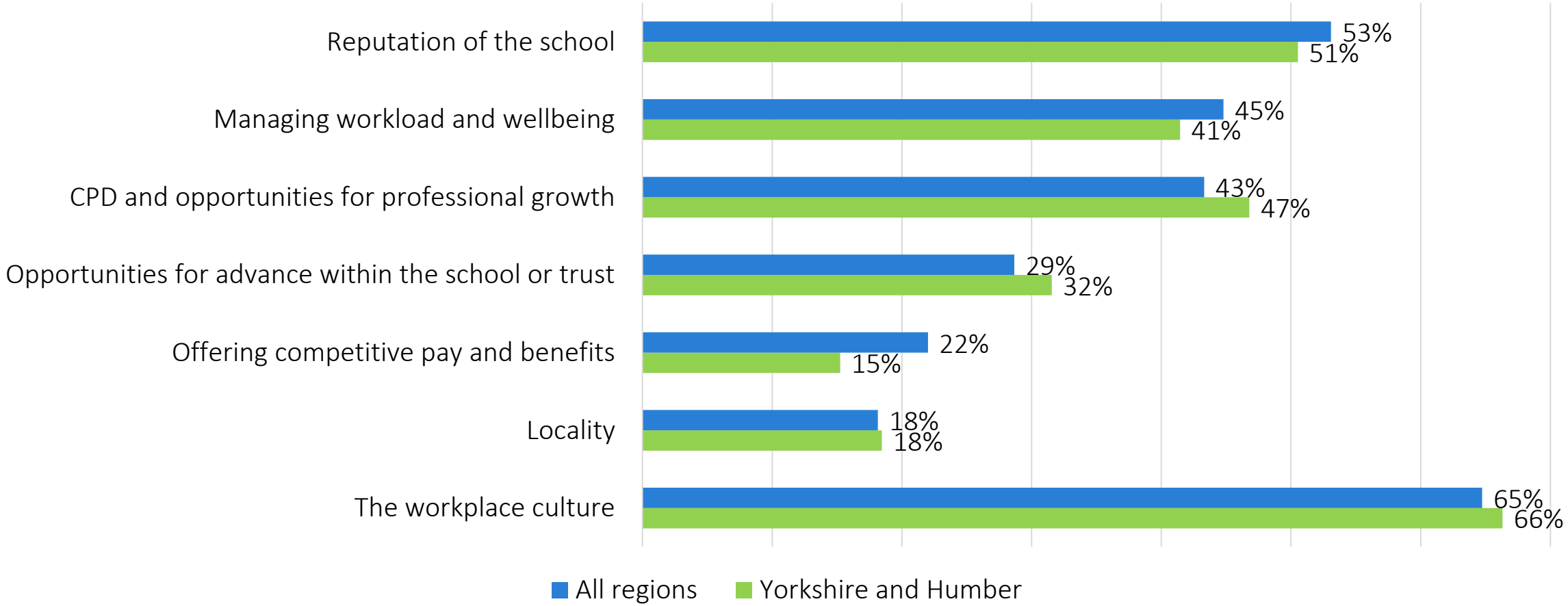


To what extent do respondents agree or disagree that it is difficult to attract high quality candidates for teaching posts at their school/trust:



© NGA 2020

Leadership and staffing: What are the factors affecting recruitment and retention of quality staff?



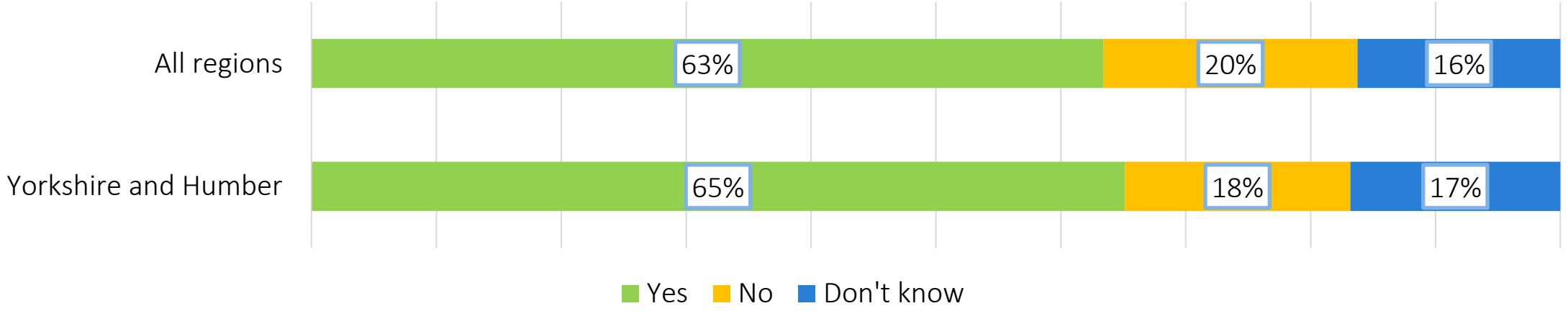
© NGA 2020

Finance and funding: The budget

Balancing the budget remains the leading concern for those governing

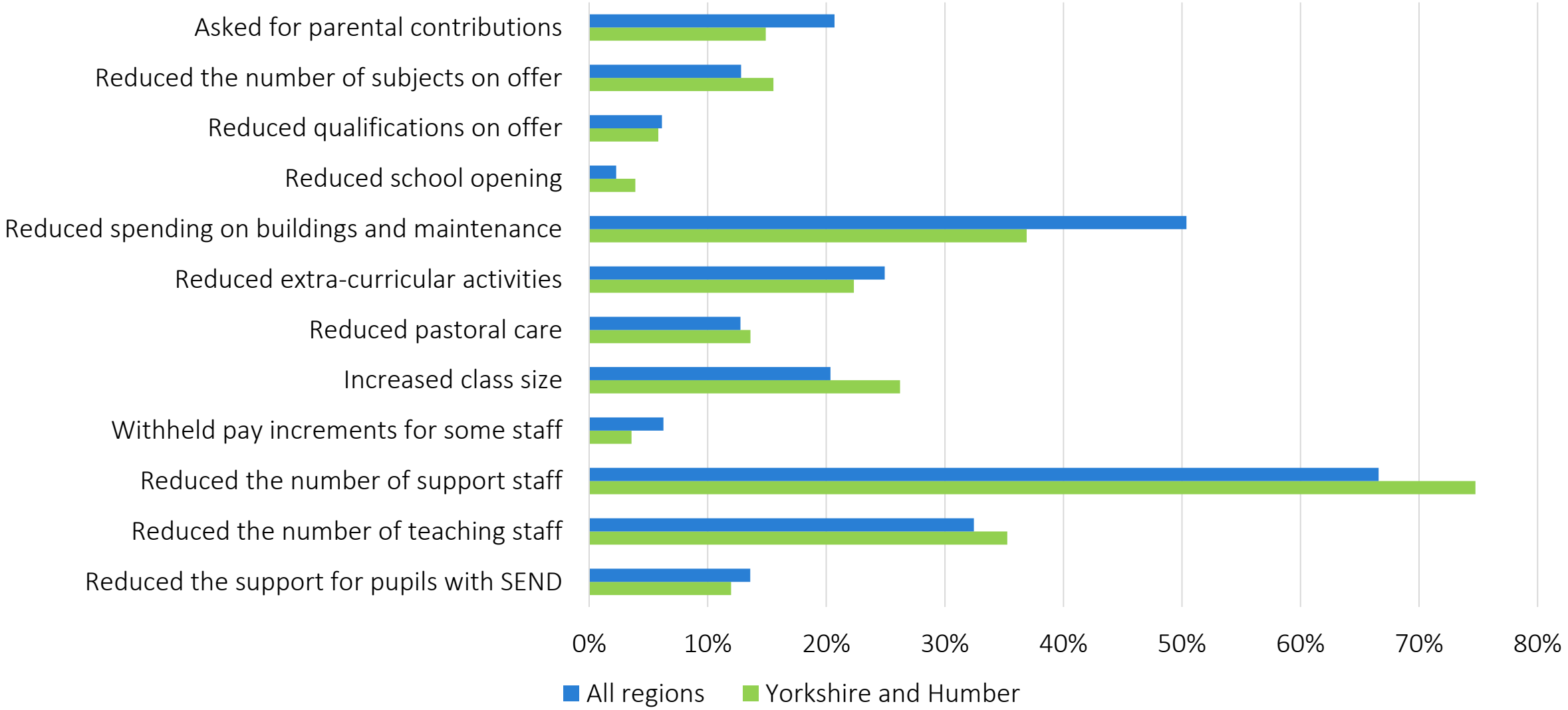
- 40% of governors and trustees report that balancing the budget is one of the top three issues facing their school(s) nationally while this was the case for 33% of respondents from Yorkshire and Humber

- **13% more respondents reported than they expected to balance the budget than in 2019 nationally**



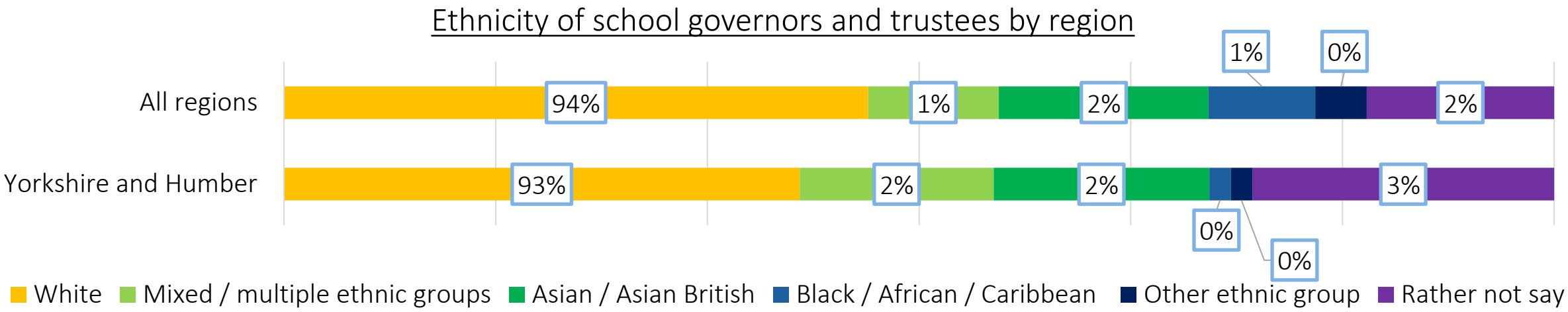
© NGA 2020

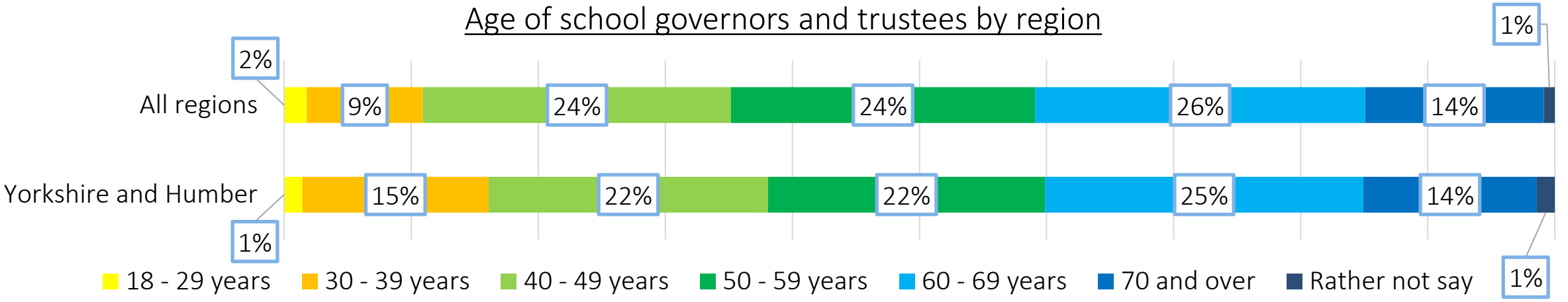
Finance and funding: Financial constraints



© NGA 2020

Governance volunteers: The demographics



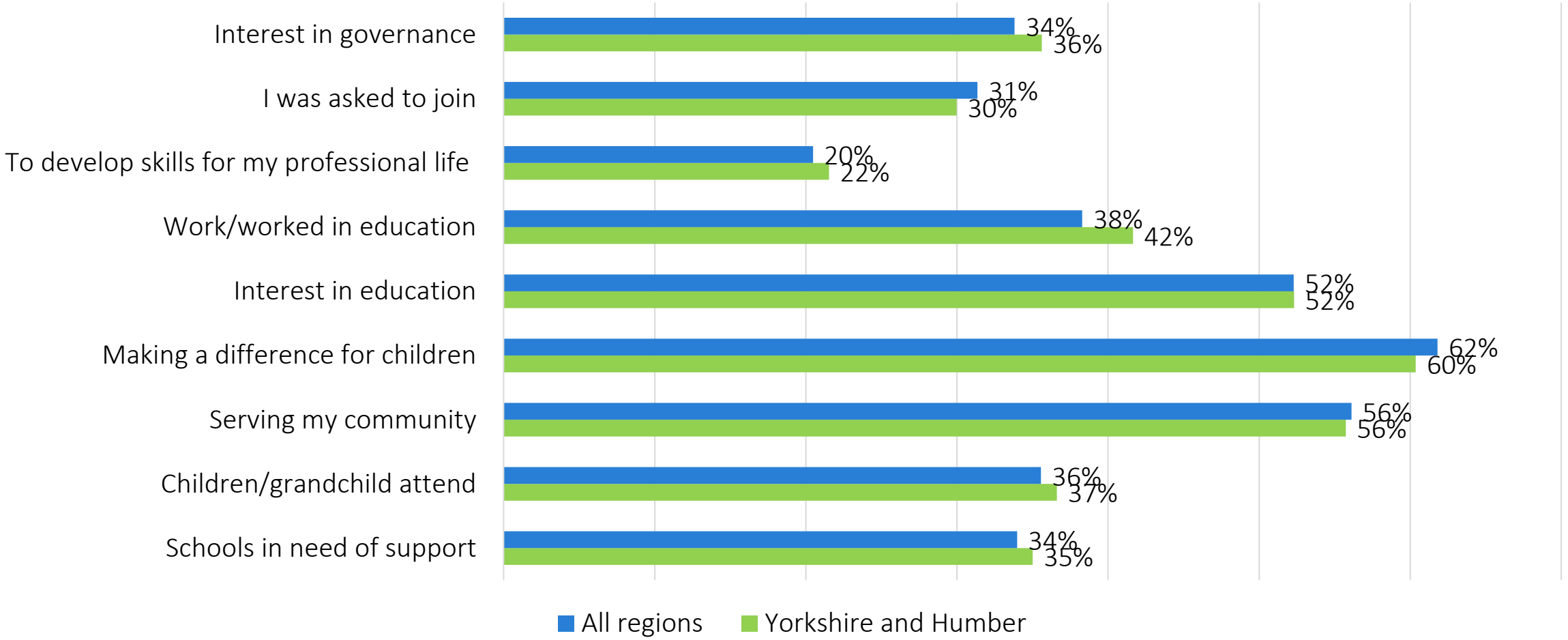


© NGA 2020

Everyone on Board

© NGA 2020

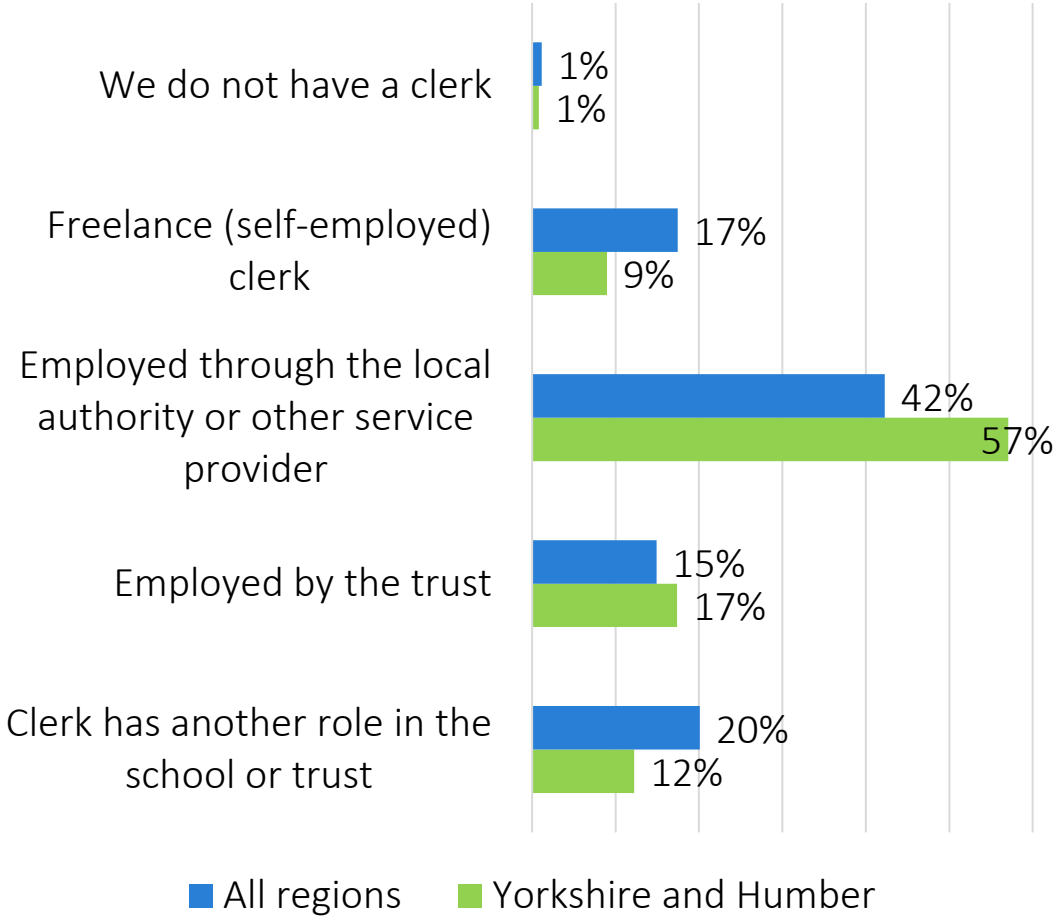
Governance volunteers: Motivations



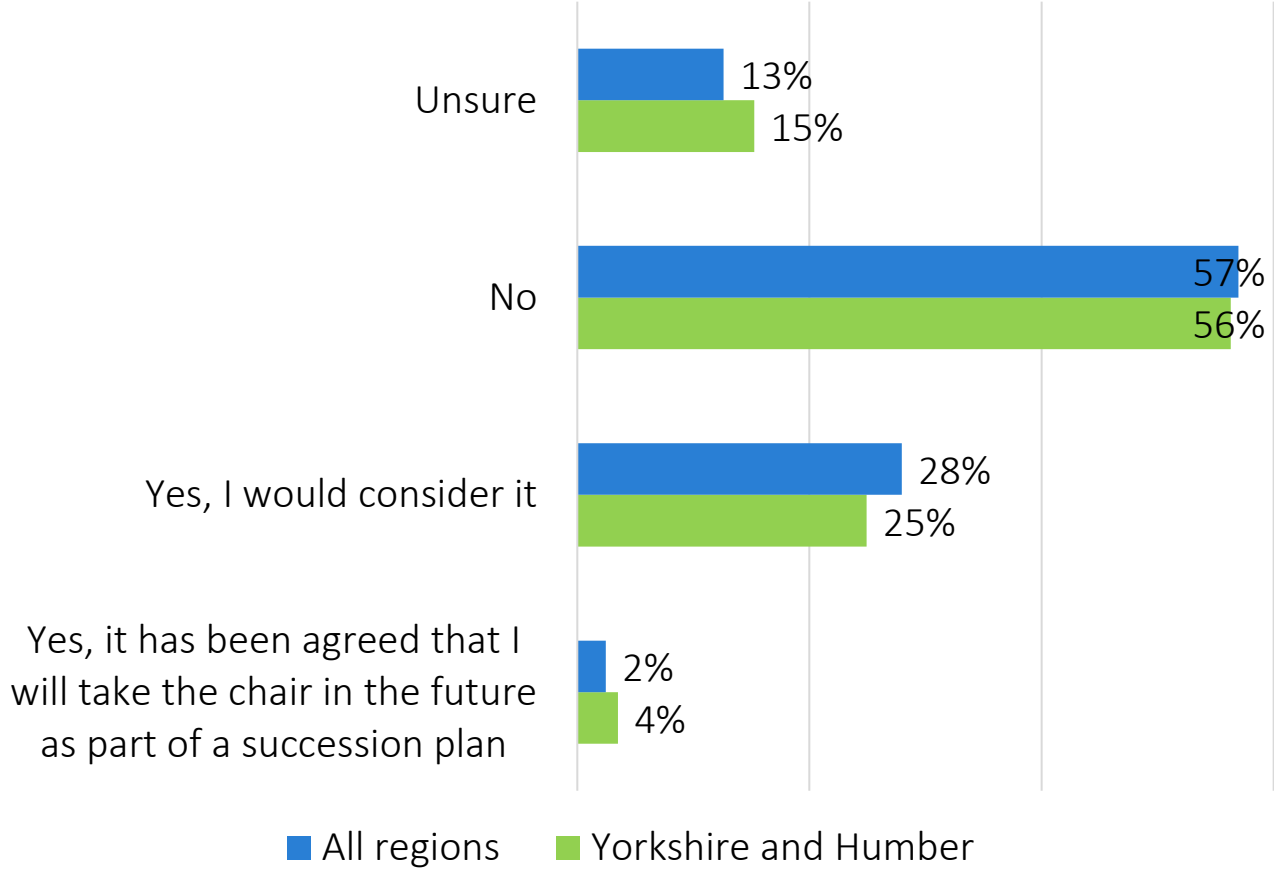
© NGA 2020

Governance practice

Clerk employment by region

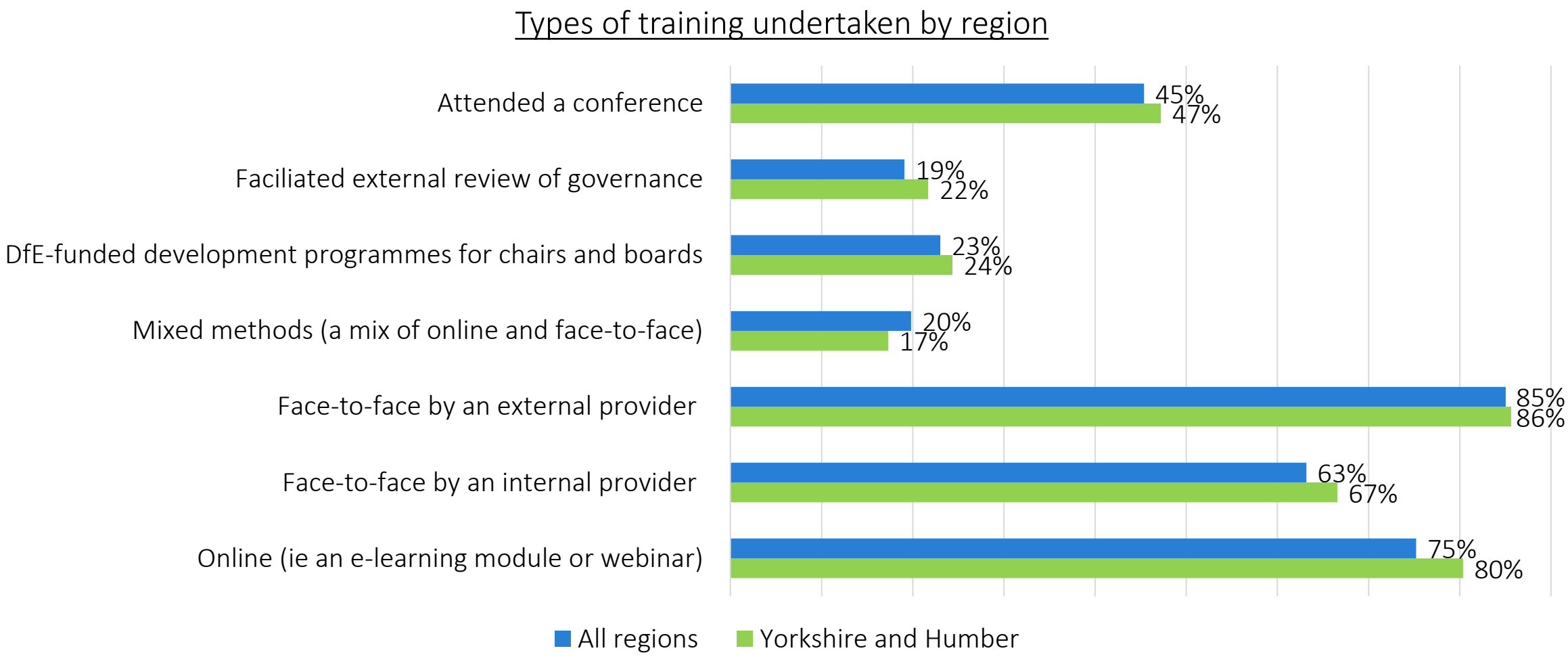


Q: Would you look to take on the role of chair in the future?



© NGA 2020

Governance practice: Training and development



© NGA 2020

School governance 2020: any questions?

www.nga.org.uk/governance2020

© NGA 2020

The summer term 2020

Moving to remote governance

The independent organisation for school governors, trustees and clerks

www.nga.org.uk

Governing through COVID

- Maintaining contact and supportive messages to senior leaders: *but how are you?*
- Moving to virtual meetings
- Review priorities in light of the current circumstances
  - Taking a pragmatic view of what the priorities are
- Identifying the urgent business & key decisions that support your school leaders
  - How to do that other business remotely eg senior leader recruitment
  - Changes to committee structures including in multi academy trusts
- Testing risk assessments

© NGA 2020

Issues raised with NGA last term

- **Chairing & governing virtually** – skills for the future
- **Decision-making pressure** – using chairs action while keeping the full board engaged
- **Chairs' workload** – many discussions to be involved in is time consuming
- **Liability concerns** – seriousness of employer responsibilities
- **Volume of guidance** – concern for burden on chief executive & other leaders
- **Supporting executive leaders** – looking out for wellbeing while maintaining objectivity
- **Local governance** – reinstatement or changes, clarity of accountability
- **Vision and culture** – being inclusive and ambitious; timing of revisiting strategy
- **Risk assessments** – appropriate level of detail; government vs local advice; 360 degrees
- **Engaging with local authorities & public health**
- **Stakeholder engagement** – stronger communications with anxious communities

© NGA 2020

Governing in unprecedented times

This report presents findings of a small-scale research project to investigate the challenges for school governance during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The research was carried out with the National Governance Association (NGA) and sought to understand the decisions and actions of governors and trustees in response to the short- and longer-term challenges presented by lockdown measures in England.

© NGA 2020

This autumn term 2020

Getting the balance right

The independent organisation for school governors, trustees and clerks

www.nga.org.uk

Governing in unprecedented times: this term

- Pressure on senior leaders
- Pupils well-being & staff well-being
- Catch-up: where is learning now? How does funding have the most impact?
- Disadvantaged families & digital access
- Remote learning & blended learning
- Test & trace: what is safe?: access to public health advice
- Headteacher appraisal: a force for good if managed well – NGA's updates guidance
- Intelligent accountability; monitoring progress & Ofsted visits

© NGA 2020

Q & A

Thanks for listening

The independent organisation for school governors, trustees and clerks

www.nga.org.uk