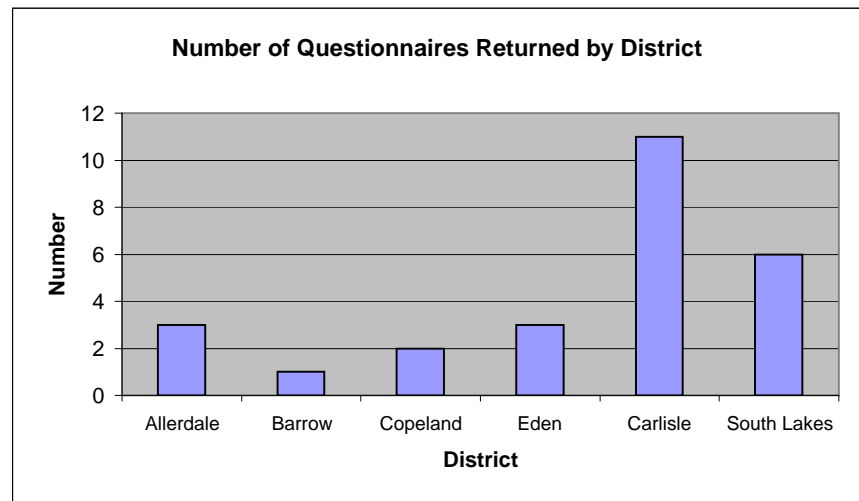
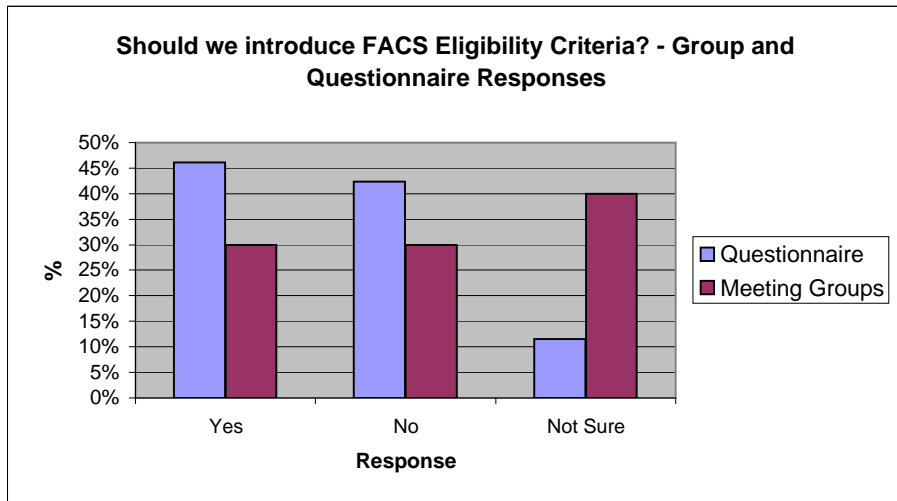


**Fair Access To Care For Equipment - Statistical Information**

(Total number responding/attending - 80)

Analysis of Comments - percentages in favour/against/unsure

Should we introduce FACS eligibility criteria?	Number		%	
	Questionnaire	Meeting Groups	Questionnaire	Meeting Groups
Yes	12	3	46%	30%
No	11	3	42%	30%
Not Sure	3	4	12%	40%
Total	26	10	100%	100%



Analysis of Replies to Questions 2 to 7 - Breakdown of main themes

Advantages (Q.2)		
Quicker and easier process and reduction in waiting times		
Saving Council money		
Reduction of workload pressures		
Focusing of resources		
Choice and enablement		
Retail market opening for competitive pricing, availability and choice		

<b>Disadvantages (Q.3)</b>		
Concerns that changes will cause confusion to all concerned re: eligibility		
Eligibility and assessment concerns		
Cost and burden to voluntary organisations		
Worries that if initial assessment not done by qualified OT, other needs may be missed		
Criteria may be unfair - potential for subjective interpretation at moderate/substantive level of need		
Insufficient access to information/resources/OT expertise		
Concerns re: getting equipment fitted/finding someone to fit it correctly leading to faulty, ill fitted equipment - Health & Safety		
Need categorisation differs dependent on type of disability and assessment criteria does not account for this		
Concerns over implication of job losses due to bringing in FACS		
Discrimination issues		
Recycling concerns		
Concerns re: accountability/business practices/training of retailers		
Difficulty with supply in more isolated/rural areas		
Concerns re: people on low incomes may not be able to afford and may put themselves/carers at risk leading to NHS strain		

<b>Views on asking people with low to moderate needs to buy equipment (Q.4)</b>		
Reasonable to do this if they can afford it and can access somewhere to buy it from		
Council should not abdicate responsibility to make provision for those who cant/wont buy - sbould be offered by ASC		
Think those on low income will be less likely to get the equipment they need		
Think some desperately in need and unable to pay will be put at risk by not getting equipment		
Issues with what is seen as "means testing"		
Cost concerns		
If people cant afford equipment and go to a voluntary organisation, no statutory duty for them to supply		
How can you assess who can and who cant afford equipment?		
Loan scheme/spread payments/hire arrangements should be offered/made available		

<b>Views on signposting people to voluntary organisations or retailers (Q.5)</b>		
Could be very confusing - people could end up without equipment they need due to confusion as to which agency supplying it		
Concerns re: impartiality/accountability of voluntary organisations/retailers as no governance in place		
Good idea as long as equipment is safe, not sub-standard and can be recycled if and when no longer needed		
Communication issues for DSL and SI service users		
Council should still be responsible and should have strict formal contract with organisations		
Not eco-friendly to stop the recycling done by loan stores		
Will put more work/burden on voluntary organisations and they need funding for this		
Concerned as to whether there would be adequate and proper training, supervisions etc.		

<b>Some people wont attend after being signposted and will "slip through the net"</b>		
<b>Could be "postcode lottery" regarding equipment availability and accessibility</b>		

<b>How best can the Council work with voluntary organisations to help people on low incomes? (Q.6)</b>
<b>Communicate retail model etc to service users/GPs</b>
<b>Provide people with a list of approved local organisations</b>
<b>Give voluntary groups funding to help them - an "enabling fund" /small grants access</b>
<b>Hold "open days" for service users who cannot access voluntary organisations</b>
<b>Do recycling via the Red Cross etc. - "cost effective and saving the planet"</b>
<b>Advertise in the papers etc to ensure families know equipment can be donated</b>
<b>Have a stockpile of equipment for emergencies</b>
<b>Make equipment available for rent for those who cannot afford to buy</b>
<b>Would be better funded by re-directing funds within ASC</b>
<b>Ask the voluntary organisations themselves how this should be done</b>
<b>It has already been done/hasn't it already been done?/Don't understand - help in what way?</b>

<b>Any other issues to consider? (Q.7)</b>
<b>Go out and explain FACS more to people who will be affected - need to be more informed</b>
<b>Possible freephone phone in to assessors/hotline for low level cases?</b>
<b>Have support offices/facilities in local shopping centres</b>
<b>Have quiet areas in shops to aid people to communicate without noise/distraction</b>
<b>Exclude family and friends when doing assessment and concentrate on individuals needs only</b>
<b>Implement graded introduction to FACS - start at moderate for eligibilty and work to substantial</b>
<b>implement safeguards to ensure equipment is provided equitably</b>
<b>Provide free of charge training for assessors at voluntary organisations</b>
<b>FACS should be re-evaluated after 12 months</b>
<b>ASC should have an equipment "amnesty", encouraging people to return equipment</b>
<b>Charity Shop for recycled equipment</b>
<b>When equipment provided for short term needs, people need to be contacted re: recycling</b>
<b>If present system was more efficient/better organised, money could be saved without changes</b>
<b>Retaining service as it is at current level should be considered</b>
<b>Training for retailers to include deaf awareness</b>
<b>Distinction between health and social needs at local level is becoming blurred</b>
<b>Drawbacks and disadvantages to the proposed scheme outweigh advantages</b>
<b>General feelings that views will make no difference to outcome of Consultation</b>

<b>Questionnaires</b>	
Areas	Number
Allerdale	3
Barrow	1
Copeland	2
Eden	3
Carlisle	11
South Lakes	6
Total	26