

Cochlear Implant Champion Scheme

Improving access to CI referrals – Exploring training needs within the scheme

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Introduction

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Champion Scheme was designed to improve awareness of CIs, increase appropriate referrals and enhance relationships between audiology, ENT and implant centres by supporting champions and mentors within CI services. Since inception the scheme has delivered various workshops, training sessions, e-learning modules and resources for the CI champions and their mentors within the UK implant teams.

Objectives & Methods

A cross-sectional survey was distributed to 192 registered CI Champions. Which aimed to:

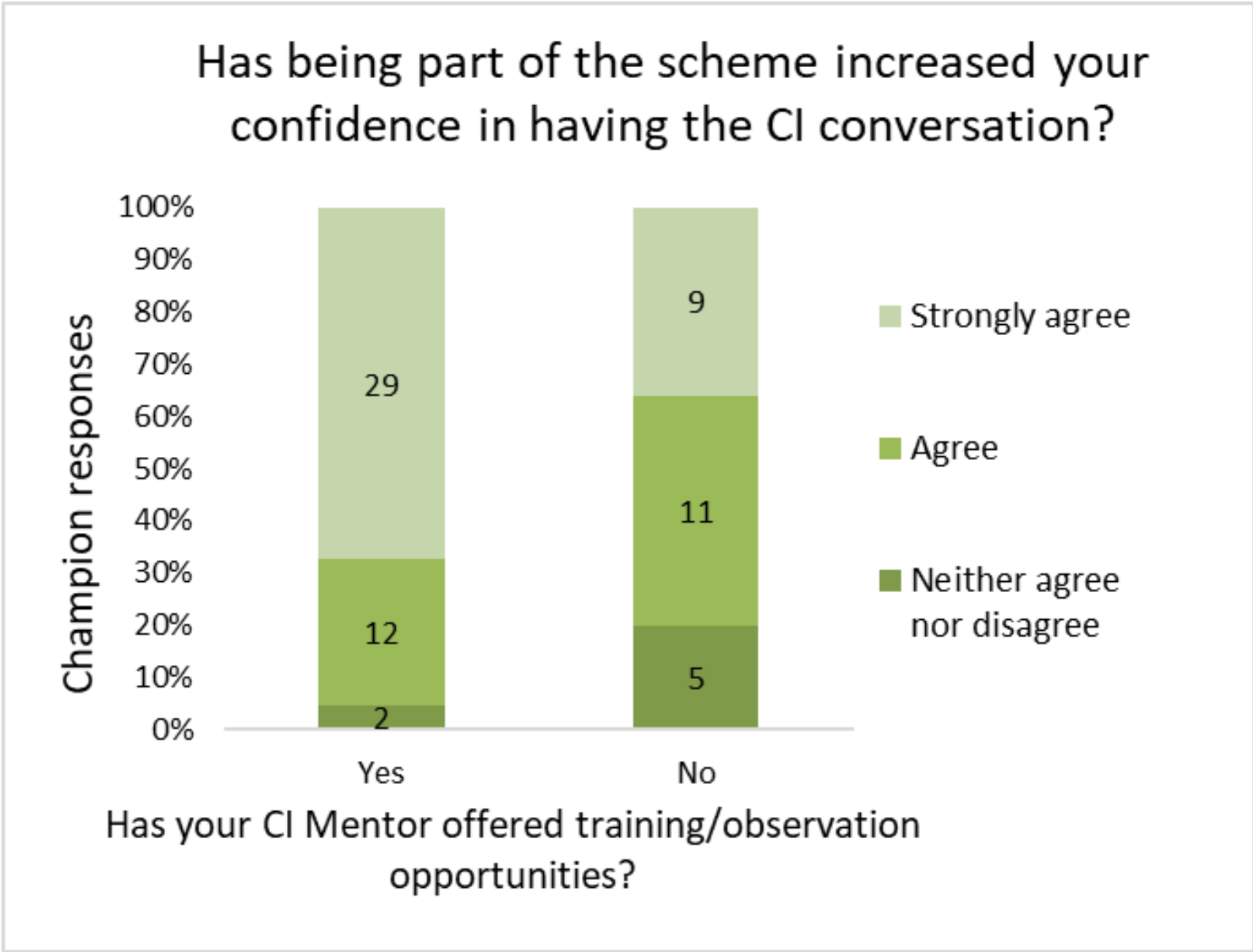
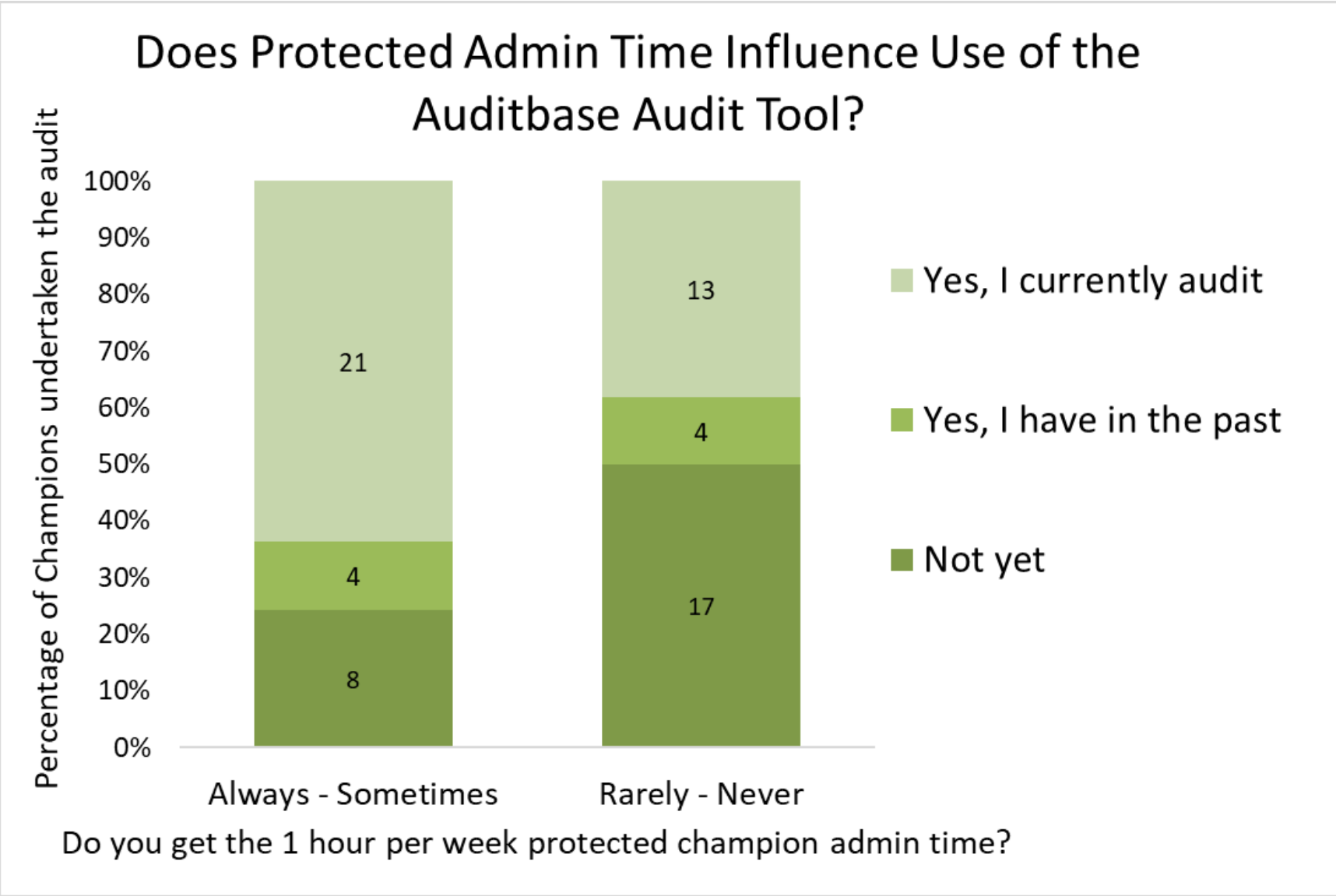
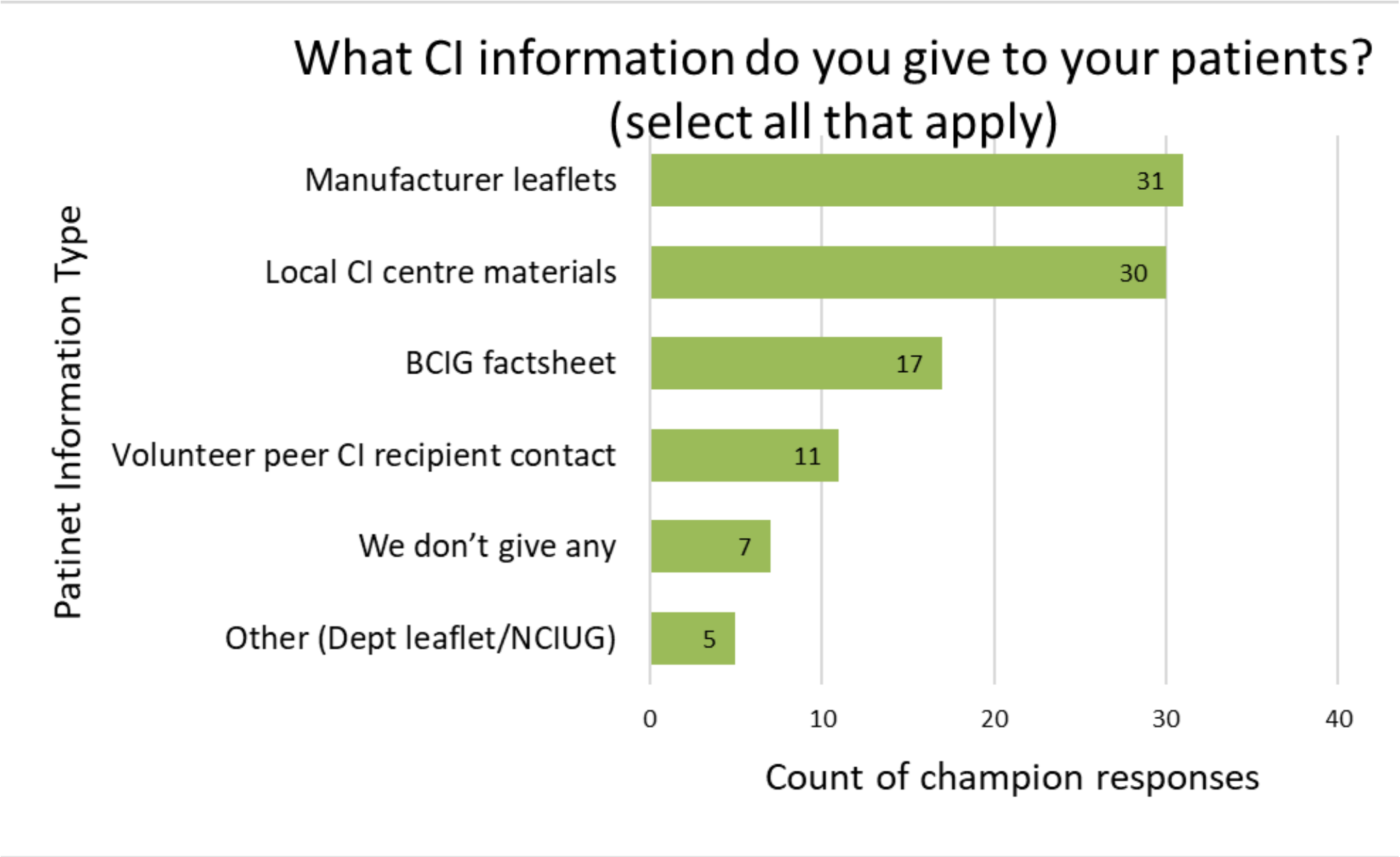
- Evaluate the impact of current mentorship and training on clinician confidence.
- Identify specific training needs and resource gaps within the champion network.
- Inform future BAA/BCIG strategic resource allocation for the most effective committee activity

Survey timeline: launched November 2025; closed January 2026

Engagement: A follow-up reminder sent one week prior to closure resulted in a 100% increase in response volume.

Results

- 69 responses were received (36% response rate)
- 68% of respondents (41/60) rated mentor approachability as 5/5 (Very Approachable).
- The most common occurrence of champions admin time is ‘Never’, with a combined ‘Rarely’ or ‘Never’ group making up 50.8% of the responses.
- The most common resources used are manufacturer leaflets, while 13% of respondents report not currently providing any written materials to patients



Category (Metric)	Average rating
Mentor Responsiveness (Avg 1-5)	4.18
Mentor Approachability (Avg 1-5)	4.39
Confidence in Speech Testing: Instructing the Patient (Avg 1-5)	3.91
Confidence in Speech Testing: Scoring the Test (Avg 1-5)	4.04
Confidence in Speech Testing: Explaining Results (Avg 1-5)	3.75
Confidence: Optimal Aiding (2025 Guidance) (Avg 1-5)	4.08
Increased Confidence in CI Conversation since champion role (% Agree/Strongly Agree)	89.9%
Increased Referral Influence (% Agree/Strongly Agree)	71.6%
Receives 1hr Protected Time "Always" (%)	16.4%

Average 1-5, with 1 being not at all; 5 being very.

Conclusions

The CI Champion scheme successfully facilitates approachable mentorship and clinical advocacy. Increased mentor access and protected admin time are the main drivers of clinician confidence within the CI champions role. Priorities for the CI committee going forward: Ensuring universal access to mentor-led clinical observation; developing targeted resources where a confidence dip was identified; standardising patient information kits to support the 13% of clinicians currently lacking local materials.

REFERENCES

BAA/BCIG (2025) Guidelines for the definition and management of "optimally aided" for experienced adult hearing aid users with severe and profound deafness. Survey data retrieved from the BAA CI Champion Network (2025-2026).