

# How do patient attendees rate virtual group education: our initial findings



Leicester Diabetes Centre  
Committed to Growing International Research, Education & Innovation



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## Aim:

To understand how patients find the experience of attending virtual group education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Method

Diabetes Education and Self-Management for Ongoing and Newly Diagnosed (DESMOND) programmes for people with or at risk of Type 2 diabetes were adapted for virtual delivery in May 2020, so UK and Ireland DESMOND providers could implement virtual groups during COVID-19.

14 DESMOND providers distributed online surveys at the end of each group; either via chat functions or follow-up emails. A range of questions were included rating how participants had found the experience before and during attendance. The responses were all entered anonymously and automatically analysed by the online survey software.

## Results:

To date 147 responses have been received. Figures 1-2 show participant's opinions and responses to the virtual programme. 92% were happy to attend virtually rather than wait for in-person groups. Figures 3-4 show the percentages of participants making a plan for change from the programmes and the focus of these plans.

Figure 1: Overall participant experience of virtual groups



## Conclusions:

Although implementation is in early stages these initial findings suggest those who attend a virtual DESMOND group find the overall experience positive. It is envisaged that virtual means of group delivery will now become part of diabetes education provision permanently.

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Figure 2: Participant responses to questions asked about the virtually delivered programme

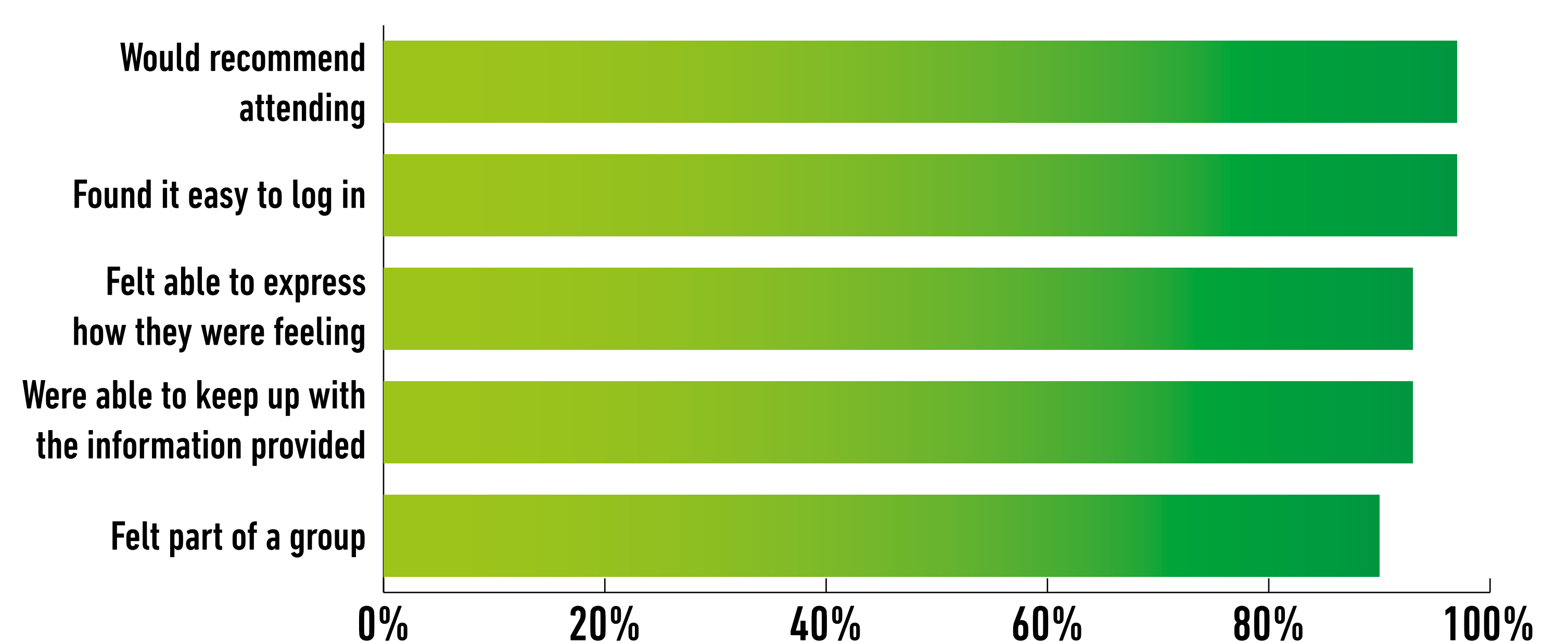


Figure 3: Percentage making a plan to make a lifestyle change

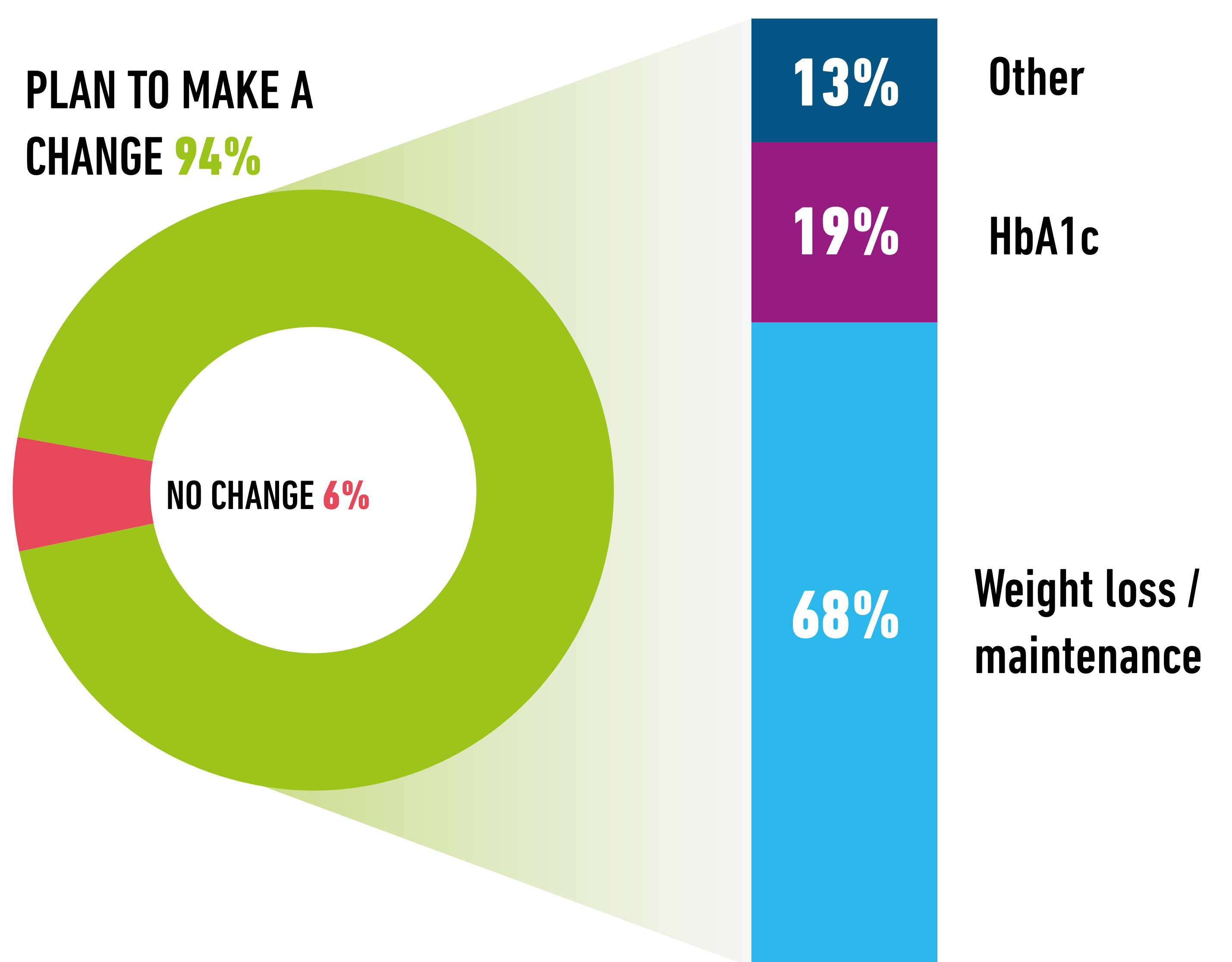


Figure 4: The focus of the participant's plan

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