

Hammersmith & Fulham's Special Education Needs and Disabilities  
**SEND Needs Assessment**  
May 2023



H&F at a glance	Slide
H&F at a glance	3
<b>Executive Summary</b>	4-5
<b>Local Context</b>	
• Borough population	6
• 0-25 headlines	7
• Health Needs	8
• Long term health conditions	8
<b>EHCP's and SEND</b>	
• SEND landscape	9
• Primary Needs	10
• Rates of SEND by Ward	11
• Rates of SEND by Placement Type	12
• Requests for EHC Needs Assessments	13
• Age	13
• Alternative Provision	14
<b>Health and SEND</b>	
• Community Health Services	15-16
• Health notifications	17
• Learning Disabilities and Autism – Dynamic Support Register	17
<b>Social Care</b>	
• Headlines, age and gender profile	18
<b>Outcomes and attainment</b>	
• Education	19-20
• Employment and training	21
<b>Free Schools Meals</b>	22
<b>Lived Experience</b>	
• Recent SEND Survey Outcomes	23-24
• Tribunals	25
• Complaints and Ombudsman	26



The total population in H&F in 2021 was

**183,157** [1]



**52,067** children and young people aged **0 to 25** account for **28%** of the total population in the Borough [1]



**+0.4%**

population **increase** since the 2011 Census  
+15.9% increase in population of residents aged between 10 to 15 years since 2011. [1] [2]



**27,061**

pupils are in H&F schools [3]

**3,221**

pupils are receiving **SEN Support** [4]

**12%**

of H&F's **0 to 25 population**

England average was 13%

**1,511**

Children/ young people with a **EHC plan** in the Borough [5]



or

**2.9%**

of H&F's **0 to 25 population**

England average was 2.8%



## H&F Schools



- 4** Maintained Nursery Schools
- 36** Primary Schools
- 11** Secondary Schools
- 1** Alternative Provision Establishments
- 2** Resourced Provisions
- 4** Special Schools
- 3** Hybrid Special School Satellite Provisions
- 4** Post 16/College providers



**68%**

of pupils with an EHC plan live in areas that are 0-30% most deprived in the Borough [3]

**5,526**

Children and young people have a long term health condition [6]



**12,144** children and young people (15%) in **NHS North West London Integrated Care Board (NHS NWL ICB)** who have a diagnosis on their GP records that could be classified as SEN [7]

- There are 52,067 children and young people from birth to 25 in Hammersmith & Fulham (H&F). This accounts for 28% of the total population. [1]
- Life expectancy in Hammersmith & Fulham is 77 for males and 83 for females compared to the national average of 79 for males and 83 for females. [8]
- In 2021/22, there were 1,381 pupils who are EHC Plan holders in H&F. This is 5% of all pupils in H&F. This is higher than the national average of 4%. H&F has seen a consistent rising trend in EHCP numbers in recent years, broadly reflecting the national trend. [4]
- While, over the past 7 years, there has been a higher rate of EHCP growth in H&F compared to the regional and national average, as of January 2023, the rate of EHCP growth in H&F is now below the regional national average and the trend appears to be levelling out. This could be showing an early effect of the Council's early intervention programme having a positive impact on reducing needs escalating to a statutory process. [4]
- The largest primary need groups for children with SEND are Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). [5]
- Our children perform above the London and National trend at Early Years foundation stage in relation to the number of early learning goals at the expected level for the age of the child. [9]
- The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of key stage 2 for pupils in H&F with SEND is above London and National averages. [10]

- Key Stage 4 pupils receiving SEN Support progress better in H&F compared to London and England. The attainment 8 score is slightly lower than the London average for pupils with an EHCP but is comparable with the national average. [10]
- The proportion of pupils in maintained schools with an EHCP is above the national average. 468 EHC plans (31%) are placed out of borough. [5]
- There are concerns around some waiting times across some health services due to workforce shortages. There has been investment to support with the waiting list of ASD diagnosis. There are still staff shortages with Health Visitors, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language therapists both locally and nationally. Staff continue to work collaboratively with families and settings to ensure equity of provision. [11] [12]
- The H&F 2021 SEND Tribunal Appeal Rate was 0.9% compared to 1.4% regionally and 1.8% nationally. [13]
- There are fewer than 10 children and young people with an EHC plan are young offenders, and fewer than 10 children and young people who receive SEN Support are young offenders. [5] [14] [15]
- 9.5% of children with an EHC Plan receive Social Care and 2.2% of children who receive SEN Support receive Social Care. [5] [14] [16]
- There are 60 H&F residents with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are known to Adult Social Care. [5] [17]

## Our population - Borough context

- Hammersmith and Fulham is one of the 13 inner London boroughs situated in the central western part of London. H&F's estimated population has seen a small **0.4%** increase over the past decade, from 182,493 in 2011 to **183,200** in March 2021; this is **4<sup>th</sup> lowest population** growth in London. [1] [2]
- H&F is the country's **6th most densely populated area** with a density of 11,168 people per square kilometre. In general, the borough's central and southern areas are more densely populated than the northern area, although densities vary greatly between individual wards. [1]
- The age profile of H&F continues to be typical of an **affluent urban population**; there are fewer people near the retirement age and a corresponding lower level of children than in London and England. H&F has seen a **23.5% decline in the under 5-year-old population** between the 2011 and 2021 Census. [1] [2]
- There are **more females (53.1%) than males** (46.9%) in the borough. The male population decreased by 3.4%, from 88,914 to 85,900 (-3,014 people) with a particular decrease in 25 – 44 age range. Whereas the female population grew by 3.9% (+3,621), with particular increases in the 50+ age range. [1]
- Deprivation is a known association with SEN. The majority of pupils attending schools in H&F live in deprived areas, with 60% of Pupils attending mainstream and academies in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham lives in areas that are in 0 – 30% **most deprived decile**. Pupils with SEN are more likely to live in more deprived areas, **68% of Pupils with an EHC plan lives in areas that are 0-30% most deprived compared to 65% of pupils receiving SEN Support and 59% pupils with no support or plan**. [3]
- **Pupils with an EHC plan are twice as likely to live in the most deprived area** compared to the least deprived area. This is a rate of 67 pupils with an EHC plan per 1,000 pupils in the most deprived area, almost double the rate of pupils living in the least deprived area, a rate of 34 pupil with an EHC plan per 1,000 pupils. [3]

### Our population aged 0-25: Headlines

- There are 52,067 children and young people from birth to 25 in H&F. This accounts for 28% of the total population. [1]

### Our population: Gender

- There are significantly more males than females with EHC Plan and SEN support in H&F (Figure 1), as is also seen across London and England ( $p < 0.05$ ).
- Of residents who have an EHC Plan, 73% (n=844) are male. This is the same as the national average of 73%. [5]
- Of residents who receive SEN support, 59% (n=1,321) are male. This is lower than the national average of 64%. [14]

### Our population: Ethnicity

- The highest proportion of children with SEN are from a white ethnic group (35%). [5] [14] [15] [16] [17]
- There are proportionally more children with SEN from ‘black, black British, Caribbean or African’ ethnic groups and ‘mixed or multiple’ ethnic groups (Figure 2).
- There are proportionally fewer children with SEN from ‘white’ ethnic groups and ‘other’ ethnic groups (Figure 2).

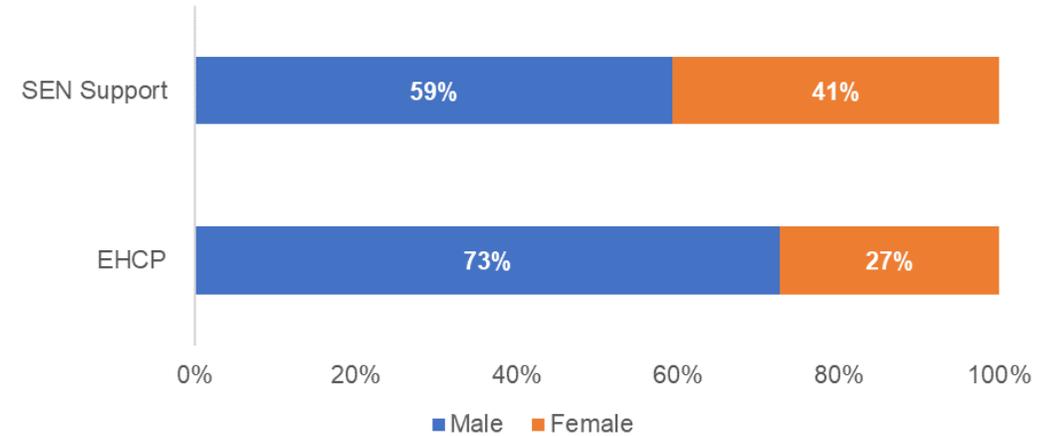


Figure 1: Gender of Children with Special Educational Needs. Education, Health and Care Plans and Special Educational Needs Support by gender, in Hammersmith & Fulham 2022.

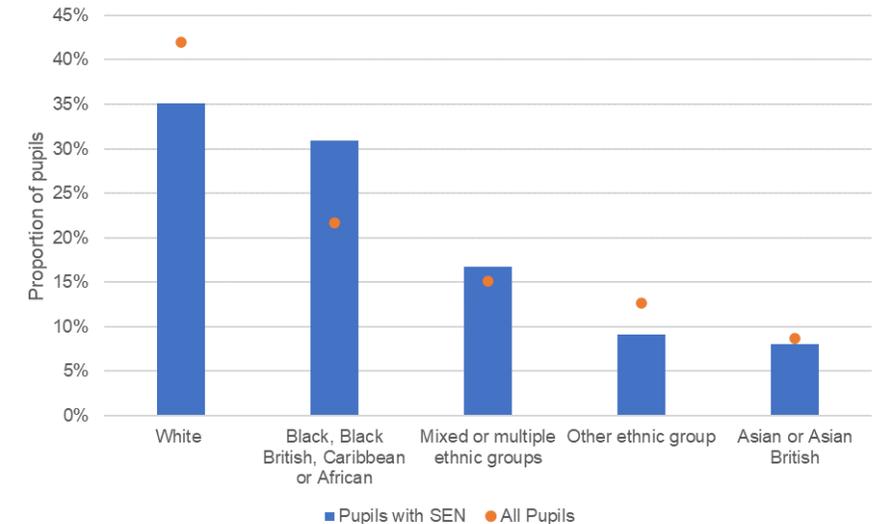


Figure 2: Ethnicity of Special Educational Needs Population. The proportion of residents and pupils with Special Educational Needs by ethnicity, compared to the proportion of all pupils by ethnicity.

### Our population aged 0-25 - Health Needs

- There are 79,636 children and young people registered with a Hammersmith & Fulham GP.
- There are 12,144 children and young people (15%) in NHS North West London Integrated Care Board (NHS NWL ICB) Hammersmith & Fulham borough who have a diagnosis on their GP records that could be classified as SEN. [7]

### Our population aged 0-25 Long Term Health Conditions

Poor health and wellbeing during childhood and adolescence can have a substantial impact on quality of life throughout the life course. It can also have a large impact on education, general health and wellbeing.

- In H&F, there are 57,875 residents under the age of 25 who are registered with a General Practitioner (GP).
- Of those who are registered, 10% (5,526) have one or more Long Term Health Condition. [11]
- Mental Health, Asthma, and Obesity are the three most common long term health conditions among residents aged under the age of 25 (Figure 3). [6]

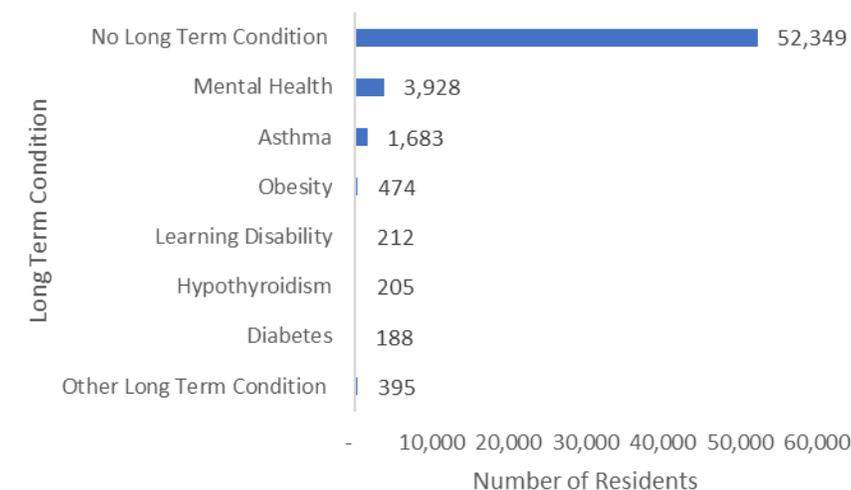


Figure 3: Long Term health Conditions among children and young people in Hammersmith & Fulham. The Number of Hammersmith & Fulham residents, registered with a GP, aged under 25 by Long Term Health Condition.

**Deprivation** is associated with an increased risk of poorer health and disability.

- In H&F, 27% (n=1286) of children and young people with Mental Health Conditions, Asthma and/or Obesity live in the 20% most deprived areas.
- In contrast, 2% (n=82) of children and young people with Mental Health Conditions, Asthma and/or Obesity live in the 20% least deprived areas.
- By ward, the highest proportion of children and young people with Mental Health Conditions, Asthma and/or Obesity live in Wormholt and White City (10%, n=2467), followed by Askew (9%, n=407).
- The lowest proportion children and young people with Mental Health Conditions, Asthma and/or Obesity live in Palace Riverside (3%, n=142). [6]

## The SEND Landscape

- In 2021/22, there were 1,381 pupils who are EHC Plan holders in H&F. This is 5% of all pupils in H&F. This is higher than the national average of 4%. H&F has seen a consistent rising trend in EHCP numbers in recent years, broadly reflecting the national trend. [5]
- In 2021/22, there were 3,221 pupils receiving SEN support in H&F. This accounts for 12% of all pupils. This is the same proportion as the London average, but slightly lower than the national average of 13%. [4]
- Between 2015/16 and 2021/22, H&F has had a consistently higher proportion of pupils with an EHC Plan or Statement of SEN than London and England (Figure 4). H&F has a higher average percentage of pupils with an EHC Plan or Statement of SEN by 0.9 percentage points compared to London and 1.0 percentage points compared with England. [5]
- Overall, the proportion of pupils receiving SEN support has remained relatively stable between 2015/16 and 2021/22. In 2015/16 12.3% of all pupils in H&F received SEN support, and in 2021/22 11.9% of pupils received SEN support. [4]
- The proportion of pupils receiving SEN support in London and England has also remained stable between 2015/16 and 2021/22 and has remained at a similar proportion to the proportion in H&F (Figure 5) [4].

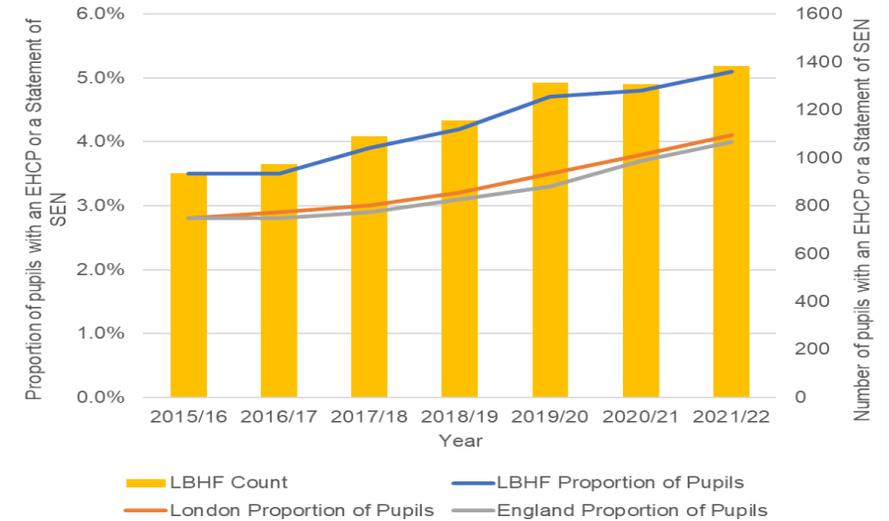


Figure 4: The number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Hammersmith & Fulham, and the proportion of pupils in Hammersmith & Fulham, London and England. The data covers the years 2015/16 to 2021/22, and includes pupils in all schools including independent schools and general hospital schools.

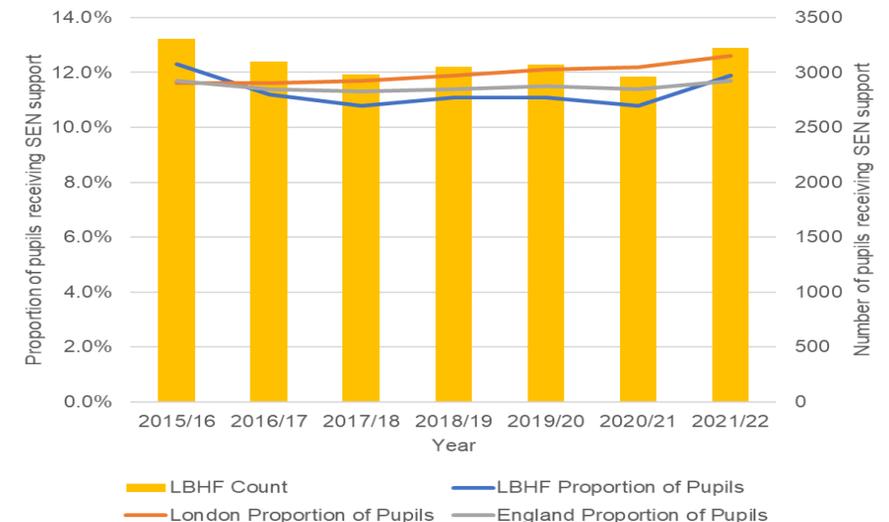
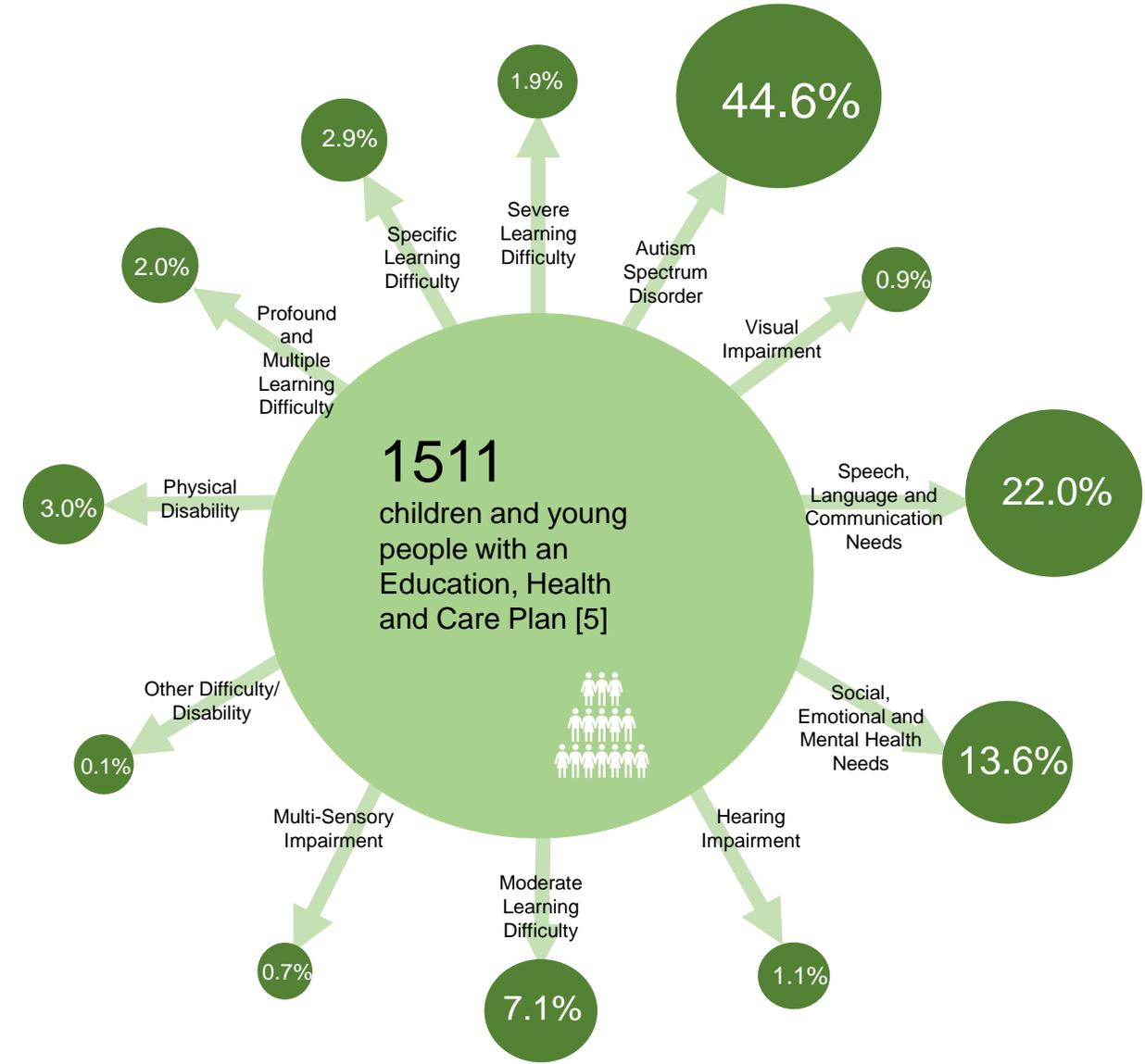
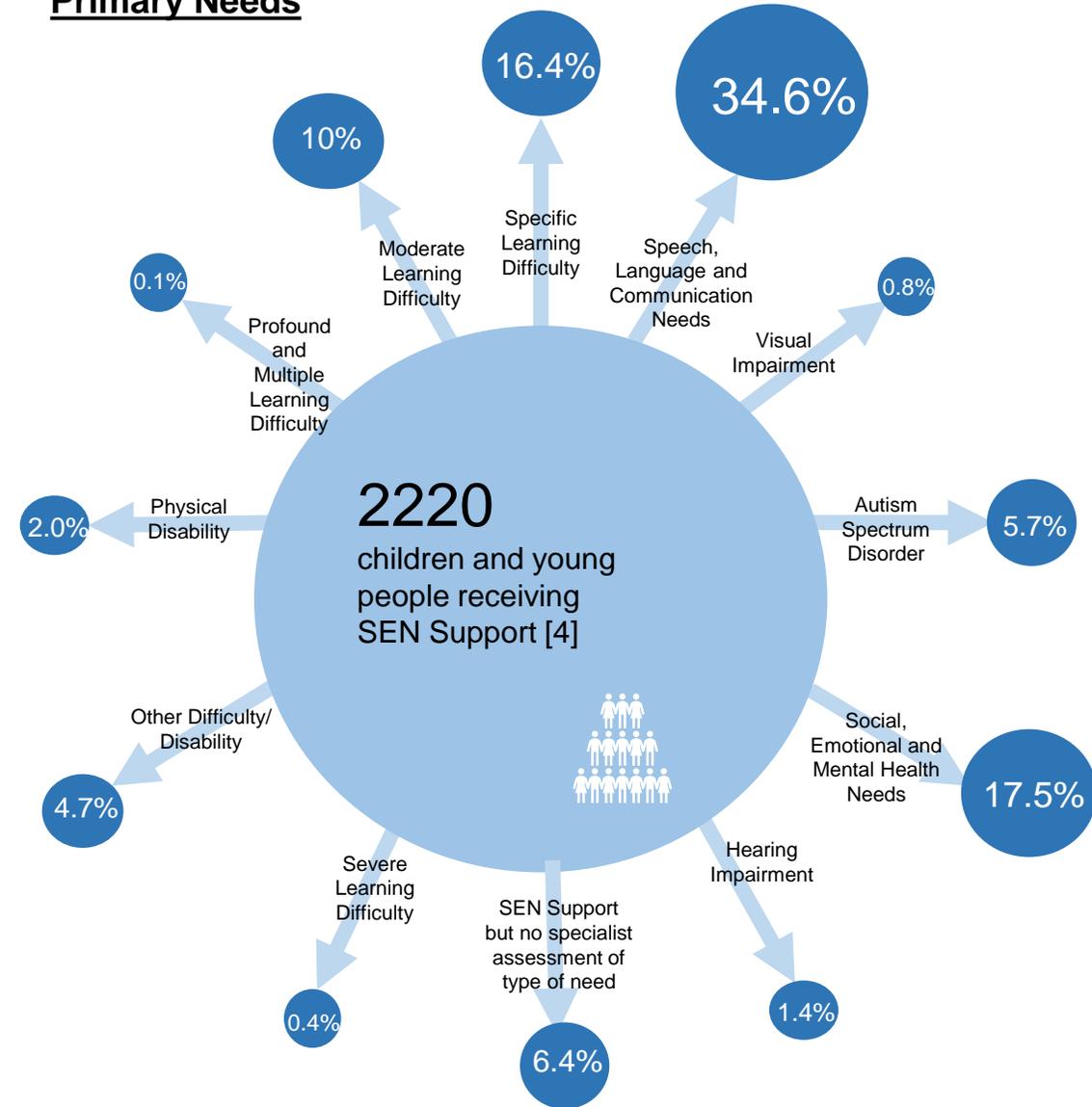


Figure 5: The number of pupils receiving Special Educational Need (SEN) support in Hammersmith & Fulham, and the proportion of pupils in Hammersmith & Fulham, London and England. The data covers the years 2015/16 to 2021/22, and includes pupils in all schools including independent schools and general hospital schools.

# SEND and EHCP rates

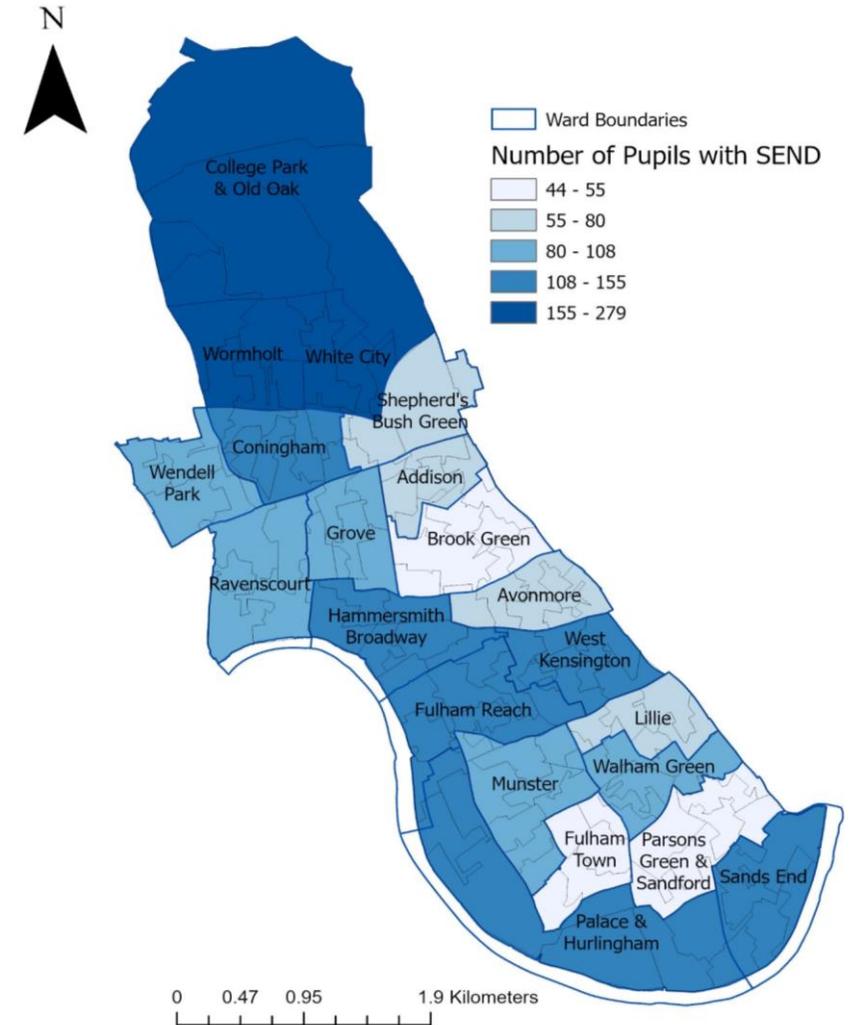
## Primary Needs



The Local Authority have made substantial investment in creating Tier 2 SEN Support services with the intention to support school partners to meet a higher level of need particularly in relation to Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Autism. 10

## Rates of SEND by Ward [3]

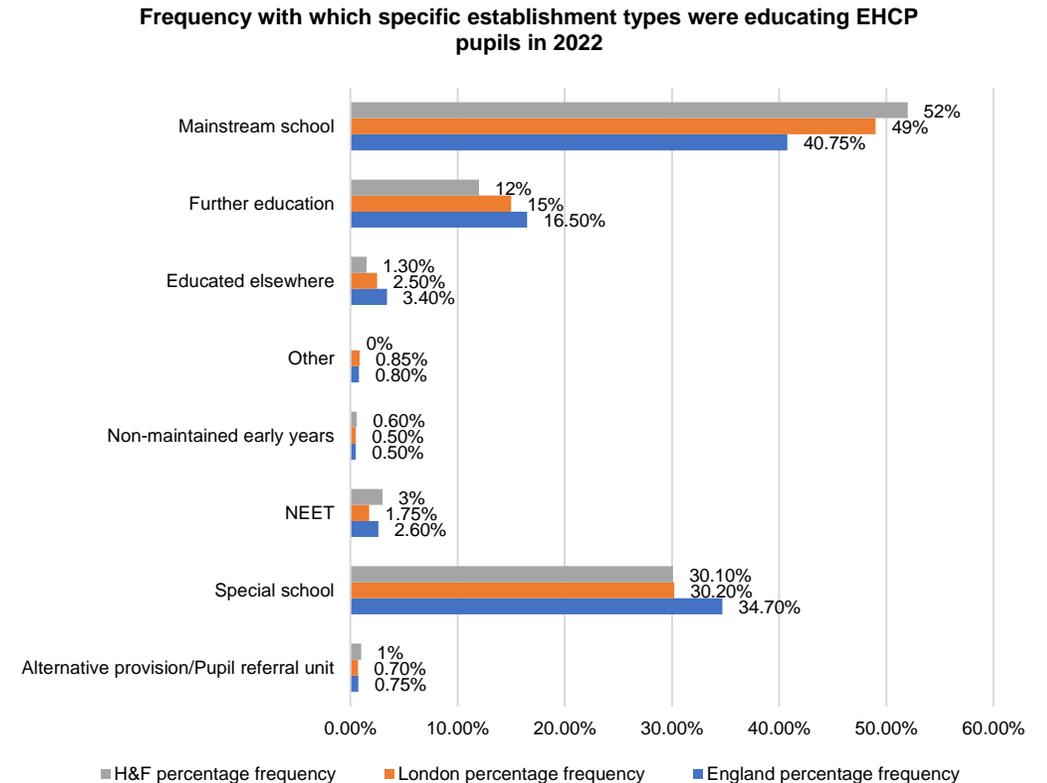
- The wards with the highest number of SEND can be found in the North of the Borough (Figure 6). 28% of pupils with SEN live in White City (279), College Park (200) and Wormholt (185). Wormholt and College Park both have the highest prevalence of SEND, both at 20%.
- The wards with the lowest number of SEND are in Parsons Green (44), Brook Green (51) and Fulham Town (55), this makes up 6% of where pupils with SEN reside in H&F. Brook Green has the lowest prevalence of SEND at 12%.
- A higher proportion of pupils with SEN live in more deprived areas, 68% of pupils with an EHC plan live in 0-30% most deprived areas compared to 65% of pupils receiving SEN Support and 59% of pupils with no support or plan.
- The rate of pupils with EHC plans living in the most deprived areas is 67 plans per 1,000 pupils, this is almost double the rate of pupils with EHC plans who lives in the least deprived area, 34 plans per 1,000 pupils.



**Figure 6.** The number of pupils with SEND by residence ward in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

## Rates of SEND by Placement Type [18]

- In making placement decisions, the local authority is required to give due regard to parental preference when naming a setting, as such this can result in placements outside of the local area and in some cases in the independent sector.
- Figure 7 shows where H&F resident pupils with EHCP's are educated in 2022 as a percentage of the total EHCP cohort compared with both the London region and England.
- At summer 2022, 280 resident H&F pupils with EHCPs (20%) were educated outside of the local area at a total cost of approximately £8.5million. This was compared to total in borough cost of approximately £6 million. Frequently these out of borough placements are expensive.



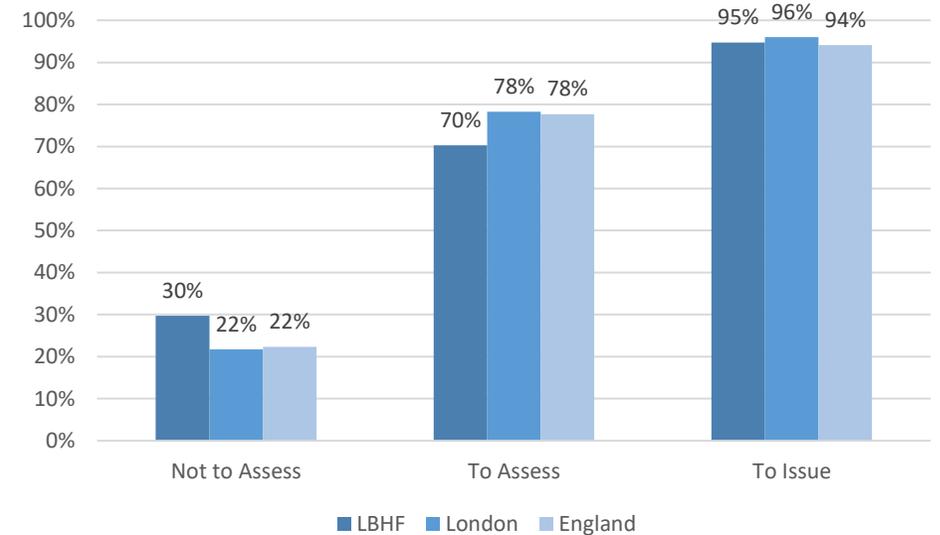
*Figure 7. The number of EHC plans by Establishment Type in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London and in England in 2022.*

## Request for EHCP's

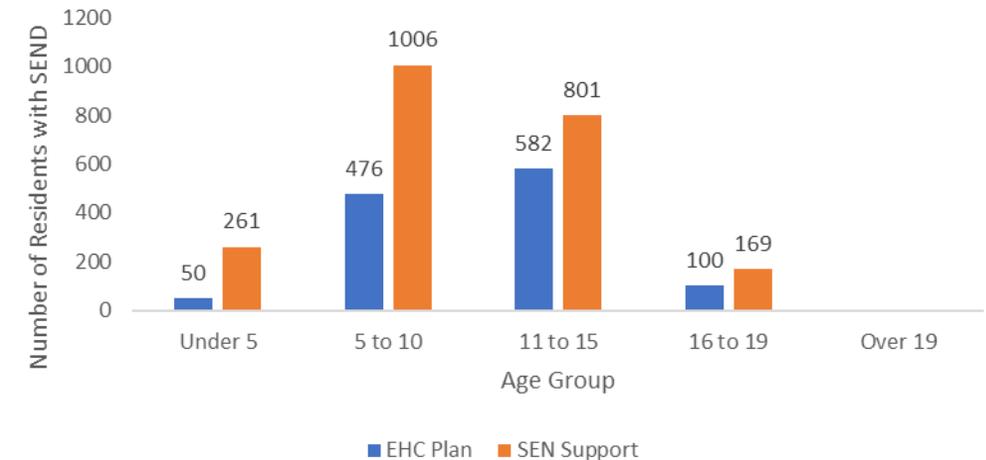
- 316 requests for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) were received in H&F in 2022. [19]
- 30% of initial requests did not proceed to an assessment. This is a higher proportion than London average of 22% and England average of 22% (Figure 8). [19] [20]
- 209 EHCNA were assessed in 2022, of which 5% of assessment's outcome was not to issue an EHC Plan. This is higher than London average of 4% and lower than England average of 6%.
- The rate of EHC Plans issued within 20 weeks is 82.1% for both including and excluding exceptions in 2022. H&F's timeliness performance is better compared to London (64% excluding, 59% including) and England (60% excluding, 60% including). [19] [20]

## Age range

- The highest number of children and young people with SEN are in Key Stage 2 (364) and Key Stage 3 (306) (Figure 9). [3]



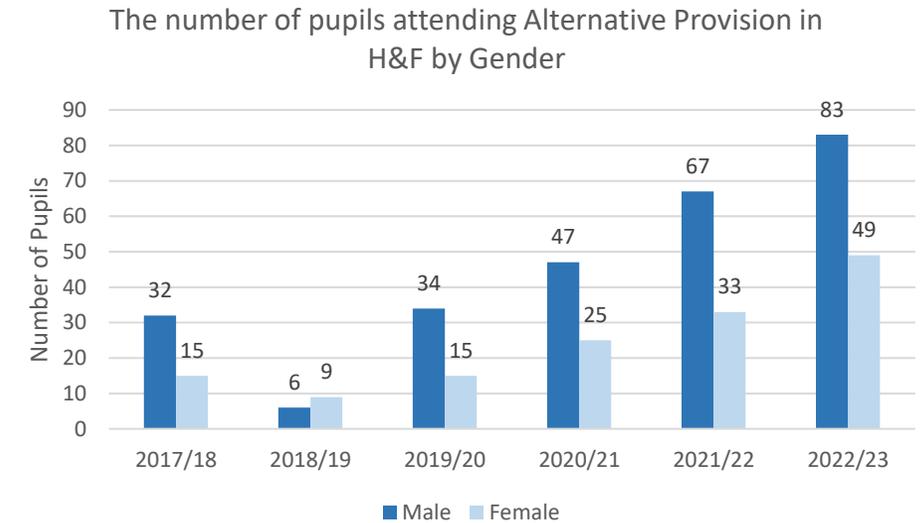
**Figure 8:** The proportion of initial assessment request in 2022 which outcome was not to assess and to assess and the proportion of assessments that took place in 2022 which outcome was not to issue and plan to issue in 2022 in H&F, London and England.



**Figure 9:** Key Stage or Age Group of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs. Where the individual is no longer part of the educational system their age is shown.

## Alternative Provision (AP) [21]

- The number of pupils attending alternative provision in H&F has been increasing steadily, a trend shared similarly regionally and nationally (Figure 10).
- There are 132 pupils attending alternative provisions in 2023, majority of pupils are males (62.9%).
- 99.2% of pupils identified as having SEN. Autistic Spectrum Disorder is the most common primary need, 34.8% of pupils are diagnosed with ASD. This is followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 19.7%.
- Pupils in alternative provision have a lower proportion of free school meal eligibility at 20.5% compared to the normal school population of 28.9%.



**Figure 10.** The number of pupils attending alternative provision in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham from 2017 to 2022.

### Community Health Service headlines [22]

- Hammersmith & Fulham Local Area Partnership are committed to ensuring that children and young people have access to high quality support and are at the forefront of decision making. A range of universal, targeted and specialist health services are in place for children and young people with SEND. These services, as well as future plans, are outlined in the Hammersmith & Fulham Local Area SEND Self-Evaluation and included in the SEND Local Offer.
- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines state that an autism diagnosis should start within three months (~13 weeks) of the referral to the autism team. As of the fourth quarter of 2022/23, the average number of weeks from referral to diagnosis for under 5-year-olds was 91.3. A new one-appointment pathway was implemented for over 5-year-olds, with an average of 212 weeks from referral to diagnosis (Table 1). The Cheyne Child Development Service has received additional funding to outsource 400 assessments from February 2023, as well as an additional £1.6 million funding for Child Development Services (CDS) and Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) to increase capacity. The impact of the additional funding will be monitored closely. In the meantime, support for children on the waiting list include therapy provision and pre-diagnostic workshops.
- H&F does not meet the target for the proportion of children and young people who receive occupational therapy within 12 weeks of referral (Table 1). In common with occupational therapy services across London and the country, CLCH have faced difficulties with recruitment and this has had an impact on the timeliness of assessments. A number of initiatives have been put in place to increase capacity

**Community Health Service headlines continued** [22]

- H&F does not meet the target for the proportion of children looked after who has their initial health checks on time (Table 1). Meetings have been put in place to address and improve the statutory timeliness of the health assessments. There will be two standardised Service Specifications across Northwest London for the Looked After Children Nursing Service and Medical Advisor roles, currently in draft and out for final consultation to ensure equity of service across Northwest London.

<i>TABLE 1: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR HEALTH WAITING TIMES FOR SEND SERVICES</i>		2022/23	TARGET
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR			
<b>Autism Waiting Times</b>	Under 5s: Average number of weeks to diagnosis	91.3	~ 13
	Under 5s: Number of children waiting	156	
	Over 5s: Average number of weeks to diagnosis	212	~13
	Over 5s: Number of children waiting	170	
<b>Speech and Language Therapy</b>	Proportion of children in treatment within 12 weeks of referral	95%	95%
	Proportion of children and young people who meet their goals	100%	90%
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Proportion of children in treatment within 12 weeks of referral	29%	95%
	Proportion of children and young people who meet their goals	100%	90%
<b>CAMHS</b>	Proportion of referrals to treatment under 18 weeks	81%	
	Eating Disorders referrals within 4 weeks	100%	85%
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	Weeks waiting time to assessment	6.8	6
<b>Wheelchair Services</b>	Proportion of children seen within 18 weeks referral to treatment	93% (2022/23)	
<b>Children Looked After</b>	Proportion of children looked after who had initial health checks on time	19%	100%

## Health Notifications

In line with the SEND Code of Practice, where health services anticipate a child under school age has, or is likely to have SEND when they start school they are required to have a discussion with the parents and then make a notification to the local authority. This duty is Section 23 of the Children and Family Act 2014.

- Between July 2017 and December 2022, 89 early notifications were received by Hammersmith & Fulham SEND services.
- In 2022, 51 early notifications were received by Hammersmith & Fulham SEND services. [23]

## Learning Disabilities and Autism

- Children and young people who have a diagnosis of ASC and/or learning disabilities and who may be at risk of admission to mental health inpatient services or residential settings are included on the Dynamic Support Register (DSR), subject to consent. The multi-agency DSR panel explores opportunities for alternative care and treatment within the community to reduce inpatient activity unless it is in the young person's best interest.

CYP (under 18) on the Dynamic Support Register	March 22	March 23
Red	0	1
Amber	10	5
Green	9	3
Total	19	9

Admissions to Inpatient Mental Health Units (under 18)		
	2021/22	2022/23
ASC	1	1
Eating Disorder	5	1
Children's unit	1	0
Readmissions within year	0	1
<b>Total patients admitted</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>

- There were 148 young people aged 14-25 included on GP Learning Disability Registers at the end of March 2023. 75% received an annual health check in line with the national target. [24]



**SEN Support**  
[5] [14] [16]

**Children in Need (CIN)**



**30**

children are on child in need plan accounting for 11% of all children on CIN

**Child Protection (CP)**



**19**

children are subject to a CP plan accounting for 13% of all children on CP

**Cared for Children**



**21**

children are looked after accounting for 9% of all children who are cared for in H&F

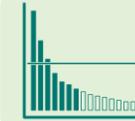
**Cared experienced children**



**<10**

less than 10 children are care leavers

**64%** of children are from ethnic minority backgrounds



The median age of children on SEN support is **8**



**57%**

**43%**



**EHC Plans**  
[5] [14] [16]

**Children in Need (CIN)**



**57**

children are on child in need plan accounting for 21% of all children on CIN

**Child Protection (CP)**



**15**

children are subject to a CP plan accounting for 11% of all children on CP

**Cared for Children**



**39**

children are looked after accounting for 17% of all children who are cared for in H&F

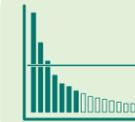
**Cared experienced children**



**32**

care experienced children accounting for 6% of all care leavers in H&F

**68%** of children are from ethnic minority backgrounds



The median age of children on EHC Plans is **12**



**69%**

**31%**



Note that assessments of pupils were not undertaken during 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The following data is from 2022.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

- Pupils with an EHC plan reached an average of 3.7 number of early learning goals at expected level, exceeding 2.8 in Inner London and 2.4 across England (Figure 11).
- Pupils at SEN Support reached an average of 9.1 early learning goals at expected level compared with 8.4 Inner London and 8.3 across England. [9]

## Key Stage 1

- 49% of pupils with an EHC Plan met the expected standard of Phonic Decoding in Year 1 compared to London (25%) and England (17%).
- 56% of pupils with SEN Support met the expected standard of Phonic Decoding in Year 1 compared to London (53%) and England (41%). [10]

## Key Stage 2

- 13% of H&F pupils with an EHC Plan met the expected standard in RWM. This is a higher proportion compared to London (9%) and England (7%) (Figure 12). 36% of H&F pupils receiving SEN Support met the expected standard in RWM. This is a higher proportion compared to London (31%) and England (21%).
- 82% of H&F pupils with no identified SEN met the expected standard in RWM. This is a higher proportion compared to London (76%) and England (69%). [10]

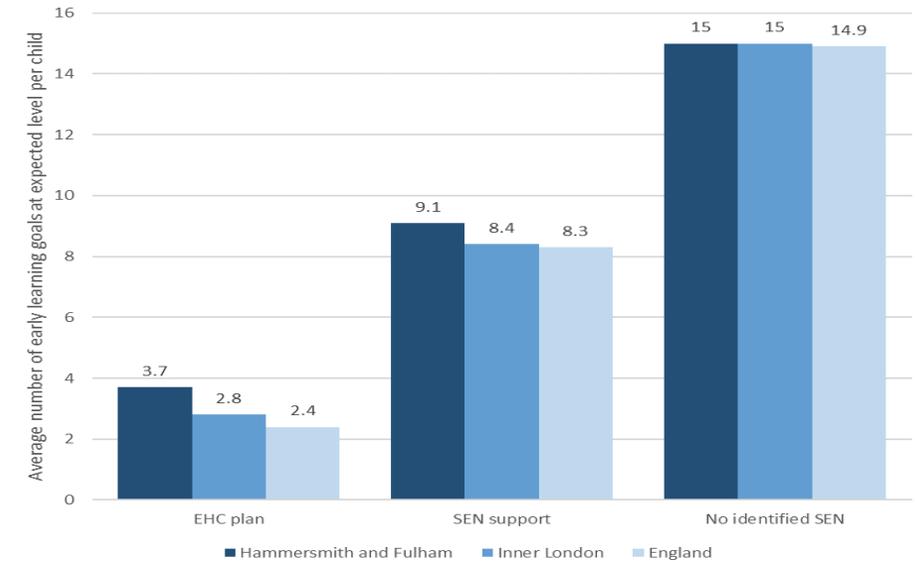


Figure 11: The average number of early learning goals at expected level per pupils at the Early Years Foundation Stage at the end of reception year based on 17 early learning goals in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham compared to Inner London and England.

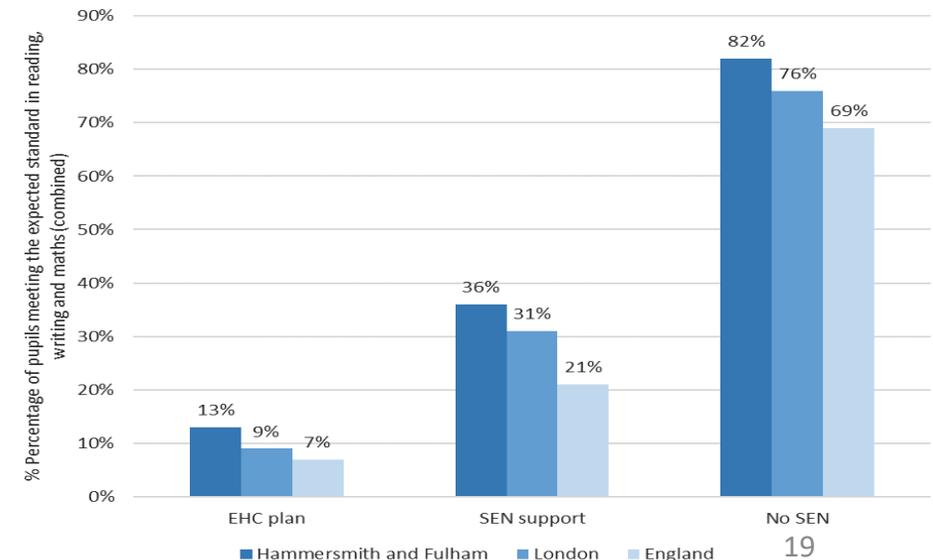


Figure 12: The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of key stage 2 for pupils in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London and England by SEN provision in 2022.

## Key Stage 4 Progress Data [10]

- Pupils receiving SEN Support progress significantly better in H&F compared to London and England with a progress score of -0.11 compared to the England average of -0.47 (Figure 13). However, the progress 8 score of pupils with an EHC plan in H&F is lower than London's score (-1.07) but is similar to England's score (-1.33).
- Pupils with no identified SEND have a progress 8 score of 0.58 in H&F. This suggest pupils are expected to make better progress in H&F compared to London (0.37) and England (0.10).
- The average attainment 8 score per pupil with EHC Plan is 15. This is lower than London's average (17) but is similar to England's average (14) (Figure 28) (Figure 14).
- Pupils receiving SEN Support in H&F have a higher average attainment 8 score (46) compared to London (39) and England's average (35).
- Pupils with no identified SEN are expected to have a higher attainment 8 score in H&F (62) compared to London (57) and England (53).

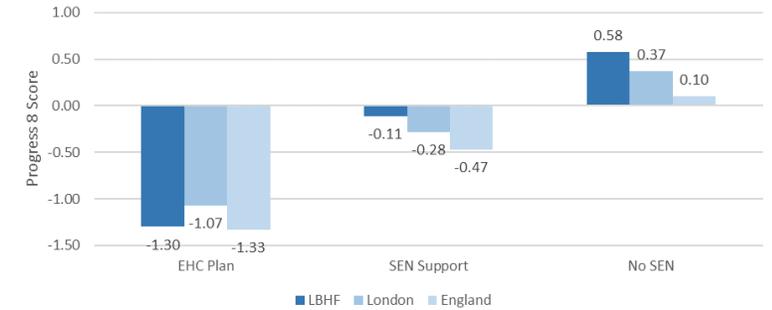


Figure 13: The Progress 8 score at the end of key stage 4 for pupils in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London and England by SEN provision in 2022. Progress 8 score is a relative measure that measures progress made by a student across 8 qualifications between 11 and 16 years old. A score of zero suggest pupils performed similarly to the national average of pupils starting at a similar level.

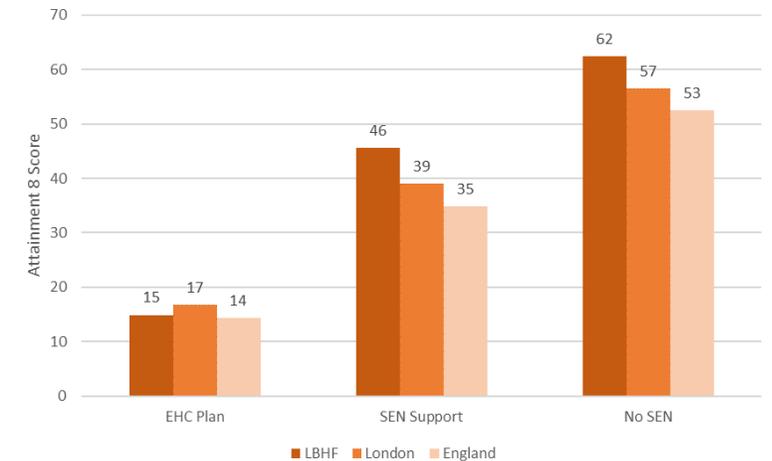


Figure 14: The average attainment 8 score of Pupils in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London, and England in 2022. Attainment 8 score measures the results of pupils at state-funded mainstream schools in England in 8 GCSE-level qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4.

## Qualified to a Level 2 at age 19

- A higher proportion of pupils receiving SEN Support and have no identified SEN in H&F qualify to Level 2 at age 19 compared to London and England average (Figure 15).
- 76.2% of 19 year olds receiving SEN Support qualified to a level 2 in H&F. This is a higher proportion compared to London (72.6%) and England (63.0%).
- 90.9% of 19 year olds with no identified SEND qualified to a level 2 in H&F. This is a higher proportion compared to London (90.5%) and England (86.3%).
- 22.9% of 19 year olds with an EHC Plan qualified to a level 2 in H&F. This is a lower proportion compared to London (35.0%) and England (28.9%). [25]

## Adults 18-65

- 71.7% of adults with a Learning Disability live in their own home or with their family compared to London (77.7%) and England (80.4%). [26]

## Participation in education and training, ages 16 and 17

- The percentage of aged 16-17 residents participated in education and training is aligned with England average but lower than London average (Figure 16).
- 90.5% of 16-17 years old receiving SEN Support participated in education and training. This is lower than London (93.1%), but higher than England (86.9%).
- 93.9% of 16-17 years old with no identified SEND participated in education and training. This is lower than London (96.6%), but aligned with England (93.7%).
- 87.7% of 16-17 years old with an EHC plan participated in education and training. This is lower than London (93.9%) and slightly lower than England (88.7%).[27]

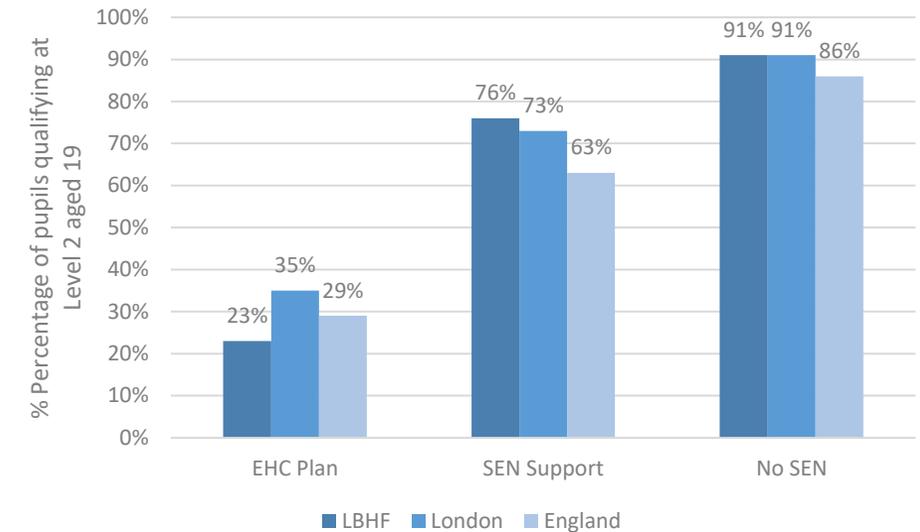


Figure 15 : The percentage of pupils qualified to level 2 at aged 19 in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London and England by SEN provision in 2021/2022 Academic Year. Level 2 attainment is 5 GCSEs 9-4 or equivalent.

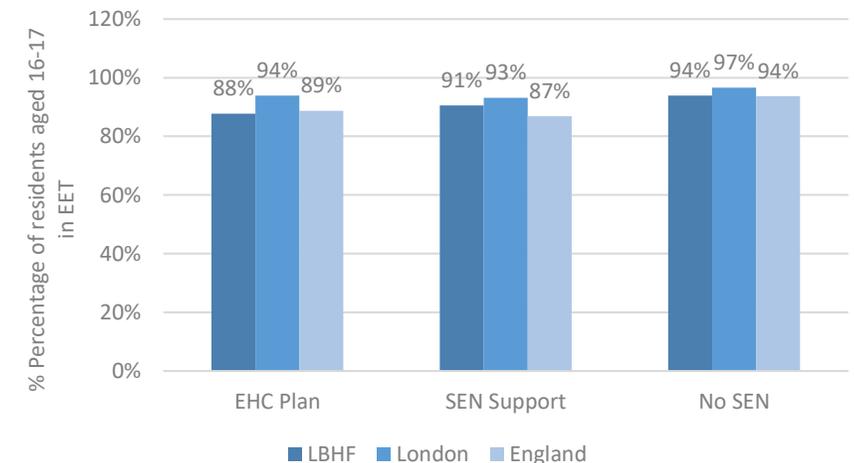


Figure 16: The percentage of residents aged 16-17 in Education, Employment or Training (EET) in London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London and England by SEN provision in 2021/22 Academic Year.

Child poverty is both a cause and an effect of SEND and children and young people with SEND are more likely to have lower levels of educational outcomes. Pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds are disproportionately affected by poverty in H&F and are significantly more likely to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). Pupils with SEN are twice as likely to be eligible for free school meals compared to pupils with no SEN ( $p < 0.05$ ).

- The percentage of pupils with an EHC plan or statement and eligible for free school meals (FSM) has increased steadily in the last 7 years. This is an increase by 19% in Hammersmith and Fulham, an increase of 16% in London and 26% in England since 2015/16 (Figure 17).
- In 2022, 48% of Pupils with an EHC plan are eligible for FSM. This is a higher percentage of pupils eligible for FSM than the London average of 41% and the England's average of 40%.
- 54% of H&F pupils with an EHC plan are from black or black British background and eligible for FSM in 2022. This is 12 percentage points higher than the percentage of pupils with EHC plan also eligible for FSM from white backgrounds (Figure 19).
- In 2022, 40% of Pupils receiving SEN Support were eligible for FSM. This is a higher percentage of pupils eligible for FSM than London's and England's average of 36% (Figure 18).
- 54% of H&F pupils receiving SEN Support from mixed/dual background are eligible for FSM in 2022. This is 25 percentage points higher than the percentage of pupils with EHC plan also eligible for FSM from white backgrounds (Figure 19). [3]

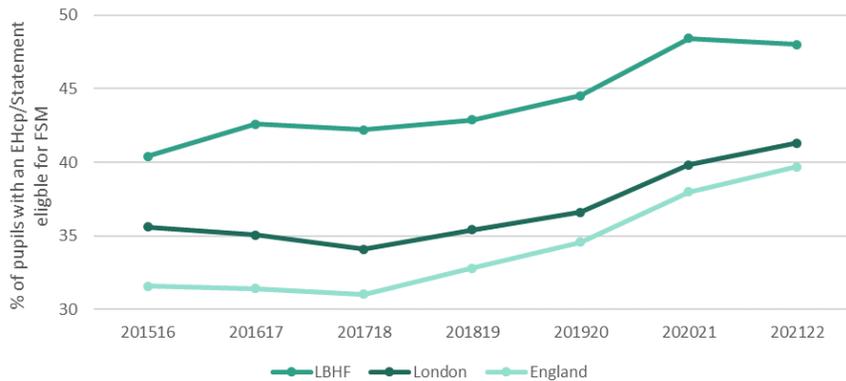


Figure 17: The percentage of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or Statement and are eligible for free school meal in Hammersmith and Fulham, London, and England, from 2015/16 to 2021/22.

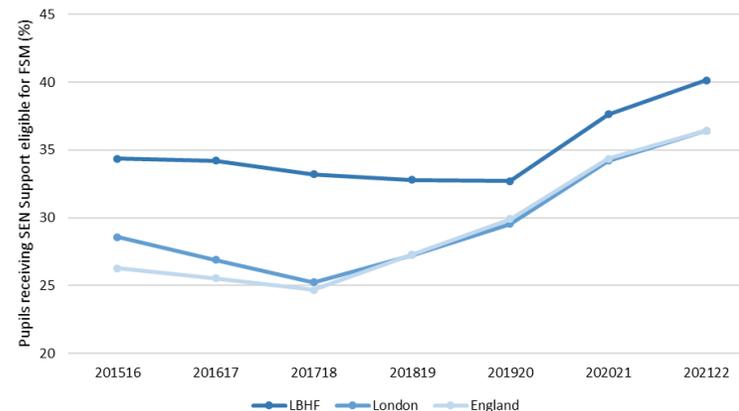


Figure 18: The percentage of pupils receiving SEN Support are eligible for free school meal in Hammersmith and Fulham, London, and England, from 2015/16 to 2021/22.

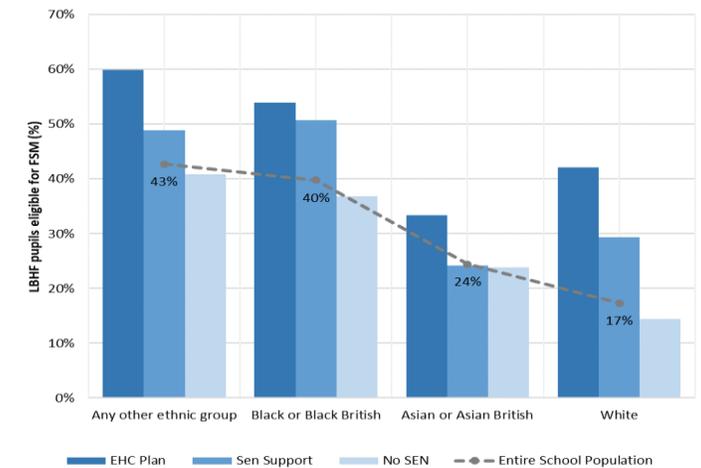


Figure 19: The percentage of pupils in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham who are eligible for free school meals by SEN provision type and ethnicity in 2022.

A recent survey was conducted to understand the experience of parents/carers of Special Education Needs support services in Hammersmith and Fulham

- There were 133 responses to the SEND survey which determined views of parents/carers with a young person with SEND (Figure 20).
- The greatest proportion of young people (46%) were aged 12-16 years old followed by 17-25 years old at 43%. [11] [12]

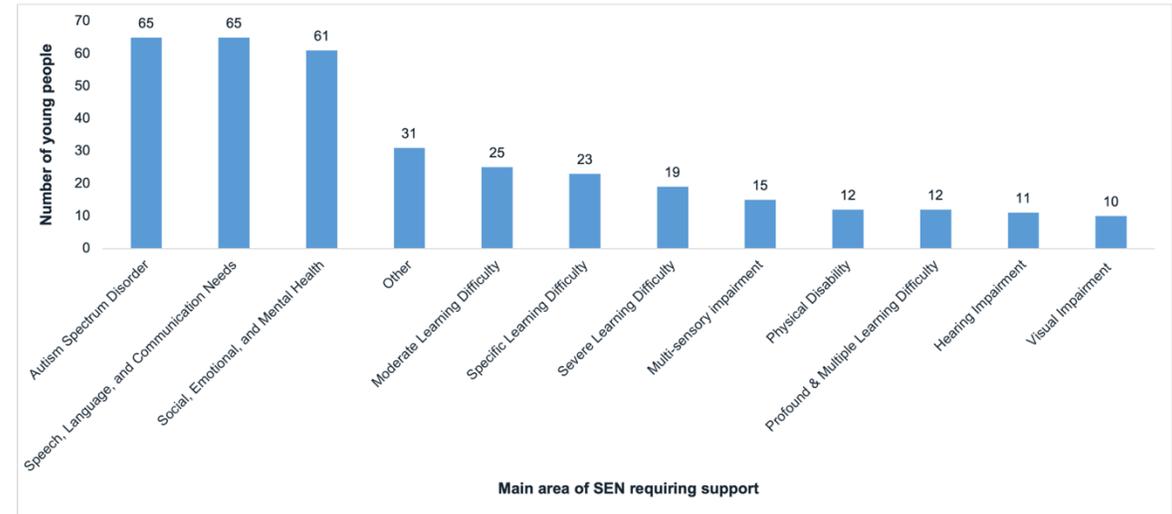


Figure 20: The total number of young people across both the SEND survey and SEND support questionnaire and their main area of SEN requiring support.

## Parent/Carer Views on Educational Support at School

- Over 75% of parent/carers feel confident discussing their child's/young person's needs and the support available with their school or setting (Figure 21).
- 57% of parents agree or strongly agree that they are familiar with how their child's needs are assessed.
- 60% of parents/carers feel that their child's education setting appropriately supports their SEND.
- 55% of parent/carers feel they have been involved in planning services. [11] [12]

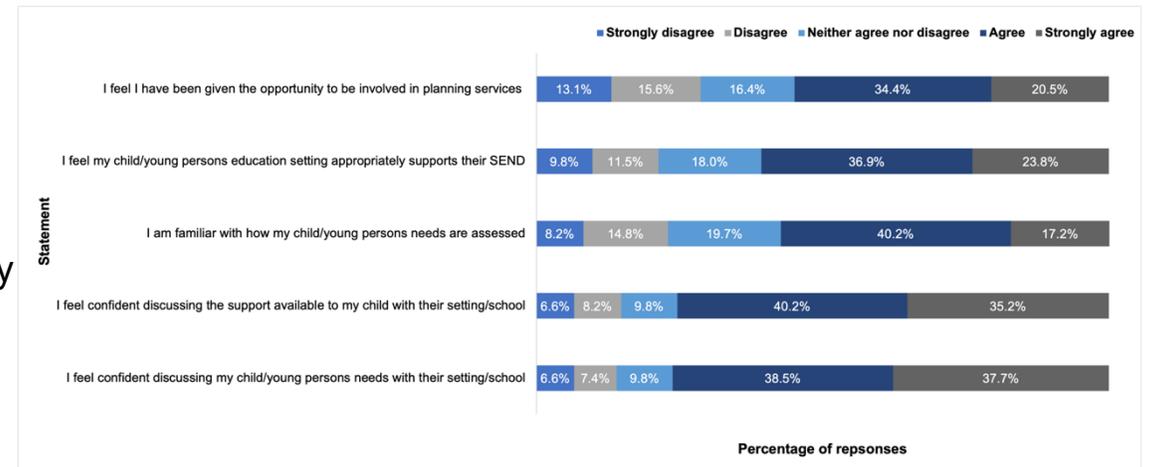


Figure 21: The percentage of parents/carers who responded accordingly regarding statements from the SEND survey about SEN support at school.

## **EHC Plans**

- 75% of parents feel their views were taken into account during the EHC Assessment/annual review process.
- 61% of parents/carers feel their child's views were taken into account during EHC Assessment/annual review process.
- 62% feel their child is making progress towards their outcomes.
- 48% feel the outcomes could be more ambitious for their child/young person.
- 58% agree that their child's EHCP reflects their views, interests, and aspirations. [11] [12]

## **Parent/Carer Support Groups and Forums**

- 72% of parents/carers were unaware of ParentsActive, the H&F Parent/Carer Forum.
- Parents/Carers referred to other various groups they belong to, including We are Family (WAF), Full of Life, Adopt London-South, Make it Happen, and school-created groups. They also mentioned participating in fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD) online support groups, mental health groups, adopters groups, and child development centre groups.
- A local offer is a source of information for children and young people with SEND and their families, to help them find the right support and opportunities in their area. Most parents/carers (71%) had not heard of the Local Offer. 21% had heard of the Local Offer but never used it. Only 8% had heard of the Local offer and used its service. [11] [12]

**SEND Tribunals** [13]

- The 2021 SEND Tribunal appeal rate was 0.9%, compared to 1.4% regionally and 1.8% nationally. The 0.9% represents 11 appeals registered out of 1251 appealable decisions.
- The provisional appeal rate for 2022 is 1.4% with more appeals registered, measured against a larger cohort. Factors in limiting the number of cases where a Tribunal appeal is registered, or which progress to a Tribunal include:
  - The offer of Next Step meetings to families to discuss the outcome of EHCNAs and EHCP Annual Reviews. This informal dispute resolution process allows supports a shared understanding of the evidence that supported the LA decision, the views of parents/carers and agreement on the use of the ordinarily available provision to meet presenting needs, resulting in a reduction in the escalation to the formal dispute resolution process – mediation and SEND Tribunals.
  - the contribution of the Mediation Service from Kids,
  - the continued dialogue between the EHC Casework Service and families which resulted in 12 cases being resolved without a hearing.
- In 3 cases the Tribunal noted parties maintained a dialogue about the issues in the appeal up to the date of the hearing resulting in fewer issues remaining for the Tribunal to determine. One comment noted that the Tribunal “were pleased that the parties had constructively worked together in child's best interests”.
- Whilst the local authority can resolve most issues relating to identification of the child’s needs and the provision to meet need in advance of the tribunal (sections B&F), issues relating to the named placement or type of placement are more challenging to resolve. In 5 cases the Tribunal raised concerns about the lack of detailed, incomplete, or insufficient evidence submitted by the local authority. Our focus remains on improving the quality of EHCPs, learning from our SEND QA programme.
- 26 appeals were registered to the First Tier Tribunal in 2022. Of these:
  - 8 appeals proceeded to a First Tier Tribunal hearing
  - 12 appeals were resolved without a hearing
  - 6 appeals registered in 2022 are not yet finalised and will complete in 2023
  - 1 appeal, submitted to the Upper Tier Tribunal in 2022, was an appeal against a Tribunal decision in 2021, and was dismissed.
- Themes included requests for specialist input, increases in packages of support, specificity of named provision and requests for EHCP’s.
- The outcomes of the 8 cases that progressed to a Tribunal hearing were:

Outcome	Allowed	Agreed in part	Dismissed
Number of cases	3	4	1

**Local Authority - Complaints and Ombudsman** [28]

- The service actively uses complaints, tribunals, mediations and next steps meetings to drive service improvements and strives for first point of contact resolution.
- The general themes of stage 1 and stage 2 complaints are parental concerns on EHC Casework and provision, this includes poor communication from caseworkers, delay in decision-making on EHCNA and EHCP annual reviews, missed SaLT assessment and occupational therapy provision leading to compensation.
- During Q1-Q3 of the 2022/23 financial year, 14 Stage 1 complaints were completed in relation to SEND. During the same period 7 Stage 2 complaints were completed.
- In the 2022/23 financial year 21 compliments were received in relation to SEND. Themes include excellent communication, robust EHC planning which has positively impacted the child / young person and the positive impact of the SEND leadership team.

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