

Summary Data relating to “Special Educational Needs” (SEN) in Surrey

This document provides key facts and figures relating to SEN in Surrey, providing context to illustrate the pressures on the system in recent years:

1. The demand for Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND) provision has increased significantly since 2015 due to increased demand resulting from the legislative changes brought about by the Children & Families Act and the SEND Regulations, 2014 and SEND Code of Practice, 2015 which extended the age range of Statements of Special Educational Needs and EHCPs from 0-25 years.
2. Since the first year of this extension the number of young people aged 20-25 has increased by over 100% to now account for around 8% of all EHCPs as at Nov 2022.
3. Since that revised guidance came into effect, Surrey has seen the number of EHCPs increase by between 9 -16% each year. This has caused a significant increase in demand at a time without comparable increases in funding allocations.
4. Surrey has experienced a significant increase in the number of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the past 4 years. Although the percentage increase in growth of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has reduced in recent years, Surrey’s growth in EHCPs had been higher than the national picture and the South East benchmarking group but in the last 2 years it is on par. On average, Surrey’s EHCP growth has been 12% since 2017.
5. Autism (also referred to as ASC) has been the most prevalent primary need in Surrey since 2015 and currently accounts for 34% of EHCPs. On average, ASC has grown by 35% in Surrey over the last 4 years and continues to trend upwards. Our next 2 largest areas of need, namely Speech and Language and Communication (SLCN) accounting for 19% and Social Emotional and Mental Health accounting for 16% have increased over the same period on average at 49% and 39%
6. Whilst the demand has increased over this period, the funding levels have not done so at a comparable rate. Table 1 below shows the year on year increases in funding within the High Needs Block (HNB). Despite some higher year increases, the rate is overall significantly below the increase in demand and does not address the historic deficit. It is worth noting that funding increases need to account for both EHCP growth and price inflation.
7. Table 1: Year on year High Needs Block funding growth. Note: like for like comparison. I.e. this excludes increase for transfer of teachers pay and pensions grant in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and 2017/18 adjusted for rebase of movement blocks, to avoid distorting like for like comparisons.

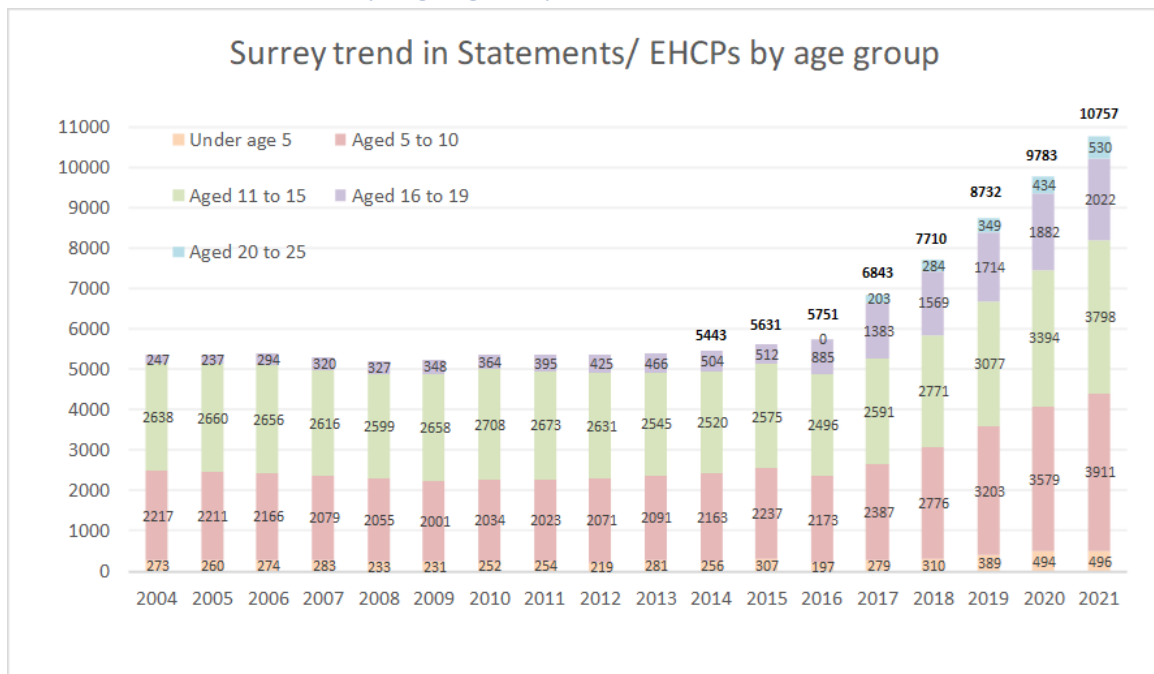
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
% year on year increase	2.70%	4.16%	1.68%	8.61%	8.44%	12.88%

8. The combination of such significant increase in needs and demand and lower rates of funding increase have resulted in an unsustainable financial position and a challenging context for the improvement of experiences and outcomes for children with additional needs and disabilities.

The headlines above are supported and supplemented by the following charts:

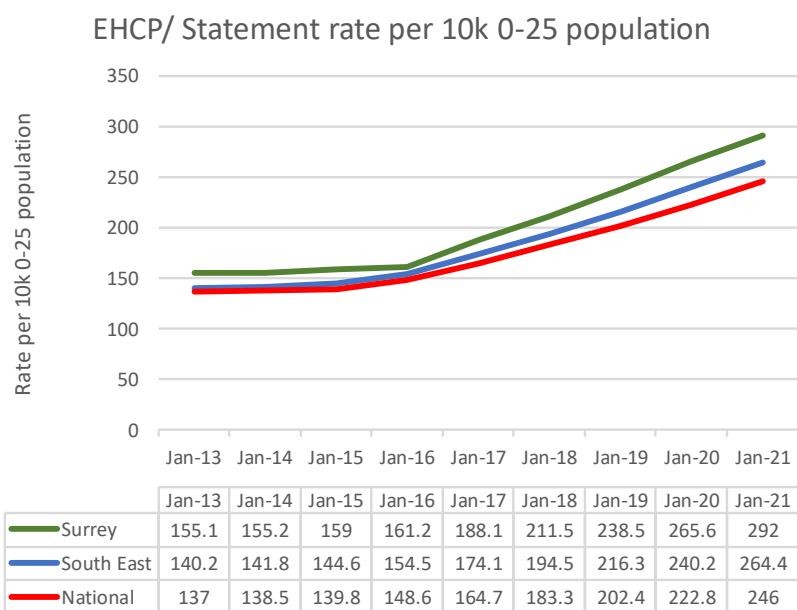
- Chart 1: Number of Educational Statements /EHCPs in Surrey over time, broken down by age group
- Chart 2: Rate of EHCP /Statement per 10k 0-25 population
- Chart 3: Rate of growth in EHCPs /Statements over time
- Chart 4: Timeliness of EHC needs assessments
- Chart 5: Percentage of students with an EHCP in Independent /Non Maintained Placements
- Chart 6: Number of Non Maintained Specialist placements, broken down by new EHCPs and Placement Moves

Chart 1: Number of Educational Statements /EHCPs in Surrey over time, broken down by age group



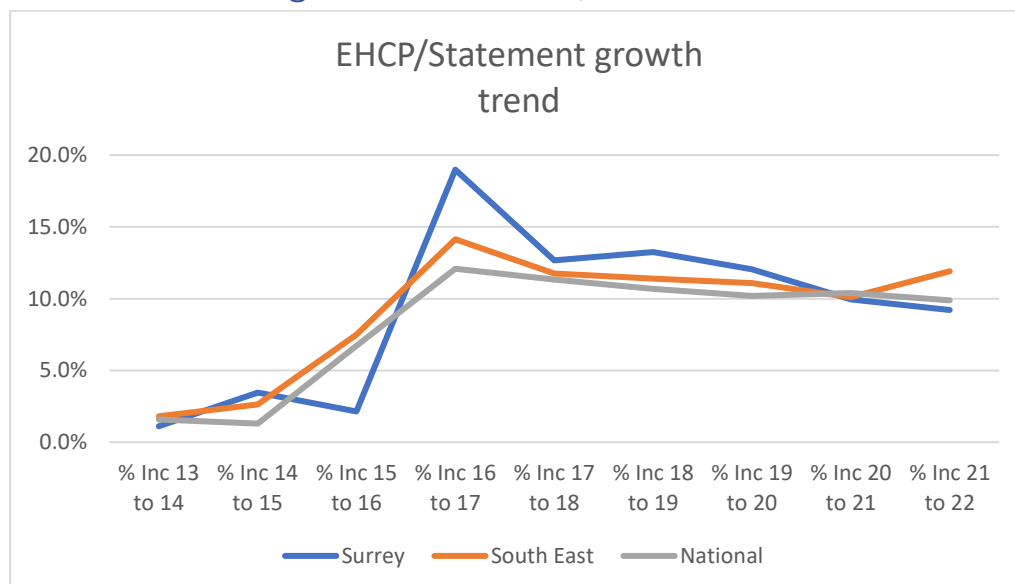
This chart shows that following more than a decade of relatively stable service volumes, in 2015 Surrey had 5631 Educational Statements. The number of EHCPs has risen notably since 2016 when the “SEND Code of Practice” was introduced, reaching 10,757 at the end of 2021.

Chart 2: Rate of EHCP /Statement per 10k 0-25 population



This chart shows that Surrey already had a higher rate of EHCP /Statements per 10k 0-25 population before the introduction of the “SEND Code of Practice” and with the growth in EHCPs over the last 6 years. In 2015 the rate per population in Surrey was approximately 14% above the National rate, and in 2021 the rate per population was approximately 18% above the National rate.

Chart 3: Rate of growth in EHCPs /Statements over time



This chart shows that the rate of growth in EHCPs/Statements peaked in 2016/17, coming down to in line with and below the National and South East regional rates of growth in 2021/22.

Chart 4: Timeliness of EHC needs assessments

Timeliness- New EHCP issued within 20 weeks within calendar year

Local Authority	No. plans issued 2020 calendar year	No. plans issued 2021 calendar year	% increase in plans issued 2020-2021	Direction of travel since 2020 (plans issued)	% issued within 20 weeks 2020	% issued within 20 weeks 2021	Direction of travel since 2020 (issued within 20 weeks)
Surrey	1447	1415	-2.2%	↓	60.7%	65.1%	↑
South East	9921	11768	18.6%	↑	47.8%	48.8%	↑
England	60097	62180	3.5%	↑	55.6%	57.9%	↑

The percentage of needs assessments completed within the statutory deadline in Surrey was 65% in December 2021 compared with 60% in December 2020. Nationally the 2021 figure was 60% compared with 58% in 2020.

However, over the last 2 years there has been a rise in the number of requests for assessment. 24.5% between August 2021 and August 2022 with a cumulative increase of 41.5% from August 2020. Alongside this, there has been reduced capacity in the Educational Psychology Service and the SEN service.

As a result, Surrey has seen a reducing trend on its timeliness figure as more Needs Assessments need to be completed by fewer staff. In August 2022 the “in month” percentage of plans completed on time was 17% making the cumulative number of plans completed within 20 weeks at August 2022 37%. * This is the latest calculation but this is subject to data verification due to the recent change in IT system used to manage EHC needs assessments.

A recovery plan has been in place since downward trend first became evident. This has taken a system wide approach to the issue involving actions across education, health and social care.

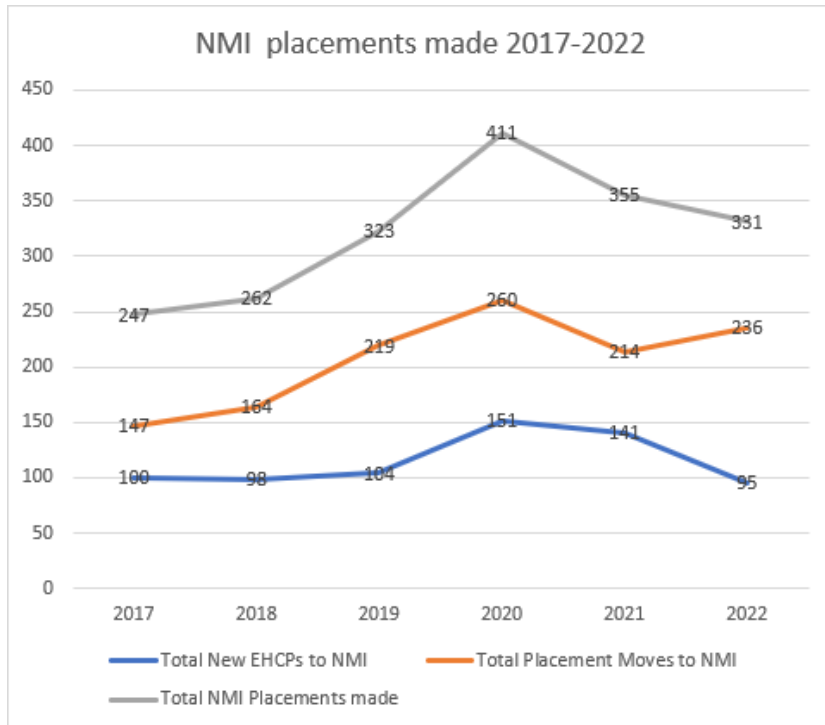
Chart 5: Percentage of students with an EHCP in Independent /Non Maintained Placements

% of students with an EHCP in Independent/ Non-Maintained mainstream and Special Placements including Specialist Post 16 Institutions

Local Authority	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022
Surrey	13.7%	15.1%	14.7%	14.4%
South East	8.8%	9.5%	9.9%	10.2%
England	7.4%	7.4%	7.7%	8.0%

This chart shows that the percentage of students with EHCPs in Independent /Non Maintained placements is notably higher than the National and South East regional comparators, peaking in 2020 and now starting to come down as the “SEND Capital Programme” additional maintained specialist places become available.

Chart 6: Number of Non Maintained Specialist placements, broken down by new EHCPs and Placement Moves



This chart shows that total numbers of NMI placements made annually increased overall from 2017-2020, however after the peak of 2020 annual numbers have fallen to just above 2019 levels. Numbers of new EHCPs being placed in NMI has seen a decrease since 2020, with annual numbers falling below that of 2018. Placement movement into NMI however has seen less of a decrease and current numbers have risen to roughly 100 more placements per year than in 2017.