

# Public Document Pack



**Meeting:** Executive Advisory Panel - Future Communities

**Date:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting, via Zoom

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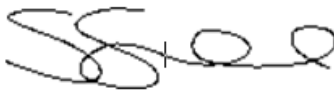
## To Members of the EAP Future Communities

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair), Wendy Brackenbury, Phillip Irwin, Macaulay Nichol, Joseph Smyth, Lee Wilkes and Jean Addison

Substitutes:

Councillors Richard Levell and Leanne Buckingham

<b>Agenda</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Officer Presenting Report</b>	<b>Page No</b>
01	Apologies for non-attendance		-
02	Members' Declarations of Interests		-
03	Minutes of the meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		5 - 8
<b>Items for discussion</b>			
04	North Northants SEND Health Needs Assessment	Helen Denness & Mark Napier	9 - 32
05	Early Years Update	Susan Tanner	33 - 44
06	Speech & Language Provision	Jane-Amanda Stephenson-Glynn	45 - 54

07	Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy	Marsha Brown & Sally Crew	55 - 68
08	Service Presentation – Commissioning & Partnerships	Richard Woodward	69 - 76
09	Forward List of Items for the EAP	David Watts	-
<b>Urgent Items</b>			
To consider any items of business of which notice has been given to the Proper Officer and the Chair considers to be urgent, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972.			
10	Close of Meeting		
<p>Sanjit Sull, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p><b>Proper Officer</b> <b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b></p>			

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

**Committee Officer:** Callum Galluzzo

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## **Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Future Communities**

At 5:00pm on Thursday 11th January, 2024 held as a  
Virtual meeting, via Zoom

### **Present:-**

#### Members

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Jean Addison  
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury

Councillor Phillip Irwin  
Councillor Macaulay Nichol  
Councillor Joseph John Smyth

#### Officers

Neil Goddard	Assistant Director, Education
David Watts	Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS), and Children's Services (Interim DCS)
Jo Hutchinson	Senior School Improvement Manager
Callum Galluzzo	Democratic Services

### **36 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee Wilkes.

### **37 Members declarations of interest**

The chair asked members to declare any interests on items present on the agenda.

No declarations were registered.

### **38 Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2023**

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **39 High Needs Block Challenges, Pressures, Mitigations and Requirements**

Neil Goddard, Assistant Director, Education attended the meeting and provided members with a presentation with regards to High Needs Block Challenges, Pressures, Mitigations and Requirements.

It was heard that through local government reform in April 2021, NCC abolished and North Northamptonshire (NNC) and West Northamptonshire (WNC) Unitary Councils formed and with it Northamptonshire Childrens Trust (NCT) was created to provide and improve Children's Social Care, Early Help, Children's Centres, Youth Offending

and Youth Services across old county footprint, it was noted that North Northamptonshire included:

- 4 Nursery Schools
- 111 Primary Schools
- 20 Secondary Schools
- 1 All through School
- 8 Special Schools
- 0 PRU's / AP settings

The North Northamptonshire dedicated School Grant for 2021/22 £315,336,462 of which High Needs block (HNB) was £45,504,413

Members heard that a number of challenges had been identified including Significant backlog of EHCP cases not assessed, pupils held in mainstream EHCP seen as 'ticket to Special School' number of EHCP in mainstream very low. No in area PRU / AP schools, and local provision all rated as inadequate Early Help services held by NCT and focussed on Social Care issues Limited SEND provision (units / special school satellites) outside of Special Schools, all of which were full. There was also no Early Years SEND provision, No advisory teacher services, No processes or systems to manage and control HNB expenditure, No consistency in Early Help Funding and lack of support to Early Years SEND.

It was then heard that where challenges had been identified a number of actions had been taken to mitigate the ongoing challenges including investment in team and development of appropriate processes has led to performance now being circa 75% and investment in commissioned resources has strengthened team and led to improved performance

Department for Education had also brokered joint working with regional outstanding provider, and a bid for new AP school outcome was awaited. A number of identified service pressures were also presented to members as well as identified and developed mitigations in order to ease pressures on the service area.

Mitigations included:

- Implementation of co-produced SEND strategy
- Development and implementation of SEND Improvement Plan
- Implementation of Coproduction Charter
- Development SEND Sufficiency Strategy
- Development of Joint Commissioning Strategy
- Further development of system wide approach through SEND Accountability Board
- Focus on support for inclusion in all schools
- Review and refocus of Early Help services
- Development of joint work with Third Sector organisations
- Development of further capacity to better meet needs
- Move to permanent, sustainable staffing structures
- Develop Family Hubs offer to provide better access to Early Help services

Members were presented with a school effectiveness update including inspection outcomes and headline pupil outcomes across North Northamptonshire.

Members noted that data up to the end of November 2023 had shown an increase in a percentage of North Northamptonshire schools that were good or outstanding following OFSTED inspections to 88.7% of all schools. It was noted that the number of secondary schools achieving good or outstanding was above the England average at 85%.

North Northamptonshire Good Level of Development (GLD) had increased by 4% in 2023 and was now 1% lower than the national average. Locality information was also provided to members. National Year 1 Phonics 2023 was presented at 79% with the North Northamptonshire average being presented at 77% which represented a 5% increase in 2023. National Year 2 Phonics in 2023 was represented at 89% with North Northamptonshire average at 63% which was also a 26% increase in 2023 compared to previous years. Key Stage 1 Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) had increased by 2% across North Northamptonshire but remained 4% lower than the National average in 2023. Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths remained at 56% which was 4% lower than the national average.

Members then heard that with regards to Key Stage 4, pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths at GCSE was at 45% at state funded schools and the North Northants average for 2023 was presented at 40%. Key Stage 4 attainment 8 average score for North Northants was 44.2% where the England average for state funded schools was 46.2%. Updated Key stage 5 information was also provided to members.

#### **41 Education Service Presentation**

Members received a informative presentation from the Assistant Director for Education with regards to the Education service.

Members heard that as of 2022 there was 87,133 children at school age (0-19) in North Northamptonshire across 144 Schools (Including 4 Local Authority Maintained Nurseries). At the Autumn School Census October 2023 there was 6,498 pupils requiring SEND Support and 3,704 Pupils with EHCP. 914 children were electively home educated and 132 children had been reported as missing education. 545 children were shown as in care as of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

It was noted that 98% of Early Year Providers had been inspected to Good or Outstanding. 88.3% for Primary Schools and 85% for Secondary Schools in North Northamptonshire. One primary and one secondary school had also been placed into special measures and it was noted that the education team were working closely with these schools.

With regards to access and sufficiency it was noted that there had been 3793 on time primary applications processed and 4225 on time secondary applications. 93.7% of pupils successfully achieved first preference in 5570 in year applications had been processed. 24 mainstream and 63 SEND places ad also been created in 2023-24.

Members also noted that Capital Investment Committed spent was £13.5m with a total of £43.5m committed and in the pipeline for investment over the next 4 months (Including Childrens Trust and S106).

#### 42 **Forward List of Items for the EAP**

The following items were agreed for the February 2024 meeting:

- Early Years Update
- Speech and Language Provision
- Commissioning and Partnerships Service Presentation

**RESOLVED that:** the Executive Advisory Panel Future Communities agreed Future items for its meetings.

#### 43 **Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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Chair

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Date

The meeting closed at 6.37 pm





## **A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT: North Northamptonshire Council**

The Centre for Public Innovation

December 2023

The Centre for Public Innovation is a Community Interest Company that provides research, training, support and advice in the fields of health, social care, criminal justice and community development.

Our mission is to improve the outcomes of services for their users, with a particular emphasis on the most disadvantaged.

## Executive Summary

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### *About the needs assessment*

In order to inform relevant partners in North Northamptonshire (hereafter NN) a needs assessment was commissioned to build a quantitative picture with regard to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The needs assessment seeks to profile the SEND population for NN, looking at needs, future estimates of need, outcomes and areas of inequality. Additional aspects of the needs assessment address service utilization and take-up.

### *Overall SEND need in North Northamptonshire*

The total number of children and young people in NN with a SEND need (children and young people in schools receiving SEND support and all those aged 0 to 25 with an EHC plan) is 10,109.

Of the 10,109 children and young people:

- 6,580 receive SEND Support,
- 3,529 have an EHC Plan.

The total number of young people with a SEND need has risen from 7,284 in 2018 giving an increase of 38.7%. Similar rates of increase in the number of young people with a SEND need have also occurred in this time period across both the East Midlands and England as a whole.

### *Forecasting need*

Forecasting carried out for this needs assessment indicates that there are likely to be 13,154 young people with a SEND need in 2028 and 16,185 by 2033.

The rate of increase is not evenly distributed between those requiring SEND support and those with an EHC Plan. Numbers of young people requiring SEND support are forecast to rise to 7,990 in 2028 and 9,255 by 2033. Numbers of young people with an EHC Plan are forecast to be 4,428 in 2028 and 6,518 in 2033 meaning that young people with an EHC Plan will constitute an increased proportion of young people with a SEND need.

### *Profile of the SEND need population*

Over half (53%) of the total SEND need population is made up of children aged 0 to 10 years of age

Boys make up nearly two thirds of the total population with SEND need (62% of those with SEND support and 73% of those with an EHC Plan).

The ethnicity of the total population of young people (0 to 25 years) with SEND largely parallels the ethnicity of the wider population of NN as a whole: 86% of those with a SEND need are of White heritage who also make up exactly 86% of the population of NN aged 24 years or less

### *The school age population*

Young people with a SEND need made up 15% of the total school population in 2022-23. This is a lower rate than for the East Midlands (16%) and England as a whole (17%).

Four in five young people in schools with a SEND need present with one of SLCN (22%), SEMH (21%), SLD (15%), MLD (14) and autism (10%). These rates closely parallel rates for the East Midlands and England as a whole.

SEND need differs considerably by gender with boys making up the majority across all SEND needs other than hearing impairment. The gender distinction is greatest with regard to autism where boys make up 76% of this cohort.

### *Outcomes*

Data for Key Stage 2 indicates that nearly two thirds (65%) of pupils with no identified SEND need achieve the expected level compared to 18% of those with SEND support and 6% of those with an EHC Plan. Rates for those with SEND support and with an EHC Plan closely mirror the picture in the East Midlands and England.

Attainment 8 data indicates an average score of 34.5 for those with SEND support (compared to 33.6 for the East Midlands and 34.9 for England) whilst the score for those with an EHC Plan is 8.5 (compared to 13 for the East Midlands and 14.3 for England). For those with no identified need the score was 49.6 (compared to 51.1 for East Midlands and 52.6 for England).

Progress 8 data also indicates a differential between pupils in NN with no identified need and their peers with a SEND need. The average progress score among pupils with no identified need was 0.13 whilst those with SEND support dropped by -0.3 and those with an EHC plan by -1.55. The drop in score for those with an EHC Plan is more pronounced in NN compared to the East Midlands and England.

### *Requests for statutory EHC Plan assessment*

Between August 2022 and July 2023 there were 983 requests for a statutory EHC Plan assessment, an average of 82 per month.

### *Health services*

Data for health services indicate high volumes of referrals into services. In 2022/23 there were 2,230 referrals to CAMHS, 1,387 referrals to Children's ADHD and ASD, 302 into Occupational Therapy, 490 into Children's Physiotherapy and 974 into Speech and Language.

Health caseloads indicate large numbers of children being supported. In 2022/23 CAMHS had a caseload of 1,016, Occupational Therapy 416, Physiotherapy 436 and Speech and Language 2,447.

### *Recommendations*

- 1 The SEND Accountability Board should inform each of the SAB workstreams about the SEND population projections as set out in this report so that this information can be used to inform medium to long-term planning in each group. The Accountability Board should utilize SEN2 data to develop a more sophisticated picture to inform and underpin service and sufficiency planning.
- 2 NN partners should review processes in relation to and the capacity of staff involved in EHC needs assessments and planning in order to prepare capacity for future demand.
- 3 NN partners should review the capacity of social care staff who contribute to EHC needs assessment and planning to ensure that they can continue to contribute effectively to needs assessment and plans.
- 4 The work of the SEND Early Help team should be reviewed annually to determine whether it is successfully providing preventative and earlier intervention. If the team is proving to be successful, some consideration should be given to adding capacity to the team in order that it can continue to address rising levels of demand.
- 5 The recent review of sufficiency should be revised in light of the forecast data in this report.
- 6 The SEND Accountability Board should review data regarding the ethnicity of children and young people in all elements of SEND assessment and provision (SEND support, EHC needs assessment and planning, accessing specialist provision) on an ongoing basis to determine whether access is equitable across all groups. In the first instance differential rates in relation to SEND support should be examined in order to address apparent rates of under-representation.

- 7 The SEND Accountability Board should consider preparing and disseminating information regarding SEND need among girls and young women to all partners regarding how SEND may present (and may present differently to boys) in order to ensure that girls are being identified and referred on as needed.
- 8 The SEND Data Dashboard group should explore the feasibility of capturing a wider set of outcome measures (in addition to the Therapy Outcome Measures that are already captured) in order to create a more holistic picture of impact.
- 9 The SEND Accountability Board should engage with partners in education to better understand the apparent under-performance of young people with an EHC Plan at Progress 8 and Attainment 8. Where possible the Progress 8 and Attainment 8 data should be analyzed in further detail to identify if there are cohorts of children who are performing significantly worse than their peers with an EHC Plan in order to target responses more effectively.

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# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Health Needs Assessment

March 2024

# About the needs assessment

CPI were commissioned to carry out a quantitative data needs assessment with regard to children and young people (CYP) in North Northamptonshire with a special educational need and disability (SEND).

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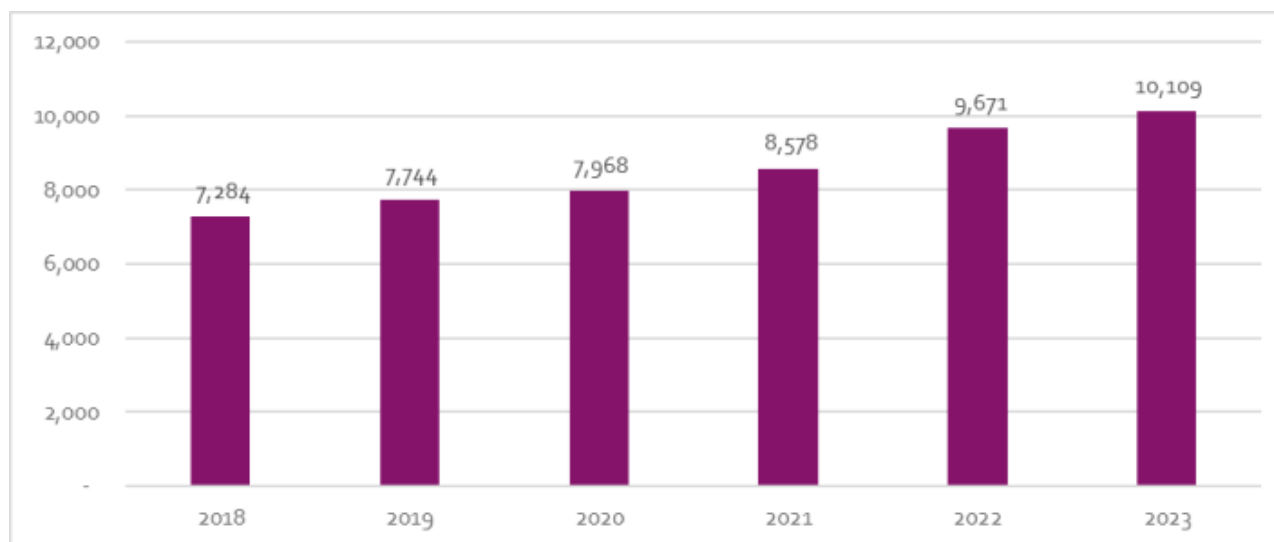
The needs assessment used data from:

- SEN2,
- School census,
- DfE Local Authority Interactive Tool,
- NN Data Dashboard,
- NHS services.



# Current levels of overall SEND need

Overall estimates of need were arrived at using data from both the School Census and the Local Authorities annual return (SEN2) to give a composite “global” picture.

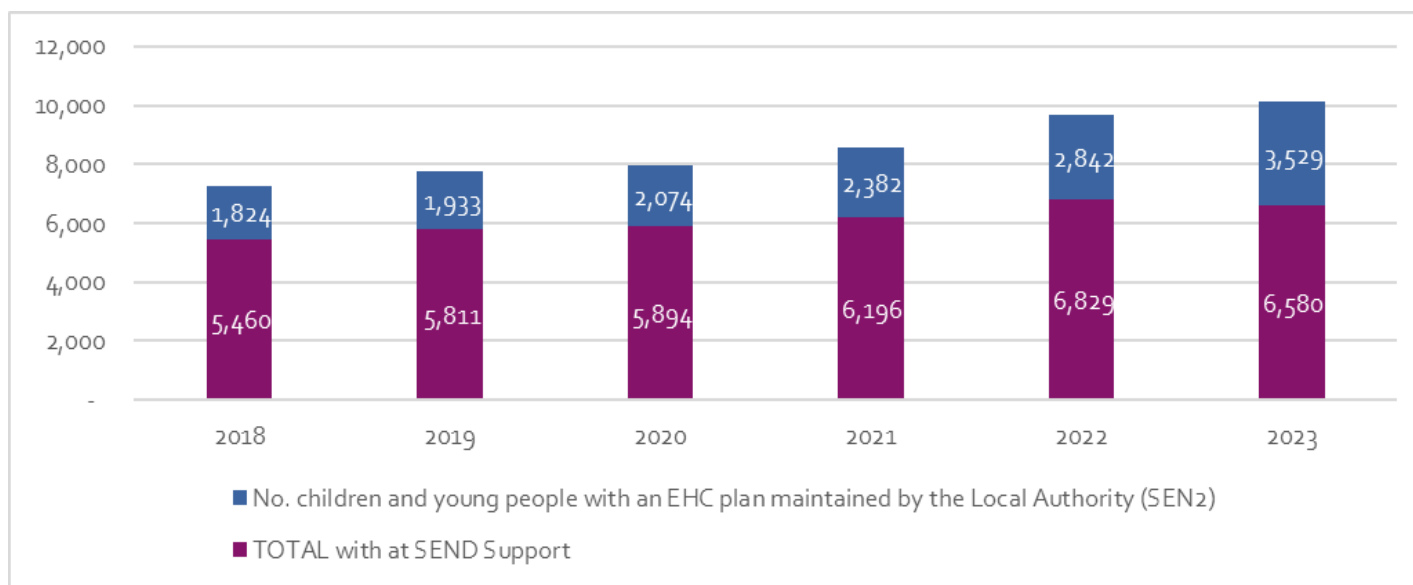


Since 2018, an additional 2,825 CYP have been identified as having some form of SEND need, representing a 38.7% increase between 2018 and 2023.

# Current levels of overall SEND need

The picture of overall need is broken down by type of need.

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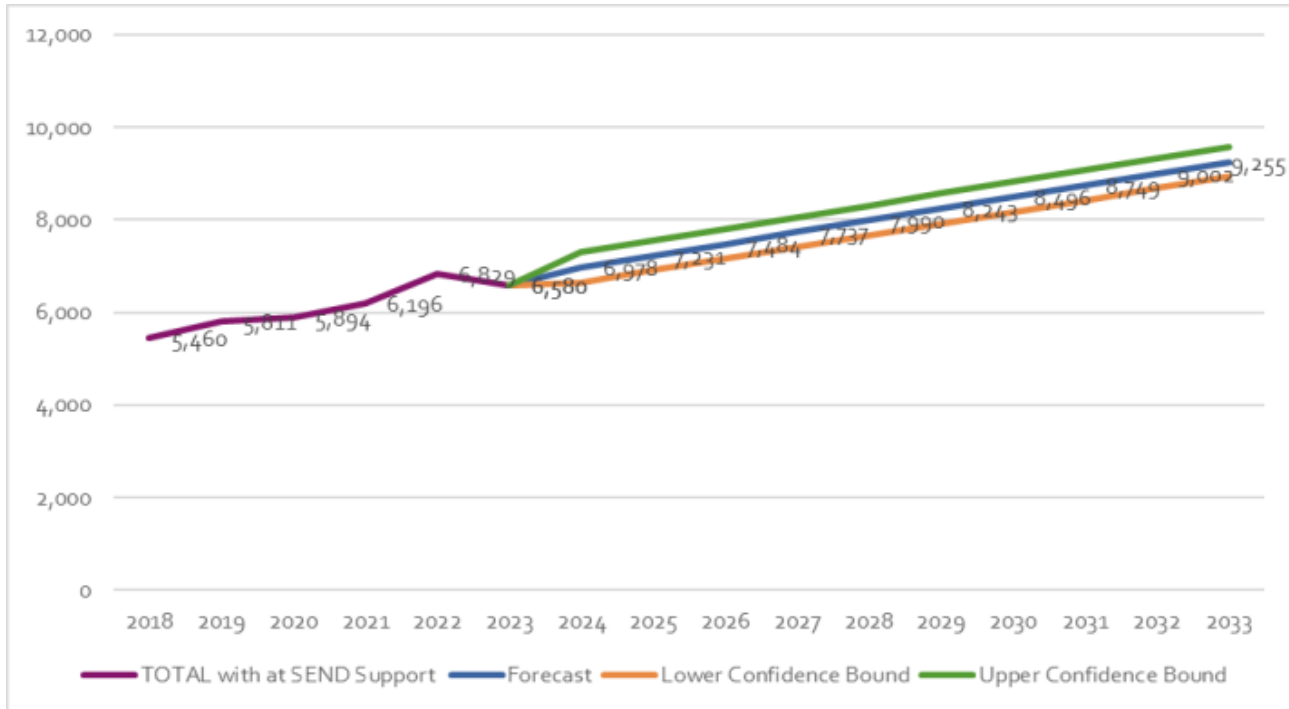


The proportion of young people with an EHC Plan is growing both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of total need. In 2018 CYP with an EHC Plan made up a quarter (25%) of total need rising to 29% in 2023.

# Profile of total SEND population

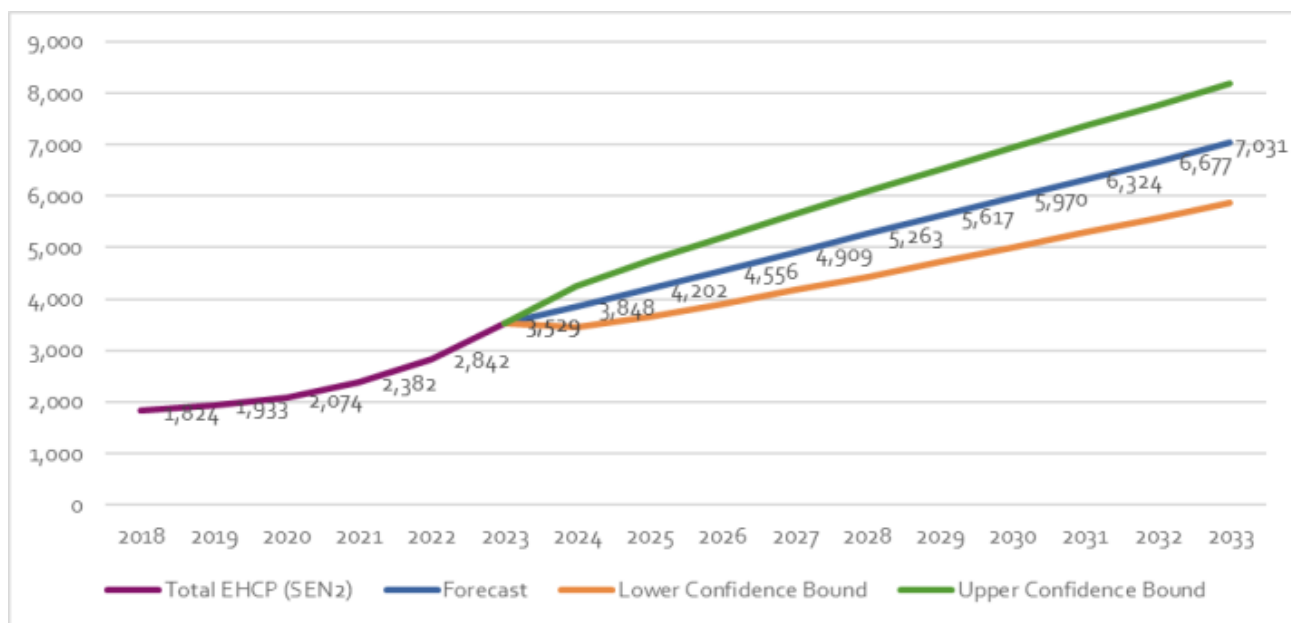
- Over half (53%) of the total SEND need population is made up of children aged 0 to 10 years of age.
- Boys make up the majority of the total population with SEND need - making up nearly two thirds (62%) of those with SEND Support and nearly three quarters (73%) of those with an EHC Plan.

# Forecasting need - SEND Support



The number of CYP requiring SEND support is estimated to be 7,990 in 2028 and 9,255 in 2033.

# Forecasting need - EHC Plan

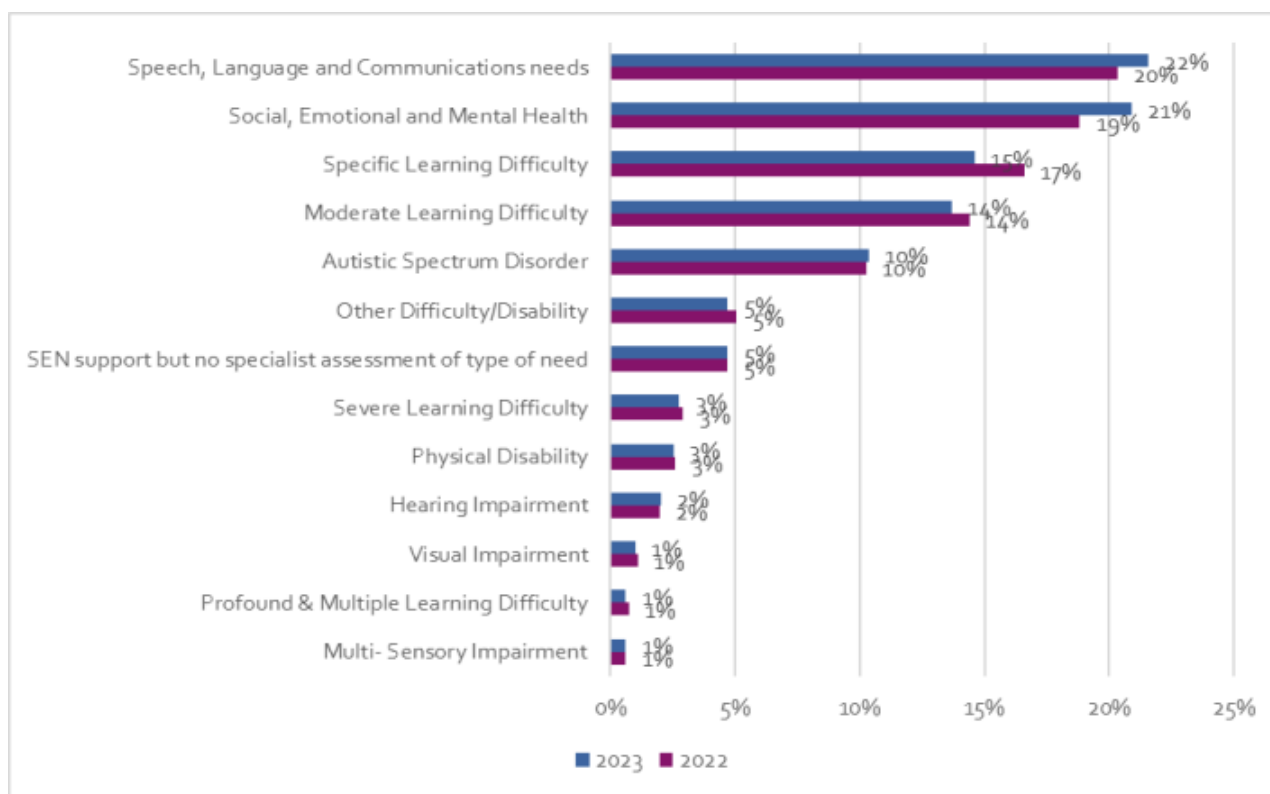


The number of CYP requiring an EHC Plan is estimated to be 5,263 in 2028 and 7,031 in 2033.

# SEND profile of the school population

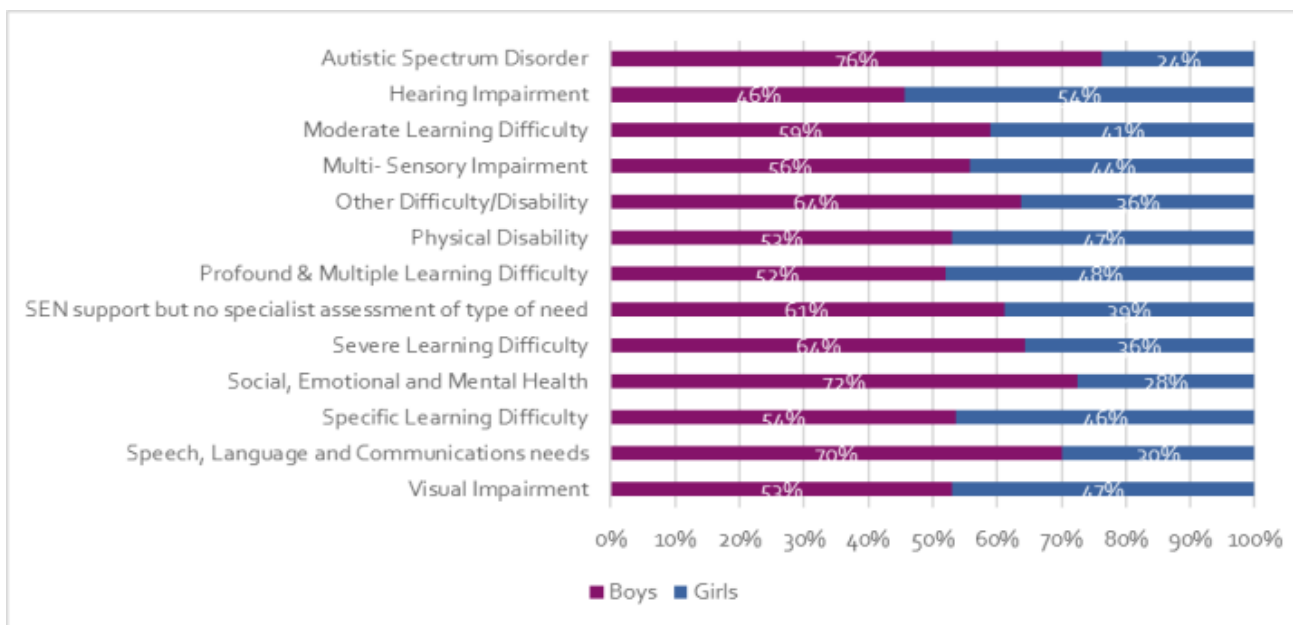
In 2023 over 80% (four in five) cases in North Northamptonshire were made up of five needs: SLCN, SEMH, SLD, MLD and autism.

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# SEND by gender

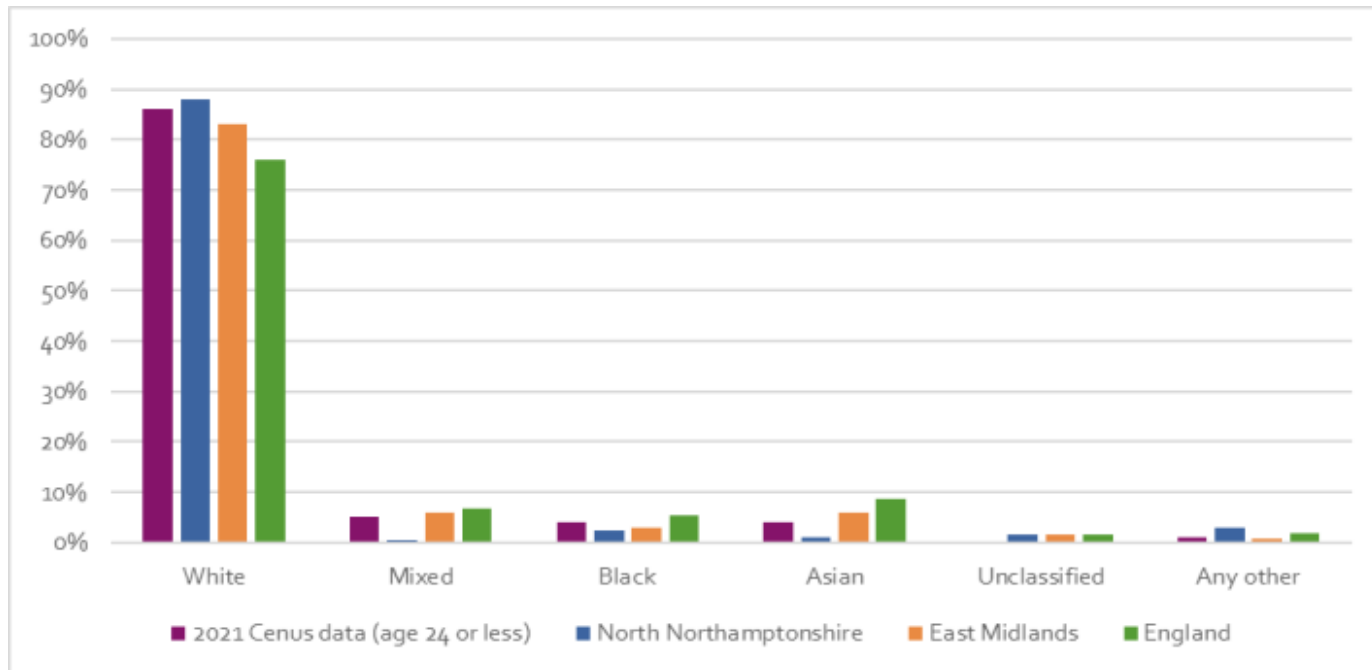
There are large differences in need by gender: boys make up three quarters of those with autism, and the majority of those with SEMH and SLCN.



# SEND by ethnicity

Data indicates that the SEND population is broadly similar to the population as a whole. The data indicates however that young people of Asian heritage are under-represented among young people receiving SEND Support (1% of the SEN support cohort versus 3.5% of the under 24 population).

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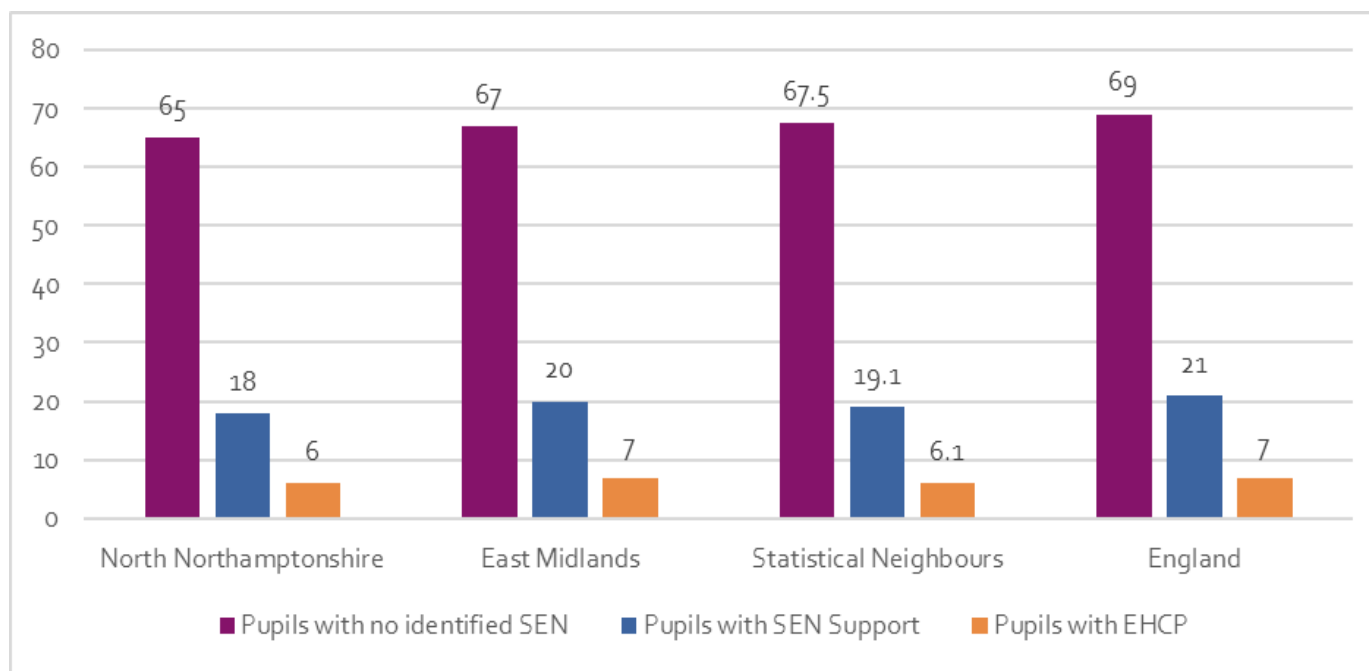




# Outcomes - Key Stage 2

Two thirds of pupils (65%) in North Northamptonshire with no identified SEN achieved the expected level in 2022. This compares with just under two in 10 (18%) for those with SEND support and 6% of those with an EHC Plan.

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# Outcomes - Attainment 8

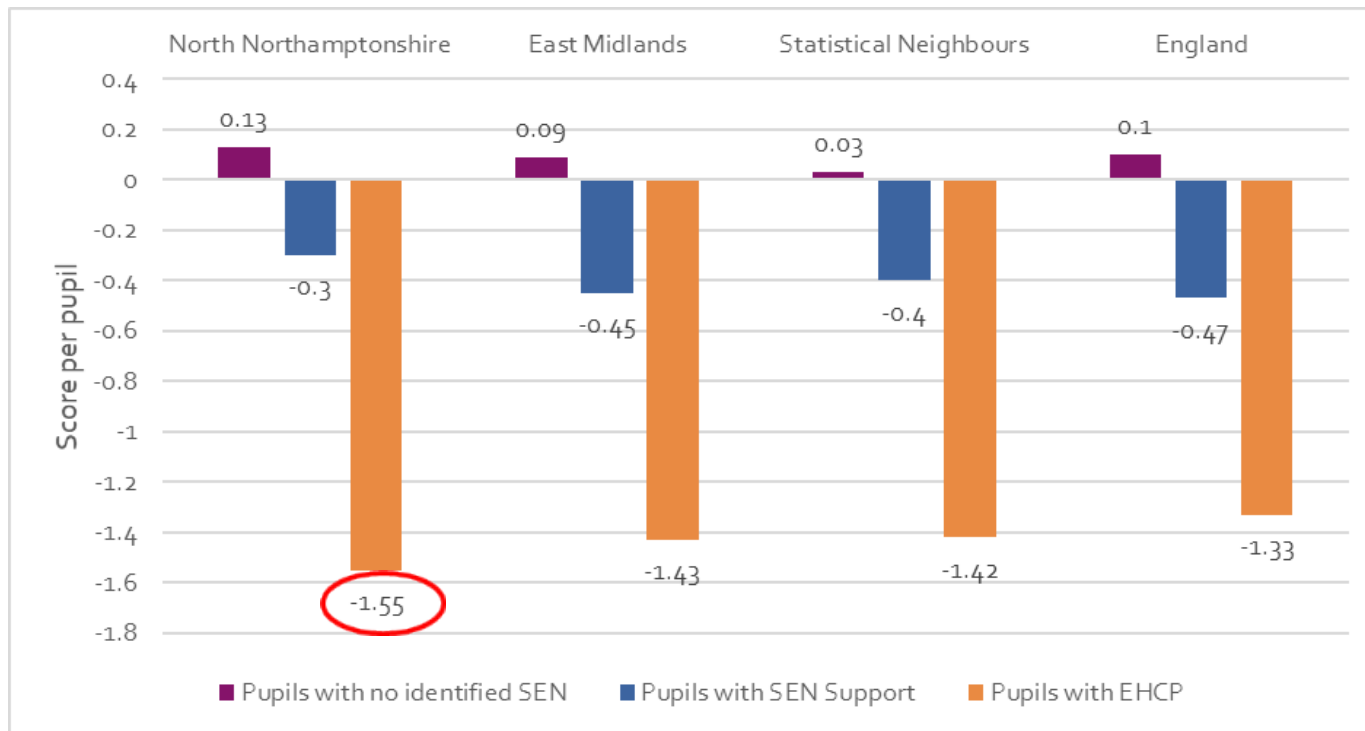
For pupils with no identified SEND need in North Northamptonshire the average score was 49.60. The average score for those receiving SEN support drops to 34.50 and for those with an EHC Plan, the average score is 8.50.

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Attainment 8 score per pupil	NN	East Midlands	Statistical Neighbours	England
Pupils with no identified SEND	49.60	51.10	51.54	52.60
Pupils with SEND support	34.50	33.60	35.02	34.90
For Pupils with an EHC plan	8.50	13.00	13.26	14.30

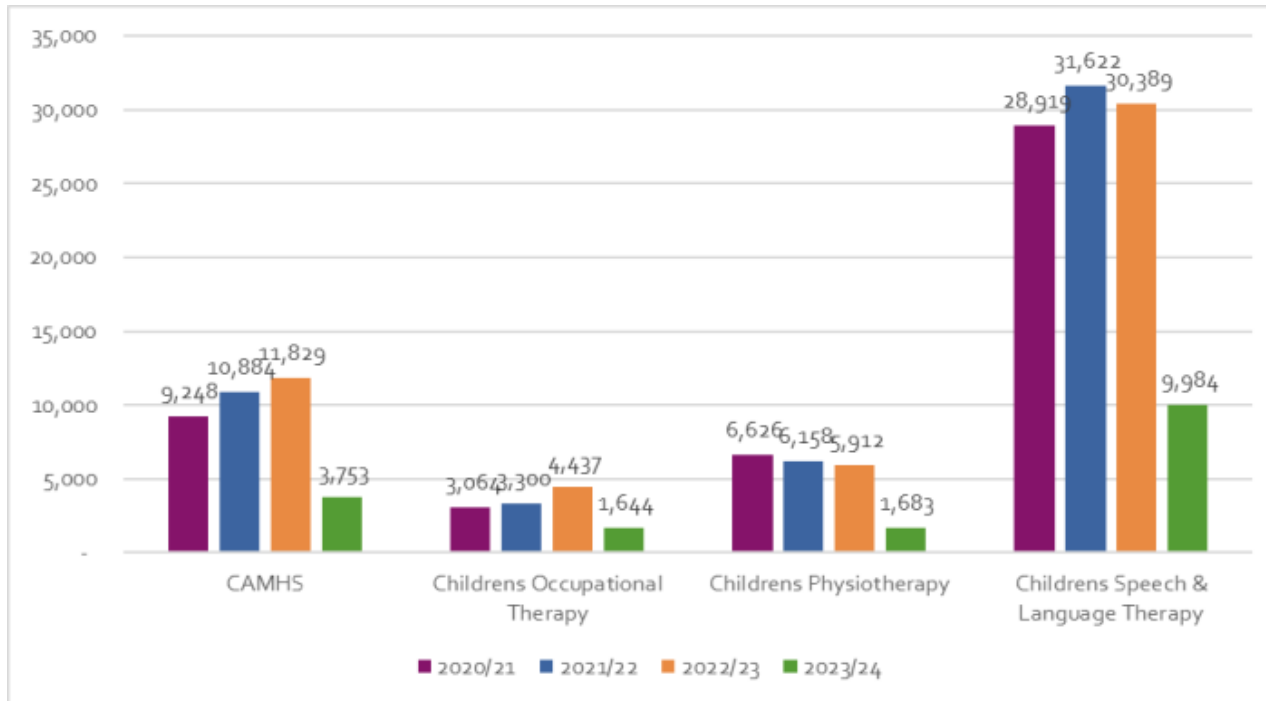
# Outcomes - Progress 8

In 2022, the average score for those with an EHC Plan was -1.55, this compares with -0.3 for those with SEND support and 0.13 for those with no identified SEND.



# Health data - caseloads

The service with the highest caseload is speech and language therapy. In 2022-23 the service had a caseload of 30,389, this compares with 31,622 in the previous year.



# Recommendations

1. The SEND Accountability Board should inform each of the SAB workstreams about the SEND population projections as set out in this report so that this information can be used to inform medium to long-term planning in each group.
2. NN partners should review processes in relation to and the capacity of staff involved in EHC needs assessments and planning in order to prepare capacity for future demand.
3. NN partners should review the capacity of social care staff who contribute to EHC needs assessment and planning.
4. The work of the SEND Early Help team should be reviewed annually to determine whether it is successfully providing preventative and earlier intervention.

# Recommendations

5. The recent review of sufficiency should be revised in light of the forecast data in this report.
6. The SEND Accountability Board should review data regarding the ethnicity of children and young people in all elements of SEND assessment and provision (SEND support, EHC needs assessment and planning, accessing specialist provision) on an ongoing basis to determine whether access is equitable across all groups.
7. The SEND Accountability Board should consider preparing and disseminating information regarding SEND need among girls and young women to all partners regarding how SEND may present.
8. The SEND Data Dashboard group should explore the feasibility of capturing a wider set of outcome measures.
9. The SEND Accountability Board should engage with partners in education to better understand the apparent under-performance of young people with an EHC Plan at Progress 8 and Attainment 8.

# Next Steps

- Work with the data and intelligence sub-group of the SEND Board to bring together the existing engagement work which captures the voice of children, young people and families to complement the data in the needs assessment.
- Consider how the needs assessment informs strategic priorities, alongside recommendations from the recent Ofsted inspection, and develop an action plan in response to the recommendations.
- Work with Comms colleagues regarding dissemination of the needs assessment.

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# Questions?

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# **EAP Update on Early Years**

## **February 2023**

**Judy Matthews – Strategic Lead Family Hubs & Early Years**

# Early Years Update

# Spring 2023 – Government announces transformation reforms

- In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy and women.
- By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending in excess of £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs.
- By September 2025, working parents will be able to claim 30 hours of free childcare a week, over 38 weeks of the year, all the way through from nine months up to their child starting school
- The DfE set out phased time lines to enable Local Authorities time to implement the changes

# Timescale of changes

## 1. **Changes to Early Year Funding:**

30 hours childcare for every child **over the age of 9 months with working parents/carers by September 2024**, where eligibility will match the existing 3 and 4 year old 30 hours offer

## 2. **Changes to 'Wrap around Care':** Local authorities and schools will be given more funding to set up what's known as 'wraparound care' this funding is to support all primary schools in offering wrap around care – funding available to NNC from 2023- 2026 £1,821,402.34 to support implementation and delivery

## 3. **Changes to Early Years Staff Ratios:** From September 2023, one member of staff allowed to allowed to look after five 2 year olds, up from four 2 year olds which is the current rule.

## 4. **Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS):** The DfE proposed changes to the EYFS framework to make it more practical for different types of EYFS providers. consultation to collect views of Local Authorities and Providers was conducted over the summer and a revised EYFS framework was issued to Childminders in December 2023

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
<b>ALL PARENTS</b>				<b>FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT</b>				<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>	
<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	SEP 2024	SEP 2025
<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>				<b>WORKING FAMILIES</b>					
<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>15 HOURS</b>	<b>30 HOURS</b>			
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025			

\*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply. Providers may ask for additional charges.

**What does this mean?**

# 30 hours free funding for every child over the age of 9 months

Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds already get 30 hours a week of free childcare. The increased offer will be rolled out in stages to allow childcare providers time to be able to implement the changes ensuring that places that are needed are available across each Local Authority (LA) when the offers are introduced.

- I. From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access up to 15 hours of free childcare
  - II. From September 2024, up to 15 hours of free childcare will be extended to offer children from the age of 9 months for eligible working parents
  - III. From September 2025, working parents of children aged nine months and upwards will be entitled to up to 30 hours free childcare per week right up to their child starting school.
- As per the existing offer, depending on provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the (during term time) or up to 52 weeks if fewer hours are used per week

# Introduction of enhanced Wrap around care

- The expectation is by September 2026, most primary schools will be able to provide their own before and after school care. Wrap around care is outside of normal school hours, so that parents/carers of school age children can access childcare in their local area from 8am 6pm. This could include breakfast clubs and after school clubs.
- Schools and local authorities will receive £289m in funding for a 'pathfinder' to increase the supply of wrap around care so that parents/carers of primary school age children can drop their children off between 8am and 6pm tackling the barriers to working caused by limited availability of wrap around care
- The amount of funding allocated to NNC for 2023-2026 £1,821,402.34



# Changes to ratios of staff

- From September 2023, one member of staff will be allowed to look after five 2 year olds, up from four 2 year olds which is the current rule. DfE are increasing the number of children a member of staff can look after to assist with the need for new childcare places when the funding offer is enhanced to include children from 9 months old.
- This will bring England in line with Scotland and other comparable countries. These changes to ratios are optional and intended to give providers more flexibility in how they run their businesses as well as increase capacity in a setting

# Risks and issues

## Issues and risks

1. May require additional providers to deliver the wider offer, whilst we have no sufficiency issues at present may present in future
2. Facilitating delivery of provision for 9 months onwards, existing providers may not have capacity, no capital funding is available and most of our providers rent premises
3. Expansion of 2 year old offer is not equitable it still leaves some of our children without access to the offer
4. Wrap around care, early indications not all schools will want to provide the offer

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# Speech and Language Therapy Service

NNC EAP - Briefing Note 05.03.2024



# Speech and Language Therapy Service Context

**CYP Speech and Language Therapy Service** - provides support for CYP who have speech, language, and communication difficulties. This includes difficulties with:

- Understanding language
- Using language
- Communication and interaction
- Dysfluency (stammering)
- Speech sounds
- Social skills

• Eating and drinking difficulties (dysphagia) – a key contributor for premature deaths for Learning Disabilities

Some children supported may have identified needs such as cleft palate, hearing impairment and special educational needs and disability (SEND).

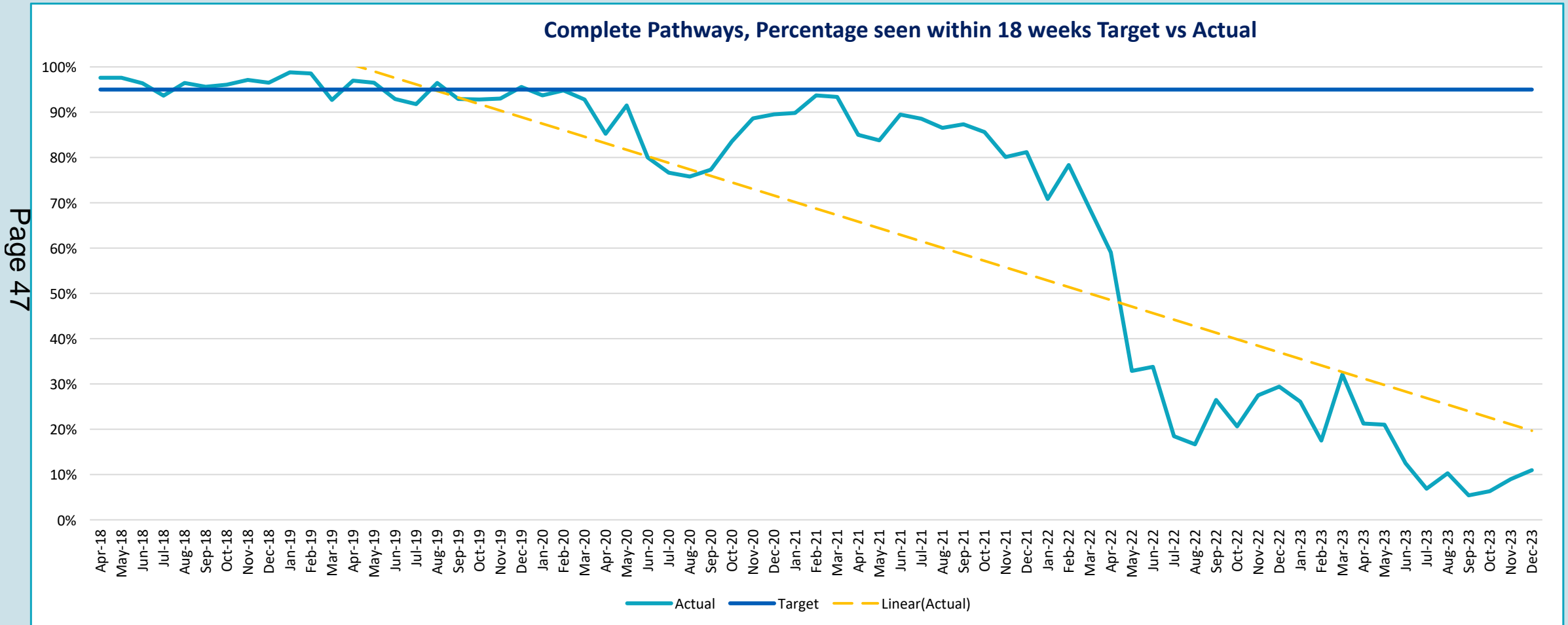
**The service offering** - comprises assessment, management planning, training for parents and education staff, direct therapy provision where required and outcomes evaluation.

**Commissioning Arrangements** - the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service is at present commissioned by the ICB on a countywide basis from Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT). The service provides support for children and young people from the age of 0-19 years. The service continues to deliver excellent outcomes for children in Northants but struggles to achieve the wait times it would like. This reflects the national position for CYP SALT. An Improvement Plan with mitigating actions is in place and being implemented.

# SALT Service Performance

- Trend in weeks for average Referral to Treatment time is gradually increasing

Complete Pathways, Percentage seen within 18 weeks Target vs Actual

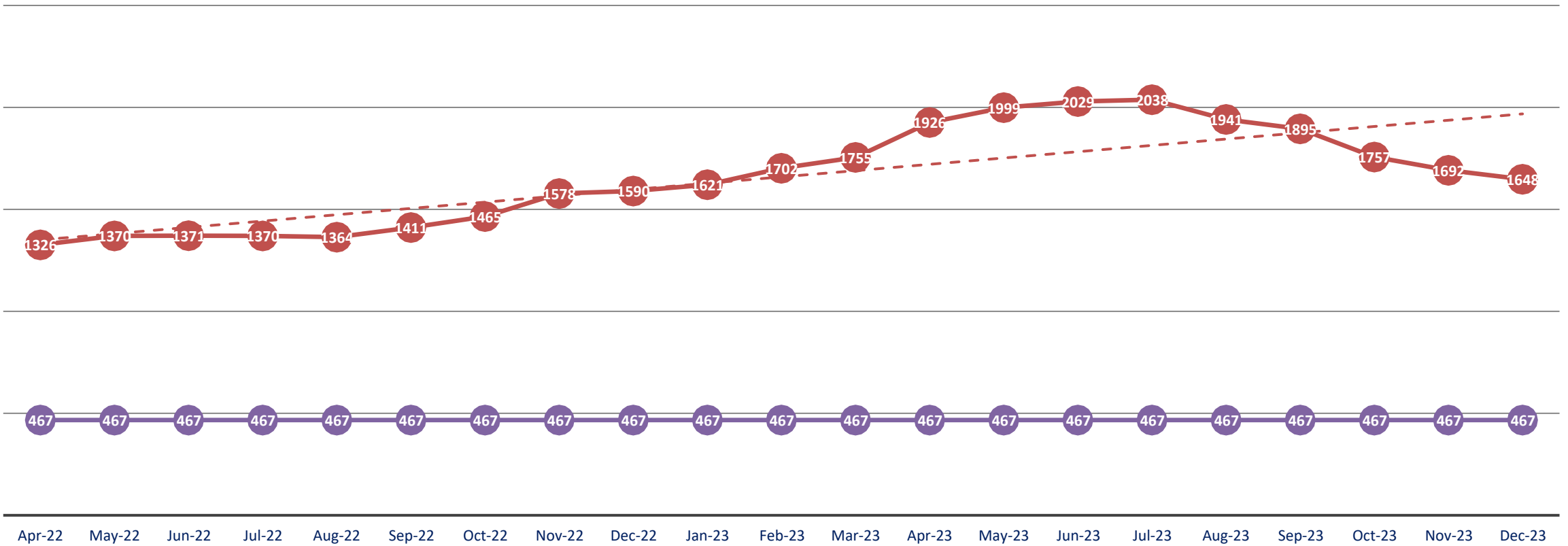


# SALT Service Performance

- The trend for number of cases open is gradually decreasing

Patients waiting to be seen at end of month

Page 48



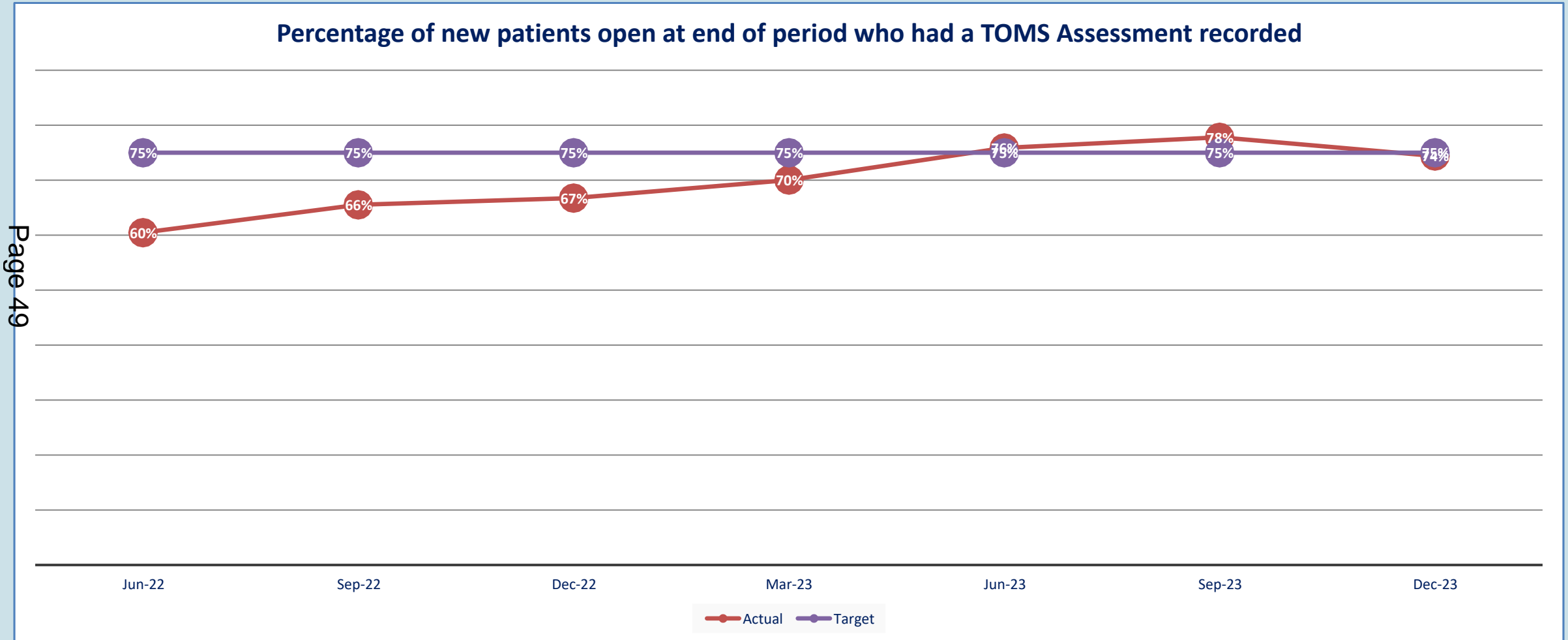
—●— Patients waiting to be seen at end of month    —●— Pre-Covid Baseline (Patients waiting)    - - - Linear(Patients waiting to be seen at end of month )



# SALT Service Performance

- Therapy Outcome Measure data

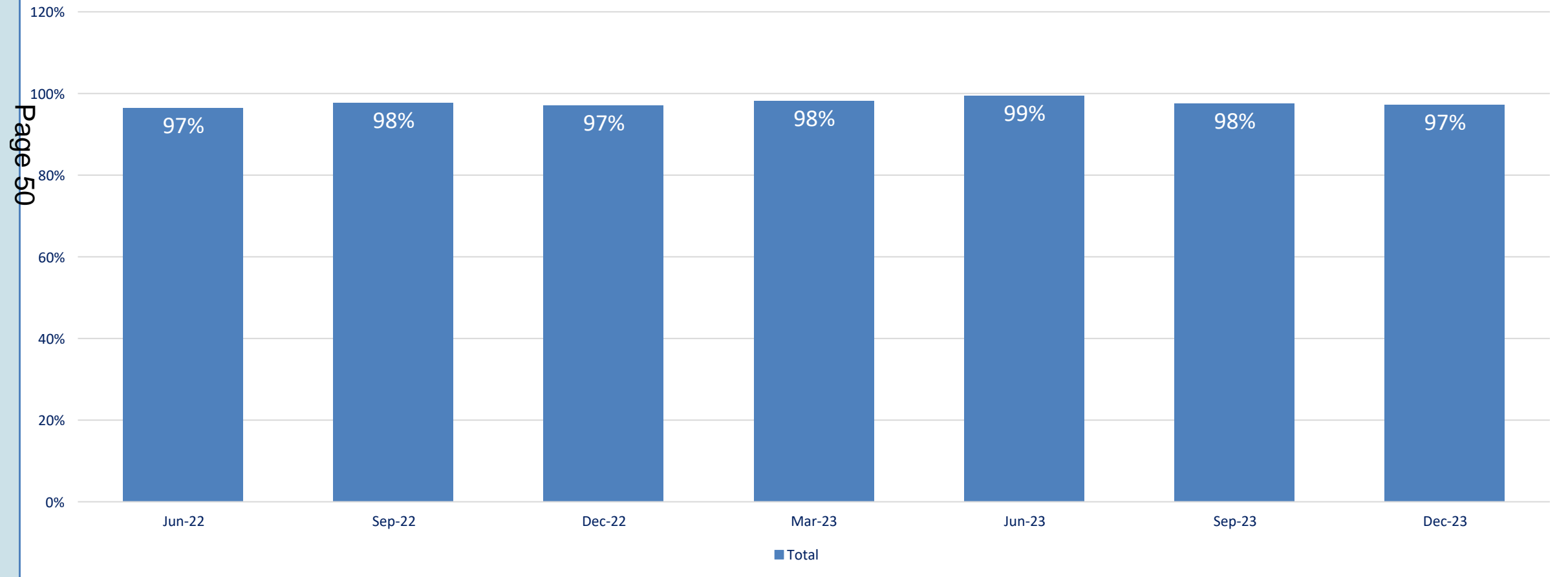
Percentage of new patients open at end of period who had a TOMS Assessment recorded



# SALT Service Performance

- Therapy Outcome Measure data

Percentage of patients who showed a maintained or improved level of outcome on completion of care (TOMS)



# Speech and Language Therapy Service - Mitigations



Key challenge	Causes	Mitigations
<p>The SALT service is experiencing challenges in meeting the 18-week RTT core internal performance requirement leading to delays CYP getting the right support</p> <p>Page 51</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant workforce capacity challenges</li> <li>• Current staffing resource per 1000 CYP lowest in region</li> <li>• Lack of Joint Commissioning for SALT</li> <li>• Increased caseload size and increased number of EHCP assessment requests</li> <li>• Limited early intervention and targeted support in SLCN system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement Action Plan in place</li> <li>• Improvements to NHFT internal processes have helped reduce the numbers waiting in recent months from 1,923 to 1,692 at the end of November 2023 (a 12% reduction on the April position). Source: Information Schedule.</li> <li>• Joint commissioning for SALT provision in EHCP part F - agreed with ICB, NNC and WNC to commence April 2024</li> <li>• The Better Communication CIC has been jointly commissioned to undertake a SLCN gap analysis using the Balanced System approach to understand population needs and make transformation recommendations. The final report has recently been released end of Feb 2024.</li> </ul>

# SALT Improvement Plan: Key Areas

Area for Development	Progress	Output
<p>Joint Commissioning of SALT provision for EHCP Part F</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 52</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper outlining intention of ICB to cease Part F provision from April 24 signed off by CYP Transformation Partnership Board.</li> <li>• Proposal developed and agreed with WNC and NNC to jointly commission NHFT to deliver SALT provision in EHCP Part F from April 24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALT provision outlined in EHCP Part F is jointly commissioned by ICB, WNC and NNC from April 2024.</li> </ul>
<p>CYP on SALT waiting lists are being supported and have access to resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NNC and NHFT are working on a costed proposal from SALT for a Safer Waiting programme</li> <li>• Planning to identify actions and outcomes of the Safer Waiting pilot - particular focus on parental confidence and experience in parents/carers</li> <li>• Recruitment of peer support worker with lived experience to support parents/carers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALT integration with the family hubs to better support children, young people and their families waiting.</li> </ul>

# SALT Improvement Plan: Key Areas

Area for Development	Progress	Output
<p>Regional business intelligence - NHSE Midlands Commissioned Programme with Balanced System - 'Achieving Impactful Change for CYP with SLCN' needs analysis provide recommendations for improvement and transformation; share best practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balanced System data /information collection and three workshops with ICBs, Health Providers and LA colleagues to understand SLCN population needs and gaps in provision.</li> <li>Shared learning with other ICBs from workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional SLCN comparative statistics shared. Key finding for Northamptonshire is that current SALT staffing resource per 1000 CYP lowest in region and also there is a very low level of jointly commissioned SALT provision.</li> <li>Further regional workshops planned.</li> </ul>
<p>System business intelligence - Northants ICS (WNC, NNC, and ICB) commissioned programme to use the Balanced System® method to analyse SLCN needs countywide and provide recommendations for improvement and transformation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed needs analysis in the Northamptonshire footprint using the methodology including quantitative analysis and qualitative mapping of current provision and gaps.</li> <li>Engagement with parents, education settings, and other key partners via online surveys and focus groups.</li> <li>Report with key recommendations delivered February 2024</li> </ul>	<p>Report recommendations for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint commissioning of resource from ICB and the local authorities should be developed</li> <li>The need for a strong universal, targeted and specialist (individualised) offer</li> <li>Early intervention and prevention methodologies should drive joint working across the age ranges</li> <li>A strategic approach to transformation is required with a transformation plan created and co-produced involving all system partners, with agreed priorities for improvement and shared outcomes</li> </ul>

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**Executive Advisory Panel – Future Communities  
Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy  
Briefing Report  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	
<b>Author(s)</b>	Sally Crew and Marsha Brown	
<b>Audience</b>	Executive Advisory Panel – Future Communities	
<b>Purpose</b>	Discussion ✓	Information ✓

## **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Advisory Panel members with an update on the progress of the Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy, report on the findings from the public consultation and to seek approval to submit the Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy to the Executive for adoption.

## **2. Report Background**

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- 2.1. North Northamptonshire Council are required to arrange free, suitable, home to school transport for children of compulsory school age, who are eligible, to their nearest suitable qualifying school in line with section 508B of the Education Act 1996 and the Government’s statutory guidance ‘Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance 2014’.
- 2.2. The Education and Inspections Act (2006) also places a duty on local authorities to promote the use of active and sustainable travel to education and further support the choices and flexibility of educational provision.
- 2.3. The Act outlined four main elements to promoting sustainable modes of travel, including the assessment and audit of sustainable travel options within the local authority, the development of a strategy for the promotion of sustainable travel to schools and other educational or training facilities. As such, North Northamptonshire Council is required to produce and publish its annually a Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy (SMoTS).

## **3. Consultation**

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- 3.1. The formal consultation ran from 14<sup>th</sup> September to midnight on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 3.2. The consultation was hosted on the Council’s [Consultation & Engagement Hub](#)

3.3. The consultation was supported by a briefing paper containing a clear outline of the proposed strategy.

3.4. Consultees were able to have their say by:

- Visiting the dedicated consultation webpage and completing the questionnaire or requesting a paper questionnaire by emailing: [schoolconsultation.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:schoolconsultation.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk)
- Writing to North Northamptonshire Council, Consultation: Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy Consultation, Bowling Green Road, Kettering NN15 7QX
- Accessing the questionnaire free of charge at any North Northamptonshire Council library. Alternative formats of the questionnaire are offered upon request

3.5. Formal Consultation Response

In total, 24 respondents filled out a questionnaire, either partially or fully:

14 complete responses and 10 incomplete responses. Respondents did not have to answer every question so the total number of responses for each question differs.

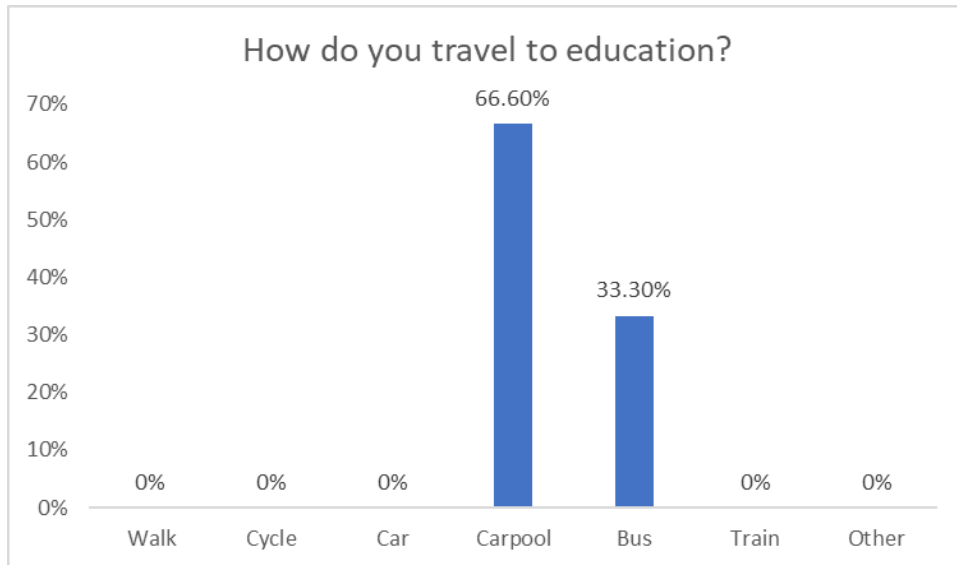
About the respondents:

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the consultation.

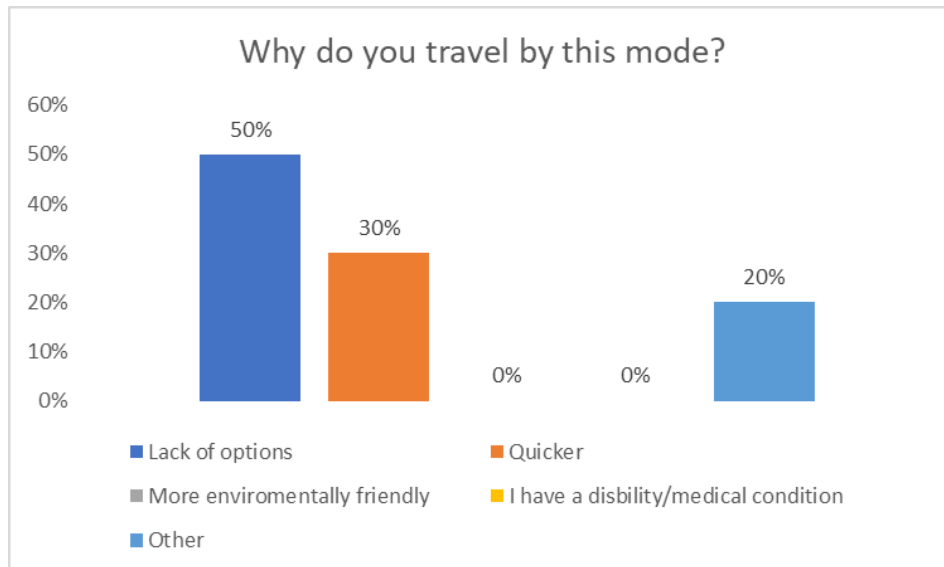
	<b>Response number</b>
A parent/guardian of a secondary school pupil	8
A parent/guardian of a primary school pupil	3
A young person currently of school age	1
A provider of services to schools	0
A voluntary, community or charitable organisation	0
A North Northamptonshire Councillor	0
A Town or Parish Councillor/Council	3
An educational professional	3
Community/residents organisation	0
Other	6
	24



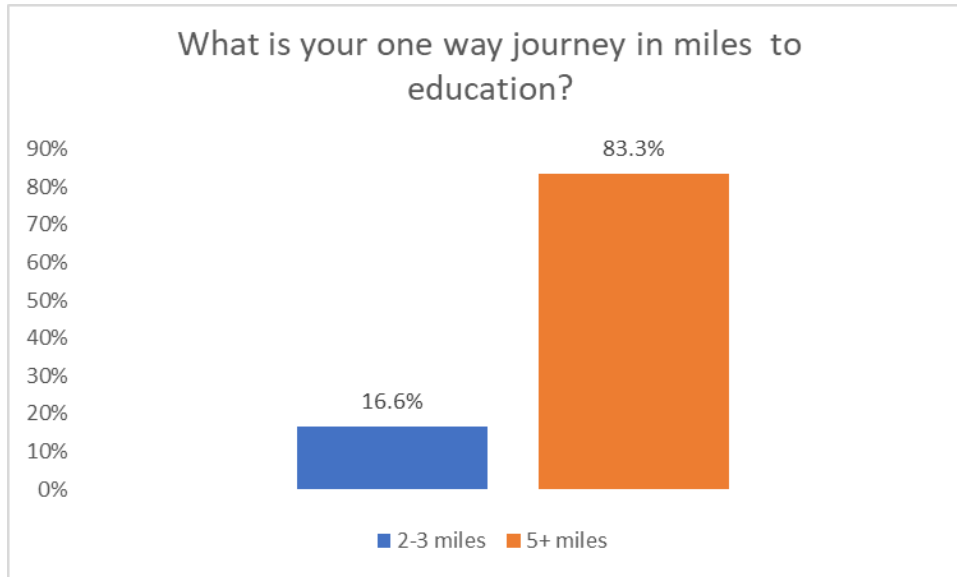
Respondents were invited to share how they currently travel to education; 9 respondents answered this question.



Respondents were asked why they travel by their current mode of transport



Respondents were asked about their one-way travel journey to education;  
6 respondents answered this question



A summary overview of the consultation is provided in the presentation accompanying this briefing report.

#### 4. Equality Implications

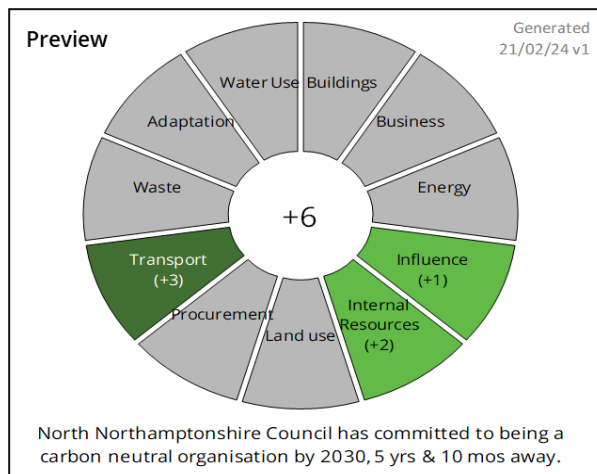
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- 4.1. The Equality Screening Assessment has not identified any adverse impact on individuals with protected characteristics.

#### 5. Climate Impact

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- 5.1. This strategy encourages people to take up of active and sustainable travel to education and introduces measures to support their usage and is a refresh of work undertaken under the Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy 2014.



5.2. Overall the policy has an overall positive impact, the elements which have been scored are as follows:

- Internal Resources (+2): The proposal uses grant funding which has already been obtained.
- Influence (+1): The proposal works with partners and the community to encourage and promote active and sustainable travel to education.
- Transport (+3): The proposal has benefits in terms of promoting and improving facilities for active travel and sustainable transport whilst supporting shared mobility.

## **6.0 Community Impact**

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6.1. The Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy will improve sustainable and active travel, which have benefits for health and well-being as well as supporting low cost and environmentally sensitive modes of transport.

### **Next Steps:**

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Assuming the approval of this strategy by the Executive on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy will be published on the Council's website. The strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the community.

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# Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy

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## Future Communities EAP

Appendix



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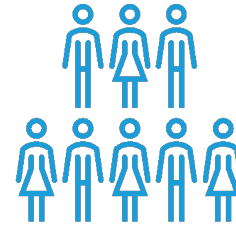
# Background



Meet statutory requirement



Increase active and sustainable travel



Strengthen relationship with school community



Improve health outcomes



# Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy

## Vision

Children and young people improve their health and emotional wellbeing through sustainable travel

0 to 5

5 to 11

11 to 15

16 to 18

Young people

**Target one** - Children and young people aged 5 to 18 should average at least 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous intensity physical activity everyday

**Target two** - Every school should have a school travel plan by 2033

**Target three** - All schools should have AQ below WHO air pollution limits

**Target four** - 55% of primary school-aged children walk to school by 2025



# Action plan

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All	School travel planning	Community active travel events	Cycle security training	Cycle loan and hire scheme	School streets
<b>0 to 5</b>	Car seat fitting	Strong start	Early years road safety information		
<b>5 to 11</b>	Junior Travel Ambassador	Cycle training	Cycle proficiency holiday camps	Park and Stride	Road safety heroes
<b>11 to 15</b>	First gear	Cycle maintenance training	Independent Living and Transport Skills	Teaching transport skills (bus)	Review bus routes and services
<b>16 to 18</b>	My pink trainers	CarKraft	Independent Living and Transport Skills		Review bus routes and services
<b>Young people</b>					





# Monitoring plan

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No. of school travel plans

No. of healthy schools

Air quality near schools

No. of school route audits undertaken

Mode of travel through hands up surveys

Participation in cycle training

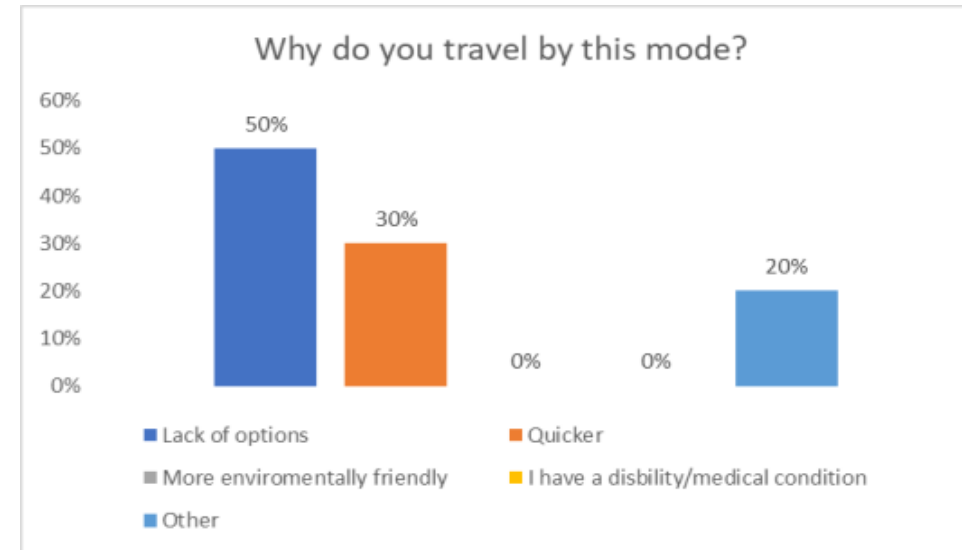
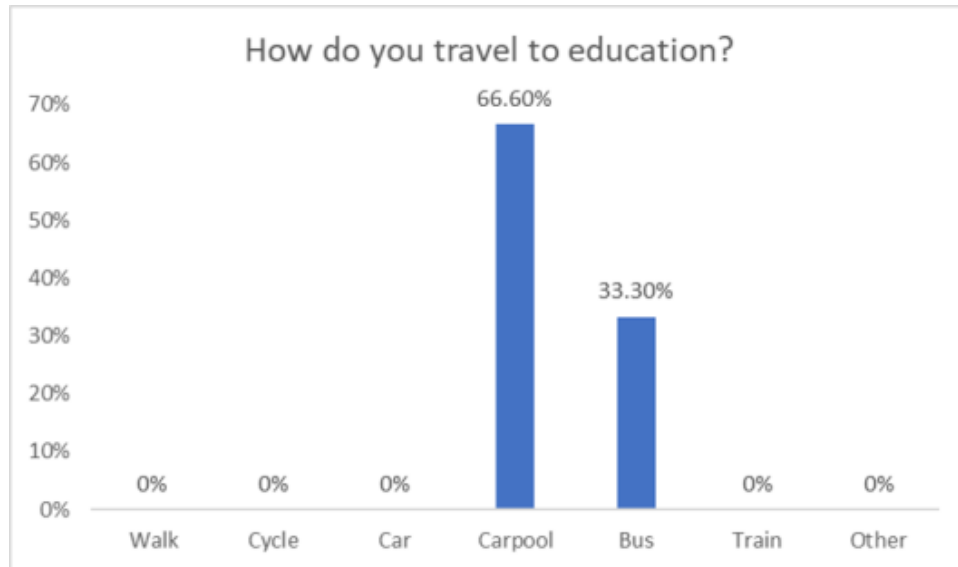
National Child Measurement Programme – Reception and Year 6



# Consultation

- The formal consultation ran from 14<sup>th</sup> September to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 24 responses were received, respondents travelled either by bus or carpool, with half of respondents choosing this mode due to a lack of options.

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# Summary of feedback

Page 67

- Support improved bus services, in terms of frequency and geographic coverage
- Support for EV buses
- Support for car clubs
- Support for cycle training in schools but concerned with cycling environment in/from school

- Raised concerns about distance children travel to school and lack of transport options available
- Concern about how rural areas (and children living within them) lack transport options to get to education
- Challenge of managing school run particularly if families have children in different schools (e.g. primary/secondary schools)



# Next steps



Document to be considered by Executive on 14<sup>th</sup> March for adoption



# Children's Services Commissioning & Partnerships

Future Communities EAP  
5th March 2024





## Commissioning & Partnerships

- Susan Tanner – Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships
- **Business & Performance** (including the Children’s Trust client function)  
Richard Woodward – Interim Head of Business & Performance/ICF Lead Officer
- **Partnerships & Development**  
Rochelle Mathieson – Head of Partnerships & Development
- **Commissioning**  
Laura Priestnall – Commissioning Manager SEND





## Intelligent Client Function

- 4 FTE
- Managing the Children's Trust arrangements on behalf of NNC and WNC.
- Ensuring all parties comply with their obligations and provisions set out in the various contracts and agreements.
- Contract and performance management of NCT.
- Administration and management key governance groups:
  - *Joint Committee – NNC & WNC elected members*
  - *Joint Officer Board – NNC & WNC officers*
  - *Strategic Group – NNC, WNC & NCT officers and elected members*
  - *Operational Group - NNC, WNC & NCT officers*
  - *Support Services Board - NNC, WNC & NCT officers*
- Management and coordination of annual setting of the contract sum
- Managing payments to NCT

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## Business Management

- 3 FTE (3 vacant)
- Business management office
- Health & Safety
- Business Continuity
- Children's services finance management
- Children's Services Departmental Risk Register
- Corporate Risk Register (Children's items)
- Children's services democratic programme

## Performance

- 4 FTE (2 vacant)
- Children's Services departmental performance
- Family Hubs Programme
  - Data returns to DfE
  - Data dashboard/scorecard
- SEND Accountability Board dashboard
- Performance analysis of NCT contract KPI's and other data (on behalf of the ICF).



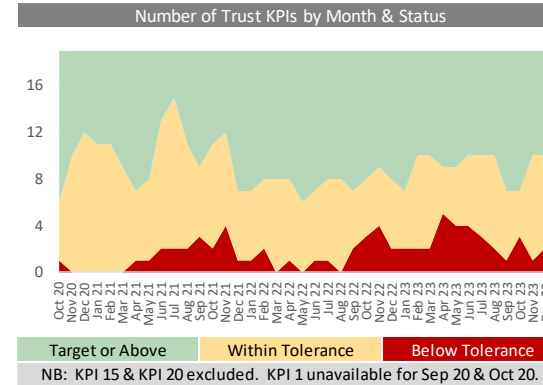
## Contract Management of NCT

- NCT delivers targeted early help and social care on behalf of NNC and WNC.
- 2023/24 Contract Sum – £150.938m (NNC's share £66.652m).
- In the face of significant demand for services and recruitment issues NCT reported a P9 forecast outturn of £29.670m pressure (NNC's share £13.102m)
- The Councils and NCT are jointly delivering the Circle to Success Programme to improve outcomes for children and deliver forecasted savings of £3.8m in 23/24 and circa £8m in 24/25.
- 24/25 Contract sum - £177.429m (NNC's share £78.353m)
- Newly established Transformation & Efficiencies Board with funding of £3.194m (NNC's share £1.410m) to drive further improvement in outcomes and savings.

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## NCT Performance

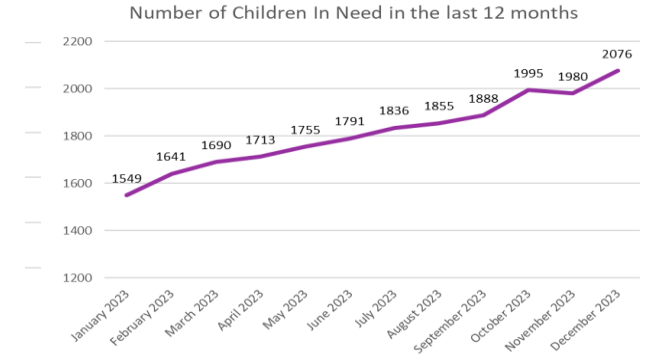
### KPI's



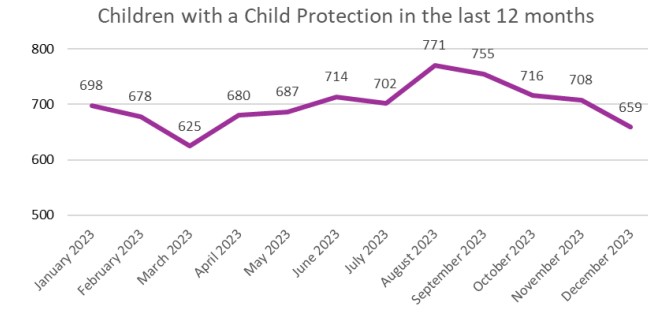
### Inspection

Inspection Activity	Date	Outcomes
NNC and WNC LAS Children's Services (ILAC)	October 2022	Requires Improvement
ILAC Focused Visit	October 2023	N/A
Youth Offending Service	October 2023	Good
NCT Fostering Agency (FA)	January 2024	Inadequate
NCT Adoption Agency	January 2022	Good
Arnold House	October 2023	Good
Phoenix House	February 2023	Good
Thornton House	June 2023	Requires Improvement
Raven House	October 2023	Good
Welford House	July 2023	Good

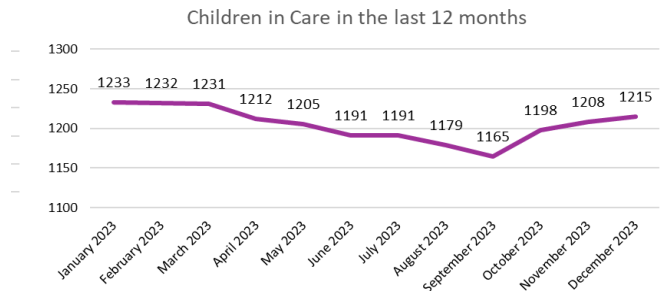
### Children in Need



### Child Protection Plans



### Children in Care







## Family Hubs

- £4m grant funded programme
- 7 FTE (*Fixed term*)
- Commissioned pilots
- Digital Offer (incl. Start for Life, Family Information Service & Local Offer)

## Transformation Team

- 5 FTE (staffing budget only)
- Directorate Improvement Plan
- Service & System transformation (ie: ECMS, disaggregation)

## Engagement & Participation

- 3 FTE (staffing budget only)
- Co-production
- Communication & Engagement Strategy for Children's Services
- Family Information Service (*Statutory duty*)
- Local Offer (*Statutory duty*)

## SEND Information Advice Support Service

- 6 FTE (staffing budget + website)
- Impartial support for families of children with SEND (*Statutory requirements apply*)
- Partnership funded across LA, Social Care and Health

## NSCP Business Office

- 5 FTE (Staffing budget + website)
- Programme management support for the NSCP partnership across Northamptonshire



## Key objectives

- To support schools in developing local provision by strengthening an early help offer of SEND advisory teams around our mainstream schools.
- Develop a SEND Brokerage function, to support more effective commissioning of provision from Independent and non-maintained schools/colleges.
- Working closely with the SEND team to review and develop responsive, flexible, and effective local specialist provision
- Ensuring the special educational needs of our children are responded to quickly and effectively through development of a Brokerage service.
- Supporting schools to improve their offer to our children through robust quality assurance programmes
- Ensuring value for money through contract monitoring, reviewing and evaluation of our commissioned services
- Robust accountability and governance of both spending and quality assurance through comprehensive reporting mechanisms
- Transition for children & young people is improved across all areas of operation.
- Development of an effective SEND Commissioning function, underpinned by access to timely data to support evidence-based decision making and more effective strategic planning.

## Impact

- Increased confidence, expertise, and inclusion within each of the cluster of schools, through a more highly trained workforce, enhanced support and realignment of resources that are equitably distributed, of high quality and value for money.
- A local offer that enables all children and young people to have access to services and support according to individual need and to be educated with pupils of their own age, in their local community school, which is appropriately equipped and fit for purpose.
- A system that has capacity for early intervention as well as providing for those young people with the most complex/significant needs
- Higher achievement, improved life chances and better outcomes among pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities.
- Accurate data and reporting
- Value for money



Service Area	High level Service Challenges	Mitigation
<b>Partnerships &amp; Development</b>     Page 75	Transitioning Family Hubs into BAU.	Whole system approach with consideration in relation to; influencing future commissioning contracts, resource mapping & realignment, joint commissioning / pooling of budgets
	Continuation of Transformation resource beyond 2025.	Development of Directorate Improvement aligning resource requirement
	Sustaining Digital Offering (incl. Family Information Service, Start for Life and Local Offer.	Digital offering consideration across the Council / NN system following test and learn project for 2024/25.
	Meeting the increasing demand on SEND IASS.	Developing new approaches to engagement, working closely with high demand areas (EHCP) to improve collaboration and identify improvements. Securing equitable funding from across the partnership
	Managing the increasing demand on the Business Office (relation to sub-group committee management and implementation of new system and approach ie eCDOP)	New CDOP focused role being hosted by Health colleagues, integration of new eCDOP to streamline processes and manage effectively. Recruitment of additional Project Officer agreed by partnership.
<b>Commissioning</b>	Historic lack of strategic SEND capacity	New SEND Commissioner in post
	Delivering improvement post Ofsted SEND inspection	Development of SEND improvement plan and better partnership engagement.
<b>Business &amp; Performance</b> (including the Children's Trust client function)	Continuing to support NCT on it's improvement journey to Good.	Continued oversight and robust contract management.
	Financial sustainability of NCT and addressing issues to manage demand and other pressures in the Trust.	Continued oversight and robust contract management.
	Delivering the Transformation & Efficiencies agenda and approved business cases.	Tracking delivery of agreed savings and dependencies set out in business cases



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Questions / Contacts

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