

Appendix A

Section of the Children's Services Performance - North Northamptonshire

September 2023

Last updated: 13 October 2023

Report leads: Ian Atkinson & Henrietta Agyemang

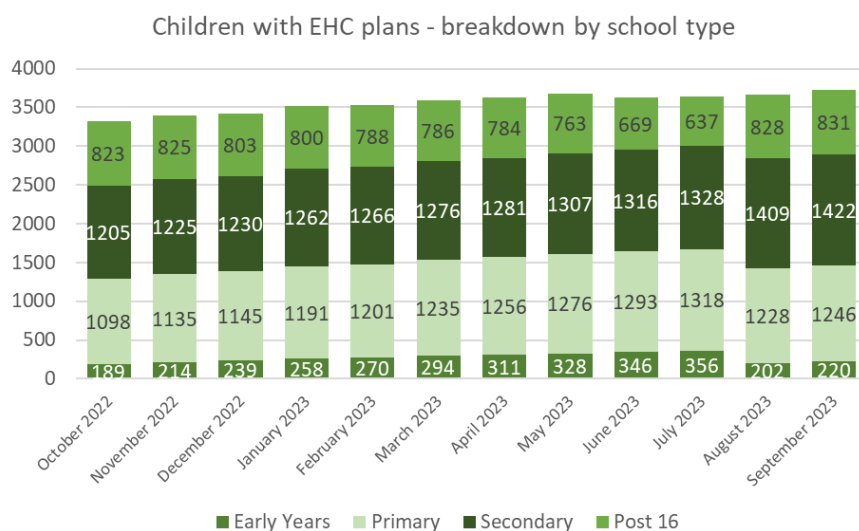
Additional contributors: Freddy Vayalil & Penni Cragg

Practice and delivery narrative: Service Managers

Children and young people with EHC Plans

An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs. An EHC plan can only be issued after a child or young person has gone through the process of an Education, Health and Care needs assessment.

Latest Performance



Performance Team Analysis

Increasing In September 2023, 3,719 children and young people had EHC plans, of which 38.2% *secondary-aged pupils*, 33.5% *primary-aged pupils*, 22.3% *post-16 children* and 5.9% *early years pupils*.

The population of children with EHC plans has increased (+52 children) compared with last month when 3,667 children were recorded. The cohort is gradually increasing again following a period of decrease between May-June 2023. There are 404 more EHC Plans now than there were 12 months ago.

September 2023 By comparison, 3315 children had EHC plans in September 2022

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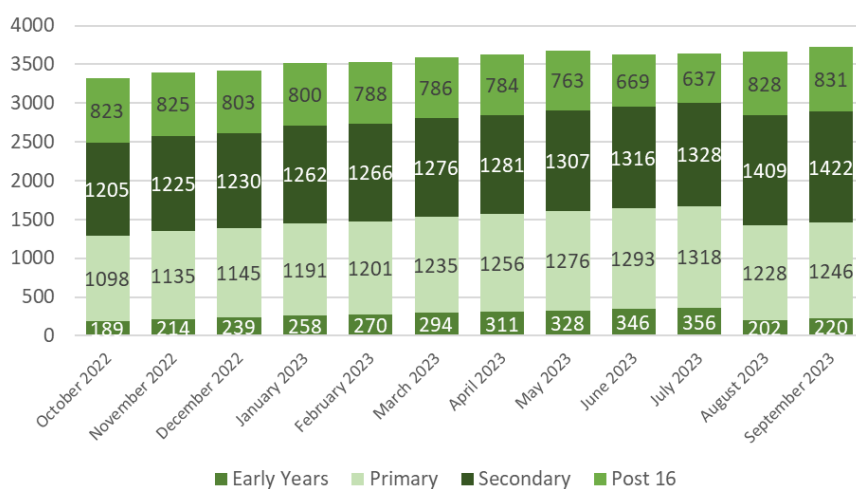
Special Educational Needs

SENx: Number of children and young people with an EHC Plan – breakdown by phase

An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs. This measure provides a breakdown of children with an EHC Plan by school phase.

Latest Performance

Children with EHC plans - breakdown by school type

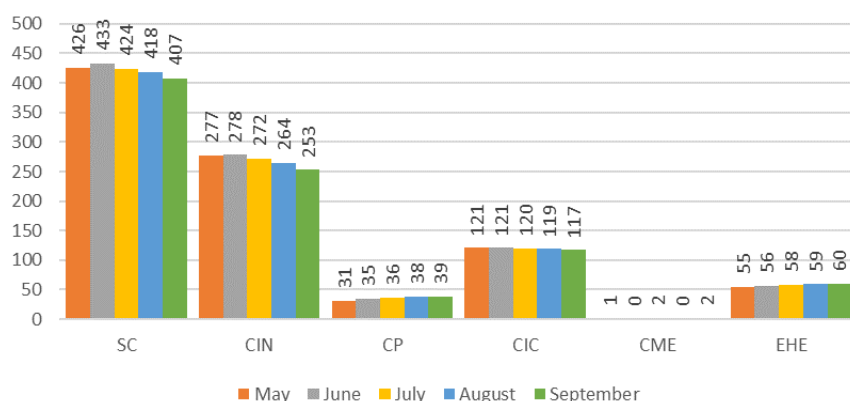


Benchmarking

Benchmarking information available soon.

Contextual Measures

Children with EHC Plans in other cohorts



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Special Educational Needs

SENx: Number of children and young people with an EHC Plan – breakdown by phase	
Service Manager Update	
Sept 2023	<p>The change in the number of plans this month is likely attributed to the time of year and movement into new school settings.</p> <p>For June and July, the team had more new EHC plans to issue than 12 months ago – this is being monitored monthly to see if the team can identify any patterns throughout the year. 30 decisions of no to assess were also made and the team have developed a new DMG process which makes the decision making more robust.</p>
Performance Team Analysis	
Increasing	<p>There were 3,667 children and young people with EHC Plans at the end of August 2023, of which 38.4% secondary-aged pupils, 33.5% primary-aged pupils, 22.6% post-16 children and 5.5% early years pupils.</p> <p>The population of children with EHC plans has increased (+28 children) compared with last month when 3,639 children were recorded. The cohort is gradually increasing again following a period of decrease between May-June 2023. There are 395 more EHC Plans now than there were 12 months ago.</p> <p>The primary school subgroup has increased by 11.9% since September 2022, while the early years and secondary school subgroups have grown by 13.9% and 11.9% respectively. On the other hand, the post-16 school subgroup decreased by 0.5% since September 2022.</p>
August 2023	<p>Out of the 3,667 children with EHC plans in August, 418 children were also identified in the social care caseload, 264 children in the CIN cohort, 38 children in CP cohort, 119 children in the CIC cohort and 59 children were also the EHE cohort.</p>

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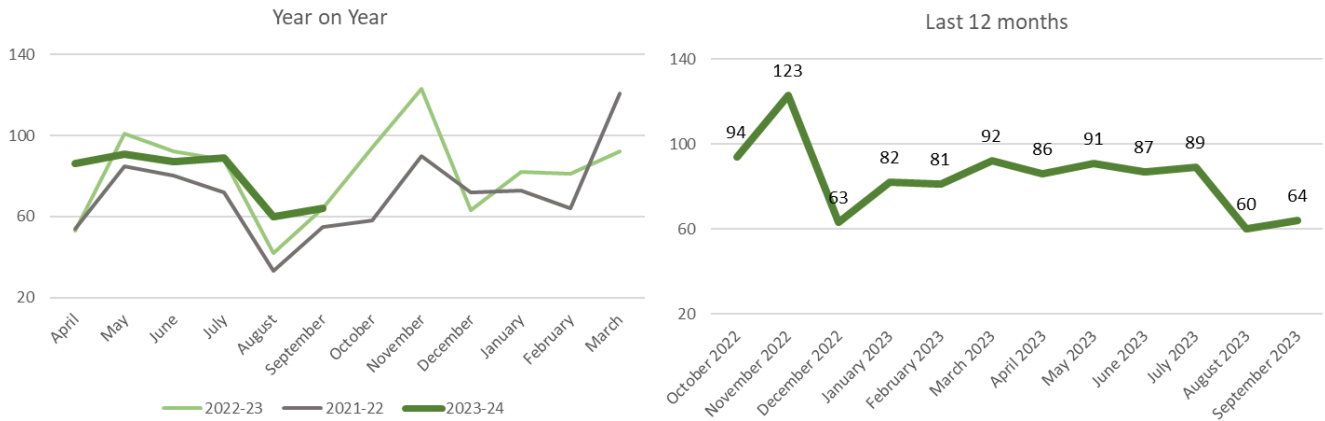
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Special Educational Needs

SEN2: Number of requests for statutory EHC assessment

A statutory assessment is a detailed investigation to find out a child's special educational needs and what special help the child needs. A statutory assessment is only necessary if the school or early education setting cannot provide all the help that the child needs.

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Special Educational Needs

SEN2: Number of requests for statutory EHC assessment	
Service Manager Update	
Sept 2023	<p>It is usual to experience a lower number of requests during the summer holidays.</p> <p>Whilst 58 is lower than other months of the year it is higher than August figures in previous years. Many of these requests were made from school settings and may be due to SENDCo's not being able to complete them due to busy Summer Terms so complete them at the beginning of the Summer holidays. The team had also requested that settings submitted any pupils who are going through the Phase Transfer 2024 and require a plan to submit the request before the end of the summer holidays to ensure school places can be allocated in a timely way.</p>
Performance Team Analysis	
Stable	<p>64 requests for statutory assessment were recorded in September 2023, 4 more than the previous month. The same outcome was achieved in September 2022.</p> <p>Overall, number of requests for statutory assessment decreased by 27 since the peak in May 2023.</p> <p>In the last twelve months, an average of 84 requests have been received per month, compared with 77 requests received per month in the corresponding period (October-September) last year.</p>
September 2023	

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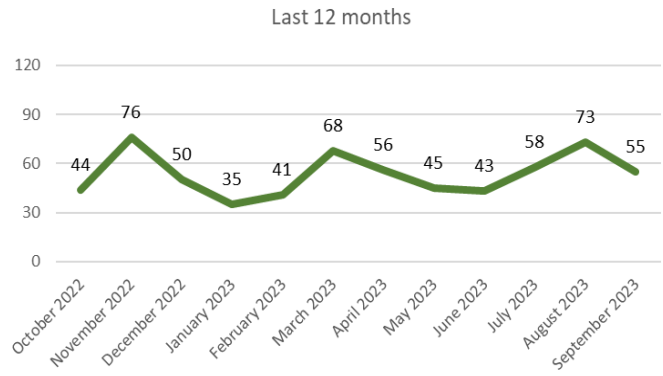
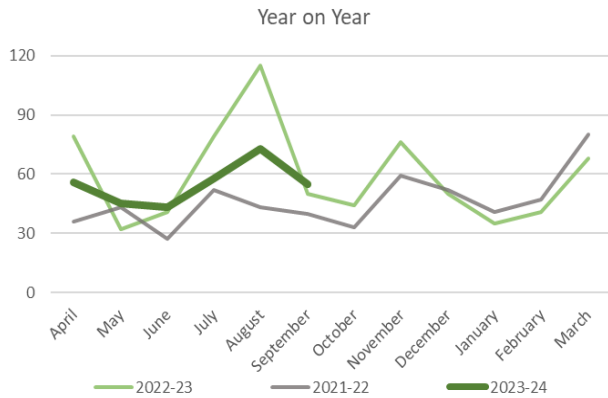
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Special Educational Needs

SEN2b: Number of EHC assessments completed

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Special Educational Needs

SEN2b: Number of EHC assessments completed

Service Manager Update

	<p>The service have been working hard over the summer to ensure that the high number of requests at the end of the summer term are completed.</p> <p>Last year, the team were focusing on the out of time assessment which is why the previous years data is at 115. This year in August the out of time assessments were reduced to 0. Weekly monitoring is in place to ensure that OOT assessment do not continue to rise.</p> <p>The EHC Team have developed an Assessment Team where a manager is responsible for overseeing the Assessment process. The first month of this has been really successful and the manager has done a fantastic job of organising the team to write a significant number of plans in one month. As a team, confidence is high with the team's ability to write plans however this will be significantly impacted in the next few months by the late lead professional advice being received.</p>
Sept 2023	

Performance Team Analysis

Stable	<p>55 EHC assessments were completed in September 2023. This marks a slight decline from last month's performance of 73 completed EHC assessments. Yet, September 2023 is ahead of the same month last year (50 completed EHC assessments) and two years ago (40 completed EHC assessments).</p> <p>An average of 52 EHC assessments were completed in the last twelve months.</p>
September 2023	

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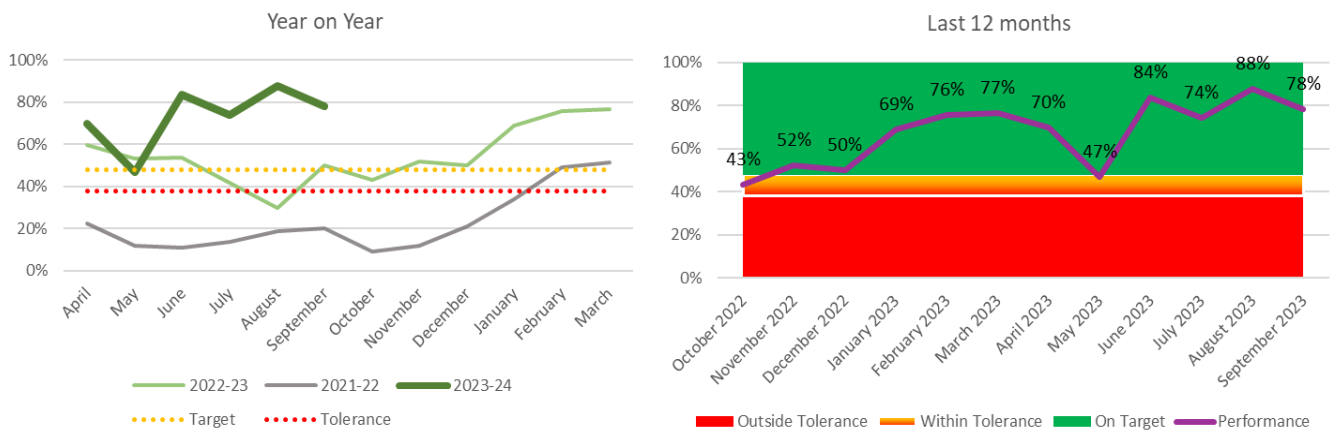
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Special Educational Needs

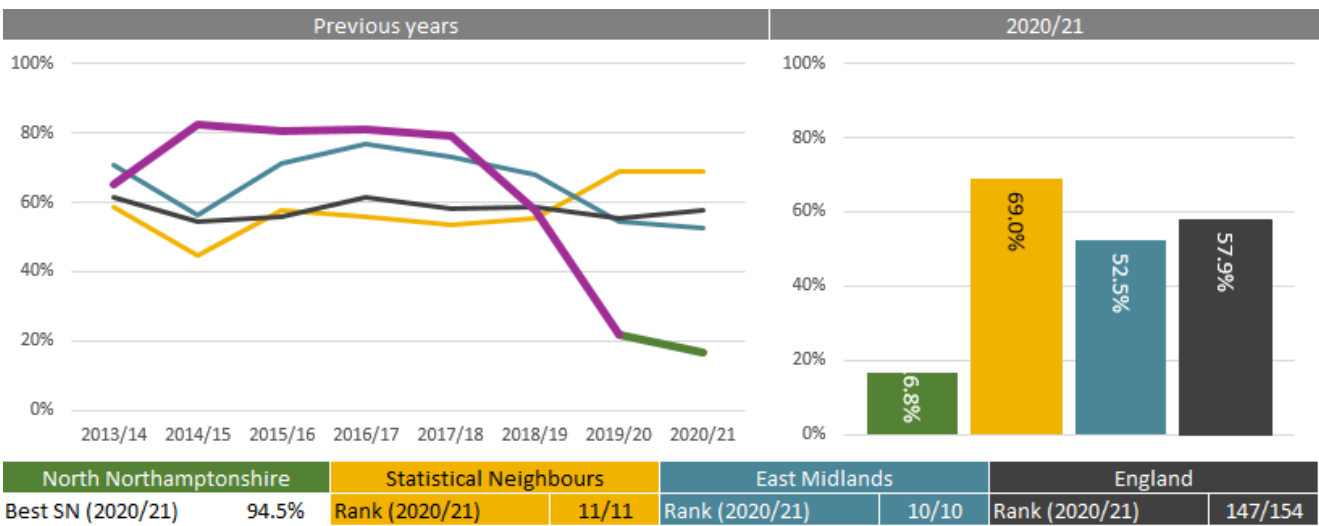
SEN1a: % of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions) - (Corporate Measure BBF18)

The whole process of EHC needs assessment and EHC plan development, from the point when an assessment is requested (or a child or young person is brought to the local authority's attention) until any final EHC plan is issued, must take no more than 20 weeks. The relevant legislation provides for exceptions to the time limits in certain situations. This measure represents the proportion of EHC plans issues within 20 weeks, including exceptions.

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Benchmarking



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Special Educational Needs

SEN1a: % of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions) - (Corporate Measure BBF18)

Service Manager Update

	<p>The summer has allowed the team to focus on writing and finalising plans.</p> <p>Again, this is the impact of the new assessment team which has been piloted as part of the new EHC Team reorganisation.</p> <p>Whilst the team have written and finalised plans, many are finalised on type due to late lead professional advices not allowing the EHC Team time to consult. RSA decisions are being made by week 6 (no decisions have been made after 6 weeks), advice is requested but often not returned until Week 16-17 of the process leaving the EHC team a few days to write the plan and 15 days for the draft to be commented on by the parent. To meet the statutory 20 week timescales, there is no time to send consults for pupils and staff have to amend plans naming a school once they are finalised. The EHC Team are working collaboratively with the EP service and health to try to improve this.</p>
Sept 2023	

Performance Team Analysis

Stable	<p>78.2% of EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions). This marks a slight decline compared with last month's performance of 88.9%. Even so, the latest recording in September 2023 is ahead of the performance in September 2022 (50.0%).</p> <p>The last nine months have recorded the highest rate of EHC plans issued on time so far, with an average of 78.7% plans issued on time. By comparison, 52.3% of EHC plans were issued on time during the same period of last year.</p>
September 2023	<p>An average of 64.5% of plans were issued on time in the last twelve months, compared with an average of 44.1 % of plans issued on time during the same period of last year (October-September).</p>

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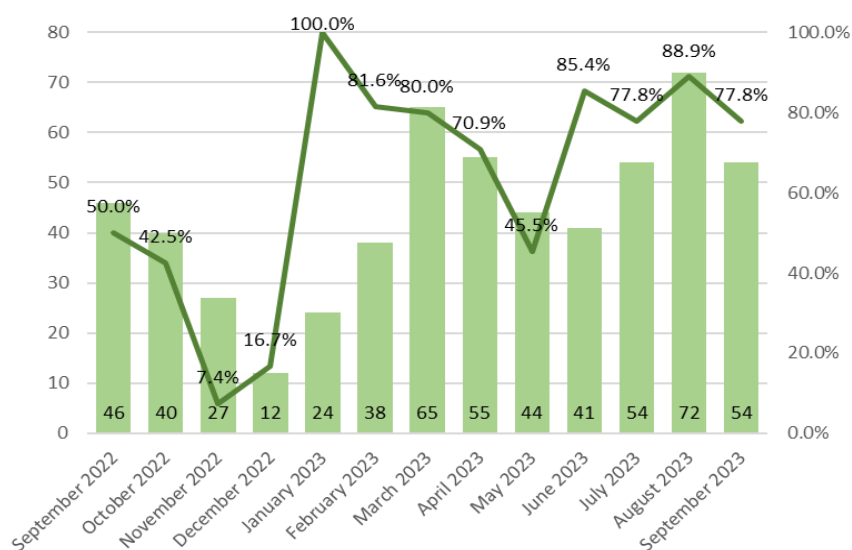
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Special Educational Needs

SEN1: % of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks (excluding exceptions) - (Corporate Measure BBF18)

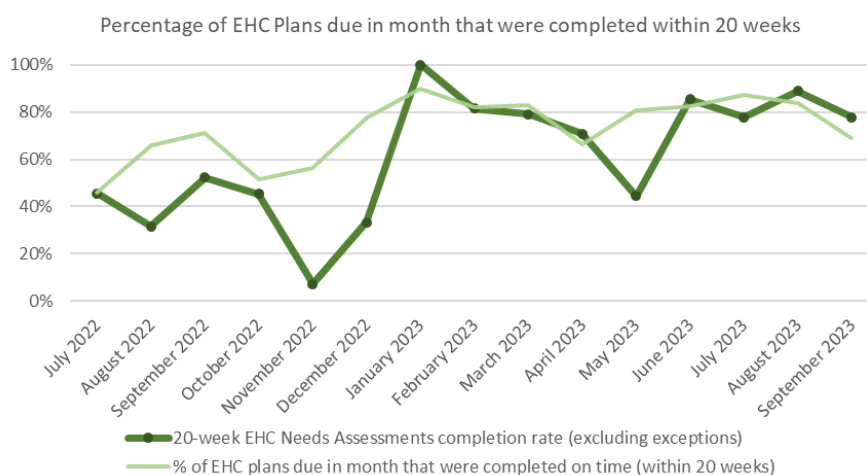
The whole process of EHC needs assessment and EHC plan development, from the point when an assessment is requested (or a child or young person is brought to the local authority's attention) until any final EHC plan is issued, must take no more than 20 weeks. The relevant legislation provides for exceptions to the time limits in certain situations. This measure represents the proportion of EHC plans issues within 20 weeks, excluding exceptions.

Latest Performance



Benchmarking

Additional Metrics



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Special Educational Needs

SEN1: % of EHC plans issued within 20 weeks (excluding exceptions) - (Corporate Measure BBF18)

Service Manager Update

	<p>The summer has allowed the team to focus on writing and finalising plans.</p> <p>The team have worked hard over the past three months to develop a data dashboard and a weekly leadership team meeting to monitor key areas of team performance and highlight any issues that may prevent the team from achieving. This strategy alongside the piloting a new organisation of the team which was started in July 2023 has hugely benefitted the team and its ability to write plans and achieve the 88.9%. This figure, as mentioned above does not reflect the number of plans finalised by naming a specific school. The team have systems and processes in place to complete the 20-week process including naming however the team are unable to achieve this at this time due to the impact of late advices. The team are working collaboratively with the EP services and health to try to improve the timeliness of returned advices.</p>
Sept 2023	

Performance Team Analysis

	<p>77.8% (54) of EHC plans (excluding exceptions) were issued within 20 weeks in September 2023, a slight decline from last month's performance of 87.7%. Performance in September 2023 is ahead of ahead of the same month last year (50% in September 2022) and two years ago (20.0% in September 2021).</p> <p>The last four months account for the best results so far, with performance ranging between 74.1%-87.7%.</p> <p>In the last twelve months, an average of 67.2% of EHC plans (excluding exceptions) were issued on time. This is a significantly better outturn than the average during the same period of last year (38.7%).</p>
September 2023	<p>66.8% of EHC plans due in month were completed on time in September 2023. An average of 75.8% of EHC assessments due in month were completed on time in the last twelve months.</p>

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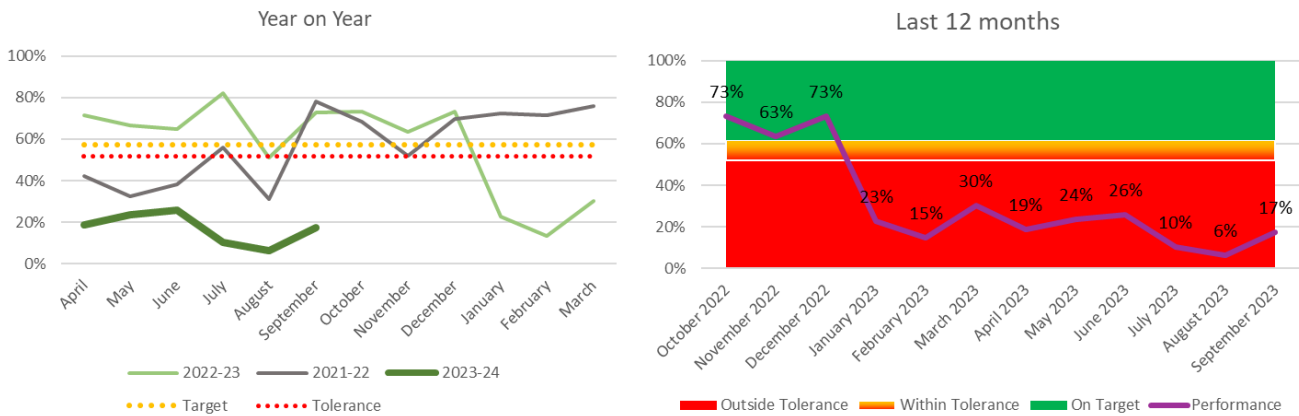
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Special Educational Needs

SEN1b: % of EP advices submitted each month which are by the due date

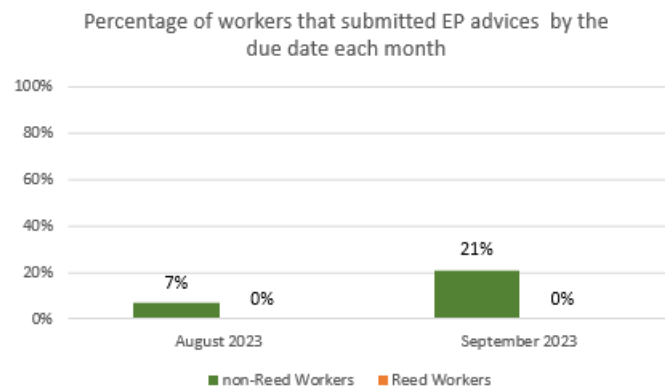
Any advice and recommendations provided by the EP will be time-limited and should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This measure represents the proportion of educational psychology advices submitted by the due date.

Latest Performance



Benchmarking

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Special Educational Needs

SEN1b : % of EP advices submitted each month which are by the due date

Service Manager Update

Below Target	<p>Number of EHC Assessments has significantly increased in November and December 2022 compared with previous year. Number of Advice due dates had increased from 79 to 130 for November/December (combined): comparing 2021 with 2022 - an increase of 65%. Between those times, EPS employed generic capacity has reduced by 48%. And while some of the staffing shortfall has been made up with an increase in Trainee EP capacity and reduced specialist/management time, planned access to more significant associate EP capacity from Reed to make up shortfall has resulted so far in only 11 Advices being provided by Reed (3 in August and 8 in September). And permission to recruit more employed EPs remains suspended. The backlog, knock-on effect of spike in demand in Nov-Dec; continued high demand for EHC Assessments in January (73 due dates) and in June (77 due dates) and September (86 due dates); steady demand in between; and increasing demand on EP time for other urgent work: all impact timeliness of Advices. Hence, for all but 2 months (Feb and May) of the last academic year, the number of Advice due dates has been greater than the amount of Advices submitted for that month - entrenching and extending the backlog.</p>
Sept 2023	<p>Of the 36 late Advices in Sept 2023, timeliness was compromised by: the current and previous increased demand (i.e. backlog) compared to reduced capacity in EPS, as well as lack of access to CYP for assessment in school summer holiday (36); and delays brought about by EP sickness (2) and late notification of case (1). Furthermore, in order to support the LA's overall EHCP 20-week KPI, rather than focus on meeting the 6-week Advice due dates, the EPS has, as instructed, prioritised providing Advices that maximise the ability of the EHC Team to meet the 20-week statutory timeline. During September, the EPS submitted by the 16th week 27 of 43 Advices = 63%; and 95% by 20th week.</p>

Performance Team Analysis

Declining	<p>17.4% of EP advices were submitted on time in September 2023. This marks a slight improvement (+11 percentage points) from last month's poor performance of 6.4%. Yet, September 2023 is the sixth consecutive month that performance is below 30%. By comparison, 72.7% of EP advices were submitted in September 2022</p> <p>January 2023-September 2023 account for the worst results so far, with an average of 18.9%. Prior to January, at least 60% of advices had been submitted on time in 12 out of 13 months, with +70% achieved on eight occasions.</p>
September 2023	<p>An average of 31.7% EP advices were submitted on time in the last 12 months while 68.2% of EP advices were submitted on time during the corresponding period of last year (October-September).</p> <p>All of the EP advices submitted on time in September 2023 (17.4%) and August 2023 (6.4%) were completed by non-Reed workers. The EP advices completed by Reed workers did not meet the due date.</p>

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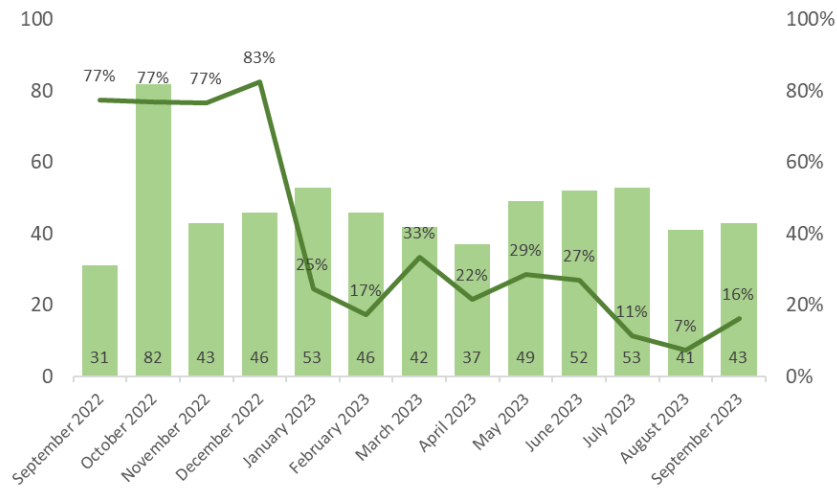
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Special Educational Needs

SEN x: % of EP advices submitted each month which are by the due date (excluding statutory exceptions)

Any advice and recommendations provided by the EP will be time-limited and should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This measure represents the proportion of education psychology advices submitted by the due date.

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Special Educational Needs

SEN x: % of EP advices submitted each month which are by the due date (excluding statutory exceptions)

Service Manager Update

Below Target
Sept2023
Commentary as above.

Performance Team Analysis

Declining
16.3% (43) of EP advices (excluding statutory exceptions) were submitted on time at the end of September 2023, a slight improvement from last month's performance of 7.3%. Performance has significantly declined since the peak of 83% in December 2022. The last three months (July-September) account for the worst results in the year, with performance ranging between 7.3%-16.3%.

Prior to January, at least 70% of educational psychology advices had been submitted on time in seven out of eight months. Performance has decline by 66 percentage points since December 2022.

September 2023
An average of 39.6% of EP advices were submitted on time (excluding statutory exceptions) in the last twelve months.

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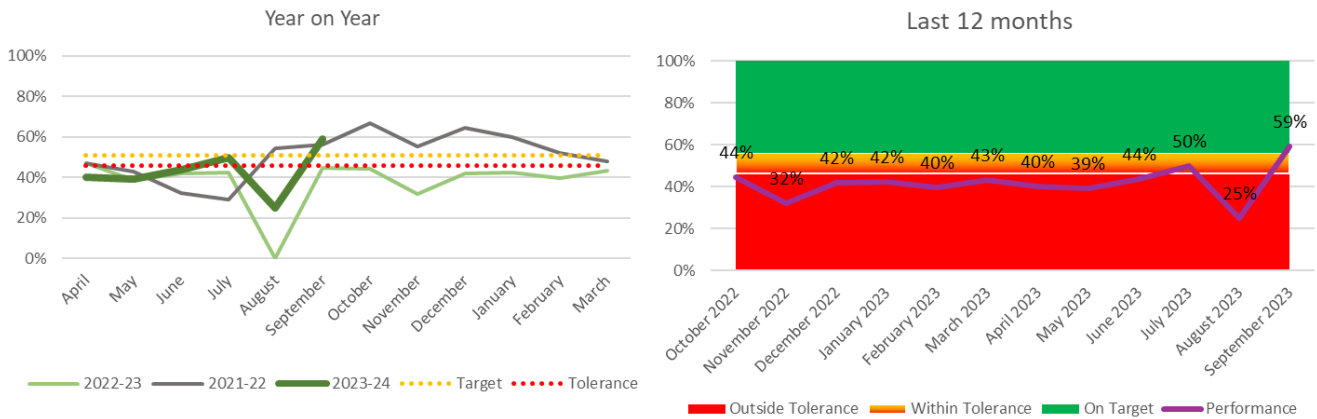
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Special Educational Needs

SEN1f: % of Annual Reviews held within 12 months of the previous review

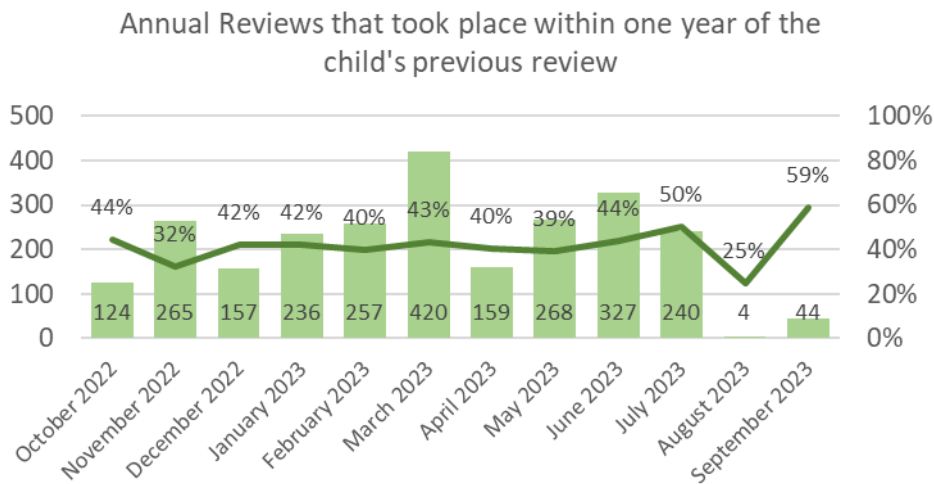
The Annual Review must be held within 12 months of when the EHCP was first issued and thereafter within 12 months of the last review. This measure represents the proportion of Annual Reviews held within 12 months of the last review.

Latest Performance



Benchmarking

Additional Metrics



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Special Educational Needs

SEN1f: % of Annual Reviews held within 12 months of the previous review

Service Manager Update

A new Annual Review template has been designed and training organised for all settings (EY, primary, secondary, college, OOA, independent, special) for the 26th September. The team feel that updated training is needed to all settings to improve the standard of annual reviews being returned to the team. Clear expectations and a consistent approach will be shared – this should make the amendments completed by the EHC team much more streamlined.

The weekly data dashboard illustrates the returned annual reviews and we can see the types of settings where annual reviews are not being completed – again with the new team organisation, we will be able to contact settings and challenge this. The caseworkers have been allocated a group of settings and have issued a spreadsheet of the AR's due date for 2023-24 academic year and highlighted if previous AR's are out of time. The annual review team manager has developed a system for monitoring these moving forward. The annual review team leader will complete the weekly data dashboard and capture any issues arising – these will be discussed at the weekly leadership team meeting. This system will enable the team to give a % for each setting of the return AR data which again will enable to team to challenge and ensure that AR's are taking place consistently in all settings.

Sept 2023

Performance Team Analysis

Stable 59.1% of annual reviews were held on time in September 2023 (44). Performance has significantly improved compared with last month's low of 25.0%.

In the last twelve months, the highest proportion of annual reviews held on time was recorded in July 2023. Between 29.0% and 59.1% of annual reviews were held on time in the last six months.

An average of 41.8% annual reviews were held on time in the last twelve months. This is slightly behind of the average during same period of last year (46.8%)

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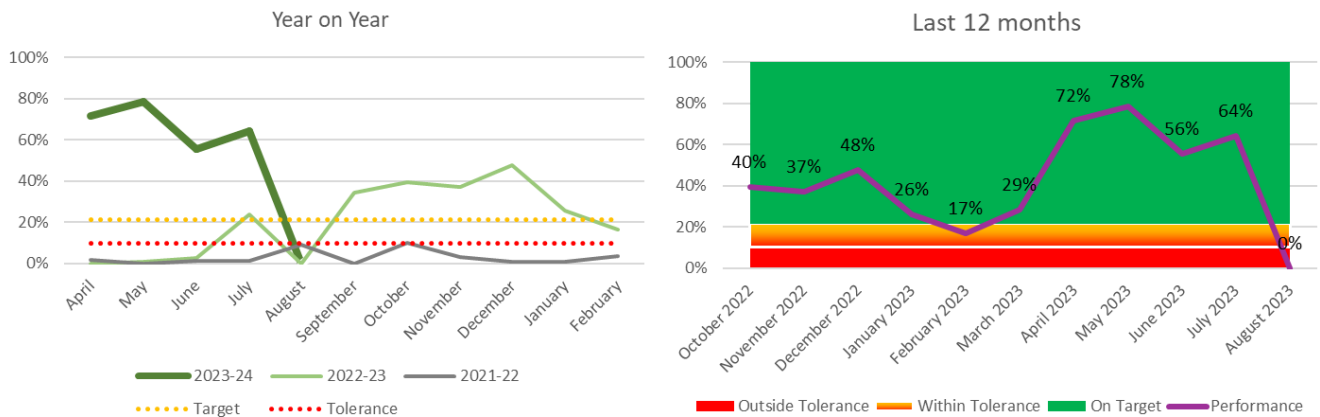
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Special Educational Needs

SEN1c: % of Annual Reviews completed within 4 weeks of meeting

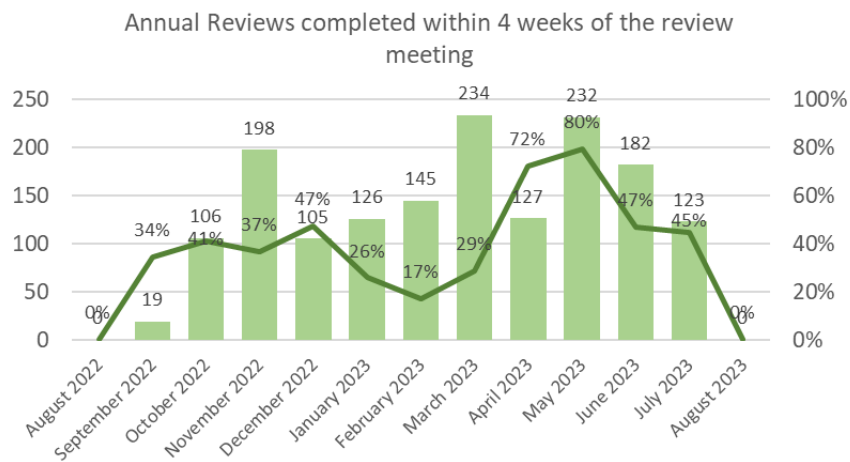
This measure presents the proportion of Annual Reviews completed within 4 weeks of the date of the review meeting.

Latest Performance



Benchmarking

Additional Metrics



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Special Educational Needs

SEN1c: % of Annual Reviews completed within 4 weeks of meeting

Service Manager Update

See above – A small percentage of this is also due to a decrease in the number of staff employed and staff absence in the annual review team.

Sept 2023

Performance Team Analysis

Stable 0% of annual reviews were completed within 4 weeks of meeting in August 2023. Equally, no annual reviews were completed within 4 weeks of meeting last year, in August 2022.

64.2% of annual reviews were completed within 4 weeks of meeting in July 2023; a slight decline from June's performance of 55.7%. Previously, May 2023 scored the highest volume of Annual Reviews completed within 4 weeks of meeting (78.4%).

September 2023

April 2023 and May 2023 reported exceptionally high volumes for the annual reviews completed within 4 weeks of meeting. By comparison, 0.0% and 1.0% of annual reviews were completed on time during April 2022 and May 2022.

Overall, the most recent months have produced the best performances in the last two years: An average of 41.6% of annual reviews were completed on time between September 2022 and August 2023 compared with an average of 3.9% of annual reviews completed on time during the same period in 2021-22 (under the old method).

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