



A SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

North Northamptonshire Council

The Centre for Public Innovation

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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

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.