



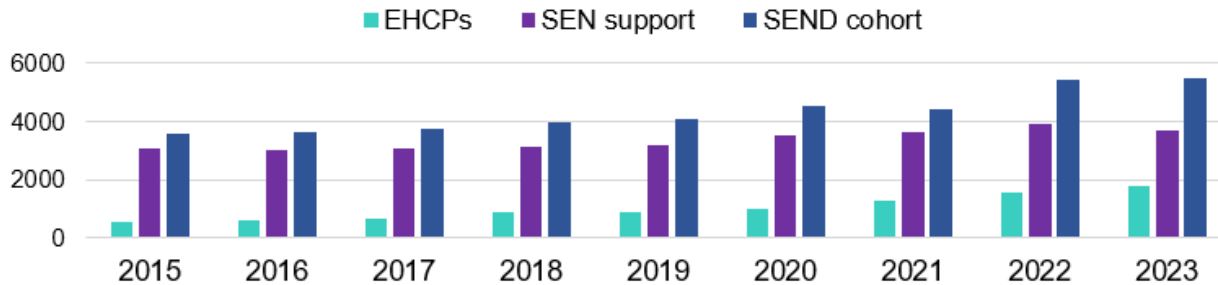
Spotlight report: Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)



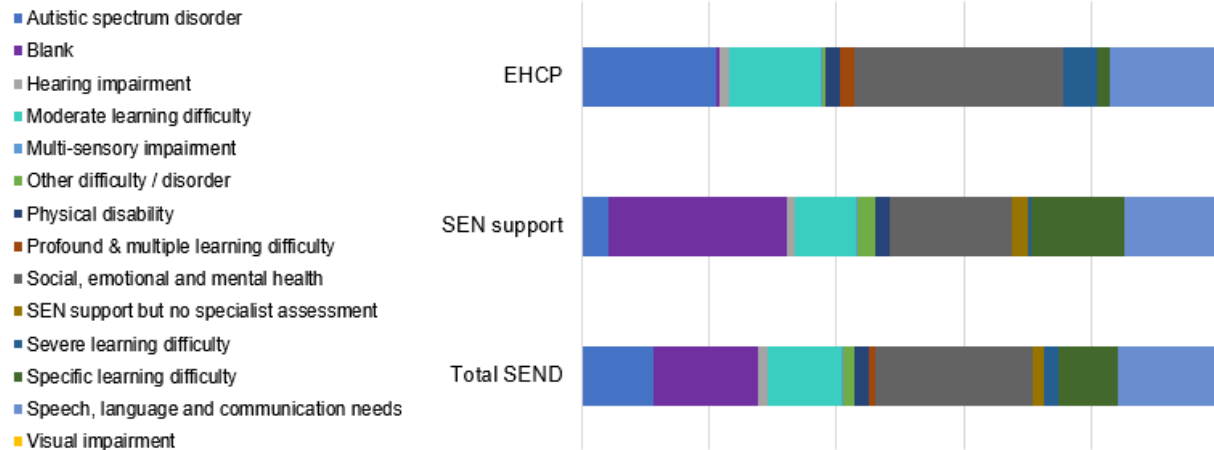
SEND

The number of children with special education needs and disability (SEND) has increased over the last few years across both cohorts in North Somerset, those that receive SEN support and those that have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Following figures show a snapshot of the census data as of January of each year. Between 2015 and 2023, the overall increase was 52.7%.

Children and young people with LA maintained statements of SEND EHCPs in North Somerset



Based on the most recent data, 32.8% of EHCPs are for social, emotional and mental health, 21.1% for autistic spectrum disorder, 16.5% for speech, language and communication needs and 14.2% for moderate learning difficulty. These four primary needs account for over 84% of all EHCPs. For SEN support, 19% are for social, emotional and mental health, 14.8% for specific learning difficulty, 14.1% for speech, language and communication needs and 9.6% for moderate learning difficulty.



Comparators

The percentage of pupils with special educational needs support as of 2023 was 11.3% in North Somerset compared to 14% regionally and 13% nationally. While regional and national figures have increased, there is a slight decrease in numbers in North Somerset.

Experience and outcomes

- The number of children and young people obtaining new EHCPs in North Somerset has been increasing in recent years. Between 2014 and 2019, North Somerset produced an average of 88 new first-time plans per year. Between 2020 and 2023, the average was 340.
- The percentage of children and young people in North Somerset assessed from whom EHCPs were made for the first time has been increasing in recent years.
- In 2022, North Somerset refused 19% of all assessment requests, a constant decrease since 2016 (except 2020).
- In North Somerset, the number of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks increased from 2014 to 2021 (except 2020). The figure has decreased from 2021 to 2022.
- In 2022, North Somerset issued 38.2% of new EHCPs within 20 weeks compared to 47.7% nationally and 34.7% regionally and is above the compliance rates of closest statistical neighbours. Between 2021 and 2022 the figure decreased in North Somerset. A similar trend was seen among most of the statistical neighbours.
- Education outcomes for children with SEND are generally worse than their peers.
- SEND children do not achieve as high a percentage of good level of development, attainment at key stage one, key stage two, or key stage four than their peers.
- In 2022/2023, SEND children have worse attendance, 85% for children with EHCP, 88.4% for those receiving SEN support, compared to 93.6% for all other pupils.
- SEND children are more likely to be excluded from school either fixed term or permanently.