

SEN2 2026

Statutory Return Summary



SEND Improvement Board Report
April 2026

The SEN2 is a statutory data collection administered by the Department for Education (DfE), it collects data at individual CYP level for the previous year (2025) and all active plans on census day (Thursday 15th January 2026).

The data collected covers all active EHC plans as at census day, plans active during the calendar year [and up until census day] but now ceased, requests and assessments handled by local authorities in the calendar year [and up until census day] and current ongoing requests and assessments for EHC plan. It covers the whole age range from 0-25

Sustained growth in the SEND cohort:

Suffolk recorded an 18% increase in the SEN2 cohort (numbers of Education Health Care Plans/ Education Health Care Needs Assessments) (up from 12,476 in 2025 to 14,722 in 2026) compared to the previous year, reflecting continued growth in demand across the 0–25 age range and reinforcing the importance of system-wide capacity planning.

Significant increase in EHCPs finalised:

3,250 EHCPs were issued in 2025, representing over a 60% increase on the previous year (2,023), demonstrating the impact of recovery activity and concerted efforts to reduce the backlog.

Improved data quality for ethnicity recording:

The proportion of children and young people with unknown ethnicity has reduced significantly to 1.6%, (2025 – 5.4%) demonstrating improvements in data completeness and recording practice.

Timeliness impacted by increased throughput:

While the percentage of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks has reduced (25.4% to 16.5%), this is directly linked to the substantial increase in plans finalised, reflecting prioritisation of clearing historic backlog alongside current demand.

High level of system activity and resolution:

Suffolk completed a significantly higher number of assessments (3,150 in 2026, 1782 in 2025) and ceased plans than in previous years (1,346 – 2026, 272 – 2025), showing active case management and improved flow through the statutory system, particularly for post-16 and post-19 cohorts.