

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

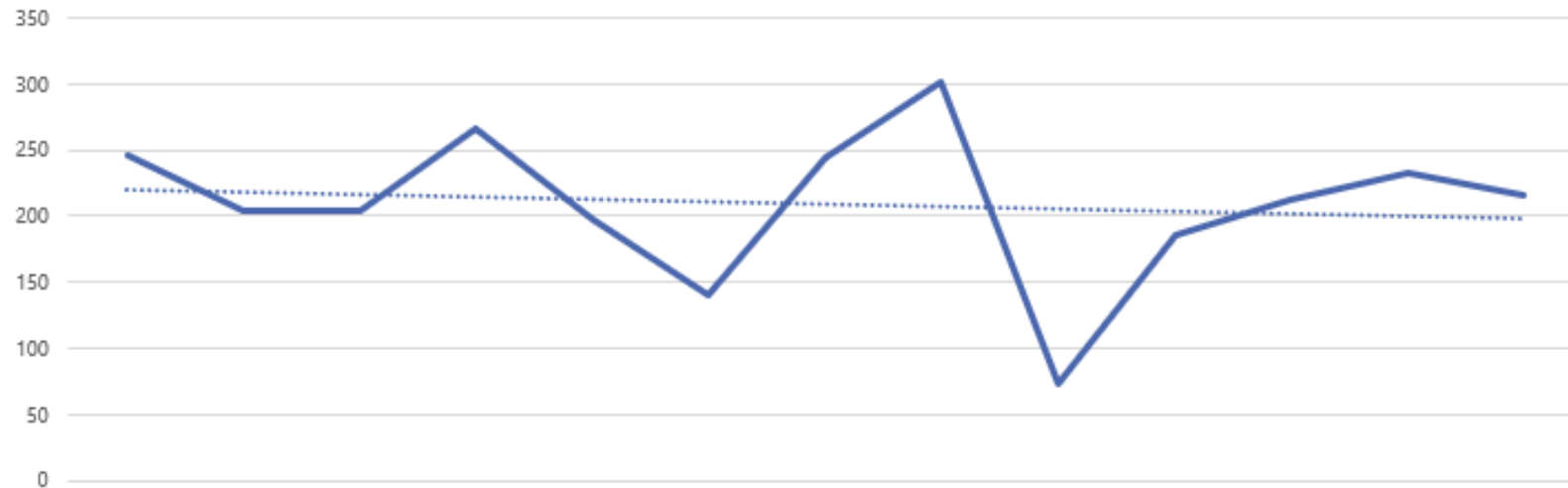


SEND Improvement Board Report January 2026

Latest data from December 2025 unless stated otherwise

SEND – Application for EHC Needs Assessments

Number of Application for EHCP Assessment



	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
No. of apps for assess for EHCP	246	204	204	267	198	140	244	301	74	185	212	232	216

Suffolk rate (per 10,000 population age 0-17)
Q2 24/25 (latest published)

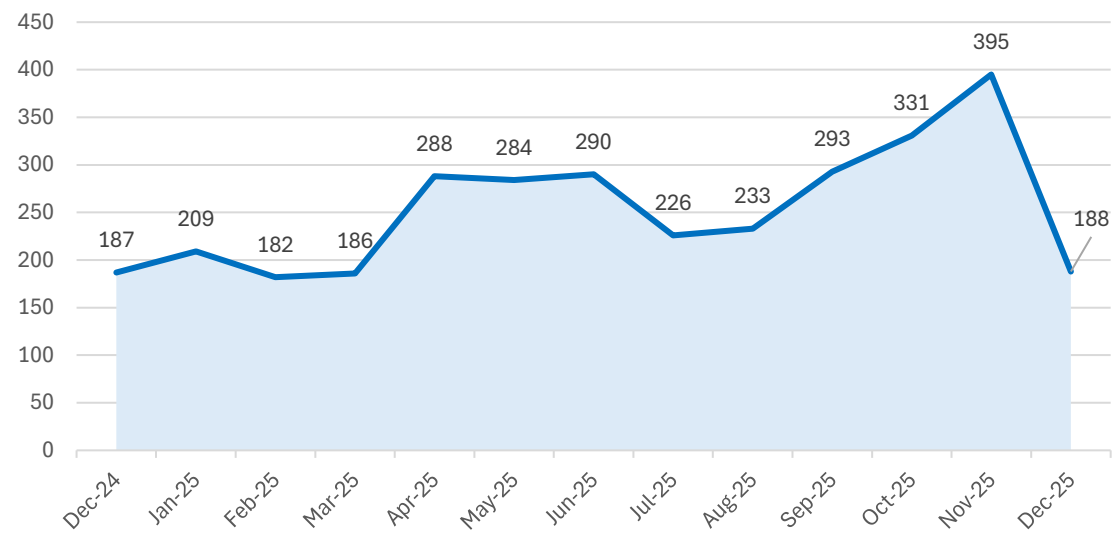
186.5

Regional rate (per 10,000 population age 0-17)
Q2 24/25 (latest published)

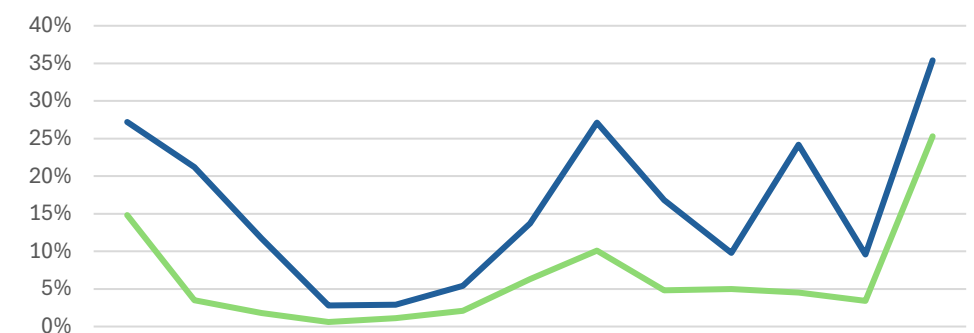
87.9

- Over the last 12 months there has been a decrease in the number of applications for an assessment but there was an increase over the last 3 months, reflecting the seasonality of requests. In Dec-25, however, we saw a reduced number of applications, down to 216, 30 fewer than at the same time last year.

●●● Number of Draft EHC Plans Issued



Draft plans issued



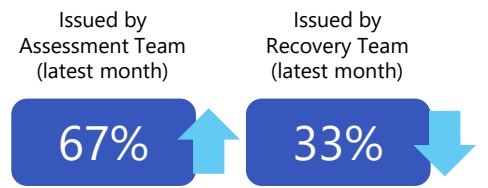
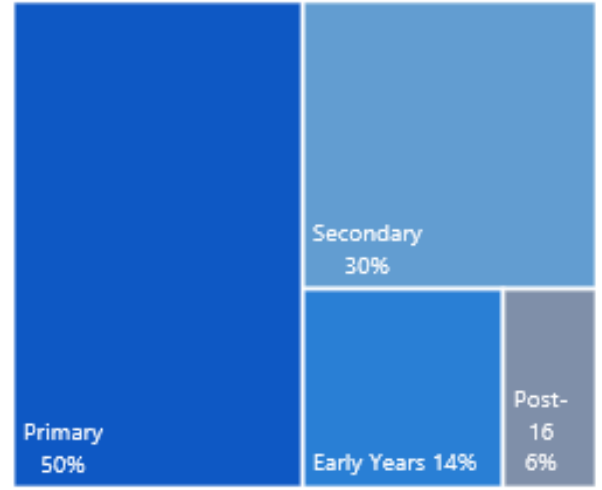
	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
16 Week	27.2%	21.2%	11.7%	2.8%	2.9%	5.4%	13.7%	27.1%	16.8%	9.8%	24.2%	9.6%	35.4%
14 Week	14.8%	3.5%	1.8%	0.6%	1.1%	2.1%	6.3%	10.1%	4.8%	5.0%	4.5%	3.4%	25.3%

Draft plans issued within 16 weeks vs 14 weeks

- 395 plans were issued in Nov-25, this is the highest it has been in the last 12 months and is over double number issued at the same time last year. December 2025, saw a similar number of draft plans issued as in December 2024, reflecting the team coming to the end of the recovery work.
- The percentage of plans issued in December 2025, for both 14 and 16 weeks, is the highest over the period shown. This means that families are receiving their first draft earlier than previously.

SEND – Number of Final EHC Plans Issued

Final EHCP by phase Dec-25



Number of Final EHC Plans Issued



	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Number of EHCPs issued	149	188	192	183	153	233	294	332	276	273	314	366	262

- We have seen a month on month increase since Apr-25 in the number of final plans issued, The drop in Aug-25 was due to school holidays but the number issued since continued to increase and in Nov-25 we issued the highest number of plans in the period shown. With most of the work by the recovery team now completed the number of plans issued has dropped in Dec-25 to 262, the lowest in 6 months, but coming into alignment with the business as usual requests within the system.
- The proportion of plans issued where the young person was in primary school decreased to 50% having been 60% in Nov-25.

SEND – EHC Plans Issued on time

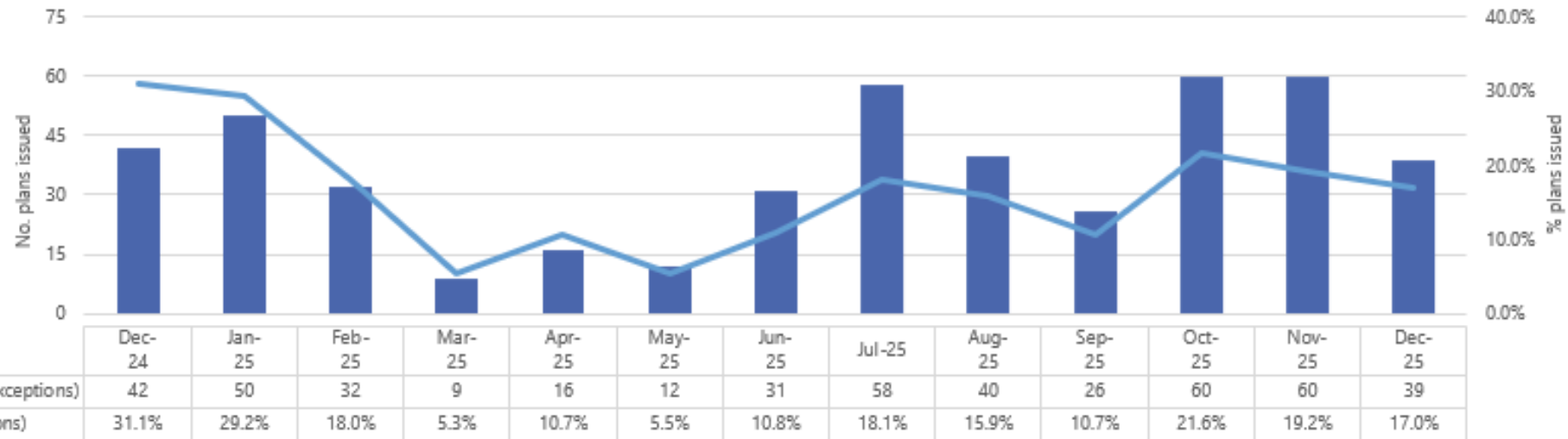
Average time to issue an EHC Plan

31 weeks, 5 days

20-week timescale calendar year to date

15.3%

EHC Plans Issued within the 20-week timescale

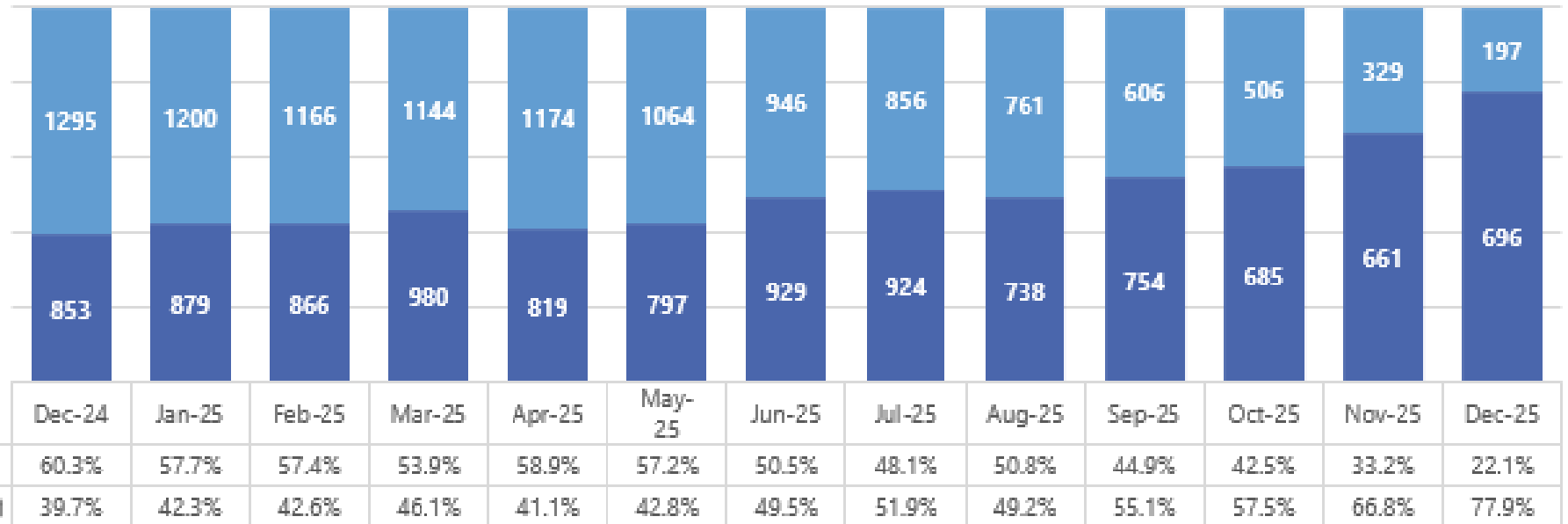


Number of EHCPs issued within target period of 20 weeks (excluding exceptions)	42	50	32	9	16	12	31	58	40	26	60	60	39
% of EHCPs issued within target period of 20 weeks (excluding exceptions)	31.1%	29.2%	18.0%	5.3%	10.7%	5.5%	10.8%	18.1%	15.9%	10.7%	21.6%	19.2%	17.0%

- The percentage of final plans issued within 20 weeks has been lower than the same time last year due to the work to complete legacy plans (over 20 weeks). However, the actual number of in-timescales plans finalised had been higher than average. In Dec-25 both the percentage and number issued has decreased but the percentage was higher than the average for the calendar year which finished at 15.3% .

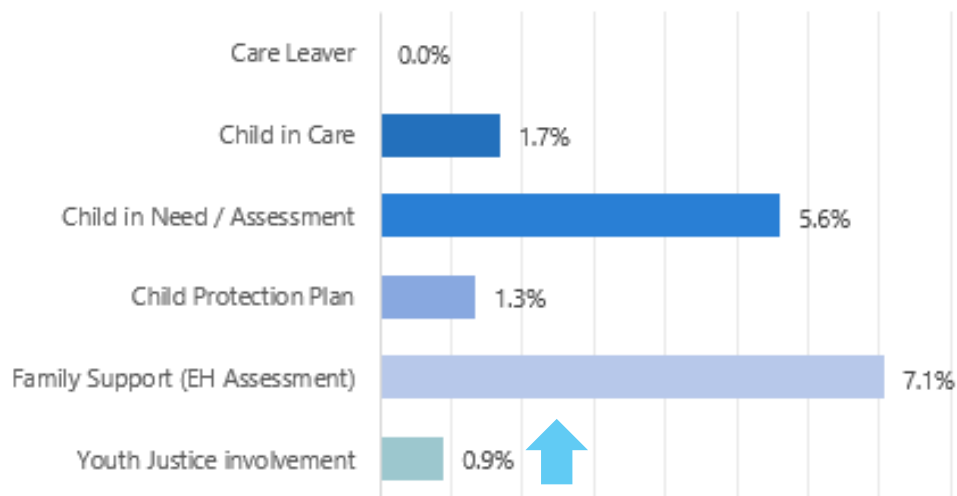
EHCNA requests by Timeliness

EHCNA requests proportion by under/over 20 weeks



- The proportion of EHCNAs over 20 weeks has been steadily reducing since Apr-25. In Dec-25 it is 22.1%, a reduction of 11.1 percentage points from Nov-25. The number waiting over 20 weeks has also reduced by 1,098 children / young people when compared to the same time last year.
- Of the 696 within 20 weeks, 626 are still within 16 weeks (89.9%). Of the 70 currently between 16 and 20 weeks, 34 have had a draft plan issued (48.6%).
- This data is impacted by mediation and tribunal involvement and moving forward will reflect this.

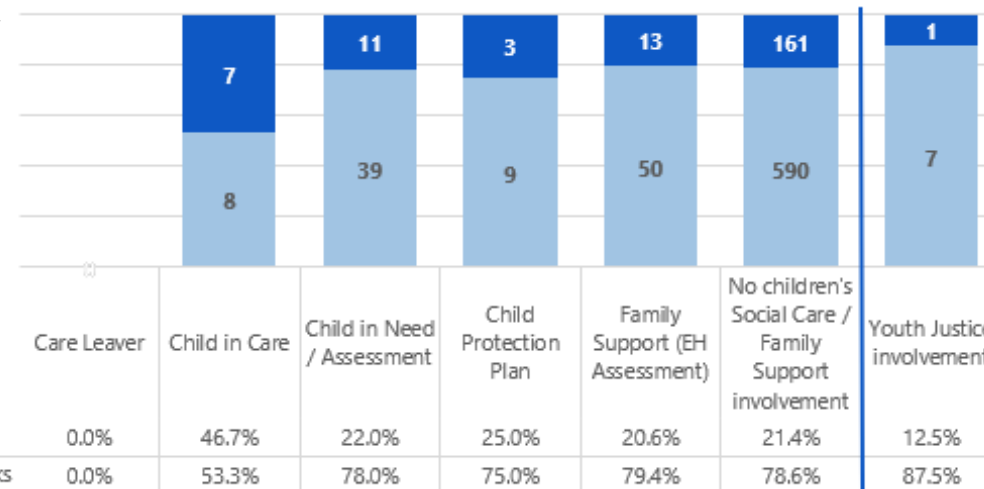
Children with an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) with other involvement



Children with an EHCNA by other involvement status

Children's Social Care / Family Support Involvement with EHCNA over 20 weeks

24%



Breakdown by involvement and whether the EHCNA is within the 20-week timescale or beyond (number of children included on the columns)

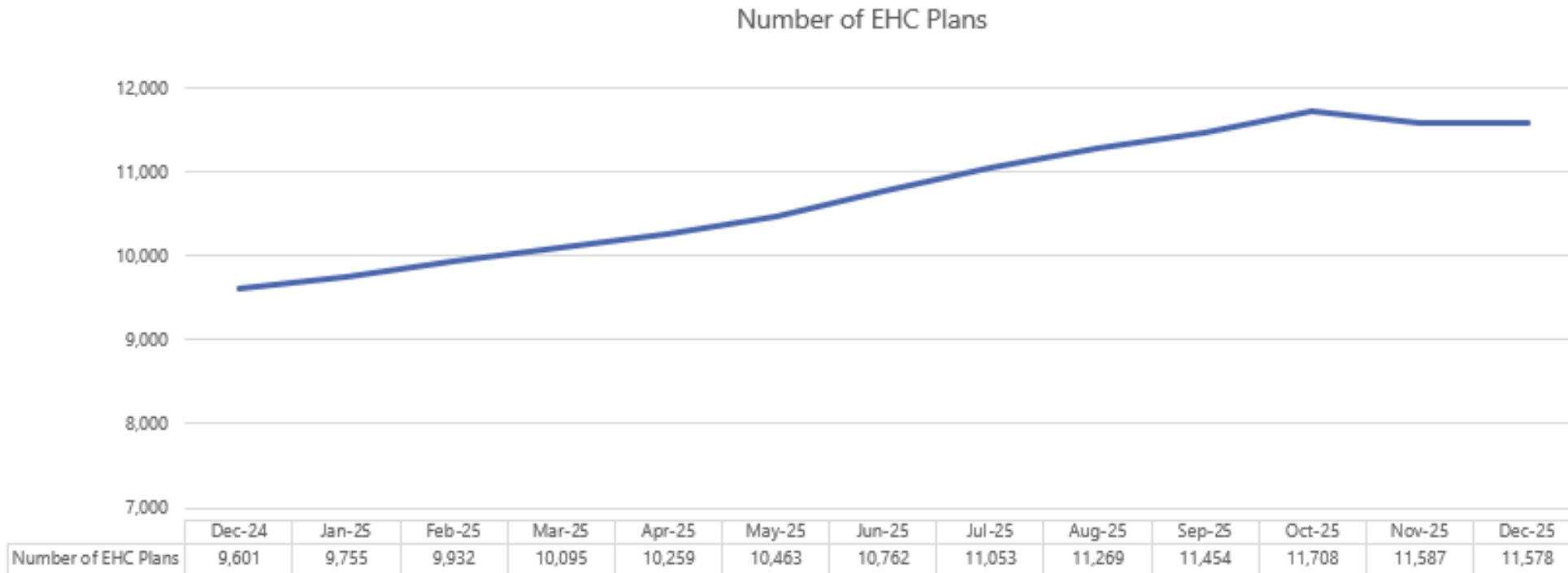
- As of 6 January there are 140 children / young people in the EHCNA process who are currently working with Family Support or Social Care. This is 15.7% of the total EHCNA caseload, an increase of 1.8 percentage points from Dec-25.
- Of those 140, 24% (34 children) have been waiting longer than the 20-week statutory timescale for their final plan to be issued, this percentage is continuing to reduce and was 38% in Dec-25

- 8 children with an EHCNA in progress also had youth justice involvement, this is an increase of 2 children from Dec-25.
- The number of those working with the youth justice service waiting over 20 weeks is the same as Dec-25, 1 child.

For further information please see the Family Services Operational Tracker – EHCNA

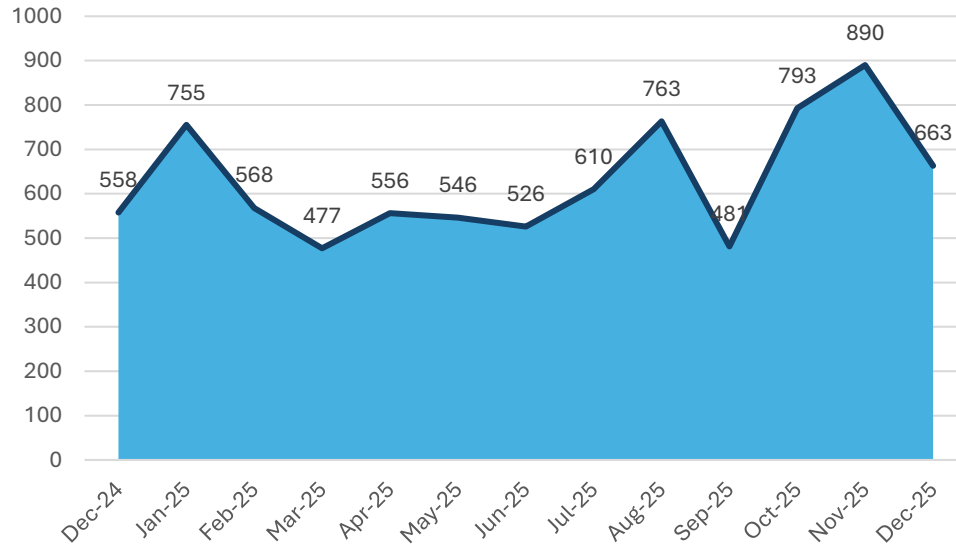
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●●● SEND – Number of EHC Plans

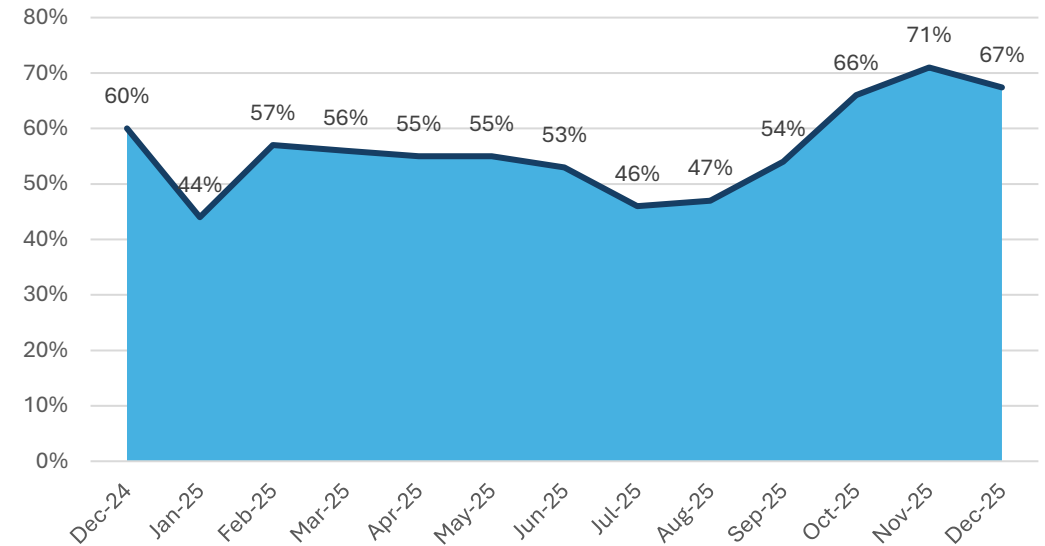


- The number of plans has reduced for a second month to 11,587, this is due to the continuing work to cease plans following the formal process within the recovery space.

●●● Reviews Completed and Timeliness



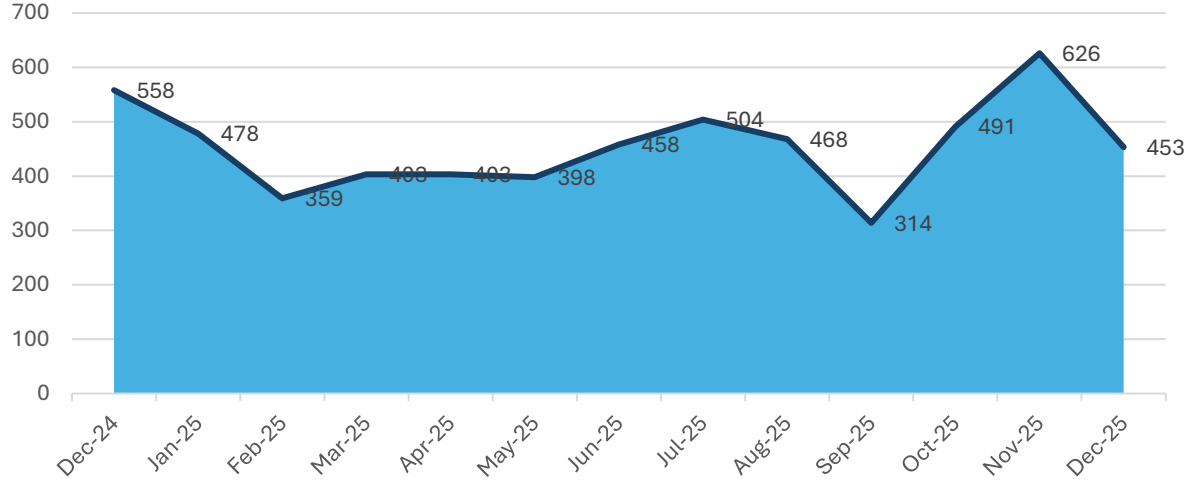
Reviews completed in month (LA response provided)



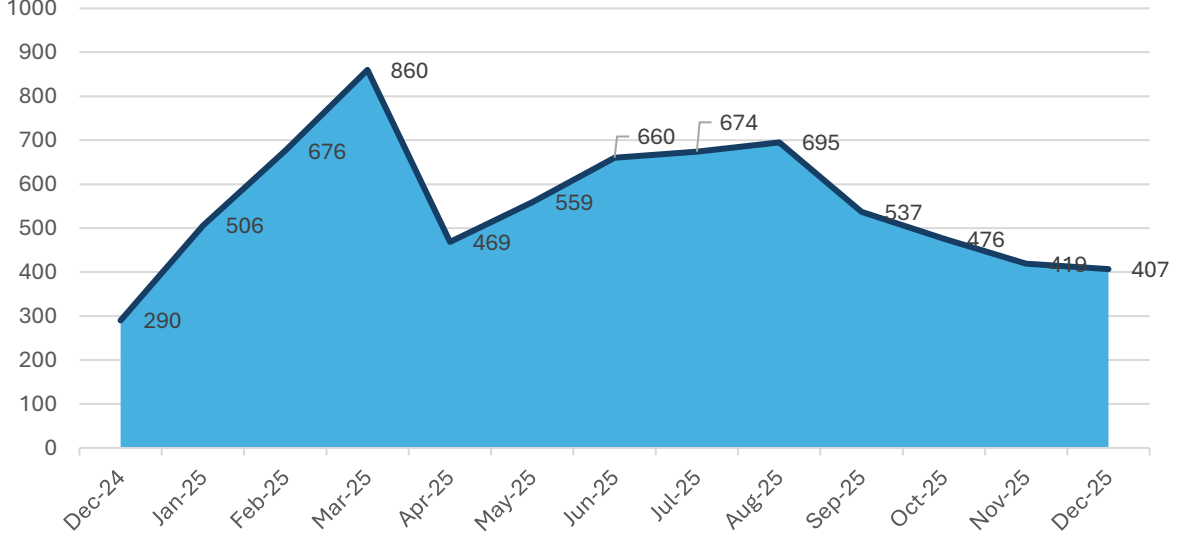
Review Meeting Timeliness (meeting took place within 12 months of the last recorded meeting)

- The number of reviews completed in Nov-25 was the highest it has been in the last 12 months. December 2025, saw a drop to 663, but that was more than 105 over the December 2024 figure. Staffing absence over December accounted for the decrease in output.
- The timeliness of reviews is also increasing and in November it was the highest it has been the period shown. In December 2025 it dropped by 4% to 67%, but this is still 7% above the December 2024 figure.

●●● Reviews – Draft and Final Amended



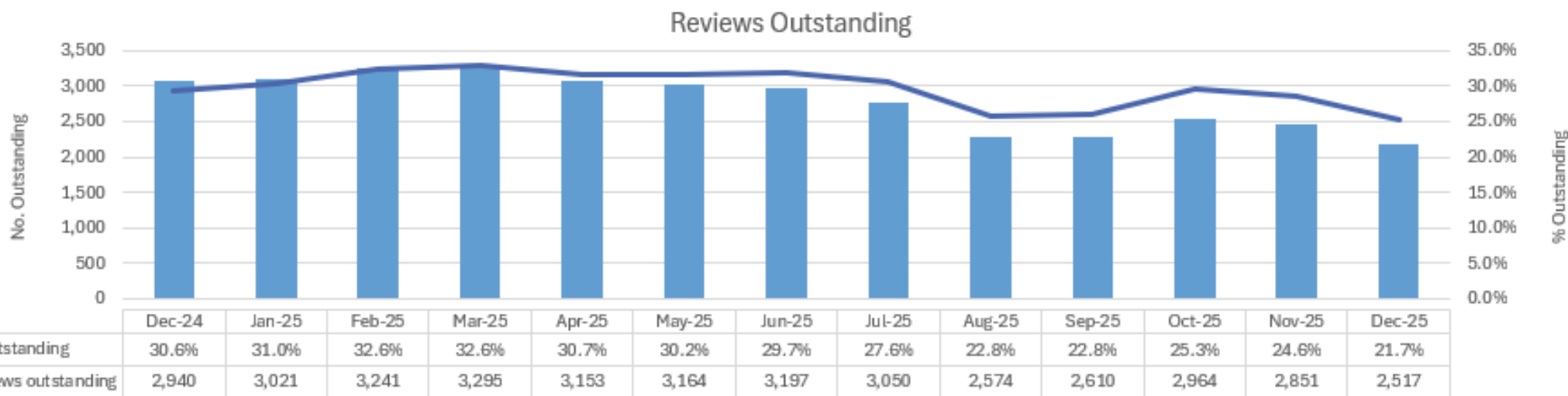
Draft Amended Plans issued



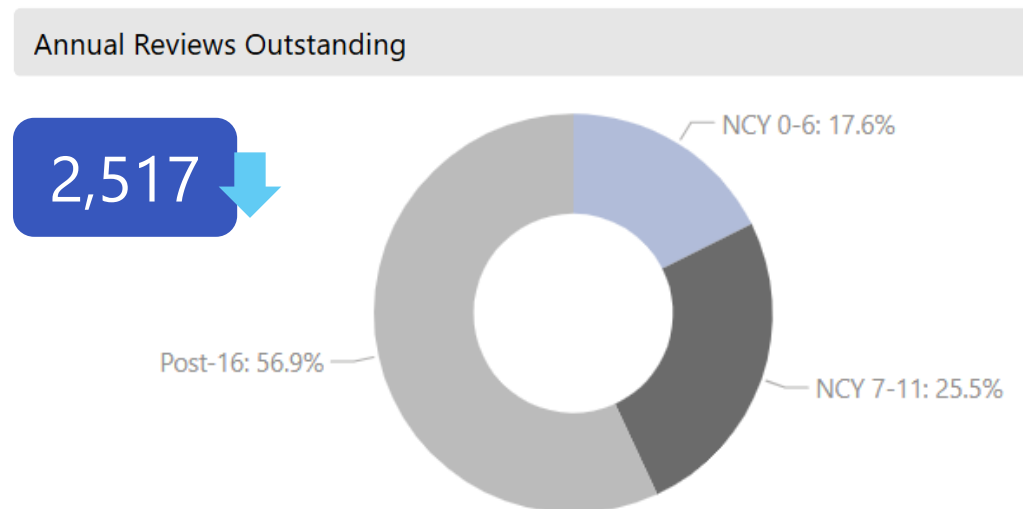
Final Amended Plans issued

The number of draft amended plans issued dipped in Sep-25 but has increased for the last 2 months with 624 issued in Nov-25, the highest in the period shown. December 2025 saw a dip due to staffing absences.

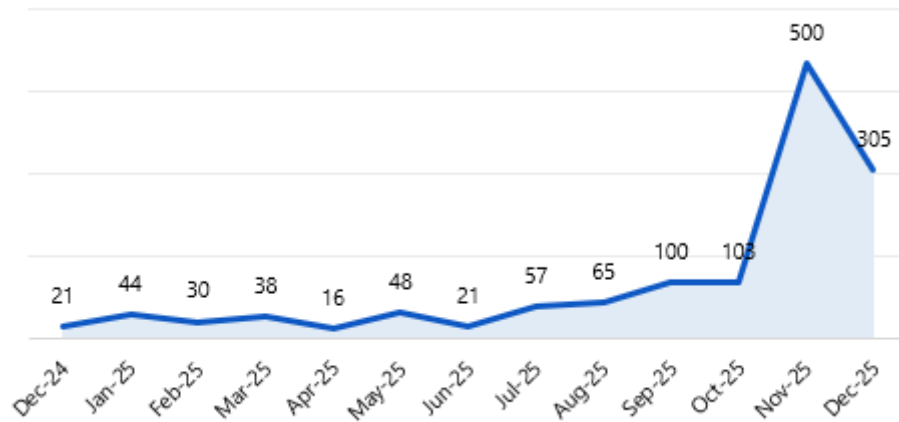
The number of final amended plans issued has decreased in Dec-25 for the 4th month in a row. This takes into account those plans for phase transfer awaiting a placement outcome. We expect the number of final amends to increase across January to March as per the trend in 2024.



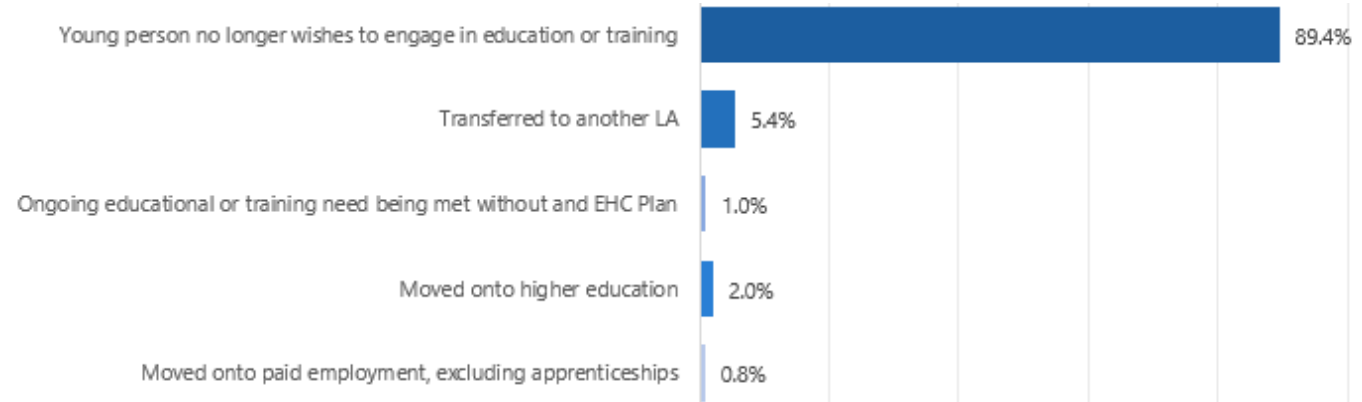
- The proportion and number of outstanding reviews decreased for the second month running to 21.7% and 2,517 children, both are lower than at the same time last year. This is as a result of the work in the Recovery team completing outstanding reviews and the link to ceasing. This now shows that the teams have reduced the total amount of outstanding reviews by 8.8% at the same time as the number of overall plans has continued to increase, bringing more reviews into the system.
- The proportion of outstanding plans for the post-16 cohort has remained at 56.9% with a slight increase in the proportion of NCY 0-6 (primary phase).



SEND – Ceased EHC Plans

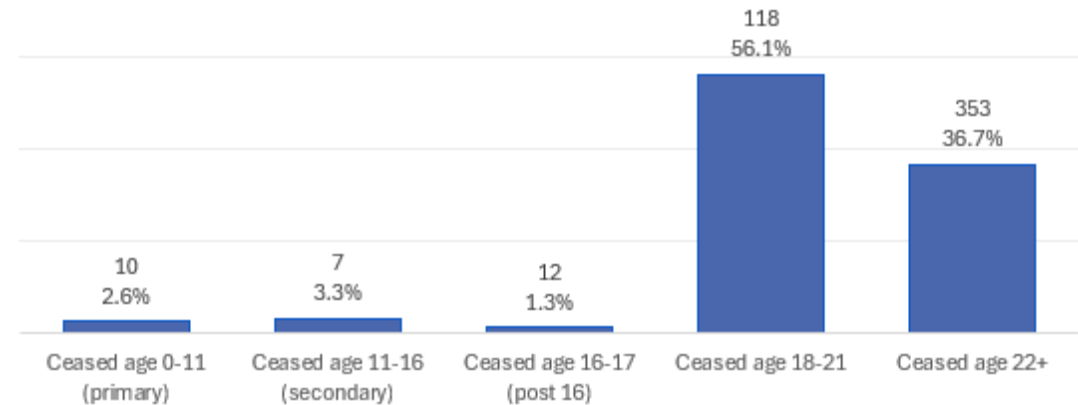


EHC Plans ceased in month



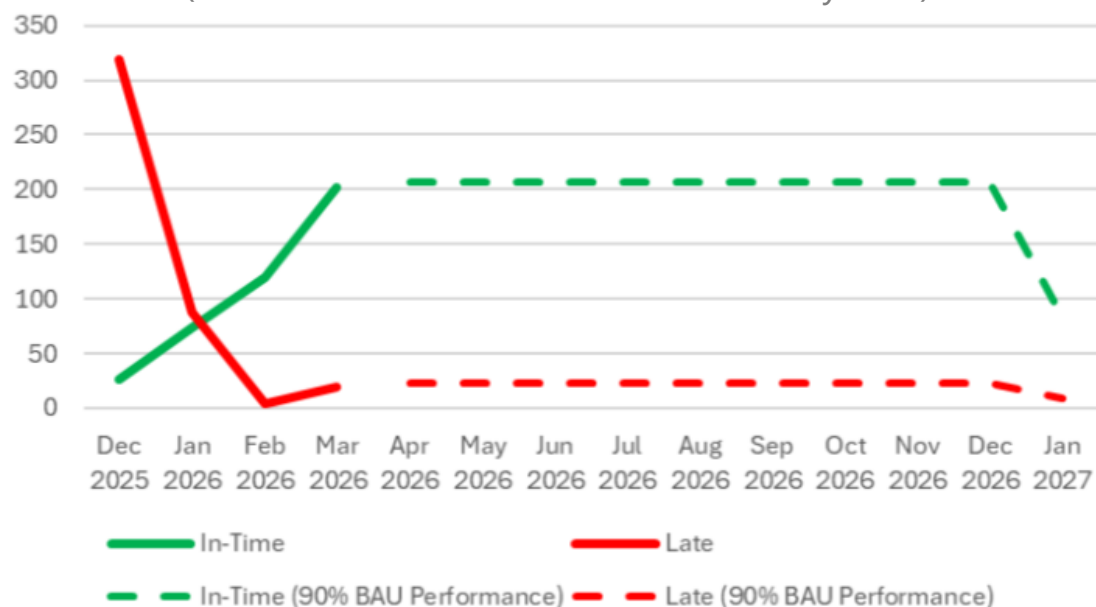
Top 5 reasons for ceasing

- Dec-25 saw another high number of plans ceased, with over 50% in the 18-21 age group. This has been completed as part of the recovery work, all CYP that had waited over 2 years for a review have had contact from the service and discussions completed on next steps. This has led to the majority agreeing to the cease process beginning. The work on ceasing started in September and we are continuing to see the impact of that work.

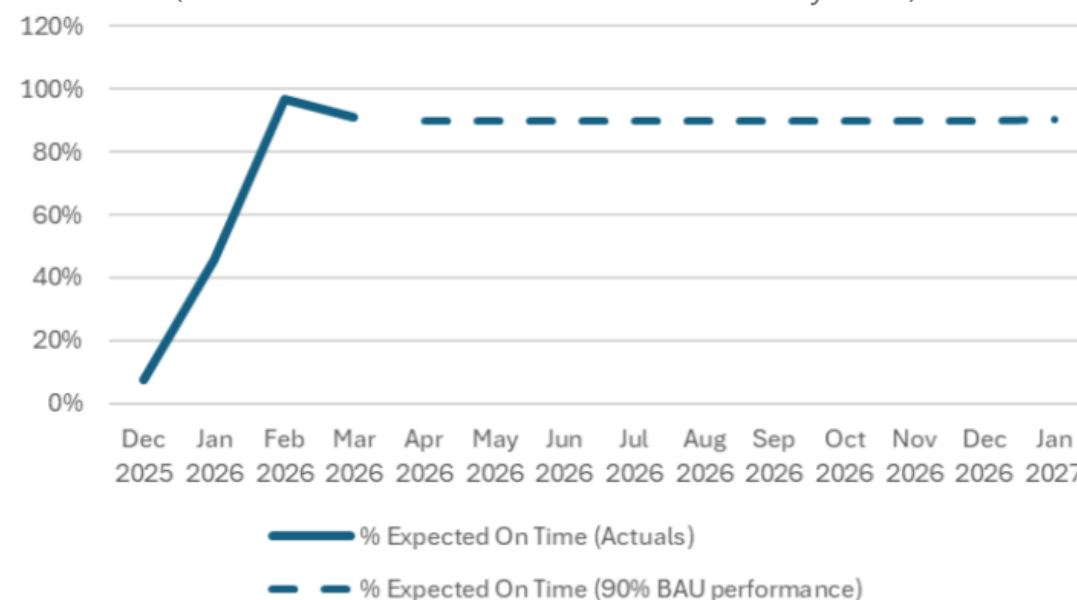


Breakdown by age group

Maximum possible EHCNA plans issued in time (number)
(Dec-Mar based on actual EHCNAs in system)



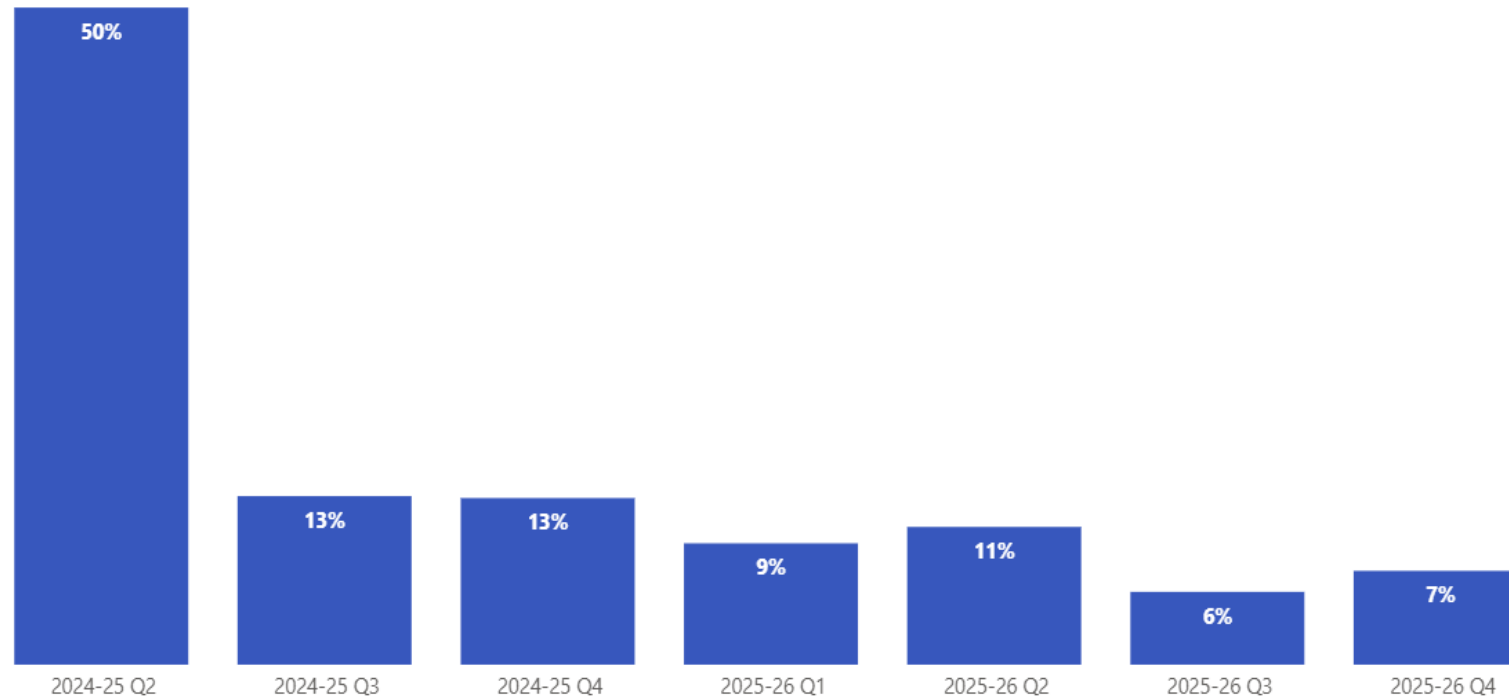
Maximum possible EHCNA plans issued in time (percentage)
(Dec-Mar based on actual EHCNAs in system)



- The above charts show the possible increase in issue times based on the current trajectory - number of plans being issued per month and the EHCNA requests due to be completed in these months.
- Based on this trajectory the service would reach a business-as-usual level of work from April 2026. The number of plans issued each month from April will depend on requests received 20 weeks earlier, as overdue cases should be cleared. If February and March drafts fall short of expectations, reaching business-as-usual may take an extra month or two. The service will need to closely monitor output during the first few months of 2026.

New Complaints % of Final & Final Amended per Quarter

Quarter	New Complaints % of Final & Final Amended
2024-25 Q2	50.2%
2024-25 Q3	12.9%
2024-25 Q4	12.7%
2025-26 Q1	9.3%
2025-26 Q2	10.5%
2025-26 Q3	5.6%
2025-26 Q4	7.2%



The number of new complaints as a percentage of final or final amended EHCP's, shows the Q3 figures for 2025/26 is the lowest percentage for the six quarters shown. From 2024/25 Q3 onwards, we can see that the next four quarters show values between 9% and 11%.