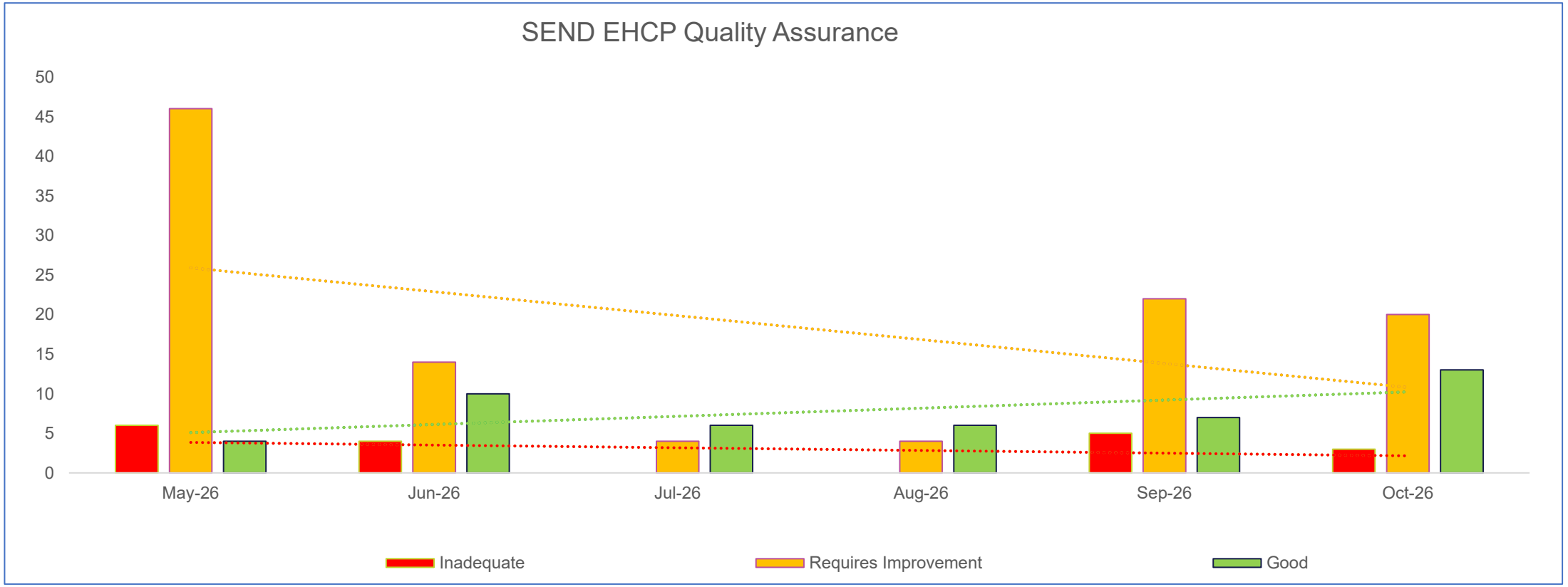
SEND Quality Assurance outcomes
May to October 2026

Suffolk County Council

Quality Assurance activity and outcomes – to October 2026



- **From May – October 2026 there has been a 24% increase in Good EHC Plans** (from Spring Term) - showing impact of QA activity and improving practice
- There has been a 43% decrease in plans graded RI
- We are seeing less Inadequate graded plans

Quality Assurance activity and outcomes – to October 2026

ACTIVITY & SCOPE

- Quality assurance activity reviewed **234 children and young people**, including **174 EHCPs**, through Level 1-3 audits, deep dives, case studies and inspection activity.
- Activity included **the QA programme of EHCPs,** thematic reviews of **Post-16, Tribunals, Severe Absence, Early Years, Preparation for Adulthood, SEMH, Leaving Care** and **Youth Justice**.
- Family feedback was gathered from **129 parent/carer responses** to evaluate experiences of the EHCNA process, EHCP quality and statutory SEND services.

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall EHCP quality remains variable, but an improving picture over the 6 months, with an overall **27% (46) judged Good, 63% (110) Requires Improvement and 10% (18) Inadequate -** Good plans have increased by **24%** since the Spring Term.
- Strengths are evident in **capturing children's voices,** parent/carer aspirations, identified needs and person-centred practice.
- Across audits and deep dives, the most consistent are of need relates to **SMART outcomes, the golden thread between needs, outcomes and provision, and sufficiently specific and quantified provision.**
- SEMH audits identified significant challenges, with **60% of children awaiting specialist placements** and **52% in provision not meeting need**.
- Family feedback shows **improving satisfaction across most measures**, particularly regarding children's views being reflected in EHCPs, timeliness and overall experience of the EHCNA process.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue targeted development on **SMART outcomes, specified provision and strengthening the EHCP golden thread**.
- **Improve multi-agency contributions** and resolve barriers to participation in Level 3 audits, particularly with Health partners.
- **Strengthen trauma-informed practice**, joint planning and coordinated responses for children with complex SEMH needs.
- **Continue audit, moderation and family feedback** activity to evidence impact, improve consistency and increase the proportion of Good EHCPs.

IMPACT

- **The QA, moderation and workforce development** activity are contributing to measurable improvements in EHCP quality, particularly provision writing, advice quality and person-centred planning.
- **Health, Educational Psychology and Social Care advice** demonstrate improving quality and timeliness, supporting more holistic assessments and plans.
- **Deep-dive activity has highlighted good practice and barriers** affecting outcomes, including delays in specialist assessments, placement sufficiency and inconsistent multi-agency contributions.
- **Findings are directly informing targeted practice development**, service improvement and future quality assurance priorities across SEND services.