SEND Quality, Assurance and Performance

SEND Scorecard Analysis Report

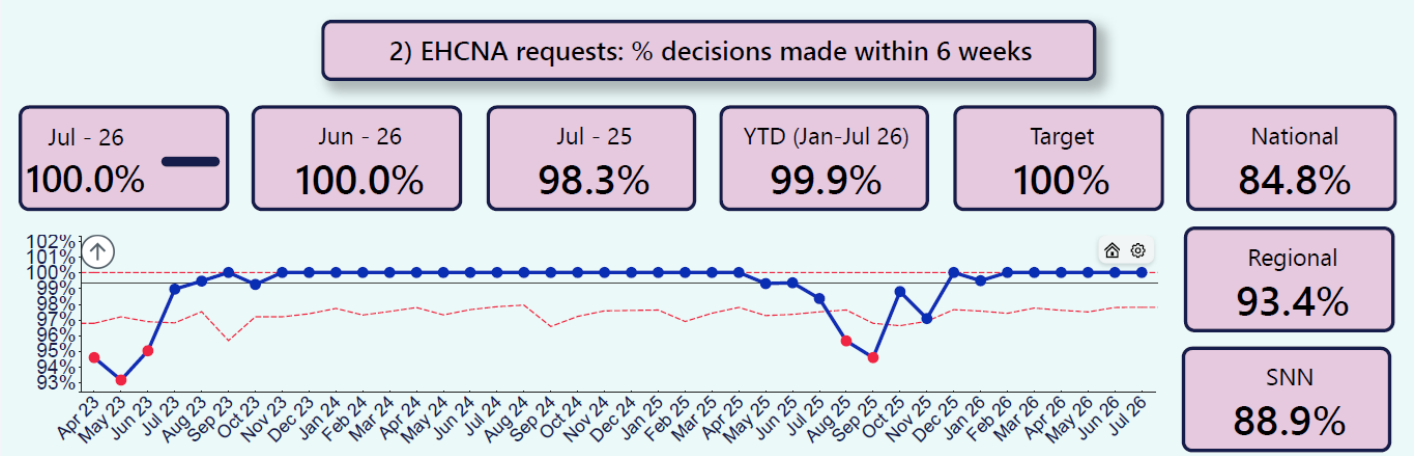
Friday 21 August 2026 · xx:xx–xx:xx · Suffolk Children & Young People's Services

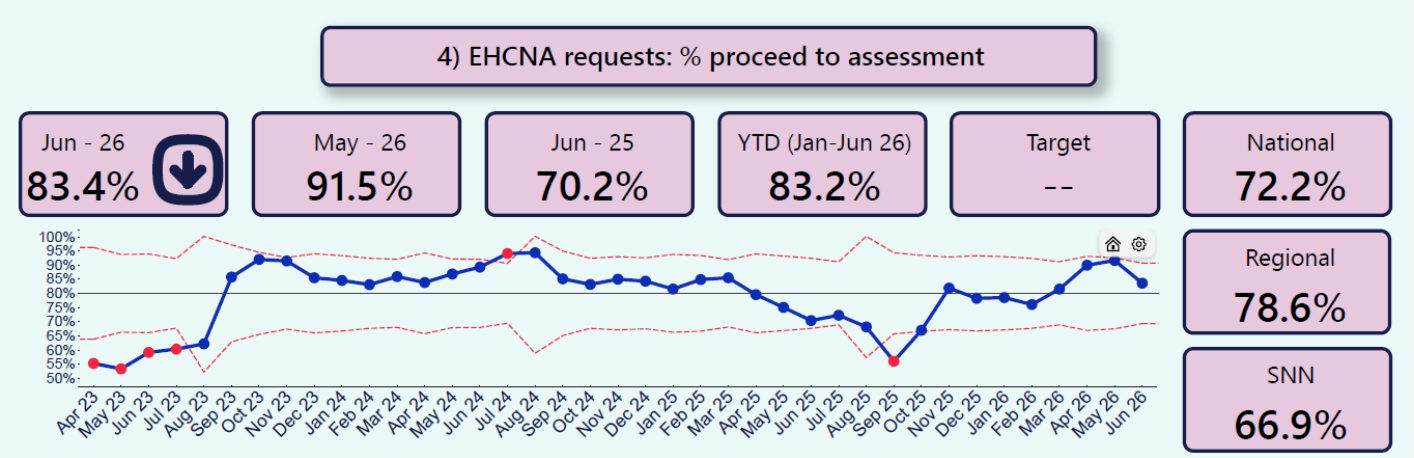
Executive Summary

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System performance has improved significantly, with strong recovery in EHCNA and EHCP timeliness and substantial backlog reduction, demonstrating effective operational grip.
However, underlying demand and system pressure remain high, with rising volumes and increasing case complexity across the pathway.
SEND demand continues to grow within a stable population, with increasing prevalence, earlier identification, and a shift toward more complex SEMH and SLCN need profiles.
System pressure remains across mainstream provision, evidenced by rising SEN Support volumes, increasing exclusions, and persistent attendance gaps, particularly for EHCP pupils.
Post-16 outcomes show a mixed picture: participation is improving for EHCP learners, but employment outcomes are not yet at expected levels .
Outcomes at age 19 are not yet at improved levels, with attainment not keeping pace with improved participation, particularly for EHCP learners.
Strong overlap between EHCPs and social care, while SEN Support reflects earlier-stage need that has not yet escalated.

EHCNA Performance Measures

Timeliness continues strongly, despite underlying demand and system pressure



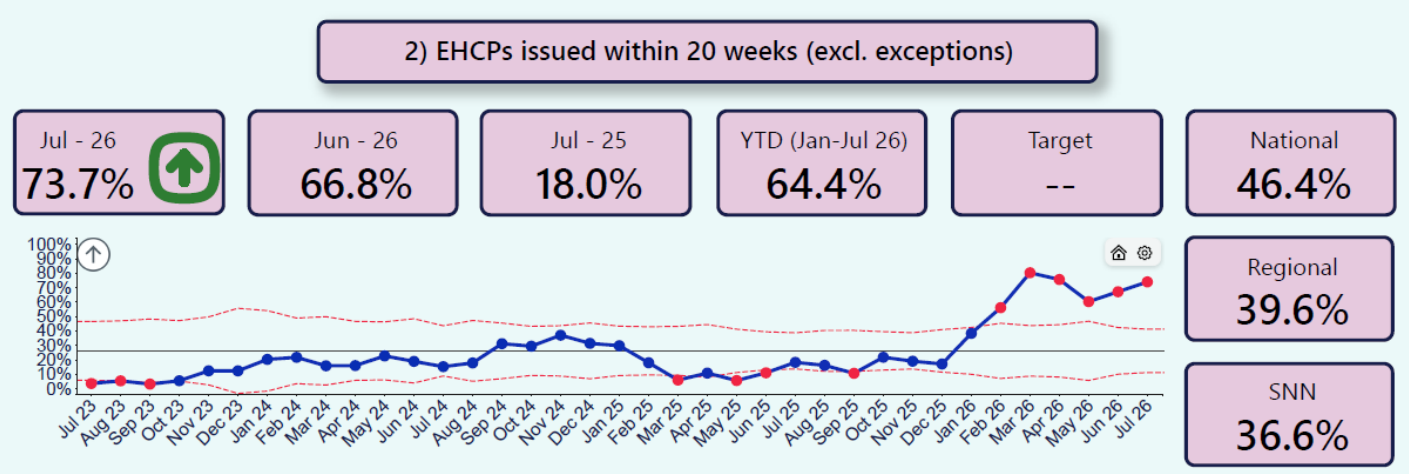


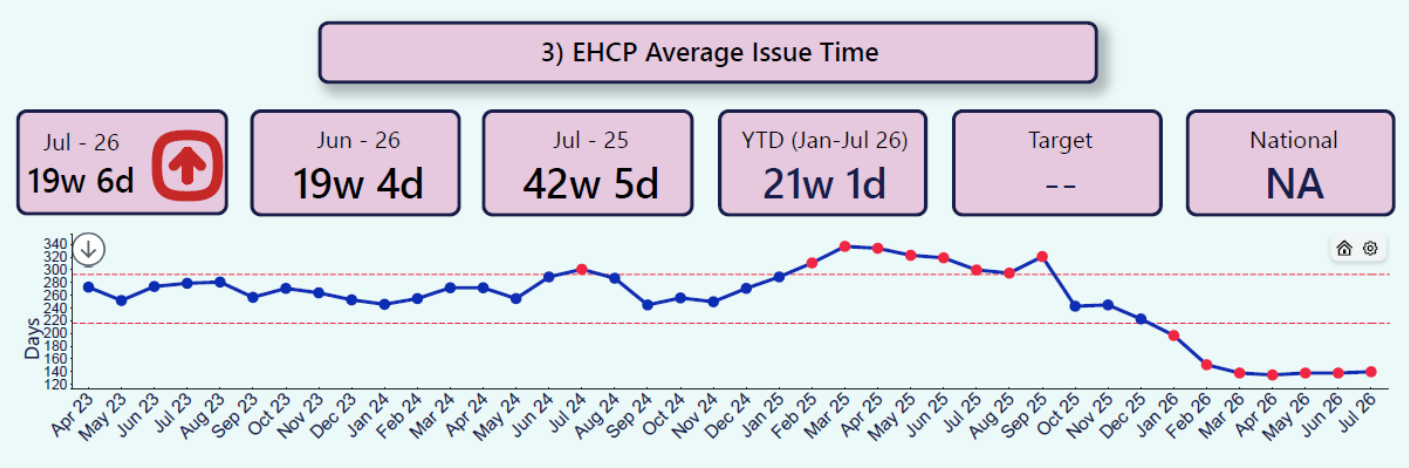
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

EHCNA Performance – Strong Timeliness Recovery, System Pressure Remains

- **Timeliness now performing at or near target**, with 100% of decisions made within 6 weeks (YTD 99.9%), significantly above national (84.8%) and regional benchmarks.
- **Request volumes that proceed to assessment continue to fluctuate month-to-month**, with % proceeding to assessment at 83.4% (Up from 70.2% last year, and Down from 91.5% in May 2026).
- **Backlog has been substantially reduced**, with cases over 20, 32 and 52 weeks all falling to lower levels (3.0%, 0.2%, 0.2%) from the previous months (Jun 26 - 4.8%, 0.7%, 0.2%) alongside a strong rise in cases completed within 20 weeks (97.0%). All assessments that remain over 20 weeks are monitored and specific context analysed for priority actions.

EHCP timeliness and throughput have continued to improve



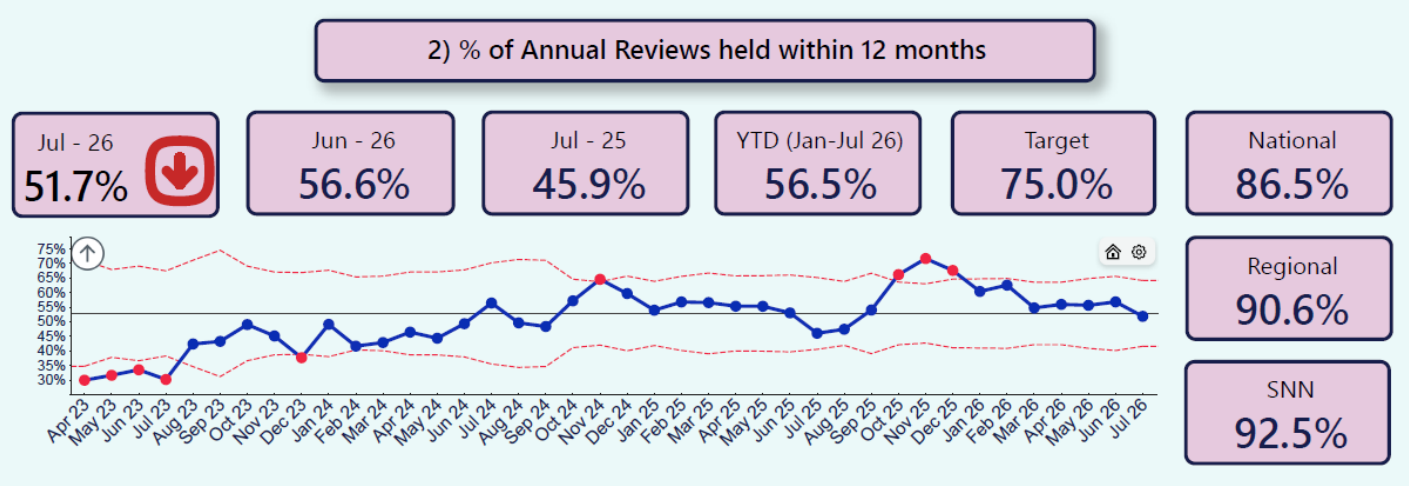


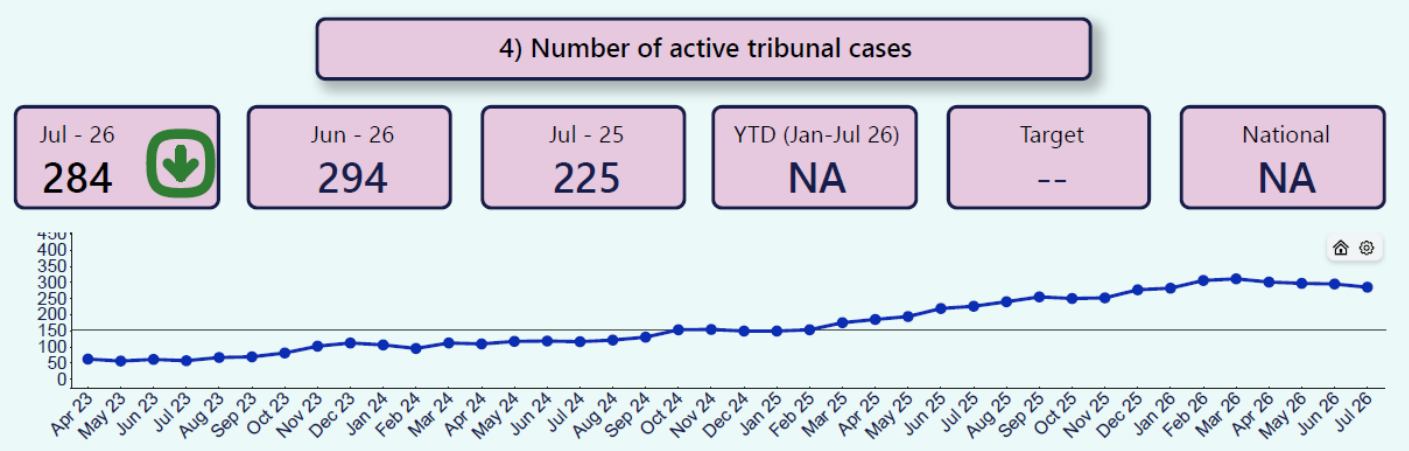
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

EHCP Performance – Significant Recovery in Timeliness and Throughput

- **Strong recovery in statutory timeliness,** with 73.7% of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks (from 18.0% last year), now outperforming national (46.4%) and regional benchmarks.
- **Average issue time has reduced sharply,** continue to be below the 20-week threshold (19w 6d vs 42w 5d last year), indicating sustained improvement in process efficiency.
- **New EHC Plans being issued late have been effectively eliminated,** with 0% issued over 52 weeks and only 1.3% issued late over 32 weeks, demonstrating successful clearance of historic backlog.
- **Throughput remains stable but demand pressure persists,** with 1,388 plans issued YTD and fluctuating monthly volumes, suggesting continued system strain despite improved performance.

Annual Review timeliness and throughput is a targeted area for improvement



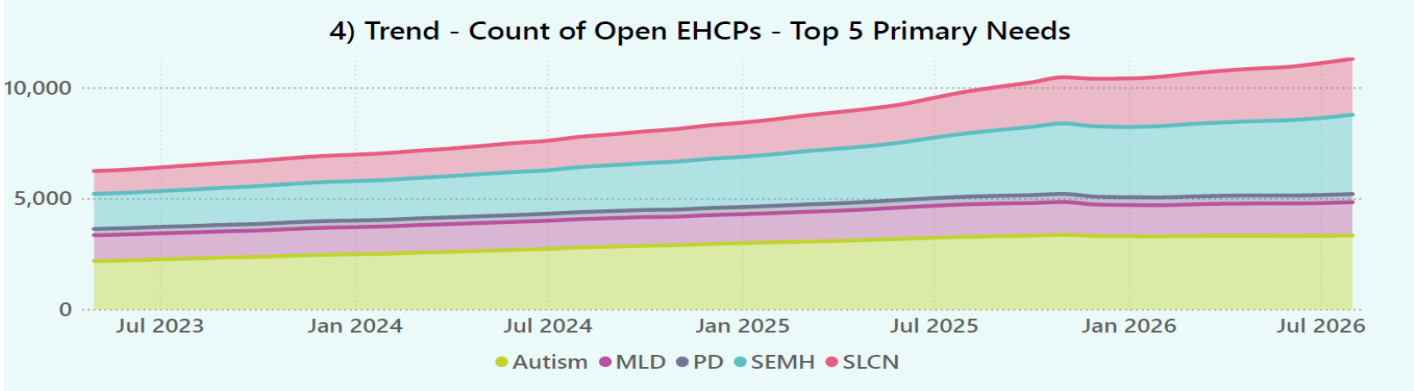


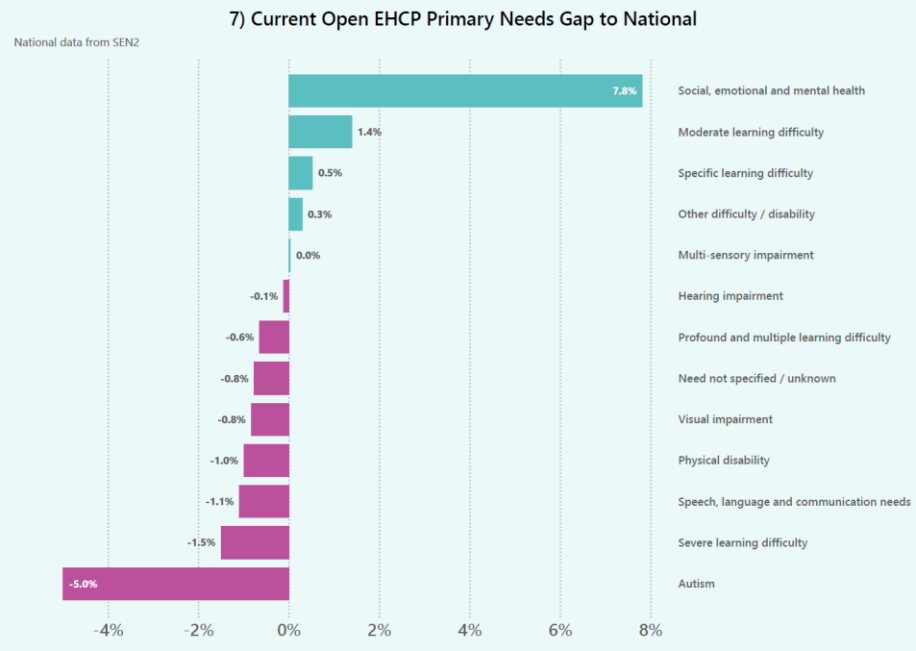
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Review Performance – Throughput Increasing but Timeliness and Quality Lagging

- **Review activity has increased significantly**, with 372 annual reviews completed in July (up from 277 last year) and strong YTD delivery of 2,716, indicating improved operational throughput
- **Amended plans are rising, but down from a March peak** with 583 issued in July, suggesting increased system responsiveness.
- **Timeliness is currently impacted by a focused programme of recovery work addressing reviews outstanding for over 12 months.** 51.7% have had an annual review meeting held within 12 months (compared to a 75% target and 86.5% nationally), this position reflects the prioritisation of clearing the historical backlog, which will support improved compliance and performance once concluded.
- **Tribunal volumes have plateaued**, reaching 284 active cases (up from 225 last year). While some of this is the result of the recovery work feeding through, it still indicates rising challenge and pressure within the system.

EHCP demand is increasing and becoming more complex, with stronger links to social care





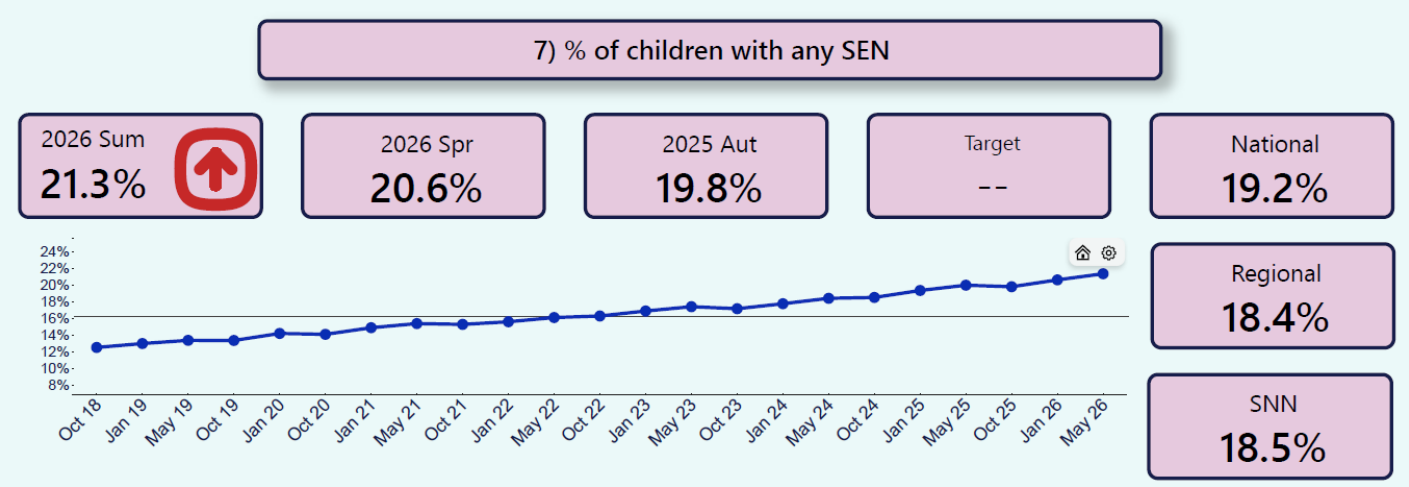
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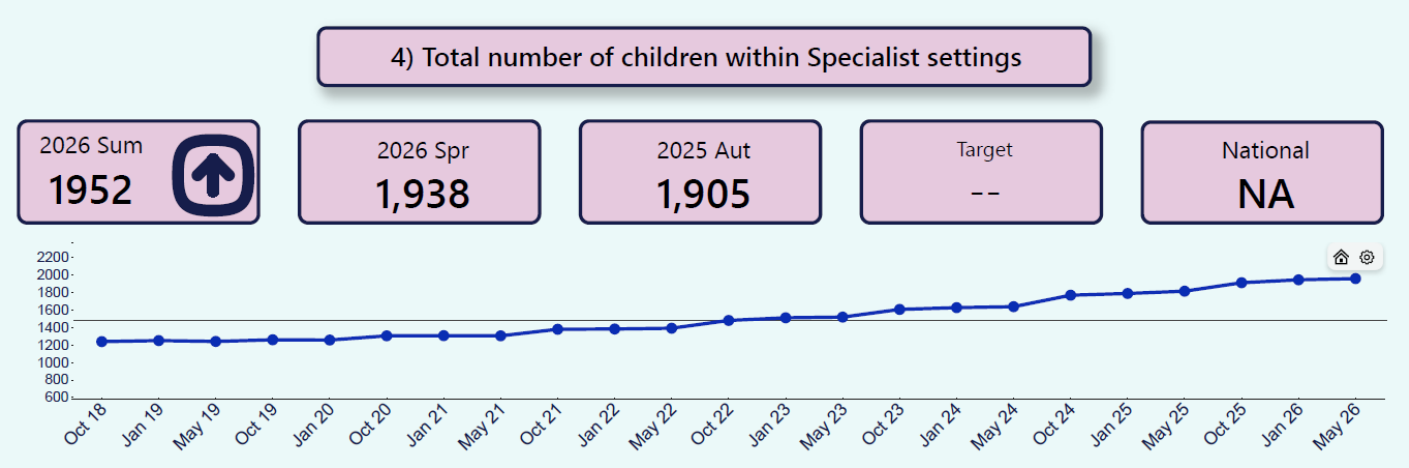
EHCP Profile – Demand Increasing with Shifting and More Complex Needs

- **Total number of EHCPs has continued to rise** to 12, 531 compared to 11,099 this time last year, an increase of 12.9%
- **EHE and EHCP demand continues to rise**, with EHE pupils increasing to 2,222 (2,148 July '25) and those with EHCPs to 274 (173 July 2025) (14.4%), indicating growing system pressure outside mainstream settings
- **Need profile is shifting**, with increasing prevalence of SEMH and SLCN, while Autism remains high but comparatively lower than national benchmarks
- **Suffolk shows a higher concentration of SEMH** need (8.2% higher than national) and lower Autism (5% less than national), suggesting a distinct local demand profile requiring tailored provision and commissioning.
- **Clear proportion of EHCPs are linked to social care**, including 722 children subject to CIN/assessment (5.8% of total EHCP cohort) and 505 working with Family Support (4.4% of total EHCP cohort), highlighting the complexity and multi-agency nature of need.

School Census - Totals

SEND demand is rising within a broadly stable pupil population, with increasing complexity and specialist need





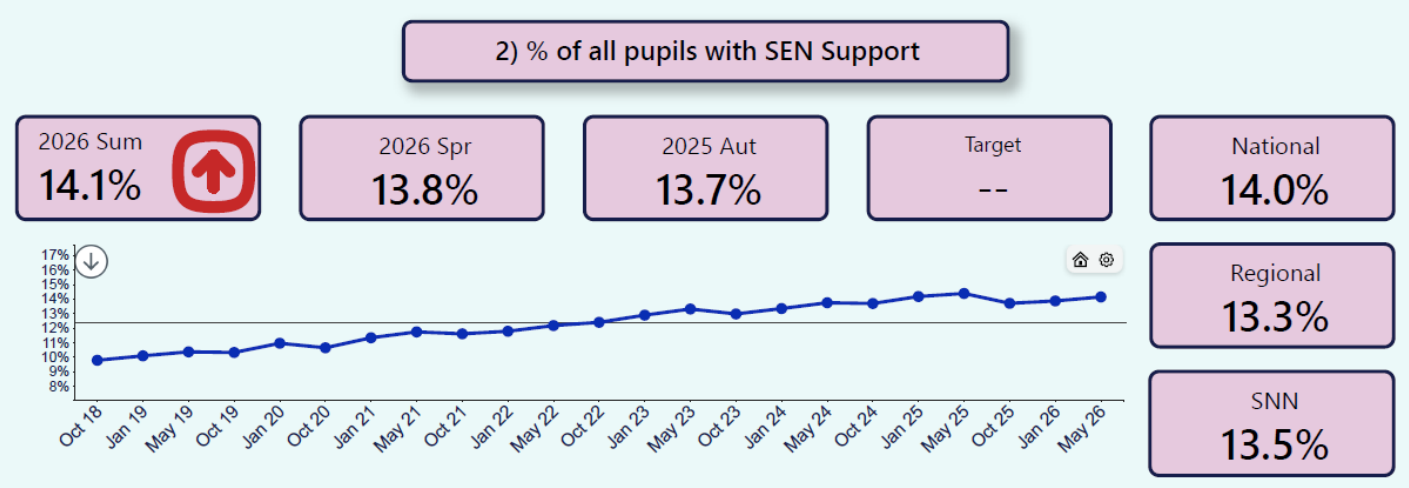
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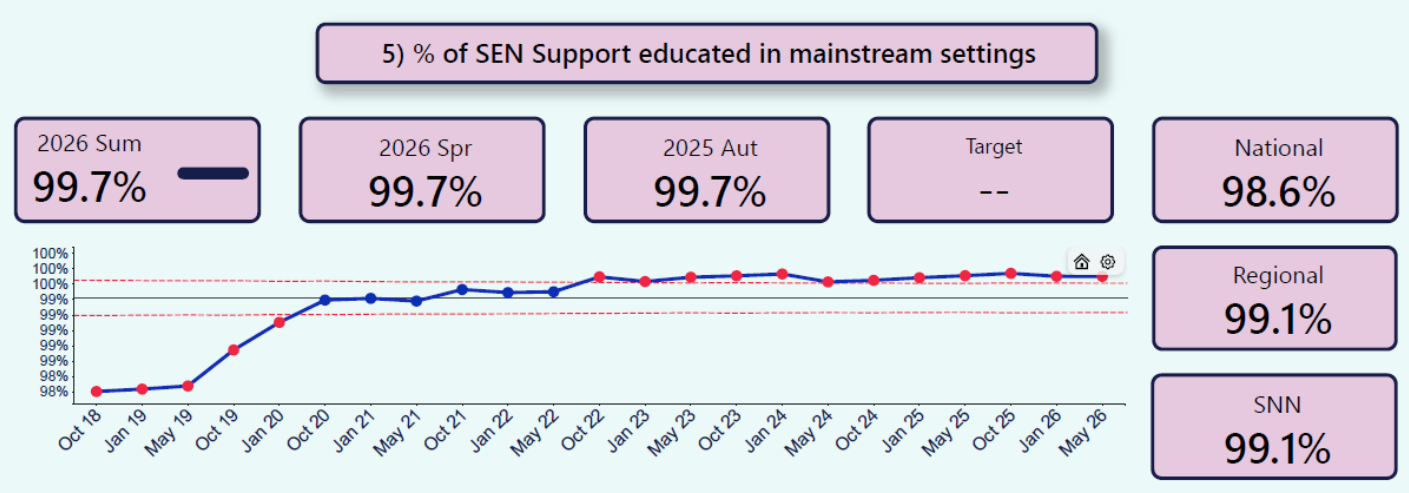
School Census – Rising SEND Demand Within a Stable Overall Population

- **Overall pupil numbers remain broadly stable**, with slight decline in secondary populations but a raise in primary, indicating no major demographic surge driving demand
- **However, SEND demand continues to increase**, with over 21,793 pupils identified with SEN in the school census (Spring ‘25 - 21,025 & Autumn ‘25 - 20,127) and prevalence rising to 19.8% (above national 19.2%)
- **Provision is shifting**, with growth in specialist placements (1,952) (Spring ’16: 1,038 & Autumn ’25: 1,905) suggesting increased reliance on specialist capacity
- **Need profile continues to evolve**, the Latest Census - Top 10 Primary Needs - Any SEN data shows strong SEMH (20%) and SLCN (21%) prevalence, listed while MLD (Moderate learning difficulty) is behind the national (SCC 9%, Nat. 13%).

School Census – SEN Support

Sustained SEN Support demand is placing increasing pressure on mainstream provision





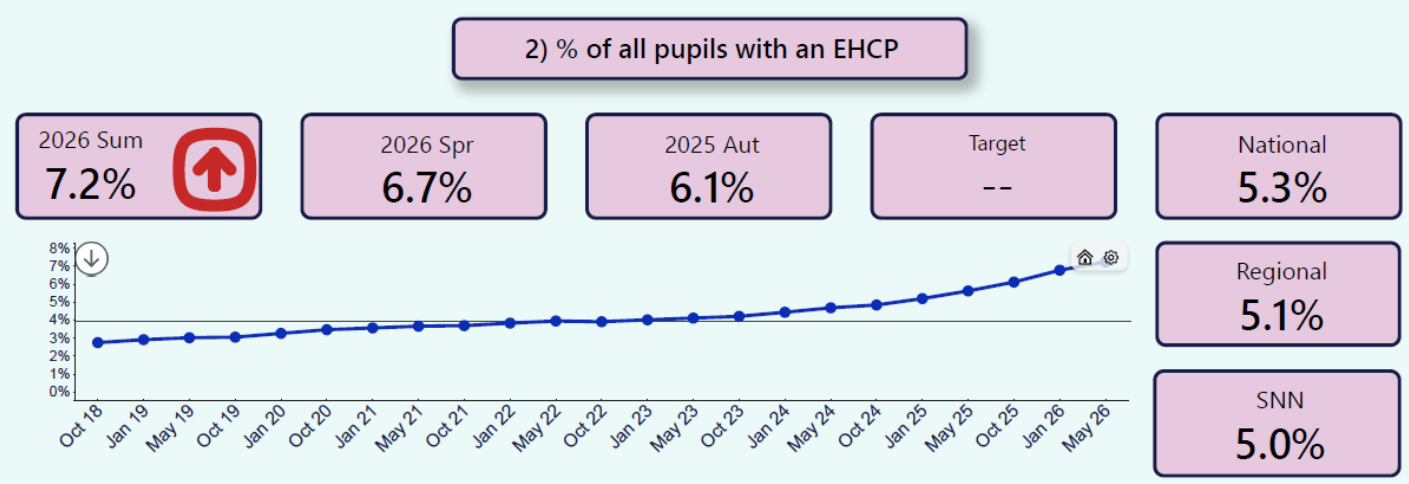
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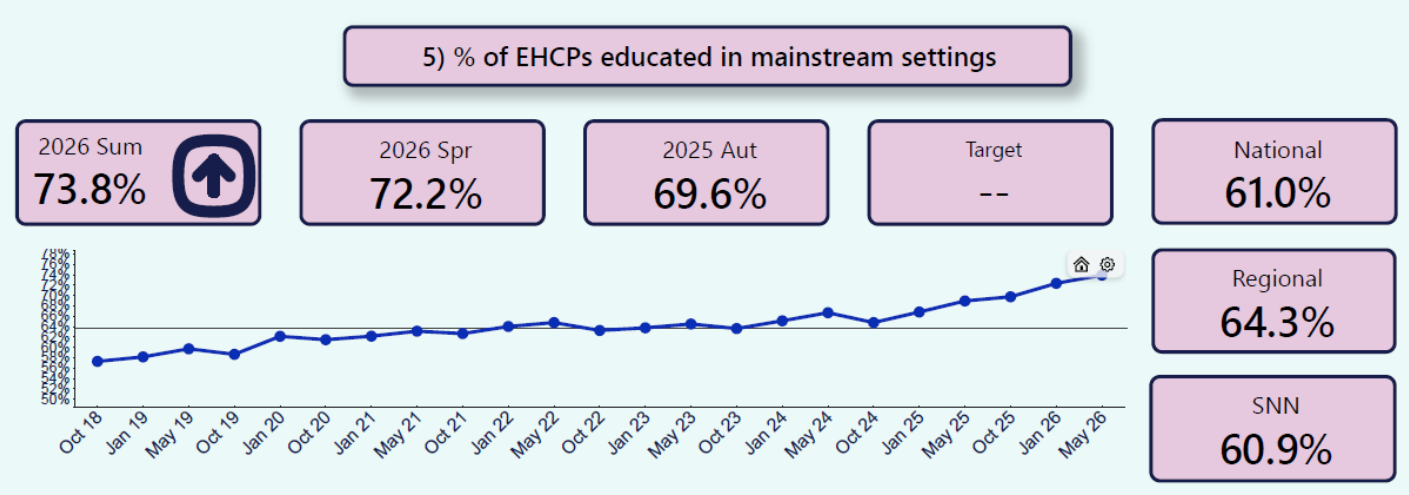
SEN Support – Rising Mainstream Demand with Increasing Complexity of Need

- **SEN Support volumes show shallow trajectory increase**, with 14,430 Summer ‘36 (Spring ‘26 - 14,138 & Autumn ‘25 13,931) pupils and prevalence broadly in line with national (14.1% vs 14.0%), indicating sustained pressure within mainstream settings
- **Mainstream schools remain the primary setting**, with 99.7% of SEN Support pupils educated in mainstream (above national)
- **Very low proportions in specialist** (0.19%) and registered AP (0.04%).
- **Need profile is shifting towards complexity**, the Latest Census - Top 10 Primary Needs - SEN Support data shows with strong SEMH (21%) and SLCN (21%), while MLD tracks behind national (SCC: 9%, Nat. 13%).

School Census – EHCP

EHCP demand continues to grow, with increasing inclusion in mainstream settings and rising complexity





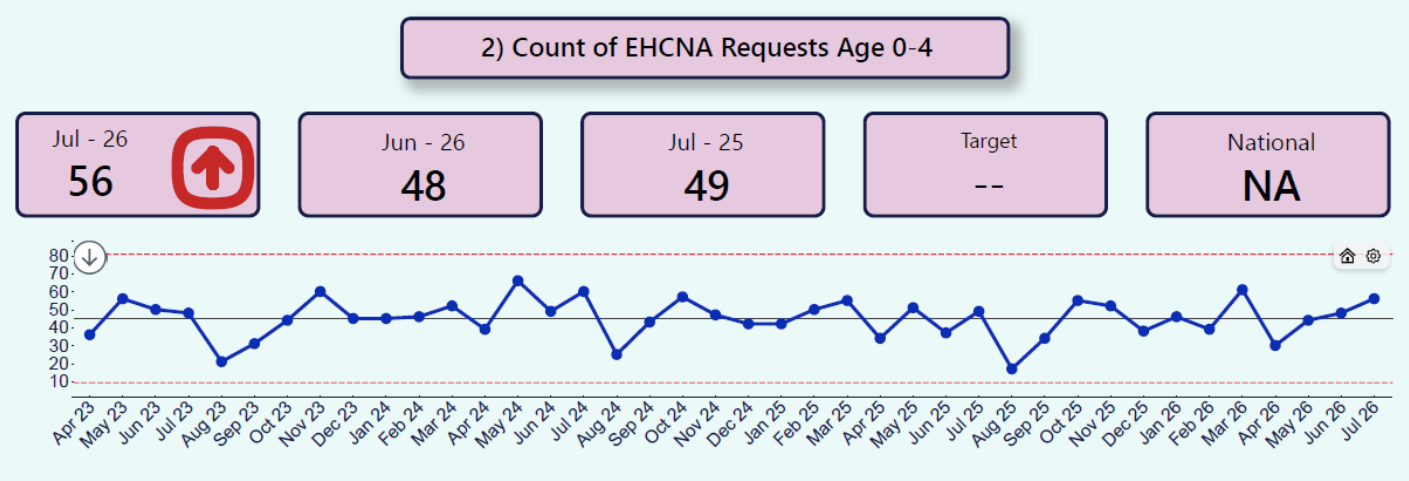
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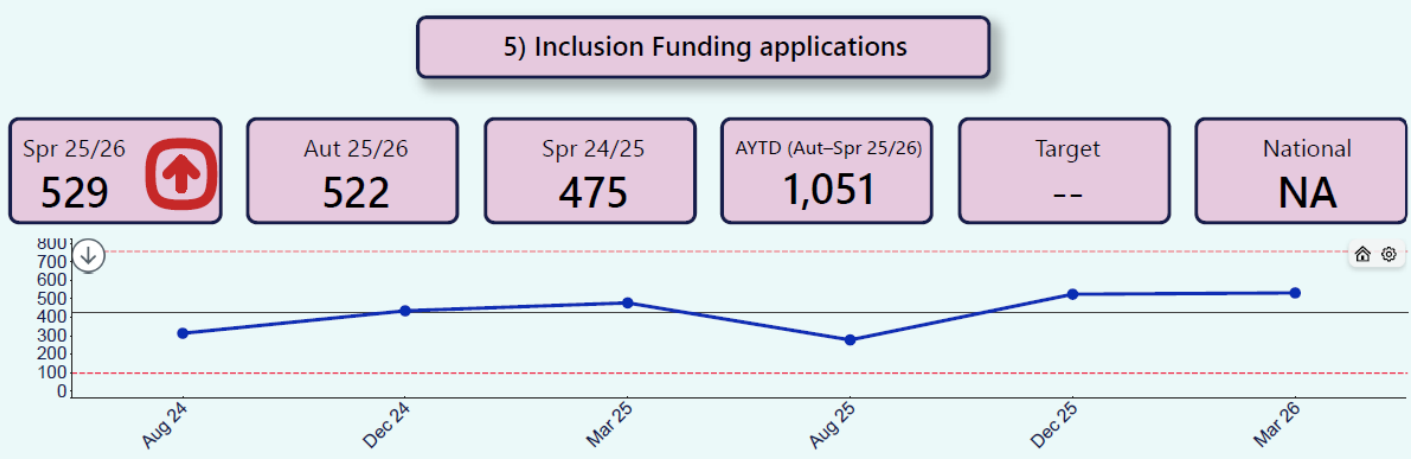
EHCP Population – Growing Demand with Shift Toward Mainstream and Changing Need Profile

- **EHCP numbers continue to rise steadily**, with over 7,363 pupils and prevalence increasing to 7.2% (above national 5.3%), confirming sustained growth in high-need demand
- **Increasing proportion of EHCPs in mainstream settings**, now 73.8% (above national 61%), with corresponding reduction in proportion of specialist placements.
- **Those educated with an EHCP in registered alternative provision is minimal**, suggesting limited system flexibility for pupils whose needs may not be met in mainstream or specialist settings .
- **Need profile continues to evolve**, the Latest Census - Top 10 Primary Needs – EHCP data shows that Autism is the highest with 30%, alongside SEMH (15%) and SLCN (19%).

Early Years

Growing early identification and complexity across early years services





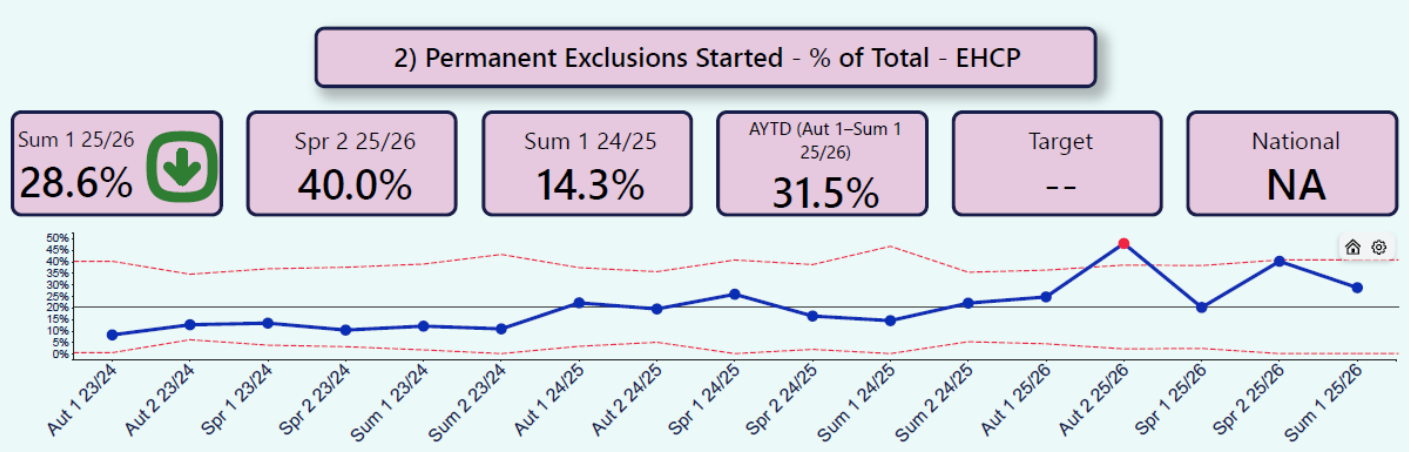
Early Years – Increasing Early Identification Driving Future SEND Demand

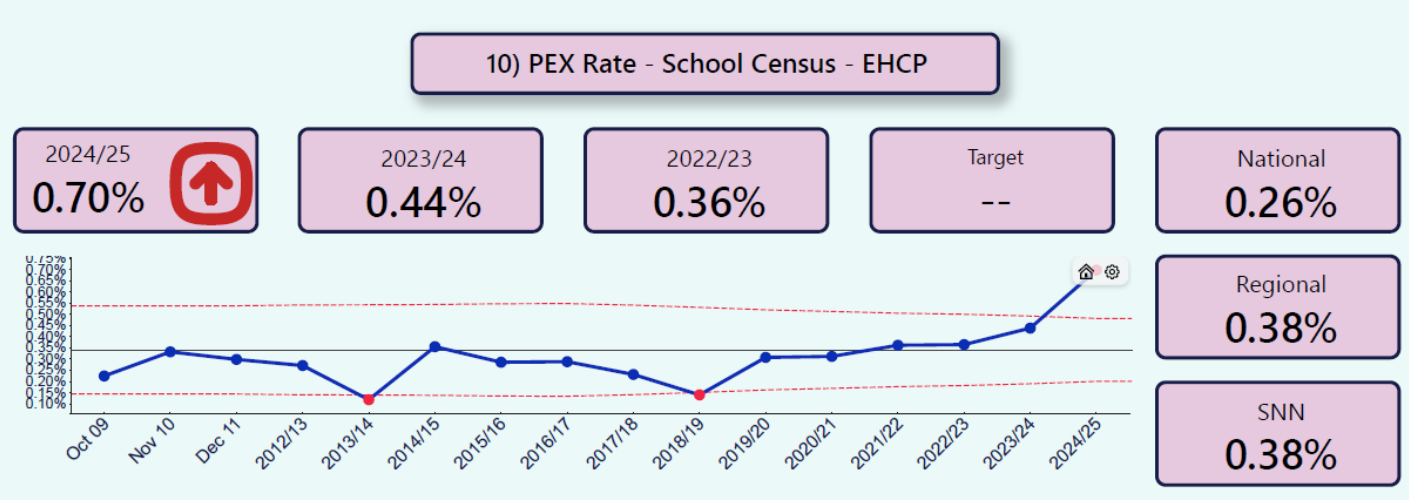
- **Early identification is remaining constant**, with EHCPs for ages 0–4 at 3.3% (up from 3.3% March 2025), approaching regional levels and indicating growing recognition of need at an earlier stage
- **Assessment demand is rising**, with EHCNA requests increasing (56 in July ‘26, compared to 49 in July ‘26), alongside sustained Section 23 notifications, highlighting increased referrals into the system
- **Funding demand is growing significantly**, particularly Inclusion Funding (751 applications Spring 25/26) and sustained high Higher Needs Funding applications (Autumn 25/26: 553 & Spring 24/25: 783), reflecting increasing complexity and support needs in early settings

Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Exclusions – EHCP

EHCP exclusions are relatively low in volume but disproportionately high, indicating concentrated risk





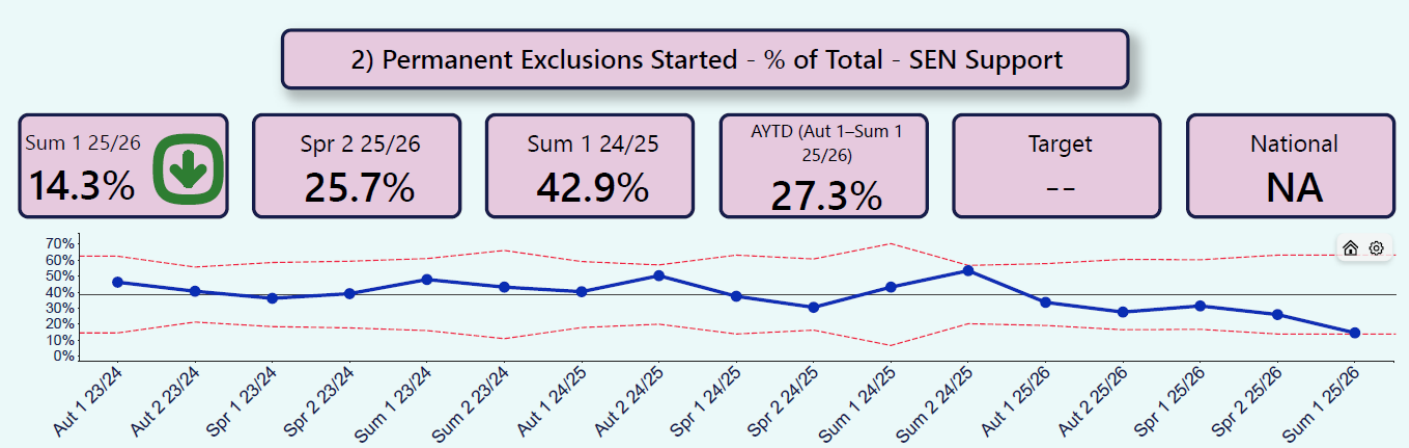
Exclusions (EHCP) – Low Volumes but High Disproportionality and Risk

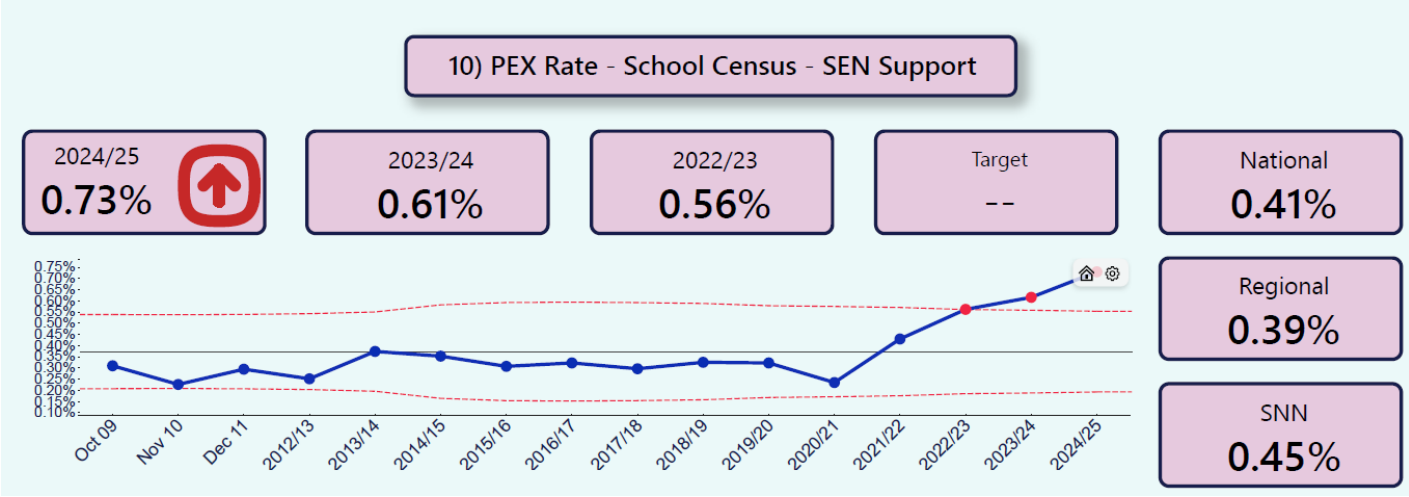
- **Permanent exclusions for EHCP pupils remain relatively low in volume**, with 10 cases in Summer, but trends show fluctuation and periodic spikes across the year
- **EHCP pupils are significantly overrepresented in exclusions**, accounting for 28.6% of exclusions (YTD 31.5%), indicating disproportionate impact on high-need cohorts
- **Exclusions are majority upheld**, with 70% upheld this term (YTD 80.9%), suggesting limited successful challenge or alternative resolutions being agreed.
- **SEMH is the dominant driver of exclusions**, reinforcing the link between need, system pressure, and risk of placement breakdown
- **Overall exclusion rate for EHCP pupils is rising**, now 0.70% (above national 0.26%), indicating increasing pressure within mainstream and specialist provision

Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Exclusions – SEN Support

Disproportionate exclusions at SEN Support highlight early system pressure and emerging risk



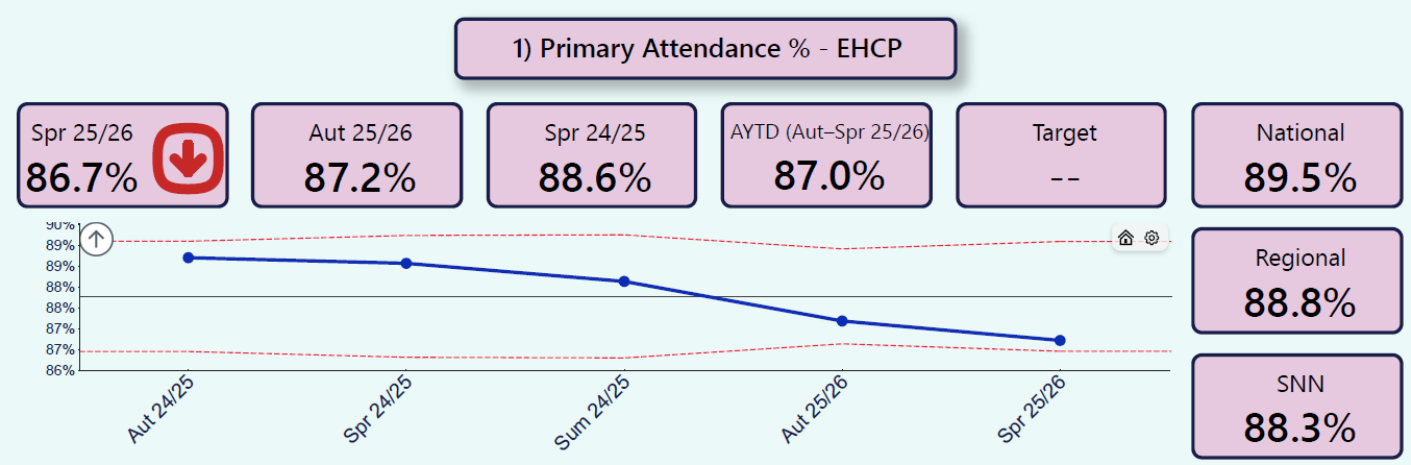


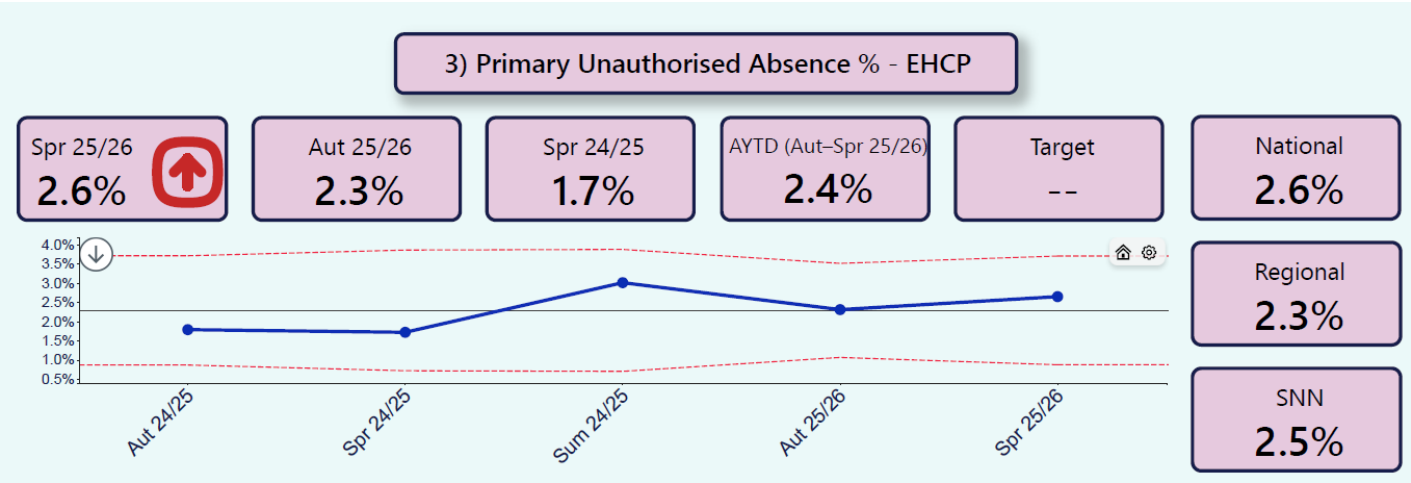
Exclusions (EHCP) – Low Volumes but High Disproportionality and Risk

- Permanent exclusions started at SEN Support level remain consistent in volume (5 this term, down from 9 in Spring 2; YTD 59) but represent a significant proportion of total exclusions (14.3%, YTD 27.3%).
- Exclusions upheld rates remain steady in-period (80.0% in Summer 1), though remain relatively high YTD (88.1%)
- As with EHCPs, SEMH is the primary driver of exclusions, reinforcing the link between need and exclusion risk at an earlier stage in the system.
- Overall exclusion rate for SEN Support pupils is increasing (0.73%), significantly above national (0.41%), indicating growing pressure within mainstream provision

Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Lower attendance and higher absence continue to impact SEND pupils, particularly those with EHCPs



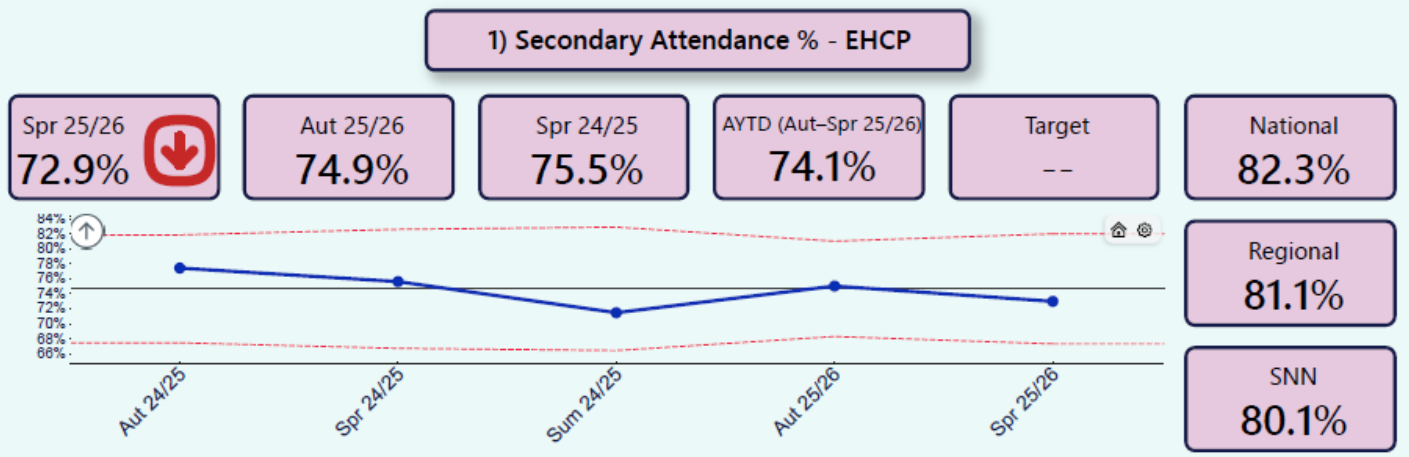


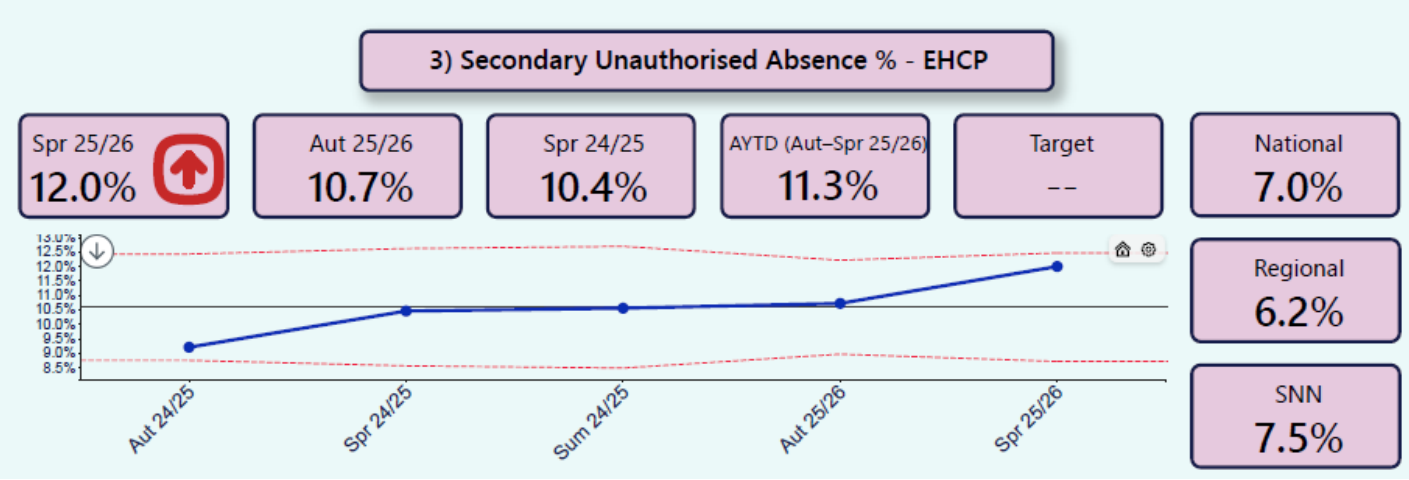
Attendance – Lower Attendance and Higher Absence Across SEND Cohorts, Particularly EHCP

- **Attendance for EHCP pupils remains just below benchmarks** (86.7% vs 89.5% national).
- **Absence is driven by both authorised and unauthorised factors**, with EHCP authorised absence (10.7%) (Spring 24/25 9.7%)and unauthorised absence (2.6%) (Spring 24/25 1.7%) both above/ at national levels
- **SEN Support attendance is comparatively stronger** (93.1%) (compared to Spring 24/25: 92.6%), broadly in line with national (92.8%) and regional (92.6%).
- **Unauthorised absence is increasing for children with an EHCP** (2.6% compared to 1.7% in Spring 24/25) – targeted work being prioritised across SEND Statutory Service and Attendance Service.

Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Lower attendance and higher absence continue to impact SEND pupils, particularly those with EHCPs





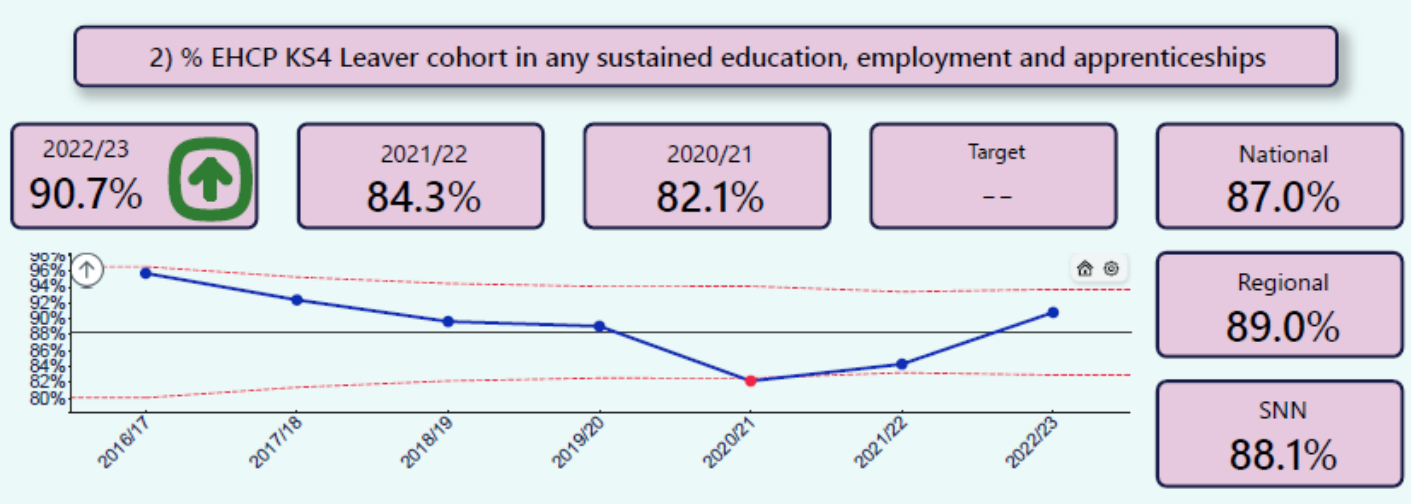
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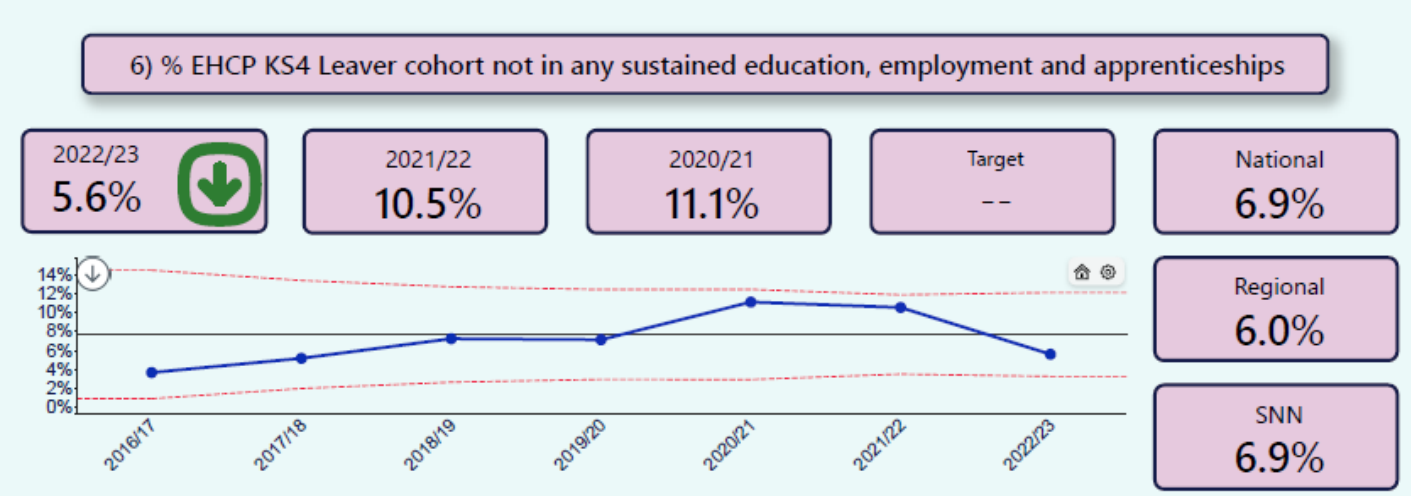
Attendance – Lower Attendance and Higher Absence Across SEND Cohorts, Particularly EHCP

- **Attendance for EHCP pupils remains just below benchmarks** (72.9% vs 82.3% national).
- **Absence is driven by both authorised and unauthorised factors**, with EHCP authorised absence (15.1%) (Spring 24/25 14.0%)and unauthorised absence (12.0%) (Spring 24/25 10.4%) both above national levels
- **SEN Support attendance is comparatively stronger** (87.1%) (compared to Spring 24/25: 86.0%), broadly in line with national (86.2%) and regional (86.2%).
- **Unauthorised absence is increasing for children with an EHCP** (12.0% compared to 10.4% in Spring 24/25) – targeted work being prioritised across SEND Statutory Service and Attendance Service.

KS4 Leaver Destinations – EHCP

Participation is strong, but employment and apprenticeship pathways remain weak





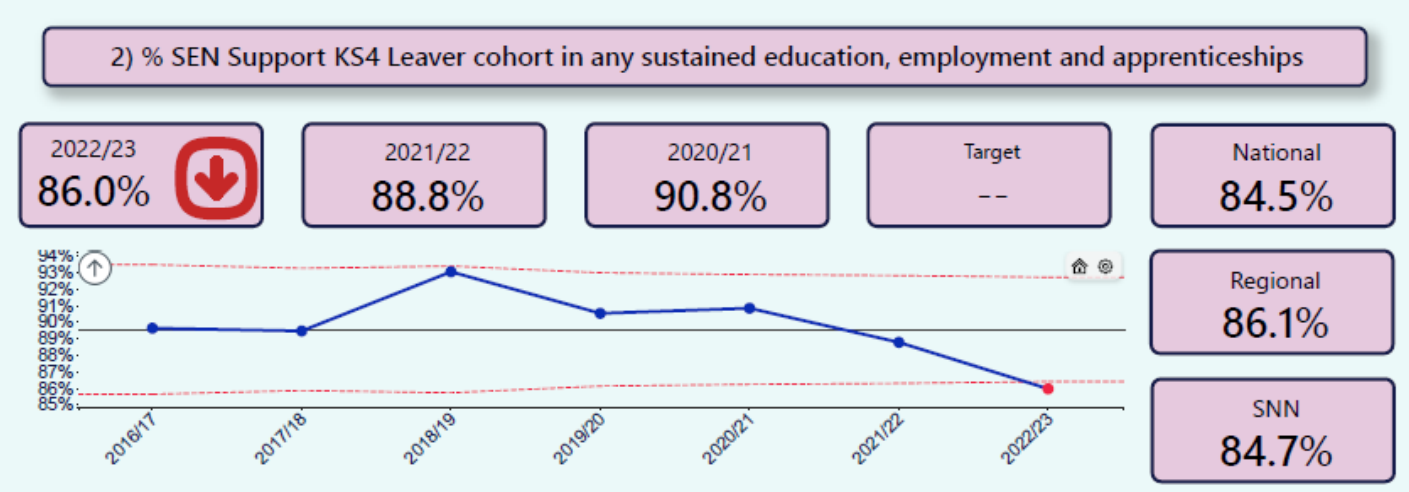
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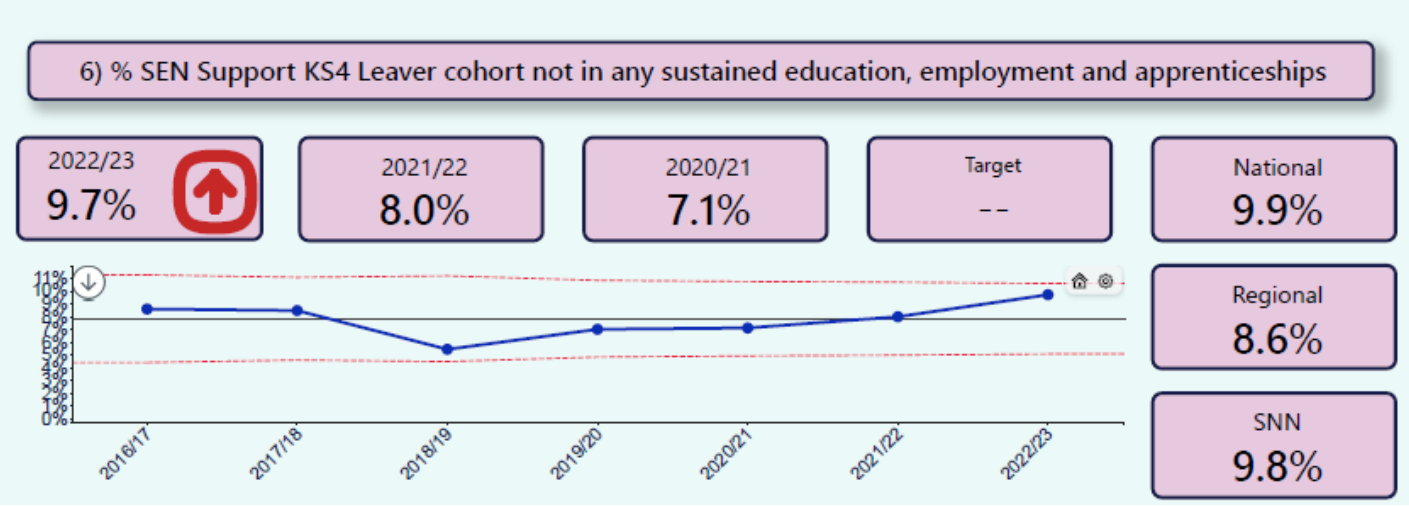
KS4 Leaver Destinations – Strong Overall Participation but Limited Progression into Employment Pathways

- **Overall sustained participation is strong and improving** (90.7%) (21/22 – 84.3%), now above national (87.0%), indicating effective transition into post-16 provision
- **This is primarily driven by sustained education** (88.0%) (21/22 - 81.5%), which has recovered and now exceeds national and regional benchmarks
- **Progression into employment and apprenticeships remains above national**, with apprenticeships 1.2% (2022/23 vs National – 0.9%) and employment 1.5% (2022/23 vs National – 1.1%)
- **Encouragingly, the proportion not in education, employment or training has reduced significantly** (5.6% vs 11.1% previously), indicating improved engagement
- **Unknown destinations are also reducing** (3.7%), suggesting improved tracking and system oversight

KS4 Leaver Destinations – SEN Support

Participation is declining, with rising risk of NEET and weaker post-16 outcomes



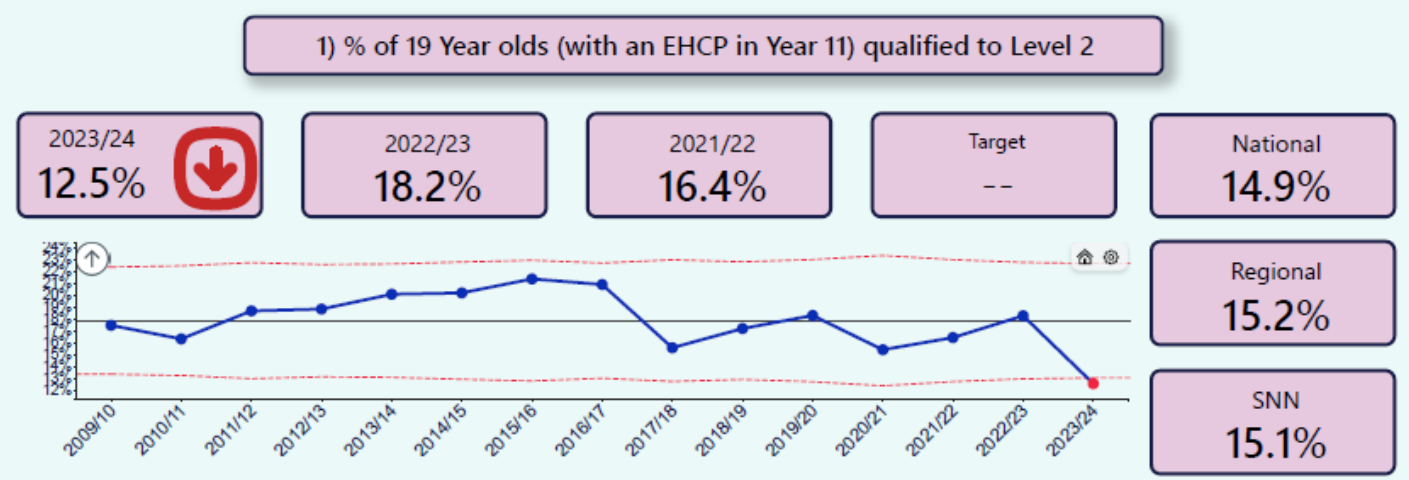


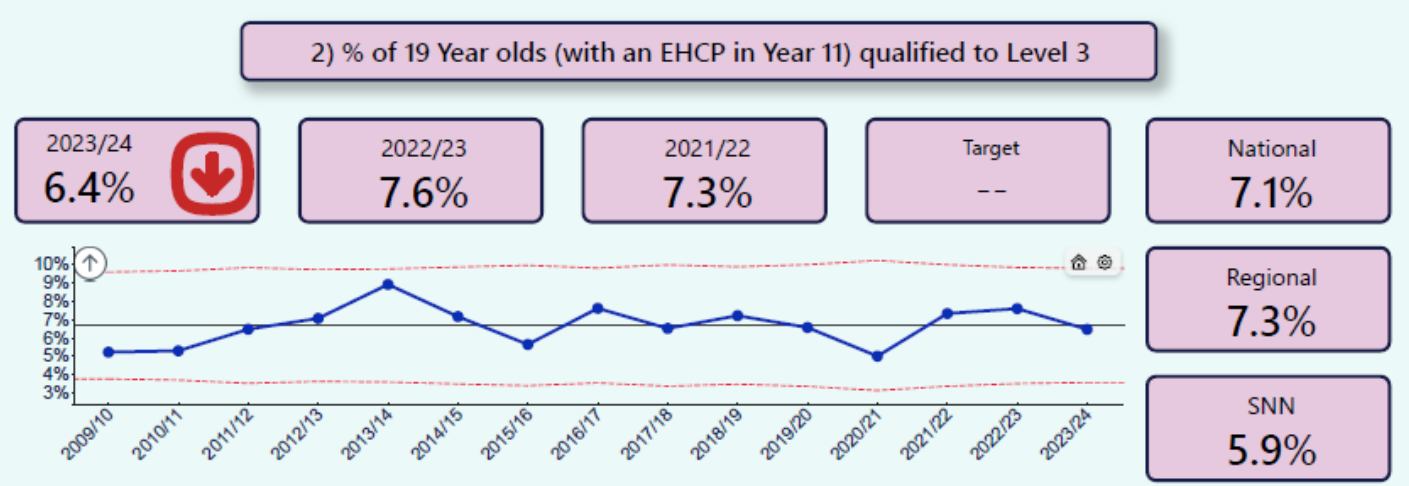
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

SEN Support KS4 Leaver Destinations – Declining Outcomes and Rising Risk of Disengagement

- **Sustained participation has declined to 86.0%,** falling from 90.8% and now only marginally above national (84.5%).
- **This decline is driven by a reduction in sustained education** 79.1% (2021/22 – 88.8%), indicating weaker post-16 transitions into education pathways.
- **Apprenticeship participation is declining** (3.5%) (2021/22 – 4.0%), although still slightly above national levels.
- **Employment outcomes remain broadly stable** (3.3%) (2021/22 – 2.7%), in line with national.
- **The proportion not in education, employment or training has increased** 9.7% (2021/22 – 8.0%), alongside rising unknown destinations (4.4%).

Attainment for EHCP learners has declined, while SEN Support at Level 3 has improved



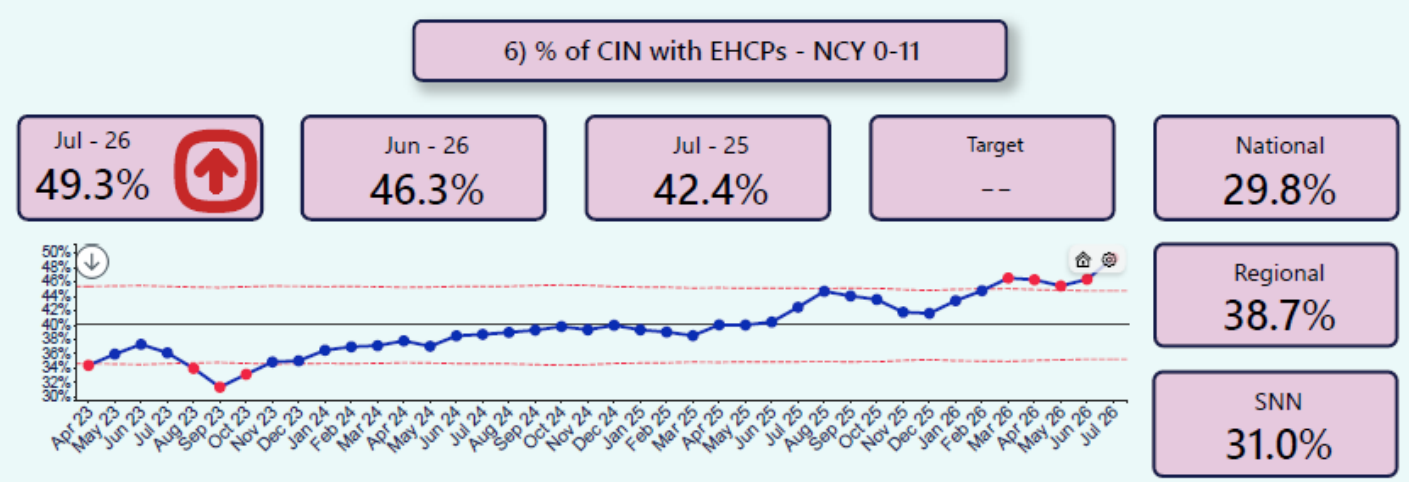


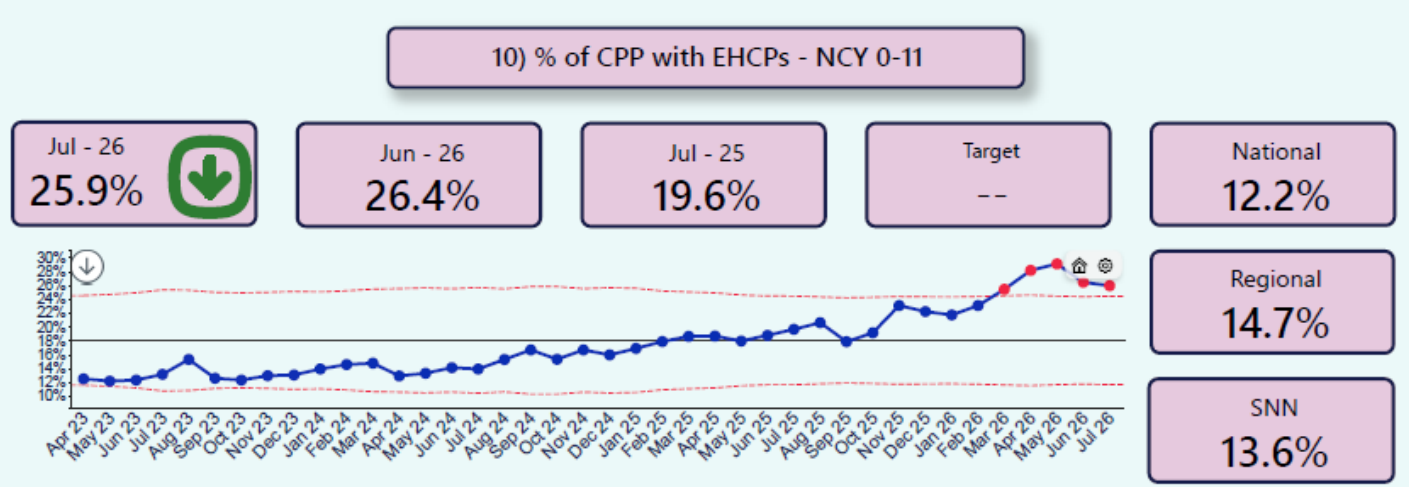
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Attainment at Age 19

- **Attainment for EHCP learners has declined**, with Level 2 (12.5%) and Level 3 (6.4%) both falling and now below national benchmarks
- **For SEN Support, Level 2 attainment remains relatively stable** (34.0%) (2022/23 – 35.1%), broadly in line with national, but has declined slightly year-on-year
- **Level 3 attainment for SEN Support has improved** (17.3%) (2022/23 – 15.5%), now close to national levels, suggesting stronger progression for this cohort at higher attainment levels

EHCPs are increasingly concentrated within high-risk social care cohorts





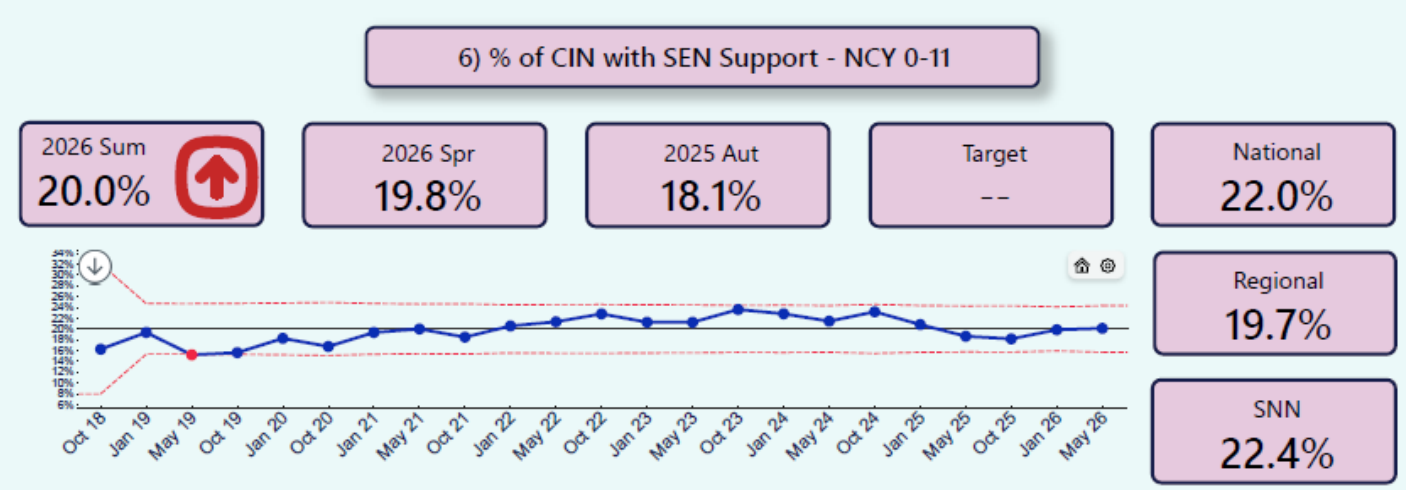
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

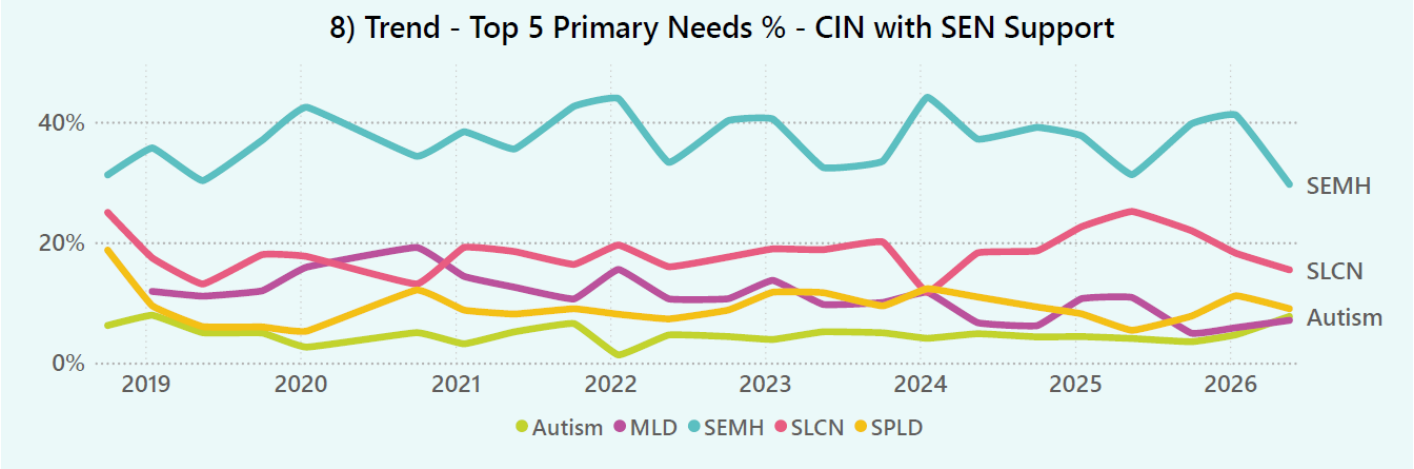
Social Care & EHCPs –Growth in Complexity and Concentration of High-Risk Need

- There is increasing overlap between EHCPs and social care, particularly:
  - Children in Need (CIN): 49.3% of CIN now have EHCPs (well above national 29.8%)
  - Child Protection (CPP): 25.9% have EHCPs (double national 12.2%)
  - Children in Care (CiC): 39.4% have EHCPs (above all comparators)
  - Absolute numbers are rising across all cohorts, especially CIN 645 (Jun 26' 620) and CiC 226 (Jun 26' 229)
- Multi-agency working in place between SEND and Social Care Teams is maintaining oversight of these children and young people.

Social Care – SEN Support

Early-stage need is evident, but social care overlap remains limited and stable



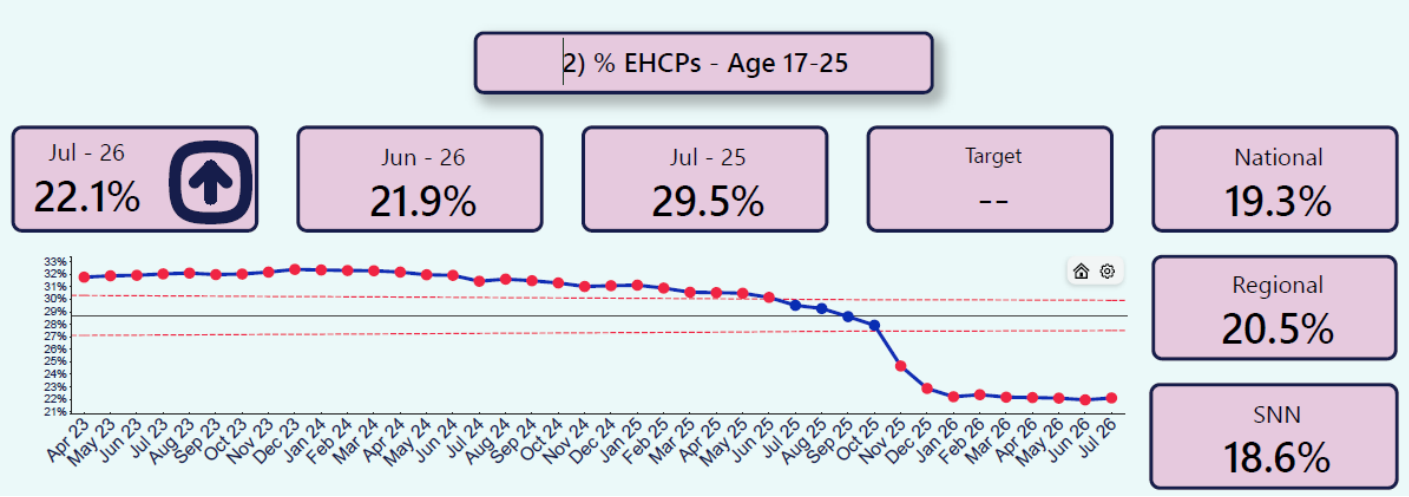


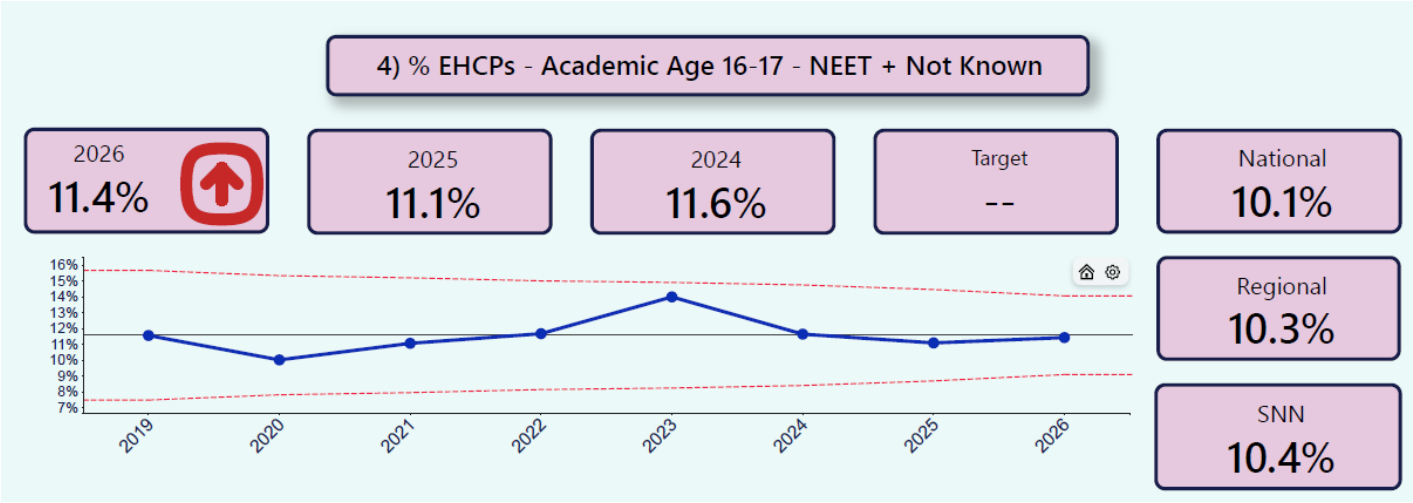
Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

Social Care & SEN Support – Early-Stage Need Present but Not Yet Concentrated

- **Overlap between SEN Support and social care is below national benchmarks**, with CiC (15.9% vs 27.6%), CIN (20.0% vs 22.0%) and CPP (19.9% vs 30.2%) all lower
- **Absolute volumes vary. For CiC 84 numbers remain steady** (Spring ’26: 84, Autumn ’25: 89), Although, there is a decrease in CIN 155 (Spring ’26: 170, Autumn ’25: 141) as well as a decrease in CPP 56 (Spring ’26: 84, Autumn ’25: 86).
- **Only a very small proportion of SEN Support pupils have social care involvement**, with CiC 0.6% (Spring ’26: 0.6%, Autumn ’25: 0.6%), CIN 1.1% (Spring ’26: 1.2%, Autumn ’25: 1.0%) and CPP 0.4% (Spring ’26: 0.5%, Autumn ’25: 0.6%), highlighting limited overlap compared to EHCP
- **Need profiles are dominated by SEMH** (~40–60%) with rising SLCN, while Autsim and MLD remain lower, indicating earlier-stage behavioural and communication needs rather than complex diagnostic profiles

NEET levels are reducing and education participation improving, but employment pathways remain limited





Source: SEND Scorecard, Data Accurate as of 12/08

17–25 – Improving Participation but Ongoing Gap in Post-16 Outcomes

- **EHCP volumes for ages 17–25 remain high** (2,764) (July '25: 3,371), indicating sustained demand into adulthood, though overall proportion has reduced (22.1% vs 29.5% last year).
- **Participation in education is below national** SCC: 86.3% (2025: 86.7%). National (87.4%), highlighting a continued gap in post-16 engagement.
- **Apprenticeships and training participation remains low** (1.5%, 23 Young people), below national (3.2%), affecting progression into employment pathways.
- **As well as this not in education, employment or training has remains** above the national. With 11.4% (11.1% 2025) compared to National 10.1%.

SEND Quality, Assurance and Performance

AOB and Close