

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Needs and Sufficiency Assessment 2025



**North East and
North Cumbria**



North Tyneside Council

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1. Overview and Key Findings

1.1 Introduction

North Tyneside has a strong partnership, which is committed to working together to support our children and young people to access the best education to meet their needs and to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

We have embarked on the sufficiency needs assessment of our provision for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) in order to:

- assess the needs of our children and young people; and,
- evaluate how well our current provision meets children and young people's needs, and identify any gaps.

The SEND Needs and Sufficiency Assessment is updated every three years as part of the joint commissioning cycle in North Tyneside. It assists the SEND Strategic Board to hold the partnership to account by reviewing the latest picture of needs, and assessing progress against the priorities in the Joint Commissioning Strategy. The priorities for joint commissioning in the strategy are to:

- Strengthen capacity to identify needs and improve the use information to inform commissioning decisions.
- Meet needs through high quality, relevant commissioned services.
- Improve the outcomes from commissioned services.
- Increase the personalisation of services and co-produce commissioned services with parents, carers, children, and young people.
- Improve the effectiveness of joint commissioning arrangements.

The regular review of the SEND Needs and Sufficiency Assessment also allows the SEND Strategic Board and partners to retain a clear line of sight on the relationship between changing needs and the development of the local offer of education, health and care provision, services and support for children and young people with SEND. It also enables the SEND Strategic Board to monitor how effectively the North Tyneside's partnership objectives are being met. The objectives are to:

- intervene early with evidence based, family focussed services;
- work in partnership to keep children in school; and,
- keep children safe at home and connected to their local communities.

1.2 Key Findings in Relation to Sufficiency of SEND Provision

This report is structured around our four actions for children and young people in North Tyneside; that they have a safe life, a healthy life, a happy life, and are achieving in life. The key issues in relation to sufficiency relate to the following:

- Requests for statutory assessment remain high and there is a continued increase in the whole SEND population, both those with EHCPs and those with SEN Support. This requires a whole system approach.
- This increase is across all ages and puts increased pressures on education, health and care services. Significant capacity issues continue to be experienced in Special Schools.
- There are increases in pupils with multiple vulnerabilities e.g. being a child in care and having an EHCP. A higher proportion of those are open to social care with higher levels of SEN need, compared to nationally.
- There are Increasing pressures for KS4 education and post-16 provision which are projected to continue.
- There is increasing pressure on Moorbridge, the Pupil Referral Unit, and on Alternative Education provision.
- The Local Authority's rate of exclusions in 2023-24 is higher than the national average. The LA rate of exclusions for pupils with an EHCP has decreased significantly from 2022-23 (to 0.13% from 0.36%) which compares well to the national average of 0.2% in 2022-23.
- The changing needs of the SEND population mean that the designation of Additionally Resourced Provisions needs to change to enable more children to be included in mainstream schools.
- Increases in the numbers of pupils with ASD, SEMH and PMLD, and specifically, the combination of ASD and SEMH, is a trend which is a contributing factor in the increase in placements in external provision, out of borough placements.
- The capacity of therapeutic services is also under pressure and particularly CAMHS, where there is high demand for assessment via neurodevelopmental pathways.
- Enabling access to short breaks and access to leisure opportunities for some children and their families is challenging, and particularly for a small number of children with complex health and care needs who require home care and outreach.

- Access to high quality information (e.g. through promotion of the Local Offer), including for families with children with SEN Support, continues to be a priority.

1.3 Review of Progress and Next Steps

A Safe Life

Social Care– short breaks

New providers have been sourced and a short break framework is now in operation to support children under the care of the Children's Disability team. Work continues through the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) and the inclusion activities they have on offer. The next steps will be to look at where the gaps are in short break provision is, and how we can best meet need.

A Healthy Life

Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD) Pathway

At present there is no dedicated Occupational Therapy (OT) provision for children in North Tyneside whose main presenting need is with sensory processing difficulties (SPD). The aim of this service would be to offer sensory interventions and strategies that support a child or young person's sensory needs by adapting tasks or the environment and improving a child's capacity for self-regulation.

The lack of a specialist SPD service has resulted in a service provision gap in the borough. A request for additional finance the Integrated Care Board (ICB), to provide this specialist service in North Tyneside is currently being considered.

Delegated Health Tasks in Schools– Special School Nurse (SSN) Capacity and Demand

There have been identified challenges for the SSN team due to increasing service demand and capacity. Pupil numbers in each of the special schools has increased year on year.

The ICB is currently undertaking a scoping exercise to review the service and its current challenges, this will result in a final report with several

recommendations and options being produced and presented at ICB executive board.

A Happy Life

Support in the Early Years

An Early Years Inclusion Service was established in September 2024, bringing together early years services to support children aged 0–5 who have an identified SEN need, and their families. This includes support for all early-years providers including those from the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector, and childminders.

Special School Provision

Overall places funded in North Tyneside Special Schools have continued to increase. Over the past five years, to January 2024, the number of pupils in our special schools increased from 665 to 867, a 30% increase, compared to a 27% increase over the same time period nationally.

Each special school has increased in number of places over the last five years, to meet the needs of children and young people. Further analysis suggests that over the past five years there has been an increase in the primary needs social emotional and mental health needs, and speech, language and communication needs.

Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs)/ Special Education Needs Units (SEN Units)

Over the last 18 months work has been conducted to expand the range of ARPs and develop SEN unit provision in the Borough. There will be an increase in the total places across primary and secondary phases by an additional 114 to a total of 253 places by January 2028. This is a key part of developing the wider system of SEND placements, to better reflect the changing needs of the cohort of children with SEND.

It is hoped that this work ensures that children and young people have access to additional SEND provision that is high quality, inclusive and sustainable. As part of this ARP/SEN unit workstream there will be greater consistency in access,

oversight, and quality monitoring of the ARPs and SEN units, and effective progression pathways through each key stage and into post-16 provision. At a cohort level, the expansion and development of ARPs, SEN units and specialist provision will ensure that the changing needs of children with Speech Language and Communication Needs, Autism Spectrum Condition, and Social Emotional Mental Health are met. The next step is to continue this work with the well-established steering group, which has 47 members, including 22 schools represented.

Inclusion and the Graduated Approach

The Graduated Approach has been redeveloped and design in a partnership approach, with many stakeholders and partners. The Graduated Approach is now being used by schools, families, and partners to support children and young people. The Graduated Approach outlines support at universal, targeted, and statutory level. Work will continue to ensure the Graduated Approach is used to support inclusion.

Alternative Provision

Funded places at Moorbridge Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) have continued to increase from 135 to 159 between September 2020- September 2024, an 18% increase. The total number of children accessing provision at Moorbridge has increased by 35% between January 2022 and January 2024 (255 to 343 pupils). Some of this increase is due to an increase in Moorbridge's Personalised Learning Service which was increased in May 2023 to try and meet demand from the number of pupils accessing alternative provision.

In January 2025 an Alternative Provision working group has been involving 10 schools represented. This first task for this group will work together to procure the bespoke alternative education framework.

Achieving in Life

Preparation for Adulthood Team

In September 2023 a SEND preparation for adulthood team was created within the SEND service, to focus on all those young people who are post 16. This team will enable and empower young people and adults, as well as their families to prepare for a smooth transition through to adulthood.

2. Local Context

North Tyneside is a metropolitan borough in the county of Tyne and Wear.

2.1 Population Profile

The latest official estimate of North Tyneside's population (ONS Mid-2023) is 211,769 of which 54,973 (26%) are aged 0 to 24 (inclusive).

The population of North Tyneside is projected to grow by 4.4% by 2030 with an increasingly aging population; projections indicating the number of persons aged 65 years and over will increase by 21%. Over this same period, the population aged 0-24 is only projected to increase by 1%.

Population projections indicate reductions in the number of children and young people in the 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 age groups totalling around 1,400 by 2030. However, the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups are projected to rise by almost 2,100 young people by 2030. In particular, the projected increase in the 15-19 age group which is expected to rise by 12.6% (1,340 young people). This highlights a potential increase in demand for secondary, special and post 16 education and employment provision, health and therapeutic services and social care.

2.2 Existing SEND Provision in North Tyneside

Childcare and Early Years

The [Childcare Sufficiency Audit Statement 2023](#) provides an analysis of childcare provision available across North Tyneside suggesting a vibrant and diverse childcare market catering for a wide variety of family requirements, including for children with additional needs. Data tells us that the proportion accessing Government funded entitlements who have SEND has risen from 1.8% in 2018 to 3.2% in 2024. The number and proportion accessing 3 and 4 year old funding who have SEND, has risen from 7.4% to 11.5% (347 to 498).

The Early Years census (Jan 24) shows that 9.3% (601) of the 2, 3 and 4-year-olds accessing either the extended or funded entitlement have SEND. This is compared to 7.7% nationally. This includes pupils in schools and accessing private, voluntary or independent providers (PVI). In line with national changes the greatest increase is seen in pupils with SEN support accessing the 15 hour entitlement.

Children with more complex needs are likely to require specialist nursery places. In the January 2024 school census, there were 4 nursery pupils educated in North Tyneside special schools (Beacon Hill, Woodlawn and Benton Dene). This is far fewer than the January 2023 census (14).

The Early Years Inclusion (EYI) funding panel (formerly known as LEAPS) is responsible for considering applications for additional support for eligible 2-year-olds, 3 and 4-year-olds accessing funded early education offers. EYI Inclusion funding is allocated to settings who can demonstrate that the child requires additional adult support to implement specific strategies and interventions to support the child to make good progress. The EYI support should be over and above support provided by the childcare provider from their own resources with targets and outcomes evaluated effectively. Evaluations from parents are positive and they would recommend the service to others.

Education

The table below shows the number of maintained schools and academies in North Tyneside. In addition, located within the Borough, are two independent special schools, a non-maintained special school, an independent school and a further education college. There are currently nine ARPs with 100 funded places in the and three SEN units with 70 funded places. There are currently four primary ARPs totalling 48 places, and three secondary ARPs totalling 37 places. There is one first school ARP with five places, one middle school ARP with five places, and one high school ARP with five places. There is one primary SEN unit with 23 places, and two secondary SEN units with 47 places.

The secondary PRU, Moorbridge offer a personalised learning service, Route 16 programme, and day six provision.

Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral
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1	55 - including 8 First Schools and 9 Academies	16 - including 4 Middle Schools and 1 All though -including 3 Academies	5 -1 Primary -1 KS2-KS4 -1 Secondary -2 All through	1 Secondary PRU
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Overall places funded in North Tyneside Special Schools have continued to increase. Over the past five years, to January 2024, the number of pupils in our special schools increased from 665 to 867, a 30% increase, compared to a 27% increase over the same time period nationally.

Social Care Provision for Children and Adults with Disabilities

There is an in- house children's home Addison Street, which provides overnight short breaks for children. We have recently expanded in-house children's homes, to ensure needs can be met locally. In addition to in-house provision, several arrangements are in place: a short breaks provision framework, and arrangements for placements with non-maintained and independent special schools and colleges and children's homes. However, on occasions, access to additional provision is required to meet complex needs. There is a national shortage of appropriate provision for children with complex care needs. This is something which is being looked at both regionally and nationally

Health Provision/therapeutic services

The key providers of health services in North Tyneside are Northumbria Health Care NHS Foundation Trust and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust. Services provided by Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust include Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. Crisis, early intervention in psychosis and tier 4 Mental Health services are provided by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust. Services provided by the Children's Public Health Service include health visitors and school nurses. The Connect Mental Health Support Team (MHST) works with local schools in North Tyneside to deliver low and moderate intensity interventions to support pupils with low mood, anxiety and poor self-esteem.

2.3 Children and Young People with SEND

Under Section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and Section 312 of the 1996 Education Act, a child or young person has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Children have a learning difficulty or disability if they:

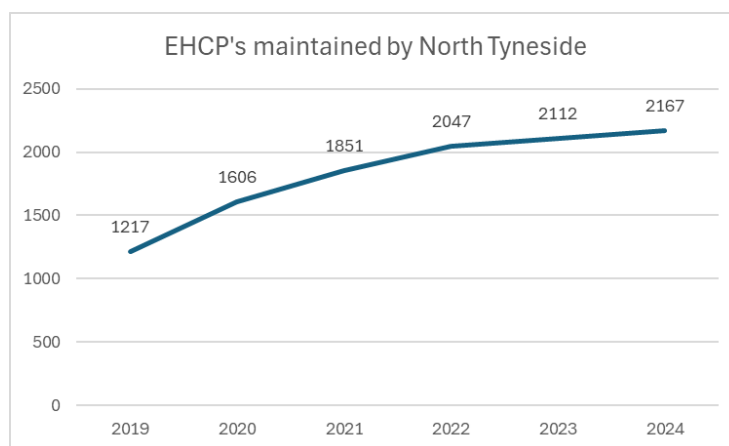
- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age;
- have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions; or,
- are under compulsory school age and fall within one of the definitions above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

Once a need has been identified an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) can be conducted. Most requests for an EHCNA for very young children come from health professionals. Although the majority of requests for EHCNA come from schools and educational settings, an increasing proportion come from parents. Of all initial requests for EHCNA, in 2021 26% were from parents, this rose to 29% in 2022 and 25% as at November 2024.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by North Tyneside

Children and young people with an EHCP are those who need more assistance to access their education than is available through SEN Support.

The number of EHCPs maintained by North Tyneside continues to increase. The latest published data shows a 35% increase over the past 5 years in North Tyneside (1606 to 2167), compared to a 48% increase nationally and a 40% increase regionally.



Thus far in 2024, the number of children and young people with an EHCP have continued to increase, with the latest figures (as of December 2024) showing 2292 children with a North Tyneside maintained EHCP. This increase continues to put pressure on sufficiency of places and puts increased demand on services across education, health and care.

EHCPs by age band

Age	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	# Change	%Change
Under 5	61	55	96	106	97	36	59%
5-10	526	591	607	653	691	165	31%
11-15	583	686	782	832	844	261	45%
16-19	324	393	441	436	445	121	37%
20-25	112	126	121	85	90	-22	-20%
Total	1606	1851	2047	2112	2167	561	35%

The largest percentage increase over the last five years is in the under 5 age group. Although this started from a lower baseline than the other age bands, when combined with the increase of requests for an EHCNA for those under 5, it is clear that this age band is seeing growth not previously seen, placing increasing pressure on the need for specialist places within Early Years. The establishment of the Early Years Partnership, incorporating the Inclusion Years Inclusion Service in September 2024 is intended to support the identification of need, and that those needs are met at the earliest possibility.

The table below shows the proportion of SEN Support and EHCP pupils with each type of need.

	SEN Support		EHCP	
	England	North Tyneside	England	North Tyneside
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	9%	7%	33%	30%
Hearing Impairment	2%	1%	2%	1%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	16%	5%	8%	8%
Multi- Sensory Impairment	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Difficulty/Disability	4%	5%	2%	3%
Physical Disability	2%	2%	4%	5%
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	0%	0%	3%	2%
Severe Learning Difficulty	0%	0%	8%	5%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	22%	25%	16%	19%
Specific Learning Difficulty	14%	16%	4%	4%
Speech, Language and Communications needs	26%	37%	20%	22%
Visual Impairment	1%	1%	1%	0%

Table 3: Types of SEN Need in North Tyneside schools (excluding non-maintained schools)

Both nationally and within North Tyneside schools the highest prevalence of need amongst those with SEN Support is for Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). The second highest prevalence it is for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Within the EHCP cohort, the most common need both nationally and in North Tyneside schools is Autism, followed by Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

Primary Needs Recorded in the School Census 2020 to 2024 for Children with SEND

The percentage change in primary need type each year and over the past five years, for all SEND pupils, is shown in the tables below.

% Change					
Primary Need	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ASD	13.9%	10.6%	20.2%	13.1%	23.2%
HI	4.8%	-7.7%	-3.3%	8.6%	-1.6%
MLD	-13.9%	-13.0%	-4.6%	-8.4%	2.8%
MSI	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	25.0%	10.0%
NSA	-31.3%	59.1%	-2.9%	155.9%	20.0%
OTH	24.6%	-1.4%	-3.4%	-10.4%	-13.7%
PD	-0.8%	6.7%	2.4%	-8.5%	-2.6%
PMLD	-8.8%	-12.9%	14.8%	-3.2%	-12.0%
SEMH	11.1%	4.5%	-1.1%	15.6%	8.1%
SLCN	7.1%	8.1%	6.2%	7.3%	7.6%
SLD	9.2%	-5.6%	6.0%	19.7%	7.4%
SPLD	10.9%	-1.6%	2.1%	1.6%	13.1%
VI	11.4%	-12.8%	0.0%	0.0%	-8.8%

% Change 5 Years - All	
Primary Need	
ASD	85%
HI	-6%
MLD	-23%
MSI	57%
NSA	255%
OTH	-27%
PD	-12%
PMLD	-17%
SEMH	20%
SLCN	30%
SLD	38%
SPLD	13%
VI	-23%

Table 4: Changes in SEN Need types in North Tyneside maintained schools and academies – all SEND

Amongst all pupils with SEND, not only does North Tyneside have a higher prevalence, than nationally, of pupils with SLCN and SEMH, these needs have also all seen an increase over the past five years. We have also seen large increases in those with Autism, (ASD), Multi-Sensory Impairments (MSI) and Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). On the other hand, those with Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) and Visual Impairment (VI) identified as their primary need have been reducing and the proportion in schools is now significantly lower than national. Traditionally, many of the ARPs in North Tyneside schools were designated for children with MLD. We recognise that these need to be redesignated to meet the changing needs of the population and the review of ARPs is underway.

Of note are the increases in the number of pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD), Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There are also some notable percentage increases for pupils with Other Needs, Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Speech, Language and Communications needs (SLCN).

Due to the sizes of the increases and the cohorts, further analysis has been carried out below in relation to the cohorts with ASD, SEMH, SLCN, NSA and SLD.

It should be borne in mind that the information below relates to the children in North Tyneside schools. It is important to also understand the needs of the children and young people for whom North Tyneside maintain the EHCPs and who are being educated in non-maintained / independent provisions within North Tyneside and also those who are educated outside of North Tyneside. (see section 5: 'A happy life,' for further information about this)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The chart below shows the number of pupils in each year group with ASD identified as their primary need (orange- SEN Support, blue - EHCP). Previously, we highlighted that there were high levels of need in KS1 and lower in KS2. However, the data below from January 2024 suggests that there are increasingly high levels of need across all age ranges. This may suggest earlier diagnosis of need and suggests that provision for these pupils has continued to be needed across all age ranges.

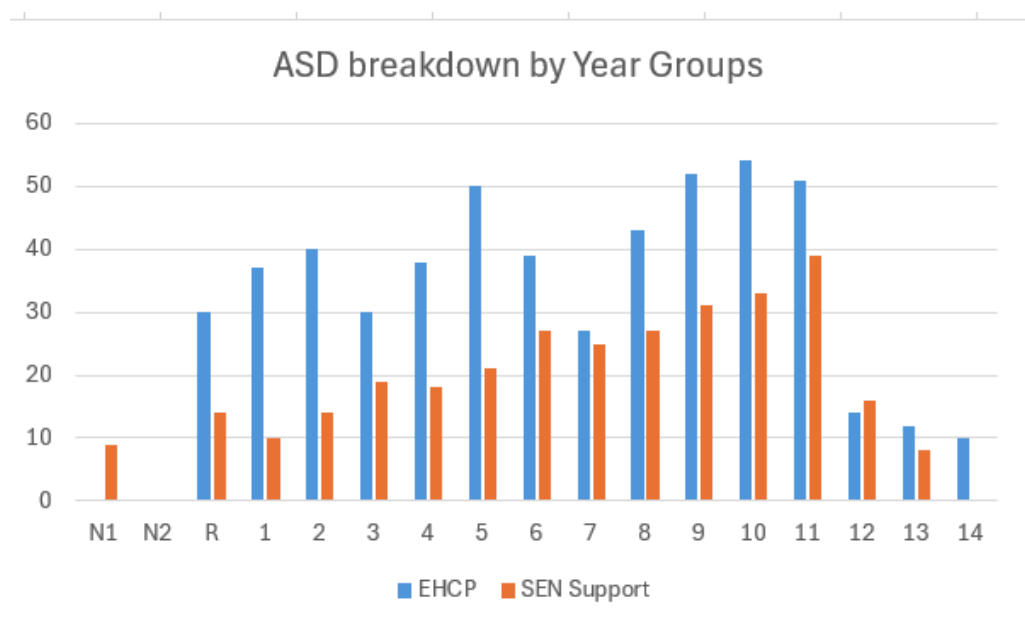


Figure 4: ASD by year group

In the January 2024 school census there were 838 children with primary need recorded as ASD (158 more than in Jan 2023, this is a rise of 23%), 527 with an EHCP and 311 receiving SEN Support.

Pupils with an EHCP and ASD as their primary need are most likely to be educated in a special school (65%).

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

In total, there are 1402 pupils in North Tyneside schools with SEMH identified as their primary need (Jan 24 school census), 105 more than January 2023, indicating an 8% rise. There are 331 with an EHCP and 1071 receiving SEN Support

The chart below shows the number in each year group (orange – SEN Support, blue-EHCP). This highlights that EHCPs are more likely for secondary aged pupils.

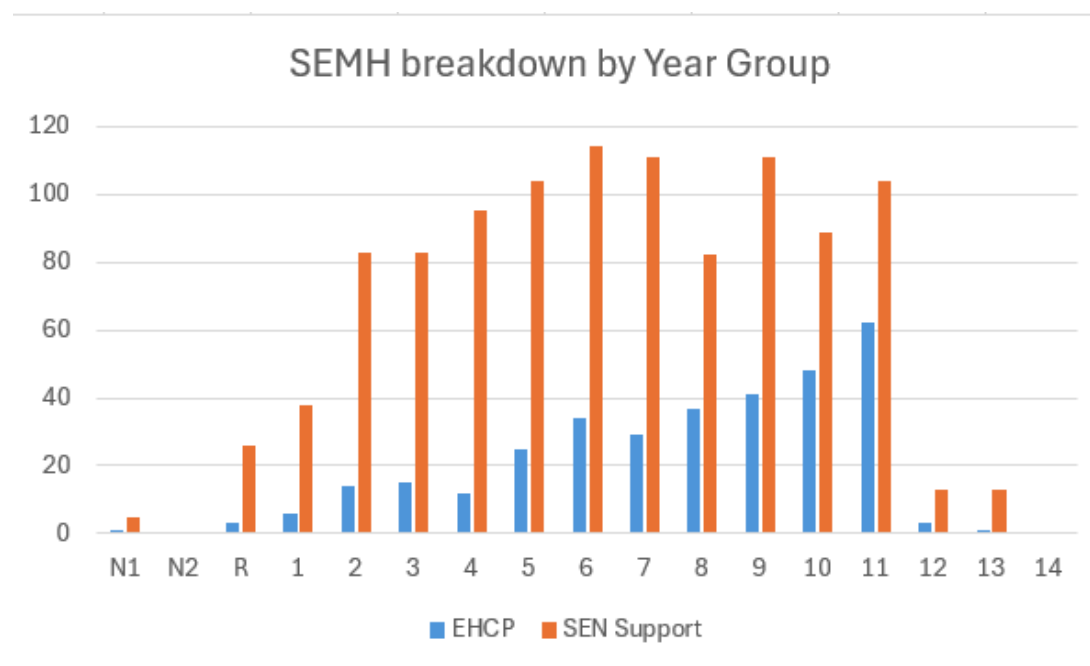


Figure 5: SEMH by year group

The majority of pupils with a SEN Support and SEMH as their primary need are educated in a mainstream school (96%). The majority of pupils with an EHCP and SEMH as their primary need are educated in a special school (52%).

Speech, Language and Communications needs (SLCN)

In total, there are 1973 pupils in North Tyneside schools with SLCN identified as their primary need (Jan 24 school census), 140 more than January 2023, indicating an 8% rise. There are 391 with an EHCP and 1582 receiving SEN Support

The chart below shows the number in each year group (orange – SEN Support, blue–EHCP). This highlights that EHCPs are more likely for secondary aged pupils.

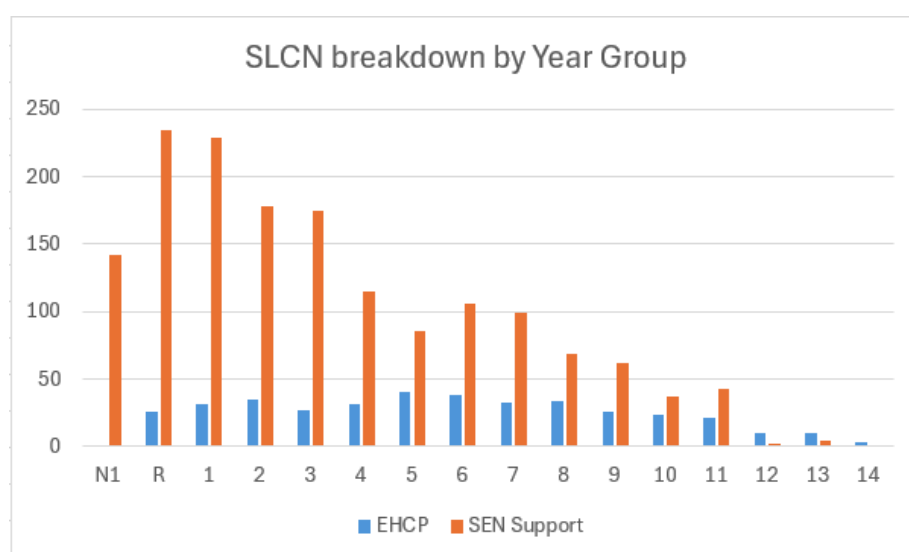


Figure 6: SLCN by year group

Primary need identified as SLCN seems to be consistent across Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4 for those pupils with an EHCP in place. Whereas, for pupils receiving SEN Support there is spike across Foundation Stage and KS1.

The majority (80%) of young people with SLCN recorded as primary need receive SEN Support. This cohort has seen the biggest rise recorded over a 5-year period (from 124 in January 2019 to 230 in January 2024).

The majority of pupils with a EHCP and SLCN as their primary need are educated in a mainstream school (66%) The majority of pupils with SEN Support and SLCN as their primary need are educated in mainstream schools (99.8%)

Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)

Whilst the numbers with some needs have been increasing the number with MLD identified as their primary need has been decreasing amongst both the EHCP and SEN Support cohorts (-23% decrease over past 5 years).

The chart below shows the number in each year group (orange – SEN Support, blue-EHCP).

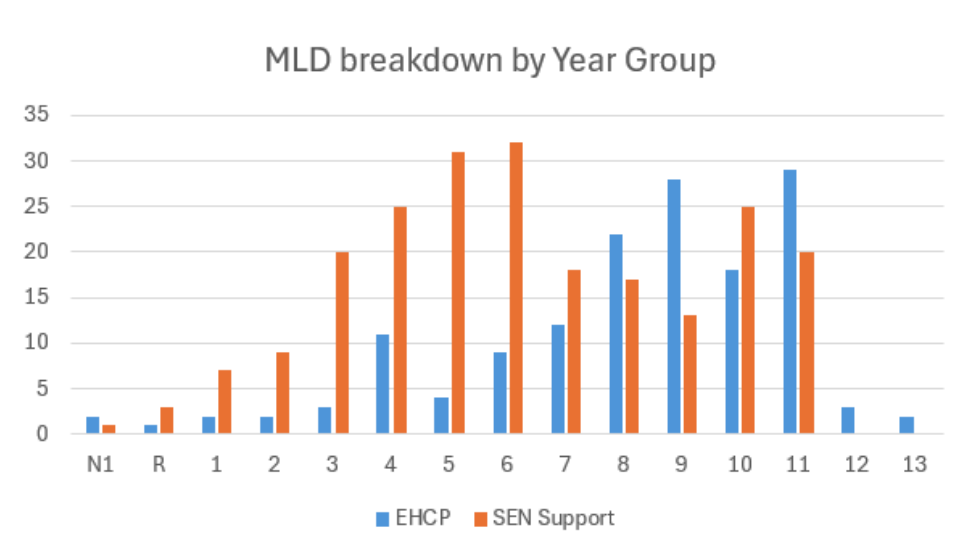


Figure 7: MLD by year group

In total, there are 369 pupils in North Tyneside schools with MLD identified as their primary need (Jan 24 school census), 10 more than January 2023, indicating a 3% rise. There are 148 with an EHCP and 221 receiving SEN Support.

The table above shows that there are a higher number of pupils with a primary need recorded as MLD and receiving SEN Support across KS2 and KS3, whereas

for those with an EHCP, the higher number of MLD primary need recorded is across KS3 and KS4.

41% of pupils with a EHCP and MLD as their primary need are educated in a special school.

Majority of pupils with SEN Support and MLD as their primary need are educated in mainstream schools (99%).

3. A Safe Life

3.1 Risk factors

There are certain risk factors at birth which, if high in prevalence in North Tyneside, may increase the number of children with additional needs.

Deprivation

The link between social and economic deprivation and poor health has long been recognised. People living in areas with higher levels of deprivation tend to have poorer health than those living in more affluent areas. Although the Borough of North Tyneside is one of the least deprived in the North East, stark inequalities persist. Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation highlights a strong link between poverty and SEND. This research highlights that children from low-income families are more likely than their peers to be born with inherited SEND, are more likely to develop some forms of SEND in childhood and are less likely to move out of SEND categories while at school.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2019) provides an overall deprivation score for lower layer Super Output Areas (SOAs). Compared to 2015 IMD there has been an increase in the number of small neighbourhoods that are within the most deprived 10% of communities in England.

Data indicates that there are a higher proportion of children and young people (aged 0–15) who live in our more deprived wards compared to in those wards which are less deprived. This may, in turn, result in higher levels of SEND, particularly in these areas. There is a higher level of SEMH needs within our more deprived areas. This information will support us to expand SEMH ARP provision within those areas.

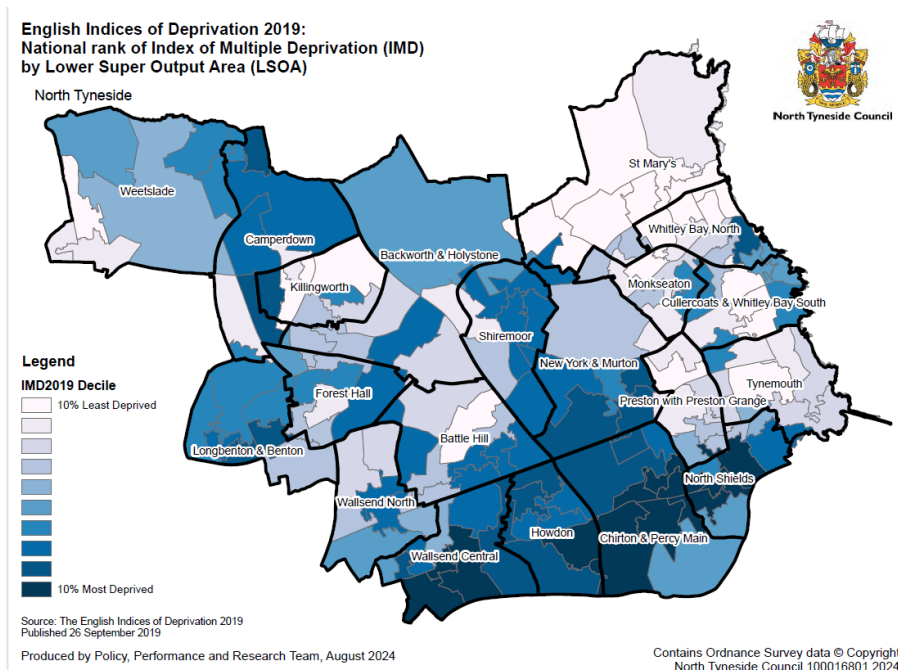


Figure 7: IMD map of deprivation in North Tyneside

3.2 Open to social care and early help

At the end of June 2024 there were 2271 children and young people with a EHCP issued and maintained by North Tyneside.

Of these, 351 (15%) children and young people are Children in Need (CiN Cohort) with a social work involvement open to North Tyneside Council (83 per 10,000 children). Of those 351 children and young people with an EHCP, 19% (65) are Children in Our Care (CIOC) and 5% (17) are subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP). These figures are a snapshot in time.

4019 children and young people across North Tyneside receive SEN Support, and of those 204 (5%) are Children in Need (CiN Cohort) with a social work involvement open to North Tyneside Council (49 per 10,000 children). Of those 204 children and young people receiving SEN Support, 30% (61) are Children in Our Care (CIOC) and 18% (37) are subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP). These figures are a snapshot in time.

3.3 Young People who Offend

Children and young people at risk of offending or within the youth justice system often have more unmet health needs than other children and often have greater mental health needs than other young people.

North Tyneside has a low rate of first-time entrants (FTE), which is better than the North East and national averages. Though there has been a small increase in numbers in the 2023/24 period in comparison to 2022/23, the numbers remain low.

The Youth Justice Service continues to see high numbers of young people with special educational needs within the cohort, ranging from 50 – 60% in any given quarter. Of those with an intervention ending in 2023/24 – 60% had either SEN Support or an Education, Health and Care Plan (of the 60% cohort, 64% had SEN Support, 36% had an EHCP). Special Educational Needs is now a Key Performance Indicator within Youth Justice, with initial data being published in 2025 which will enable comparison with local and national Youth Justice Services.

Those with Special Educational Needs are also more likely to re-offend in North Tyneside. 73% of the re-offending cohort in 22/23 had SEND.

4. A Healthy Life

4.1 Learning Disabilities

Work is ongoing in relation to the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) in North Tyneside to align the existing provision onto one DSR which will be all age for Learning Disability and Autism.

In terms of the DSR in North Tyneside see below:

This work recommenced in September 2024 and the DSR meetings run monthly, the Senior Complex Case Manager for Northumberland & North Tyneside chairs both the children's and adults DSR.

The meeting focussed on children occurs in the morning, the first hour for those with a diagnosed learning disability and autism, and the second hour is for those with an autism only diagnosis.

4.2. Therapies

Speech Therapy:

The national standard states that all children should receive treatment within 18 weeks or less. Our Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) has achieved 100% year to date (January 2024) including children with an EHCP. These waiting times are against a backdrop of 52+ week waits for access to SLT nationally.

The service is one of very few services in the country that see 100% of children consistently within 18 weeks with an average wait of 5-6 weeks. As a result, the senior manager for the service sits on a national NHSE Advisory group looking at guidance and strategies to support other SLT services to reduce waiting times.

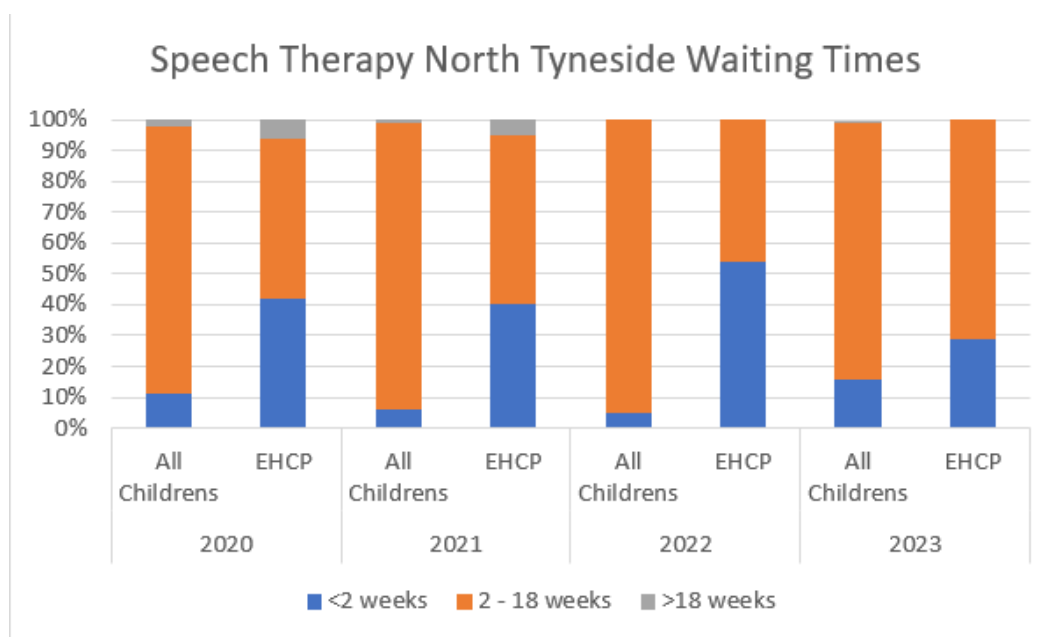


Figure 9: Waiting times – Speech Therapy

Occupational Therapy- adaptations

Assessment of the need for adaptations to the homes of children and young people with disabilities living in North Tyneside has is the role of the North Tynesdie's LA Occupational Therapy (OT) team. The Occupational Therapists carry out assessments and making recommendations for adaptations.

Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD) Pathway

There are currently two advanced occupational therapists based in North Tyneside's HIVE Team who provide therapy focussed on sensory attachment

and sensory integration. They work across North Tyneside's schools, social care and health services, developing their knowledge of the impact of trauma on young people and families, exploring how a young people's experiences have impacted on their lives and what is helpful to overcome these obstacles to enable them to participate effectively in daily life.

However, at present there is no dedicated Occupational Therapy (OT) provision for children in North Tyneside whose main presenting need is related to their sensory processing difficulties (SPD). The aim of this service would be to offer sensory interventions and strategies that support a child or young person's sensory needs by adapting tasks or the environment and improving a child's capacity for self-regulation.

The lack of a specialist SPD service has resulted in a service provision gap in the Borough, particularly with children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD and / or a Learning Disability, with 80–95% of individuals with ASD experiencing sensory responsiveness that affects their ability to participate in activities of daily living. Research tells us that to effectively support the lifelong sensory processing difficulties of children and young people, early intervention is key to implementing strategies to promote age-appropriate skill development. This service would provide that early intervention as part of the offer.

A business case was produced in 2022/23 requesting additional finance to provide this specialist service in North Tyneside, however due to the restructure at the time of the old CCG's (clinical commissioning group) to a regional ICB (integrated care board) and the subsequent financial/commissioning implications, this was put on hold. The business case is currently being revisited.

Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Data between January – December 2023 shows that CAMHS received 2,486 referrals during this period, this is a 35% increase since 2021 (1,845) and a 6% increase since 2022 (2,347). Some services are reporting increasing number of children and young people presenting with more complex mental health needs. It is unclear whether the increase is as a result of effects of the pandemic. However, the increasing referrals and more severe acuity are likely to put additional strain on services.

Children and young people with an EHCP can be identified in the pathway numbers in CAMHS and they currently account for 26% as at January 2024. (2081 open patients to CAMHS of which 562 with EHCP) of patients receiving treatment in CAMHS.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is available to help children and young people up to 18 years old, and their families, in North Tyneside. North Tyneside Specialist CAMHS continues to operate under significant pressure and demand for CAMHS pathways with an upward, sustained trend in new referrals since 2019. This has resulted in increased wait times, particularly for neurodevelopmental assessment such as ADHD and ASD. The service has also reported increase acuity and complexity of presentations which has added additional pressure.

In 2023/24, around 70% of referrals into CAMHS were inappropriate for the service suggesting that CAMHS had become a default position for referrers due to lack of clarity re: other early help/trauma based offers in the locality and therefore work is ongoing to refine mental health pathways in North Tyneside in collaboration with partner agencies. The introduction of the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Collaborative aims to address this issue and ensure that children and young people receive the right support, from the right service and at the right time. Further detail on the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Collaborative is give in the section below.

4.3 Mental health

Barnardo's Alliance

North Tyneside Council and NENC ICB were fortunate to have had an eight year partnership with the national charity Barnardo's to work with the council, ICB and partner organisations, to develop our preventative and early help model for emotional wellbeing. The Barnardo's alliance has been integral to the delivery of the strategy and whilst the Alliance with Barnardo's has come to an end, there is a commitment from system partners to continue to embed the work delivered as part of the programme. There will continue to be a Strategic Partnership Alliance to deliver on the CYP Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Strategy and this reports into the Senior Officers Group Meeting in North Tyneside.

North Tyneside's CYP Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 has the following aims, to:

- develop resilient children, young people and families;
- ensure easy access for children, young people and families to get the right mental health support at an early stage from universal services; and,

- improve access to specialist mental health services for those children and young people who are at high risk of poor mental health

The following two priorities have been identified for 2024/2025:

The first is the Neurodiversity Transformation Programme which aims to support and drive the transformation of services to ensure that the needs of children with neurodiverse needs are better supported to thrive at home, at school and in the community.

The second is the development of an Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Collaborative. The first phase aims to join up mental health pathways in North Tyneside to improve user experience and prevent inappropriate referrals into CAMHS by having a multi-agency meeting to discuss referrals and determine the most appropriate service for support. CAMHS, HIVE, Connect and the Early Help Emotional Wellbeing Team will be the services initially involved in the multi-agency meetings but with consideration to partner services such as the voluntary sector. The second phase of this work will be to join up with services to schools commissioned by the High Needs Block, such as the language and communication team. This work will focus on a needs-led, early intervention model. There will be some ongoing work require to identify any potential gaps in provision, exploration of current pathways as well as a cultural shift to a more collaborative way of working between services.

Health, Information, Virtual School and Emotional Wellbeing (HIVE)

The HIVE team includes nurses, teachers, counsellors, educational psychologists, occupational therapists and a team of administrators that provide emotional support to children, young people, their carers and families. This includes children and young people who may have experienced trauma. This service provides a range of support to address trauma and attachment based on the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. The focus of our trauma-responsive approach is on building, strengthening and repairing the key relationships in the lives of our children and young people. This involves working with children and young people, alongside their birth families, foster carers, adoptive parents, social workers, staff in schools and peers. It is also about developing an understanding of the way trauma impacts on children and young people in terms of their sense of safety, their stress response systems, regulation difficulties, executive functioning and ability to trust.

This complex trauma pathway is based on the Framework for Integrated Care. The Framework for Integrated Care provides a set of guiding principles and practices, that act as a template for genuine co-production and development of integrated services for children and young people with complex needs. It represents a shift in ideology, moving away from approaches that seek to fix 'what is wrong with you' to approaches that seek to understand and address 'what has happened to you'.

Connect Mental Health Support Teams

The Connect Mental Health Support Team (MHST) works with local schools in North Tyneside to deliver low and moderate intensity interventions to support pupils with low mood, anxiety and poor self-esteem.

The team has three core functions:

Direct Support

- Evidence-based low intensity support for low to moderate needs, including low mood, mild anxiety and single phobias.

Whole School Approach

- Supporting schools on the Eight Principles of a whole school approach to support mental health and wellbeing

Advice and Signposting

- Providing regular consultations with schools, liaising with other services and providing expert advice.

North Tyneside expanded its MHST provision in September 2024 with an additional team, enabling 75% coverage across the Borough.

The team now has 60 partner schools across three localities which are a mix of primary, secondary, special and college and 17 associate schools. All functions of support are offered to partner schools, and associate schools are offered consultations via Teams where required, training in localities, Senior Mental Health Lead Networks, Padlets and Newsletters.

Early Help Family Practitioners

We know that supporting children and young people who have a mental health need can bring wider family pressures. Due to this, our Early Help workers in CAMHS provide this wider support by working alongside the family to enable them to build on the families support network within their community.

In North Tyneside, we have Family Health and Wellbeing Partners aligned to each of the Primary Care Networks to strengthen the locality offer by improving the interface between Early Help and GP's. There are also Childrens Wellbeing practitioners.

These workers can provide support which includes:

- Short-term low-level support to families, around issues such as parenting techniques, sleep awareness and child development. (This should be no more than 12 weeks and will be supported by the locality offer). This could also include co-facilitation of groups/workshops.
- Sharing what else is out there and supporting families to access this, working in partnership with the social prescriber, where appropriate.
- Where further support is needed, initiate the Early Help Assessment (EHA) with support from relevant local authority staff (Early Help Coordinators), to establish the team around the family (TAF) and handover to a lead worker.
- Complete Young Carer Needs Assessments (YCNA) where appropriate. Parent Carer Needs Assessments (PCNA) are completed by North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum.

Families can access a graduated response to support in Early Help. The model is for families to access support within their community where possible, building on their own networks and strengths. Where needed, wider support agencies can be brought together for the identified family needs, using (but not exclusively) the Early Help Assessment.

4.4 Autism Strategy

North Tyneside has an all-age Autism Strategy for 2021-2026. This strategy was written by a focus group of people who are committed and dedicated to building an inclusive community for autistic people.

This included:

- People with autism

- Family carers
- Organisations that support people with autism and their families
- Health and social care professionals
- Education professionals

The aim of this strategy is to ensure autistic children, young people, and adults and their families can have the same life chances as others in North Tyneside. There are 6 high level priorities including awareness raising, be listened to, good support, understanding yourself, inclusive communities, and support through life changes. As part of these high level priorities, the task and finish groups will be looking at what is needed for the residents of North Tyneside such as include increased pre and post-diagnostic support, better access to information on Autism and to increase Autism aware practice for professionals and services.

5. A Happy Life

5.1 Schools

Mainstream Schools

Within North Tyneside there are 72 mainstream schools, nineteen of which are academies. This includes:

- 1 nursery school
- 8 first schools
- 47 primary schools
- 4 middle schools
- 11 secondary schools (2 of which are high schools)
- 1 all through school

On an annual basis, the pupil projection model for mainstream schools' reception to Yr13 is updated. This shows that over the next five years there is expected to be a 14% (4581 pupil) reduction in the pupil population. Currently, the largest year groups are in primary schools. Over the next five years a reduction in the number of primary aged pupils is expected.

The table below shows the proportion of pupils with SEND in **mainstream** (nursery, primary and secondary) schools in North Tyneside compared to nationally. The proportion of pupils in mainstream schools who have an EHCP has increased locally and nationally, and although higher locally is in-line with

the proportion nationally. Similarly, the proportion of pupils in mainstream schools with SEN Support has increased locally and nationally. Some of these mainstream schools have Additionally Resourced Provisions and the pupils in these will be included in the figures in table 8 below.

		2019/2020	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
EHCP	England	1.8%	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%	2.9%
	North Tyneside	1.7%	1.9%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%
SEN Support	England	12.1%	12.1%	12.5%	13.0%	13.6%
	North Tyneside	12.3%	12.1%	12.2%	12.5%	13.9%

Table 7: Proportions of SEN in mainstream schools

Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/special-educational-needs-in-england> Jan24 School census

Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) and SEN Units in Mainstream Schools

The SEND partnership is committed to develop the range of ARPs and SEN Units in North Tyneside, as part of the wider system of SEND placements, to better reflect the changing needs of the cohort of children with SEND. In the academic year 2023–24 there was 11 ARPs with 134 funded places. In September 2024 there are 11 ARPs and 1 SEN unit with 155 funded places. This figure will increase as new ARPs open throughout the academic year.

There are currently four primary ARPs totalling 48 places, one primary SEN unit totalling 23 places, and two secondary ARPs totalling 32 places, and two secondary SEN units totalling 47. There is one first school ARP with five places, one middle school ARP with five places, and one high school ARP with five places. By January 2028 it is our intention that there will be 100 places in ARPs and SEN units in primary mainstream schools and 153 places in ARPs and SEN units in secondary mainstream schools.

Primary SEMH provision

A primary SEMH provision is commissioned from Silverdale School. Currently as of January 2024 there are 32 pupils in this provision, and it is fully occupied. Understanding the types of secondary provision that these children are likely to need is needed to assist in understanding demand for secondary SEND provision for those with SEMH. The type of secondary provision these children will need is specialist SEMH provision.

Special Schools

There are five Maintained Special Schools in North Tyneside, the need types and age ranges that they cater for can be seen in the table below.

	Ages	Needs	Pupils Oct 23	Pupils Jan 24
Beacon Hill	3-19	SLD, PMLD	235	232
Benton Dene	3-11	ASD, SEMH, MLD	127	131
Silverdale	3-16	SEMH	151	152
Southlands	11-16	SEMH, MLD	159	160
Woodlawn	2-18	SLCN, PD	170	168

Table 9: Special Schools

Source: Get information about schools: <https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>, school census

There continues to be high demand for places at all Maintained Special Schools. Over the past year further additional capacity has been created at Silverdale school and there are additional places funded at both Beacon Hill and Woodlawn.

Total of number of pupils with an EHCP educated in a maintained special school stands at 803 in January 2023, up from 787 in January 2022 (2% increase), compared to a 2.5% increase nationally.

Over the past five years, to January 2024, the number of pupils in North Tyneside maintained special schools increased from 665 to 867, a 30% increase, compared to a 27% increase over the same time period nationally.

Special School Nurse (SSN) Capacity and Demand Review

There have been identified challenges for the SSN team due to increasing service demand and capacity. Pupil numbers in each of the special schools has increased year on year and have risen by 41.4% in the last four years across North Tyneside

In addition, there are an increasing number of special support bases (SSB) within mainstream first / primary schools that provide an enhanced level of support for pupils with complex needs. This includes pupils with high therapeutic requirements and potentially pupils with complex medical needs, whilst some schools are opening 'sister sites', sometimes in a completely different location, presenting a potential time challenge for staff to access and attend due to the distance between sites.

The ICB's Head for CYP and Communities is currently undertaking a scoping exercise to review thoroughly the service and its current challenges, which will result in a final report with several recommendations and options being produced and presented at executive board.

The scoping exercise is focused on understanding the current challenges in the model in more depth through discussion with the SSN manager and staff, analysing current data and developing SSN school profiles which highlight the current needs and complexities of children within each school (this can change year on year) and the time available and allocated for SSN nurses to support the level of medical needs, provide health advice in each school, deliver adequate training to school staff, attend appropriate meetings such as safeguarding strategy meetings and participating and contributing to education and health care plans, including annual reviews, child protection reports, and providing health advice for MARAC and other relevant meetings.

The scoping exercise also involves a review of models of delivery nationally for comparison and the possible implementation of the West Sussex capacity and needs led audit tool developed to support assessment of the health needs of children in each special school; this has previously been shared and used by other areas and has won a RCN award.

The table below shows the profile of need for the Special School Nursing Service over September 2023 to July 2024.

Number of pupils	843
Number of pupils with a child protection plan	14
Number of pupils with a child in need	45
Number of pupils who are Children in our Care	35

Number of children with an Education Health Care plan who require a nursing health report for their annual review	53
Number of pupils referred to SSN for assessment and support (Sept 2023–July 2024)	133
Number of pupils with emergency health care plan	15
Number of children with complex epilepsy requiring a health care plan and for staff to be trained	57
Number of pupils with a tracheostomy, requiring oral suctioning and needing care plans and 4 school staff to be trained (6–8 sessions) and signed off as competent.	3
Number of children with oral suctioning requiring a care plan and staff to be trained.	8
Number of children with oxygen in school requiring a care plan and staff to be trained.	4
Children with other complex health conditions requiring care plans and staff to be trained e.g. heart condition, stoma care, shunt, cystic fibrosis	19
Number of children with asthma requiring a plan in school and for staff to be trained.	50
Number of children with allergies/anaphylaxis requiring a care plan and for staff to be trained	32
Number of children who require medication in school	76
Number of children who receive gastrostomy/NG feeds requiring feeding plans and staff trained (3–4 sessions) and signed off as competent to give feeds/fluid in school and manage the button device.	42

Moorbridge Pupil Referral Unit

Moorbridge offers pathways for children with social, emotional and behavioural needs and for vulnerable young people with anxiety. It also provides a service for primary and secondary pupils from either day six of a fixed-period exclusion or a permanent exclusion. Moorbridge also offers a personalised learning service, which delivers the LA's statutory section 19 duty. The PLS service offers home tuition, one to one tuition in Moorbridge, online provision and small group tuition depending on the child or young persons needs.

The number of pupils on roll at Moorbridge is shown in the table below. There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of pupils accessing provision at Moorbridge, whether that be as a main on-roll pupil, (single registered at

Moorbridge) or as a subsidiary registered pupil, (dual registered with another mainstream or maintained special school).

	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		Jan 2024	
	Main	Subsidiary	Main	Subsidiary	Main	Subsidiary
TOTAL	150	105	167	122	166	177
Yr7	4	4	7	3	1	7
Yr8	10	10	14	21	12	23
Yr9	19	16	15	28	14	34
Yr10	40	34	33	54	28	77
Yr11	75	41	95	15	108	29

Table 13: Pupils on roll at Moorbridge

Source: January school census.

Electively Home Educated

As at the end of the 2023–24 academic year, there were 218 Electively Home Educated students and of these, 16 had Education, Health and Care plans.

Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools

Based on the data collected as part of the January 2024 SEN2 there were 60 pupils with a North Tyneside EHCP accessing an independent or non-maintained special school. This represents a 6% decrease from 64 in January 2023.

More recent local data suggests that there are 69 pupils with such placements recorded. 22 (32%) have SEMH recorded as their primary need, 20 (29%) have ASD and 10 have PD. We know we have pressures on the maintain special schools within North Tynesdie, and therefore are becoming more reliant on the independent and non maintained special schools, especially for those children and young people with more complex needs. This needs to be considered as to how we can work with the maintained special schools to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet needs.

Post-16 Provision

There is 6th form provision in eight mainstream secondary schools and two in the special schools in North Tyneside. In addition, within North Tyneside, there is access to Tyne Met College. There are currently 54 young people with EHCPs in traineeships, supported internships and apprenticeships. There is also post 16 young people with an EHCP accessing Newcastle College, Northumberland College, Gateshead College, Ignite Your Potential, Choices College, and NACRO.

The data shows that almost a third of young people post-16 and with an EHCP attend a provision out of borough and 70% of all out of borough placements are for post-16 young people. The out of borough placements are at Newcastle College, Northumberland College, Gateshead College, Choices College, and NACRO.

There are also post 16- young people with an EHCP accessing independent specialist colleges, including Thornbeck College, Hedleys College and Education and Services for People with Autism (ESPA). We know we have gaps in our local provision and we currently don't have local Maintained special school offer for SEMH and ASD.

Personal budgets

Young people and parents of children who have EHC plans have the right to request a Personal Budget, which may contain elements of education, social care and health funding. For children with EHC plans, Personal Budgets can be used to help children and young people with SEN to access activities that promote greater independence and learn important life skills.

Where an assessment identifies needs that are likely to be eligible, Local Authorities should consider providing an indicative Personal Budget so that young people have an idea of how much their care and support will cost when they enter the adult system. This is particularly important if young people with EHC plans are already exercising their statutory right to a Personal Budget as any adult with eligible needs will have a care and support plan which must include a Personal Budget. Young people with EHC plans may also consider the transition to adult services a good opportunity to start exercising their right to start receiving their Personal Budget as a direct payment.

At Jan 2024, there were 108 personal budgets taken up; 5 were for Education, 85 were for Social Care, 5 were for Health and 13 were an integrated payment. These figures have risen from 72 in 2022 (106% increase), this shows families are using personal budgets more to support their children and young people.

5.2 Staying in the local community

When an external placement is required, this will be made, wherever possible, in non-maintained and independent special schools and colleges; and children's homes. There has been a significant increase in requests from parents for placements in independent, non-maintained special schools and colleges.

As at of Jan 24, the percentage of those with an EHCP who are educated out of borough is 11%. This figure does not include pupils in provision which is located in North Tyneside but is not a North Tyneside maintained school or academy e.g. pupils at Percy Hedley.

5.3 Tribunals, mediations and appeals

Parents, carers and young people can register an appeal with the SEND tribunal if, for example, there is a refusal to assess, or they are unhappy about the contents of the plan. The tribunal hears appeals against decisions made by Local Authorities.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the number of mediations and appeal to tribunal more than doubled compared to the previous financial year; 186 mediations compared to 95 in the previous year, and 107 appeals to tribunal compared to 44 in the previous year. There were 38 appeals to the tribunal in relation to Sections B, F and I compared to 8 during the same period last year, and 37 appeals to the tribunal due to a decision where the Authority had declined to complete an EHCNA, up from 13 the previous year.

As a result in a change in practice, the Authority is now undertaking a higher proportion of EHC Needs Assessments and declining to issue a higher proportion of EHCPs. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the number of mediations and appeals to tribunal.

The Authority has deliberately taken a view that, in line with the low threshold for an EHC Needs Assessment set out in law, and because the Authority was so

infrequently successful at tribunal on decisions to not complete an EHC Needs Assessment, that with a robust EHC Needs Assessment in place, parents and carers, along with schools and settings, will feel more confident to implement an SEN Support Plan, should the Authority decline to issue an EHCP. It is also the Authority intention, should appeals to tribunal be made where a decision has been made that an EHCP will not be issued, that these positions are defensible, and in line with law and statutory guidance.

Between January and September 2024, a total of 93 mediations were recorded, down from 144 mediations recorded during the same period in 2023 (a 35% decrease). Of the 59 tribunals recorded between January and September 2024 (69 compared to the same time period in 2023), 33 relate to sections B, F and I (compared to 18 in the same time period last year), 14 relate to a decision that the Authority will not issue an EHCP (3 compared to the same time period in 2023), and 12 relate to a decision that the Authority will not complete an EHC Needs Assessment (compared to 31 in the same time period in 2023). This data indicates that if more are later supported with an SEN Support plan as a result of an EHCNA, then we need to ensure that there is the right support framework wrapped around children, families and schools.

6.0 Achieving in Life

6.1 Destinations / Employment, Education and Training / Apprenticeships

It is important that children and young people with SEND are supported to make a positive transition to adulthood, including paths to employment, good adult health, independent living and participating in society.

The table below shows the percentage of young people with SEND engaged in education or training as at end of June 2024 and the proportion who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This shows us that we have a higher proportion engaged in education or training compared to national and regional figures. For those whose status is NEET, North Tyneside has a higher proportion compared to national figures and lower than regional figures. North Tyneside has a lower proportion than regional and national figures for unknowns status.

	Cohort	Proportion engaged in:			Total	NEET	Current activity not known	NEET & NK %
		Mainstream education and training	ISPs	Supported internships				
ENGLAND	153,823	55.3%	2.9%	0.7%	58.8%	10.3%	28.8%	39.1%
NORTH EAST	5,794	63.7%	3.9%	2.6%	70.2%	15.8%	9.8%	25.5%
North Tyneside	530	76.0%	0.8%	3.6%	80.4%	14.0%	1.3%	15.3%

Table 14: Young People EHCP – Year 12 –Year 16+ academic age 16 to 24

For the cohort who are 16–18, we have a higher proportion in mainstream and internship compared to national figures and a higher proportion for NEET status compared to regional and national figures.

	Cohort	Proportion engaged in:			Total	NEET	Current activity not known	NEET & NK %
		Mainstream education and training	ISPs	Supported internships				
ENGLAND	64,863	82.7%	3.4%	0.2%	86.3%	9.2%	1.5%	10.7%
NORTH EAST	3,110	76.4%	3.5%	0.5%	80.3%	14.6%	0.6%	15.2%
North Tyneside	307	76.9%	0.0%	1.0%	77.9%	16.3%	1.3%	17.6%

Table 15: Young People with EHCP – Year 12–13 academic age 16–17

The table below shows local data as at the end of January 2024 on children and young people with an EHCP whom are either NEET, EET, or with an unknown status.

	Jan 2023	Jan 2024	Jan 2025
NEET who are SEND 16–18 (EHCP)	24	49	34
NEET who are SEND 19–24 (EHCP)	10	22	35
EET who are SEND 16–18	298	302	348
EET who are SEND 19–24	161	148	168
NEET/EET status unknown who are SEND 16–18	5	2	1
NEET/EET status unknown who are SEND 19–24	9	1	5

EHCP YP in apprenticeships, traineeships or supported internships	47	86	86
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Table 16: Keeping children in schools

Locally we report on the number with an EHCP who are NEET for both 16–18 and 19–24 cohort. Across the past 3 years, for both age groups the number of young adults with NEET status has increased.

The overall % of children and young people with SEND who have a NEET status, as at of January 2024 stands at 14%. This has increased from 7% in January 2023.

Children and young people with an EHCP in apprenticeships, traineeships or supported internships have seen a 72% increase from Jan 23 to Jan 25.

In total, 93% of the SEND cohort are in sustained education or employment compared to 95% of the non-SEND cohort in North Tyneside. Nationally 89% of the SEND cohort are in sustained education or employment.

6.2 Absence and Exclusions

Overall absence and persistent absenteeism (pupils missing more than 10% of possible sessions) in North Tyneside schools remains lower than the figures nationally.

Overall absence in North Tyneside in 2023–24 was 7.0% compared to the latest national average of 7.4%. Persistent absence in 2023–24 was 19.1% in North Tyneside compared to 21.2% nationally in 2022–23 (awaiting 2023–24 national data).

Overall absence for pupils with an EHCP was 11.3% for North Tyneside in 2023–24 compared to a national of 12.3% in 2022–23. And overall absence for pupils with SEN support was 9.6% for North Tyneside in 2023–24 compared to 10.2% nationally in 2022–23.

Persistent absence amongst these cohorts follows a similar pattern with pupils in North Tyneside performing 3–5% better than the latest national data.

Suspensions refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school for a set period. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year.

Rates of suspensions in North Tyneside were greater than the national rate for the first time in 2022-23. Although local data shows that the rate in North Tyneside has fallen slightly in 2023-24 it still remains greater than the last available national average (2022-23).

Rates of suspensions in North Tyneside for pupils with EHCP have also increased in recent years (from 10.1% in 2020-21 to 16.4% in 2023-24) but remain lower than the last reported national average (21.6% in 2022-23).

Suspensions for pupils with SEN Support remain below national average (19.6% in 2023-24 compared to 24.4% nationally in 2022-23).

A permanent exclusion refers to a pupil who is excluded and has their name removed from the school roll. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision. Rates of permanent exclusions in North Tyneside have more than tripled compared to pre-pandemic years (from 0.08% in 2018-19 to 0.27% in 2023-24), whereas the national rate remains broadly the same (0.1% in 2018-19 to 0.11% in 2022-23).

Rates of permanent exclusion for pupils with EHCP in North Tyneside peaked in 2022-23 at 0.36%, far above the national average for the same period. However, rates for North Tyneside in 2023-24 have decreased to 0.13%, once again below the latest national average (0.2% for 2022-23).

Rates of permanent exclusions for pupils with SEN Support are higher than national and have been for 4 years and are increasing. The latest Local Authority rate is 0.85% for 2023-24 compared to the latest national of 0.37% in 2022-23.

6.3 Requests for and Timeliness of issuing EHC plans

Regulations set out that the overall time it takes from the Local Authority receiving a request for an assessment and the final EHC plan being issued (if one is required) should be no longer than 20 weeks. The percentage of ECHPs completed within 20 weeks is published on an annual basis and is cumulative over the calendar year.

During 2023, a total of 161 plans were finalised within the 20 weeks. This represented a 38% decrease from 2022 (260); compared to a 24% decreased in plans finalised nationally, and an 8% decrease regionally. This is a workstream in the partnerships SEND improvement plan.

During 2023, there were 440 requests for an initial EHCP assessment. This compares to 475 in 2022; a 7% decrease compared to a 21% increase nationally. This indicates the number is starting to stabilise.

There were 199 EHCPs ceased 2023 and 235 in 2022 – this is a decrease of 15% since 2022 compared to a 14% increased nationally. Locally, we know that this is as a result of significant work undertaken in 2022 to review those who had an EHCP where one was no longer required.

When we review the total number of EHCP maintained; there were 2167 in 2023 and 2112 in 2022, a 3% increase since 2022 compared to a 9% increase nationally.