

Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Croydon

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Profile, March 2020

Contents

- Key findings
- Introduction
- Children with disabilities
- Children and young people with special educational needs
 - Pupils (requiring SEN support)
 - LA responsibility (with an education, health & care plan)
- Risk factors and intersecting needs
- Early identification of needs
- Placements
- Outcomes

Key findings

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- Children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs experience a range of inequalities, with needs that intersect
- **Needs** are hard to quantify, although we have good data on **service** i.e. SEN Support and EHCP provision
- Data quality is variable
- Nationally
 - Special educational needs are increasing
 - Over-representation of males; black ethnicity; social deprivation
 - Under-representation of Asian ethnicity
- In Croydon, patterns are broadly similar to national data, except for:
 - Bigger % and higher growth in EHCPs compared to regional/national
 - Different picture of primary need: Speech, Language and Communications needs; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; and ASD are higher than national average
 - Different pattern of placement within educational settings
- Early identification of need:
 - Low completion of 2 year health reviews and integrated reviews
 - Early years progress review only completed for children in educational settings

Introduction

Background, aims, data sources and overview of the population

INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND AND AIMS

- Children and Young People (CYP) with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) are a vulnerable population, often experiencing poorer outcomes in health, educational attainment and transition to adulthood and at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse compared to peers
- Croydon's [SEND Strategy 2019-2022](#) aims to improve outcomes and life chances for all CYP with SEND
- The strategy focuses on children and young people's well-being and attainment, building on their strengths with a focus on local education, health and care and pathways to adulthood. It comprises five strands:
 1. Improve early identification of need
 2. Better graduated response
 3. Joint Working
 4. Improved post 16 opportunities and outcomes
 5. Workforce Development
- This profile aims to inform the development and delivery of the five strands of the SEND strategy and provide context for the commissioning of SEND services by describing and interpreting intelligence and analysis about the SEND population in Croydon and their needs

INTRODUCTION – DATA SOURCES

There are three main sources of nationally published datasets used in this profile:

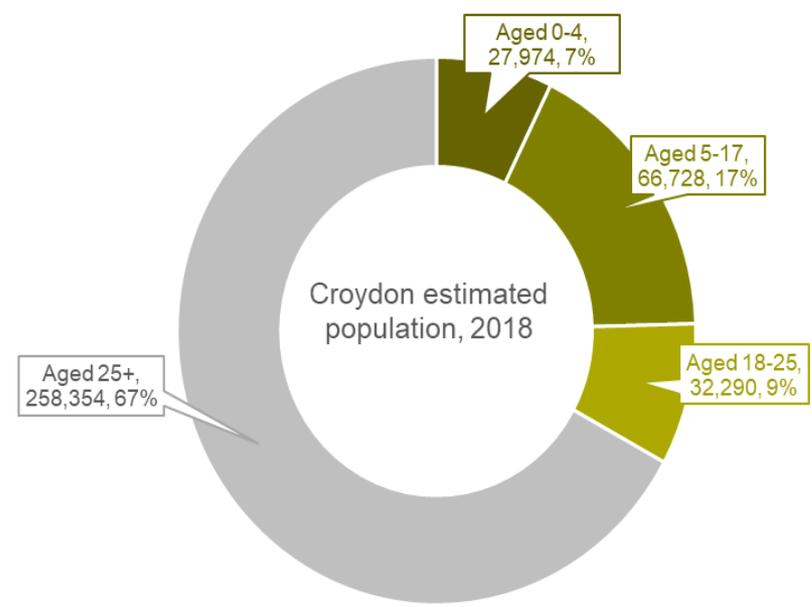
Data Source	Published	Ages	Completed by	Asks about	Population
School census	Annually	5 to 18	Schools	Pupils receiving SEN support or in receipt of a statement / EHCP	At school in Croydon regardless of where they live
SEN2 survey	Annually	0 to 25	LA	Children and young people with an EHCP	Resident in Croydon regardless of where they go to school
FRS	Annually	All ages	Households	Disability	National

Data from local datasets and case management systems are also included, e.g.:

- Children Recording System (CRS) – the live case management system for Children’s Social Care
- Early Help Module (EHM) – the live management system for children and families known to Early Help

INTRODUCTION – THE CHILD & YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION IN CROYDON

- At approximately 127,000, Croydon has the **third highest population of CYP aged 0-25 in London**. Around one in every three people living in Croydon are this age.
- An estimated **63%** of the 0-25 population is from a black, Asian and minority ethnic group (**BAME**)

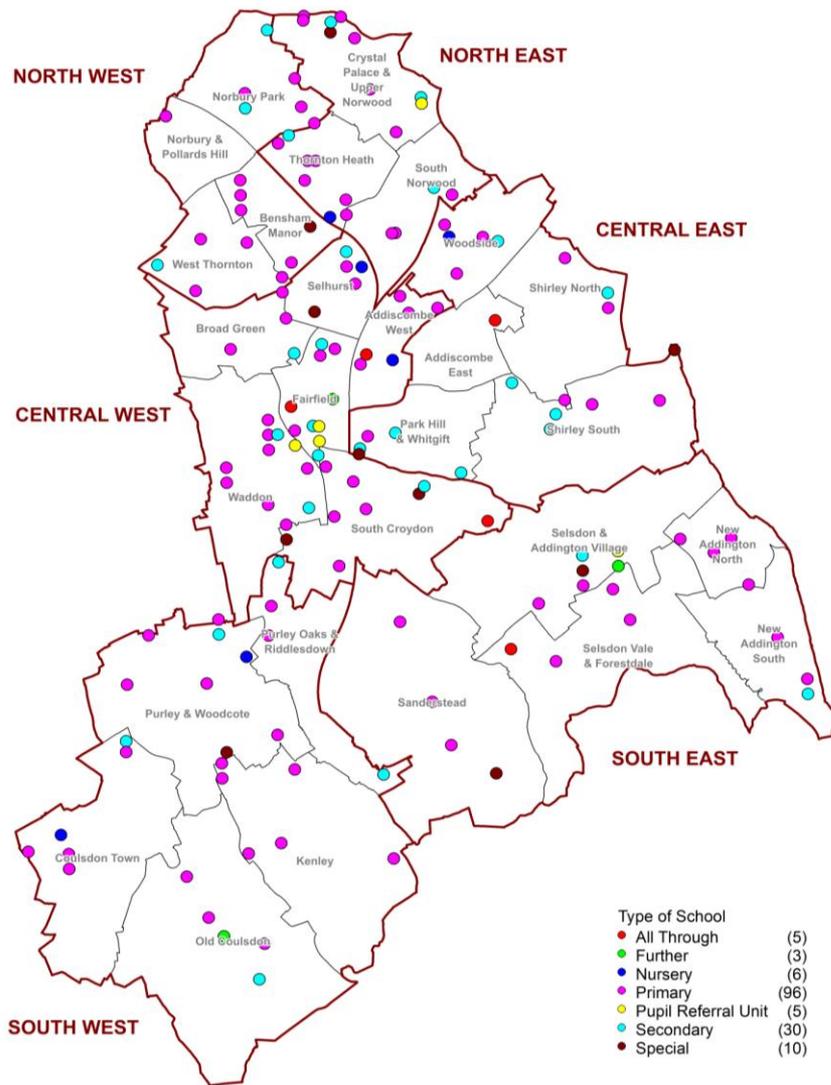


- There were 819 Children Looked After (CLA) by Croydon Council on 31 March 2019. A third of these CLA (265) were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), the largest number of UASC of any English Local Authority
- The number of CYP living in Croydon aged 0-25 is expected to grow by 4.1% by 2025 with the biggest increase expected in 15-19s (by ~10%). This means the numbers of CYP needing support will grow

Sources;
Mid-2018. Office for National Statistics. [Population Estimates](#)
2016-based. Greater London Authority Datastore. [Ethnic group housing-led population projections](#) (estimated BAME population in 2018)
2018-based. Greater London Authority Datastore. [Housing-led population projections](#) (estimated population growth between 2018 and 2025)
2019. Department for Education. [Children Looked After in England](#).

INTRODUCTION – THE CHILD & YOUNG PEOPLE POPULATION IN CROYDON

Croydon Schools as at October 2018



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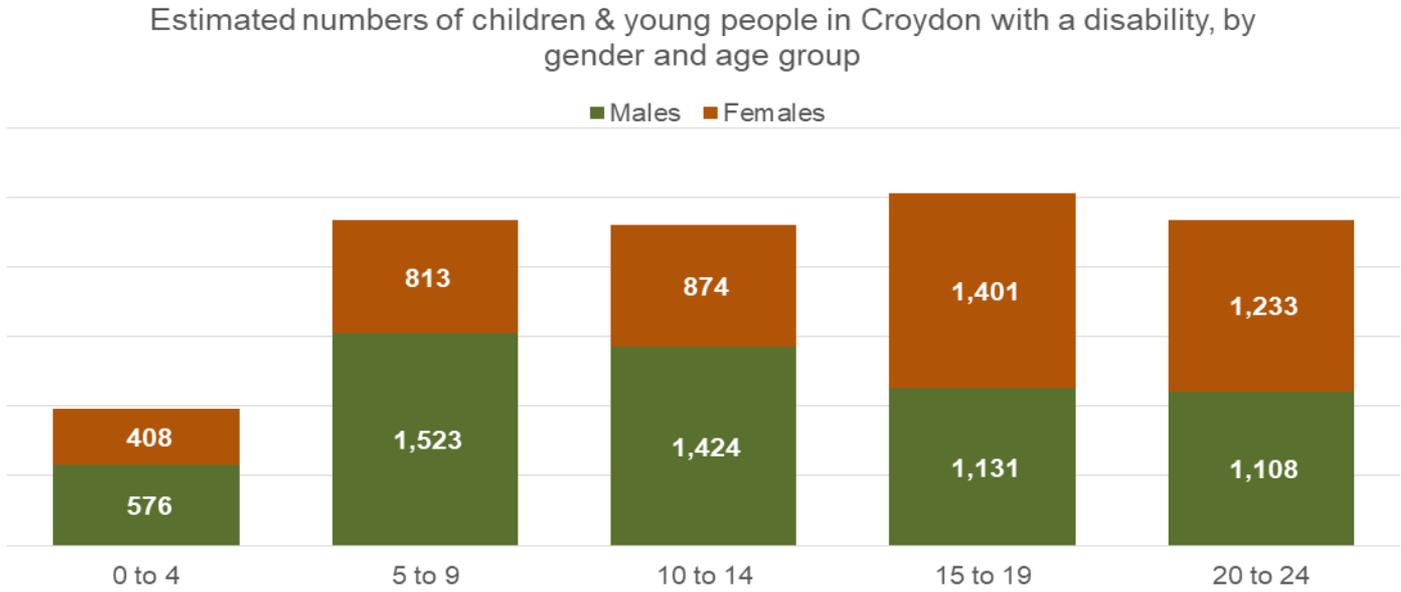
Children with disabilities

Estimated prevalence

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES – ESTIMATED PREVALENCE

The Family Resources Survey found that, nationally, an estimated 8% of children aged under 16 reported a disability. Applying the latest national survey results to the Croydon population suggests there are potentially **10,488** children and young people (aged 0-25) in the borough with disabilities.

The majority of these children are males (55%). Just under half (46%) are aged 15 or above, 9% are under five years of age.



Sources;
2017/18. Department for Work and Pensions. [Family Resources Survey](#)
Mid-2018. Office for National Statistics. [Population Estimates](#)

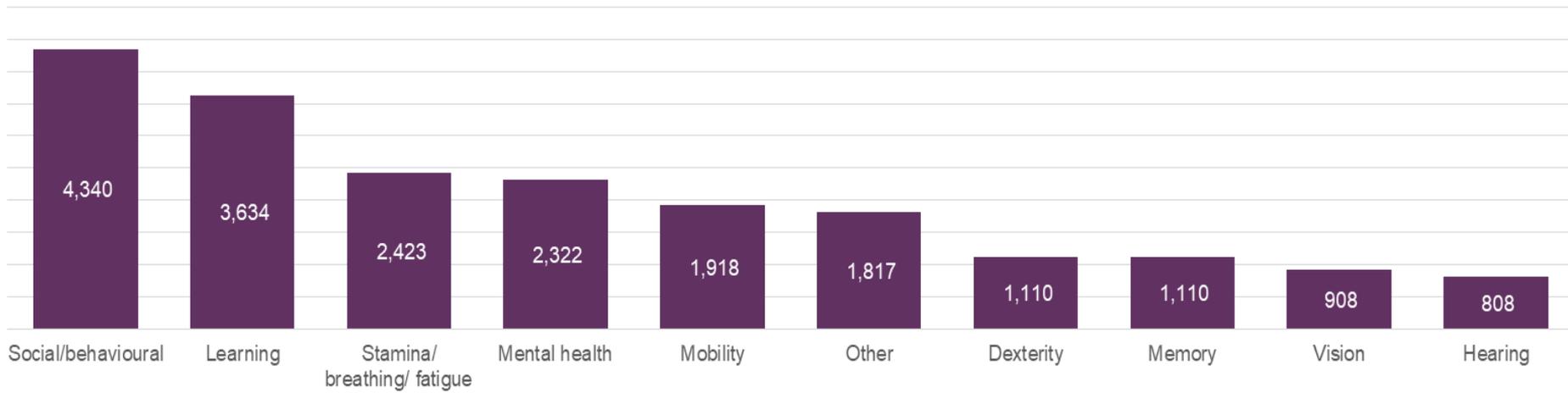
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES – ESTIMATED PREVALENCE

Of the potential 10,488 children and young people (aged 0-25) in the borough with disabilities, the figures below estimate how many would have specific impairment types

The most frequent impairment type reported by children nationally is social / behavioural, with an estimated 4,340 children in Croydon potentially affected.

Please note, the figures below will sum to more than 10,488 as some children will be affected by more than one impairment type.

Estimated numbers of children & young people in Croydon with a disability, by impairment type



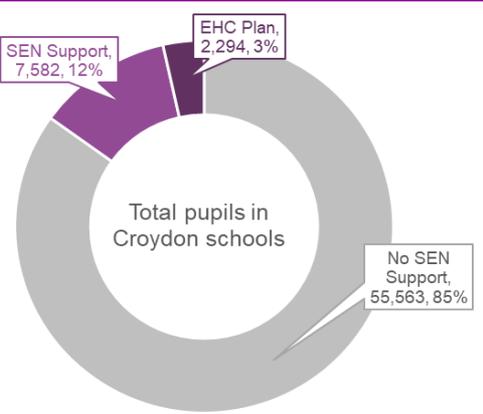
Sources;
2017/18. Department for Work and Pensions. [Family Resources Survey](#)
Mid-2018. Office for National Statistics. [Population Estimates](#)

Children and young people with special educational needs

Description of Croydon pupils with SEND

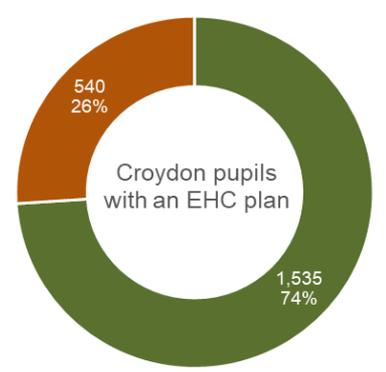
DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON PUPILS WITH SEND

Results from the school census in January 2019 showed that just over **one in every seven** pupils aged 5-18 (15.1%) had special educational needs and disabilities (receiving SEN support or had an EHC plan). This was 9,876 pupils with SEND.

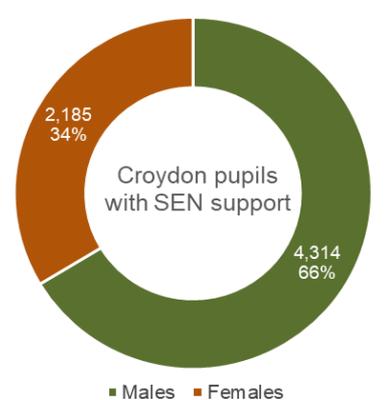
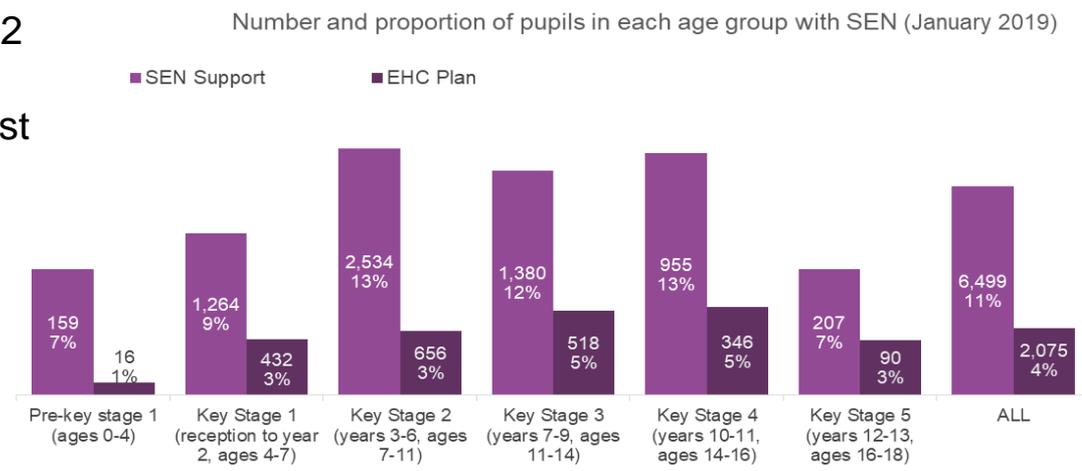


In the school pupil population, the amount of boys and girls are roughly equal. In contrast, the majority of pupils aged 5-18 with an EHC Plan are males. **Boys outnumber girls by as much as three to one.** The same is true of those receiving SEN support where boys outnumber girls by two to one.

Of all male pupils, 15% were receiving SEN support and an additional 5.4% were in receipt of an EHC Plan compared to 8% and 1.9% of females respectively.



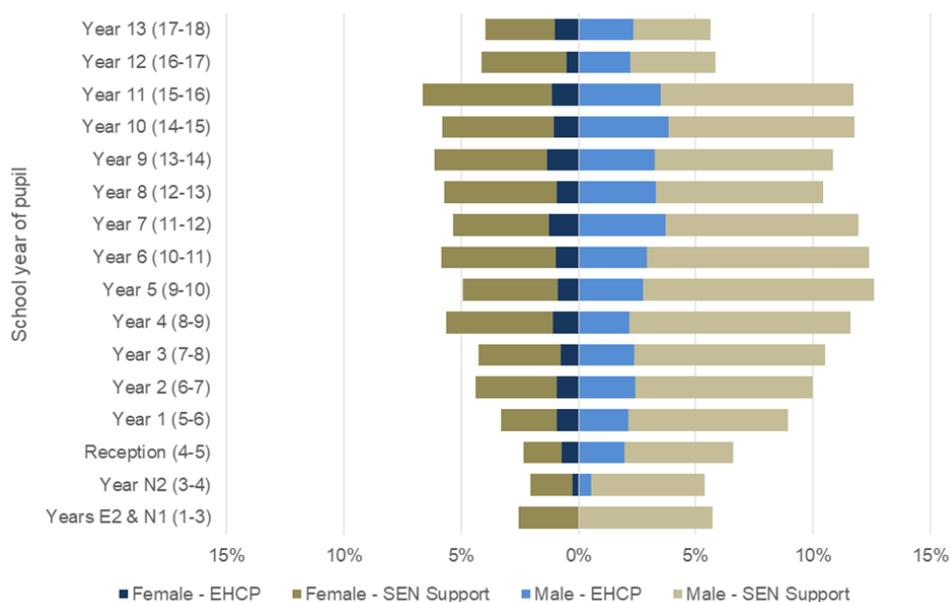
Pupils in key stages 2 (ages 7-11) and 4 (ages 14-16) are most likely to be receiving SEN support.



Sources;
 January 2019. Department of Education. [Special Education Needs in England](#) (from school census)
 January 2019. Local data extract of School Census

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON PUPILS WITH SEND

Proportion of pupils in each age group with EHCP or SEN Support (January 2019)



Number and proportion of pupils aged 5-18 in each ethnic group with SEN (January 2019)



The proportion of Asian pupils who receive SEN support is lower than most other ethnic groups.

Black pupils have the highest proportion of all ethnic groups with an EHC plan

Sources;
January 2019. Local data extract of School Census

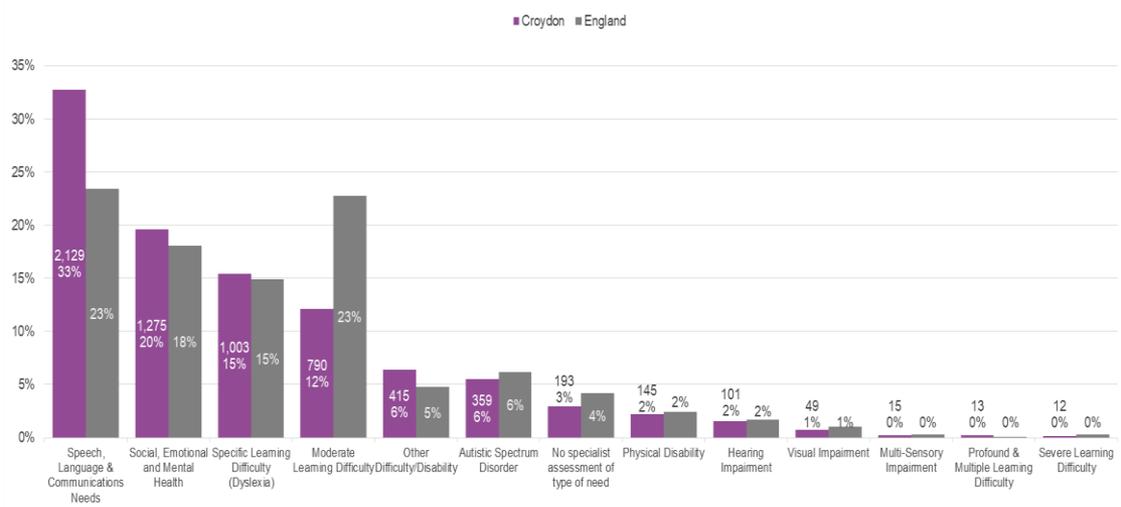
DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON PUPILS WITH SEND

In Croydon, the most common primary types of need for pupils aged 5-18 receiving SEN support were speech, language and communication needs, followed by social, emotional and mental health. The top four primary needs account for 80 percent of all pupils receiving SEN support.

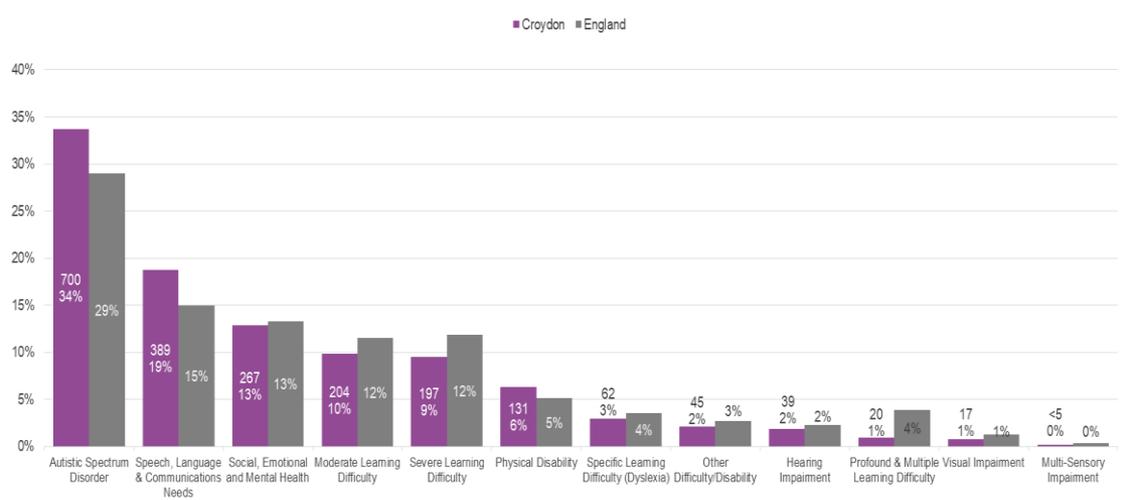
Compared to the national average, Croydon has a markedly higher proportion of pupils with a primary need of speech, language and communication needs and lower proportion with a primary need of a moderate learning difficulty.

For pupils with an EHCP, the most common primary types of need were Autism Spectrum Disorder (34%), followed by speech, language and communication needs (19%) and social, emotional and mental health (13%)

Number and proportion of pupils aged 5-18 receiving SEN Support by primary type of need (January 2019)



Number and proportion of pupils aged 5-18 with an EHC plan by primary type of need (January 2019)



Sources;
 January 2019. Local data extract of School Census
 January 2019. Department of Education. [Special Education Needs in England](#) (from school census)

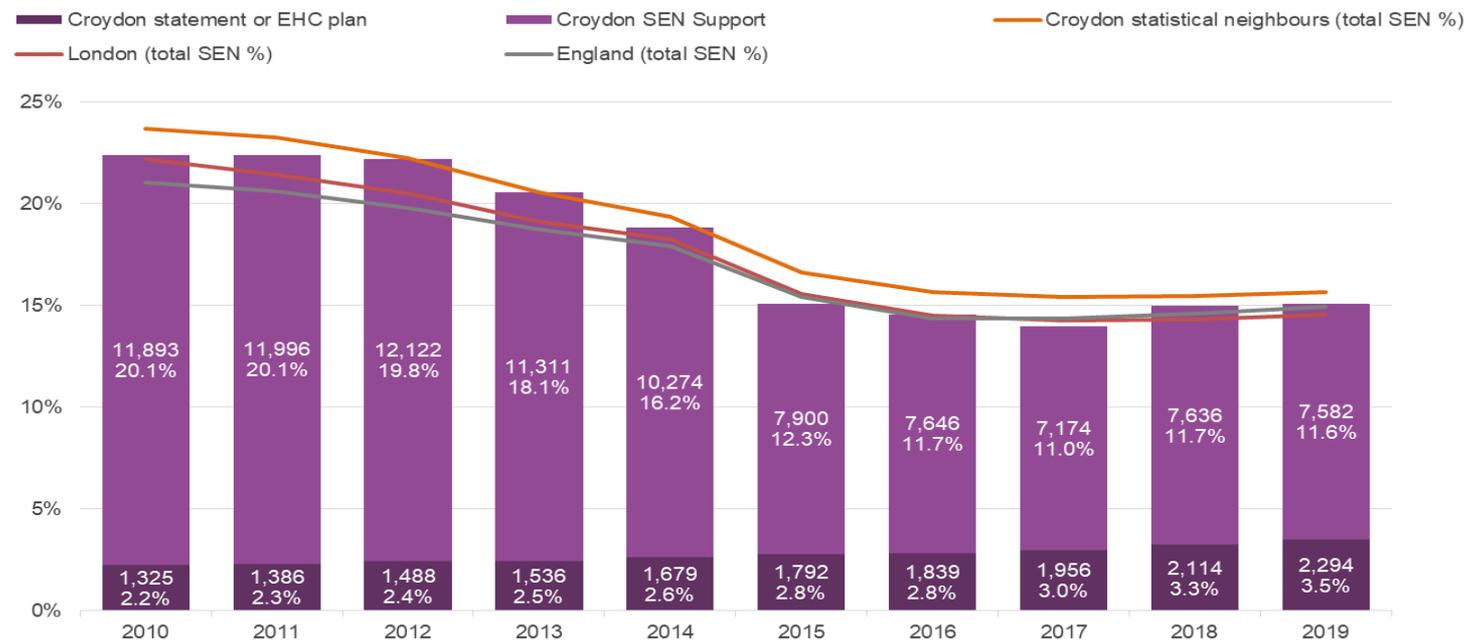
TRENDS OF CROYDON PUPILS WITH SEND

In January 2019, a total of 9,876 pupils in Croydon had SEN, 25% fewer than in 2010 (a similar reduction to both London and England)

The number of more complex cases (i.e. those requiring a statement / EHC plan) increased by 73%, from 1,325 in 2010 to 2,294 in 2019 (a larger increase than London and our statistical neighbours who have seen a 38% and 29% increase respectively in the same time).

In line with national trends, the total number of pupils with SEN has increased in the last three years following a steady decrease since 2012.

Number and proportion of Croydon pupils with SEN (January 2019)



Sources;
 January 2019. Department of Education. [Special Education Needs in England](#) (from school census)
 Department for Education. [Children Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool](#)

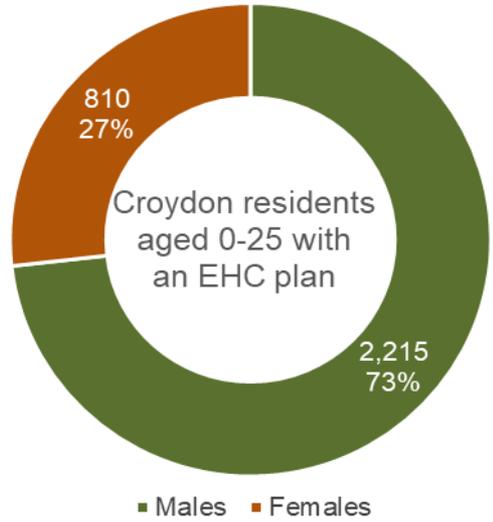
Children and young people with special educational needs

Description of those up to the age of 25 with statements of special educational needs and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans maintained by local authorities

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON CYP WITH EHCP

Results from the SEN2 survey in January 2019 showed that just less than 3,000 children and young people aged 0-25 living in Croydon had an EHC plan. 389 of these (13%) were newly identified since January 2018. This was **2.4%** of the estimated 0-25 year old population.

In the resident population, the amount of boys and girls are roughly equal. In contrast, the majority of children and young people aged 0-25 in Croydon with an EHC Plan are males. **Boys outnumber girls by as much as three to one.**

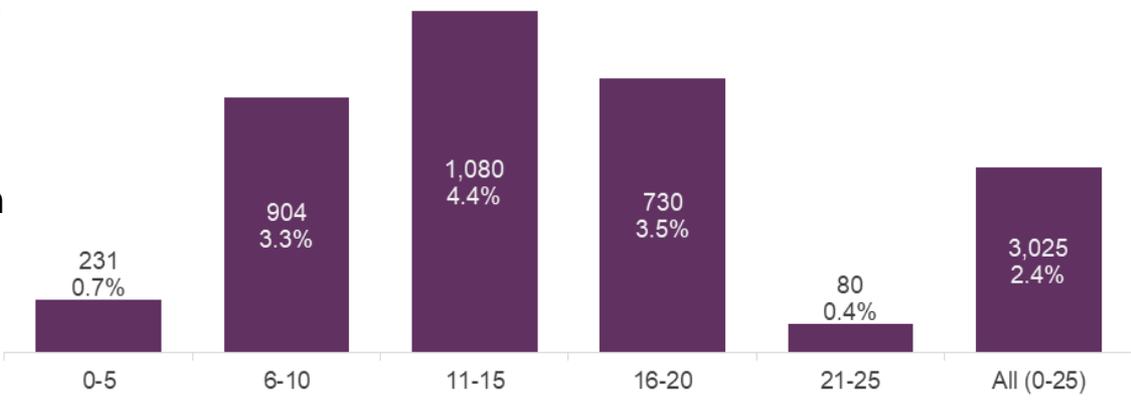


Of the total male population, 3.4% were in receipt of an EHC Plan compared to 1.3% of the female population.

The proportion of residents aged 0-5 and 21-25 with an EHC Plan is much smaller than the Croydon average, this is likely to be because school is the main route of identifying an EHC Plan need.

Those aged 11-15 are more likely to be in receipt of an EHC Plan than any other age group.

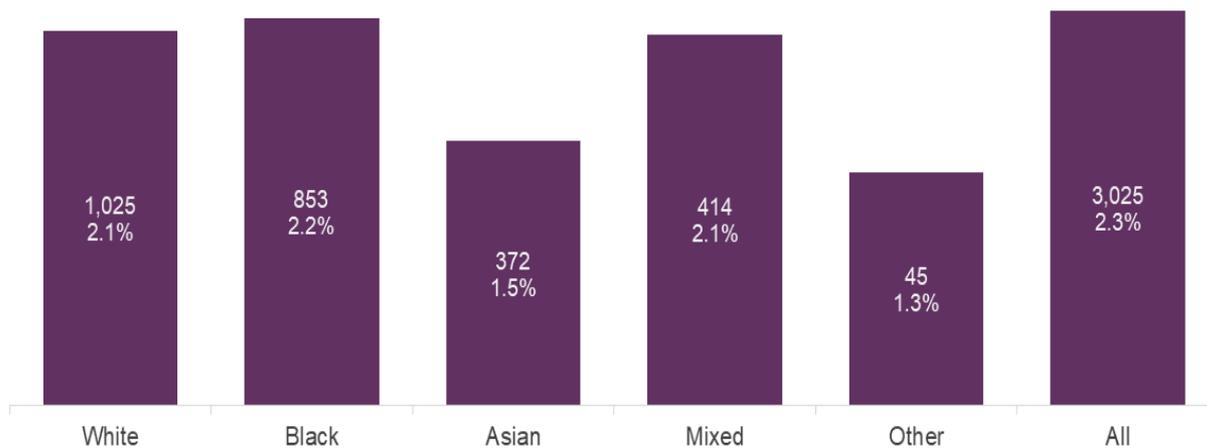
Number and proportion of residents in each age group with an EHC plan (January 2019)



Sources; Mid-2018. Office for National Statistics. [Population Estimates](#) January 2019. Local data extract of SEN2 return

The proportion of children and young people aged 0-25 who are Asian in receipt of an EHC Plan is lower than most other ethnic groups.

Number and proportion of residents aged 0-25 in each ethnic group with an EHC plan (January 2019)



Sources;
January 2019. Local data extract of SEN2 return
2019. Greater London Authority. [2016-based ethnic group population projections \(housing-led\)](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON CYP WITH EHCP

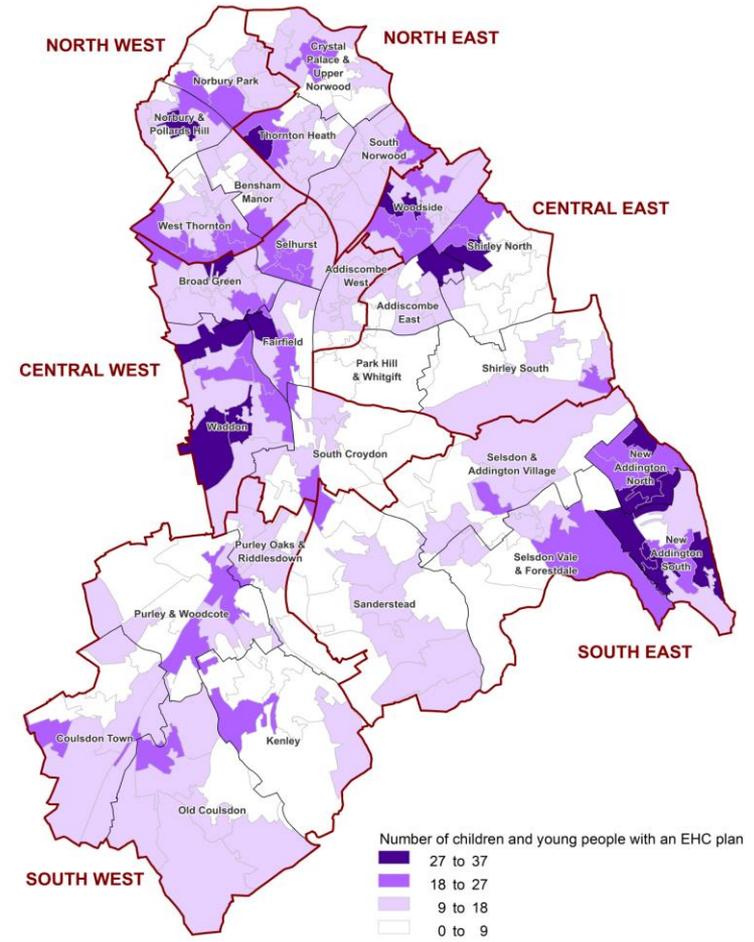
In 2019, 3025 children and young people aged 0-25 had an EHC plan .

These children and young people were spread across the borough with the highest concentrations of those with an EHC plan shown in dark purple on the map.

Central West has highest number (700) and South East has the highest rate (30.0). An additional 72 CYP were placed outside of Croydon.

Locality	Number with an EHCP	Rate with an EHCP (per 1,000 population aged 0-25)
North East	383	22.0
North West	461	23.0
Central East	436	23.5
Central West	700	20.9
South East	583	30.0
South West	390	21.5

Children and Young People with an EHC Plan in Croydon
January 2019. Children residing in Croydon for whom the LA is responsible for the EHC Plan, local data extract.

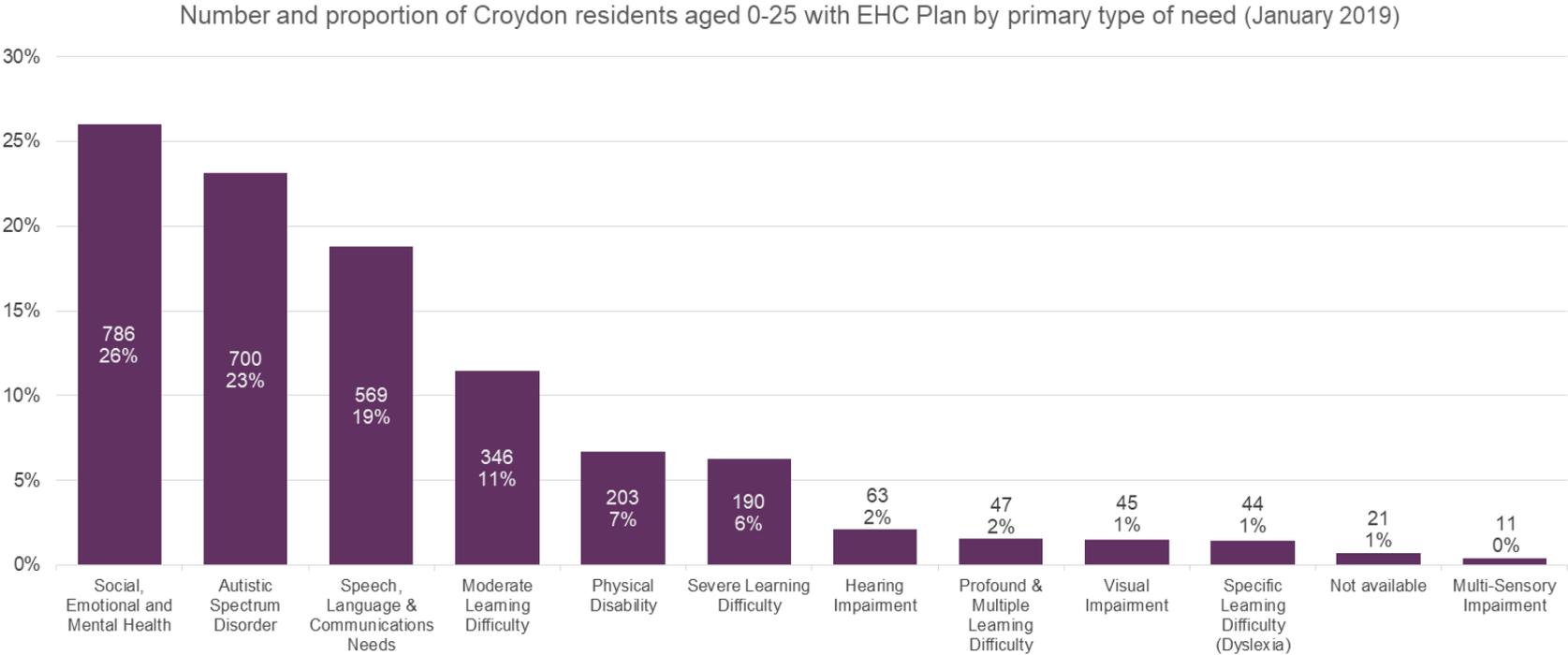


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DEMOGRAPHICS OF CROYDON CYP WITH EHCP

In Croydon, the most common primary types of need for those aged 0-25 with an EHC Plan were social, emotional and mental health needs and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The top three primary needs account for 68 percent of all Croydon children with an EHC Plan.

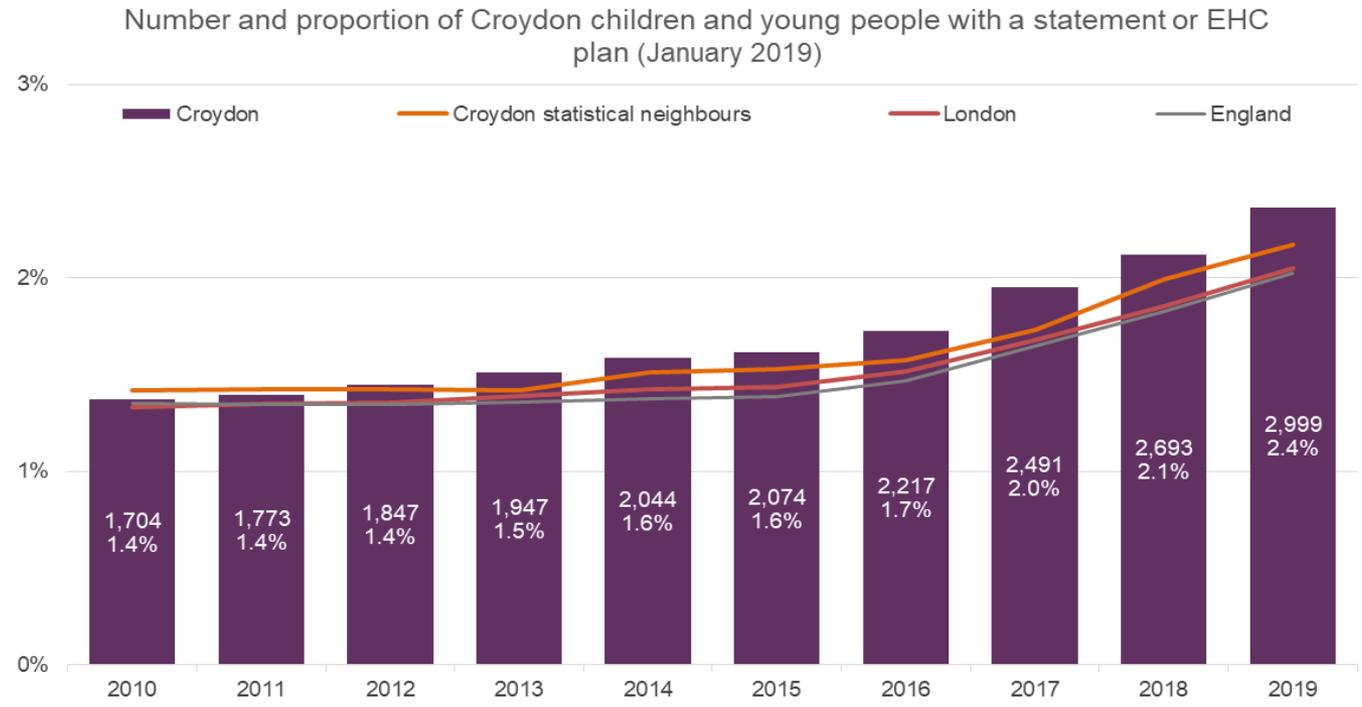


Sources;
January 2019. Local data extract of SEN2 return

TRENDS OF CROYDON CYP WITH EHCP

In January 2019, a total of 2,999 children and young people living in Croydon had an EHC plan, 76% more than in 2010. This increase is larger than that seen in our statistical neighbours (who saw a 60% increase) and London as a whole (who saw a 63% increase) in the same time.

In line with national trends, the increasing growth of the population with an EHC plan has been most pronounced since 2015, coinciding with the SEND reforms of 2014 when EHC plans were introduced. EHC plans have a lower threshold than the previous statements of SEN and an extended age range up to the age of 25.



Sources;
January 2019. Department of Education. [Statements of SEN and EHC plans in England](#) (from SEN2)
Mid-2001 to Mid-2018. Office for National Statistics. [Population Estimates](#)
Department for Education. [Children Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool](#)

Risk factors and intersecting needs

RISK FACTORS

A number of factors are associated with an increased risk of childhood developmental problems. These include;

- Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD): FASD (foetal abnormalities which occur in the babies of women who have abused alcohol during their pregnancy) is the most common, non-genetic cause of learning disability in the UK, but is often misdiagnosed as autism, Asperger Syndrome or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Multiple births: Compared with singletons, babies from multiple births have much higher rates of stillbirth, neonatal mortality, infant mortality, preterm birth, low birth weight, congenital anomalies, and subsequent developmental problems. In Croydon, approximately **96 pregnancies per year** result in a multiple birth.
- Low birth weight: Low birth weight increases the risk of childhood mortality and of developmental problems for the child and is associated with poorer health in later life. In Croydon, approximately **167 babies** born at 37 weeks or later weighed less than 2,500 grams
- Income and Deprivation: Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are more likely to live in poverty than those without. In 2016, approximately **14,800 dependent children** under the age of 20 were in low-income families (16%). In January 2019, approximately **12,200 Croydon pupils** (21.1%) were eligible for and claiming free school meals. Nationally, 15% of pupils were eligible for and claiming free school meals, this proportion increased to 28.3% of all children with SEN.

Sources;

FASD: [BMA 2016 Alcohol and pregnancy - Preventing and managing foetal alcohol spectrum disorders](#)

Births: Office for National Statistics, average of 2010-2017, taken from [Public Health England Fingertips](#)

Low-income families: 2016. HMRC. [Children in low income families](#)

Free School meals: January 2019. Department of Education. [School pupils and their characteristics](#) and [Special Education Needs in England](#).

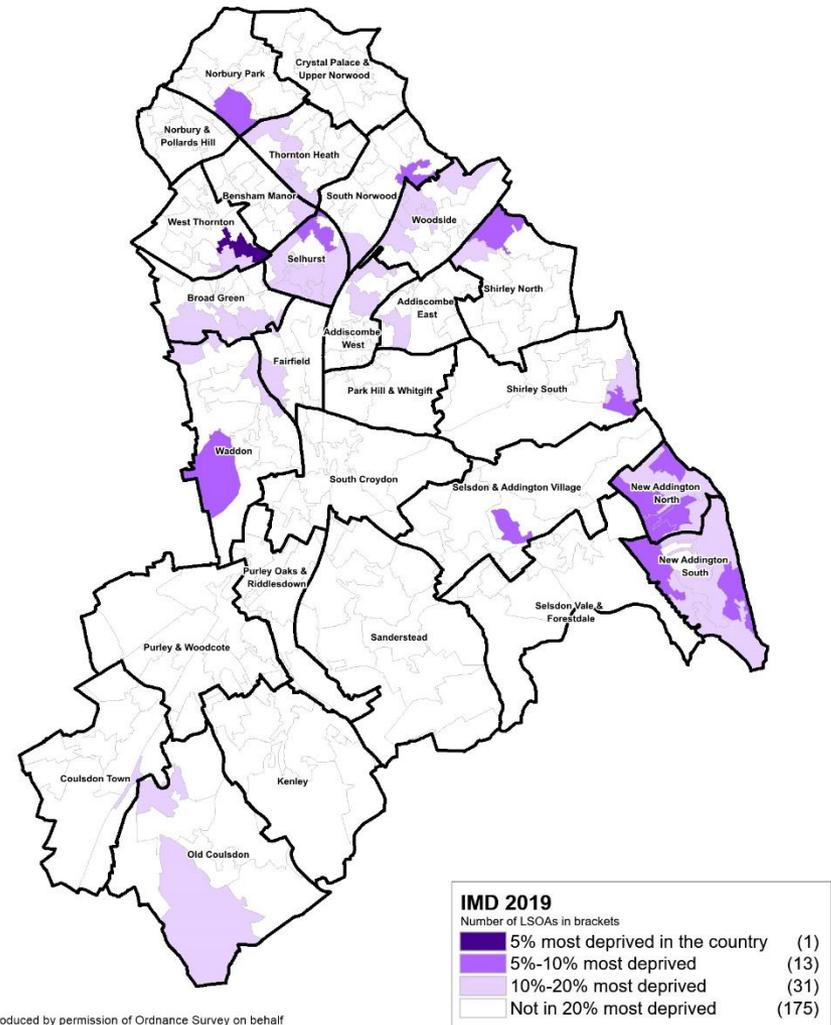
Croydon has a number of areas which are identified as part of the most 10% deprived places in the country when looking at income deprivation among children (shown in dark and very dark purple on the map).

Approximately 10,598 (8.3%) of all Croydon's children and young people aged 0-25 live in these areas.

3.4% of these CYP have an EHC Plan compared to 2.2% of CYP who don't live in the most 10% deprived places.

Approximately 360 (11.9%) of **all** those aged 0-25 with an EHC Plan live in these areas.

Indices of Deprivation 2019
Income deprivation among children index (IDACI)
Croydon Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)



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Sources;

2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) at [LSOA level](#)
Mid-2018 ONS [small area population estimates](#) (LSOA)
January 2019. Local data extract of SEN2 return

INTERSECTING NEEDS

	Total caseload	With a matched EHCP	% with a matched EHCP	Comparison with population prevalence of EHCPs*
Early Help Team (aged under 18)	1,114	48	4.3%	2 times higher
CSC (aged 4-24)	3,790	585	15.4%	6 times higher
Child Protection Plan	360	29	8.1%	3 times higher
Child in Need	2,695	452	16.8%	6 times higher
Child Looked After	735	104	14.1%	5 times higher

*Approximated at 2.7% for the purposes of these calculations (School census: 3%; SEN2: 2.4%)

Vulnerable Adolescents Thematic Review

53% of the children (32/60) needed extra support – either SEN support or an EHC
10 of the 60 (17%) attended a Special School

Youth Offending Service

1 in 5 of children and young people aged 10-19 known to services had an EHCP/SEN support

Safeguarding

Data on how SEND and safeguarding interact in Croydon would strengthen our ability to tackle these inequalities; however, historically these have not been collected systematically

Sources:

Local extracts from Croydon YOS (Oct 19-Dec 19), from Croydon EHM (open cases as at 26 February 2020) and

from Croydon CRS (open cases as at 2 March 2020)

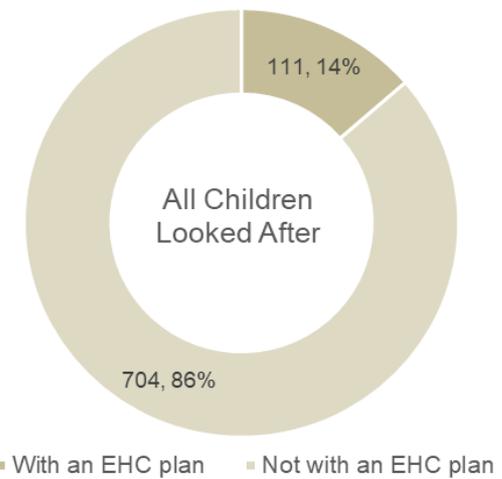
Croydon Vulnerable Adolescent Review report. 2019. [Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

INTERSECTING NEEDS – SOCIAL CARE

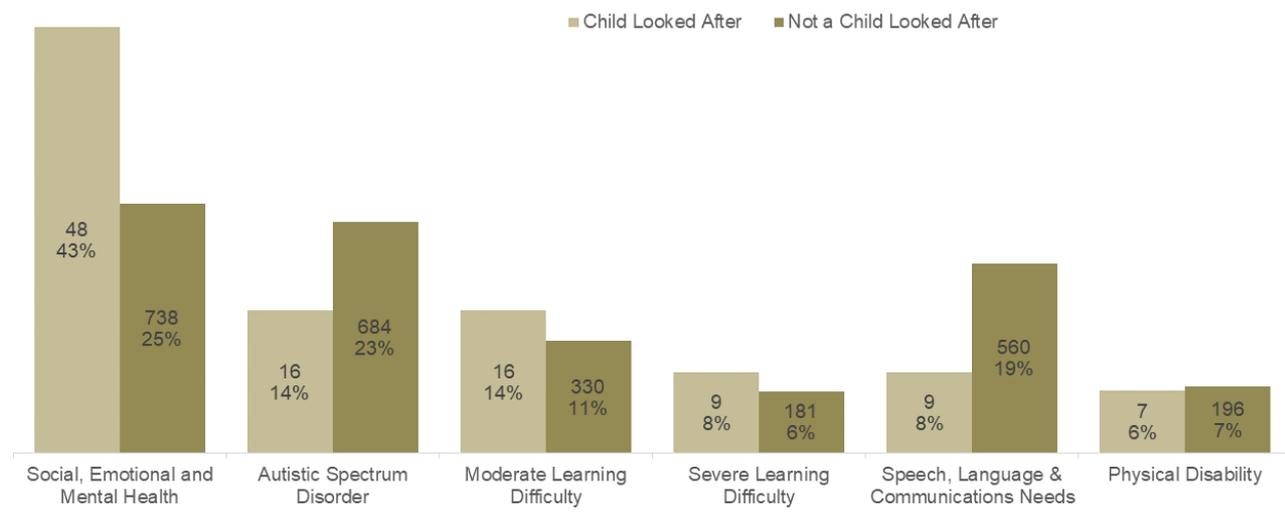
14% of all Children Looked After had an EHC plan.

This means that CLA are five times more likely to have an EHCP compared to the general child population

Children Looked After with an EHCP were more likely to have a primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health than those who were not Looked After.



Number and proportion of residents aged 0-25 with an EHC plan by CLA status and primary type of need (January 2019)



Sources;
 January 2019. Local data extract of SEN2 return
 January 2019. Local data extract of number of Looked After Children

Early identification of need

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF NEED

- Early identification of need can lead to better outcomes for children with SEND. It is core focus of the national SEND Code of Practice and is one of Croydon's five SEND strategy priorities
- In order to do this well, it is important both to:
 1. Identify young children with SEND before they start school
 2. Collect and analyse the data at population level in order to inform service provision
- There are two statutory checks of two year old children which provide a key opportunity for early identification of SEND detailed on the next slide
- Croydon is moving towards integrating these checks going forward to provide a holistic assessment of the child
 - During an integrated review pilot in August 2018, 115 integrated reviews were undertaken in Croydon with 33 referrals made as a result of these reviews
 - Work is ongoing to further improve and embed the integrated model

- 1. Health visitors** as part of universal provision of the **Healthy Child Programme**.
 - All children are eligible for this check; delivery is improving but remains low (44% in Q3 2019/20)
 - Cannot report on the proportion referred because of SEND concerns
 - The new Public Health Nursing specification (2020-2027) addresses these gaps
- 2. Early Years practitioners** as part of the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Progress Check**
 - Statutory check for all 2 year olds in settings where they deliver the EYFS curriculum
 - Only children placed in early years settings (nurseries, childminders) receive reviews
 - Practitioners develop a targeted plan to support any areas where there are significant concerns or identified SEND
 - Parents/carers receive a plan and are encouraged to share the information with other relevant professionals, including health visitors
 - These data are not currently shared with the local authority model

Placements

Location of Croydon's children with an EHCP and what type of school they attend

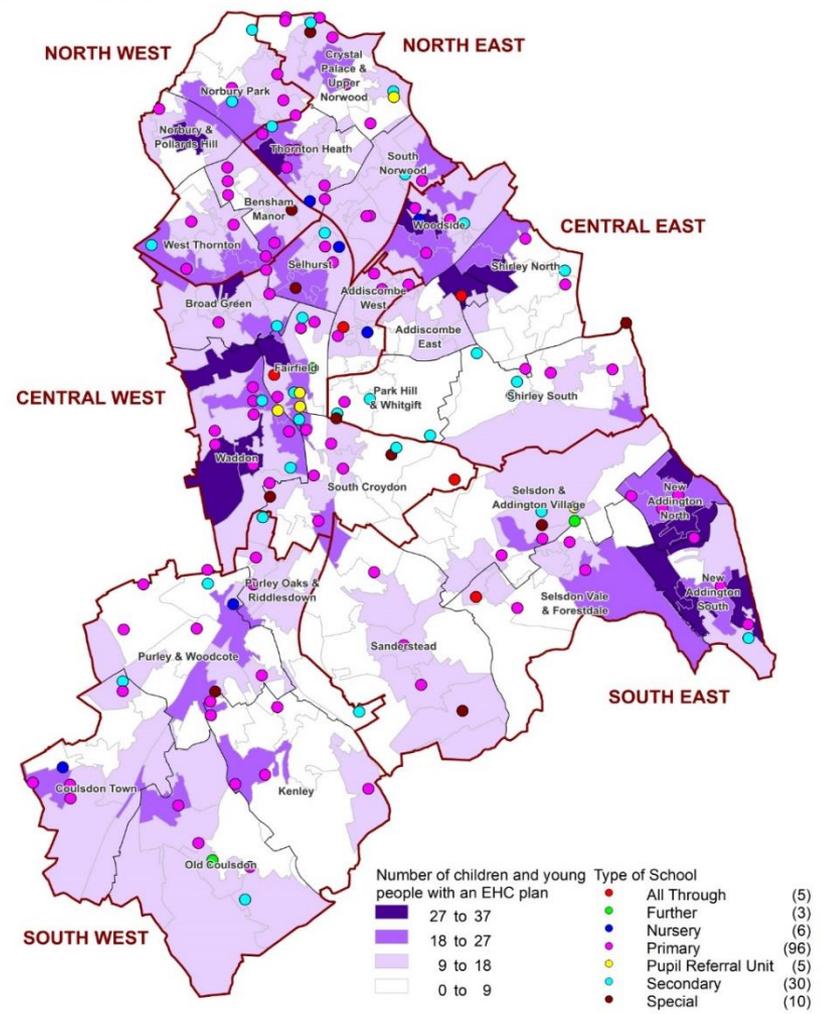
PLACEMENTS

In 2019, 3025 children and young people aged 0-25 had an EHC plan .

These children and young people were spread across the borough with the highest concentrations of those with an EHC plan shown in dark purple on the map.

Also shown on the map are Croydon's schools.

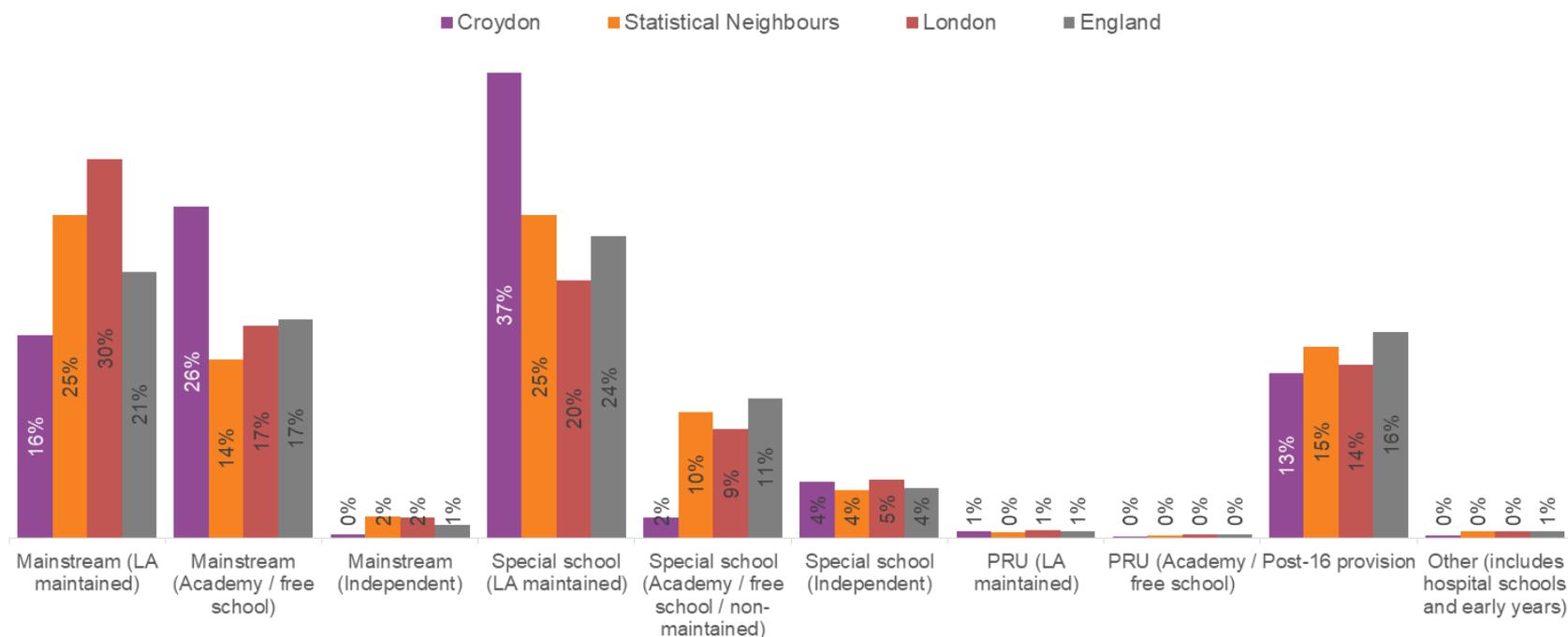
Children and Young People with an EHC Plan in Croydon
January 2019. Children residing in Croydon for whom the LA is responsible for the EHC Plan, local data extract.



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Compared to our statistical neighbours and other comparators, Croydon has proportionately more of their children and young people aged 0-25 with an EHC plan placed in special schools and slightly less in post-16 provision.

Placement of children and young people aged 0-25 with an EHC plan, (January 2019)



Sources; January 2019. Department of Education. [Statements of SEN and EHC plans in England](#) (from SEN2)

Outcomes

Educational exclusion, absenteeism, attainment and further education / employment

Overview

As nationally, compared to pupils with no identified SEN;

- Croydon pupils with EHCPs are 3.5 times more likely to be **permanently excluded** from schools. Those receiving SEN support are 4.5 times more likely
- Croydon pupils with EHCPs are 2.5 times more likely to **persistently absent** from school than pupils. Those with identified SEN, are almost 2 times more likely
- Croydon pupils with SEND have lower levels of **educational attainment**. Croydon does less well than statistical neighbours for EYFS attainment amongst children with an EHCP, and the likelihood of having Level 2 qualifications aged 19 is lower than the London average amongst children with an EHCP
- Croydon has comparatively high rates of SEN pupils in **education or employment following key stage 5**, the fifth highest proportion of all London boroughs – this is a change from 2015/16 when Croydon had the fourth lowest proportion in the region

Sources;

2017/18. Department for Education. [Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions](#)

2017/18. Department for Education. [Pupil Absence in Schools](#)

2018/19. Department for Education. [Early years foundation stage profile results](#)

2017/18. Department for Education. [Level 2 and level 3 attainment by young people aged 19](#)

2018. Department for Education. [Destinations of KS4 and KS5 pupils](#)

Appendix

Definitions and details of key data sources

- The [Children and Families Act](#) (2014) define a child as having special educational needs if "they have a learning difficulty or disability which requires special educational provision to be made for him or her"
- The [Equality Act](#) (2010) defines a disability as a "physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities."
- The World Health Organisation definition states "Disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Disability is thus not just a health problem. It is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives."
- The [SEND Code of Practice](#) (2015) state that there are four broad categories of SEND need. A child may have needs that cut across these categories, and their needs may change over time:
 - Communication and interaction
 - Cognition and learning
 - Social, mental and emotional health
 - Sensory and/or physical need

APPENDIX – DATA SOURCES

There are two main sources of information relating to SEND in children and young people.

1. The [SEN2 survey](#) is a requirement for all local authorities to complete. The annual information published by the Department for Education includes all children and young people with statements of special educational needs and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans maintained by individual local authorities as at January of each year. It includes all children and young people up to the age of 25, including those placed outside of the borough for whom the LA is responsible. It does not include information on
 - Children who do not reach the threshold for a statement / plan
 - Children attending Croydon schools or placed in Croydon for whom the LA is not responsible

Please be aware that there is a small difference between local and DFE published figures as local data is a snapshot of the live system which doesn't take into account pupil movement at the time of the survey used by DfE.

2. The [school census](#) collects data on pupils of school age (5-18 year olds). The annual information published by the Department for Education includes pupils receiving SEN support or with a statement/EHC plan as at January of each year. It includes pupils attending schools in Croydon, including those resident outside of Croydon. It does not include information on;
 - Children and young people outside of school age (under 5 or over 18)
 - Children who are home-schooled
 - Children who live in Croydon and attend school outside of the borough

Please be aware that there is a difference between local and DFE published figures as local data does not include information from registered independent schools and general hospital schools who provide data nationally via the school level annual school census (SLASC) collection and are included for publication by DFE.

The definitions of pupils with SEN are categorised by the Department for Education as follows:

SEN support	Extra or different help is given from that provided as part of the school's usual curriculum. The class teacher and SEN Coordinator (SENCO) may receive advice or support from outside specialists. This category has replaced the former 'School Action' and 'School Action Plus' categories.
Statement / EHC plan	A pupil has a statement of SEN or an EHC plan when a local authority issued one following a formal assessment. This document sets out the child's needs and the extra help they should receive.

Additionally, the key source of information relating to disability in children and young people is the [Family Resources Survey](#), a continuous household survey that collects extensive information on disability and now stands as one of the key sources of information on the populations of disabled adults and children in the UK.

In the survey, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has 'substantial' and 'long term' negative effects on their ability to do normal daily activities. This is the core definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010.