



Date of Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report Author	Fay Davies
Public/Private Document	Public

## SEND update

### Executive Summary

1. Members of the Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested information on numbers and costs of Rochdale children with special education needs who are travelling out of borough to access education. This report summarises government reported data to January 2019 and council SEN projected spend up to the 2019/20 financial year.

### Recommendation

2. No recommendations; report for information only.

### Reason for Recommendation

3. None

### Key Points for Consideration

- 4.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations introduced a new Code of Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in England.
- 4.2 The changes extended the age range of people covered by the regulations to from 0-19 to 0-25 years.
- 4.3 Statements of Special Educational Needs were replaced by individualised Education, Health & Care plans (EHCP's) and the categorisation of children requiring support that could be provided using a school's existing resources, (School Action and School Action Plus) were replaced by the 'SEN Support' label.
- 4.4 Rochdale has above national and above Greater Manchester (GM) levels of children with an ECHP. In 2019 Rochdale had 3.6% of its pupils with an EHCP

compared to a GM level of 3.3% and national level of 3.1% (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2019>), see figure 1. The sharp drop between 2015 and 2016 was due to the change from SEN statements to EHCPs described above. Since 2016 rates of EHCPs have been rising nationally.

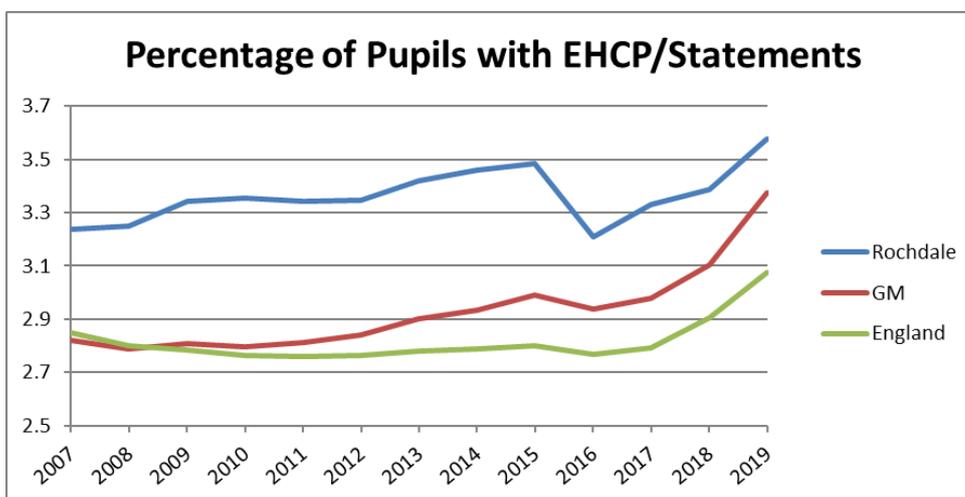


Figure 1: Percentage of pupils with EHCP 2007-2019

- 4.5 The number of children with EHCPs has grown by 203 since 2016, which is an 18% increase (table 1).(Special Educational Needs in England January 2019, link as above).

YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of children with EHCP's	1117	1187	1228	1320
Percentage increase from 2016		6%	10%	18%

Table 1: Number of children with EHCP's

- 4.6 The government statistic report on children with EHCPs linked above only covers those children in maintained settings and splits children into those attending mainstream Primary schools, mainstream Secondary schools and Special schools.

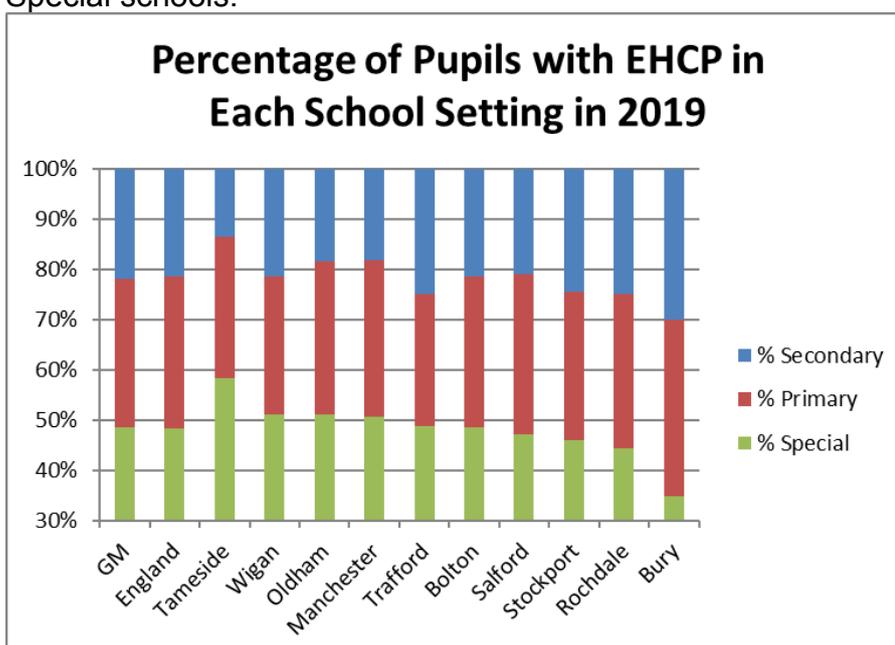


Figure 2 shows, of all children covered by the report, what percentage attend each of the settings, and compares the percentages to England, Greater Manchester (GM) average, and each of the other GM authorities. The percentage of Rochdale EHCP children in Special schools is 44% compared to 58% in Tameside.

- 4.7 Funding from central government for SEN pupils is in the High Needs block of the Dedicated School Grant. The way it is calculated, adjusted and re-adjusted has changed continually and does not reflect how much money is available for the local authority because of both, recoupment with central government funding of Academy schools, and year to year adjustments. Changes have also been made with the High Needs funding due to the National Funding formula. However table 2 shows funding levels, after being reduced in 2017 and 2018, has now increased slightly for 2019. The funding levels shown here are to put context to costs on out of borough placements in the following sections.

	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
High Needs Block allocation (£million) prior to recoupment (rounded 2dp)	23.16	21.18	22.30	23.86
Percentage increase /decrease from 2016		-9%	-4%	+3%

Table 2 High Needs Block Funding 2016-2019 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2016-to-2017>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2017-to-2018>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-funding-arrangements-2018-to-2019>, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2019-to-2020>)

- 4.8 There have always been some children whose special educational needs require out of borough specialist provision ; such as children who attend hospital schools because of long term chronic conditions. Historically the numbers have been very low. Since the growth in the school aged cohort combined with the introduction of EHCPs, there has been an increased demand for out-of-borough Special school places in the Independent (Indep) and Non-maintained (NMSS) sector. With the fact that EHCPs now cover young adults up to the age of 25, it means that the Pre-16 and Post-16 numbers are both increasing (table 3)

	Number of Pupils			2017-19 percentage increase
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Indep Pre 16	21	33	39	86%
NMSS Pre 16	9	13	12	33%
Indep Post 16	5	7	9	80%
NMSS Post 16	9	8	7	-22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>52%</b>

Table 3: Numbers of Pre-16 and Post-16 pupils at Independent and Non-maintained special schools

- 4.9 The total cost of those placements detailed in table 3 above are shown in table 4 below, with the calculated percentage increase over the three year period.

	Total Cost			2017 -19 Percentage Increase
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Indep Pre-16	£ 727,804	£ 1,311,514	£ 1,632,910	124%

NMSS Pre-16	£ 403,380	£ 676,381	£ 640,742	59%
Indep Post-16	£ 265,847	£ 238,460	£ 464,903	75%
NMSS post-16	£ 382,735	£ 356,031	£ 355,847	-7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1,779,766</b>	<b>£ 2,582,386</b>	<b>£ 3,094,402</b>	<b>74%</b>

Table 4: Total cost of out-of-borough placements for Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools

4.10 The following shows the average cost per place and the way it has changed over the three years of data.

	Cost per pupil		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Indep Pre-16	£ 34,657	£ 39,742	£ 41,869
NMSS Pre-16	£ 44,820	£ 52,029	£ 53,395
Indep Post-16	£ 53,169	£ 34,065	£ 51,655
NMSS post-16	£ 42,526	£ 44,503	£ 50,835
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 40,449</b>	<b>£ 42,334</b>	<b>£ 46,185</b>

Table 5: Cost per place for pupils in Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools

### **Alternatives Considered**

None

### **Costs and Budget Summary**

5. SEN costs and spend are reported to Cabinet annually for approval. This report is for context only.

### **Risk and Policy Implications**

6. None. There are no legal implications as this Report is for information purposes only.

### **Consultation**

7. None

### **Background Papers**

### **Place of Inspection**

8. None

### **For Further Information Contact:**

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