

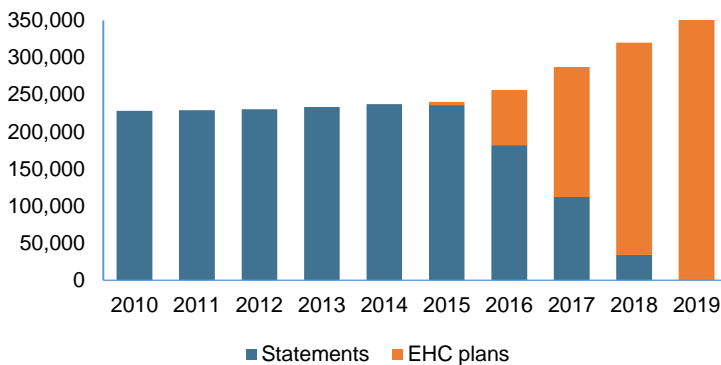


30 May 2019

This publication provides data on the number of children and young people with a statement of special educational needs or education, health and care (EHC) plan in England. The publication also provides data on the administration of statements of SEN and EHC plans.

The total number of EHC plans has continued to increase...

Statements and EHC plans, January 2019



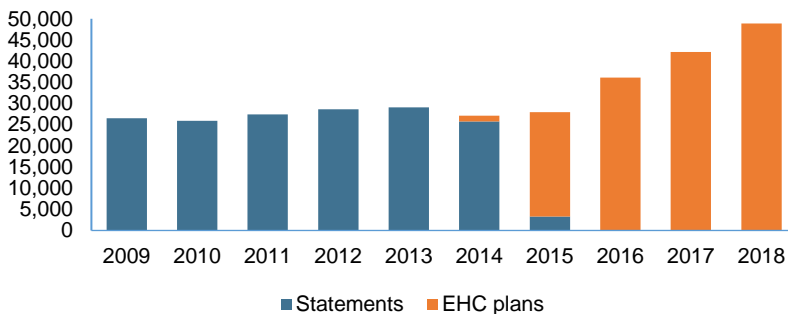
There were 354,000 children and young people with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans maintained by local authorities as at January 2019.

This is an increase of 34,200 (11%) from 2018. This is driven by increases across all age groups, with largest percentage increases in the 0-5 (13%) and 20-25 age groups (32%).

The total number of children and young people with statements of SEN or EHC plans has increased each year since 2010.

There were 48,907 new EHC plans made in the 2018 calendar year...

New statements and EHC plans, 2018 calendar year

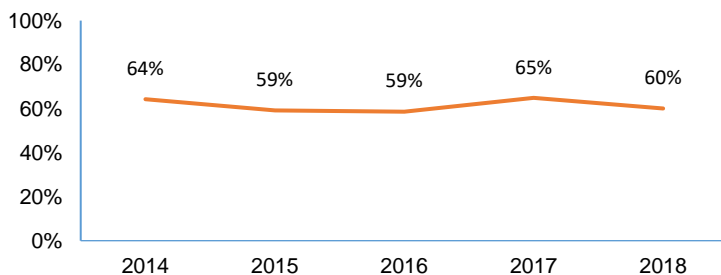


There were 48,900 children and young people with new EHC plans made during the 2018 calendar year. This is an increase of 16% compared to 2017.

The number of new EHC plans has increased each year since their introduction in 2014.

The proportion of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks has fallen...

% of new EHC plans issued in 20 weeks



In 2018, 60% of new EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks.

This shows a decrease from 2017, when 65% of new EHC plans were issued within the 20 week time limit. This figure excludes exceptional cases where the local authority need not comply with the 20 week time limit if it is impractical to do so.

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About this release

This statistics publication provides data from the annual SEN2 data return, which is mandatory for local authorities to complete. The return is the only source of data to report on all statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans maintained by individual local authorities and provides information on the number of children and young people with EHC plans or, previously, statements of SEN.

Special educational needs and disability reforms

In September 2014, the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms came into effect as part of the Children and Families Act 2014. From 1 September 2014, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan assessment process. The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996.

See the [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25](#) for more detailed information on the reforms.

In this publication

The following tables are included in the publication:

- Main tables (Excel .xls)

The technical document provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at:

SEN.statistics@education.gov.uk



1. Education, Health and Care plans in place (Tables 1 and 3)

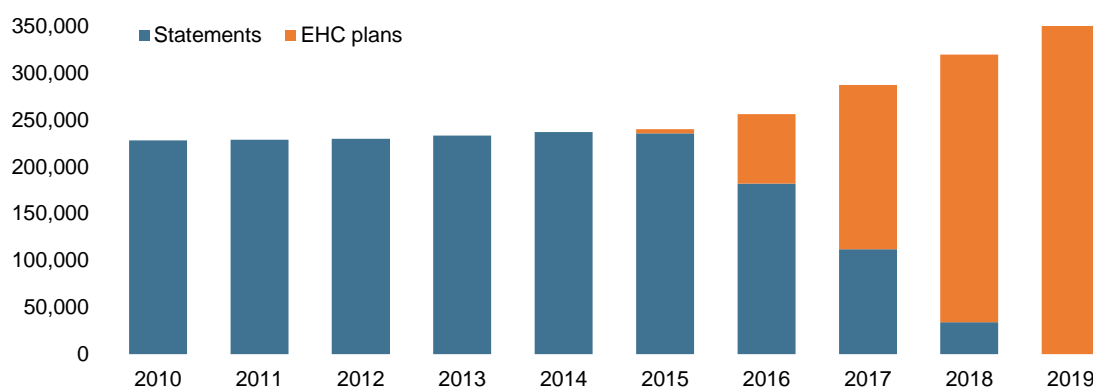
There were 354,000 children and young people with statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans maintained by local authorities as at January 2019. This is an increase of 34,200 (11%) from a combined total of 319,800 children and young people with an EHC plan or statement of special educational needs (SEN) as at January 2018.

The combined total of children and young people with statements and EHC plans has increased each year since 2010. EHC plans were introduced from September 2014. The period for local authorities to transfer children and young people with statements of SEN to EHC plans started in September 2014 and ended on 31 March 2018, as such we no longer see statements of SEN in the total.

Figure A: Number of children and young people with statements or EHC plans

Years: January 2010 - 2019

Coverage: England



Source: SEN2 2010-2019

Age group

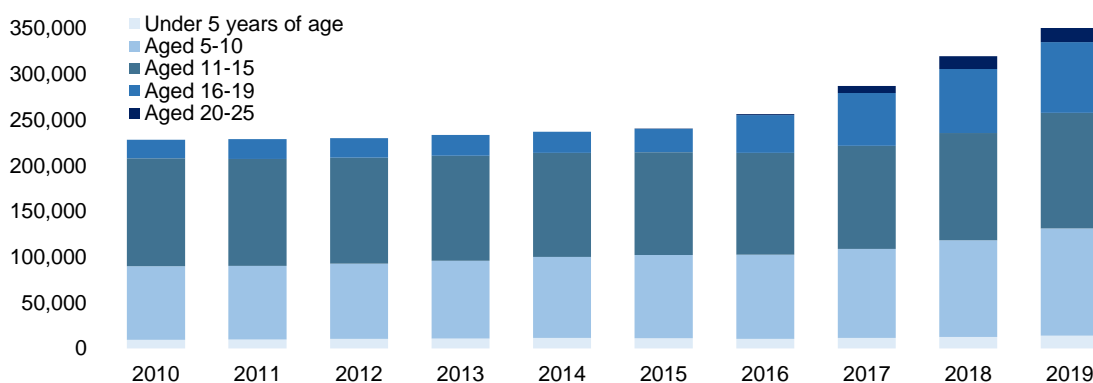
Children aged 11-15 years old account for the largest percentage of children and young people with EHC plans (36%) as at January 2019.

From September 2014, EHC plans replaced Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) for children in further education. The percentage of children and young people aged 16-19 years old with a statement or EHC plan has subsequently increased year on year over the period from January 2014 (10%) to January 2018 (22%), remaining at this level in January 2019. The percentage of young people aged 20-25 has similarly increased since the introduction of EHC plans in 2014, rising to 5% of all plans in 2019.

Figure B: Number of children and young people with statements or EHC plans by age group

Years: January 2010 - 2019

Coverage: England



Source: SEN2 2010-2019

Establishment type¹

Whilst the number of children and young people across all establishment types has increased, the proportions of young people with EHC plans receiving provision in mainstream and special schools have seen small decreases. This is a result of the increase in EHC plans issued to those 16 years old and above and consequently the use of further education (from 15% to 16% of all EHC plans).

Figure C: Number and percentage of children and young people with EHC plans receiving SEN provision at an establishment, by establishment type (grouped)

Year: January 2019

Coverage: England

Establishment type (grouped)	EHC plans	% of all EHC plans
Non-maintained early years settings	1,708	0.5
Mainstream school	138,630	39.2
Special school	136,630	38.6
Alternative Provision (AP) / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	2,731	0.8
Further Education	57,191	16.2
Total	336,890	95.2

Source: SEN2 2019

Data is also collected for children and young people where they are not currently receiving provision in the establishment types listed in Figure C. These are shown in Figure D below. 17,100 children and young people were recorded under one of these categories in January 2019. Of these cases, 5,900 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

A further 1,900 children and young people (1%) have been recorded as 'Other'. This includes those who have been issued with a notice to cease the EHC plan (for example, after taking up of employment) and those where the decision is currently subject to an appeal. This is the first year for which NEET and Other are available.

Figure D: Number and percentage of children and young people with EHC plans who are elsewhere

Year: January 2019

Coverage: England

	EHC Plans	% of all EHC plans
Awaiting provision as named on their EHC plan	3,486	1.0
Other arrangements made by the local authority	2,969	0.8
Other arrangements made by the parents	2,809	0.8
Permanently excluded and not yet placed elsewhere	63	<0.1
Not in employment, education or training (NEET)	5,876	1.7
Other	1,902	0.5
Total	17,105	4.8

Source: SEN2 2019

Awaiting Provision

New data was collected on the number of those awaiting provision in 2019. Awaiting provision includes children and young people who are awaiting the provision specified on their EHC plan. This includes some children and young people who are in an education setting but are awaiting provision in another setting, for example, those currently attending a mainstream school and awaiting provision in a special school. This also include some children and young people who are not currently in an education setting but are awaiting placement.

As this is the first year of collecting data on this basis, comparisons to previous years are not advised. For example, figures up to and including 2017 are known to also include those not in employment, education or training (NEET).

¹ The type of establishment named on the EHC plan.

Figure E: Number and percentage of children and young people awaiting provision

Year: January 2019

Coverage: England

Awaiting provision	EHC Plans	% of all EHC plans
Compulsory school age or below (aged under 16) currently in a school but are awaiting placement in another school	638	0.2
Over compulsory school age (aged 16 and over) currently in an education setting but are awaiting placement in another setting	137	0.0
Compulsory school age or below (aged under 16) not currently in school but are awaiting placement in a school	1,203	0.3
Over compulsory school age (aged 16 and over) not currently in an education setting but are awaiting placement in a setting	1,508	0.4
Total	3,486	1.0

Source: SEN2 2019

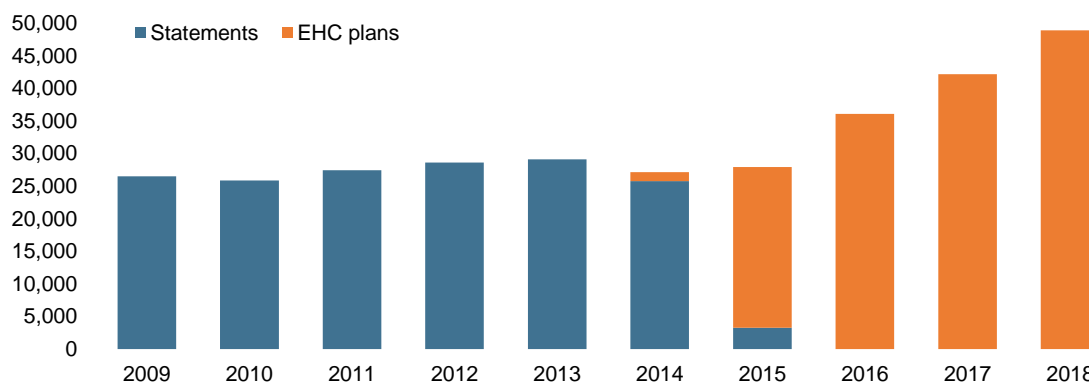
2. New EHC plans (Tables 2 and 4)

There were 48,900 children and young people with new EHC plans made during the 2018 calendar year², an increase of 6,700 (16%) when compared against 2017.

Figure F: Number of children and young people with new statements or EHC plans

Years: Calendar year 2009 - 2018

Coverage: England



Source: SEN2 2010-2019

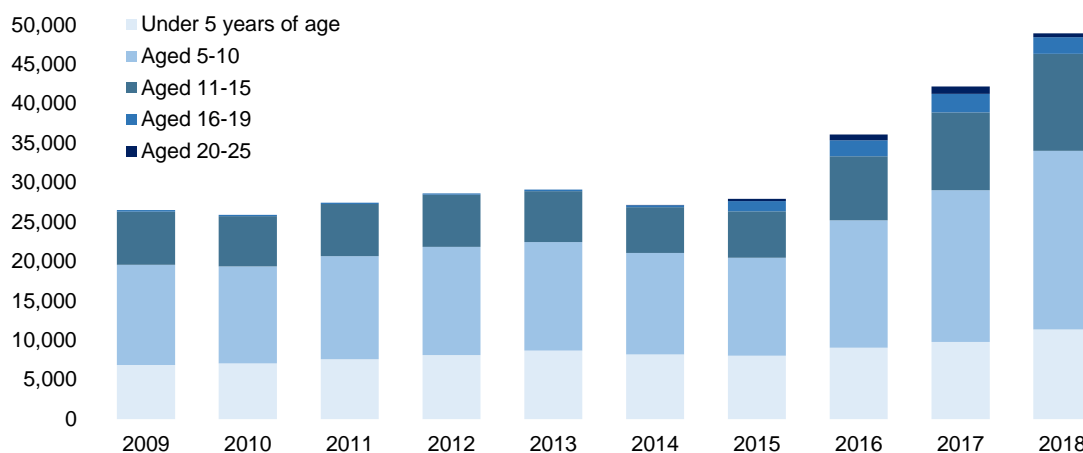
Age group

Children aged 5-10 years old accounted for the largest percentage of children and young people with new EHC plans (46%) made during the 2018 calendar year. The lowest age group was the 20-25 age group, with 500 new plans, 1% of the overall total.

Since the introduction of EHC plans, the 16 to 19 age group had previously seen an increase from 1% of new plans (or statements) in 2014 to 6% in 2017, reducing in 2018 for the first time since the introduction of EHC plans to 4%.

² This does not include those children and young people who previously had a statement of SEN. Figures on transfers of statements of SEN to EHC plans are included in section 5.

Figure G: Number of children and young people with new statements of SEN and EHC plans by age group
 Years: Calendar year 2009 - 2018
 Coverage: England



Source: SEN2 2010-2019

Establishment type³

Children and young people receiving provision in mainstream schools accounted for the largest percentage of children and young people on roll at an establishment with EHC plans made for the first time in the 2018 calendar year (69%).

Figure H: Number and percentage of children and young people with new EHC plans by establishment type (grouped)

Year: Calendar year 2018
 Coverage: England

Establishment type (grouped)	EHC plans	%
Non-maintained early years settings	1,547	3.3
Mainstream school	32,360	68.9
Special school	10,319	22.0
Alternative Provision (AP) / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	1,073	2.3
Further Education	1,669	3.6
Total	46,968	

Source: SEN2 2019

3. Assessment process (Tables 2 and 8)

There were 72,400 initial requests made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year, an increase of 12% since 2017. Of those initial requests made for assessment for an EHC plan, 17,900 (25%) were refused. This compares to 14,600 (23%) in 2017.

Once a request has been approved, an assessment is undertaken and a decision on whether to issue a plan or not is made.

There were 51,600 children and young people assessed with a decision taken whether or not to issue an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year. Of these, 48,900 (95%) had new EHC plans made during the 2018 calendar year, an increase from 93% in 2017. A further 2,700 were assessed and it was decided not to issue a plan.

³ The type of establishment named on the EHC plan.

4. EHC plans issued within the time limits (Table 9)

Time limits

The 0-25 SEND code of practice states that the whole process of EHC needs assessment and EHC plan development, from the point when an assessment is requested (or a child or young person is brought to the local authority's attention) until the final EHC plan is issued, must take no more than 20 weeks. This is a shorter time limit than the 26 weeks previously given for the completion of statements. The special education needs and disability regulations allow for exceptions to the time limits in certain cases.

Of the new EHC plans made during the 2018 calendar year (excluding cases where exceptions apply), 60% were issued within the 20 week time limit, a decrease from 65% in 2017 but higher than 59% in 2016. When including cases where exceptions apply, 58% were issued within the 20 week time limit, a decrease from 61% in 2017.

Figure I: New EHC plans issued within 20 weeks (excluding exception cases)

Year: Calendar year 2014-2018

Coverage: England

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of new EHC plans issued	1,177	19,712	30,942	36,702	45,145
Percentage of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks	64.3	59.2	58.6	64.9	60.1

Source: SEN2 2019

5. Transfers from statements of SEN to EHC plans (Table 8)

Timescales

Transfers of children and young people with statements and young people receiving support as a result of a learning difficulty assessment (LDAs) to EHC plans have been phased following the introduction of EHC plans. Local authorities had a statutory duty to complete the review of the 236,225 statements of SEN that were in place in August 2014 by 31 March 2018. More detail can be found at: [Special educational needs and disability: managing the September 2014 changes to the system](#).

The data collected as part of this release covers the end of the transition period, between 18th January 2018 and 31st March 2018, when a further 27,600 children and young people transferred from statements to EHC plans. A further 600 children and young people with statements were assessed and a decision was made not to issue an EHC plan in the same period.

Management information from local authorities shows that as of 15 December 2018 the transition is complete for all but fewer than 100 cases with exceptional circumstances⁴.

6. Personal budgets and mediation cases (Table 10)

Personal budgets

An optional personal budget is an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision.

See the [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25](#) for further information on personal budgets.

There were 15,700 personal budgets in place for EHC plans issued or reviewed during the 2018 calendar year, an increase from 11,700 in 2017. This represents 4.4% of all EHC plans.

Mediation and appeals to tribunal

Following the assessment of needs of a child or young person, if the local authority decides not to issue an EHC plan, or if parent/carers disagree with the educational provision set out in the EHC plan, they would be able to appeal to the

⁴ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203903/>

First-tier Tribunal. Parents and young people who are thinking of appealing to the Tribunal have the option to contact a mediation adviser. Data is collected on the number of times this occurs as “mediation cases”.

They then decide whether they want to go to mediation or proceed to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), part of the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber within the First-tier Tribunal.

More information about the Tribunal can be found at: www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/first-tier-tribunal-special-educational-needs-and-disability.

Statistics covering the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>

There were 3,200 mediation cases held during the 2018 calendar year. Of these mediation cases, 800 (26%) were followed by appeals to the tribunal during the 2018 calendar year. This is a small increase on 2017 when 25% of mediation cases were followed by appeals.

Some mediation cases in the 2018 calendar year could have been followed by appeal to the tribunal in 2019, which would not have been recorded in this collection.

7. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website ([Statistics: special educational needs \(SEN\)](#)):

National tables:

Table 1	Placement of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan
Table 2	Assessment and placement of children and young people with a new statement or EHC plan, and children and young people with statements or EHC plans transferred or discontinued
Table 11	Number of children and young people with statements or EHC plans placed in residential special schools or colleges by age

Local authority tables:

Table 3	Children and young people with a statement or EHC plan by local authority
Table 4	Children and young people with a new statement or EHC plan by local authority
Table 5a	Placement of children and young people (number) with an EHC plan by local authority
Table 5b	Placement of children and young people (percentage) with an EHC plan by local authority
Table 6a	Placement of children and young people (number) with a new EHC plan by local authority
Table 6b	Placement of children and young people (percentage) with a new EHC plan by local authority
Table 7	Children and young people with an EHC plan by local authority and age group.
Table 8	Assessment of children and young people with a new EHC plan, and children and young people with statements or EHC plans transferred or discontinued, by local authority
Table 9	New EHC plans issued within 20 weeks by local authority
Table 10	EHC plans with personal budgets, mediation and tribunal cases, and employment of designated medical/clinical officer by local authority

When reviewing the tables, please note that symbols are used in the tables as follows:

- . not applicable
- .. not available

8. Further information is available

Previous publications Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, was released as a separate publication for the first time in 2015:

[Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England 2015](#)

[Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England 2016](#)

[Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England 2017](#)

[Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England 2018](#)

Data from earlier publications can be found as part of the Special Educational Needs in England publication:

[Statistics: Special educational needs](#)

SEN2 collection Guidance on the SEN2 collection that underpins this release:
guidance [Special educational needs survey: guide to submitting data](#)

Other SEN Statistical Statistics on pupils with SEN, including information on educational
publications attainment, destinations, absence, exclusions, and characteristics:

[Statistics: Special educational needs](#)

SEND code of Explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and
practice colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under
part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014:

[SEND code of practice: 0- 25 years](#)

Special educational Regulations supplement the procedural framework assessing a
needs and disability child or young person with special educational needs, and the
regulations procedure for making, reviewing, amending and ceasing to
maintain an EHC plan:

[The Education \(Special Educational Needs\) \(England\)
\(Consolidation\) Regulations 2001](#)

[Special educational needs and disability regulations 2014](#)

Special educational Includes links to guidance and regulations about supporting
needs and disability children and young people with special educational needs and
(SEND) information disabilities.

[Special educational needs and disability \(SEND\)](#)

9. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

10. Technical information

A technical document accompanies this publication. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

11. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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Download <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2018>

Reference: [Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2019]



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