






Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 28 January 2025

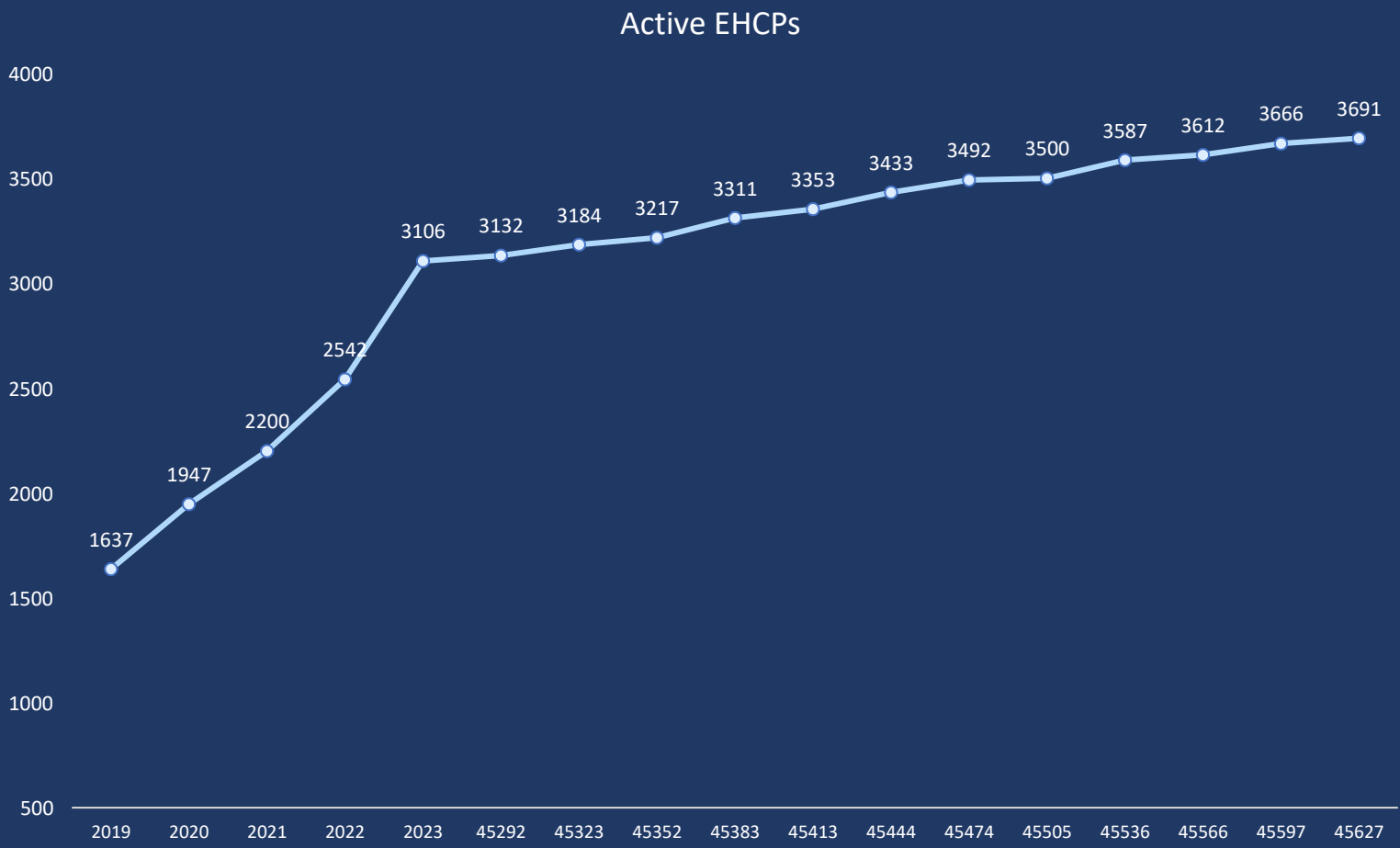
Appendix A: SEND Update January 2025

EHCP & EHE Performance Overview

Area	Latest Data Update	Change from prior month	Actual latest figures & %
Active EHCPs	Dec 24	 0.7%	3,691
EHCP plans finalised within 20 weeks	Dec 24	 3.3%	55%
EHCP health advices completed within 6 weeks	Oct 24	 1%	98%
Social Care - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	Oct 24	 27%	64%
Education Psychology - % of cases responded to within 6 weeks	Oct 24	0%	89%
EHE Open Referrals	Oct 24	 4%	366

EHCP Trends & Timeliness- **Local Area Partners**

EHCP Trends



- As of December 2024, there were 3,691 active EHCP's.
- Sefton has the highest % increase in EHCP's in 2024 compared to regional neighbours
- Between 2023 and 2024 there was a 19% increase in the total number of EHCP's. This is a decrease on the previous year which was 22%

Data source: Capita

EHCP Regional Comparatives

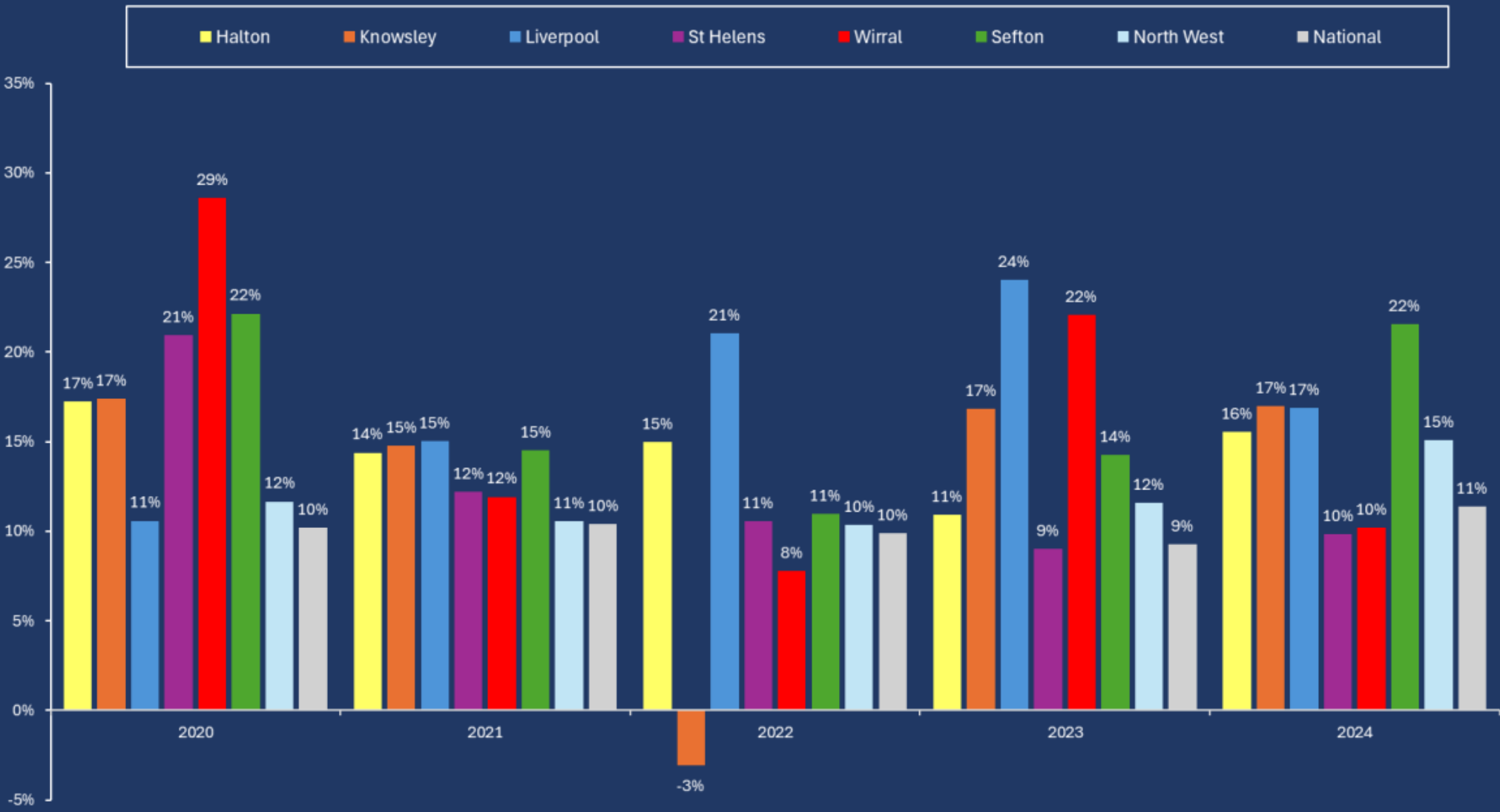
Active EHCPs - Regional Comparative



Data source: Gov. National Education Statistics

EHCP Regional Comparatives

Active EHCPs % change from previous year - Regional and National Comparative

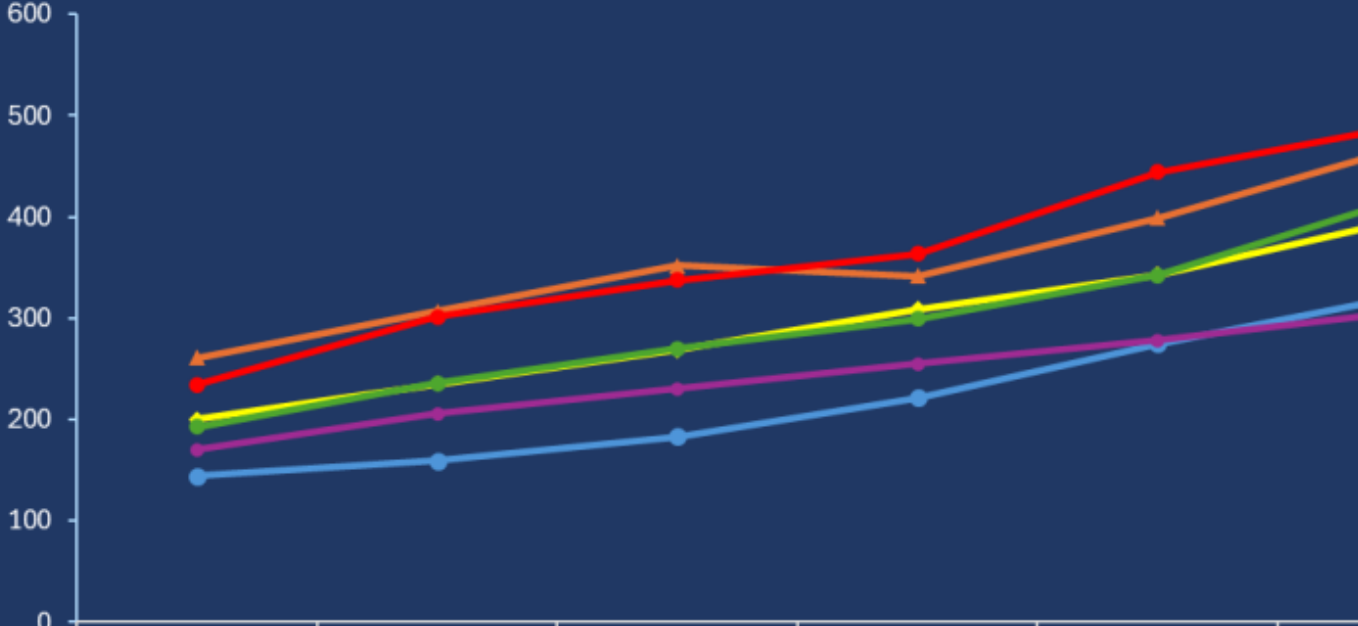


Data source: Gov. National Education Statistics

EHCP Regional Comparatives

Active EHCPs per 10,000 (0 to 25 population MYE 2023) - Regional Comparative

◆ Halton
 ▲ Knowsley
 ● Liverpool
 ◆ St Helens
 ◆ Wirral
 ◆ Sefton

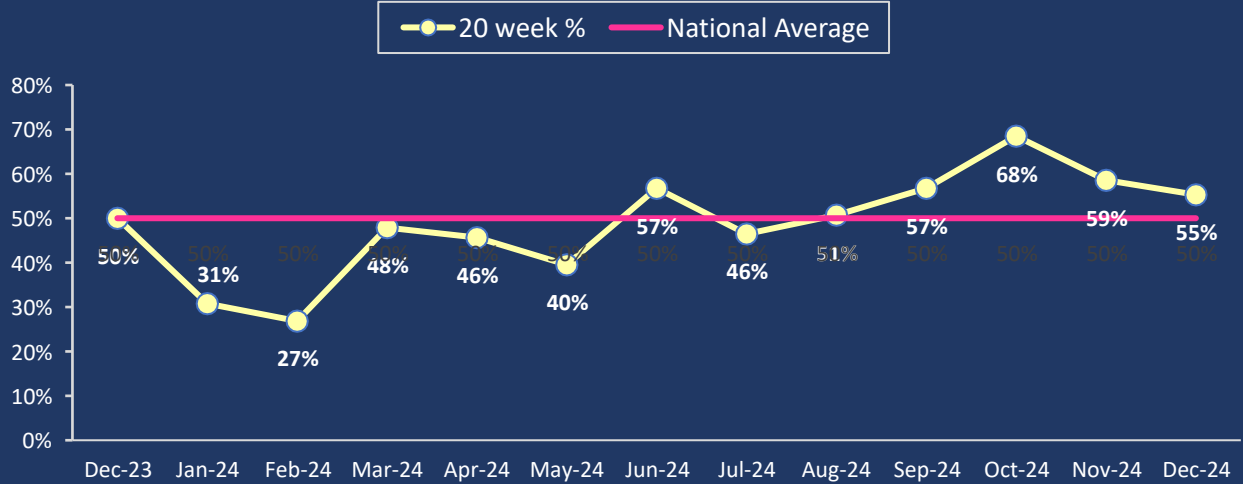


	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
◆ Halton	200	235	269	309	343	396
▲ Knowsley	261	307	352	341	399	467
● Liverpool	144	159	183	222	275	321
◆ St Helens	170	206	231	255	278	305
◆ Wirral	234	302	337	364	444	489
◆ Sefton	193	236	270	300	343	416

Data source: Gov. National Education Statistics

EHCP Timeliness

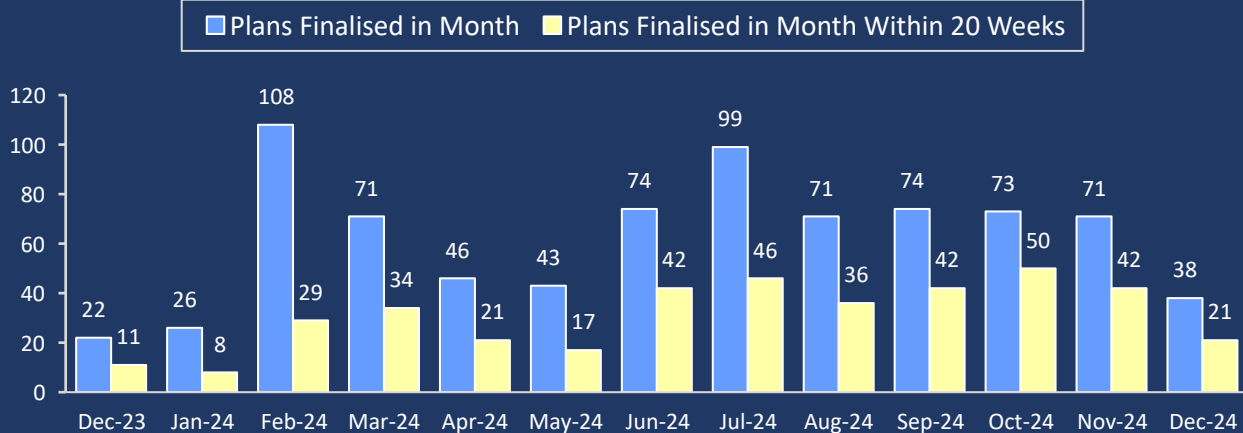
Plans finalised in period within 20 weeks as % of total plans finalised in that period



What is the data telling us:

- Compliance for 2024 ended on 49%. Which was an improvement of 7% on 2023.
- National average is 50.3%

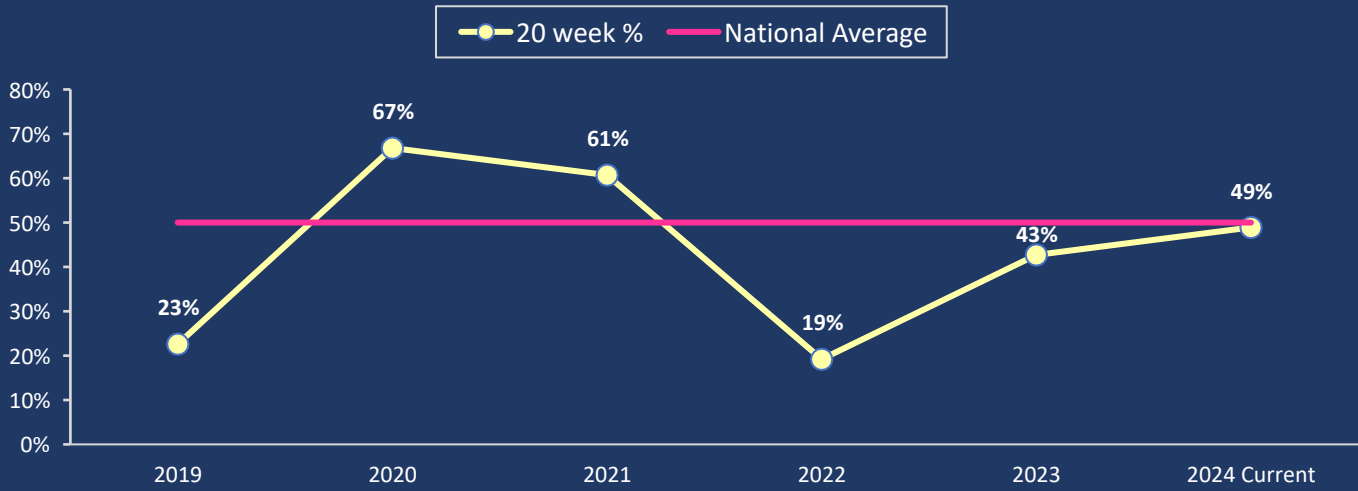
Total plans finalised in period compared to those finalised within 20 weeks



Data source: SEND PI Tracker

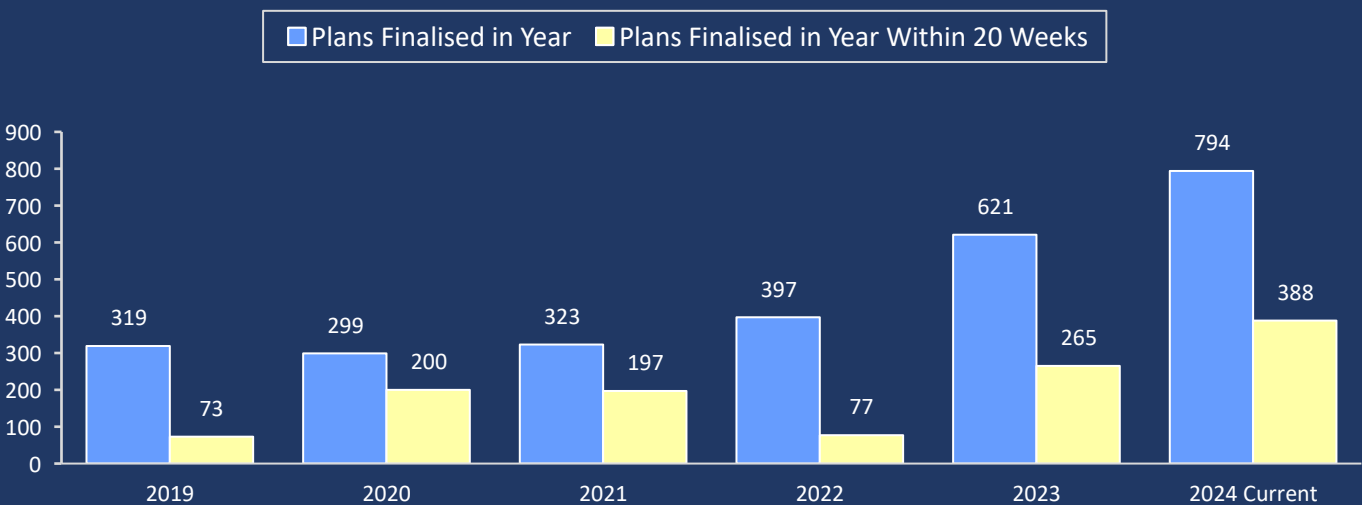
EHCP Timeliness

Plans finalised in period within 20 weeks as % of total plans finalised in that period by Year



• EHCP Timeliness by year

Total plans finalised in period compared to those finalised within 20 weeks

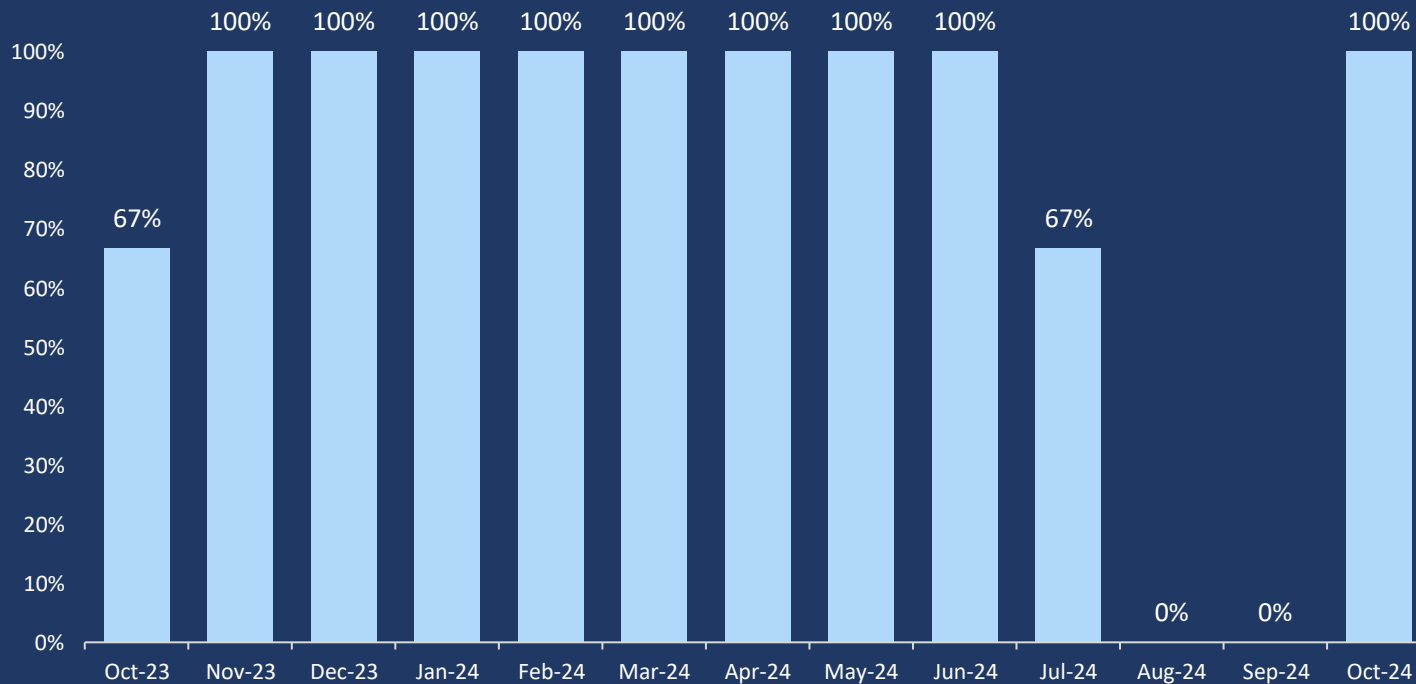


Data source: SEND PI Tracker

EHCP Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance of EHCPs

■ Plans that are rated at least 'Good' out of all moderated plans that period



What is the data telling us:

- An average of 3 plans are moderated each month by a multi-agency group
- Feedback from professionals tells us that since we have been moderating regularly over the last 12 months the EHCPs of the team are becoming more and more consistent. Plans are coherent and comparing favourably with other neighbouring LAs.
- QA was not completed during the summer due to staff absences, though we did hold a session during which we reviewed our toolkit.
- October has seen the first of our QA sessions this academic year. It was well attended, with 8 contributors. All 3 plans were rated good, 2 with elements of outstanding. We had a focus on PfA and there was some discussion around this theme, such as what would class as special educational provision in the in the Post 16 sector. All three plans had aspirations and outcomes relating to PfA.

EHCP Health Care Advice: Six Week Target

% of EHCP health advices being completed in maximum of six weeks by Health



What is the data telling us

- The target to provide health advices for EHCP requests within 6 weeks has been met consistently since 2022 with the performance for return for health advices for EHCP’s for 2024, as you can see performance has been sustained with the latest performance being 98%. Just to note the dip of 2% related to 1 breach out of 99 returns within timescale.

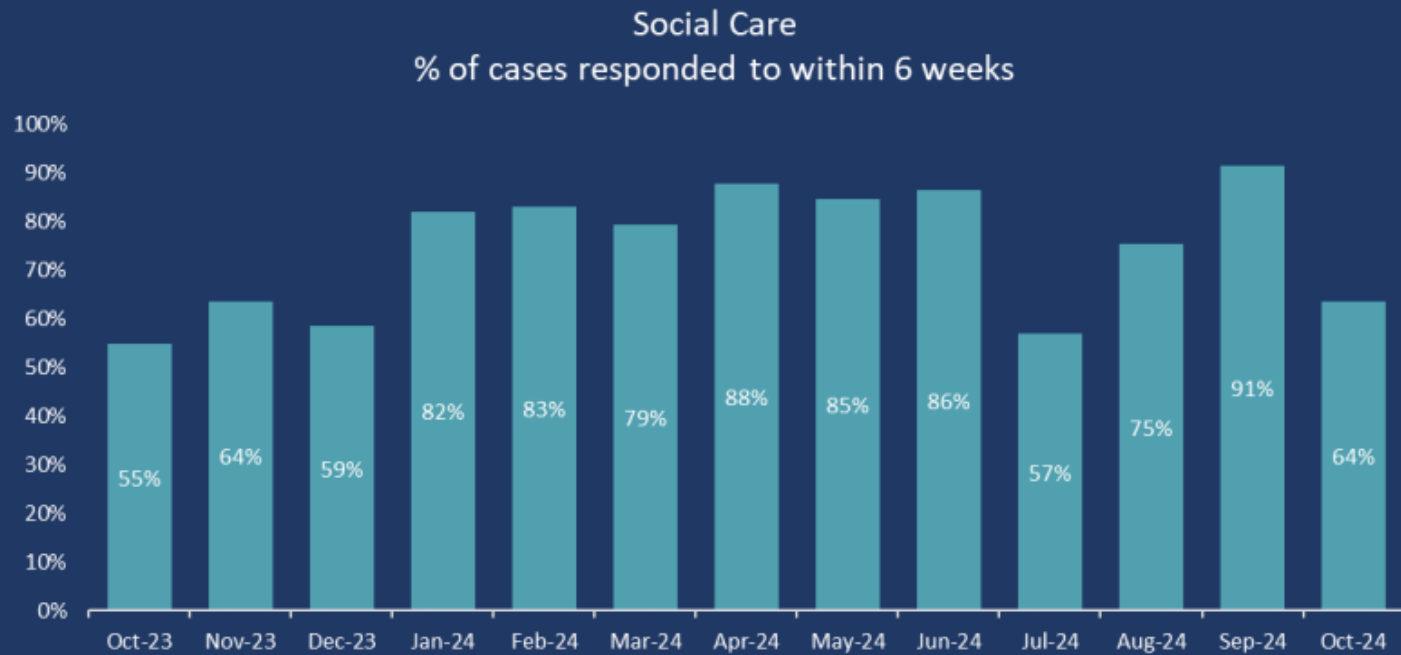
How have we achieved this:

- There is a commissioned EHCP pathway in place with a dedicated function for health advice requests to support the 6 weeks' timescale, which is monitored via the contractual route.
- Each clinician writes their own health advice, and each NHS provider has a quality assurance (QA) process in place which has improved the quality of health advices for EHCPs
- Alder Hey have a QA panel in place to highlight any specific training needs to support ongoing improvements
- Health are members of the Local Authority EHCP panel to identify training needs and the Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) reviews/signs off every new EHCP
- Further developments are being progressed on the EHCP health advice from working with the Special Educational Needs Team to ensure health advices are transcribed correctly into the right section of the EHCP

What are we still trying to improve:

- Monitoring and improving the quality of health advices is an ongoing exercise though ongoing training initially via Service Development Improvement Plans (SDIPs) but now embedded as part of contractual arrangements which is business as usual.

EHCP Social Care Advice Six Week Target



Data source: SEND PI Tracker

What is the data telling us

- Performance in June 2024 to provide Social Care advice for EHCP requests was at 86%. The dip to 57% in July coincides with increase in the number of requests to 100 in July and 85 in August up from 59 in June. The number responded to within 6 weeks in July was 57 (up by 6 from June) and 64 in August (up 13 from June).

What are the issues:

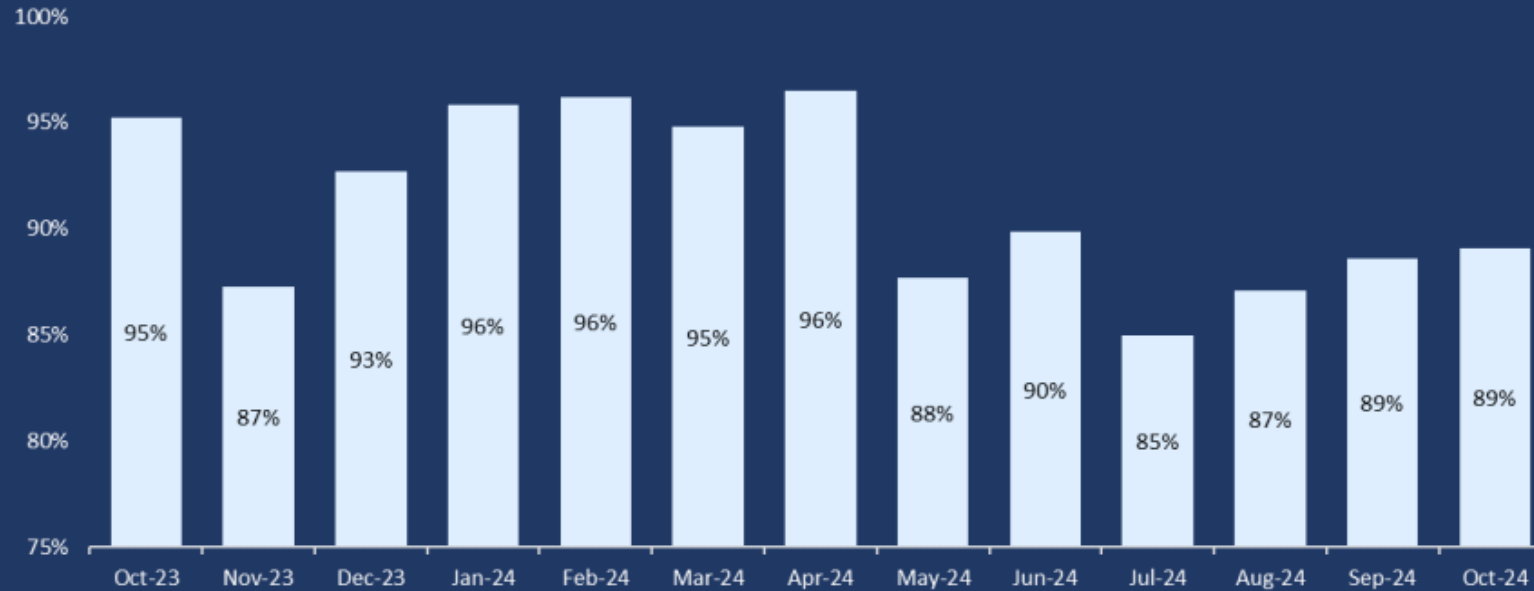
- We continue to work through some system-related issues regarding how social workers are notified of advice being due. This is particularly significant where children already have an allocated social worker. A new system is being devised to further address and improve this.

What are we doing to improve:

- Improved relationships between social care and SEN colleagues
- Support from specialist social workers to allocated social workers where advice is due for children open to social care
- Clear performance targets
- Clearer communication with Adult Social Care
- Revising the system by which requests for advice will be accepted and tracked.

EHCP EP Advice Six Week Target

Educational Psychology
% of cases responded to within 6 weeks



What are the issues

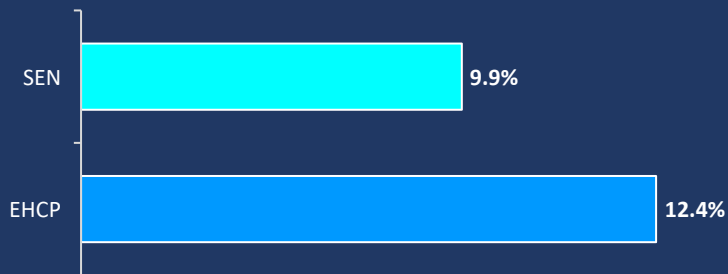
- The capacity within the EP team has been significantly reduced as a result of a decision taken around Associate EPs. In addition, 1 EP from the core team has left and another has resigned.
- It is inevitable that the timeliness of EP advice will be significantly impacted moving forward. A restructure of the EP team has been drawn up in the hope this will support delivery in the medium to longer term.
- The number of ad hoc requests (e.g. for CYP attending schools OOB) remains high. These are requests that cannot be planned for accurately as they are often CYP who are not known to Sefton education services. Service capacity to fulfil these requests on time can be a challenge

Education Absences & Exclusions-

SEND Pupil Absence

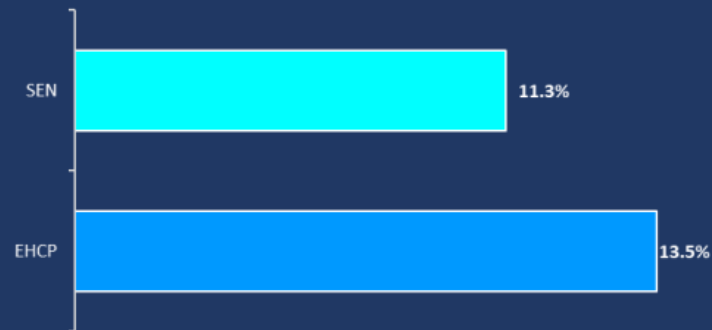
Absence Rate (% of sessions missed) 2024/25

Latest update 20/12/2024



Absence Rate (% of sessions missed) 2023/24

Latest Update: 26/07/2024



- IDAMS data captures the entire academic year from 1st September to the day of the latest update. We currently cannot filter for specific periods.
- IDAMS data is calculated using **NCY 0-11** (Aged 4-16)
- **Please note:** The indicators for EHCP & SEN on IDAMS are maintained by schools and may differ from Sefton LA maintained data held in Service areas

Data sources: IDAMS

What is the data telling us

- This term has seen a slight increase in attendance for these specific groups. Sefton was below the national average for absences amongst those children with an EHCP. For those in SEND Support we were above the national average.
- There has been an increase in absence rates across the SEND cohort since the pandemic.
- During the last academic year, the absence rates for the EHCP cohort during the final quarter has deteriorated
- The SEND support cohort absence rates increased and in July there was a slight improvement.

What are the issues:

- Children with EHCPs awaiting placements where parents have withdrawn them.
- Children changing school Increase in Elective Home Educated pupils – the main reasons being anxiety and Emotionally Based School Avoidance.

What are we doing to improve:

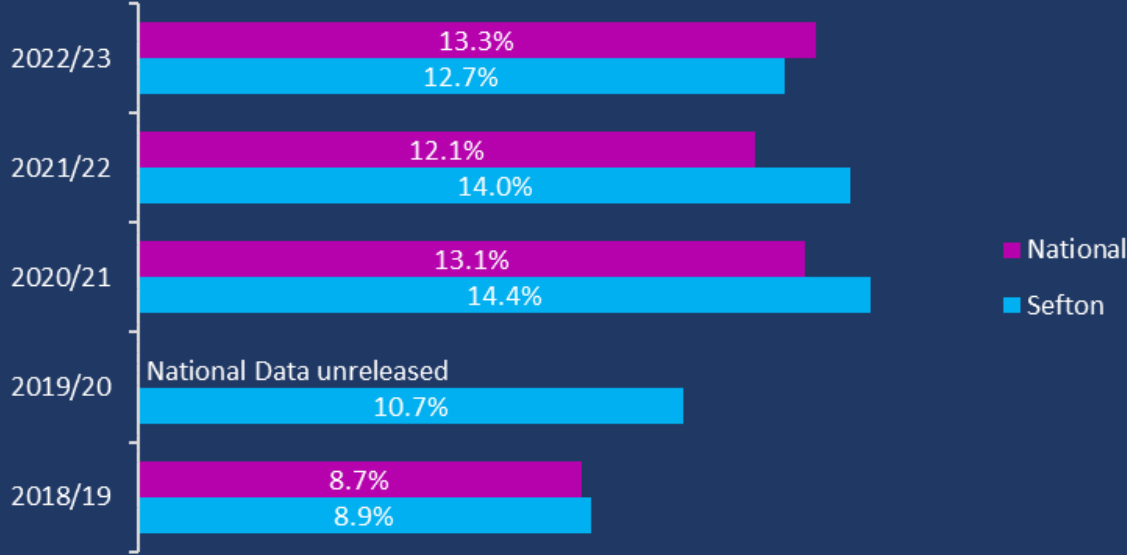
- Increased resources have led to new model being put into places which supports a culture of good attendance and supports parents and students in identifying and overcoming barriers to good attendance.
- We have a dedicated school attendance worker for children with EHCPs
- Fortnightly meeting to monitor the data
- Increased school attendance team to address SEND cohort
- Team around the school dedicated resource
- Ensuring needs of whole family are considered and addressed
- Increase school attendance panels to ensure support plans are in place to improve the absence of children with SEND
- Targeted support meetings with secondary schools and Service Manager School Support Service

DfE Outcome

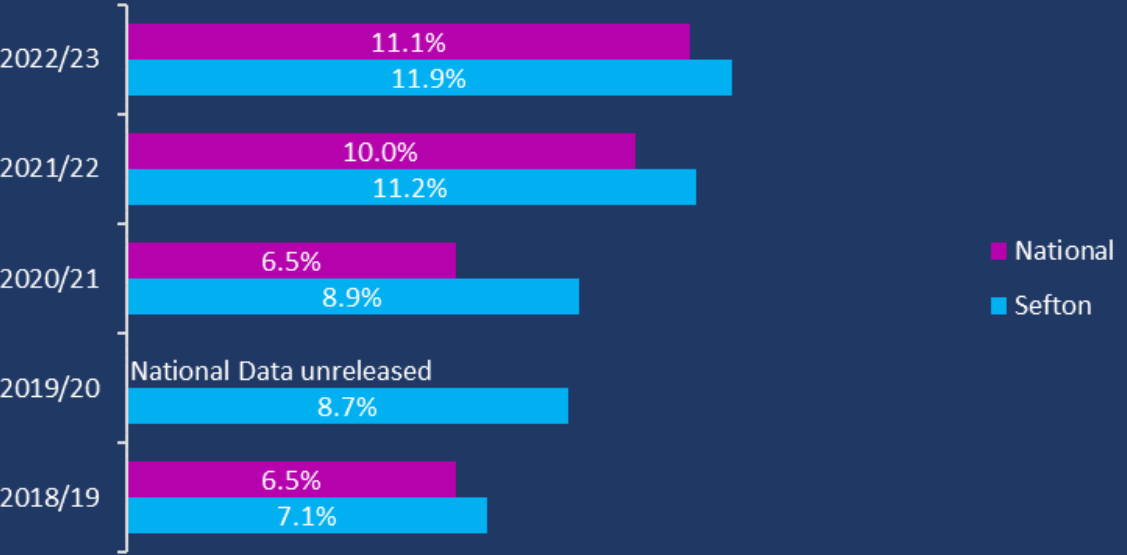
- Sefton have now requested additional resources from the Department for Education in line with Liverpool and Knowsley. At the time of the allocation Sefton's attendance had improved. Patterns this academic year have shown a rise in persistent absence and a deterioration in attendance.
- Exploring ways of addressing attendance for schools out of borough.
- Graduated response for attendance to be launched alongside the EBSA guidance

SEND Pupil Absence

EHCP % of sessions missed



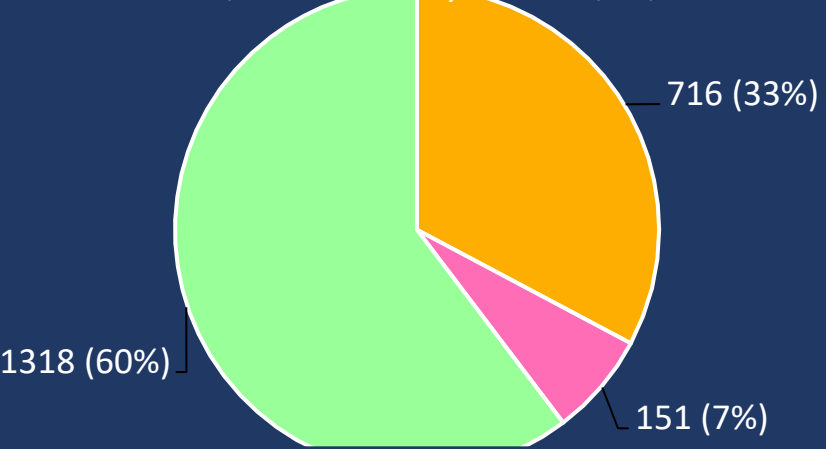
SEN support % of sessions missed



Data sources: IDAMS & Gov. National Education Statistics

SEND Persistent and Severely Persistent Pupil Absence 2024/25

EHCP Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent Absence
- 2024/25 Academic year to 20/12/2024



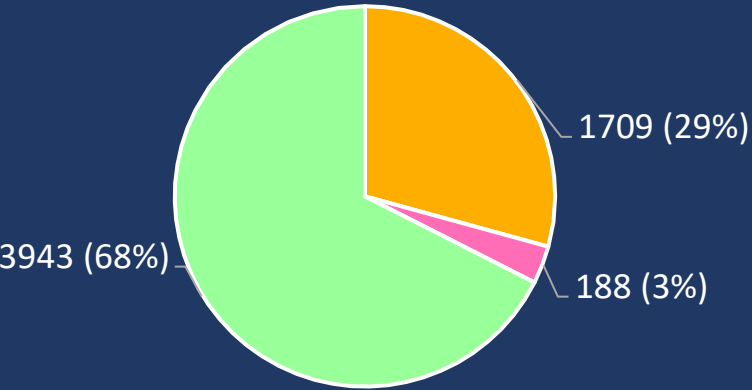
■ Persistently absent pupils
(Attendance < 90%)

■ Severely persistently absent
pupils (Attendance < 50%)

■ Pupils with attendance above
90%

- Data shows Persistent Absence and Severe Persistent absence figures for EHCP and SEN pupils in NCY 0-11 (Aged 4-16) during the 2023/24 Academic Year.
- **Please note:** The indicators for Persistent Absence, Severe persistent Absence, EHCP and SEN on IDAMS are maintained by schools and may differ from Sefton LA maintained data held in Service areas. This includes all pupils even those from neighbouring LAs
- IDAMS data is calculated using **NCY 0-11** (Aged 4-16)

SEN Support Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent
Absence - 2024/25 Academic year to 20/12/2024

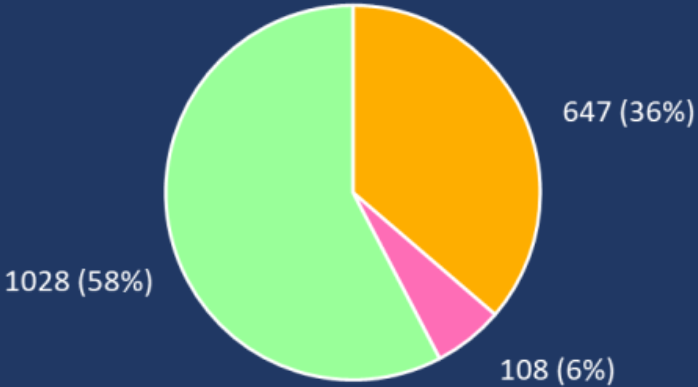


- IDAMS data captures the entire academic year from 1st September to the day of the latest update.
- We currently cannot filter for specific periods.

Latest Update: 20/12/2024

SEND Persistent and Severely Persistent Pupil Absence 2023/24

EHCP Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent Absence -
2023/24 Academic year to 26/07/2024



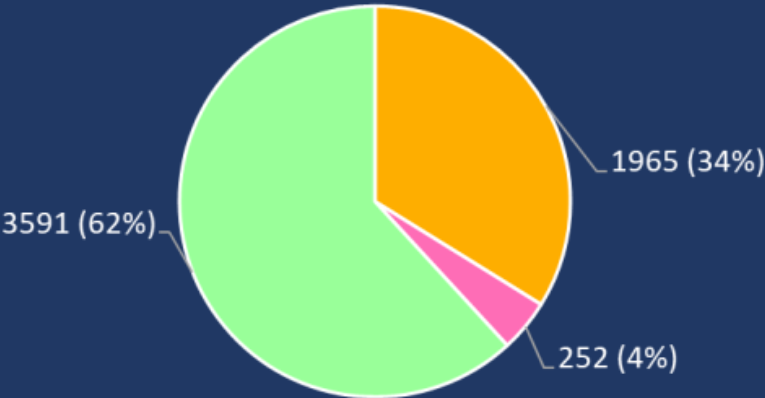
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SEN Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent Absence -
2023/24 Academic year to 26/07/2024

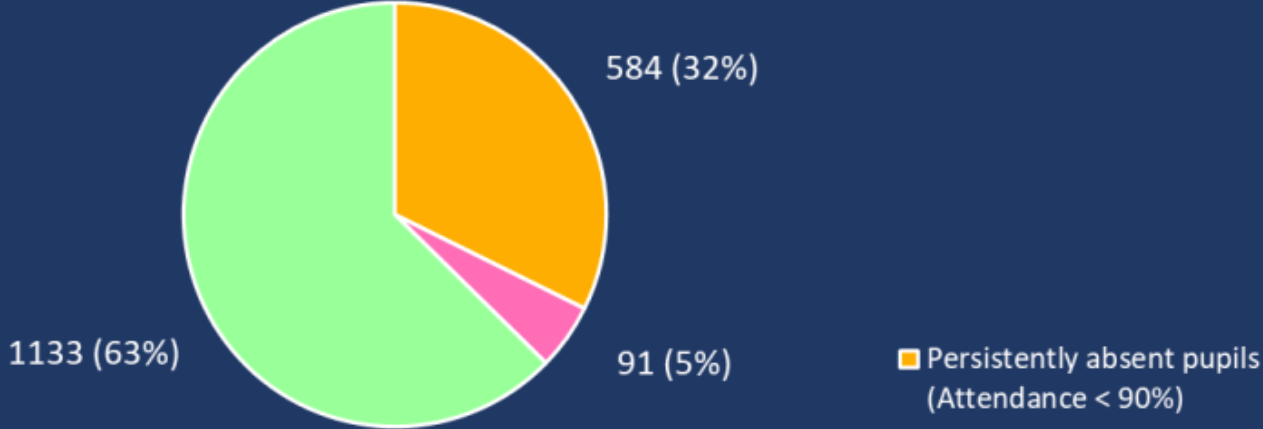


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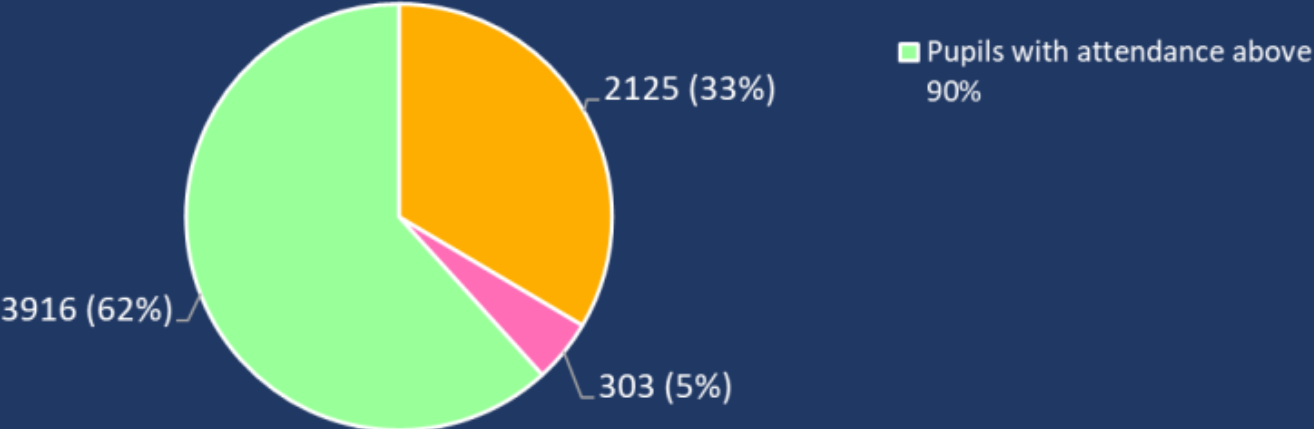
Latest Update: 26/07/2024

SEND Persistent and Severely Persistent Pupil Absence 2022/23

EHCP Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent Absence - 2022/23 Academic Year



SEN Persistent Absence & Severe Persistent Absence - 2022/23 Academic Year



- Data shows Persistent Absence and Severe Persistent absence figures for EHCP and SEN pupils of statutory school age during the 2022/23 academic year.
- **Please note:** The indicators for Persistent Absence, Severe persistent Absence, EHCP and SEN on IDAMS are maintained by schools and may differ from Sefton LA maintained data held in Service areas.
- IDAMS data is calculated using **compulsory age students** (Aged 5-16).

SEND Pupil Exclusions



What is the data telling us

- We recorded permanent exclusions for 2 EHCP and 6 SEN pupils' last term.
- Last academic year there were no permanent exclusions for SEND pupils with an EHCP but there were 18 exclusions for children with SEND Support.

What are the issues:

- SEND is not being identified early enough in the child's education journey
- practice is inconsistent across schools,
- Some schools not utilising early help to support that may address barriers to children behaviour and ensure they receive the right support at the right time.
- 2 permanent exclusions of pupils with EHCP's since September.

What are we doing to improve:

- Reviewed the managed move process that will be aligned to the Inclusion Strategy
- Investing in a multi-agency teams around the school to support preventative work by professionals with the school to support pupils at risk of exclusion.
- building a culture that seeks to minimise exclusion will be incorporated into the governor training programme.