

JSNA: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

**Children, Family &
Education and Adult
Social Care and Public
Health**

Public Health Intelligence

JSNA: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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Background to JSNA – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

What is a JSNA?

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, better known as a JSNA, is intended to be a systematic review of the health and wellbeing needs of the local population, informing local priorities, policies and strategies that in turn informs local commissioning priorities that will improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities throughout the Borough.

Who is involved?

Information from Council, NHS and other partners is collected and collated to inform the JSNA, and this reflects the important role that all organisations and sectors have (statutory, voluntary, community and faith) in improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral's residents.

About this document

This JSNA section looks to contain the most relevant information on the topic and provides an overview of those related key aspects.

How can you help?

If you have ideas or any suggestions about these issues or topics then please email us at phintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk

Version Number	Date	Authors
1.0	March 2026	First draft – additions and amends
2.0	April 2026	Second draft provided for Joint Commissioning colleagues for review and adjustments.
3.0	June 2026	Final Version – for SEND Partnership Board Final amends, changes and content

Key findings

- Of all pupils identified as having SEND; as attending an education setting on Wirral and residing in Wirral (via the School Census), 44.3% (6,498 Children and Young People) have an EHCP, 55.7% (8,185 Children and Young People) have SEN Support (**Section 2.2: Population**).
- Of those pupils with an EHCP in an education setting on Wirral, the largest proportion are aged 12 years old, this equates to 10.1% of the total EHCP population and compares to the England rate, where 9.1% of the EHCP population is aged 12 years old (**Section 2.3: Age**).
- For Pupils with SEN Support in an education setting on Wirral, the largest proportion are aged 10 years old, equating to 10.4% of all pupils with SEN Support. Rates of SEN Support is lower for pupils aged 7 years and younger on Wirral compared to England and higher for those aged 8 years and older (**Section 2.3: Age**).
- The proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEND sees boys as higher at younger ages and for girls' percentages are higher in older ages (**Section 2.4: Gender**).
- The most common Primary Need amongst pupils (Wirral School Census and internal data) with SEND attending an education setting on Wirral is Speech, Language and Communication needs, accounting for 25.2% of all Primary Needs, followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health, accounting for 24.8% and then Autistic Spectrum Disorder for 11.0% of all Primary Needs (excluding unknown reporting of 13.2%). (**Section 2.8: Primary Need**).
- The most common Primary Need for pupils with an EHCP in an education setting on Wirral is Speech, Language and Communication needs, accounting for 27.7% of all Primary Needs. This is followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health (22.4%) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (21.1%) (**Section 2.8: Primary Need**).
- The most common primary need type for pupils with SEN Support in an education setting on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, accounting for 26.0% of Primary needs, which compares to the rate in England at 24.8% (**Section 2.8: Primary Need**).
- The largest proportion of pupils with SEND in an education setting on Wirral reside in Bidston St. James. This ward accounts for 9.2% (1,336 Children and Young People) of all those with SEND (**Section 2.6: Residence Location**).
- For all pupils with SEND settings, the majority attend mainstream Primary, with this making up 49.0% of where all SEND pupils are educated. 34.9% in mainstream Secondary, 14.9% in a Special school, 2.36% attending all-through schools and 0.4% of unknown/other recorded. Of the 14.9% in a special school, 58.5% attend secondary special school, 26.4% primary special school then 9.8% at All-through school and 5.3% with an unknown education setting (**Section 3.2: Education Setting**).

- For Wirral pupils with an EHCP and in an education setting on Wirral, 50.9% are eligible for Free School Meals. This is higher than the England rate for 2024/25, which was 43.8%. For pupils with SEN Support the rate is 40.4%, compared to the England 2024/25 rate of 39.3% **(Section 3.3: Free School Meals)**.
- For Academic Year 24/25 Attendance for pupils with SEND was 89.5%. For pupils with an EHCP, attendance for Academic Year 24/25 was 85.7%. Of this Primary was 89.2%, Secondary was 78.1% and Special was 87.2%. For pupils with SEN Support, Academic Year 24/25 attendance was 89.5%. Of this, Primary was 92.5%, Secondary was 85.2% and Special was 69.2% **(Section 3.4: Attendance and Absence)**.
- For those with an EHCP, latest figures for 2025/26 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS2 was 24.4%, for writing it was 14.2%, maths it was 19.7% and for those reading, writing and maths (RWM) combined was 11.2%. For those with an SEN support, latest figures for 2025/26 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS2 was 51.1%, for writing it was 41.9%, maths it was 45.7% and for those reading, writing and maths (RWM) combined was 30.0%. **(Section 3.5 Attainment)**.
- For children and young people with an EHCP in 2024; Wirral has a rate of 31.1% which are also Child Looked After. This rate is similar to the England rate for 2024, which was 31.9% (latest data). Wirral has a rate of 23.7% which are also a Child in Need. This rate is lower than the 2024 rate in England, which was 30.0% (latest data) **(Section 4.3: EHCP)**.
- For Children and Young People with SEN Support in 2024; Wirral has a rate of 28.6% which are also a Child Looked After. This rate is higher than the 27.6% seen in England in 2024 (latest data). Wirral has a rate of 22.5% which are also a Child in Need. This rate is higher than the 22.0% seen in England in 2024 **(Section 4.3: EHCP) (latest data)**
- For Pupils under 5 and identified as having SEND, the most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, with this accounting for 60.1% of all primary needs (Wirral School Census) **(Section 5.1: SEND)**
- Those under 5 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), 67.9% are boys and 32.1% girls. For those with SEN support, the rate is 66.6% boys and 33.4% girls (Wirral School Census). **(Section 5.2: SEND)**
- The largest proportion of the SEND cohort who are aged under 5 reside in Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward (13.6%), followed by Bidston and St. James (12.5%), Seacombe (11.0%) and Rock Ferry (8.3%) **(Section 5.3: SEND)**
- For Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils, 55.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) reside within the most deprived decile in Wirral **(Section 5.4: SEND)**
- Early Years Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) applications were 278 in financial year 2025/26. There were 111 children aged 3 and 4 year old in receipt of Early Years Disability Access Fund in 2025/26. **(Sections 5.6 & 5.7: Early Years - SENIF and Disability Access Fund)**
- The Early Years SEND Early Intervention Team received 171 referrals in the 12 months to December 2025. Over the same period, triage waiting times reduced from an average of 25 weeks to 6 weeks. **(Section 5.8: Early Years - Early Intervention)**

- Amount of EHCP’s final plans issued per year, excluding exceptions in the full year 2025 was 166 (**Section 6.1: Plans Issued**).
- New EHCP’s issued within 20 weeks on Wirral is 12.3% for 2024/25. The average fell in 2025/26 to just under 9%. The England average for EHCP’s issued in 20 weeks is currently 46.4% (2025). (**Section 6.1: Plans Issued**).
- The nine months (from April 2025) in 2025/26 showed a 25.0% decrease in the number of referrals to CYP Mental Health Services (excluding MHST) compared to May to January 2024/25. Also there has been a decreasing trend to the total Number on waiting list (for 1st appointment) (CHOICE) from October 2023/24 and December 2025/26. In October 2023/24, this number was 324, whilst in December 2025/26, the number was 82 – a 75.0% decrease (**Section 7.1: Wirral CYP Mental Health Services (formerly CAMHS)**).
- The number of referrals into the paediatrics speech and language therapy service has seen reductions over the reporting period (Q1 2022/23 – Q3 2025/26), with a high of 764 in Q4 2022/23 and a low of 266 in Q2 2025/26 (**Section 7.2: SALT**).
- Data shows a gradual decrease to the number of children’s referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy between April 2023/24 and December 2025/26. The highest number of referrals in a month was in May 2024/25 (n=80), whilst the lowest number of referrals per month was in both December 2024/25 and August 2025/26 (n=26) (**Section 7.8: Paediatric Occupational Therapy**).

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1.0 What do we know

1.1 Setting the scene

1.1.1 Population

Wirral has an estimated Early Years population (under 5's) of 15,816 (**Table 1**), of which 50.6% are male and 49.4% are female (ONS). This compares to the England gender estimate of 51.2% male and 48.8% female (ONS). The under 5 population accounts for 4.8% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the percentage is 5.2% (ONS).

Table 1: Number and Proportion (of Total Population) of Under 5's in Wirral by Ward, mid-2024

Ward	Population	% of Total under 5 population
Bebington	658	4.3%
Bidston and St James	1,133	6.8%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1,149	6.5%
Bromborough	914	5.4%
Clatterbridge	519	3.8%
Claughton	588	3.9%
Eastham	780	5.3%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	594	4.1%
Heswall	458	3.4%
Hoylake and Meols	441	3.3%
Leasowe and Moreton East	874	5.6%
Liscard	790	5.0%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	623	4.4%
New Brighton	560	3.8%
Oxton	546	4.0%
Pensby and Thingwall	514	4.0%
Prenton	766	5.2%
Rock Ferry	976	6.0%
Seacombe	1,007	6.4%
Upton	885	5.3%
Wallasey	564	3.9%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	477	3.8%
Total	15,816	

Source: Ward-level population estimates ([Dataset Selection - Query - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#))

Note: This is mid-2024 population data as this was the most recent at time of report. The under 5 population includes all up to and including 4 years and 364 days.

Wirral has an estimated under 18 population of 66,223 (**Table 2**), of which 51.4% are males and 48.6% are females. This compares to the England estimate of 51.2% males and 48.8% females. The under 18 population accounts for 20.1% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the rate is 20.8% (ONS).

Table 2: Number and Proportion (of Total Population) of Under 18's in Wirral by Ward, mid-2024

Ward	Population	% of Total under 18 population
Bebington	2,989	19.4%
Bidston and St James	4,353	26.1%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	4,121	23.4%
Bromborough	3,462	20.4%
Clatterbridge	2,389	17.3%
Claughton	2,767	18.3%
Eastham	3,042	20.6%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	2,568	17.9%
Heswall	2,151	16.1%
Hoylake and Meols	2,291	17.3%
Leasowe and Moreton East	3,738	23.9%
Liscard	3,247	20.5%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	2,533	18.1%
New Brighton	2,364	16.1%
Oxton	2,290	16.6%
Pensby and Thingwall	2,293	17.7%
Prenton	3,009	20.3%
Rock Ferry	4,024	24.8%
Seacombe	3,973	25.4%
Upton	3,631	21.8%
Wallasey	2,606	18.1%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	2,382	18.8%
Total	66,223	

Source: Ward-level population estimates ([Dataset Selection - Query - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#))

Note: This is mid-2024 population data as this was the most recent at time of report. The under 18 population includes all up to and including 17 years and 364 days.

Wirral has an estimated under 25 population of 88,135 (**Table 3 below**), of which 51.7% are male and 48.3% are female. This compares to the England gender estimate of 51.3% males and 48.7% females. The under 25 population accounts for 26.8% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the rate is 29.2% (ONS).

Table 3: Number and Proportion (of Total Population) of Under 25's in Wirral by Ward, mid-2024

Ward	Population	% of Total under 25 population
Bebington	4,015	26.1%
Bidston and St James	5,628	33.7%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	5,741	32.6%
Bromborough	4,568	26.9%
Clatterbridge	3,193	23.1%
Claughton	3,883	25.6%
Eastham	3,965	26.8%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	3,298	23.0%
Heswall	2,851	21.3%
Hoylake and Meols	3,008	22.8%
Leasowe and Moreton East	4,797	30.7%
Liscard	4,455	28.1%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	3,382	24.1%
New Brighton	3,252	22.2%
Oxton	3,138	22.7%
Pensby and Thingwall	2,999	23.1%
Prenton	4,099	27.6%
Rock Ferry	5,464	33.6%
Seacombe	5,192	33.2%
Upton	4,685	28.1%
Wallasey	3,405	23.6%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	3,117	24.6%
Total	88,135	

Source: Ward-level population estimates ([Dataset Selection - Query - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#))

Note: This is mid-2024 population data as this was the most recent at time of report. The under 25 population includes all up to and including 24 years and 364 days.

1.1.2 Birth Data

As **Table 4** suggests Data for 2019, through to 2024 suggests a steady decrease in the rate of births across Wirral (where the mother was resident on Wirral). In 2019 there were 3,179 births, 2024, 2,738 (Wirral Birth Report, Internal Document).

Table 4: Proportion of Wirral births by Gender, 2019-2024

Year of Birth	Number of Births	Girls	Boys
2019	3,179	49.0%	51.0%
2020	2,936	49.2%	50.8%
2021	2,926	50.0%	50.0%
2022	2,749	46.4%	53.6%
2023	2,760	49.9%	50.1%
2024	2,738	48.9%	51.1%

Source: Internal Wirral Birth Data calculated from ONS data (2025)

Note: This data is not published

Birth rates for England and the North West have also shown decreases during the same time period. ([Office for National Statistics, Births in England and Wales: 2024, Accessed 22nd February 2026](#))

It is worth noting that 2021 saw equal girls and boys born on Wirral (Wirral Birth Report, Internal Document), which does not fit with the usual trends. Historically, more boys are born than girls both on Wirral and across England ([Office for National Statistics, Births in England and Wales: 2024, Accessed 22nd February 2026](#)).

1.1.3 Language is known or believed to be English

Those who's language is known or believed to be English is 92.5% for all Children and Young People attending an education setting on Wirral (Wirral School Census, October 2025).

1.1.4 Deprivation

In 2023/24, 18.9% of children aged 0-15 lived in absolute low income households. This compares to 19.0% in England. For relative low income households, however, this was 22.6% for the same time period in Wirral. In comparison this was 22.1% in England ([StatXplore](#)).

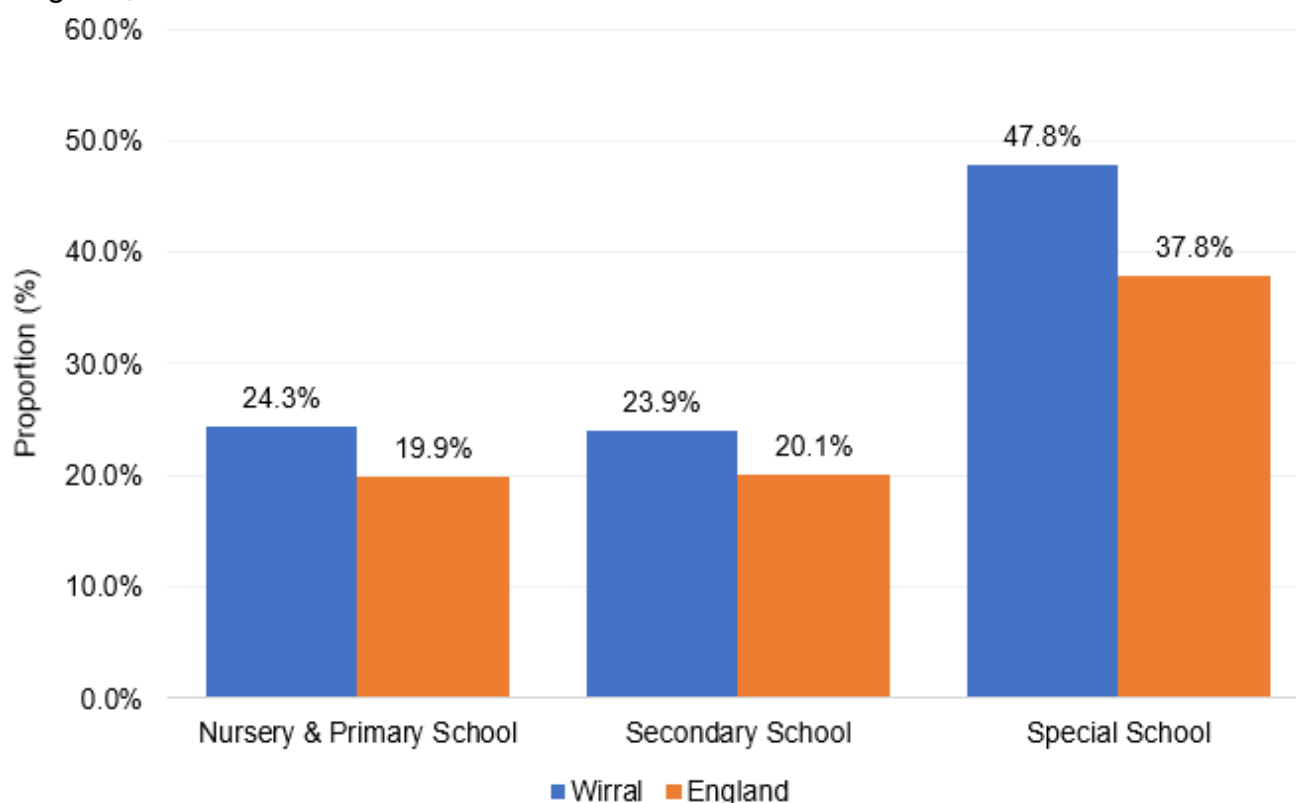
The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025) allows for the local super output areas (LSOA) to be ranked between 1 and 10 amongst the 33,755 LSOA's across England. These deciles are calculated by dividing all the LSOA's into 10 equal groups. LSOA's in decile 1 are within the most deprived 10% of all the national LSOA's and those ranked 10 and within the 10% least deprived. For more information on how Deprivation is calculated visit [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, English Indices of Deprivation 2025](#).

Using the 2025 IMD Data, across Wirral, 28.7% of pupils reside within the bottom 10%, or decile 1 (ONS). As such, these pupils reside within the most deprived areas of England. For comparison, 11.1% reside within areas of least deprivation, in decile 10 ([Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, English Indices of Deprivation 2025](#)).

1.1.5 Free School Meals

As **Figure 1** shows, the proportion of children taking free school meals in Wirral are 24.3% for those in Nursery and Primary School (19.9% England), 23.9% for those in Secondary School (20.1% England) and 47.8% for those in Special Schools (37.8% England) ([LG Inform](#)).

Figure 1: Proportion of pupils taking free school meals (FSM), by education setting in Wirral and England, Academic Year 2024/25



Source: Department for Education: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, via [LG Inform](#) (2026)

1.1.6 Education Setting

Of those attending an education setting on Wirral in October 2025, the majority, at 49.8% or 24,291 Children and Young People, attend a Primary School. This population compares to 37.1% or 18,097 Children and Young People in a Secondary School setting, 4.3% or 2,119 Children and Young People attend a Nursery and 3.7%, or 1,782 Children and Young People, attend a Special School (Wirral School Census). This is shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Number and Proportion (of total population) of Wirral School Children, by Education Setting, 2025

Setting Type	Population	% of Total Population
Nursery	2,119	4.3%
Primary	24,291	49.8%
Secondary	18,097	37.1%
Collage	2,498	5.1%
Special	1,782	3.7%

Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025)

Of those in an education setting on Wirral, the highest number Children and Young People, 3,265, reside in Bidston and St. James ward (**Table 6**). This accounts for 7.0% of all Children and Young People in an education setting on Wirral (Wirral School Census).

Table 6: Number and Proportion (of total population) of Wirral School Children attending an Education Setting, by Ward, 2025

Ward	Population	% of Total
Bebington Ward	2108	4.5%
Bidston and St. James Ward	3265	7.0%
Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward	2843	6.1%
Bromborough Ward	2338	5.0%
Clatterbridge Ward	1613	3.5%
Claughton Ward	1831	3.9%
Eastham Ward	2029	4.4%
Greasby Frankby and Irby Ward	1956	4.2%
Heswall Ward	1833	3.9%
Hoylake and Meols Ward	1632	3.5%
Leasowe and Moreton East Ward	2670	5.7%
Liscard Ward	2214	4.8%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie Ward	1683	3.6%
New Brighton Ward	1646	3.5%
Oxtton Ward	1336	2.9%
Pensby and Thingwall Ward	1634	3.5%
Prenton Ward	1985	4.3%
Rock Ferry Ward	2755	5.9%
Seacombe Ward	2931	6.3%
Upton Ward	2674	5.7%
Wallasey Ward	1913	4.1%
West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward	1662	3.6%

Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025)

1.1.7 Attendance

As published in the 2024 DfE release, the latest school attendance data (Year to date 06/02/2026) show an overall attendance rate of 93.4% across all education settings in England and for Wirral 92.7% ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

1.1.8 Absence

Using the latest published data available from the Local Authority Interactive Tool ([LAIT](#), Department for Education) in March 2025, for all Wirral pupils, the rate of authorised absence for those in a primary school setting is 4.1%. This is above the England average, which is 3.9%. For Wirral pupils in a secondary school the rate is 5.7%, which is again above the England average, which is 5.4% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). The rates of unauthorised absence for those attending a primary school on Wirral is 1.8%, higher the England average of 1.6%. For pupils attending a secondary school on Wirral it is 4.0%. This is also higher than the England average, which is 3.5% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

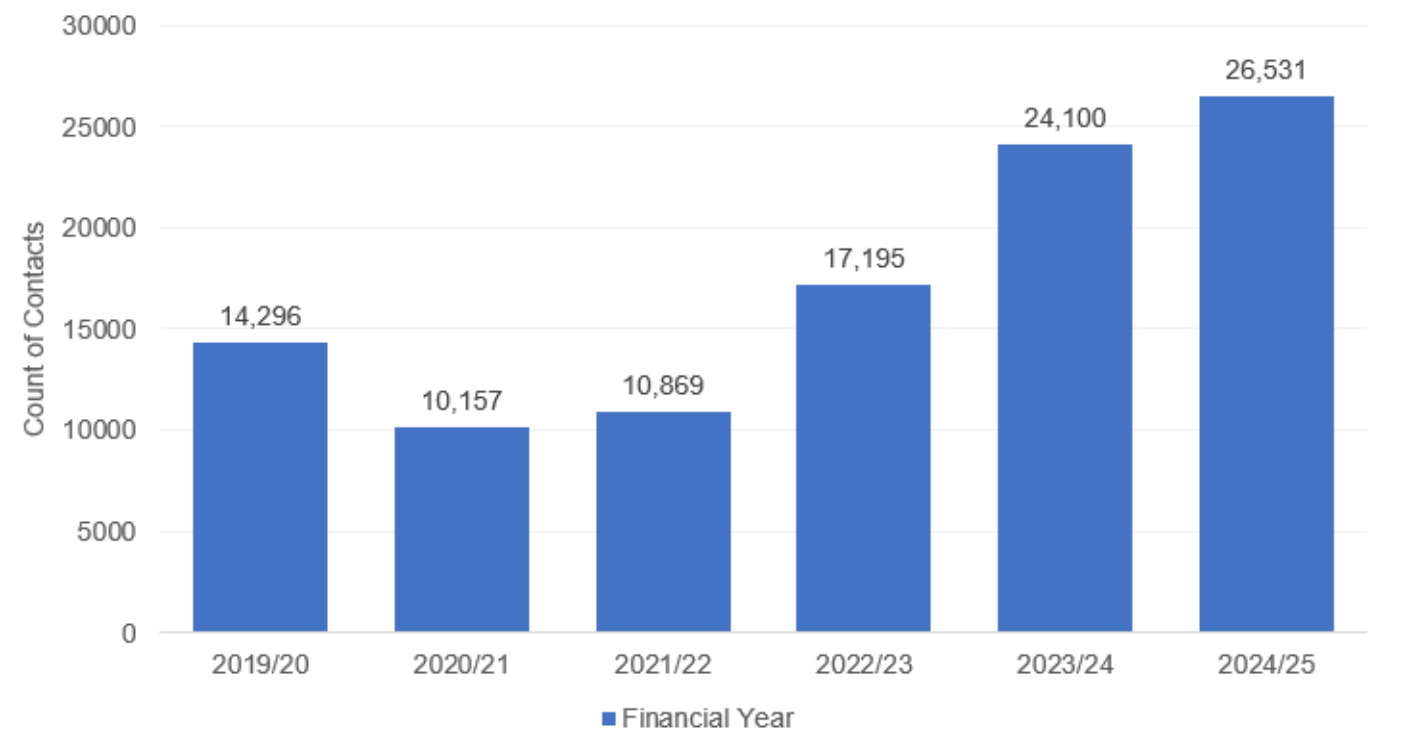
1.1.9 Exclusions

Across all education settings, the Wirral rate of permanent exclusions in primary schools is below 0.01%, compares to the England average of 0.03% The Wirral rate for secondary schools is 0.21%, which is below the England average of 0.25% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

1.1.10 Social Care

Figure 2 shows that in the year 2024/25, there were 26,531 contacts to Children’s Social Care from across Wirral. This number is an increase from the previous five reported years (Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document).

Figure 2: Number of Contacts made to Wirral’s Children’s Social Care, via the Integrated Front Door, 2019/20 - 2024/25



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document (2026)

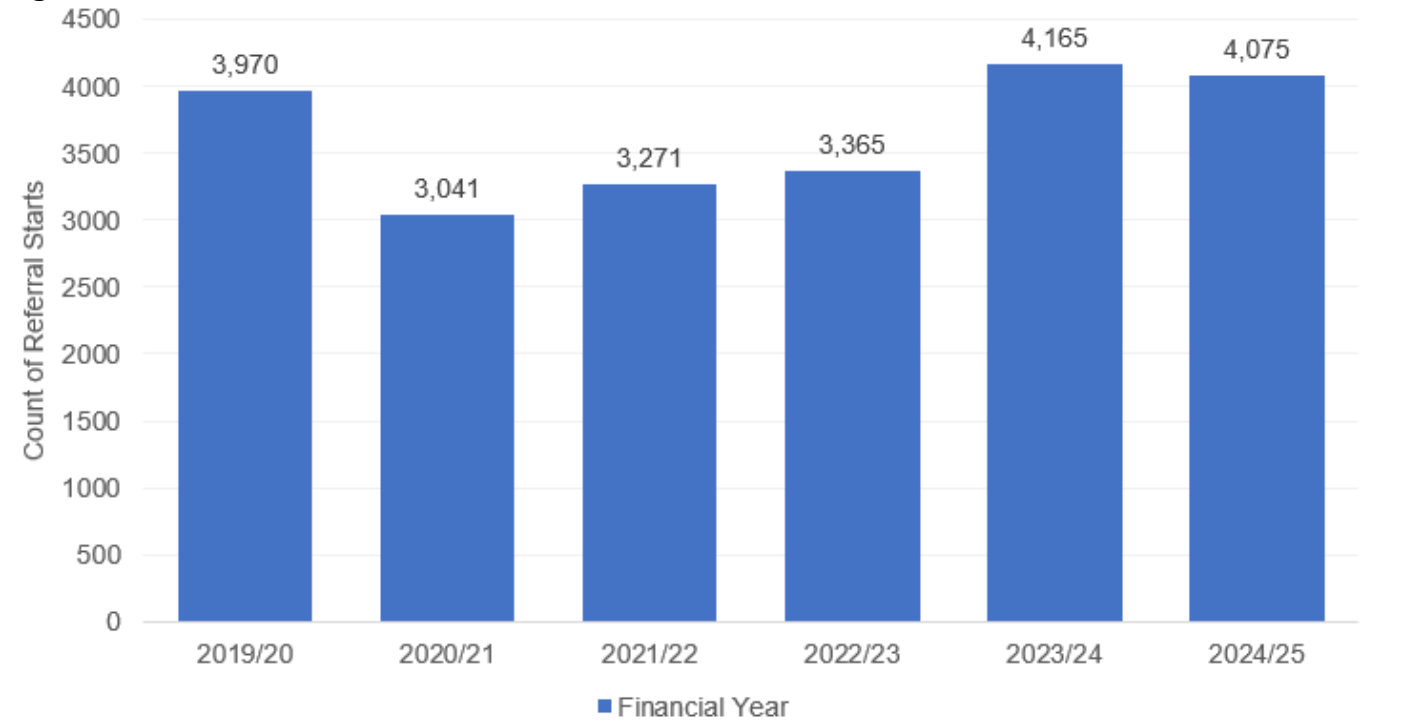
In 2024/25, there were 4,074 referrals into Social Care on Wirral (Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document). This equates to a referral rate of 612.0 per 10,000 for Wirral and compares to a referral rate of 519.0 per 10,000 for England and 529.0 for the North West.

A referral into social care is a where an initial contact has been made to Children’s Social Care and has met the threshold for Level 4 services.

A level 4 service is where a child may be at risk of significant harm or defined as a Child in Need as part of section 17 of the Children’s Act 1989, it is the duty of the local authority to safeguard/support the children.

The number of referrals (**Figure 3**) starting in Children’s Social Care saw a significant drop between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, to 3041 referrals, before an increase in every year reported up to 2023/24, recorded in this year at 4,165 (Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document). The latest reporting year (2024/25) shows a slight decrease in the number of referrals starts (90) from 2023/24.

Figure 3: Number of Children’s Services Referral Starts, 2019/20 - 2024/25



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic - Internal Document (2026)

Early Help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child’s life, from pre-birth to adolescence, and applies to any problem or need that the family cannot deal with alone. This level of intervention is to resolve problems before escalation to Level 4 services. Children can also step down from Level 4 services into Early Help if further help is required to support the child and family.

In 2025, the rate of Children in Need on Wirral was 408.8 per 10,000 ([LAIT tool](#)). This rate compares to England, where the rate was 330.3. The rate of Child Protection plans was 53.3 per 10,000 on Wirral, which compares to a rate of 40.6 in England. The rate of Children Looked After in Wirral was 103.0 per 10,000. This compares to England, where the rate was 67.0 per 10,000 ([LAIT tool](#)).

For care leavers in suitable accommodation (aged 19-21) Wirral’s rate for 2025 was 96.0% compared to the North West (91.0%) and England (89.0%). For care leavers aged 19-21 Wirral was 96.0% compared to North West (91.0%) and England (89.0%) ([LAIT tool](#)).

2.0 Demographics and Profile

2.1 Births

As shown in **Table 7** below, over the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 period, the rate of births in Wirral has decreased by 8.4%. From 3,024 in 2021 to 2,877 in 2022, then 2,813 in 2023 and finally, 2,769 in 2024. This mirrors the national rate, which over the same period has reduced by just over 4.7% (ONS).

Varying birth rates will impact upon the number of children living on Wirral and therefore gives an indication of the number of Children and Young people who will potentially have SEND in the coming years.

Table 7: Number of Births by Ward and Wirral, with Percentage (%) Difference, 2021 – 2024

Ward	2021	2022	2023	2024	% difference 2021 - 2024
Bebington	121	111	127	103	-14.9%
Bidston and St James	247	233	202	175	-29.1%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	228	213	212	220	-3.5%
Bromborough	178	162	154	162	-9.0%
Clatterbridge	109	108	80	91	-16.5%
Claughton	89	114	109	108	21.3%
Eastham	141	112	137	143	1.4%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	92	105	106	109	18.5%
Heswall	80	87	80	67	-16.3%
Hoylake and Meols	81	69	74	67	-17.3%
Leasowe and Moreton East	152	150	154	157	3.3%
Liscard	157	148	159	135	-14.0%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	111	117	109	94	-15.3%
New Brighton	118	112	110	118	0.0%
Oxton	116	94	99	96	-17.2%
Pensby and Thingwall	104	124	99	100	-3.8%
Prenton	133	113	123	125	-6.0%
Rock Ferry	186	160	164	179	-3.8%
Seacombe	213	188	186	183	-14.1%
Upton	188	171	141	173	-8.0%
Wallasey	106	103	105	88	-17.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	74	83	83	76	2.7%
Total	3,024	2,877	2,813	2,769	-8.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS ([Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas](#)), 2026

Note: Please note that the differences between table 4 in section 1.1.2 differ from the above as table 7 is using published data from ONS via NMOIS website. Table 4 is using internal live births files (not publicly available) and so figure will differ slightly.

Table 8 below shows the latest full year data (2024) that the largest proportion of births on Wirral were in Birkenhead and Tranmere, at 220, or 7.9%, of all births in 2024 having the mother residing within this Ward. Hoylake and Meols and Heswall, with 67 births, accounted for 2.4% of births within the same period ([Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) via NOMIS](#)).

Table 8: Number of Births with Proportion (of total births) by Ward, 2024

Ward	2024	Proportion (%) of Total
Bebington	103	3.7%
Bidston and St James	175	6.3%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	220	7.9%
Bromborough	162	5.9%
Clatterbridge	91	3.3%
Claughton	108	3.9%
Eastham	143	5.2%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	109	3.9%
Heswall	67	2.4%
Hoylake and Meols	67	2.4%
Leasowe and Moreton East	157	5.7%
Liscard	135	4.9%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	94	3.4%
New Brighton	118	4.3%
Oxton	96	3.5%
Pensby and Thingwall	100	3.6%
Prenton	125	4.5%
Rock Ferry	179	6.5%
Seacombe	183	6.6%
Upton	173	6.2%
Wallasey	88	3.2%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	76	2.7%

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS ([Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas](#)), 2026

2.2 Population

This Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) uses data from the School Census merged with new internal reporting of all those aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), as these data collections are currently the most accurate way to allow for profiles of Children and Young People to be collected from one place. It details the Children and Young People Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) status, be it with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or with SEN Support. It also provides profiles of the Children and Young People primary need, age, gender, post code, free school meal status, school and many more data sets to help profile the Children and Young People.

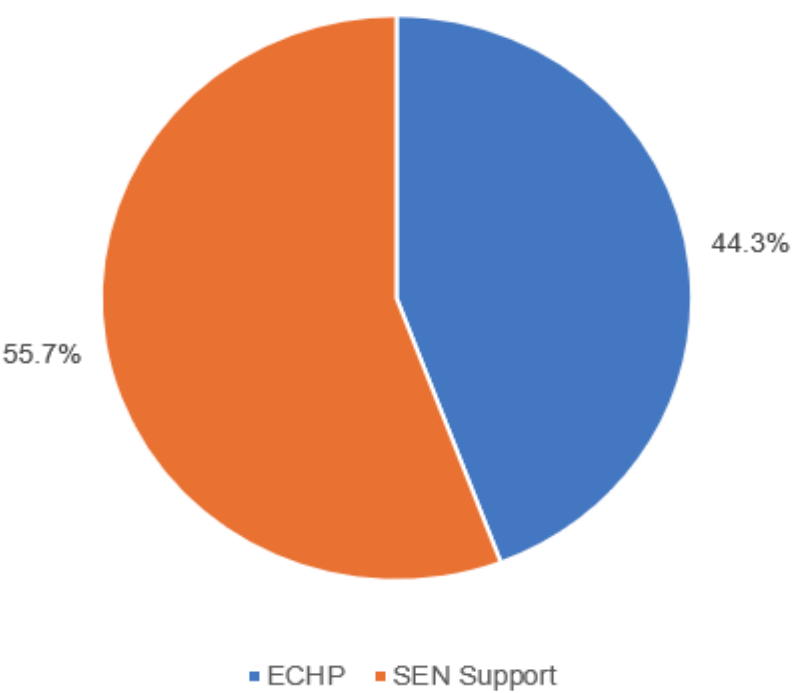
This information is only currently available for Children and Young People who are reported via the School Census returns at the time data was collected for this return and the internal data for those aged 0-25.

Using the October 2025 School Census and latest internal data, Children and Young People can (where possible) be identified as pupils within an education setting. From these datasets, Children and Young People, or pupils within an education setting are identified as having an EHCP or SEN Support.

Of the current pupil cohort from this, data shows 30.1%, or 14,683 pupils, who are also resident on Wirral, have been identified as having SEND. This is made up of 6,498 having an EHCP and 8,185 having SEN Support.

The SEND population for Wirral is currently made up from 44.3% with an EHCP and 55.7% with SEN Support (Wirral School Census and internal data) (**Figure 4**). In comparison, the national SEND population comprises 23.1% with an EHCP and 76.9% with SEN Support ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

Figure 4: Percentage (%) Breakdown of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), by Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support, in Wirral, 2026



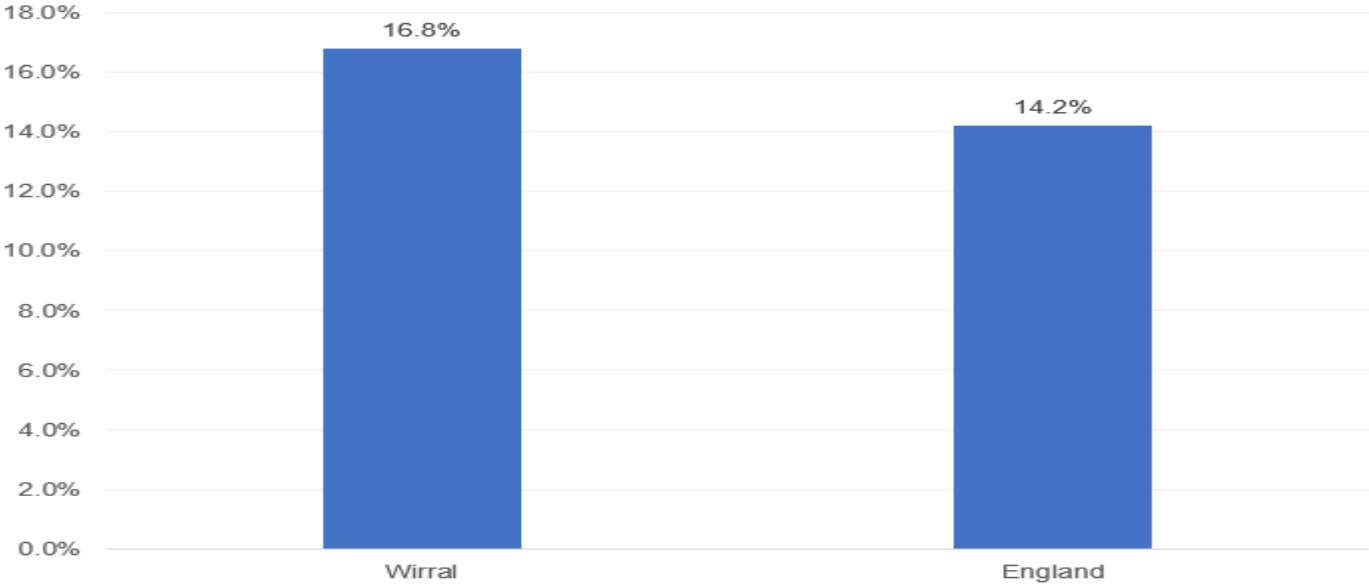
Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), restricted (February 2026)

Population – SEN Support

Figure 5 shows the percentage of 0-25 year olds with SEN support on Wirral is 16.8% (Wirral School Census and internal data), 8,185 Children and Young People, compared to the national figure of 14.2% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education), 1,181,665 Children and Young People.

Wirral is ranked 17th of 153 local authorities for provision of SEN Support ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

Figure 5: Percentage of SEN Support, by Children and Young People (CYP) (0-25) Population, in Wirral and England, 2025



Source: Wirral School Census and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2025)

2.3 Age

Please note:

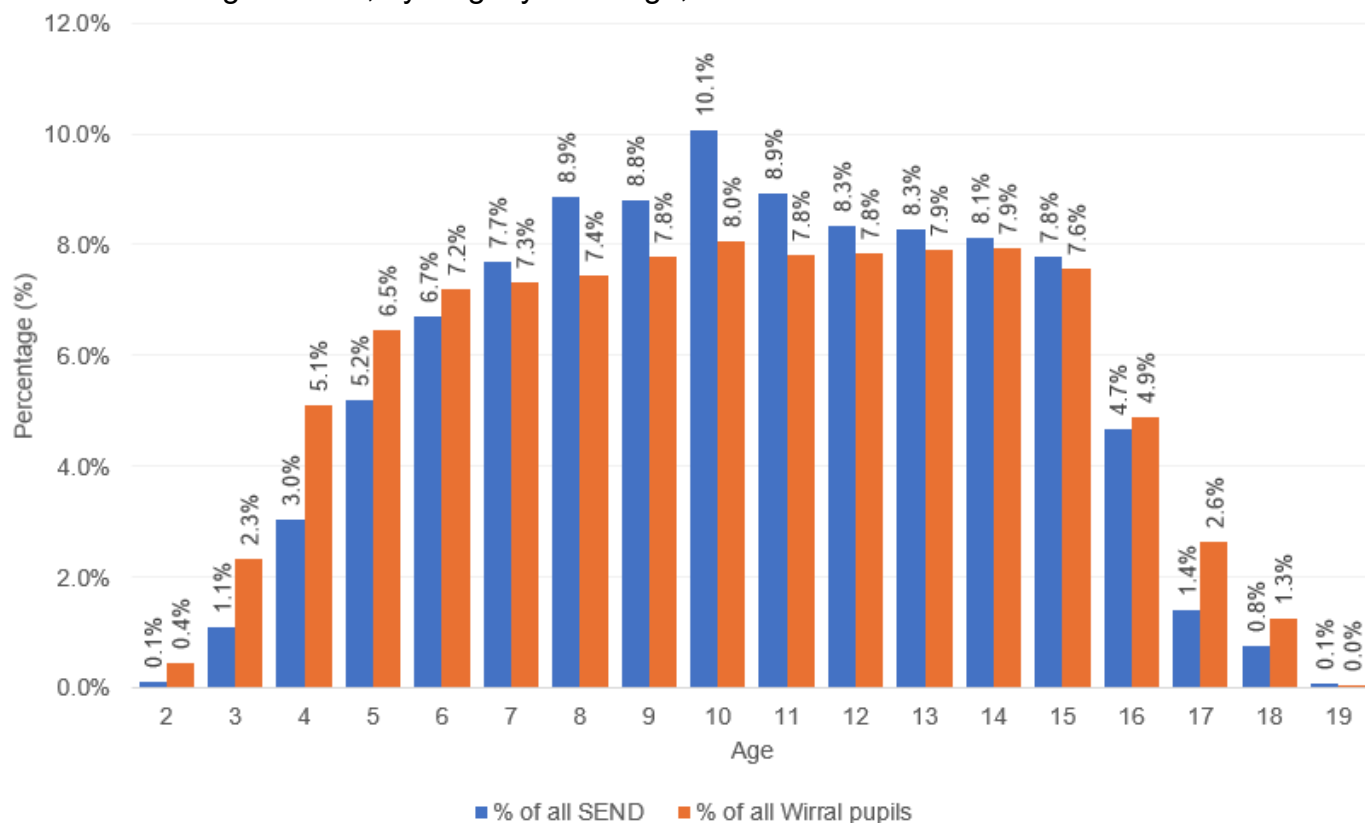
The caveat for the following data analysis (see coverage guidance <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/data-guidance>) is that for those aged over 19, they have removed from the comparison cohort in order to match the analysis and benchmarking against England as only SEN and EHCP who are in an education setting included (660 unknowns in local SEND data with no education setting and over 19 years old).

Figure 6 describes the range of ages of pupils with SEND on Wirral. It suggests that there is a steady increase, starting from Children and Young people (pupils) aged two at 0.01% of all pupils, up to 10.1% for pupils aged twelve (10). This is followed by a steady decrease from 8.9% at aged eleven (11), through to 4.7% at aged sixteen (16).

From this point onwards, the percentages drop significantly, from 4.7% at aged sixteen (16) to 1.4 for those pupils aged seventeen (17) and 0.8% at aged eighteen (18) before again another significant drop off, to 0.01% for those pupils nineteen (19) (**Figure 6**).

The data in **Figure 6** also shows how the SEND ages differ from the ages for the full school pupil cohort. Although they are similar for those the aged of fourteen (14) and fifteen (15), they differ significantly. Wirral SEND children have lower percentages then the total Wirral school cohort from the ages of two (2) through to six (6). From the ages of nine (7) to thirteen (15) the Wirral SEND cohort is greater than the overall Wirral school population between these ages. Wirral's percentage of SEND children is also lower than the Wirral school cohort in those aged seventeen (17) and eighteen (18).

Figure 6: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) (SEND and total) attending an education setting in Wirral, by single year of age, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

Age – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

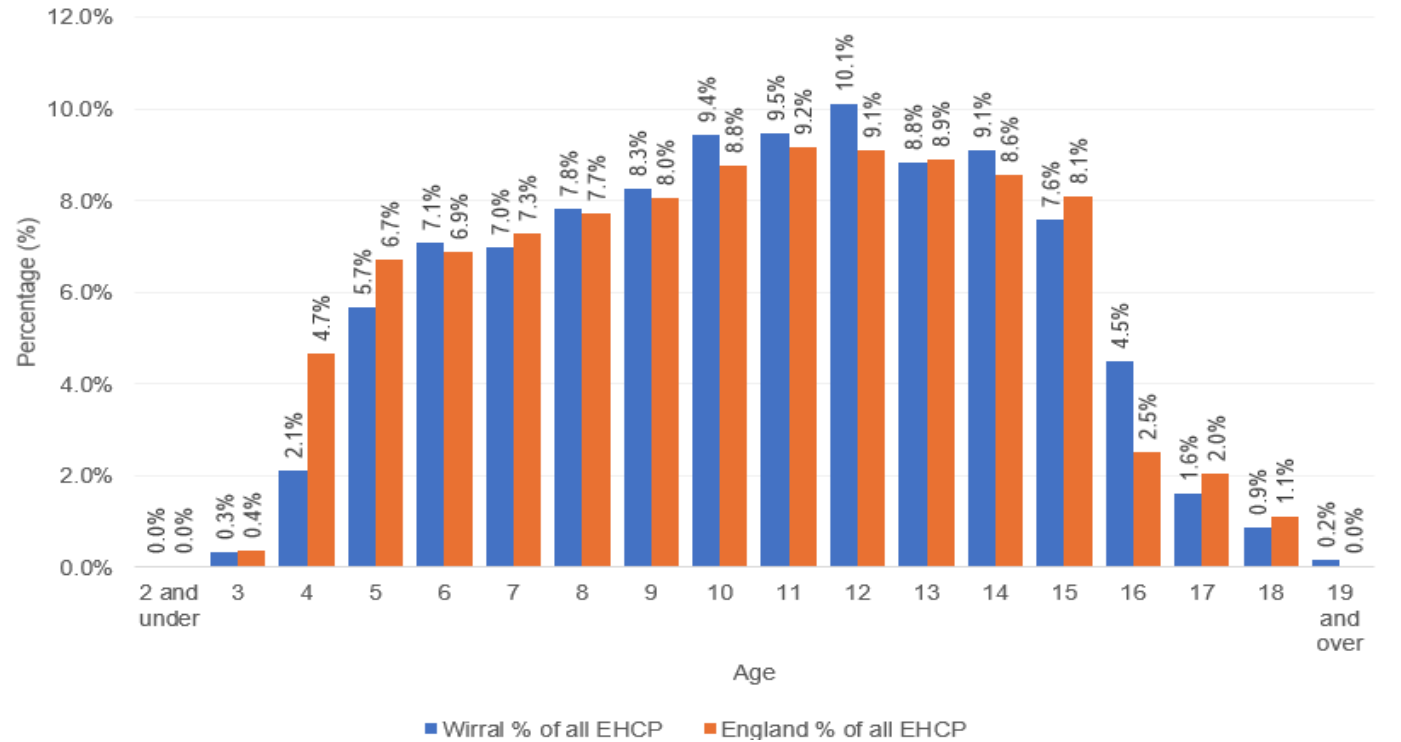
Figure 7 shows the ages of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) on Wirral. This follows a similar trend to that seen in England with significant increases in the percentages in pupils aged five and over.

However, with Wirral seeing the highest proportion of pupils with an EHCP aged twelve (12) (Internal data), this differs from England, where the highest proportion are aged eleven (11) ([Gov.UK](#)).

For Wirral, 10.1% are aged twelve (12) (Internal data), compared to England, where those aged twelve (12) account for 9.1% ([Gov.UK](#)). For those aged eleven (11), England has a rate of 9.2% (GK), just below the Wirral rate of 9.5% (Internal). Both Wirral and England follow a similar profile, with both seeing a significant drop off in rates from pupils aged fifteen (15) onwards.

Wirral drop from 7.6% aged fifteen (15) to 4.6% aged sixteen (16) (Internal data) and then another drop to 1.6% for those aged seventeen (17). England drops from 8.1% at fifteen (15) to 2.5% at sixteen (16) ([Gov.UK](#)). Both have low number for those aged three (3).

Figure 7: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with an EHCP attending an education setting in Wirral and England, by single year of age, 2026 ([Gov.UK](#)).



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026) and [Gov.UK \(2026\)](#)

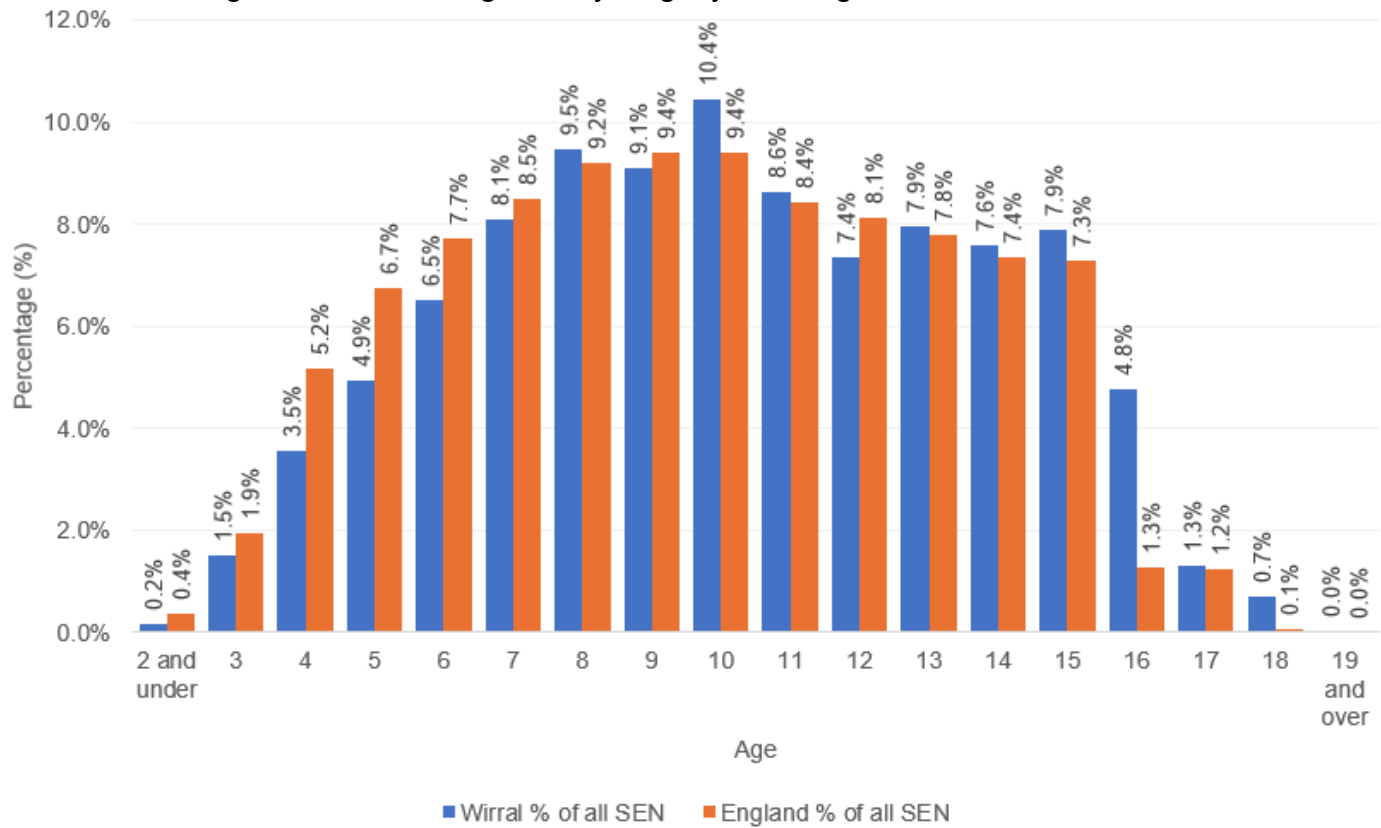
Age – SEN Support

As seen in **Figure 8**, for pupils with SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support, the ages of pupils are very similar to the rates in England ([Department for Education, 'Special educational needs in England, Accessed Date](#) February 2026), with percentages rising from aged two (2) and under, peaking between ages nine and ten (9 and 10) (England) and ten (10) (Wirral), before reducing.

However, it can be noted that for Wirral (Internal data) the percentage of pupils with SEN support aged two (2) and under through to aged seven (7) are lower than England ([Gov.UK](#)). and whilst percentages increase up to a pupil being aged ten (10), the peak. Wirral percentages (Internal data) are overall higher than England after the age of 9.

From aged eight (8) the Wirral percentages are higher than England also every age (bar those aged 9 and 12), most noticeably for those aged sixteen (16) with a difference of 3.5% (higher for Wirral compared to England).

Figure 8: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEN support attending an education setting in Wirral and England, by single year of age, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026) and [Gov.UK](#) (2026)

2.4 Gender

Within the full SEND Cohort, there are 9,249 boys and 5,437 Girls (Internal data). When looking at the gender breakdown by age for the full SEND cohort, **Figure 9** shows the boys and girls do follow similar patterns of increasing from the age one (1) and then dropping away before a significant drop between ages seventeen (17) and eighteen (18). However, at the younger ages, percentages in boys are higher.

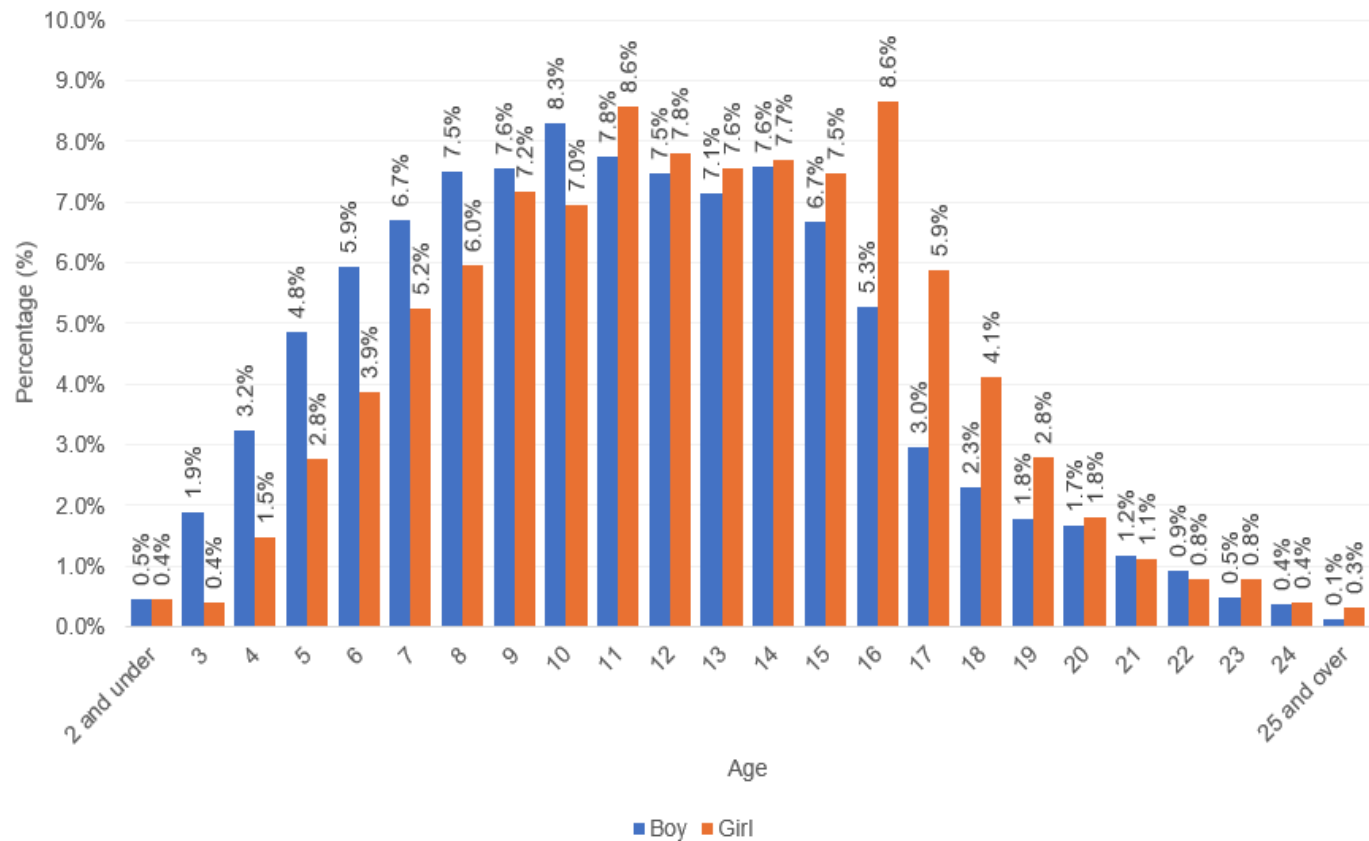
At age five (5) there are 4.8% of boys, compared to 2.8% girls, similarly aged six (6), with 5.9% boys and 3.9% girls (Internal data).

In contrast for pupils with SEND aged eleven (11) through to nineteen (19), girls have higher percentages. Age sixteen (16) percentage of girls is 8.6%, compared to 5.3% boys (Internal data).

Age seventeen (17) the percentage of girls is 5.9% compared to boys at 3.0% and age eighteen (18) girls are at 4.1% and boys are at 2.3%.

Percentages in boys are higher at younger ages and for girls' percentages are higher in older ages (Internal data).

Figure 9: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEND, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

Gender – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

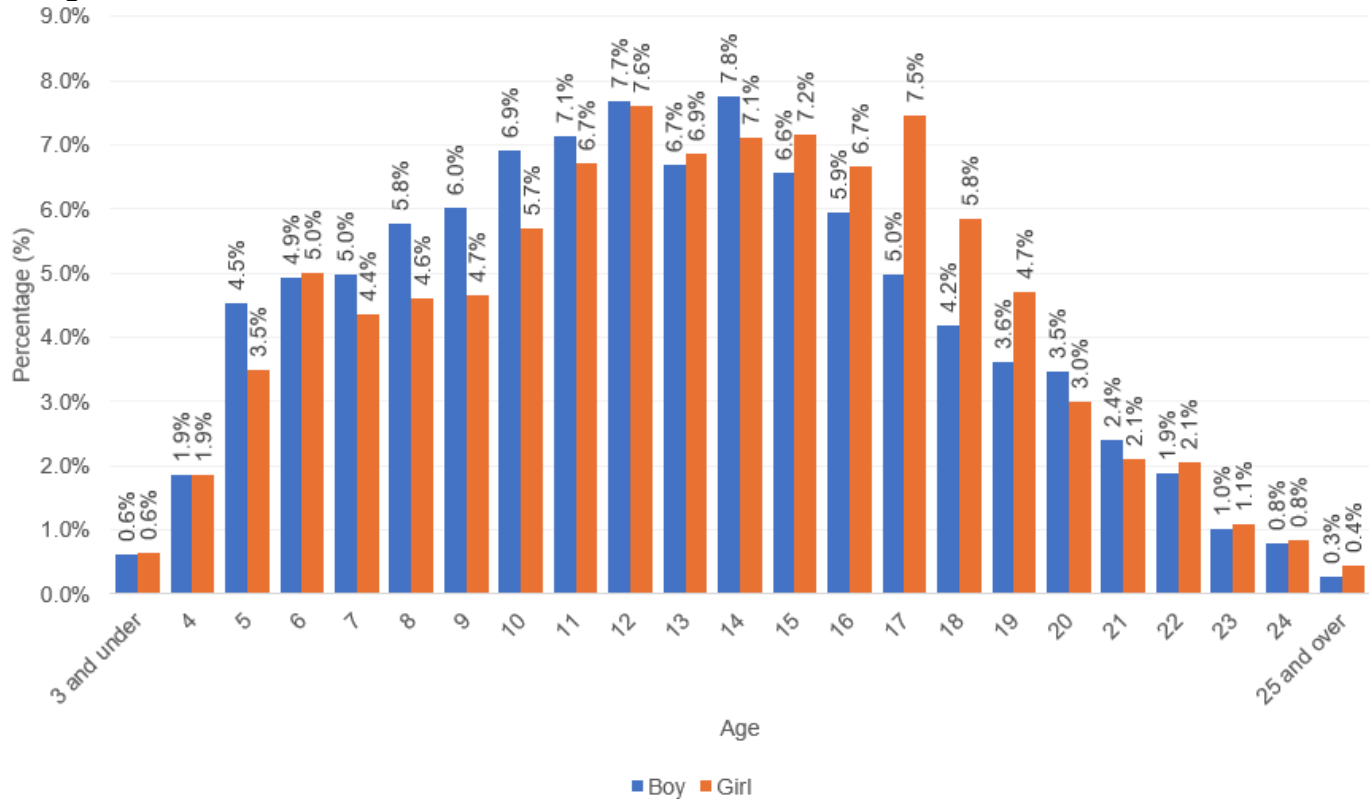
Wirral has 68.6% (4,450) boys and 31.4% girls (2,038) who have an EHCP who are recorded in the Wirral internal data. EHCP data is captured for those aged up to twenty-six (26).

When looking at gender in age groups (**Figure 10**), both boys and girls follow a similar trend of increasing rates as the pupil age increase, before rates start dropping once the pupils aged fourteen (14) for boys and seventeen (17) for girls.

However, there are noticeable difference between the ages of boys and girls with an EHCP, most significantly is the rate of pupils aged eight (9), seventeen (17) and eighteen (18). There are 6.0% of boys with an EHCP are aged eight (9), this compares to 4.7% of girls. 7.5% (aged seventeen (17)) and 5.8% (aged eighteen (18)) of girls with an EHCP compared to boys where the percentage is 5.0% and 4.2% respectively (Internal data).

The highest rates for boys are age fourteen (14) at 7.8%, age twelve (12) at 7.7% and age eleven (11) at 7.1%, the highest percentages in girls are age twelve (12) at 7.6%, followed by ages seventeen (17) with 7.5% and fifteen (15) at 7.2% (Internal data).

Figure 10: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with an EHCP, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

Gender - Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

Wirral has 58.6% boys (4,799) and 41.4% girls (3,386) who have SEN Support recorded in February 2026.

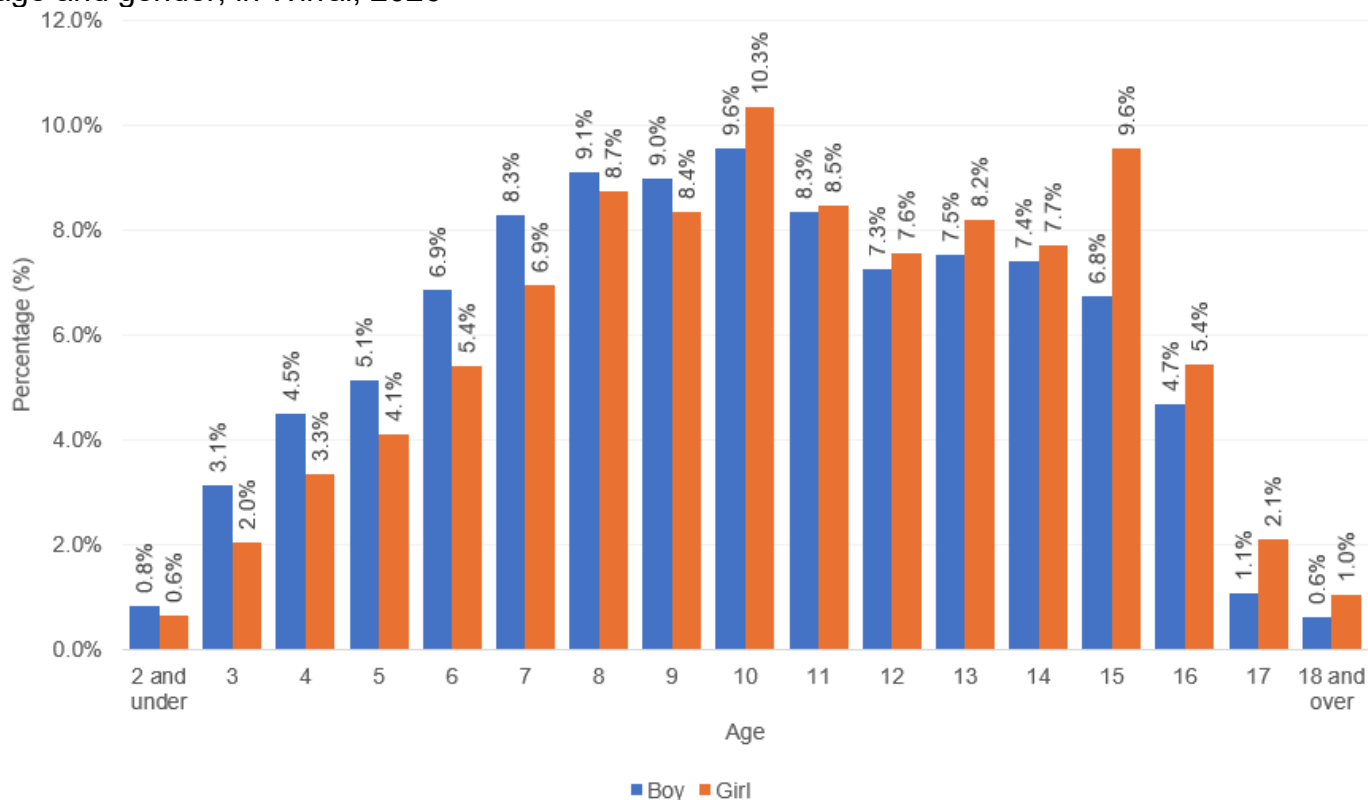
The ages of boys and girls with SEN Support follow a similar trend between those aged one (1) and those aged eighteen (18), with a steady rise followed by a steady drop, as seen in **Figure 11**. The highest proportion of girls are aged ten (10) and this is also the same for boys (Internal data).

The genders show some differences with the frequency rising quicker amongst boys at younger ages. At age six (6), 6.9% of boys have SEN Support, compared to 5.4% girls, and similar for those aged seven (7), with 8.3% of boys compared to 6.9% for girls (Internal data).

Frequency in girls aged ten (10) onwards increases, resulting in a growing gap between girls and boys. From age eighteen (18) frequency amongst boys reduces faster than in girls.

As such, the age profile for pupils with SEN Support shows boys are more likely to be towards the younger ages and the girls towards the older ages.

Figure 11: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEN Support, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

2.5 English as first language

Those who's language is known or believed to be English is 96.5% for all Children and Young People (aged 0 -25) and with SEND. **Figure 12** includes 33.4% of unknown language recorded for EHCP and 5.2% of unknown language recorded for SEN (Internal data).

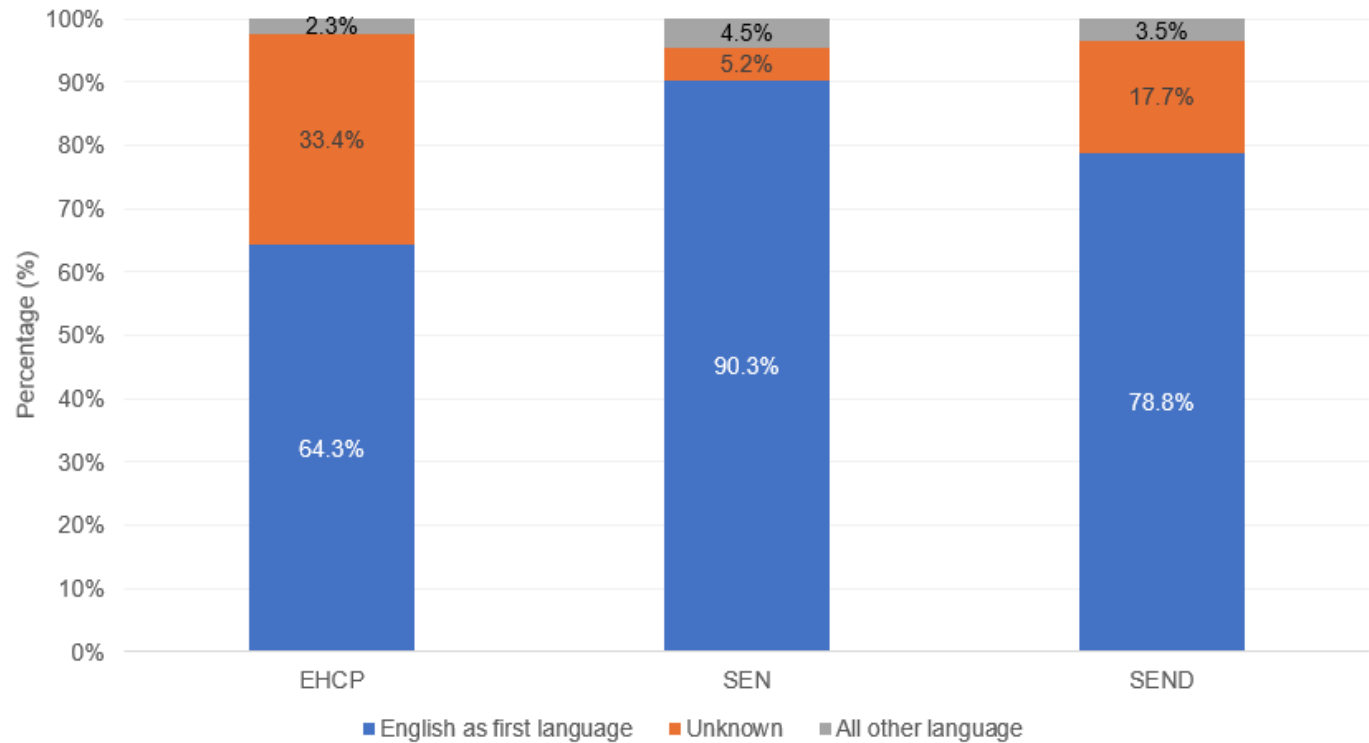
English as first language – EHCP

The percentage for pupils with an EHCP where it is known or believed that their first language is English is 97.7% (which include 33.4% unknown language recorded but these pupils are assumed to be White British by the service) (**Figure 12**) (Internal data).

English as first language – SEN Support

The rates where English is known or believed to be the pupils first language on Wirral is 95.5% (which include 5.2% unknown language recorded) for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 12**) (Internal data).

Figure 12: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP), who have English as a first language, by EHCP, SEN Support and SEND, in Wirral, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

2.6 Residence location

Wirral consists of twenty-two wards (22), out of a total of 7,026 wards in England (ONS). A ward is a local authority area and typically used for electoral purposes. However, there geographic areas are used by UK Government, Local Government, the Office for National Statistics and many other areas to build population profiles and distribution and allow for greater insight into how a population or service is distributed without being too specific and therefore making the data more anonymous, yet extremely useful and widely used and recognised.

For Children and Young People (C&YP) with SEND, the population distribution across the Wirral differs considerably. The largest proportion of C&YP who have been identified with SEND reside in Bidston and St. James Ward. This ward accounts for 9.2% (1,336 Children and Young People) of all those with SEND and compares to Heswall ward, where 1.5% (214 Children and Young People) of all those with SEND reside (Internal data).

For all C&YP as detailed in **Figure 13 and Table 9**, SEND, the greatest proportion by population, reside in Bidston and St. James. With a rate of 2286.1 per 10,000. Bidston and St. James Ward has a SEND population that is 22.9% of the total 0-25 population.

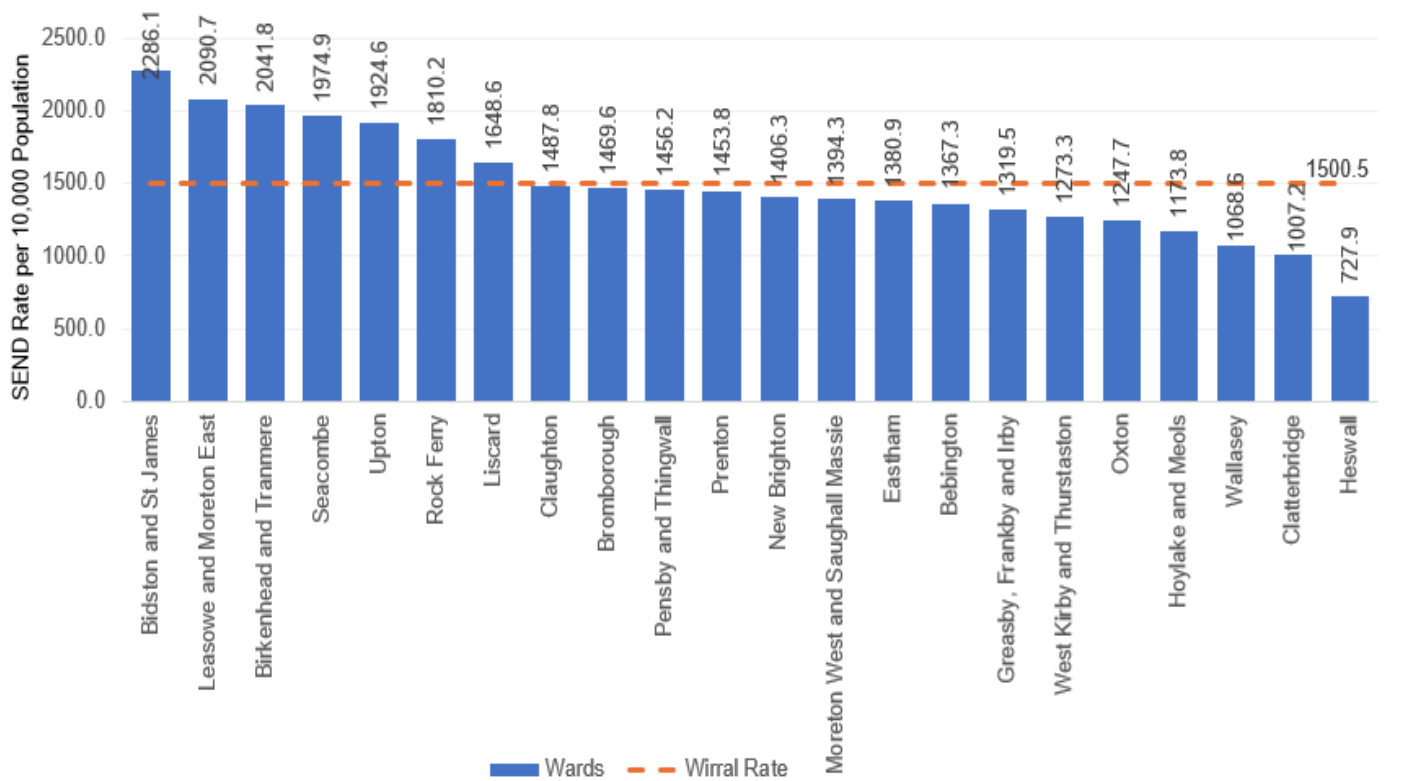
Leasowe and Moreton East at 2090.7 per 10,000, (or 1037 residents (Internal data)) out of a total 0-25 year old population of 4,960 ([Office for National Statistics](#)). Birkenhead and Tranmere at 2041.8 per 10,000, or 1,232 residents (Internal data) out of a total 0-25 year old population of 6034 ([Office for National Statistics](#)) and Seacombe at 1974.9 per 10,000, or 1,072 residents out of a total population of 5,428 are the four areas with the highest rates in Wirral.

These four wards all have a 0–25-year-old SEND population that is 21.0% of the 0–25-year-old population, a combined total of 4,677 out of a combined total 0–25-year-old population of 22,266.

In contrast the Wards in Heswall, Clatterbridge, Hoylake and Meols and Wallasey, all have the lowest rates per 10,000, or under 10%, at a combined rate of 10.0% from a combined number of 1,292 0–25-year-olds (Internal data) with SEND out of a total 0–25-year-old population of 12,912 residents (ONS).

Heswall, with a rate of 727.9 per 10,000, has the lowest rate of SEND per 10,000 of all wards, at 7.3%. This equates to 214 Children and Young People aged 0-25 (Internal data) with SEND out of a total 0-25 year old population of 2,940 ([Office for National Statistics](#)).

Figure 13: Rate of Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026) and [ONS mid 2024 population](#) (2026)

The data show how the residential location of those with SEND, both SEN Support and EHCP are distributed at a higher rate towards the east of the Wirral.

The data shows Bidston St. James, Leasowe and Moreton East, Upton, Seacombe and Birkenhead and Tranmere having the highest rates of pupils under eighteen (18) years old and with SEND per 10,000 ward population.

Table 9: 0-25 Population along with Wirral SEND, EHCP and SEN Support percentage breakdown, followed by SEND, EHCP and SEN Support rates per 10,000, by Ward, 2026

Ward	Population (0-25 yrs)	Wirral SEND Breakdown (%)	SEND rate per 10,000	Wirral EHCP Breakdown (%)	EHCP rate per 10,000	Wirral SEN Support Breakdown (%)	SEN Support rate per 10,000
Bidston and St James	5,844	9.2%	2,286.1	8.6%	946.3	9.8%	1,339.8
Birkenhead and Tranmere	6,034	8.5%	2,041.8	7.9%	850.2	9.0%	1,191.6
Seacombe	5,428	7.4%	1,974.9	7.9%	934.0	7.1%	1,040.9
Leasowe and Moreton East	4,960	7.2%	2,090.7	7.5%	981.9	6.9%	1,108.9
Rock Ferry	5,690	7.1%	1,810.2	7.2%	820.7	7.0%	989.5
Upton	4,853	6.5%	1,924.6	6.4%	851.0	6.5%	1,073.6
Liscard	4,616	5.3%	1,648.6	5.9%	821.1	4.8%	827.6
Bromborough	4,804	4.9%	1,469.6	5.3%	714.0	4.5%	755.6
Prenton	4,251	4.3%	1,453.8	4.5%	684.5	4.1%	769.2
Claughton	4,073	4.2%	1,487.8	3.8%	604.0	4.5%	883.9
Bebington	4,176	3.9%	1,367.3	4.1%	637.0	3.8%	730.4
Eastham	4,106	3.9%	1,380.9	4.0%	623.5	3.9%	757.4
Moreton West and Saughall Massi	3,543	3.4%	1,394.3	3.6%	649.2	3.3%	745.1
New Brighton	3,399	3.3%	1,406.3	3.6%	688.4	3.0%	717.9
Pensby and Thingwall	3,104	3.1%	1,456.2	2.8%	573.5	3.4%	882.7
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	3,418	3.1%	1,319.5	2.4%	462.3	3.7%	857.2
Oxton	3,286	2.8%	1,247.7	2.7%	538.6	2.9%	709.1
West Kirby and Thurstaston	3,212	2.8%	1,273.3	2.7%	535.5	3.0%	737.9
Wallasey	3,528	2.6%	1,068.6	2.7%	496.0	2.5%	572.6
Hoylake and Meols	3,118	2.5%	1,173.8	2.4%	506.7	2.6%	667.1
Clatterbridge	3,326	2.3%	1,007.2	2.4%	469.0	2.2%	538.2
Heswall	2,940	1.5%	727.9	1.5%	319.7	1.5%	408.2

Source: [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026) Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

Table 9 details how the total SEND pupil cohort, the highest proportion of all Wirral SEND Children and Young People reside in Bidston St. James Ward with 9.2% of all SEND pupils residing here. This is followed by Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward with 8.5%, Seacombe with 7.4% and Leasowe and Moreton East Ward with 7.2%. The data also show that at 32.4%, over a third of all pupils with SEND reside in four wards: Bidston and St. James, Seacombe, Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward and Leasowe and Moreton East Ward. These four wards equate to 21% of the total twenty-two wards.

Whilst these four wards account for 32.4% of all pupils with SEND, this is higher than the 24.3% of total 0–25-year-old population that reside in these wards.

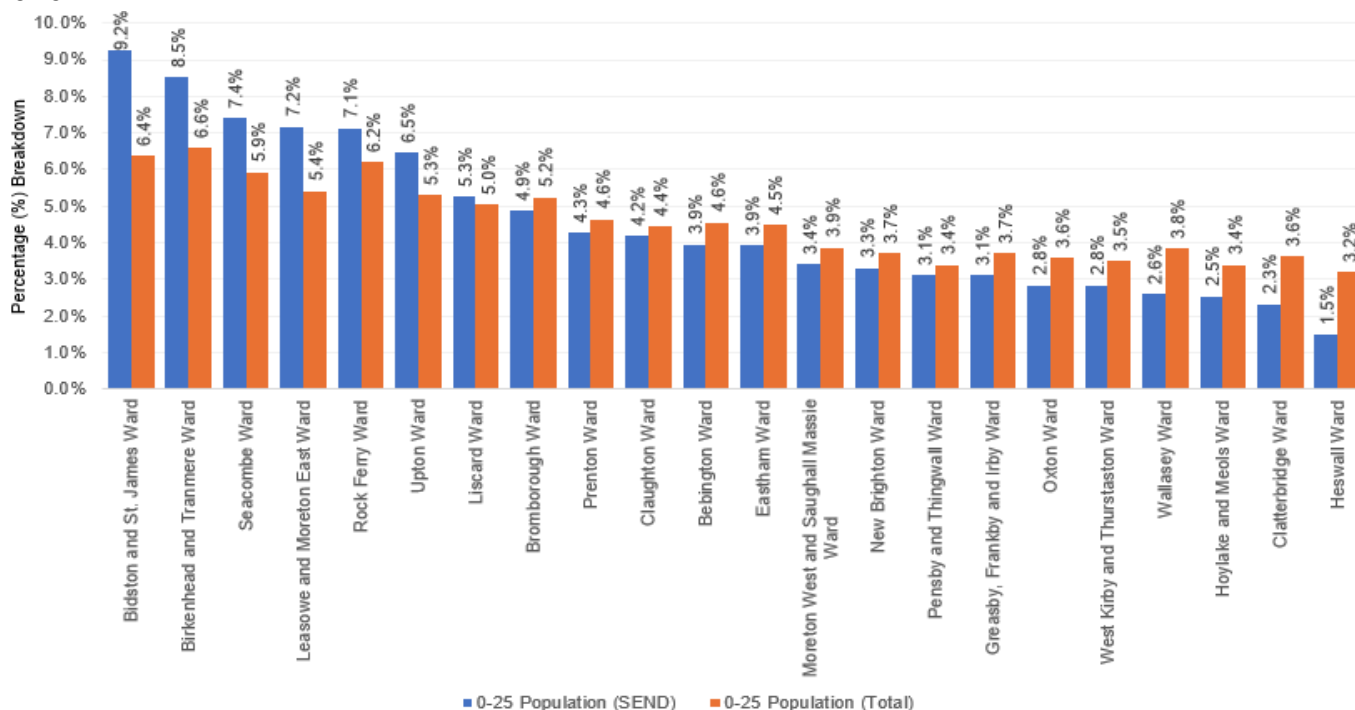
It must also be noted that using the rate per 10,000 of ward population for 0–25-year-olds, this gives different profile of C&YP with SEND distribution, with Leasowe and Moreton East Ward at 2090.7, having a higher rate than Seacombe Ward (1970.4) but Seacombe ward has a greater proportion of children with SEND compared to Leasowe and Moreton East.

For pupils with an SEN the highest rate per 10,000 of under 18 years old population reside in Bidston and St. James, with a rate of 1339.8 per 10,000. This is followed by Birkenhead and Tranmere on 1191.6, Leasowe and Moreton East on 1108.9 and Seacombe on 1043.9 per 10,000.

For pupils with EHCP Support the highest rate per 10,000 under 18 years old population reside in Leasowe and Moreton East, with a rate of 981.9 per 10,000. This is followed by Bidston and St. James on 946.3, Seacombe on 934.0 per 10,000 and Birkenhead and Tranmere on 850.2 per 10,000.

Figure 14 shows how the total 0-25 population distribution differs to that of all SEND pupils population. This highlights that the wards of Bidston St. James, Seacombe, Leasowe and Moreton East, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Upton and Liscard, have rates of pupils with SEND higher than that of the rates of overall 0-25 population.

Figure 14: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by SEND and Total), 2026



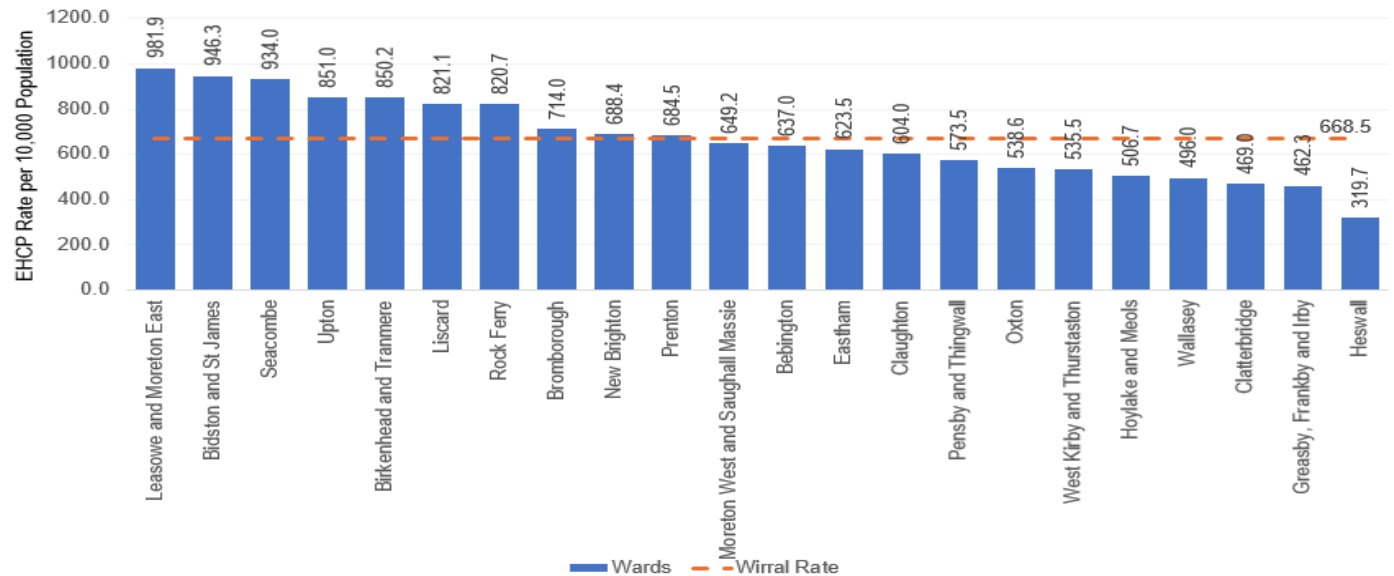
Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

Residence location – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For all pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) aged 0-25, **Figure 15** shows the greatest proportion by population, reside in Leasowe and Moreton East Ward. With a rate of 981.9 per 10,000, Leasowe and Moreton East has an EHCP population that is 9.8% of the total 0–25-year-old population.

Bidston and St James has a rate of 946.3 per 10,000, Seacombe 934.0 per 10,000 and Upton at 851.0 per 10,000. This compares to Heswall, with a rate of 319.7 per 10,000, which is 3.2% of the 0-25 population having an EHCP. This is significantly lower than the Wirral average of 668.5 per 10,000 (Internal data).

Figure 15: Rate of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2026



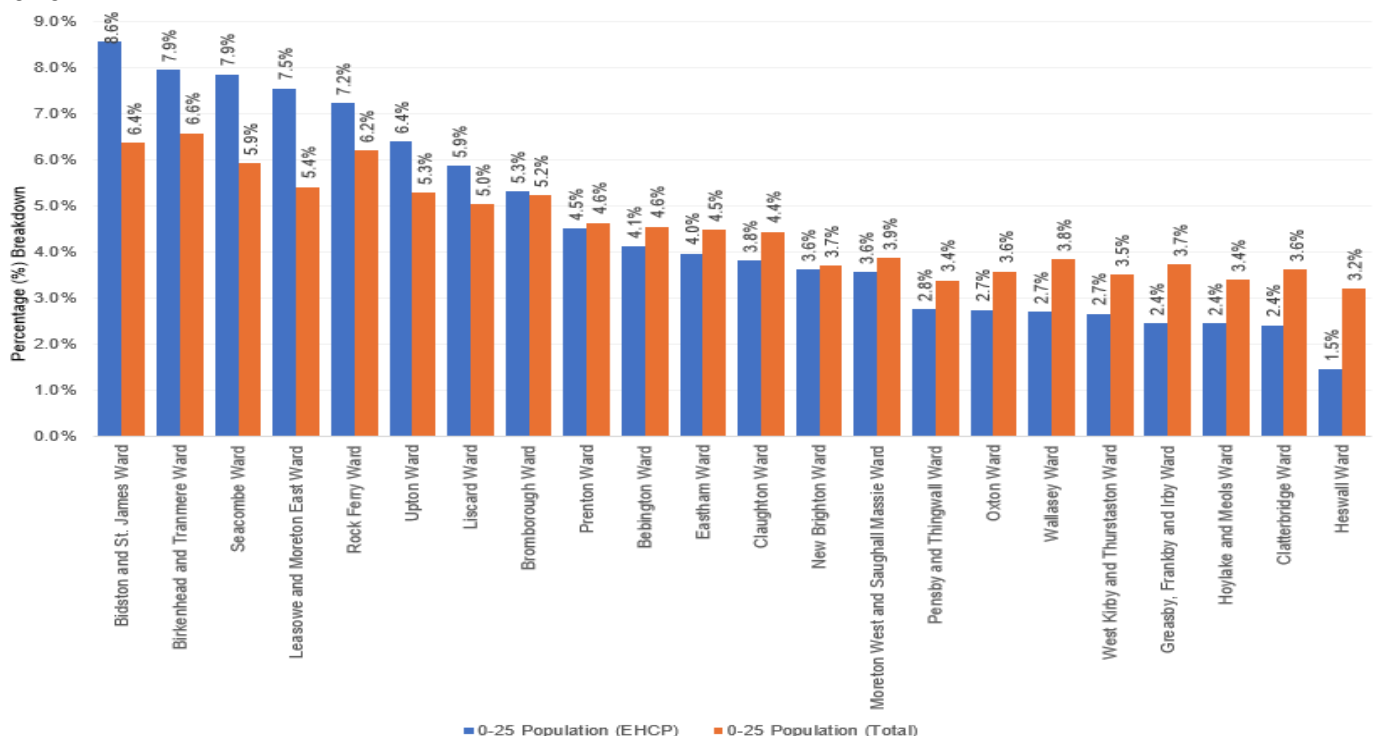
Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

Of the total Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupil cohort (**Figure 16**), the highest numbers reside in Bidston and St James Ward, with this ward being where 8.6% of all pupils with an EHCP.

This method of displaying the data shows how total numbers differ from the rate per 10,000 as the second highest number of pupils with an EHCP reside in Birkenhead and Tranmere, with 7.9% of the total residing here.

This is different to the rate per 10,000, where Birkenhead and Tranmere had the 5th highest prevalence in the 0-25 population (Internal data and ONS).

Figure 16: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by EHCP and Total), 2026



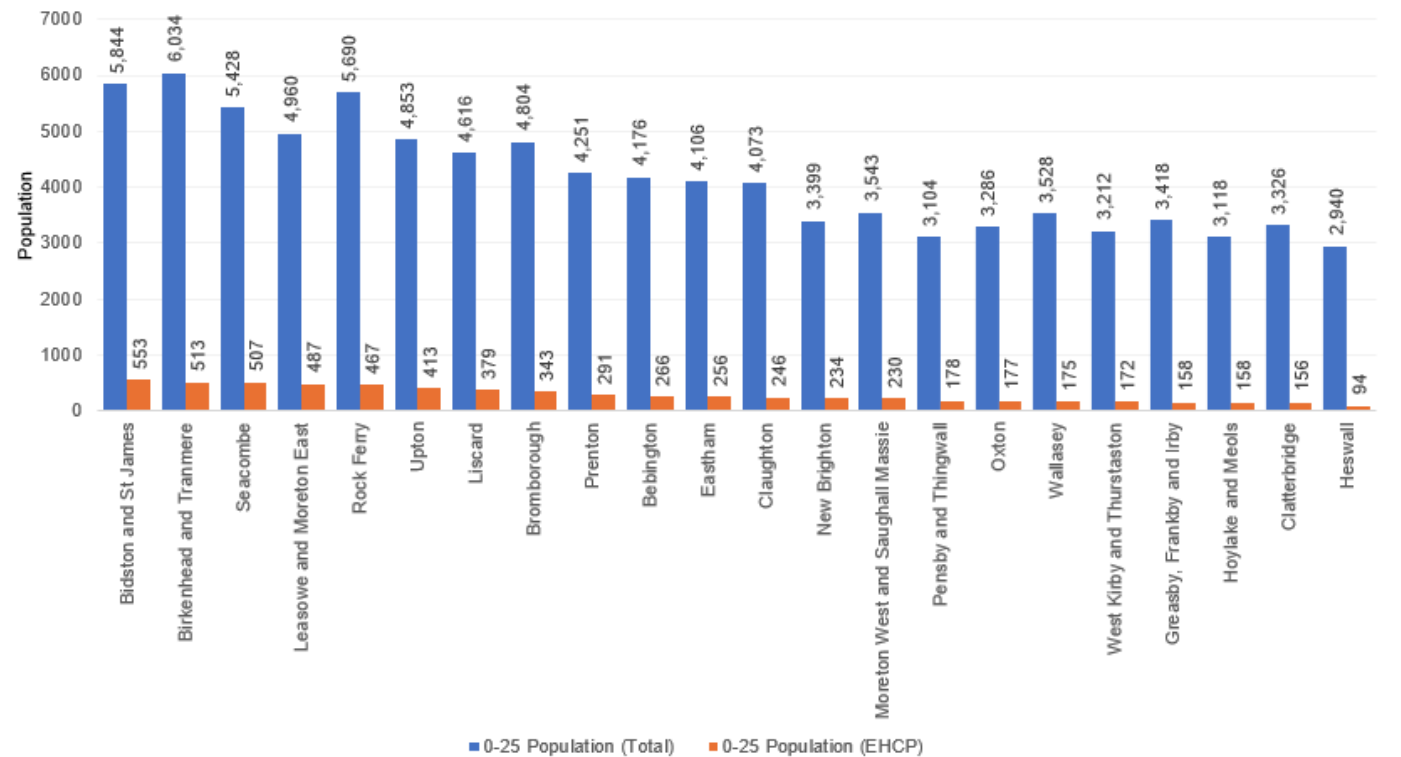
Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

Figure 17 illustrates that Bidston St. James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Seacombe and Leasowe and Moreton East are where 31.9% of all pupils with an EHCP reside, yet these four wards account for 24.3% of the 0-25 year olds population on Wirral.

The data show that within these four wards, along with Rock Ferry, Upton and Liscard, the number of pupils with an EHCP is significantly higher rates than the number of pupils residing there from the overall 0-25 population.

This is in contrast Heswall, Clatterbridge along with Hoylake and Meols where the number of pupils with EHCP residing here are lower rates then the overall school pupil population (Internal data).

Figure 17: 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by EHCP and Total), 2026



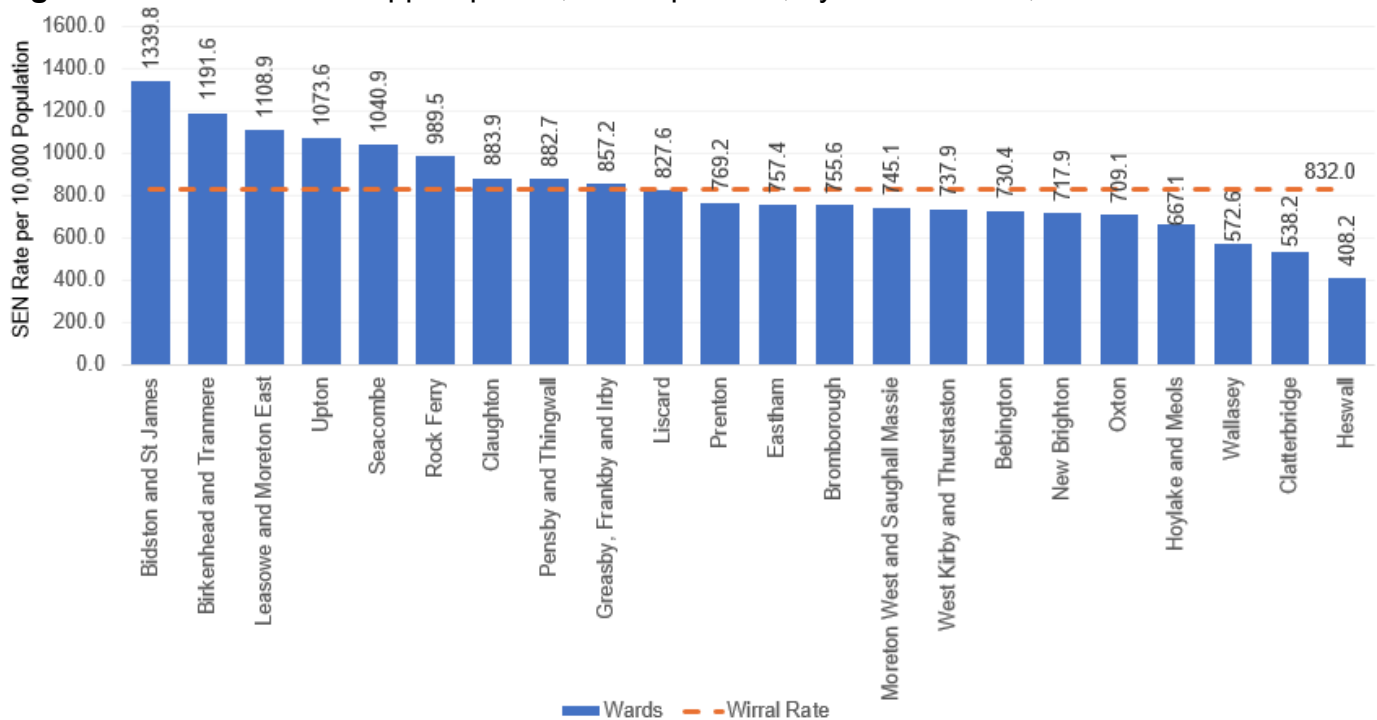
Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

Residence Location - SEN Support

For all pupils with SEN Support, the greatest proportion by population, reside in Bidston St. James. It can be seen in **Figure 18**, with a rate of 1339.8 per 10,000, Bidston St. James has a SEN Support population of 9.8% of the total 0–25-year-olds ward population. With a rate of 1191.6 per 10,000 is Birkenhead and Tranmere, Leasowe and Moreton East at 1108.9 per 10,000 and Upton at 1073.6 per 10,000.

These four wards have a SEN Support population of just under 12% of the total ward 0-25 population. This contrast to Heswall, which has a rate of 408.2 per 10,000, Clatterbridge at 538.2 per 10,000 and Wallasey at 572.6 per 10,000 (Internal data and [Office for National Statistics](#)).

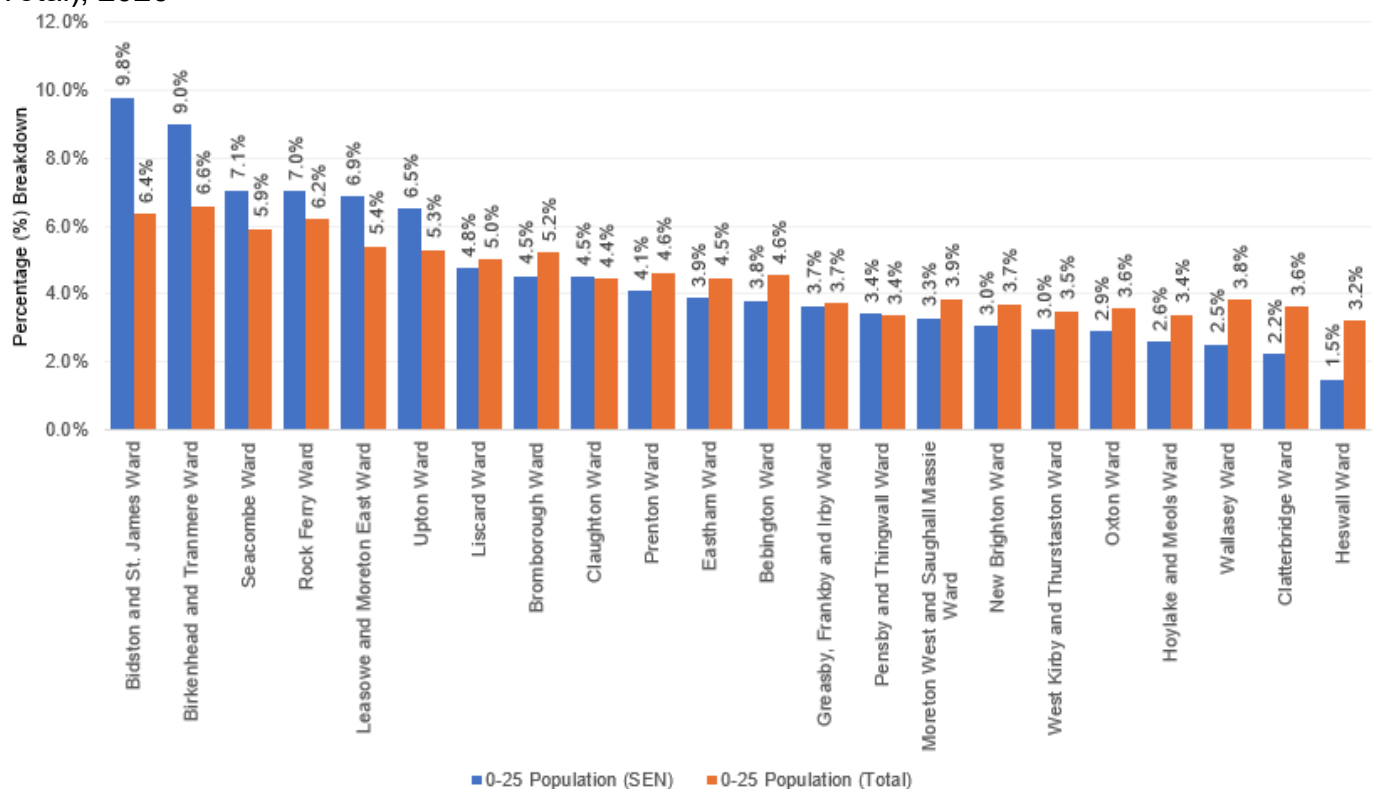
Figure 18: Rate of SEN Support per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2026



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

Of the total SEN Support (**Figure 19**) pupil cohort and showing correlation to the rates per 10,000, the highest numbers of pupils with SEN Support reside in Bidston St. James. This ward alone is where 9.8% of all pupils with SEN Support reside. This is followed by Birkenhead and Tranmere, where 9.0% of the SEN Support pupils reside, Seacombe with 7.1% and Rock Ferry with 7.0%. These four wards account for 32.7% of all pupils with SEN Support (Internal data and ONS).

Figure 19: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by SEN Support and Total), 2026

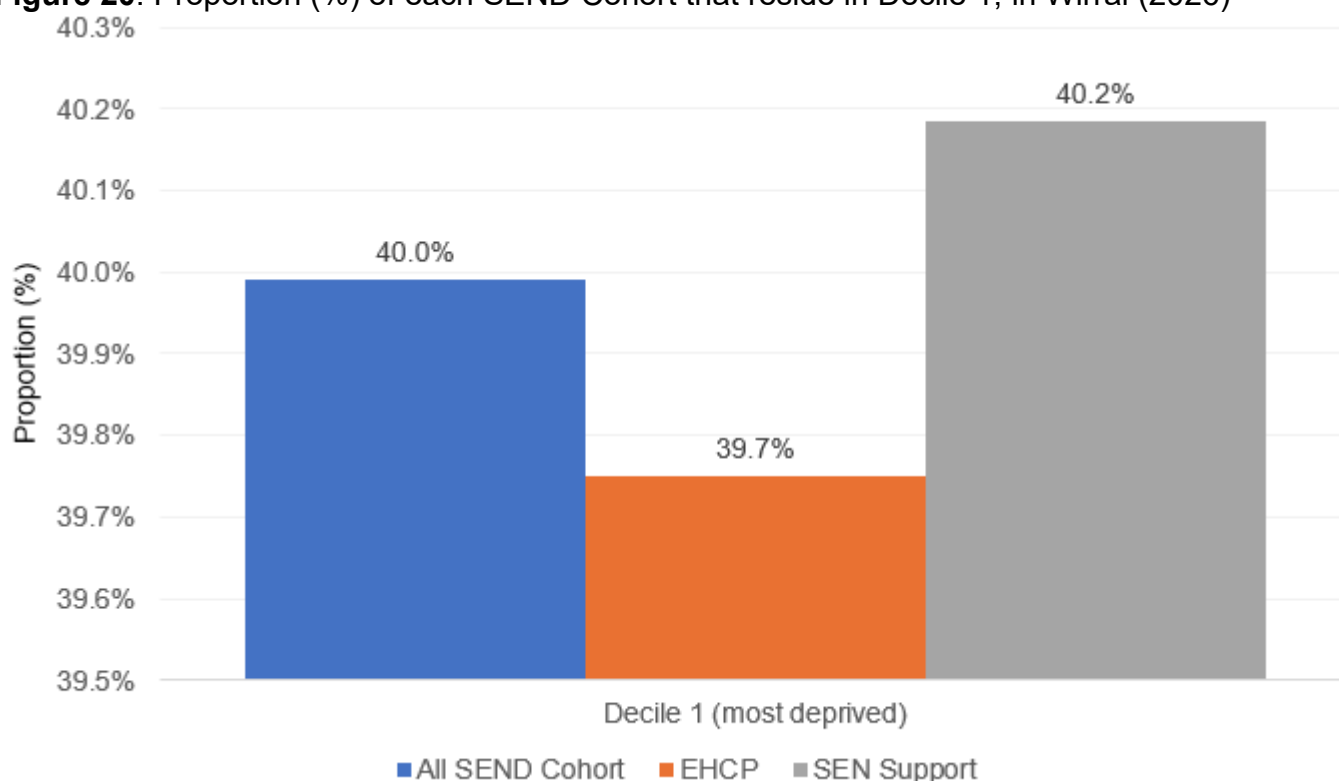


Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [ONS mid population 2024](#) (2026)

2.7 Deprivation

Rates of deprivation are calculated by splitting all wards in England into ten equal Deciles, with Decile 1 being the lowest 10%, or most deprived, wards in England. The Decile rate increases to ten, where these 10% of wards are the least deprived wards in England. Between 1 and 10 are Deciles 2 to 9 inclusive. For more information on how Deprivation is calculated visit [Deprivation; \(Office for National Statistics, Exploring Local Income Deprivation, 17th November 2025, accessed 1st February 2026\)](#).

Figure 20: Proportion (%) of each SEND Cohort that reside in Decile 1, in Wirral (2026)

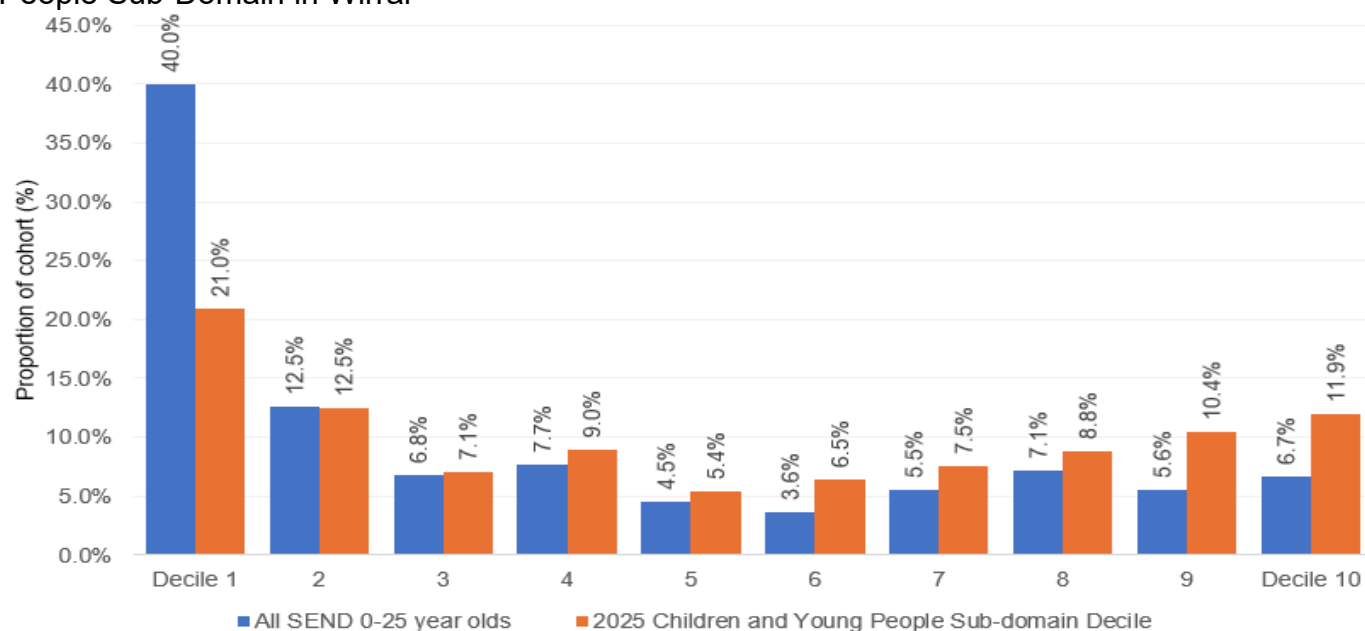


Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026)

Figure 20 above shows that for all pupils with SEND on Wirral, there is a higher proportion of pupils with SEND that live within the most deprived areas. At 40.0% (Internal data), nearly half of all pupils with SEND on Wirral live in the most deprived 10% of wards in England.

This compares to 21.0% of the children and young people sub domain IMD population (This sub-domain is designed to reflect the 'flow' and 'stock' of educational disadvantage within an area : [LGIInform - IMD - Children and Young People Sub-domain](#)) residing in the most deprived decile for Wirral (2025 IMD). The data also show that the rates of children and young people with SEND in the least deprived areas is significantly lower too, with a shift towards higher deprivation for the SEND children and young people (**Figure 21**).

Figure 21: Proportion of All SEND C&YP (0-25) (2026) compared with 2025 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [2025 Indices of Deprivation \(IMD\)](#)

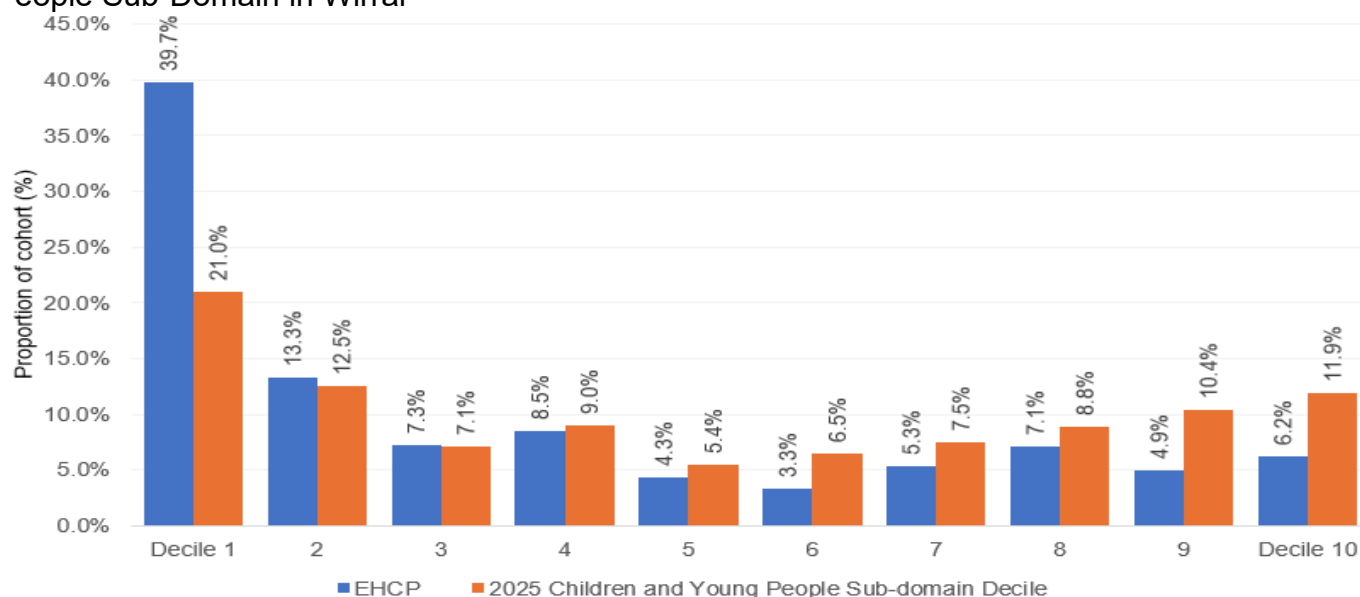
Deprivation – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For all C&YP (0-25) with an EHCP on Wirral (**Figure 22**), there is a higher proportion that live within the most deprived areas. A rate of 39.7% (Internal data) of all children and young people with an EHCP reside within the most deprived 10% of wards in England.

This compares to 21.0% of the children and young people sub domain IMD population (IMD 2025). The data also show that the rates of C&YP with an EHCP in the least deprived areas is lower than the IMD 2025 sub domain population.

This is particularly noticeable within the wards with the least deprivation, decile ten. Of the full sub children IMD population, 11.9% reside here, yet for the EHCP population, 6.7% reside here (Internal data).

Figure 22: Proportion of All EHCP C&YP (0-25) (2026) compared with 2025 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [2025 Indices of Deprivation \(IMD\)](#)

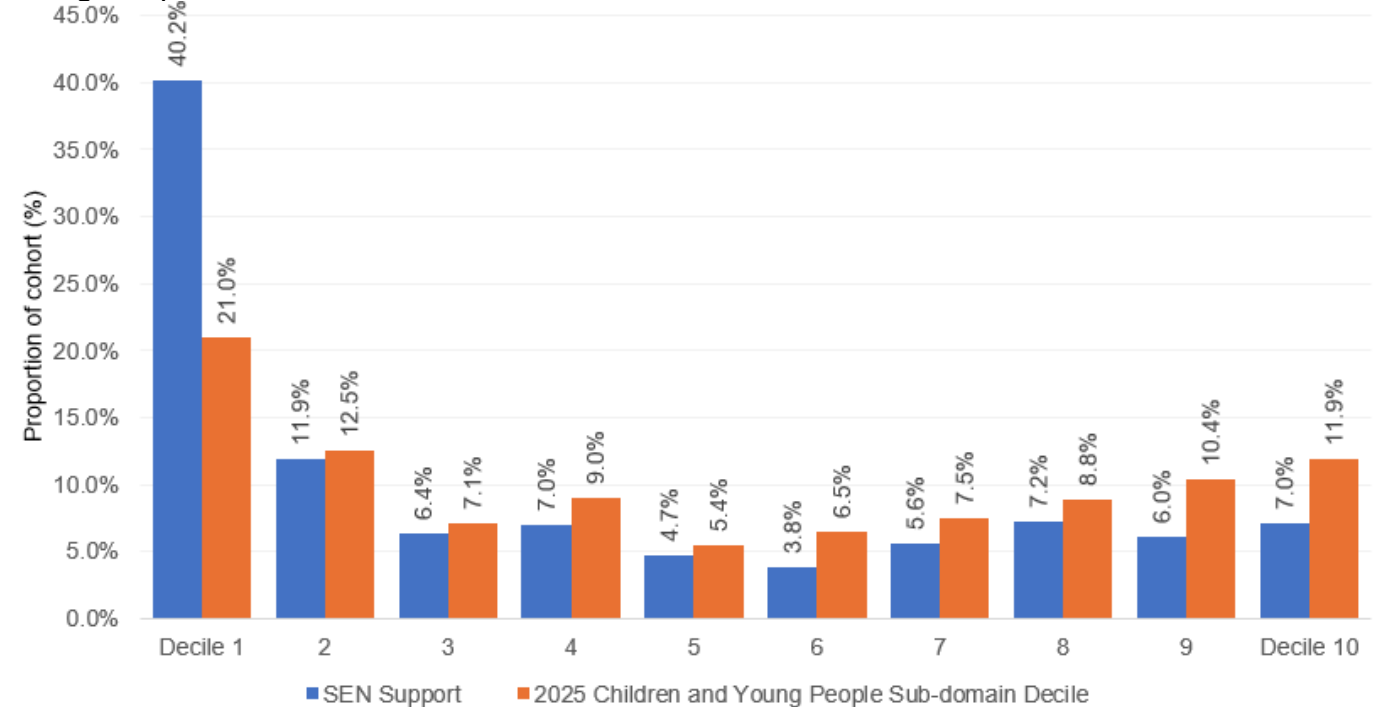
Deprivation – SEN Support

For all pupils with SEN Support on Wirral (**Figure 23**), there are a higher proportion who reside within the most deprived areas. Data show 40.2% (Internal data) of all children and young people aged 0-25 with SEN Support reside in the most deprived 10% on wards in England.

This compares to 21.0% (children and young people sub domain IMD) of the population and shows that SEN support C&YP are more prevalent in the most deprived wards.

The data also show that the rate of children and young people with SEN support drop as the level of deprivation decreases, with the least deprived 10%, Decile 10, having a SEN Support rate of 7.0% (Internal data), compared to all 2025 C&YP sub domain population at 11.9% (2025 IMD). The lowest levels of SEN support are in decile 6 with 3.8% compared to 6.5% for the C&YP IMD 2025 domain.

Figure 23: Proportion of All SEN Support C&YP (0-25) (2026) compared with 2025 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (February 2026), [2025 Indices of Deprivation \(IMD\)](#)

2.8 Primary Need

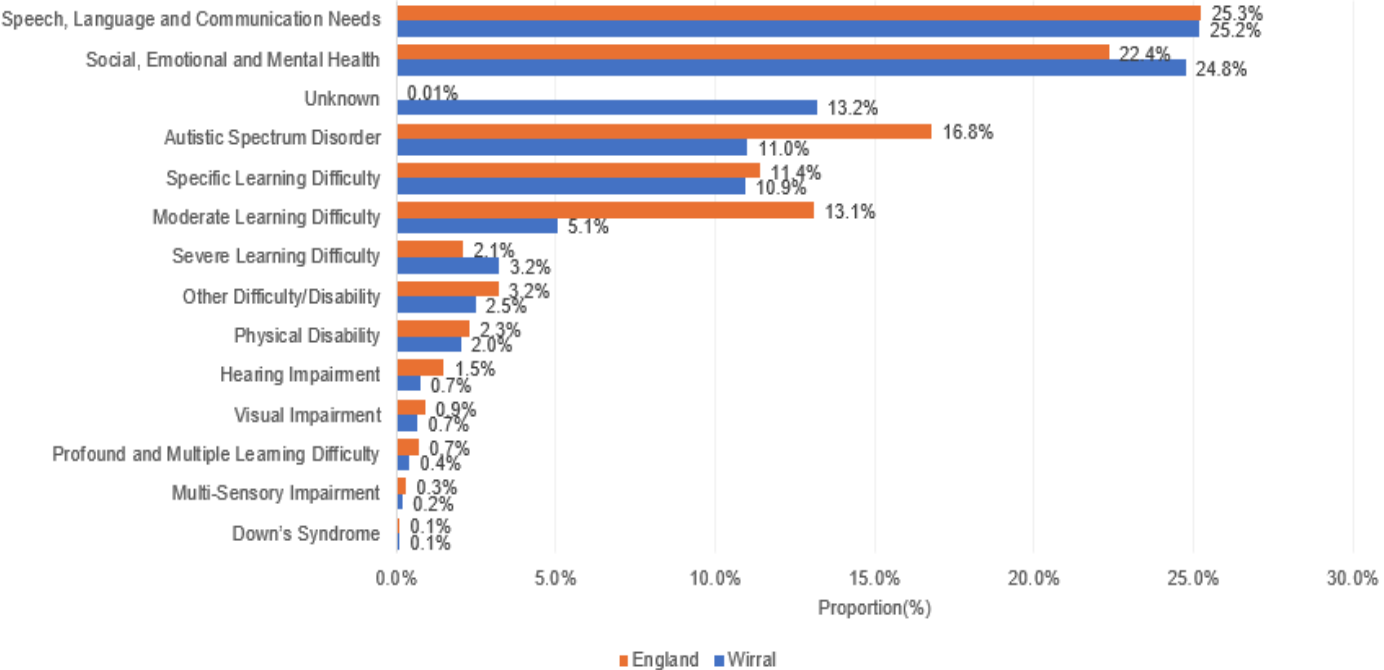
Through the School Census a “Primary Need” is recorded for pupils with SEND. There are thirteen categories of Primary Needs. By recording primary needs in specific categories allows for an understanding of current resource requirements along with helping predict levels of future resources. This data is that for all pupils attending an education setting, which reports to the Wirral school census and resides on Wirral (**please note to make comparison to England only children with a school setting, aged under nineteen, have been included when looking at primary needs**)

The most common primary need amongst pupils (Wirral School Census and internal data) (**Figure 24**) with SEND attending an education setting on Wirral is Speech, Language and Communication needs, accounting for 25.2% of all Primary Needs, followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health, accounting for 24.8% and then Autistic Spectrum Disorder for 11.0% of all Primary Needs (excluding unknow reporting of 13.2%).

These three categories of Primary Need account for 61.0% of all Primary Needs. It must be noted that there is a rate of 2.5% (Wirral School Census and internal data) of pupils with a Primary Need as 'Other.' This is roughly in line with the England figure of 3.2% ([Gov.UK](#)), it does mean that there is a small number of pupils who have a Primary need that is not specifically categorised. Also worth noting the in the Wirral data unknown disorders account for 13.2% of the activity compared to 0.01% for England (Live data/pre- School Census check).

The Wirral Primary Need on Wirral profile has some noticeable differences to the profile across England. The rate of pupils with a Primary Need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder is significantly higher in England at 16.8% than Wirral at 11.0%. The rate of pupils with Moderate learning Difficulties as their Primary Need is 13.1% for England ([Gov.UK](#)) compared to 5.1% for Wirral (Wirral School Census and internal data). Wirral has a higher rate than England for Social, Emotional and Mental Health disorders (24.8% compared to 22.4%).

Figure 24: Proportion (%) of all SEND pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026) and [Gov.UK](#) (2026)
Note: Unknown - Live data/pre- School Census check.

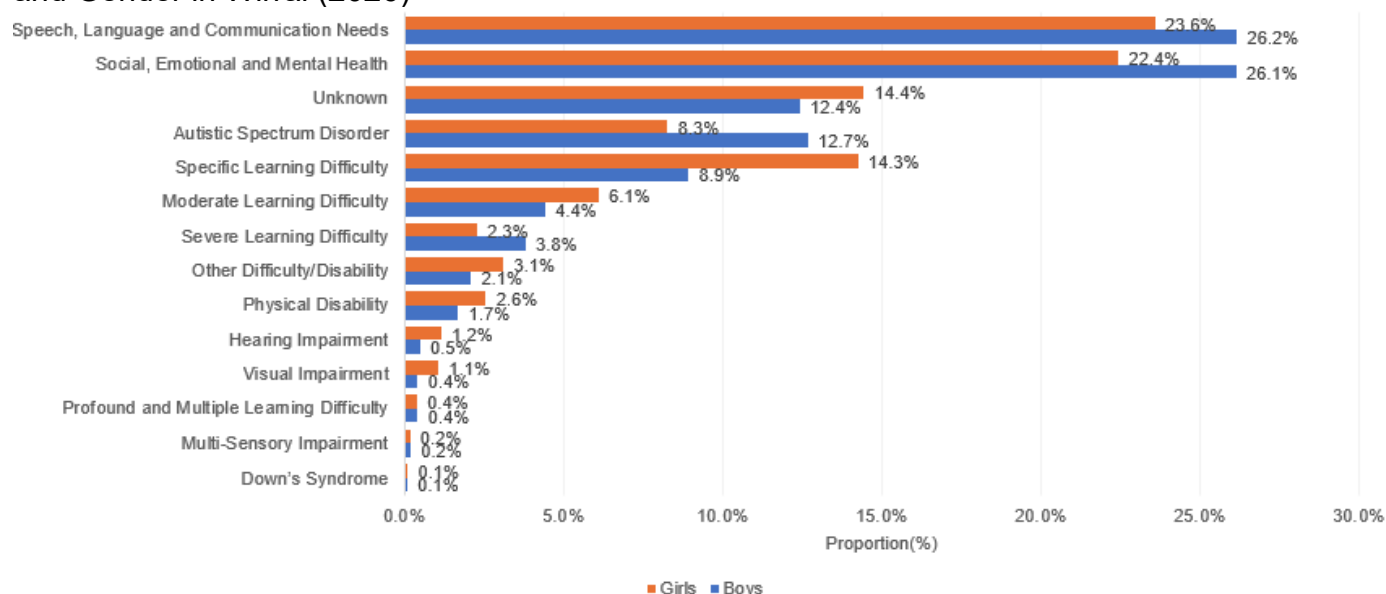
There are noticeable differences when looking at cohort gender within Primary Need (**Figure 25**).

A noticeable difference is within those pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health as their Primary Need. For boys, this accounts for 26.1% of all, yet for girls this is 22.4% (Wirral School Census and internal data).

The rates of Specific Learning Difficulty are higher amongst girls 14.3% than boys 12.7%. Autism Spectrum Disorder is higher amongst boys than girls with 12.7% of boys having this as Primary Need, compared to 8.3% of girls.

In contrast, for Hearing Impairment as type of need, this is just over double the prevalence amongst girls than boys with girls at 1.2% and boys at 0.5%. Similarly, girls with Vision impairment as Primary Need, is more than twice that of with boys with girls at 1.1% and boys at 0.4%.

Figure 25: Proportion (%) of all SEND pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

2.8.1 Primary Need – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

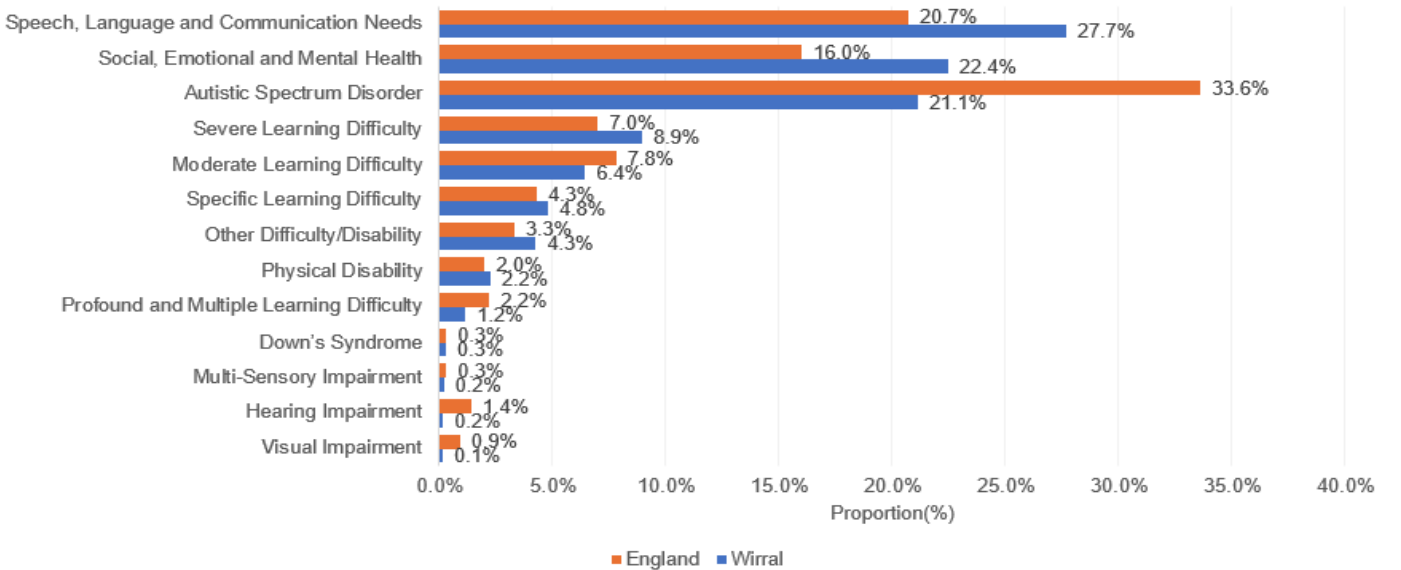
As detailed in **Figure 26**, the most common Primary Need for Wirral pupils with an EHCP is Speech, Language and Communication (SLT) needs, with 27.7% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) of all pupils with an EHCP having this as their primary need. This rate is 7.0% above the England rate ([Gov.UK](#)), (20.7%) and demonstrates a significant difference between Wirral and England for pupils with EHCP.

Other notable differences can be seen with the levels of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs on Wirral, at 22.4% being higher than the England rate of 16.0% ([Gov.UK](#)).

In contrast, there are primary needs that are higher in England than on Wirral, with the most noticeable being Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This has England at 33.6% ([Gov.UK](#)) and Wirral at 21.1% (Wirral School Census and Internal data). Wirral has a rate at nearly a third lower than that of England.

In addition, Wirral sees 0.1% of Visual Impairment needs and Hearing Impairment needs at 0.2%, this is noticeably below the rate in England, which are 0.9% and 1.4% respectively ([Gov.UK](#)).

Figure 26: Proportion (%) of all EHCP pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2026)



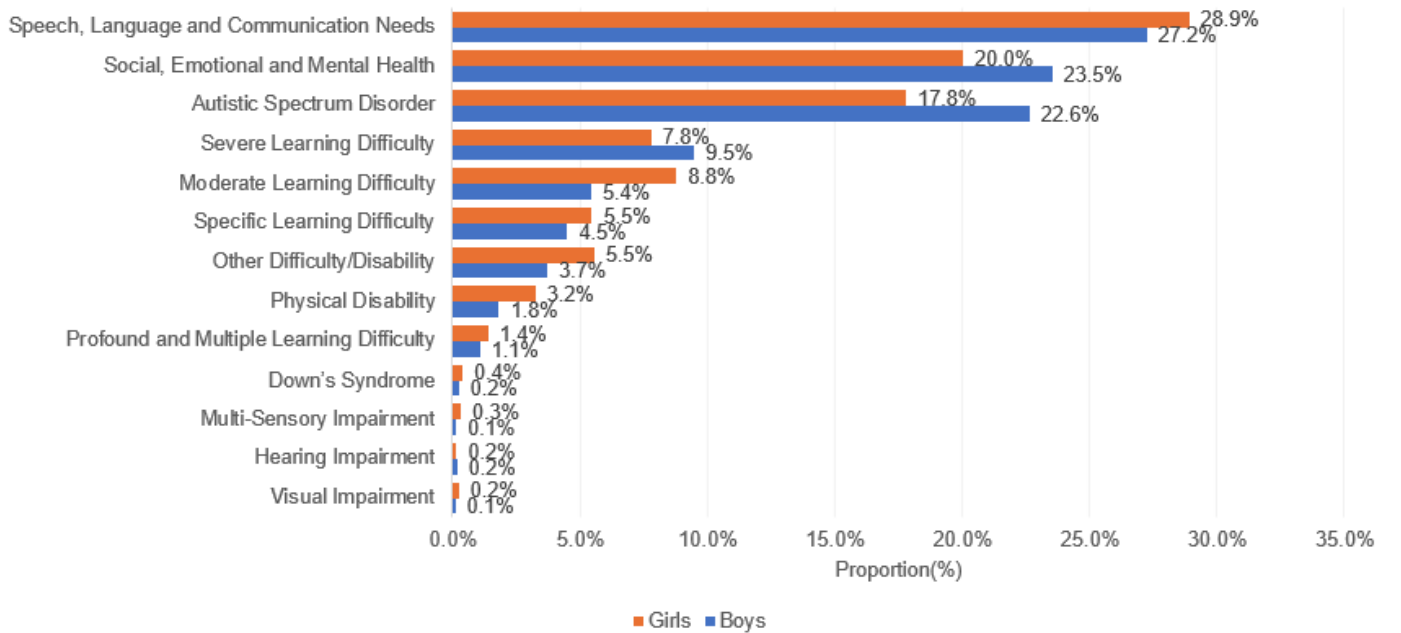
Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026) and [Gov.UK](#) (2026)

The difference in primary needs amongst pupils with an EHCP is significant with boys and girls having different profiles (**Figure 27**). The most significant differences are for Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

At 23.5%, the rate of Social, Emotional and Mental Health amongst boys is higher than girls, which is 20.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data). To a similar extent, but still as a standout difference, the rate of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, at 22.6% amongst boys, is higher than 17.8% amongst girl (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

Speech, Language and Communication Needs is higher for girls 28.9% compared to boys 27.2%. For the Primary Need of Moderate Learning Difficulty, girls are also significantly higher at 8.8%, compared to boys at 5.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data). In contrast to this, there are two stand out Primary Needs where rates are higher amongst boys.

Figure 27: Proportion (%) of all EHCP pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2026)



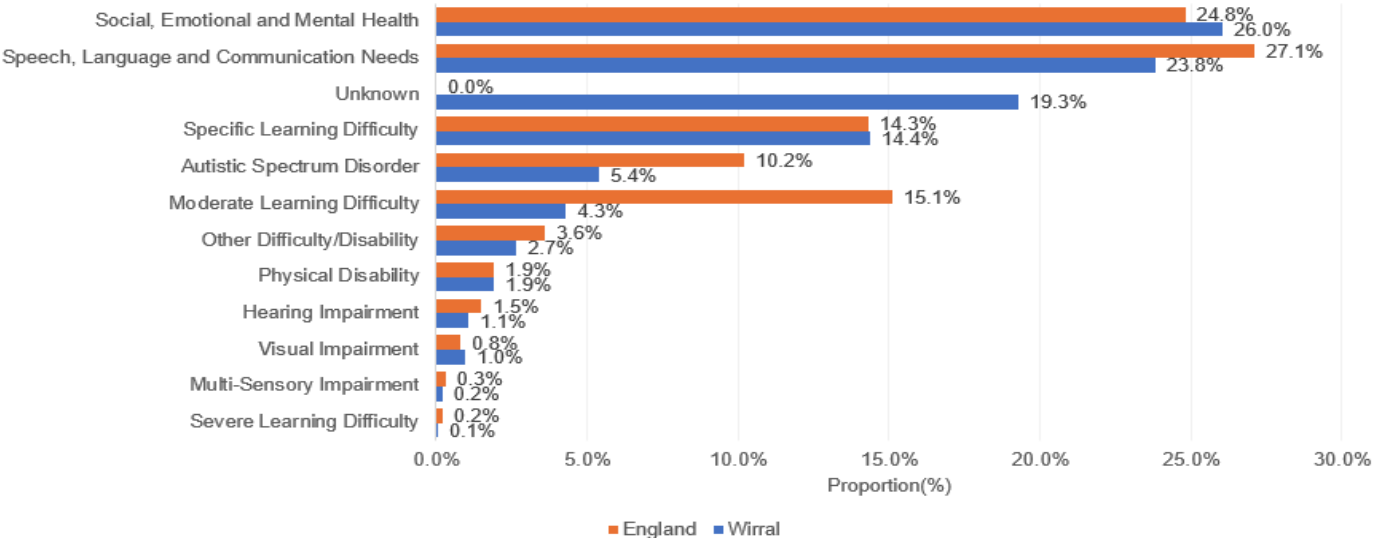
Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

Primary Need – SEN Support

The most common primary need type for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 28**) for Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, accounting for 26.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) of Primary needs, which compares to the rate in England at 24.8% ([Gov.UK](#)).

The only other area where Wirral reports higher than England is for Visual Impairment, with Wirral reporting 1.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) compared to 0.8% for England ([Gov.UK](#)). In contrast, the primary need of Moderate Learning Difficulty in Wirral, is recorded as 4.3% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) and this is a quarter of the England figure at 15.1%.

Figure 28: Proportion (%) of all SEN Support pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2026)



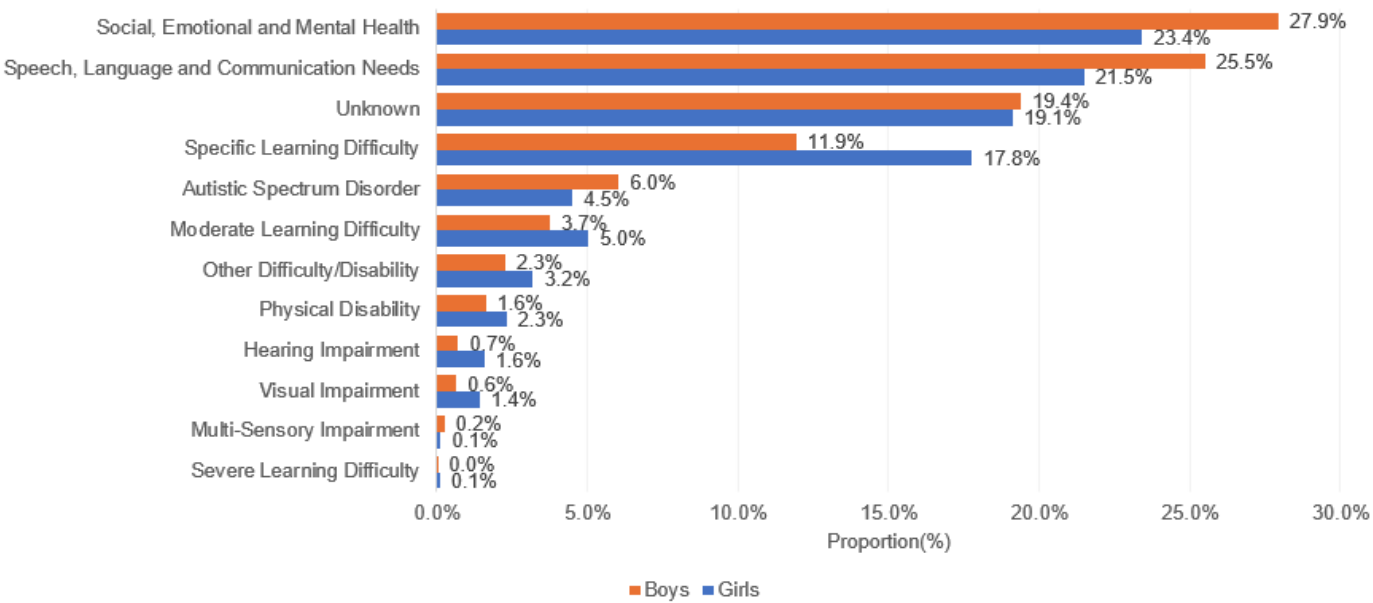
Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026) and [Gov.UK](#) (2026)
Note: Unknown - Live data/pre- School Census check.

When looking at the gender breakdown of primary needs for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 29**), there are noticeable differences. The highest frequency of primary needs for boys is Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. At 27.9% (Wirral School Census and Internal data), this accounts for nearly a third of all boy’s primary needs and is higher than that in girls, at 23.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

A similar disparity between genders can be seen within the Speech, Language and Communication Needs. In boys the rate is 25.5%, which is higher than the girls’ rate of 21.5%. In contrast, girls have higher proportion of pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD). Wirral girl’s rate for SLD is 17.8% compared to a boy’s rate of 11.9%. This is over double that seen within girl’s cohort.

Girl’s rate for primary need with Moderate Learning Difficulties is also higher at 5.0%, compared to the boy’s rate of 3.7% (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

Figure 29: Proportion (%) of all SEN Support pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

3.0 SEND Schools and Training

3.1 Schools

Wirral has 11 Special schools that provide education to children and young people with SEND ([SENDLO](#)).

In addition, there is the Wirral home and continuing education service and Wirral Hospitals’ school. **Map 1** show Wirral’s locations of the Special Schools on Wirral. These are:

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Postcode: CH46 1QY

- Serving children with: Specific Learning Difficulty, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulty.

Elleray Park School, Postcode: CH45 0LH.

- Serving children with: Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulty, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.

Foxfield School, Postcode: CH49 5LF.

- Serving children with: Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Severe Learning Difficulty, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.

Gilbrook School, Postcode: CH49 8HE.

- Serving children with: Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Hayfield School, Postcode: CH49 4LN.

- Serving children with: Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulty.

Kilgarth School, Postcode: CH41 8BA.

- Serving children with: Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Meadowside School, Postcode: CH49 5LA.

- Serving children with: Complex Learning Needs.

Orrets Meadow School, Postcode: CH46 9QQ.

- Serving children with: Specific Learning Difficulty, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Stanley School, Postcode: CH61 5UE.

- Serving children with: Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulty, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.

The Observatory School, Postcode: CH43 7QT.

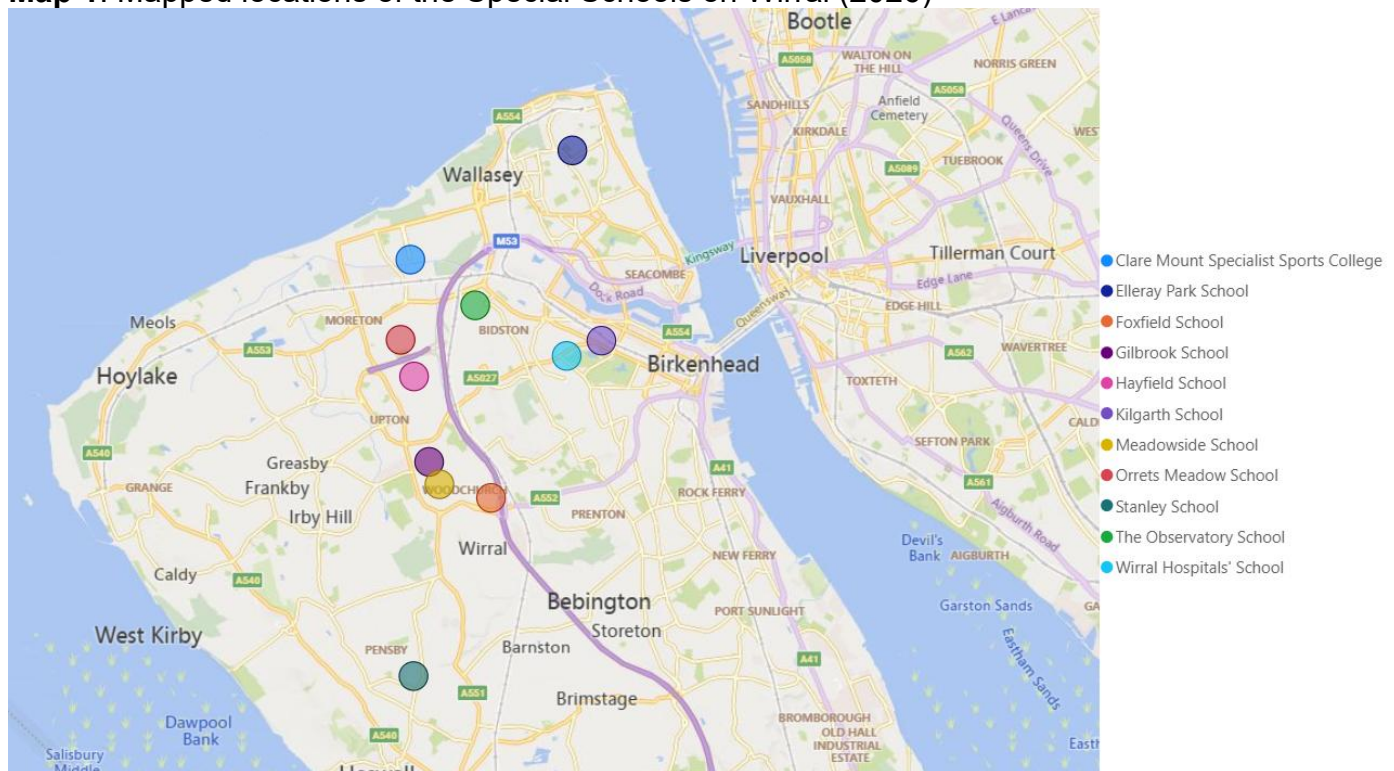
- Serving children with: Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

Wirral Hospitals' School, Postcode: CH41 0EZ

- Serving children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs.

The data show that the schools are clustered towards the middle of the Wirral, with the majority just west of the M53. This is seen in the **Map 1** below.

Map 1: Mapped locations of the Special Schools on Wirral (2026)



Source: Childrens Insight Team, Wirral Council (2026)

Wirral also has bases within mainstream schools which offer specialist provision to pupils with SEND.

Nursery Setting

- **Ganneys Meadow Nursery School and Family Centre** - Resourced provision and SEN unit
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulty

Primary Settings

- **Bidston Village CofE (Controlled) Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulty.
- **Co-op Academy Woodslee** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Moderate Learning Difficulty.
- **Devonshire Park Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication.
- **Eastway Primary School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- **Fender Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- **Leasowe Primary School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- **New Brighton Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Other Difficulty/Disability, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Physical Disability, Moderate Learning Difficulty.
- **Riverside Primary School** - Resourced provision and SEN unit
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication, Moderate Learning Difficulty.
- **St John's Catholic Junior School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- **St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Specific Learning Difficulty, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Moderate Learning Difficulty.
- **The Priory Parish CofE Primary School** - SEN unit
SEN Categories: Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
- **West Kirby St Bridget's CofE Primary School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Speech, language and Communication.

Secondary Settings

- **Co-op Academy Bebington** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Specific Learning Difficulty, Visual Impairment, Other Difficulty/Disability, Hearing Impairment, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Multi-Sensory.
- **Hilbre High School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Moderate Learning Difficulty

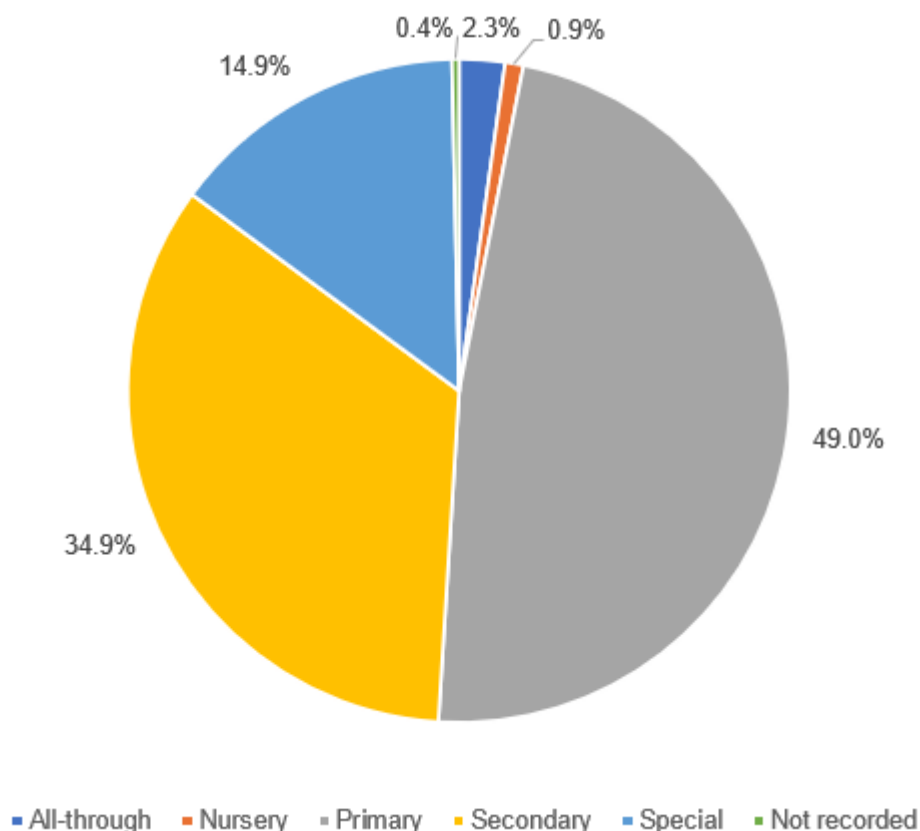
- **St Mary's Catholic College, A Voluntary Academy** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Specific Learning Difficulty, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Multi-Sensory.
- **The Oldershaw School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- **Woodchurch High School** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Moderate Learning Difficulty

3.2 Education Setting

When looking at the settings that all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (**Figure 30**), the majority attend a mainstream Primary School, with this making up 49.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) of where all SEND pupils are educated.

This compares to 34.9% attending mainstream Secondary, 14.9% attending a Special School, 2.3% attending all-through schools and 0.4% as not recorded (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

Figure 30: Proportion (%) of SEND pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

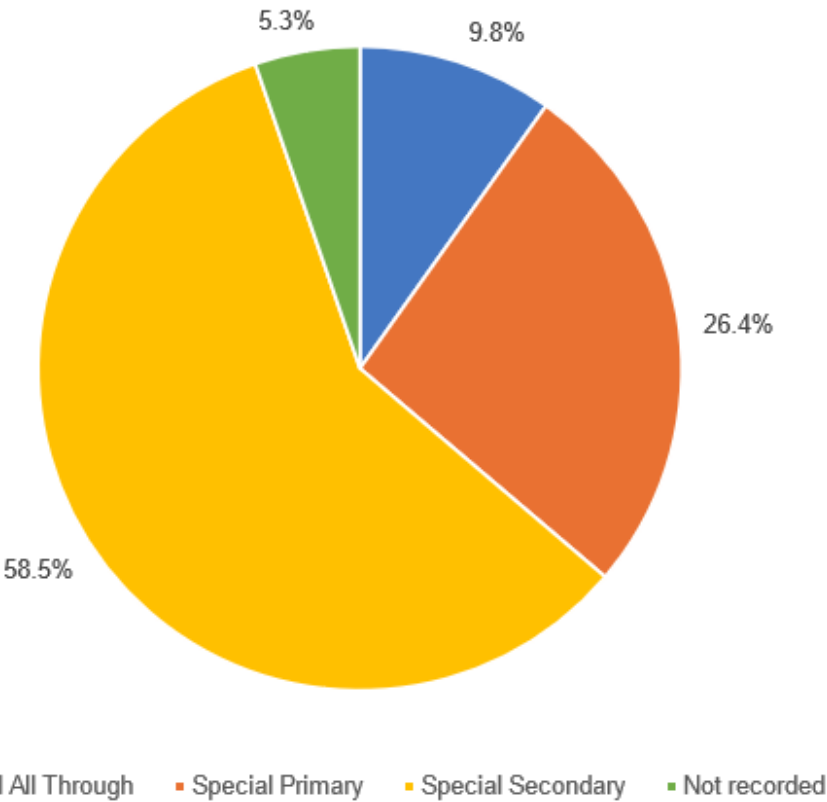
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to aged 18).
Unknown - Live data/pre- School Census check.

Currently 14.9% of all SEND pupils attend a special school as in **Figure 30** above.

A majority of Wirral pupils with SEND attend a special Secondary school (58.5%) (Wirral School Census) (**Figure 31**).

This compares to 26.4% attending Special Primary, then 9.8% at All-through school and 5.3% with a not recorded education setting (Wirral School Census).

Figure 31: Proportion (%) of SEND pupils in Wirral, by type of special school attended, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

Note: Unknown - Live data/pre- School Census check.

Table 10: Proportion (%) of all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), by ward and education setting type, 2026

Ward	All-through	Special	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Not Recorded
Bebington	0.9%	13.2%	0.4%	49.1%	36.0%	0.4%
Bidston and St James	2.9%	15.8%	0.4%	52.0%	28.6%	0.2%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1.8%	14.7%	0.8%	55.7%	26.9%	0.2%
Bromborough	0.9%	14.3%	0.7%	47.8%	36.1%	0.3%
Clatterbridge	1.1%	11.4%	0.4%	61.4%	25.7%	0.0%
Claughton	8.3%	11.8%	0.2%	47.5%	31.8%	0.4%
Eastham	0.6%	11.0%	0.2%	46.7%	41.3%	0.2%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	2.3%	10.4%	1.3%	49.0%	36.8%	0.3%
Heswall	2.5%	8.9%	0.6%	56.7%	30.6%	0.6%
Hoylake and Meols	3.8%	9.6%	1.0%	47.9%	37.7%	0.0%
Leasowe and Moreton East	1.3%	18.0%	0.8%	46.3%	33.3%	0.2%
Liscard	1.6%	18.4%	0.3%	45.4%	33.7%	0.5%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	2.5%	15.7%	0.2%	46.3%	35.0%	0.2%
New Brighton	1.3%	15.9%	0.5%	40.1%	41.9%	0.3%
Oxton	9.5%	11.9%	0.6%	43.1%	34.6%	0.3%
Pensby and Thingwall	1.4%	13.8%	0.5%	54.5%	29.8%	0.0%
Prenton	4.3%	15.9%	0.8%	44.6%	34.0%	0.4%
Rock Ferry	1.9%	16.9%	0.6%	47.9%	32.2%	0.6%
Seacombe	0.4%	17.8%	1.9%	47.7%	31.3%	0.9%
Upton	1.0%	14.1%	4.0%	45.5%	35.1%	0.3%
Wallasey	1.0%	15.5%	0.3%	38.0%	45.1%	0.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	1.8%	9.5%	0.6%	47.6%	40.2%	0.3%

Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to 18)

As detailed in **Table 10**, for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the Ward with the largest proportion of children and young people attending any special school education setting is Liscard, with 18.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

For pupils with SEND, attending a Mainstream Nursery, the largest percentage live in Upton Ward at 4.0% of the Wards with a SEND population.

For pupils with SEND and attending Mainstream Primary School, Clatterbridge, with 61.4%, has the highest percentage for Wards with a SEND population.

For Mainstream Secondary Schools with pupils attending with SEND, Wallasey Ward, with 45.1%, has the highest percentage.

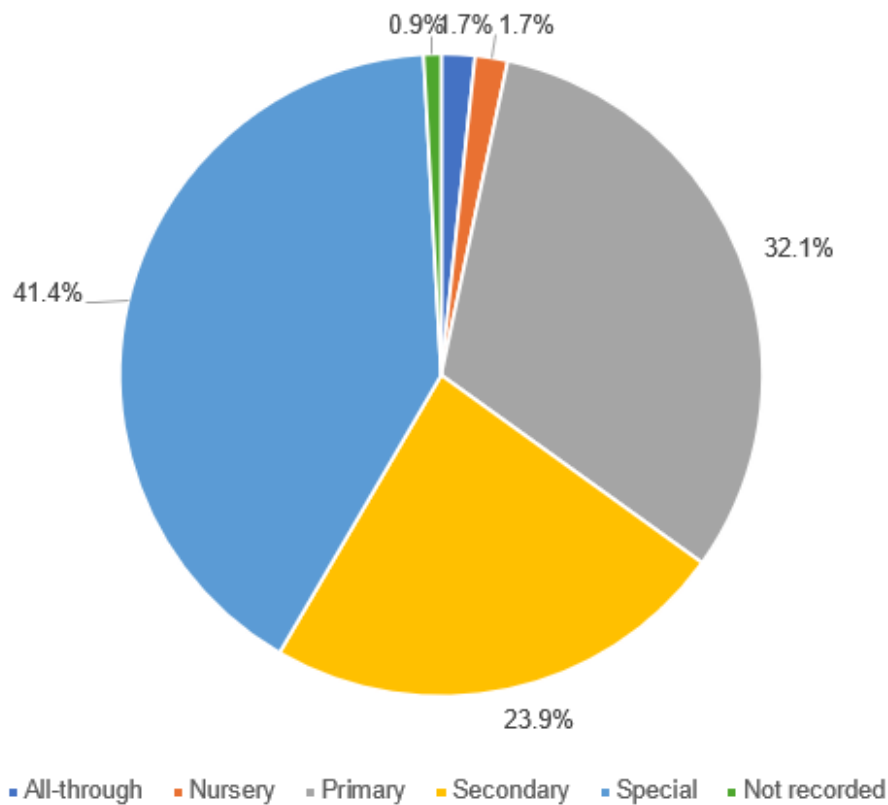
Education Setting – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), 41.4% attend a Special School.

Then 32.1% of pupils attend a Mainstream Primary, 23.9% a Mainstream Secondary, 1.7% a Mainstream Nursery, 1.7% the one Wirral all-through education setting and 0.9% not recorded.

This is illustrated in **Figure 32** below.

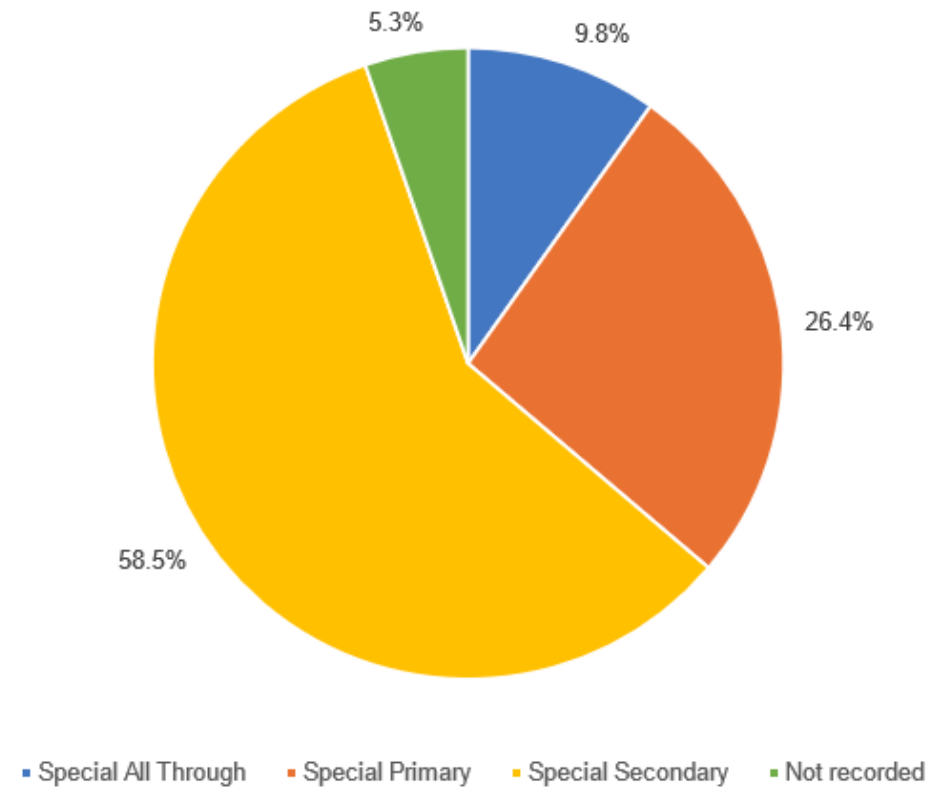
Figure 32: Proportion (%) of EHCP pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to aged 18)

Of the pupils that attend a Special school with an EHCP, **Figure 33** shows that the nearly two thirds attend Secondary school (58.5%) with Primary school seeing 26.4%, 9.8% attend All-thorough school with a small proportion recorded as not recorded (5.3%).

Figure 33: Proportion (%) of EHCP pupils in Wirral, by type of special school attended, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

Table 11 below shows that for pupils with an EHCP, the ward with the largest proportion attending a special school is Leasowe and Moreton East, with 47.6% (Wirral School Census and Internal data). For those attending a nursery school, then Upton, at 5.1% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) is the Ward with highest EHCP pupil population.

For those pupils attending a Primary School, the wards with highest EHCP population is Clatterbridge with 50.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

For those attending a secondary school, then the Ward is West Kirby and Thurstaston, with 32.1% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) with an EHCP pupil population.

Table 11: Proportion of all pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), by Wirral ward and education setting type (2026)

Ward	All-through	Special	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Unknown
Bebington	0.0%	35.0%	1.1%	39.0%	23.7%	1.1%
Bidston and St James	2.3%	46.2%	0.8%	28.3%	21.8%	0.5%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1.8%	43.7%	2.1%	32.0%	20.2%	0.3%
Bromborough	0.9%	35.5%	1.7%	33.3%	27.8%	0.9%
Clatterbridge	1.0%	31.0%	1.0%	50.0%	17.0%	0.0%
Claughton	4.5%	38.2%	0.6%	30.6%	24.8%	1.3%
Eastham	0.6%	29.8%	0.6%	38.2%	30.3%	0.6%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	0.9%	37.6%	4.6%	26.6%	29.4%	0.9%
Heswall	8.7%	30.4%	2.2%	47.8%	10.9%	0.0%
Hoylake and Meols	2.2%	30.1%	3.2%	41.9%	22.6%	0.0%
Leasowe and Moreton East	0.3%	47.6%	1.9%	26.5%	23.0%	0.6%
Liscard	1.2%	44.1%	0.4%	31.9%	21.3%	1.2%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	3.2%	40.5%	0.6%	31.6%	23.4%	0.6%
New Brighton	0.7%	40.7%	0.7%	31.0%	26.2%	0.7%
Oxton	7.3%	35.8%	1.8%	32.1%	22.0%	0.9%
Pensby and Thingwall	0.0%	46.4%	0.9%	31.8%	20.9%	0.0%
Prenton	1.6%	42.2%	1.6%	28.1%	25.4%	1.1%
Rock Ferry	2.2%	45.0%	0.9%	27.8%	22.5%	1.6%
Seacombe	0.5%	42.7%	1.8%	32.2%	20.8%	1.8%
Upton	1.0%	38.4%	5.1%	30.8%	24.0%	0.7%
Wallasey	1.0%	45.1%	1.0%	23.5%	29.4%	0.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	3.6%	28.6%	1.8%	33.0%	32.1%	0.9%

Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

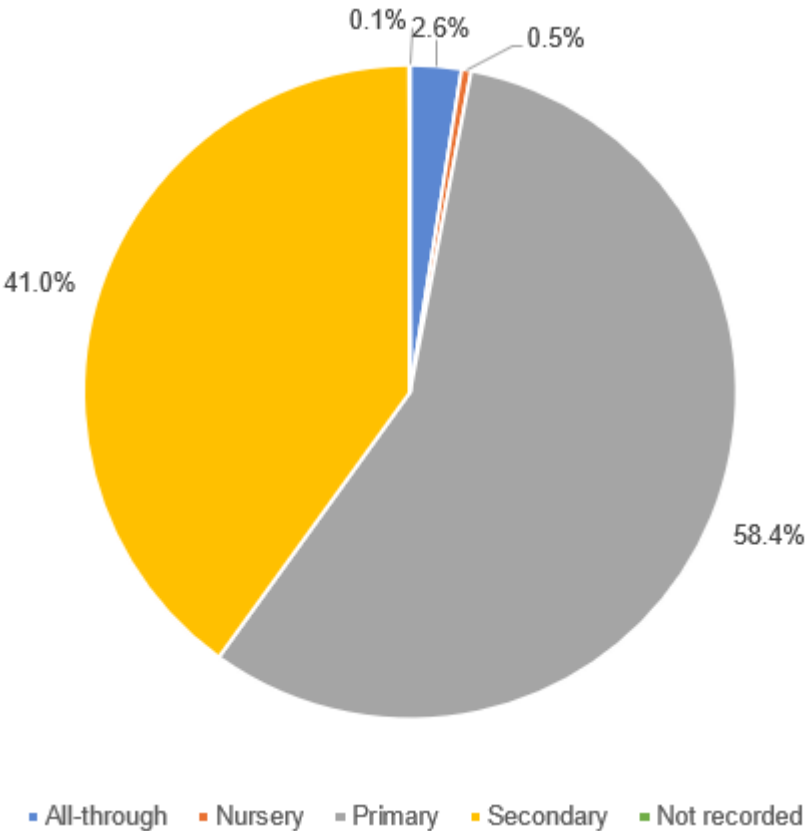
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to 18)

Education – SEN Support

As illustrated in **Figure 34**, of all pupils with SEN Support, the majority, 58.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data), attend a Primary School.

This rate compares to 41.0% in a Secondary School, 0.5% in a Nursery, 2.6% in All-through education and 0.1% not recorded (Wirral School Census and Internal data).

Figure 34: Proportion (%) of SEN Support pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to aged 18)

For pupils with SEN Support (**Table 12**), attending a Nursery is Upton, with 3.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) of the wards total SEN Support population.

Attending a Primary School is Clatterbridge Ward, with 68.0%, of the wards total SEN support population.

Attending a Secondary School is Wallasey Ward, with 53.3%, the wards total SEN Support population.

Table 12: Proportion of all pupils with SEN Support, by Wirral ward and education setting type (2026)

Ward	All-through	Nursery	Primary	Secondary
Bebington	1.4%	0.0%	55.3%	43.3%
Bidston and St James	3.2%	0.3%	64.4%	32.1%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1.8%	0.1%	67.7%	30.4%
Bromborough	0.9%	0.0%	57.5%	41.7%
Clatterbridge	1.2%	0.0%	68.0%	30.8%
Claughton	10.0%	0.0%	55.1%	34.9%
Eastham	0.7%	0.0%	51.7%	47.7%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	2.8%	0.0%	57.5%	39.6%
Heswall	0.0%	0.0%	60.9%	39.1%
Hoylake and Meols	4.5%	0.0%	50.8%	44.7%
Leasowe and Moreton East	1.9%	0.2%	58.3%	39.6%
Liscard	2.0%	0.3%	55.1%	42.7%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	2.0%	0.0%	55.6%	42.4%
New Brighton	1.8%	0.4%	45.8%	52.0%
Oxton	10.6%	0.0%	48.6%	40.8%
Pensby and Thingwall	1.9%	0.4%	64.1%	33.6%
Prenton	5.9%	0.3%	54.6%	39.2%
Rock Ferry	1.7%	0.4%	60.0%	38.0%
Seacombe	0.4%	1.9%	58.9%	38.9%
Upton	1.0%	3.4%	54.1%	41.6%
Wallasey	1.0%	0.0%	45.6%	53.3%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	0.9%	0.0%	54.9%	44.2%

Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal data (February 2026)

Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to 18).

There will be no Special School settings as a pupil with an EHCP and not SEN Support would attend a Special School. As data is sent directly from education settings, each pupil will have a known setting.

3.3 Free School Meals

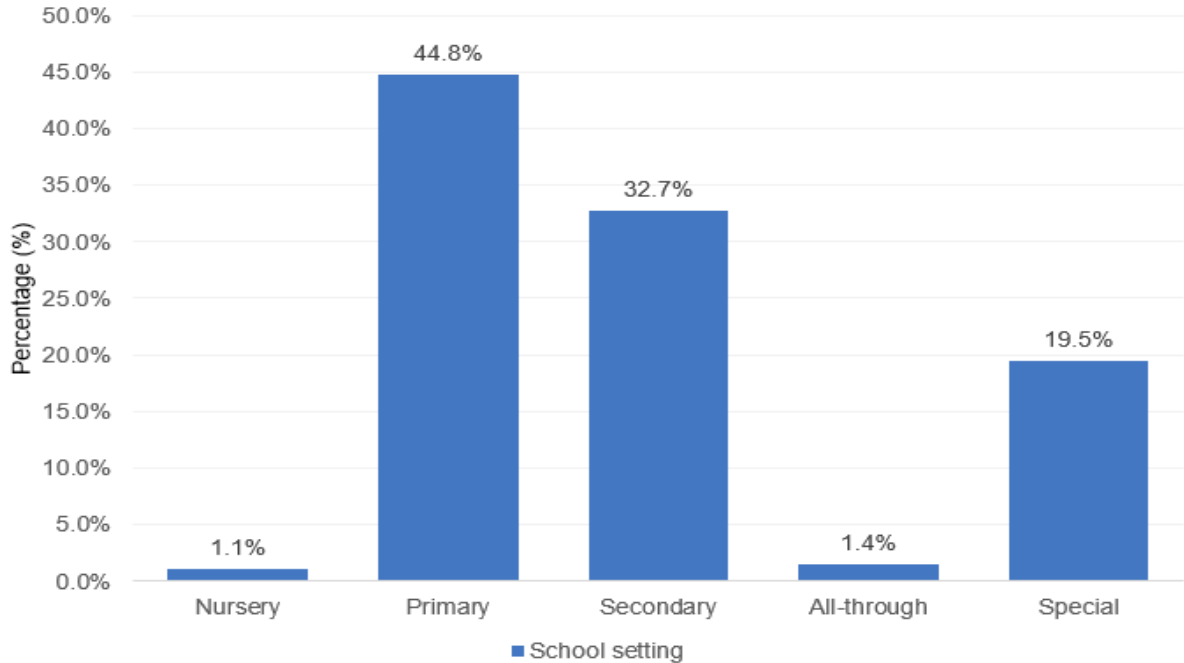
Free School Meals (FSM) are means tested and eligibility is assessed by Wirral on a set of criteria. Information on the Free School Meal criteria can be found on the Wirral.gov website: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/funding-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-pupil-premium>

For all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) on Wirral, 44.2% are eligible for FSM (Wirral School Census and Internal Data).

This compares to the full school pupil cohort, where 28.4% are eligible for FSM (Wirral School Census).

The largest proportion of pupils eligible, 44.8% of all eligible pupils, are based in Primary School setting (**Figure 35**) (Wirral School Census).

Figure 35: Percentage (%) of all SEND pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2026)

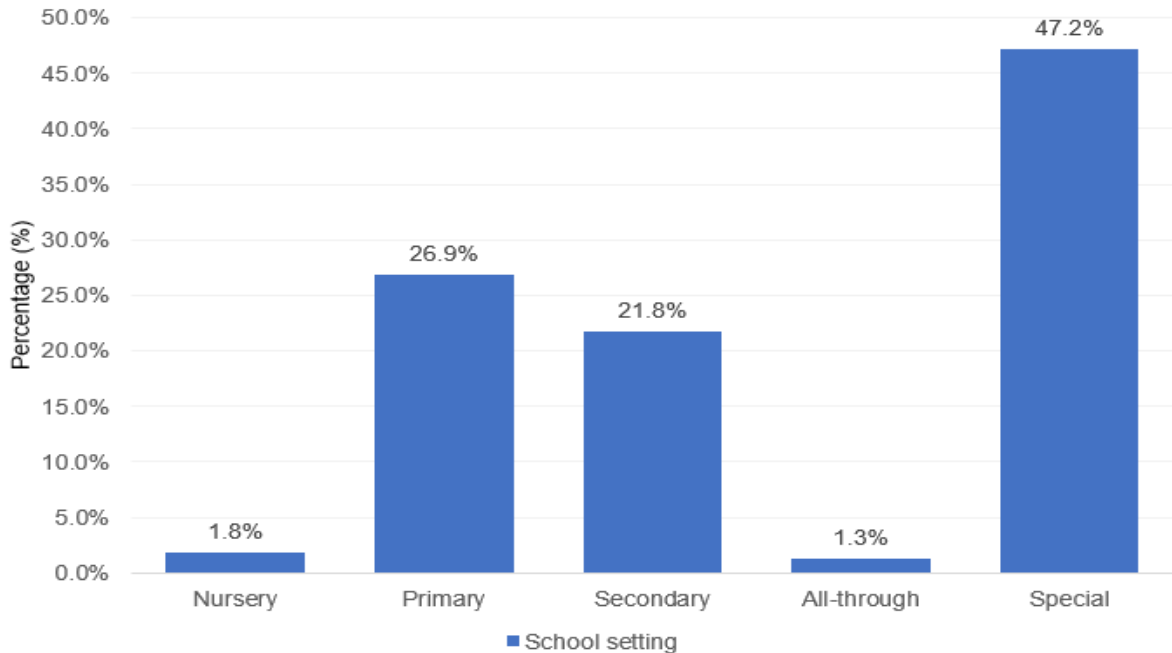


Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal Data (February 2026).
Note: 0.4% not recorded.

Free School Meals – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For those with an EHCP, 50.9% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) are eligible for Free School Meals. This rate is higher than the rate for pupils with SEN Support and higher than the overall pupil FSM rate of 28.4% (Wirral School Census). **Figure 36** shows most pupils eligible for FSM attend a Special school setting, with this accounting for 47.2% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) of all eligible. For England, in 2024/25, 43.8% of pupils with an EHCP are eligible for Free School Meals ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

Figure 36: Percentage (%) of all EHCP pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal Data (February 2026)
Note: 1.0% not recorded.

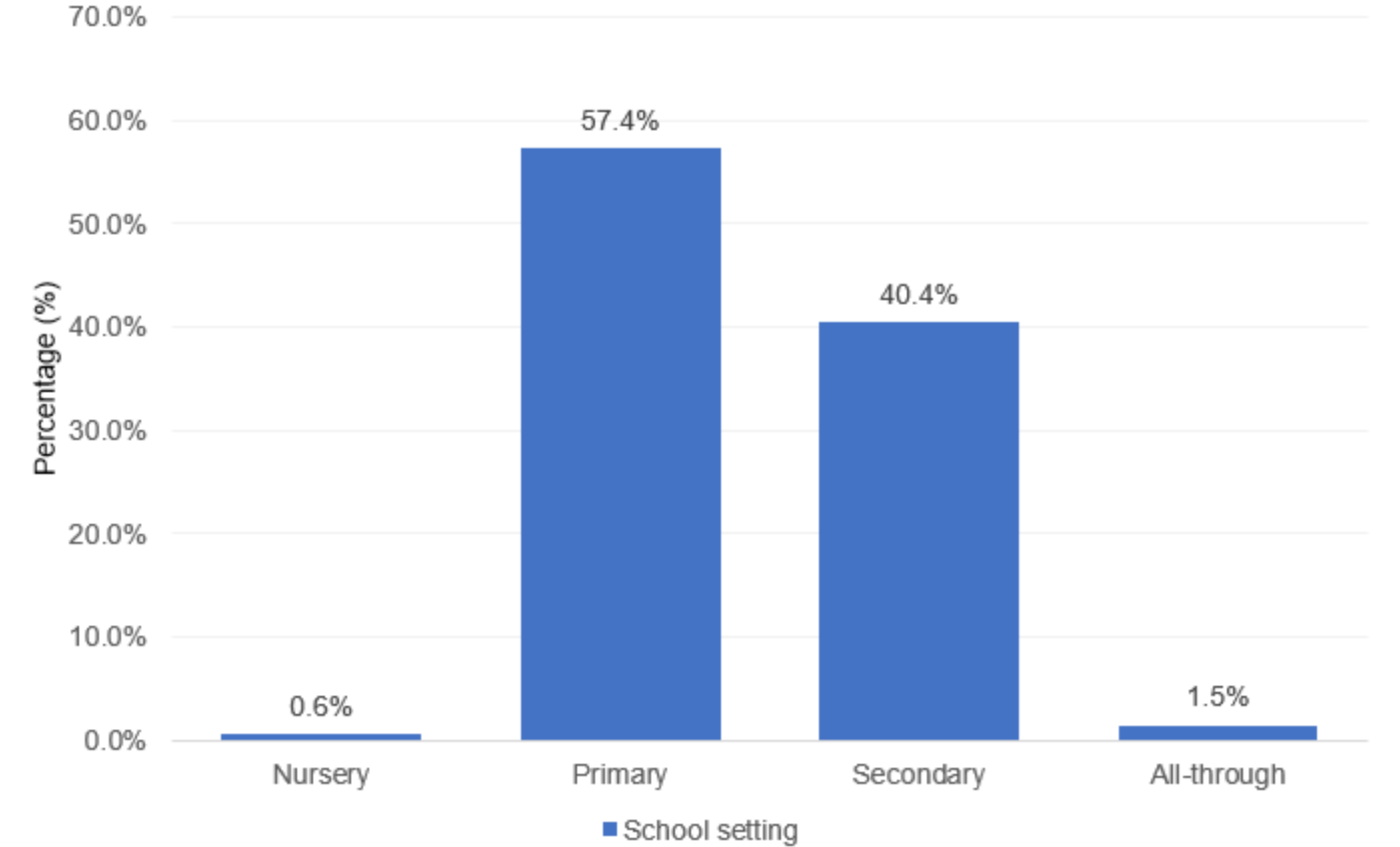
Free School Meals – SEN Support

The data suggests that those with SEN Support are more likely to be eligible for FSM.

Of those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support, 40.4% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). This compares to the overall Wirral pupil cohort which has an FSM rate of 28.4%.

Of all those eligible with SEN Support, **Figure 37** shows the majority, at 57.4% (Wirral School Census), attend a Primary School setting. For England, in 2024/25, 39.3% of pupils with SEN Support are eligible for Free School Meals ([Gov.UK](#)).

Figure 37: Percentage (%) of all SEN Support pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) and Internal Data (February 2026)
Note: 0.1% not recorded.

3.4 Attendance and Absence

For Academic Year 24/25 Attendance for pupils with SEND was 89.5 %. For pupils with an EHCP, attendance for Academic Year 24/25 was 85.7%. Of this Primary was 89.2%, Secondary was 78.1% and Special was 87.2%. For pupils with SEN Support, Academic Year 24/25 attendance was 89.5%. Of this, Primary was 92.5%, Secondary was 85.2% and Special was 69.2%.

EHCP Authorised Absence – SEND scorecard Data for December 2025. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the authorised absence rate is 7.3%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the authorised absence rate is 9.1%.

EHCP Unauthorised Absence – SEND scorecard Data for December 2025. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the unauthorized Absence rate is 2.8%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the unauthorized absence rate is 7.7%.

EHCP Persistent Absence (where attendance is 90% and below) - SEND scorecard Data for December 2025. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the persistent absence rate is 5.7%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the persistent absence rate is 6.9%.

3.5 Attainment

3.5.1 Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Key Stage 1 (Discontinued in 2023 KS1)

Key Stage 1 SATs have been non-statutory since the academic year 2023 to 2024. Schools do not need to administer key stage 1 tests or report results to parents or local authorities, and they will not be used for school accountability purposes.

It has been announced that the Standards and Testing Agency will no longer print and distribute KS1 test papers to schools in England from the academic year 2024 to 2025. There will also no longer be a requirement for schools to opt out of receiving papers.

[KS1 and KS2 SATs | National Education Union](#)

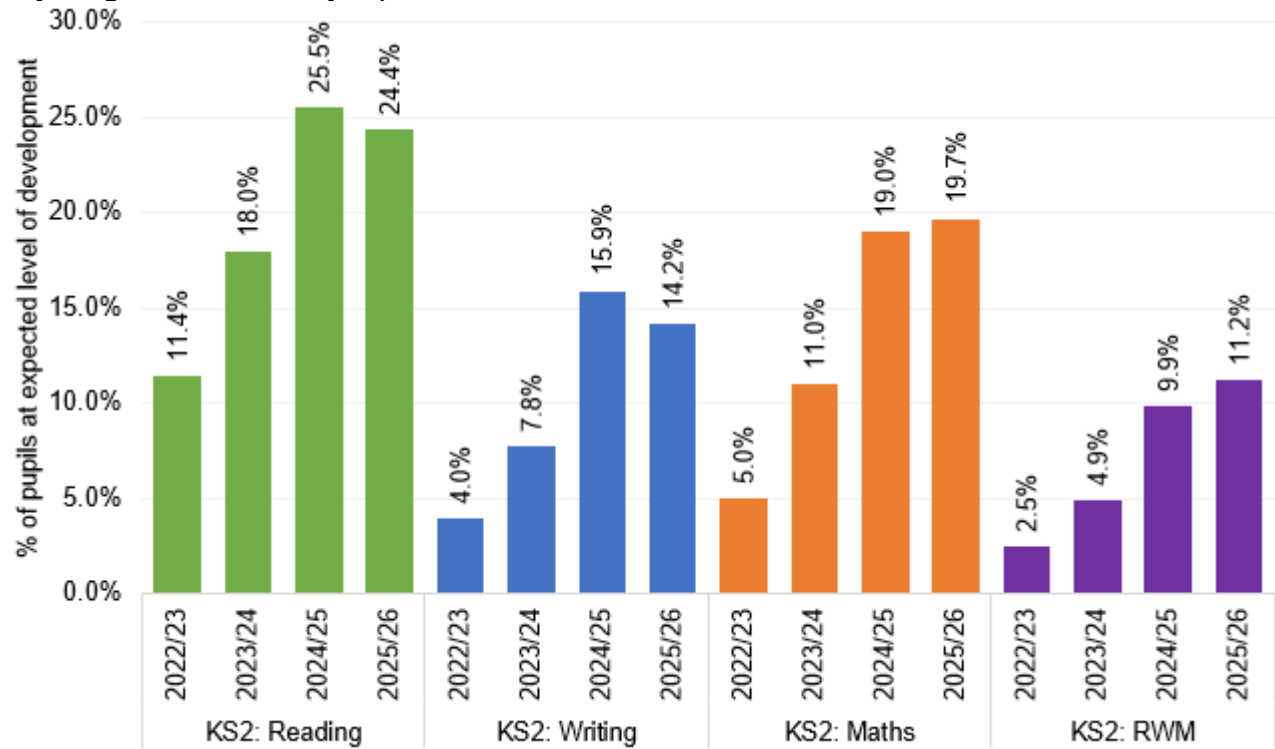
Key Stage 2

Figure 38 shows the proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 2 (KS2) was 24.4% (2025/26). This is slight decrease from 25.5% in 2024/25 but is higher than both 2022/23 (11.4%) and 2023/24 (18.0%).

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS2 was 14.2% (2025/26). This is a decrease from 15.9% in 2024/25 but still higher than both 2023/24 (7.8%) and 2022/23 (4.0%).

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS2 was 19.7% (2025/26). This is an increase from 19.0% in 2024/25 and 11% in 2023/24 and 5.0% in 2022/23. Overall, the proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development across all topics (reading, writing and maths), was 11.2% (2025/26), which is an increase from 9.9% in 2024/25, 4.9% in 2023/24 and 2.5% in 2022/23.

Figure 38: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP achieving the expected level of development at key stage 2 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2025/26



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2025)

Notes: RWM are those pupils that achieved the expected level of development in each one of Reading, Writing and Maths

3.5.2 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

Key Stage 1 (Discontinued in 2023 KS1)

Key Stage 1 SATs have been non-statutory since the academic year 2023 to 2024. Schools do not need to administer key stage 1 tests or report results to parents or local authorities, and they will not be used for school accountability purposes.

It has been announced that the Standards and Testing Agency will no longer print and distribute KS1 test papers to schools in England from the academic year 2024 to 2025. There will also no longer be a requirement for schools to opt out of receiving papers. [KS1 and KS2 SATs | National Education Union](#)

Key Stage 2

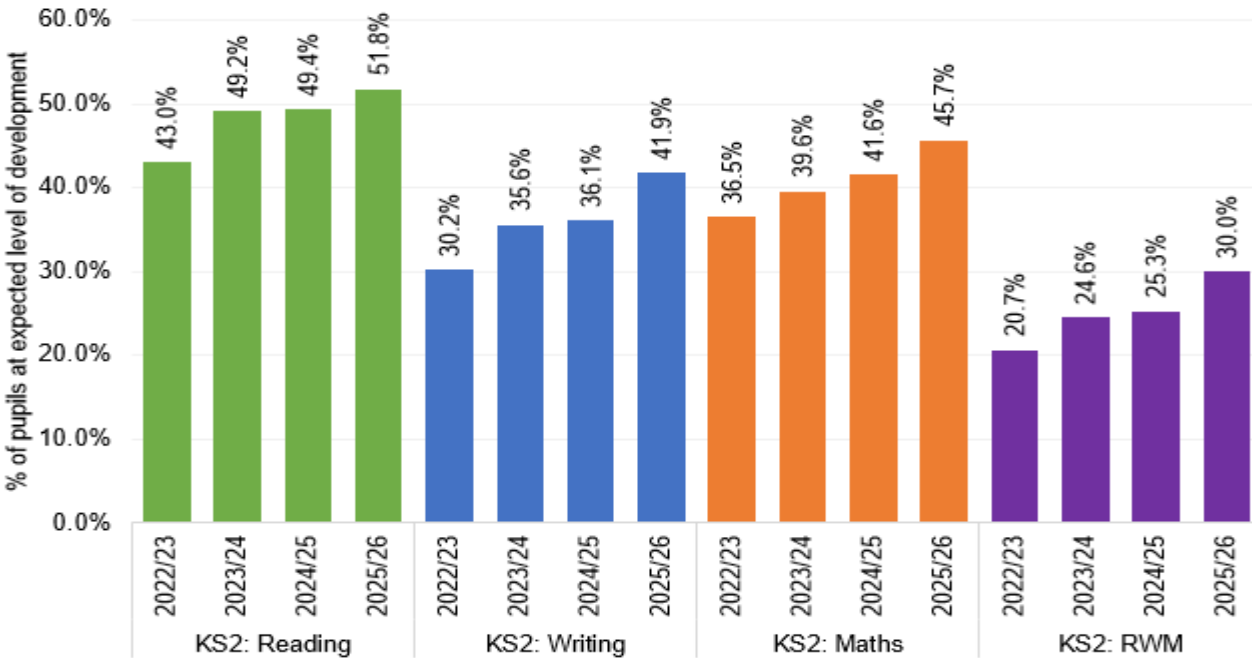
Figure 39 shows the proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 2 (KS2) was 51.8% (2025/26). This is an increase from 49.4 in 2024/25, 49.2% 2023/24 and 43.0% in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS2 was 41.9% (2025/26). This is an increase from 36.1% in 2024/25, 35.6% in 2023/24 and 30.2% achieved in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS2 was 45.7% (2025/26). This is an increase from 41.6% in 2024/25, 39.6% in 2023/24 and 36.5% achieved in 2022/23.

Overall, the proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development across all topics (reading, writing and maths), was 30.0% (2025/26), an increase from 25.3% in 2024/25, 24.6% in 2023/24 and 20.7% in 2022/23.

Figure 39: Percentage of pupils with SEN support achieving the expected level of development at key stage 2 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2025/26



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2025)

Notes: RWM are those pupils that achieved the expected level of development in each one of Reading, Writing and Maths

Attainment KS2

- **The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths and have an EHCP is 12% (2025).** This rate is up from 10% in 2024 and is the highest percentage recorded in the last 10 years. Comparing this rate to England shows that the Wirral rate is significantly higher than the England average. For England, the latest rate is 9%, which is the same as 2024 (9%).
- **Key stage 2 Progress score for SEN Statement/EHCP pupils – Reading.** The latest Wirral rate is -4.01%, which is an improvement from -6.08% in 2022 but down from -3.0% in 2017. Compared to the England average, Wirral is the similar, with both being -4.36%. However, the England rate has improved since -3.8% in 2018 and - 3.7% in 2017.
- **Key stage 2 Progress score for SEN Statement/EHCP pupils – Writing.** The latest Wirral rate is -5.44%. This rate come after an improvement from -6.18% in 2022 but remains higher than the England rate of -4.41% (2023).
- **Key stage 2 Progress score for SEN Statement/EHCP pupils – Maths.** The latest Wirral rate is -4.36, which is the higher as the rate for England (-4.12). However, the Wirral rate has improved from -5.78% in 2022. Over the same period, the England rate has increased from - 3.88%. It can be noted though that in 2017, the Wirral rate was -3.1%, compared to -4.1% in England.

Pupil progress is calculated by working out the difference between the pupil’s actual key stage 2 outcome and the average key stage 2 outcome for the other pupils nationally. Figures closer to zero show progress closer to the national average. Negative figures are below the national average, whilst positive figures are above the national average.

Reference: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

Attainment 8

- The average attainment 8 score per pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with SEN Support on Wirral is 34.9%. This rate shows an increase from 32.0% in 2024 but still lower than 40.5% recorded in 2021. The Wirral rate remains higher than the England average, which is 33.8% in 2025. Like the Wirral rate, the England rate is also on a downward trend, reducing from 36.7% in 2021 but with a slight uptick in reporting from 2024 (33.1%) to 33.8% in 2025.
- The average attainment 8 score per pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with an EHCP on Wirral is 16.2%, which is the highest recorded since 2016 (20.2%). Compared to England, which has a rate of 14.8% (2025).

Attainment 8 scoring: Measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. It aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4.

Reference: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

Progress 8

- The average Progress 8 score per pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with SEN support is -0.54, which is a downward trend from -0.29 in 2018 and moves the Wirral rate away to that in England, which is -0.45 in 2024. Whilst the Wirral rate has trended down, the England rate has stayed stable at -0.43 since 2017.
- The average Progress 8 score per pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with EHCP is -0.99. This is on an upward trend from -1.12 in 2019 and -1.03 in 2023. However, the Wirral rate is currently closer to zero than that in England, where the rate is -1.13. The England rate also ticking upwards, although at -1.03 in 2016 and -1.09 in 2018 is not moving at a rate as high as that in Wirral.

For both Progress 8 scores, the closer to zero, the better the progress is being made.

The progress 8 score: is a relative measure, therefore the national average Progress 8 score is close to zero for mainstream schools. When including pupils at special schools, the national average is not zero as progress across for Special Schools are calculated using attainment 8 estimates based on pupils in mainstream schools.

Reference: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

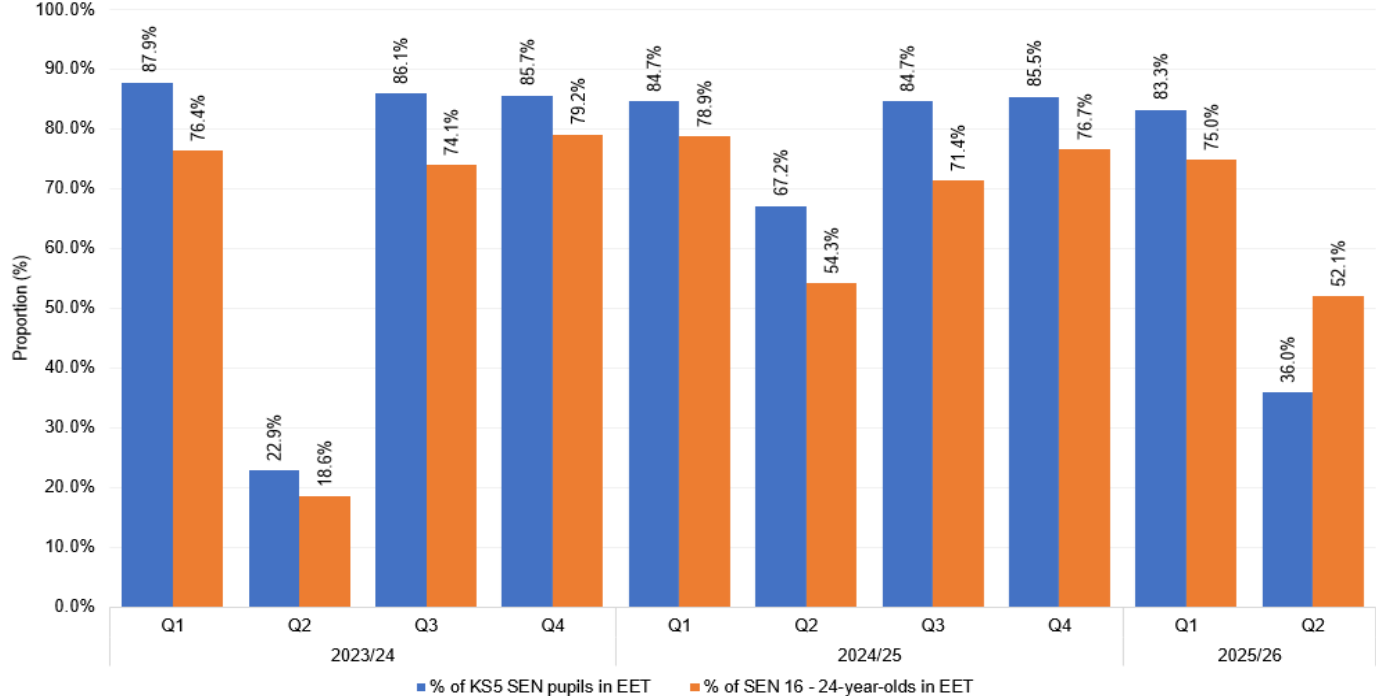
3.6 Engagement in education, employment and training (EET)

As illustrated in **Figure 40**, the current rate of all SEND children and young people, who are in Key Stage 5 (KS5) year, that are Engaged in education, employment and training (EET) is 36.0% (Q2 2025/26). This is lower than England rate (87.7%, Quarter 3 2025/26).

For those children and young people aged 16 – 24 the rate increases to 52.1% (Q2 2025/26) (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document) which is similar to the England rate of 55.7% (Quarter 3 2025/26). It is worth noting that in Quarter 2, for the three reporting periods noted, has always had the lowest percentage (%) for EET for both categories as shown in **Figure 40**.

The rate for young SEN people who are aged 16-24 and identified as EET has seen rates stable over the last 24 months (around 75%) of data (excluding quarter 2 in each reporting year) and is not showing the same low levels that were seen in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document).

Figure 40: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are EET in Wirral, Q1 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26



Source: Wirral (N)EET Report - Internal Document (2025)

Table 13a below shows the rates of young Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support people, who are KS5 and identified as EET. This has fluctuated between a low of less than 25% in Q2 23/24, to a high of 87.9% in Q1 23/24 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document). Decreases only accrue in the month of September for 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26. The average for all other months is over 85%.

Table 13a: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are EET in Wirral, Q1 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26

Catergory	Q1 23/24	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 24/25	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 25/26	Q2
% of KS5 SEN pupils in EET	87.9%	22.9%	86.1%	85.7%	84.7%	67.2%	84.7%	85.5%	83.3%	36.0%
% of SEN 16 - 24-year-olds in EET	76.4%	18.6%	74.1%	79.2%	78.9%	54.3%	71.4%	76.7%	75.0%	52.1%

Source: Wirral (N)EET Report - Internal Document (2025)

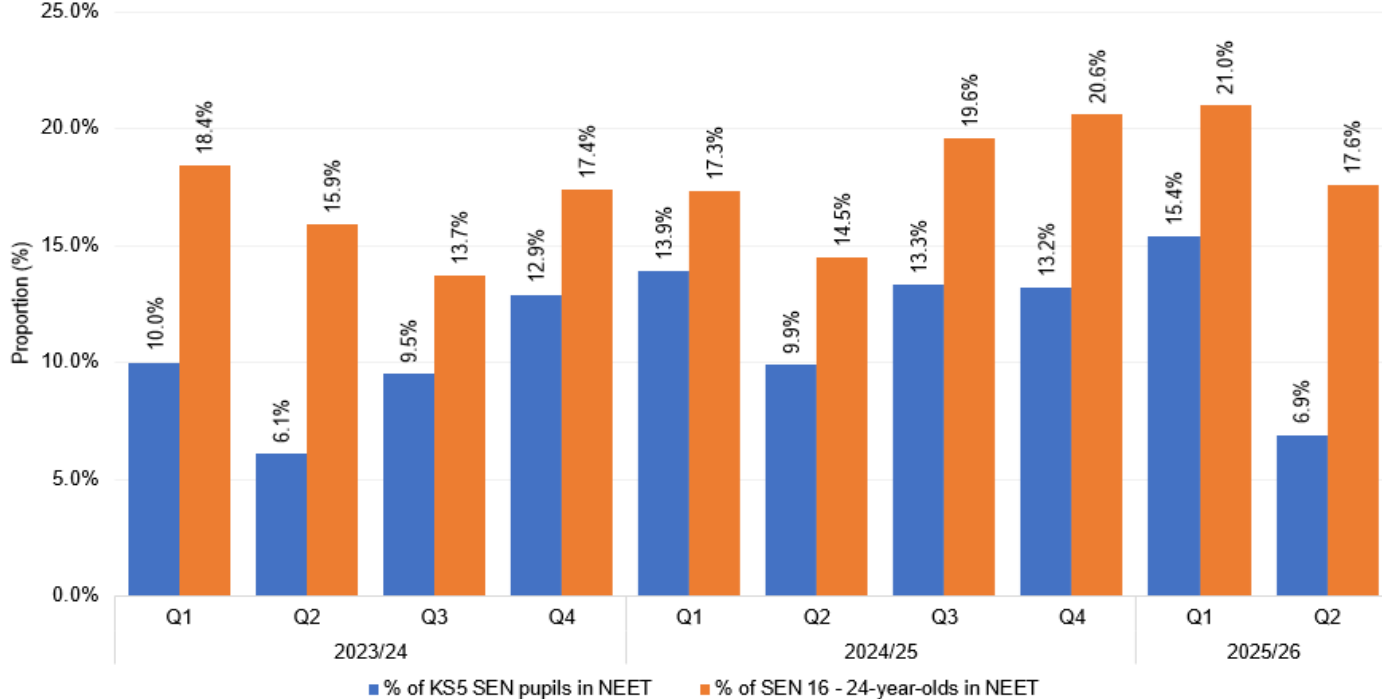
Note: The totals for EET may not add up to 100% and this is due to where activity is not known.

3.7 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

As illustrated in **Figure 41**, the current rate of all SEN children and young people who are in Key Stage 5 (KS5) year who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is 6.9% (Q2 2025/26) which it higher than England rate (8.8%, March 2024).

For those children and young people aged 16 – 24 the rate increases to 17.6% (Q2 2025/26) (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document) which is higher than the England rate of 12.8% (ONS, Oct-Dec 2025).

Figure 41: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Wirral, Q1 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26



Source: Wirral (N)EET report - Internal Document year (2025)

Table 13b below shows the rates of young Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support people, who are KS5 and identified as NEET. This has fluctuated between a low of less than 7% in Q2 23/24, to a high of 15.4% in Q1 25/26 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document). Decreases only accrue in the month of September for 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26. The average for all other months is over 12.5%.

Table 13b: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are NEET in Wirral, Q1 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26

Caterygory	Q1 23/24	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 24/25	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 25/26	Q2
% of KS5 SEN pupils NEET	10.0%	6.1%	9.5%	12.9%	13.9%	9.9%	13.3%	13.2%	15.4%	6.9%
% of SEN 16 - 24-year-olds NEET	18.4%	15.9%	13.7%	17.0%	17.3%	14.5%	19.6%	20.6%	21.0%	17.6%

Source: Wirral (N)EET Report - Internal Document (2025)

Note: The totals for NEET may not add up to 100% and this is due to where activity is not known.

The data in **Figure 41** show that the rates of young SEN people that are NEET in KS5 has fluctuated over the past two years between 15.4% in Q1 2025/26 to 6.1% in Q2 2023/24 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document).

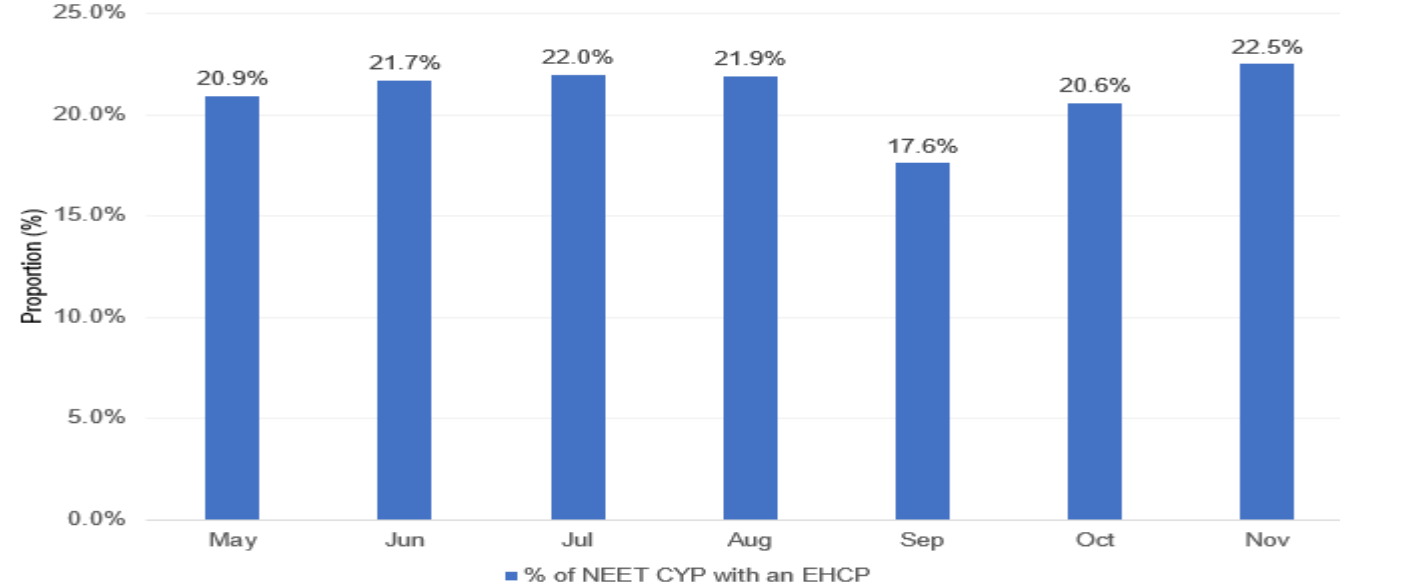
The percentage of young SEN people aged 16 – 24 that are NEET has fluctuated between over 21.0% in Q1 2025/26 to a low of 13.7% in Q3 2023/24. The trend in the last four reported quarters is showing an upward tick to 21% excluding Q2 drop to 17.7% (as shown above).

Children and Young People who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)

A new metric, as shown below in **Figure 42** below, shows the percentage of not in employment, education or training (NEET) Children and Young People (CYP) with and Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). Figures for the last seven months show on average 21% of CYP are NEET with an EHCP in 2025/26.

With the exclusion of September 2026 performance (17.6%) all other months are reporting over 20% activity.

Figure 42: Percentage of Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Children and Young People with an EHCP May to November 2025



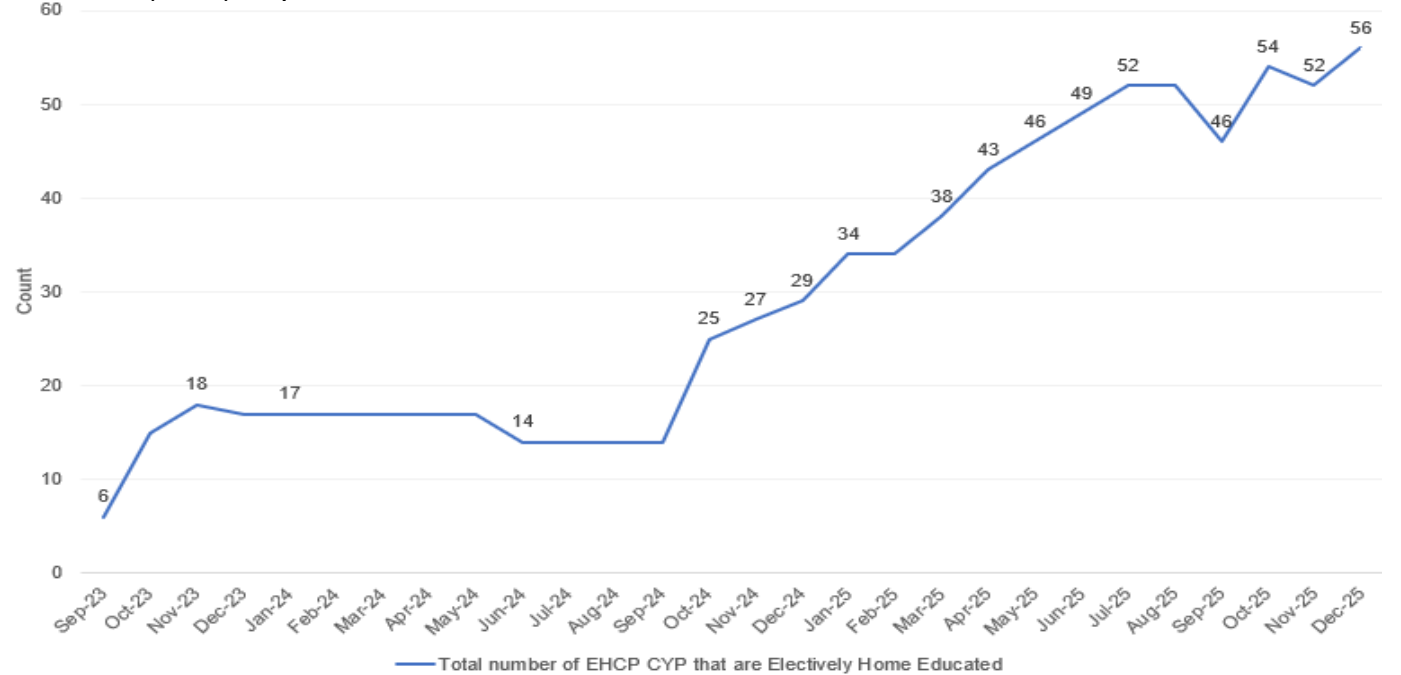
Source: Wirral (N)EET report - Internal Document year (2025)

3.8 Electively Home Educated (EHE)

Figure 43 below shows the number of Children and Young People with and EHCP who are Electively Home Educated (EHE).

The figures show that since September 2023 that the numbers (although small) have been steadily increasing. Between October 2023 and September 2024, the figures remained stable around 17 per month for EHE. Since September 2024, the figures have increased nearly month on month to a high of 56 in December 2025.

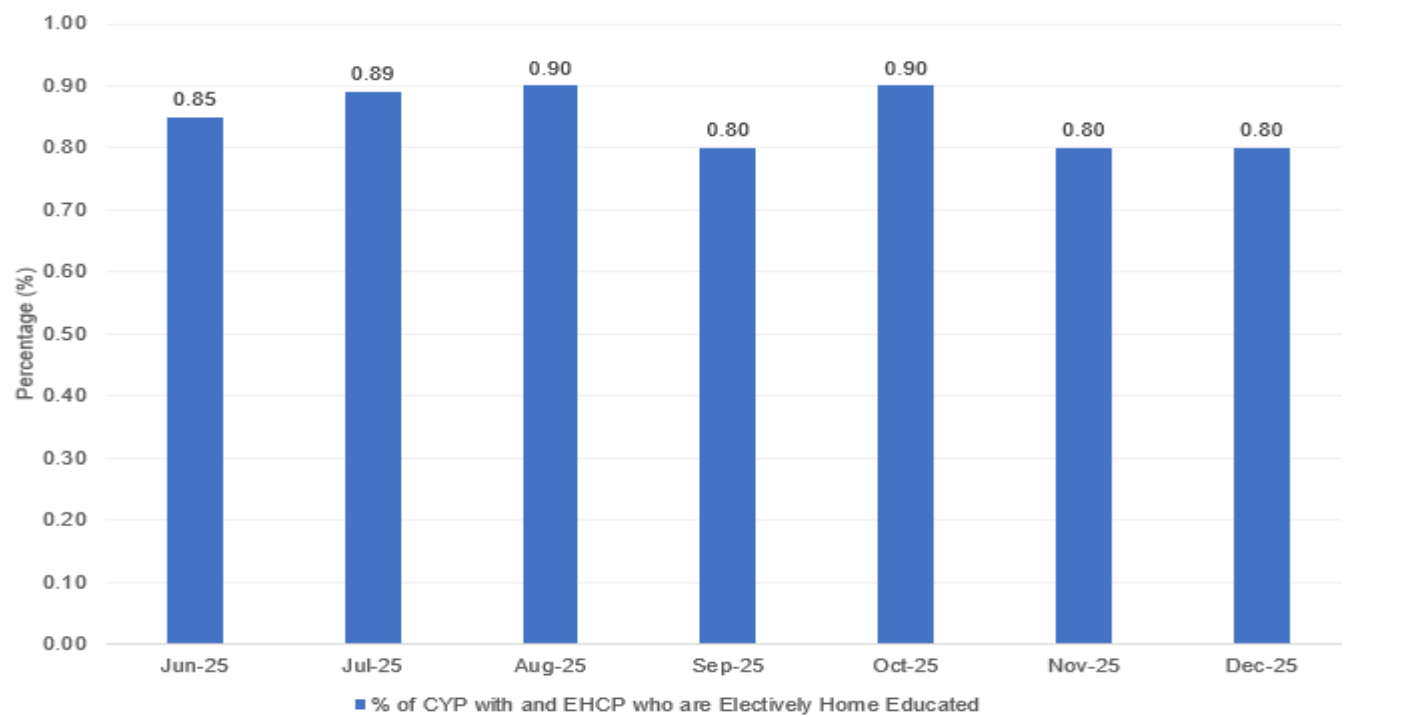
Figure 43: Total number of EHCP Children and Young People (CYP) that are Electively Home Educated (EHE) September 2023 to December 2025



Source: Wirral (N)EET report - Internal Document year (2025)

Although the number of children with EHCP EHE has increased for overall in the last two and a half years, **Figure 44** below shows that the percentages of these EHE pupils has remained fairly static for the last seven months with an average of 0.85% of children electively home educated with and EHCP.

Figure 44: Percentage of CYP with an EHCP that are Electively Home Educated (EHE) June 2026 to December 2026



Source: Wirral (N)EET report - Internal Document year (2025)

3.9 Permanently Excluded

Total Number of Special School permanent exclusions

There were no permanent exclusions (PEX) from special schools recorded across the entire period from May to December 2025, with activity remaining consistently at zero each month. This indicates a sustained and stable position.

Total Number of Mainstream School PEX for students with an EHCP

The number of permanent exclusions for pupils with an EHCP in mainstream schools remained low overall, fluctuating between 0 and 2 cases per month. Following a stable position of one case per month from May to August, there was a dip to zero in September, a slight rise in October and November, and a return to zero in December.

Total Number of PEX students with an EHCP in day 6 provision

The number of pupils with an EHCP accessing day 6 provision following PEX started at a consistently high level of six between May and August, before dropping sharply to two in September. This was followed by a gradual increase to four by November and December.

4.0 Social Care

4.1 Services

Wirral has a Children with Disabilities Social Work Team. The services provided are to support children in need and their families who have severe or substantial disabilities. Specifically, severe or profound learning disability, severe physical disability, substantial degree of visual impairment, moderate and severe hearing loss and a Complex Autistic Spectrum Condition with severe learning difficulty, (a diagnosis of Autism or Autism Spectrum Condition does not of itself meet the criteria for the service), complex medical health condition, (for the youngest children with complex health needs or technological dependence there will usually be involvement from the Continuing Care Co-ordinator).

The criteria do not include children whose primary identified needs are emotional and behavioural difficulties, nor will it include children/young people with mental health problems or attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The specialist social work and support services for children with disabilities are prioritised for children with substantial levels of disability only. Children with moderate conditions, albeit ones which present families with challenging behaviours to manage, should be viewed as children in need of 'mainstream' support available on a preventative basis through Targeted Services. Children with special educational needs arising from conditions diagnosed as learning disorders of a mild/moderate nature are unlikely to be viewed as fitting the criteria if their difficulties are related to limited communication – behaviour management needs alone without accompanying severe learning difficulties; Children with Asperger Syndrome are not eligible for specialist respite support unless they present extra ordinary management challenges to their families such as to need quite specialist and structured support. Children with Attention Deficit Disorder would not be seen as meeting the overall criteria for specialist services.

Families in need of support with children with such conditions as described above are provided with support through Wirral CYP Mental Health Services (formerly CAMHS), this service can assess situations. Where that proves insufficient and respite is required, they can refer in according to the above criteria.

Services available to those children and young people eligible for services from the Children with Disabilities Team; Willowtree Short Breaks for young people aged between 8 and 17 years old and has a complex learning and/or physical disability which cannot be supported via family placement. Family Support specialises in planned, time-limited support for young people who have complex disabilities, providing tailor made support to assist families in meeting the unique challenges of living with complex disability. This support is provided in family homes, school settings and local community activities.

Transition Services are a continuation and extension to the Children with Disability Service within the Children and Young People's Department. Their allocated Social Worker will work with the young person and their family to assess eligibility for on-going support from Adult Services, together with any relevant support from Health and other partner agencies. Involvement from the service will continue until completion of school education provision and the young person's circumstances are settled to allow transfer onto the appropriate Adult Services Team.

The service also works closely with Locality Children's Services and Child in Care Teams. Where it is identified that a young person is likely to require support into their adulthood.

For Children with Disabilities, then social workers will support locality social workers to work collaboratively to ensure all preparatory work is undertaken to enable a smooth transition from Children to Adult Services on their 18th birthday.

Data shows that in December 2025, 41.8% (Wirral Capita One report, internal data) of Children and Young people were receiving support from Social Care as a Child Looked After having been identified as SEND.

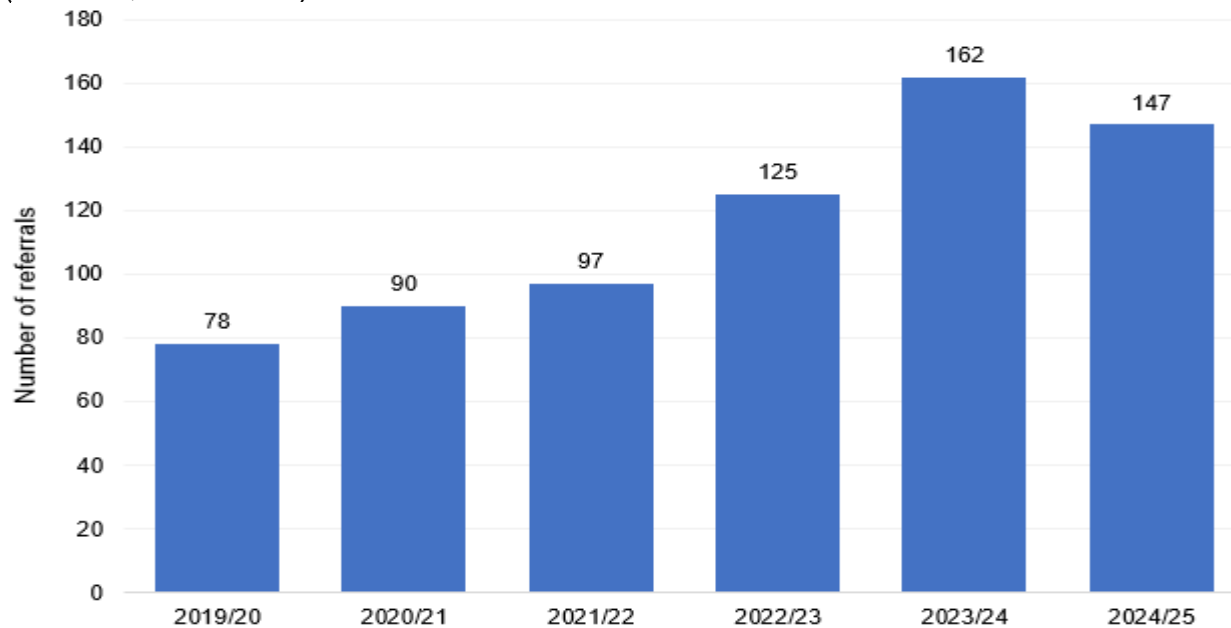
Also 37.1% (Wirral Capita One report, internal data) of Children and Young people that were 'Open to Social Care' and in Child Protection have been identified as SEND.

4.2 Referrals and Contacts

Of the referrals started, they are categorised at this point for the referral category of need. From this, it can be identified if the referral has a category of need which is 'Child N2 Disability'. This is then further specified by adding a contact category.

As the data suggests in **Figure 45** below, the number of children with a referral starting with a category of need being 'Child N2 Disability' has increased year on year from 2019/20 to 2023/24. 2024/25 saw a slight decrease on the previous year down from 162 (23/24) to 147 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 45: Number of referrals starting, where the category of need is 'Child N2 Disability', per year (2019/20, to 2024/25)



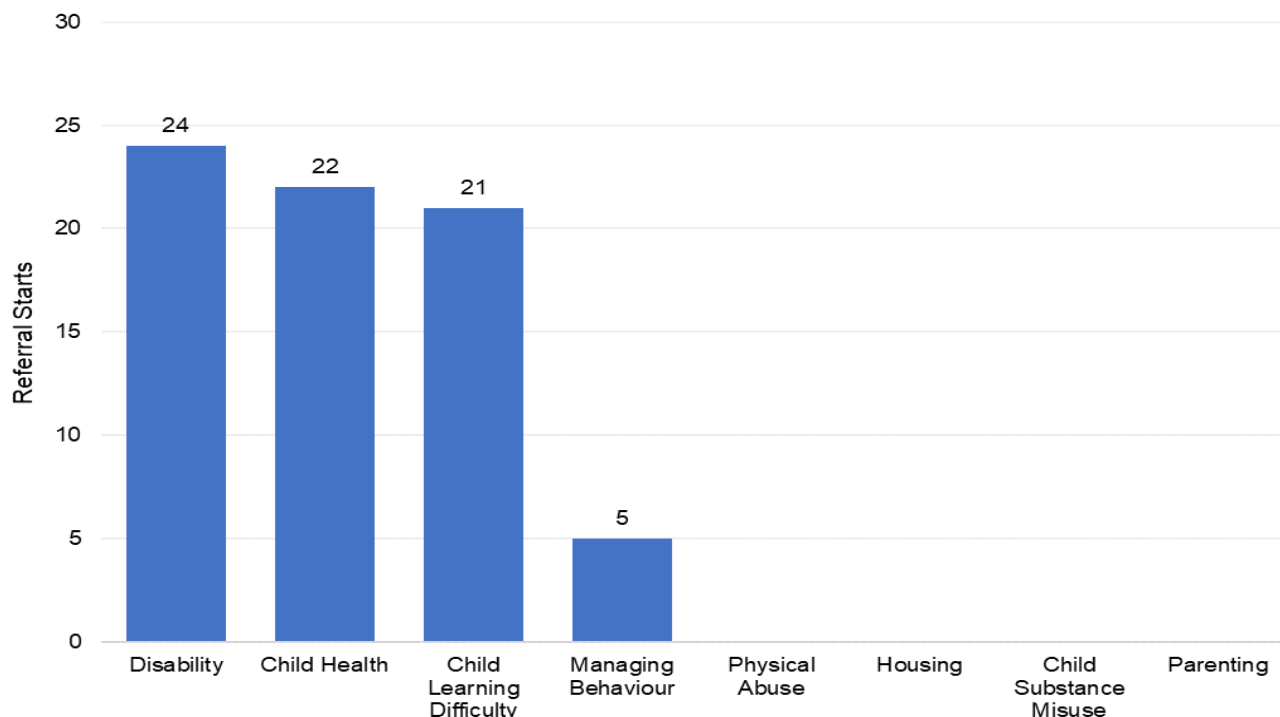
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

Of the referrals starts within the disability category on need, the contact category provides more insight. Child Health, Disability and Child learning difficulty make up the top three referrals since 2019/20 to 2024/25.

Figure 46, Figure 47, Figure 48, Figure 49, Figure 50 and Figure 51 show the Contact Category for Referral starts for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

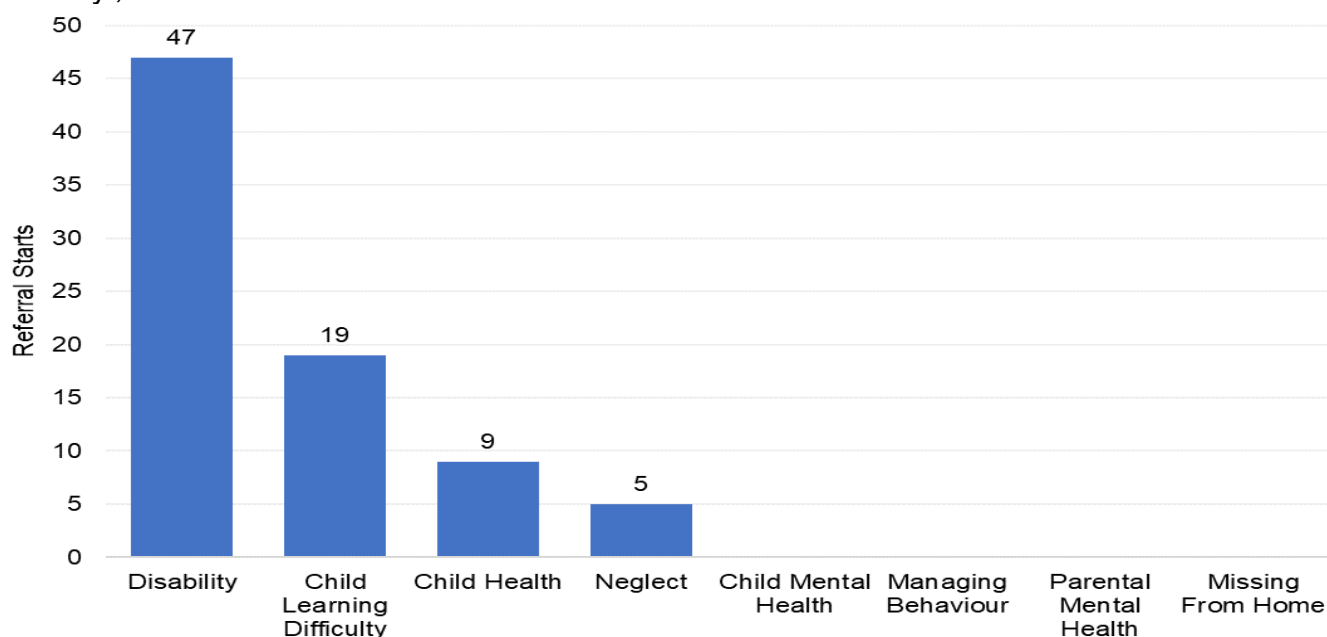
Please note numbers with a count under 5 have been removed and as such some categories will appear to have no data (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 46: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’, in **2019/20**



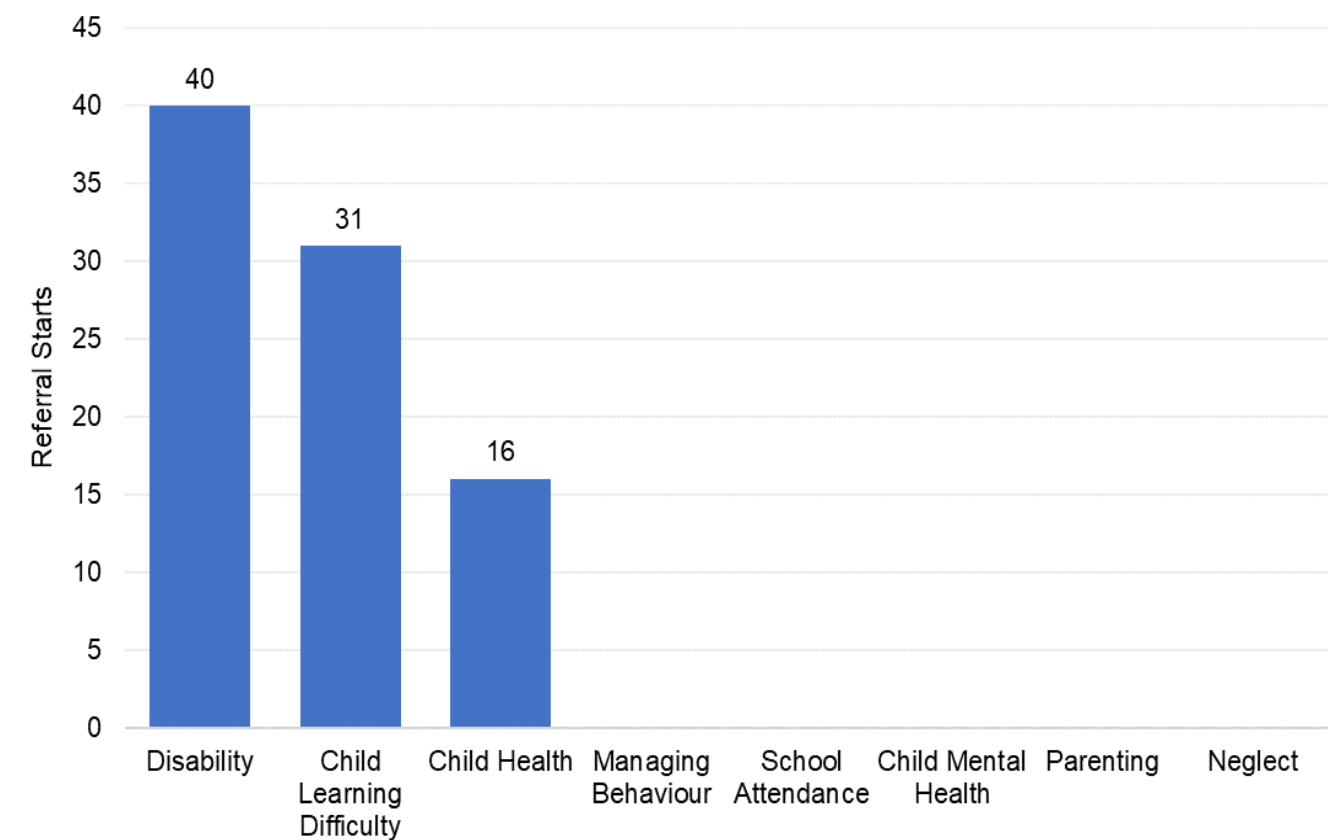
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Figure 47: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’, in **2020/21**



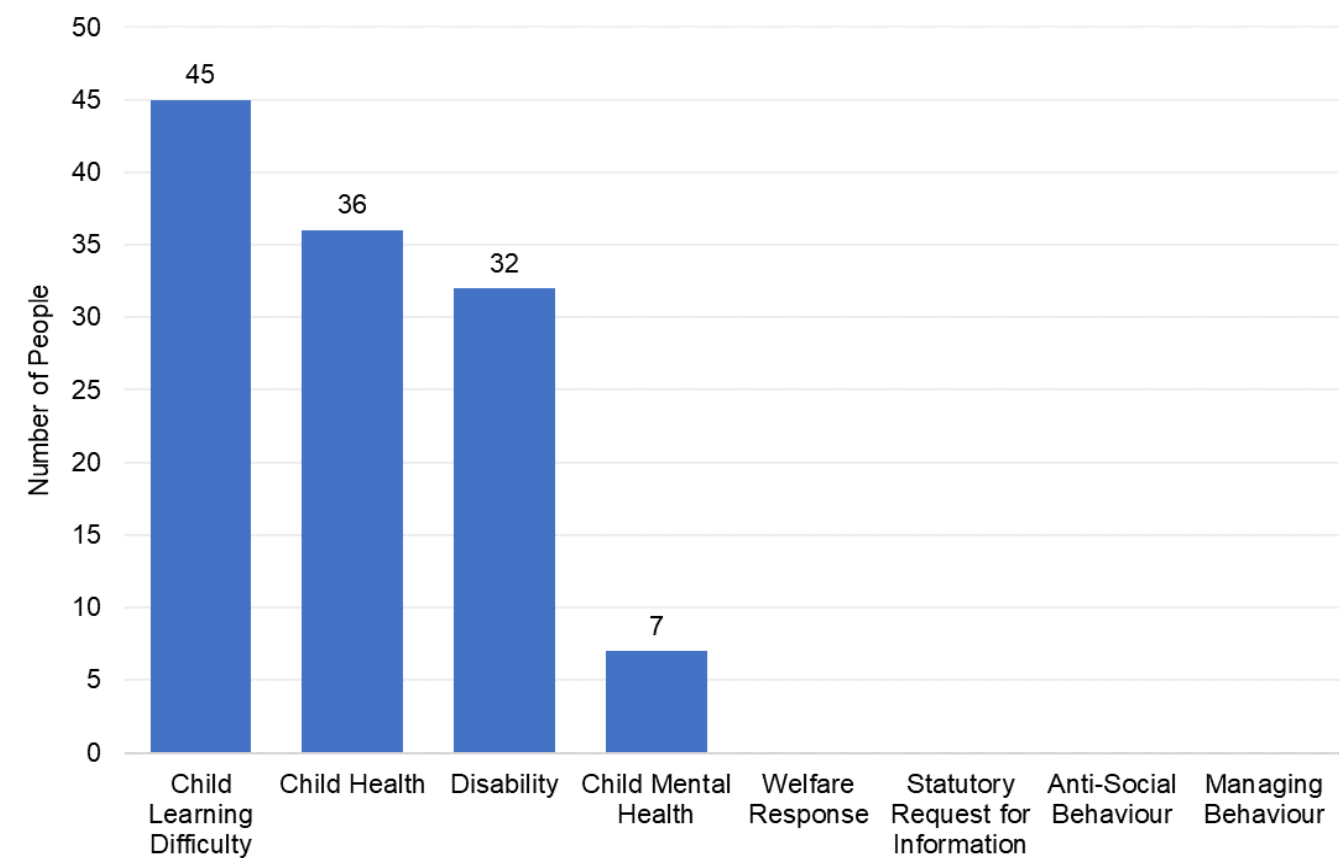
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Figure 48: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’, in **2021/22**



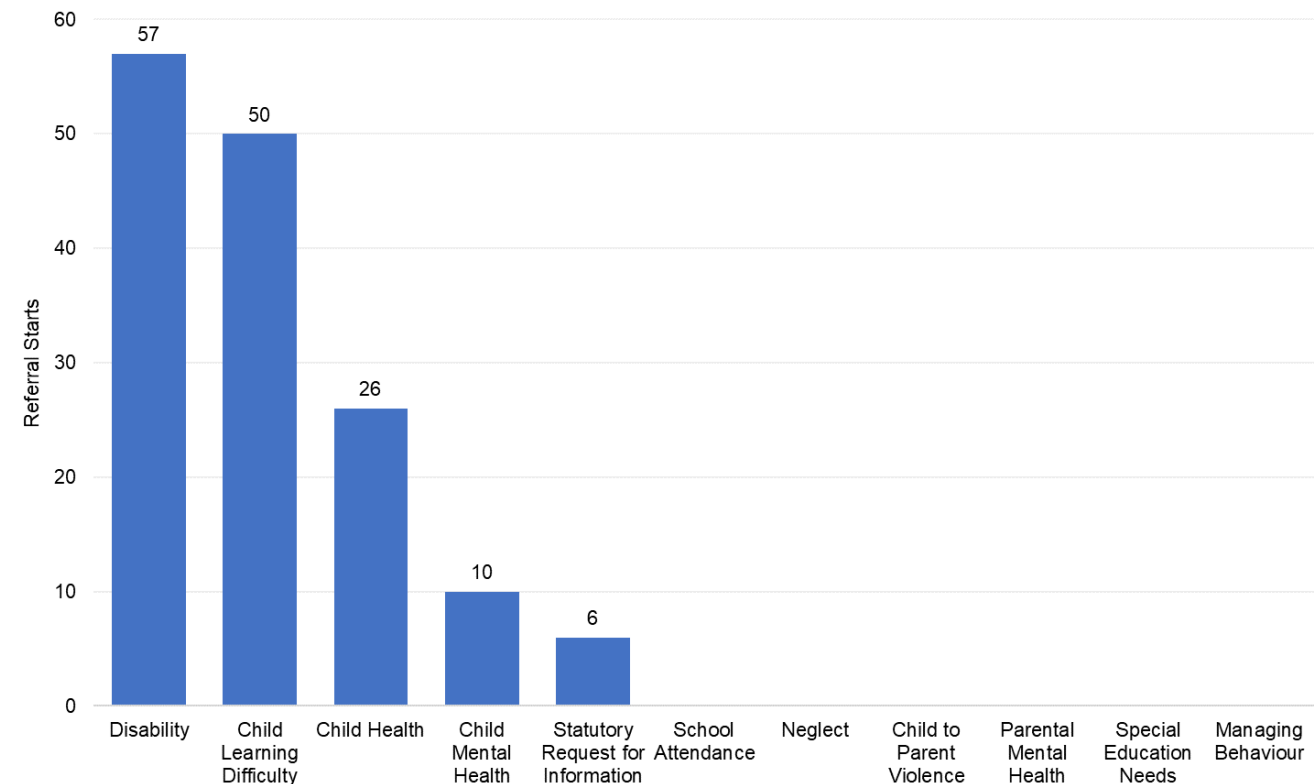
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Figure 49: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’, in **2022/23**



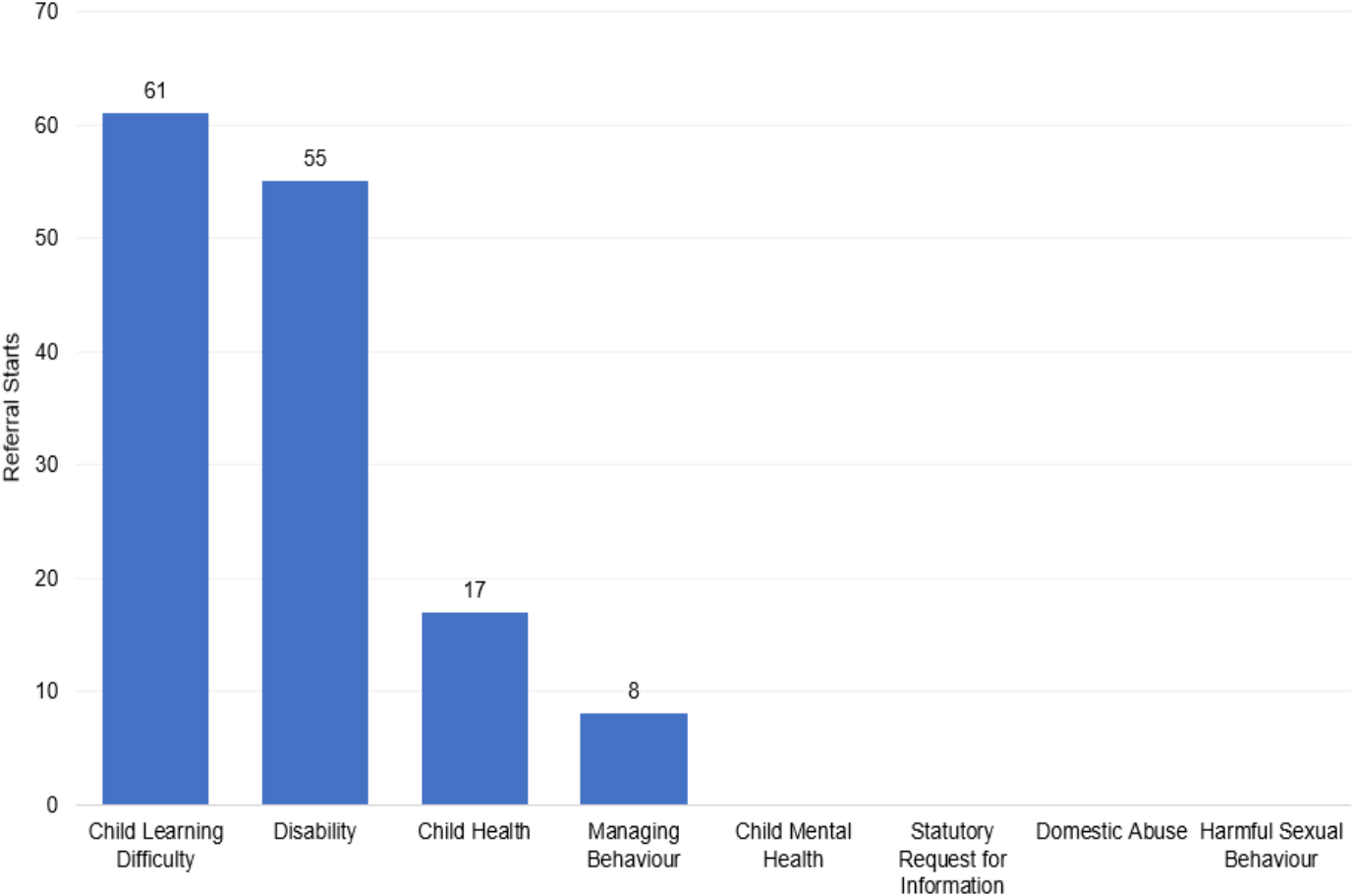
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Figure 50: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’ in **2023/24**



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Figure 51: Contact Category for Referral Starts, where the category of need is ‘Child N2 Disability’ in **2024/25**



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

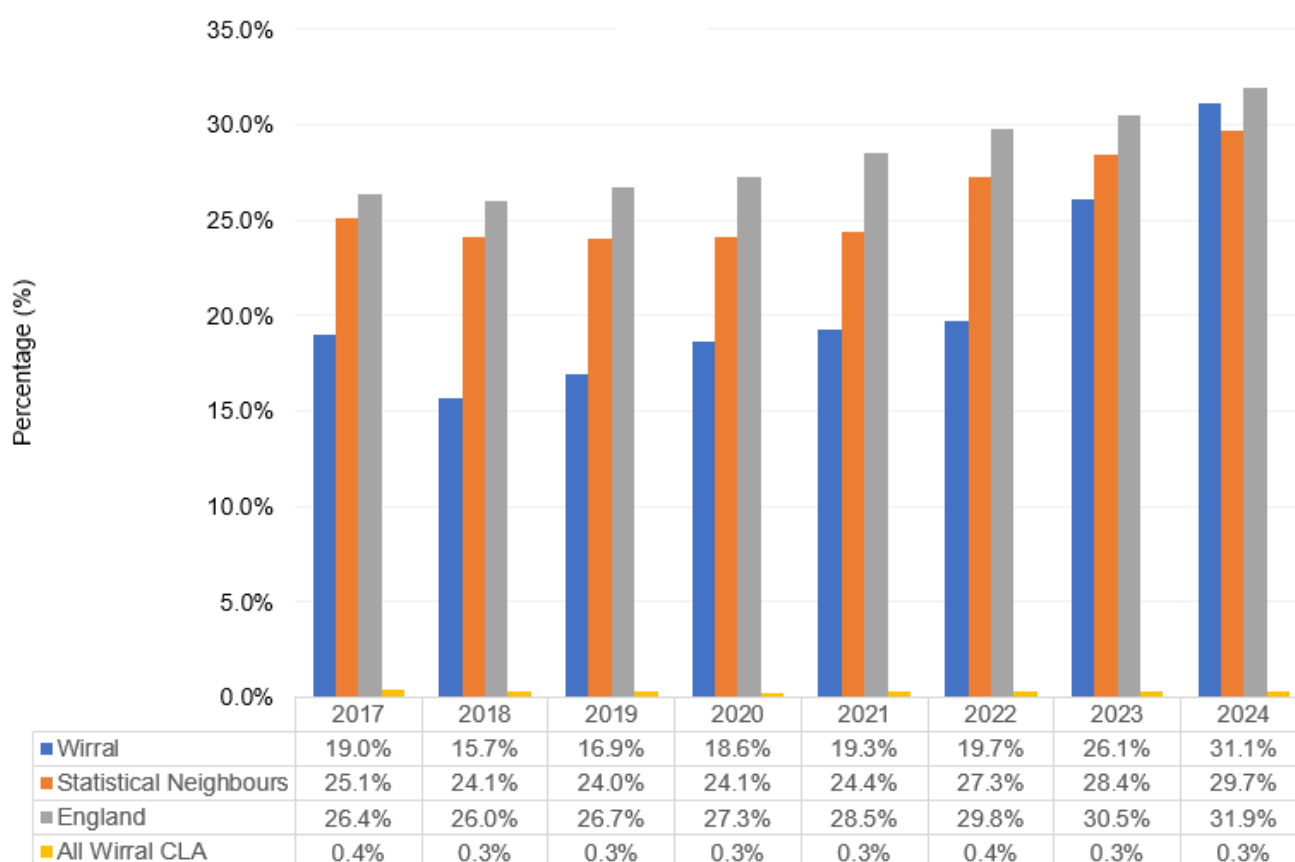
4.3 Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Of those Children and Young people with an EHCP in 2024, **Figure 52** shows that Wirral had a rate of 31.1% which are also Child Looked After (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This rate is significantly higher than the full Children and Young People cohort, where 0.3% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) are Child Looked After.

The rate of EHCP with CLA has risen since 2019 and continues to rise on Wirral and in England year on year. It compares to the England rate in 2024 of 31.9% and Statistical Neighbours at 29.7% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). The Wirral pupil rate is similar to the England rate in 2024.

Figure 52: Percentage (%) of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are Child Looked After, in Wirral and England, 2017-2024



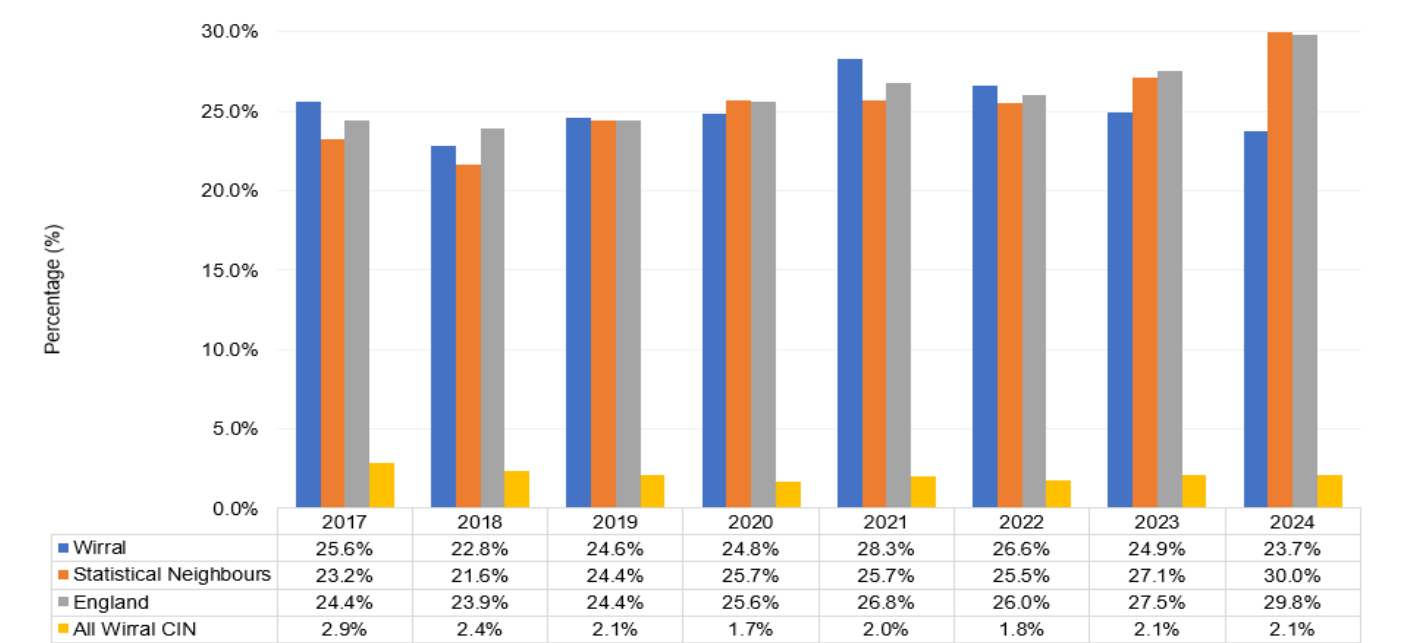
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2025)

For the Children and young people with an EHCP as a Child in Need, **Figure 53** below shows that in 2024, Wirral had a rate of 23.7 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This rate increased between 2019 and 2022 at a rate greater than that in England, with Wirral at a rate higher than that in England in 2022 ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). Since 2022 Wirral has seen the rate decrease in 2023 and 2024 whilst the England and statistical neighbours have increase further since 2022 to 30.0% and 29.8%, respectively.

For all Children and Young people on Wirral, with an EHCP, who are Child in Need Wirral's rate in 2024 was significantly higher than the 2.1% overall Wirral figure (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) The Wirral rate all children and young people with an EHCP was 23.7%. This is below both the England rate of 29.8%, and our statistical neighbours reporting 30.0% in 2024.

Figure 53: Percentage (%) of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are Child in Need, Wirral and England, 2017-2024



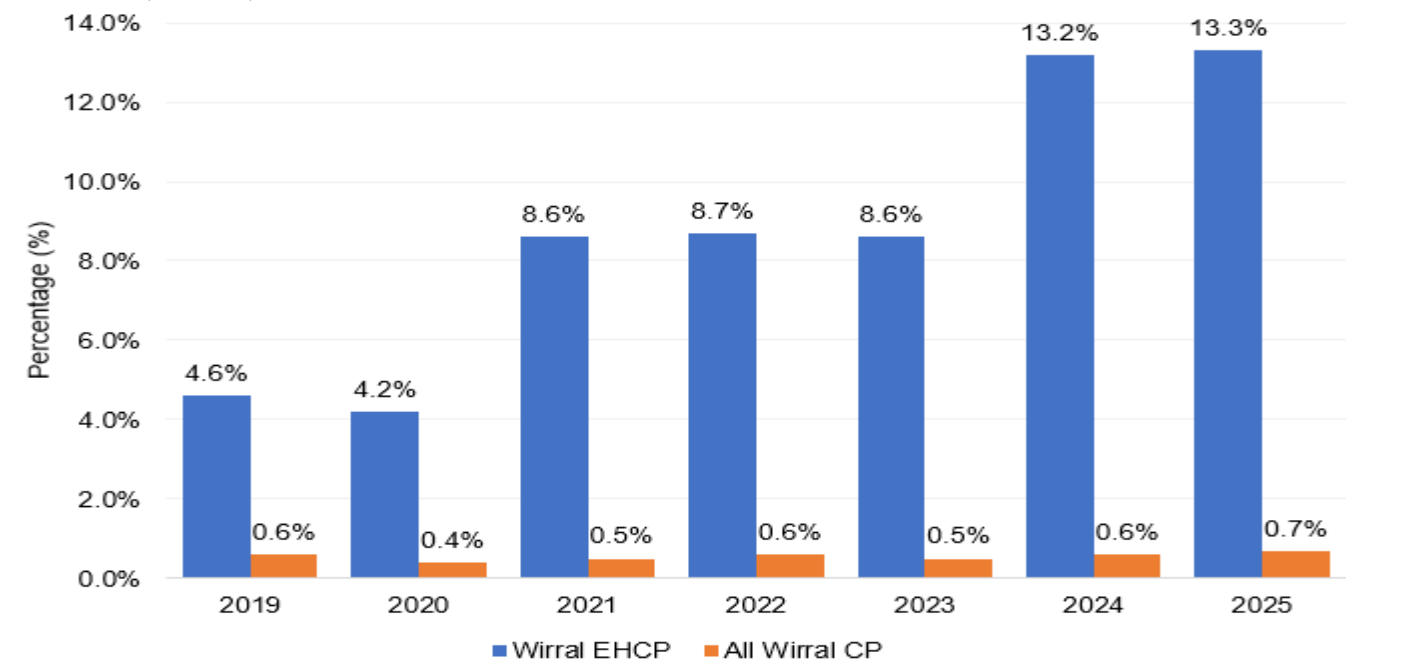
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2025)

For the Children and Young People with an EHCP and also being within Child Protection (**Figure 54**), then Wirral has a rate in 2025 of 13.3% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This rate has gradually increased from a low of 4.2% in 2020, to its current high in 2025 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

In comparison, the overall rate of Children and Young People within Child Protection, between 2019 and 2025, has remained constant between 0.4% and 0.7% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 54: Percentage (%) of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are in Child Protection, Wirral, 2019-2025



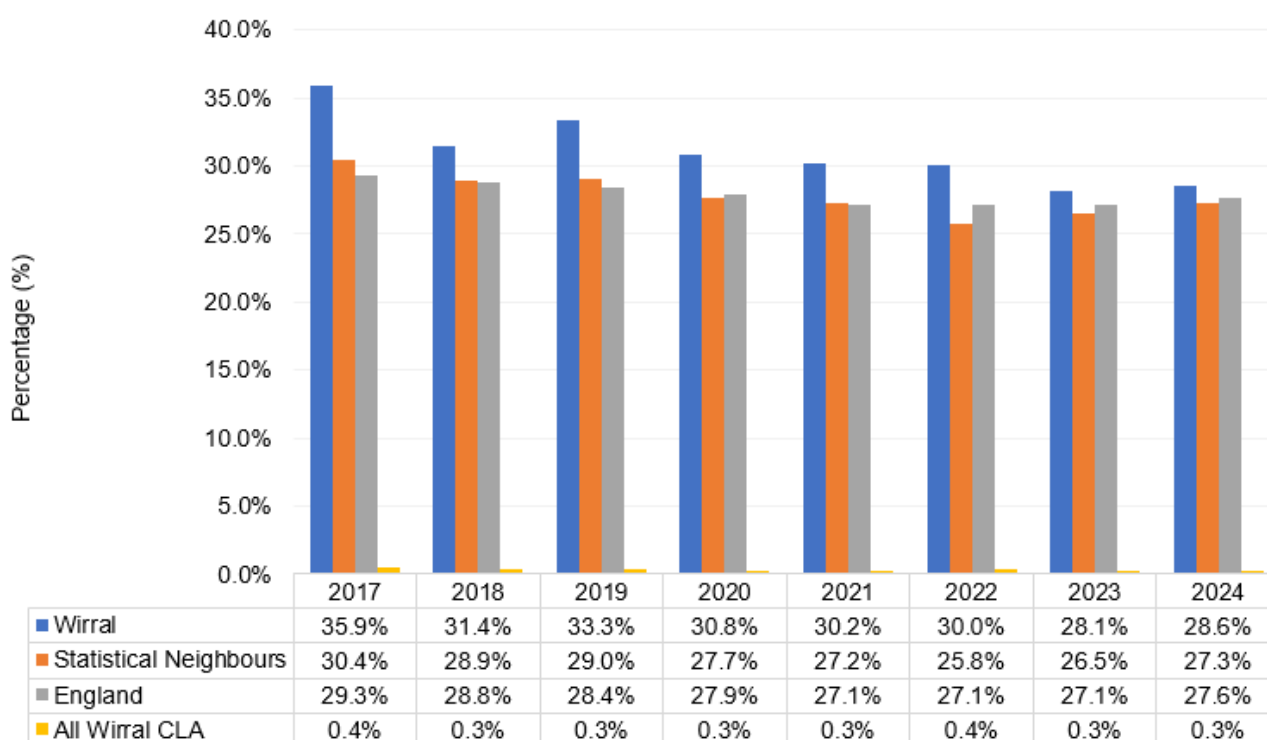
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

4.4 SEN Support

For pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support and are a Child Looked After (CLA), **Figure 55** shows the Wirral rate is 28.6% in 2024 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document). This compares to 27.6% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education) in England and is down showing a general downward trend since 2019 in Wirral (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document). Wirral has a higher rate than the statistical neighbours in 2024 (27.3%) and this has been the case since 2017 reporting as per **Figure 55** below.

This Wirral rate is significantly higher than the full Children and Young People cohort, where 0.3% are CLA (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 55: Percentage (%) of SEN Support pupils who are a Child Looked After, Wirral and England, 2017-2024



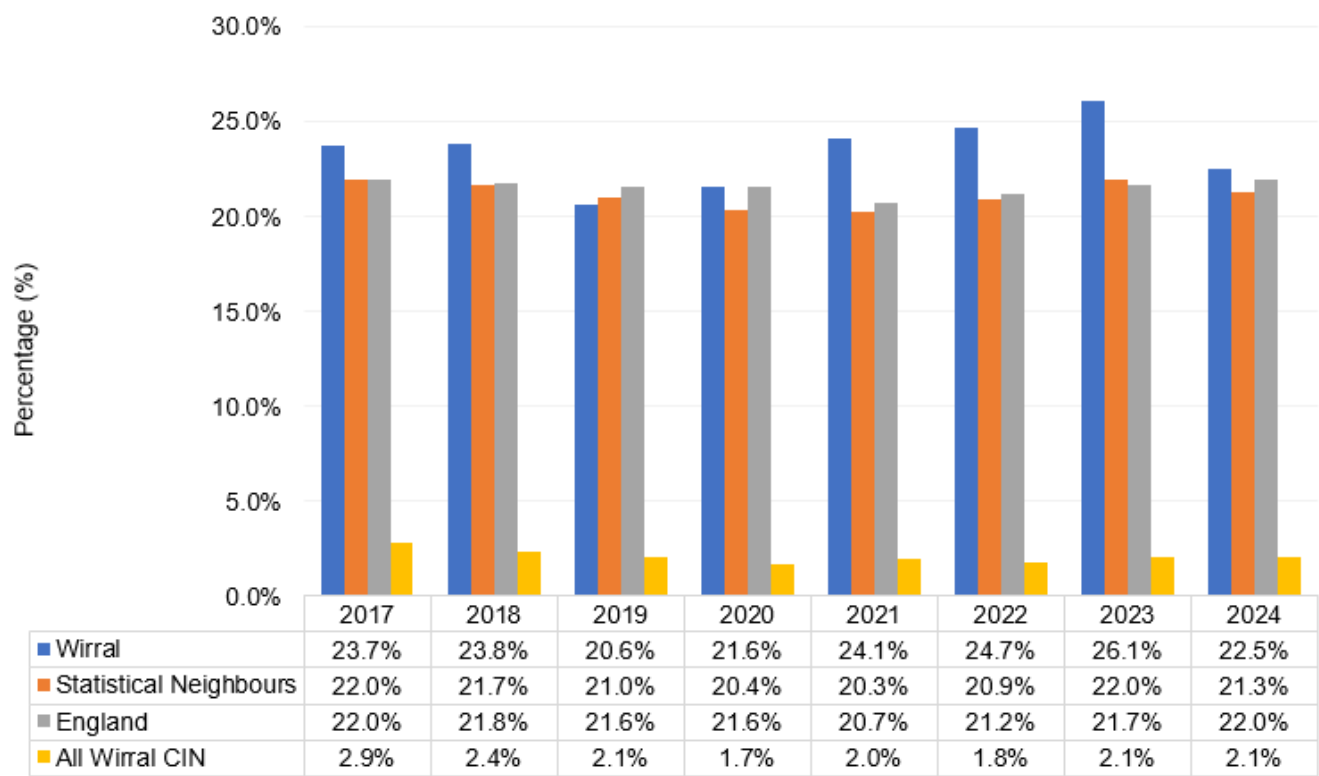
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

For Children and Young People with SEN Support and identified as a Child in Need, **Figure 56** below shows that in 2024, Wirral had a rate of 22.5% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This compares to an England rate of 22.0% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education) and 21.3% compared to our statistical neighbours.

The rate on Wirral has increased between 2019 and 2023 by 5.5 percentage points, whilst the rate in England has remained stable over the same period. The SEN Support rate is significantly higher than the full pupil Child in Need cohort rate of 2.1% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 56: Percentage (%) of SEN Support pupils who are Child in Need, Wirral and England, 2017-2024



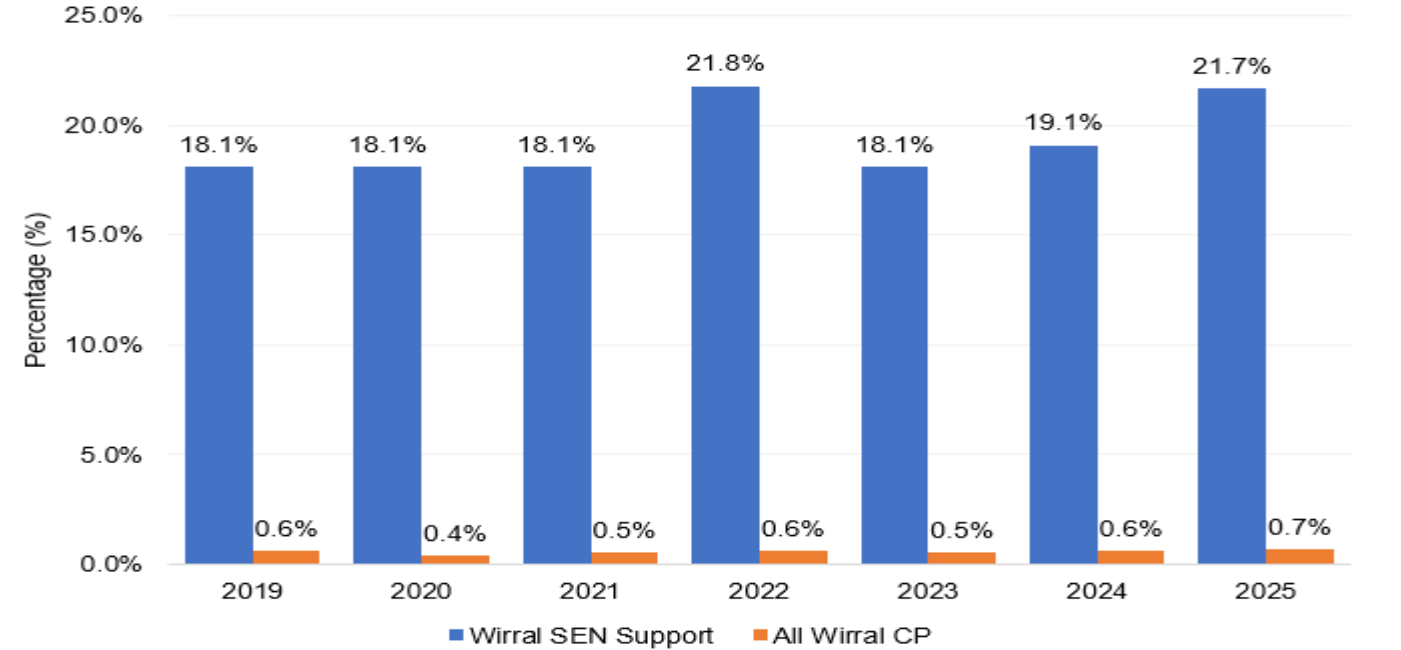
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2025)

For the Children and Young People with SEN Support and being subject to Child Protection, **Figure 57** shows, in 2025, Wirral had a rate of 21.7% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This rate is the second highest recorded figure in the last seven reported years (2022 was 21.8%) (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

In comparison, the overall rate of Children and Young People within Child Protection, between 2019 and 2025, has remained constant between 0.4% and 0.7% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 57: Percentage (%) of SEN support pupils who are in Child Protection, Wirral, 2019-2025

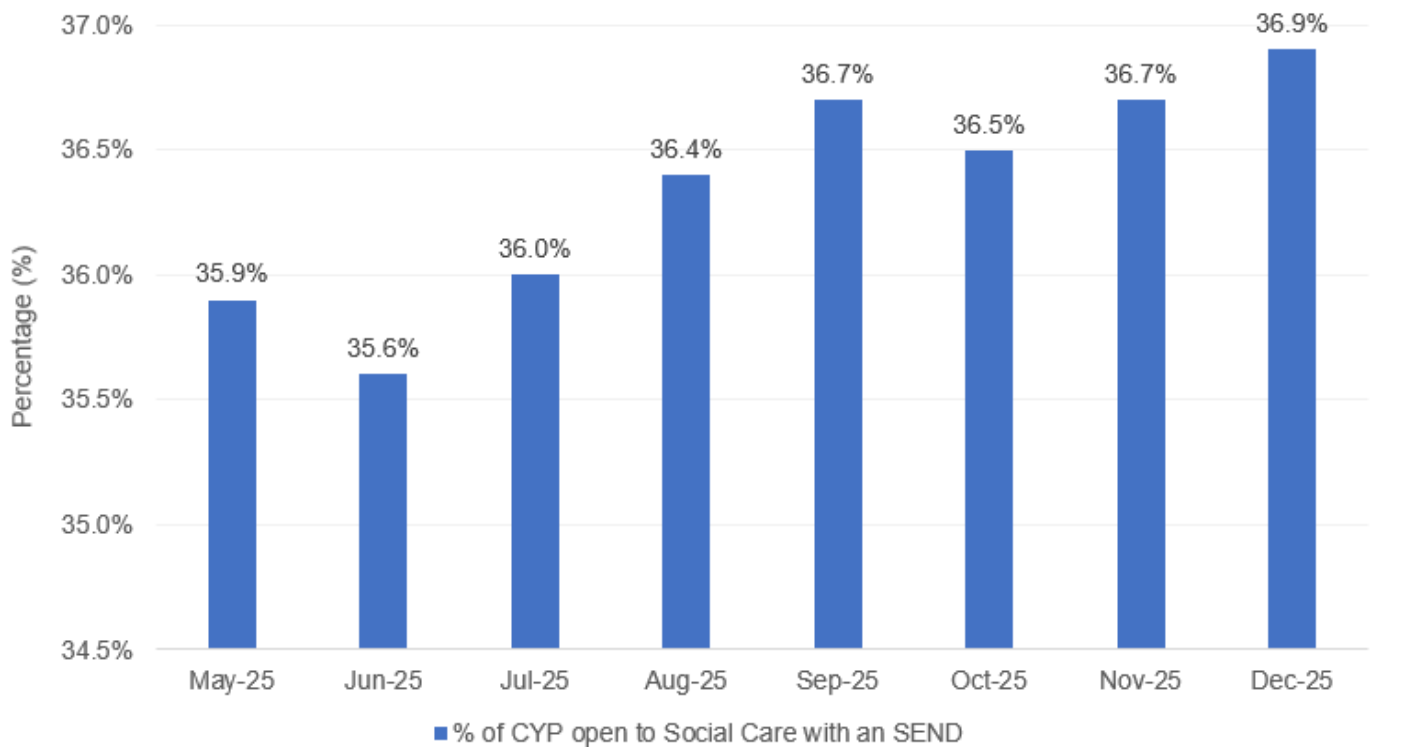


Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

4.5 Special Education Needs Disabilities (SEND)

Figure 58 below shows the percentage of Children and Young People receiving support from Social Care with SEND, with the latest performance in December 36.9%. The average for those CYP open to Social Care with SEND in the last eight months is 36.5%. The lowest percentage reported was in June 35.6% and since then the performance has increased every month bar October 2025.

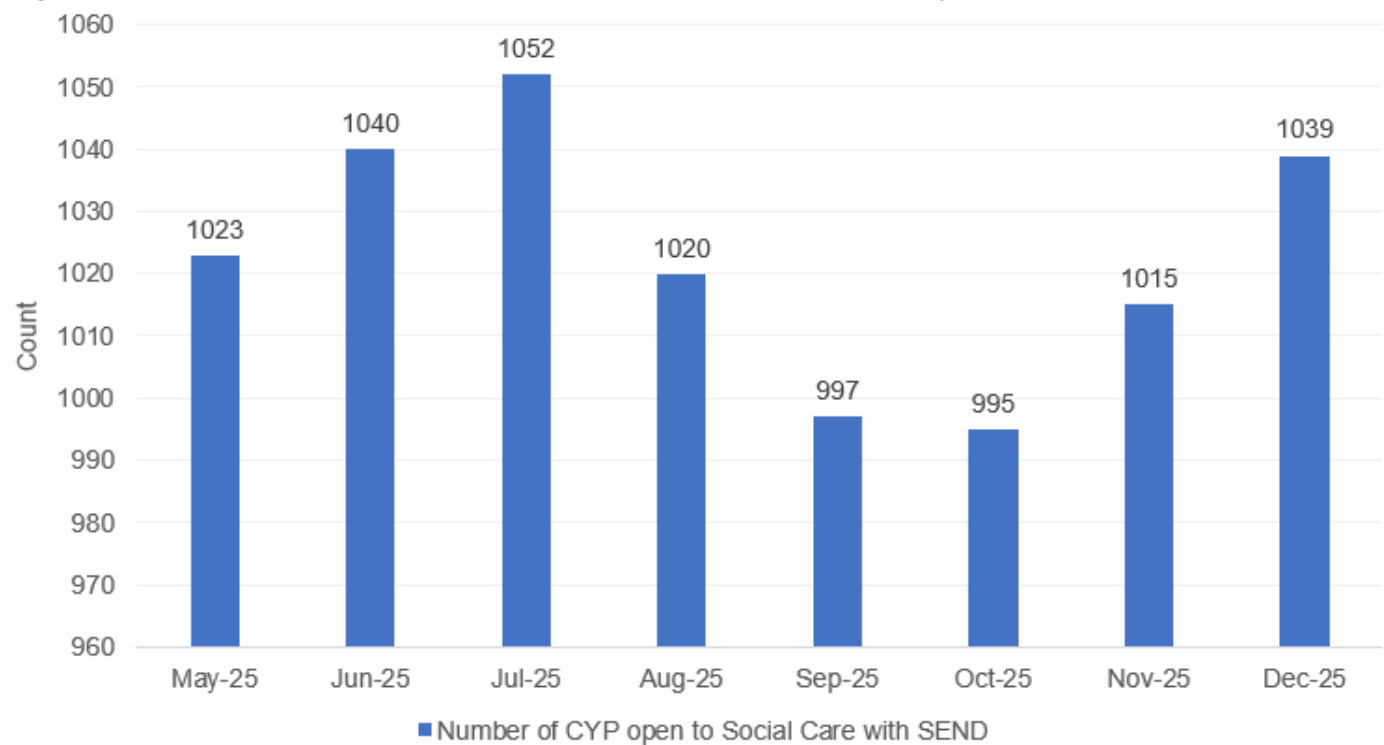
Figure 58: Percentage of CYP open to Social Care with SEND, May 2025 to December 2025



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

The number of CYP open to Social Care with SEND was at its highest in July 2025 at 1,052 (Figure 59 below). The figures dropped between August and October but then began to increase reaching 1,039 in December 2025.

Figure 59: Number of CYP open to Social Care with SEND, May 2025 to December 2025



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2025)

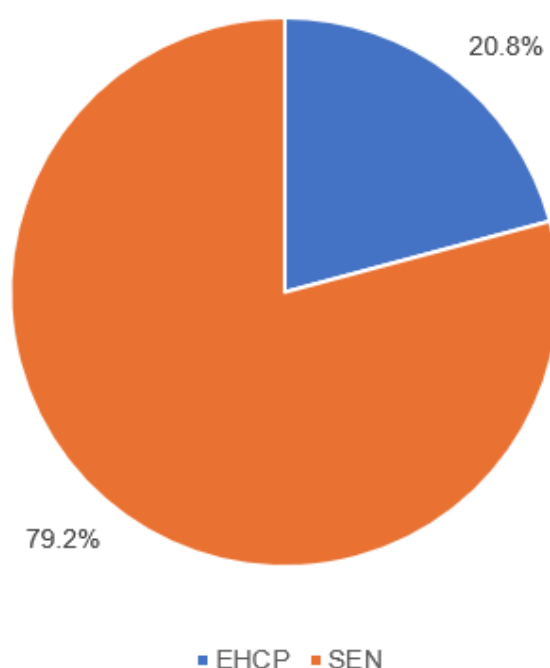
5.0 Early years

Children under the age of 5 years old (Early Years) account for 4.5% (Wirral School Census) of the total Wirral pupil in education population and in terms of those in education identified with SEND, 0.4% (Wirral School Census). Within this document these Children and Young People in education may be identified as 'Under 5's'.

Figure 60 describes that for children under the age of 5 years of age with SEND and attending an education setting that report via the school census, then 20.8% have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), with the 79.2% as identified as SEN Support (Wirral School Census).

The under 5-year-olds with SEND account for 0.9% of all pupils with SEN Support and 4.3% of all with an EHCP (Wirral School Census).

Figure 60: Percentage (%) breakdown of Early Years by EHCP and SEN Support (2025)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

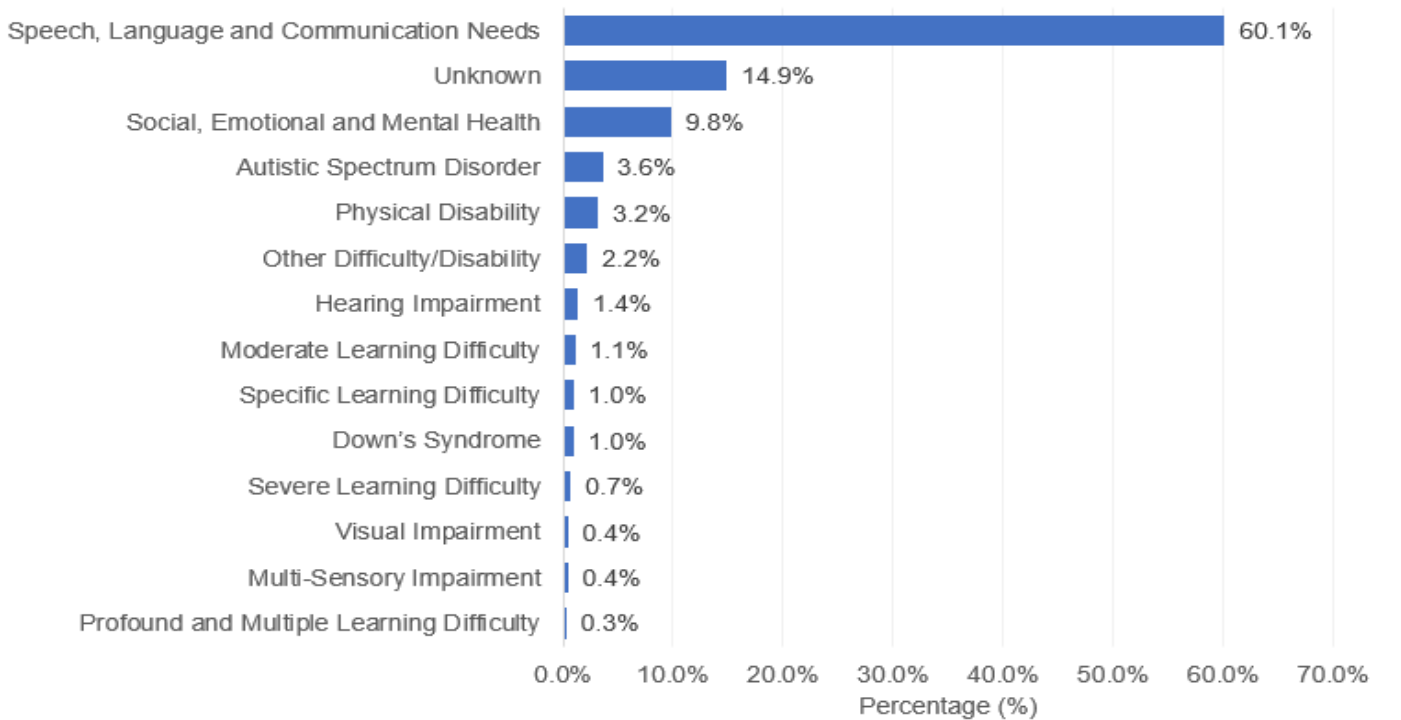
5.1 Early Years - Primary Need

Figure 61 shows that for pupils under 5 and identified as having SEND, the most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, with this accounting for 60.1% of all primary needs (Wirral School Census). In England for 2024/25 the most common primary need was also Speech, Language and Communication needs, but with a rate of 58.8% ([Age and Gender, by type of SEN provision and type of need - 2016 to 2025, Accessed 2nd March 2026](#)).

This Wirral rate is significantly higher than any other primary need, with the second highest (excluding unknowns) being Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 9.8% (Wirral School Census). This is also England's second most common primary need, but higher than Wirral, at 14.5%.

There is a low rate (2.2%) under the category "Other Difficulty/Disability" on Wirral. This should be seen as a positive as this is likely to mean that the vast majority, or 97.8%, of all children have been categorised into a specific primary need (Wirral School Census).

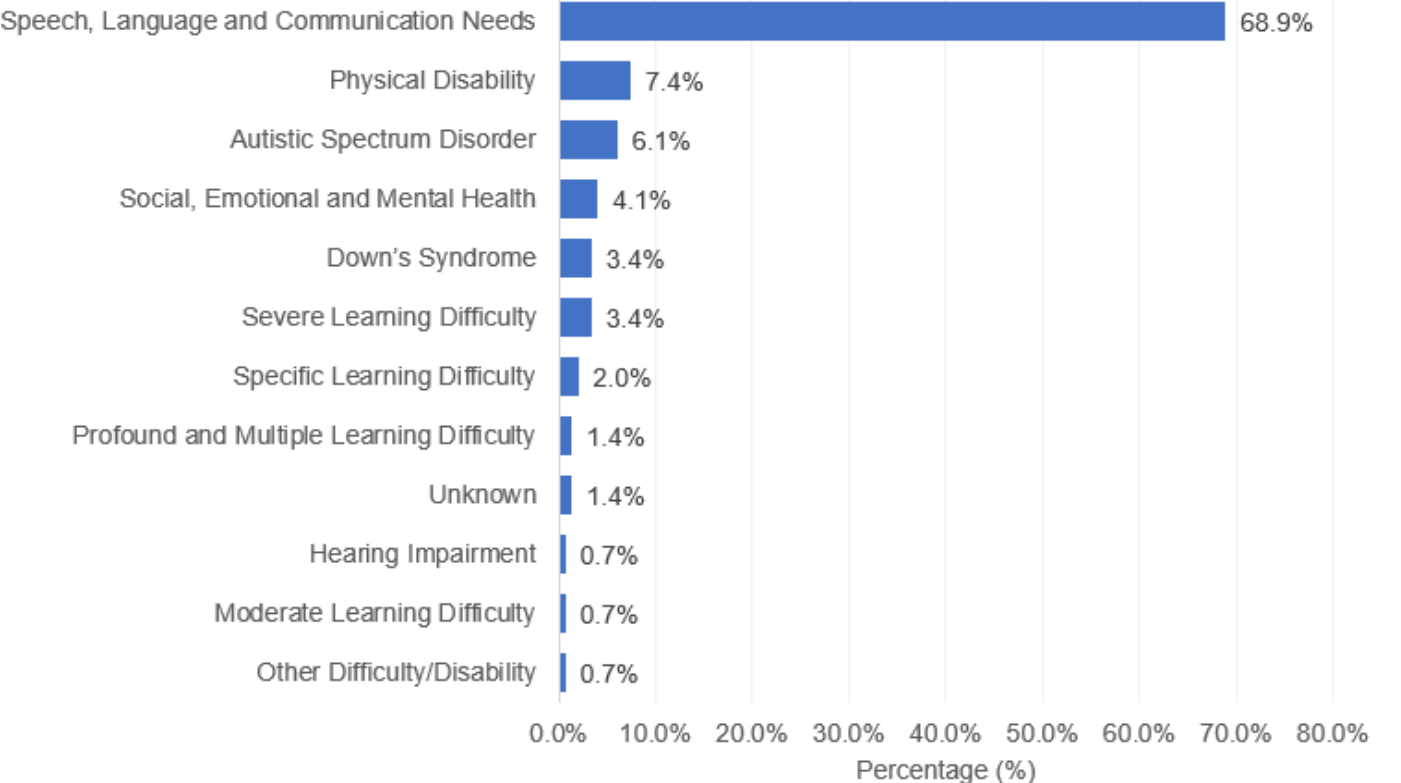
Figure 61: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with SEND attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

For pupils under 5 years old and in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (**Figure 62**) the most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, at 68.9% (Wirral School Census). This is followed by Physical Disability needs at 7.4% and Autistic Spectrum Disorder at 6.1% (Wirral School Census).

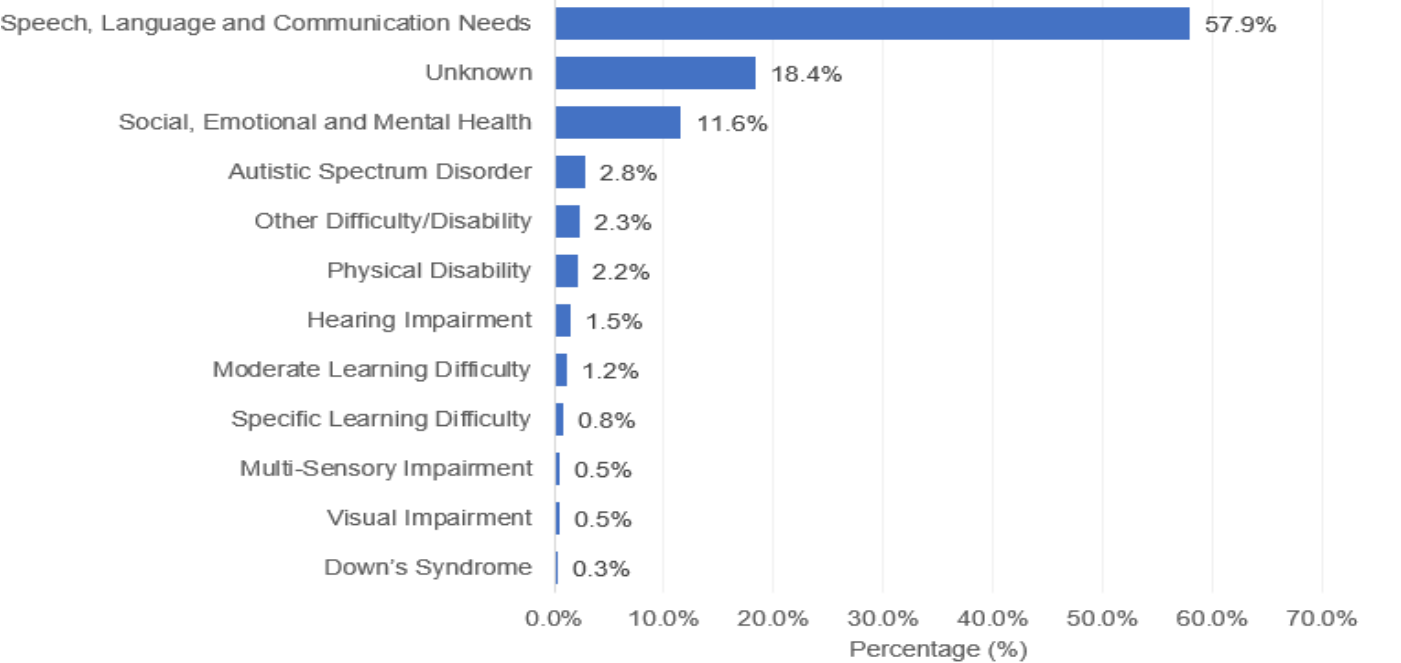
Figure 62: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with an EHCP attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

For pupils with SEN support (**Figure 63**), the most common recorded primary need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, being 57.9% (Wirral School Census). This is followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health with 11.6% (Wirral School Census) but those recorded with unknown diagnosis is high at 18.4%.

Figure 63: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with SEN Support attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2026

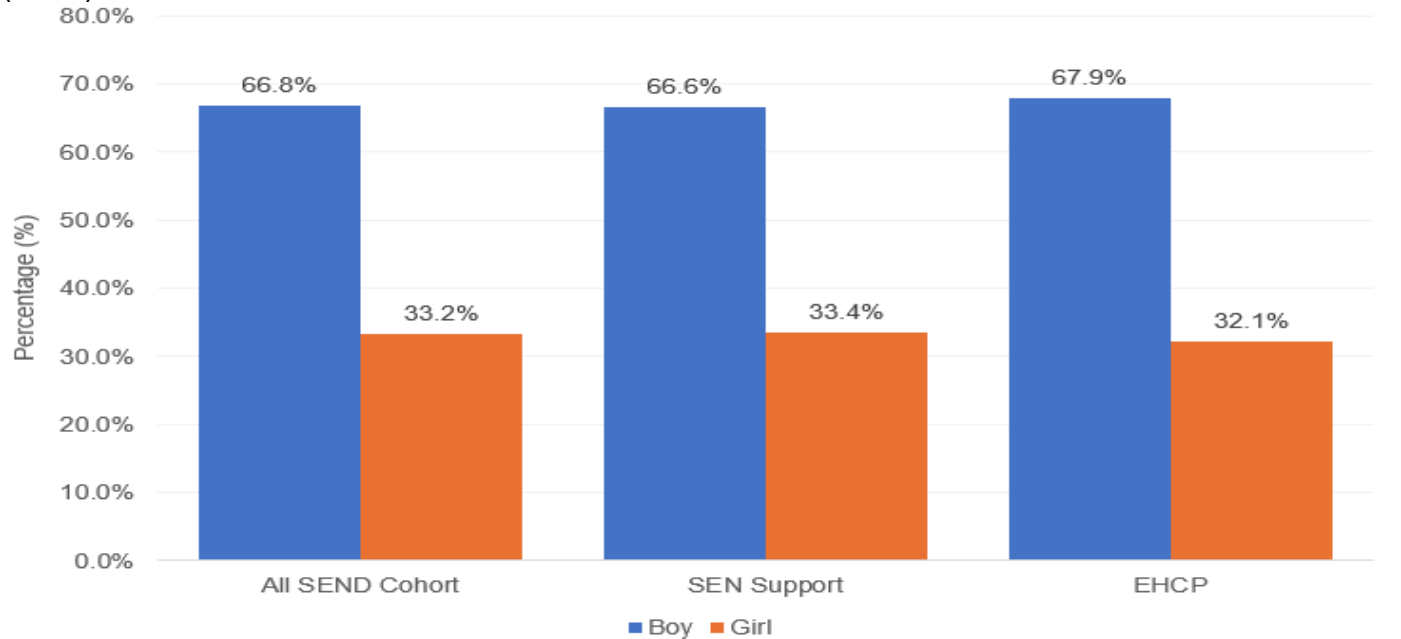


Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

5.2 Early Years - Gender

Figure 64 details that for those under 5 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), 67.9% are boys and 32.1% girls. For those with SEN support, the rate is 66.6% boys and 33.4% girls (Wirral School Census).

Figure 64: Breakdown (%) of Children and Young people (<5) in Wirral with SEND, by Gender (2026)



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

5.3 Early Years - Residence Location

For those Early Years pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the largest proportion reside in Bidston and St James Ward, with 12.6% of all pupils under 5. The following Wards also show high rates, they are Seacombe (11.3%), Birkenhead and Tranmere (8.8%) and Upton (8.2%) (Wirral School Census, 2025).

Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward have the largest proportion of pupils under 5 with SEN support (14.9%). This is followed by Bidston and St James Ward (12.4%), Seacombe (10.9%), and Rock Ferry (8.9%) (Wirral School Census, 2025).

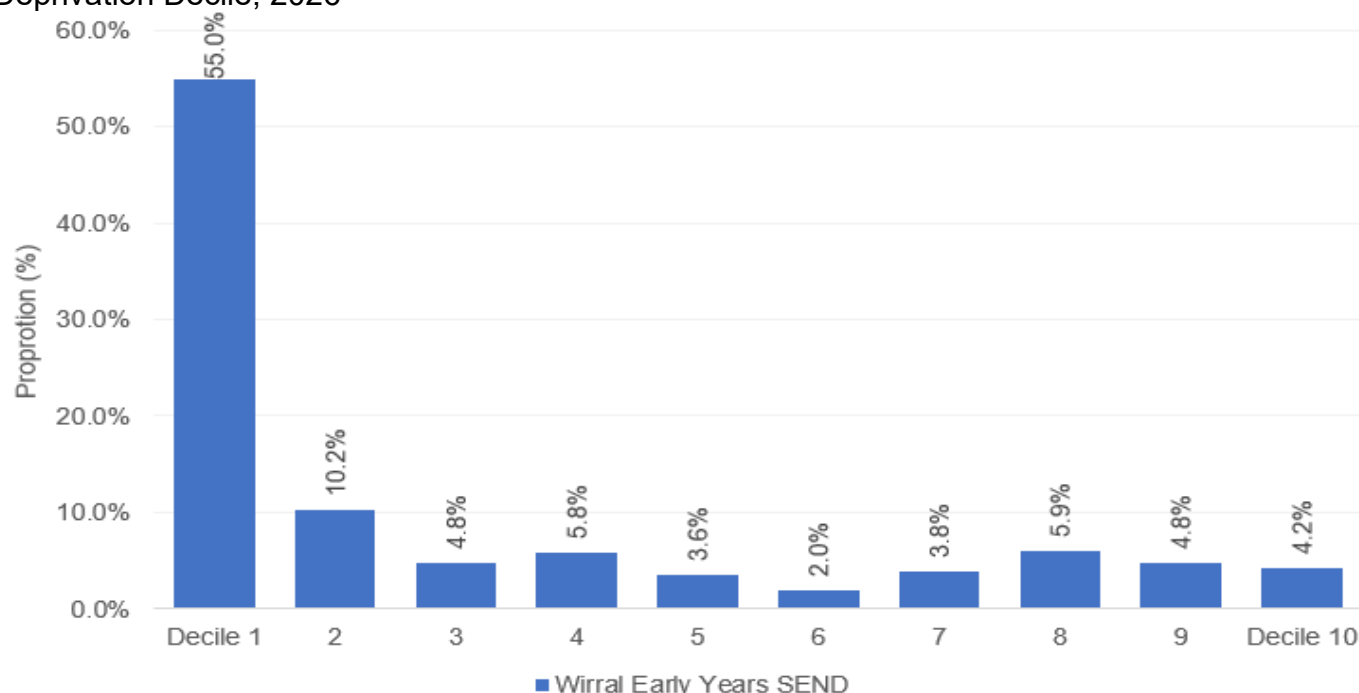
The largest proportion of the SEND cohort who are aged under 5 reside in Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward (13.6%), followed by Bidston and St. James (12.5%), Seacombe (11.0%) and Rock Ferry (8.3%) respectively.

5.4 Early Years - Deprivation

Rates of deprivation are calculated by splitting all wards in England into ten equal Deciles, with Decile 1 being the considered the most deprived 10% wards in England. The decile rate increases to Decile 10, where these 10% of wards are the least deprived wards in England. Between 1 and 10 are Deciles 2 to 9 inclusive. For more information on how Deprivation is calculated visit Deprivation; ([Office for National Statistics, Exploring Local Income Deprivation, 24th May 2021, accessed 31st July 2024](#)).

For Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils, 55.0% (Wirral School Census and Internal data) reside within the most deprived decile in Wirral (see **Figure 65** below).

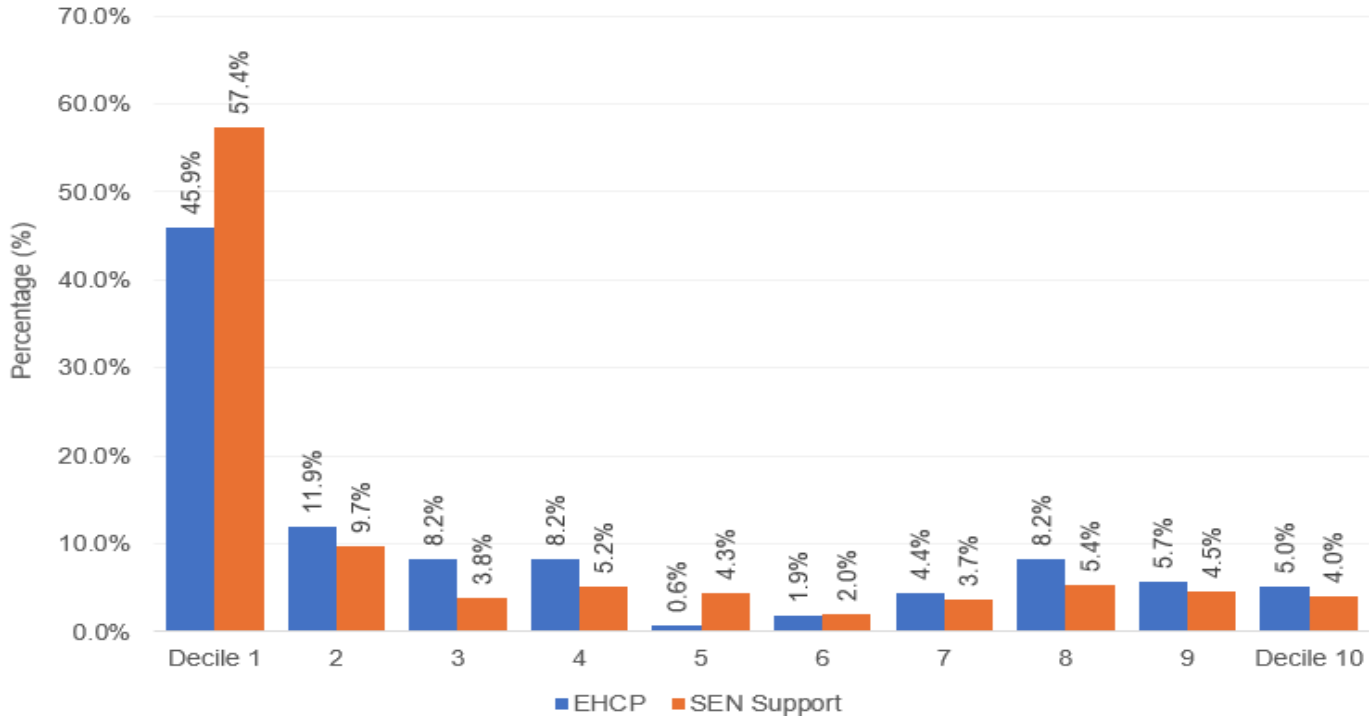
Figure 65: Proportion (%) of Wirral SEND Children and Young People (<5) in Education, by Deprivation Decile, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

Early Year SEND is split between Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) support in **Figure 66** below, for those within Decile 1, 45.9% are in receipt of an EHCP, whilst the rate is 57.4% for those with SEN Support.

Figure 66: Breakdown of Children and Young People, by EHCP and SEN Support, by IMD Decile in Wirral, 2026



Source: Wirral School Census (October 2025) Internal data (2026)

5.5 Early Years – Area SENCO Team

The Early Years Area SENCO team provides advice, guidance and support to early years settings, including PVI providers, schools and childminders to help meet the needs of children with SEND. The team works alongside SENCOs, practitioners, key workers and managers to promote inclusive practice, support early identification of need and improve outcomes for children. They carry out observations of children, provide written reports, tailor practical recommendations and support settings to develop their provision, including bespoke training for whole setting development.

5.6 Early Years Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

Early Years settings and schools can apply for additional funding to support the inclusion of children with additional needs in early education. Applications are for a two term-period. In financial year 2024/25, 250 children were supported through funding. This increased to 278 in financial year 2025/26.

5.7 Early Years – Disability Access Fund

This is funding for early years providers including Foundation 1 classes in schools, to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It aids access to early years places by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. This fund is for 3- and 4-year-olds in early year settings and for 3-year-olds (Year F1) for those in schools. Children must be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance to claim the funding.

In financial year 2023/24, 108 children were supported with funding, increasing to 126 the following year (2024/25) and decreasing to 111 in 2025/26.

5.8 Early Years – Early Intervention

In December 2024, the previous Portage service in Wirral evolved into the Early Years SEND Early Intervention Team. This change was driven by the need to better respond to increasing demand and to address historical challenges within the service, and to reduce barriers for SEND families.

The new approach removes many barriers and has been shaped to better meet the needs of children and families, offering a more flexible, responsive and child-centred service. The team provides a home learning offer for children under 5 years old with diagnosed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), or those with emerging additional needs whose development is delayed or differs from expected milestones.

To support this shift, the service has invested in five SEND Early Intervention Workers and a Coordinator, increasing capacity and improving responsiveness.

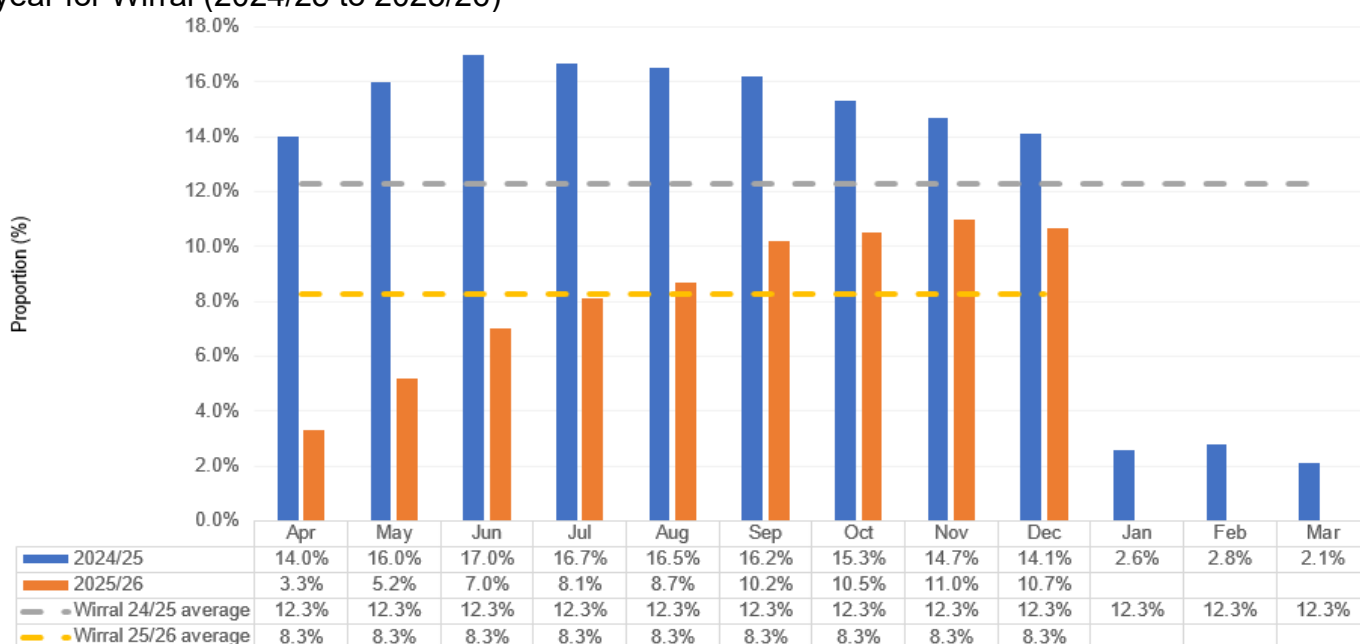
Between December 2024 and December 2025, the service has received 171 referrals and achieved significant improvements in timeliness - Triage waiting times have reduced from an average of 25 weeks to 6 weeks. These improvements reflect a service that has adapted to better meet demand while ensuring children and families receive earlier, more personalised, and effective support.

6.0 Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

6.1 Plans issued

The number of final plan Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued in 2025, excluding exceptions, was 166. This compares the 144 issued in 2024 (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document).

Figure 67: Proportion (%) of Wirral EHCPs issued within the 20-week statutory timescale, by year for Wirral (2024/25 to 2025/26)



Source: Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document (2025) EHCP scorecard

Note: Exceptions include a serious or exceptional situation which affects the CYP or parent/carer is a) Away from Wirral for 4 or more weeks continuously. B) involved in a serious or exceptional situation. C) attends an education setting that is closed for at least 4 continuous weeks.

As can be seen in **Figure 67**, the average percentage of new EHCP's issued within 20 weeks on Wirral is over 12.3% for 2024/25 (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document). This average has fallen so far in 2025/26 to just under 9% (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document). The England average for EHCP's issued in 20 weeks is currently 46.4% (2025) ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

As **Figure 67** shows, the rates for 2025/26 across Wirral are on an upward trajectory but remains the lower than the same months (April to December) in 2024/25 (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document). It is worth noting that at the end of the 2024/25 reporting year performance dipped from above 10% down to around 2% for the months of January to March 2025.

Total number of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, excluding exceptions - YTD From January
Across the whole year, 2025 shows much stronger performance than 2024 for issuing new EHC plans within 20 weeks. In 2024, progress was steady but relatively gradual, increasing from 11 in January to 93 by December, with slower growth toward the year end.

Though 2025, by contrast, began at a lower point (4 in January) but accelerated rapidly from late spring onward, matching 2024 levels by mid-summer and then exceeding them substantially.

Strong second-half momentum drove the total from 50 in June to 130 by October, rising further to 153 in November. The December 2025 figure of 162 represents the full year-to-date cumulative total for 2025, highlighting a significantly higher overall delivery compared with 2024, driven mainly by sustained gains in the second half of the year.

6.2 Advices within 6 weeks

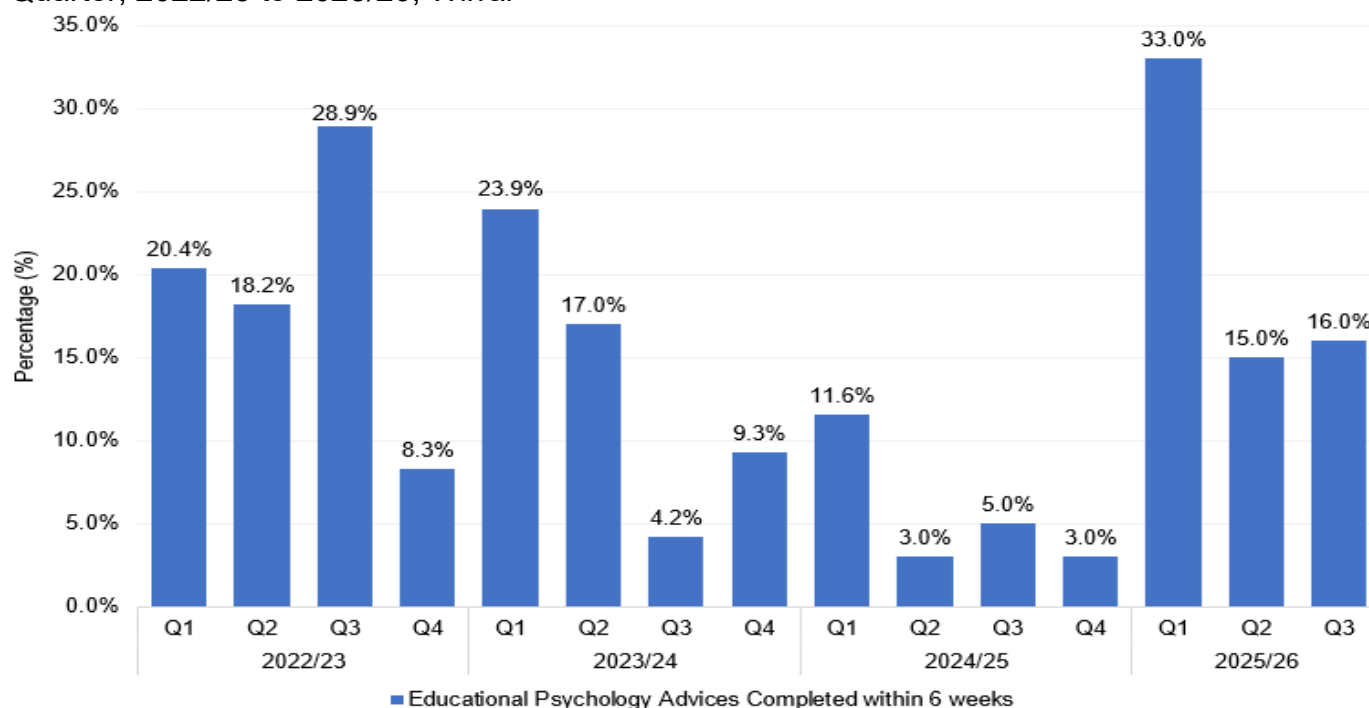
In order to produce high quality and fit for purpose Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), that are produced in a collaborative format that includes the child or young person (where applicable), parents / carers, professionals and partners advices must be obtained. Advices come from Social Care (where applicable) and Health to ensure that the EHCP meets the needs of children and young people.

Educational Psychology

The latest data shown in **Figure 68** below is for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (by quarter reporting). The period Quarter with the highest percentage of advices completed for education psychology was in Q1 2025/26 at 33.0%.

The lowest percentage of advices completed is recorded twice on 2024/25, for Q2 in 2024/25, at 3.0% and again in Q4 2024/25 the same performance. Although performance has since improved and in the latest/current reporting year, 2025/26, activity is between 15% and 16% in Quarters 2 and 3, after a high Q1 performance at 33.0%.

Figure 68: Percentage of Educational Psychology Advices completed within 6 weeks, by Quarter, 2022/23 to 2025/26, Wirral

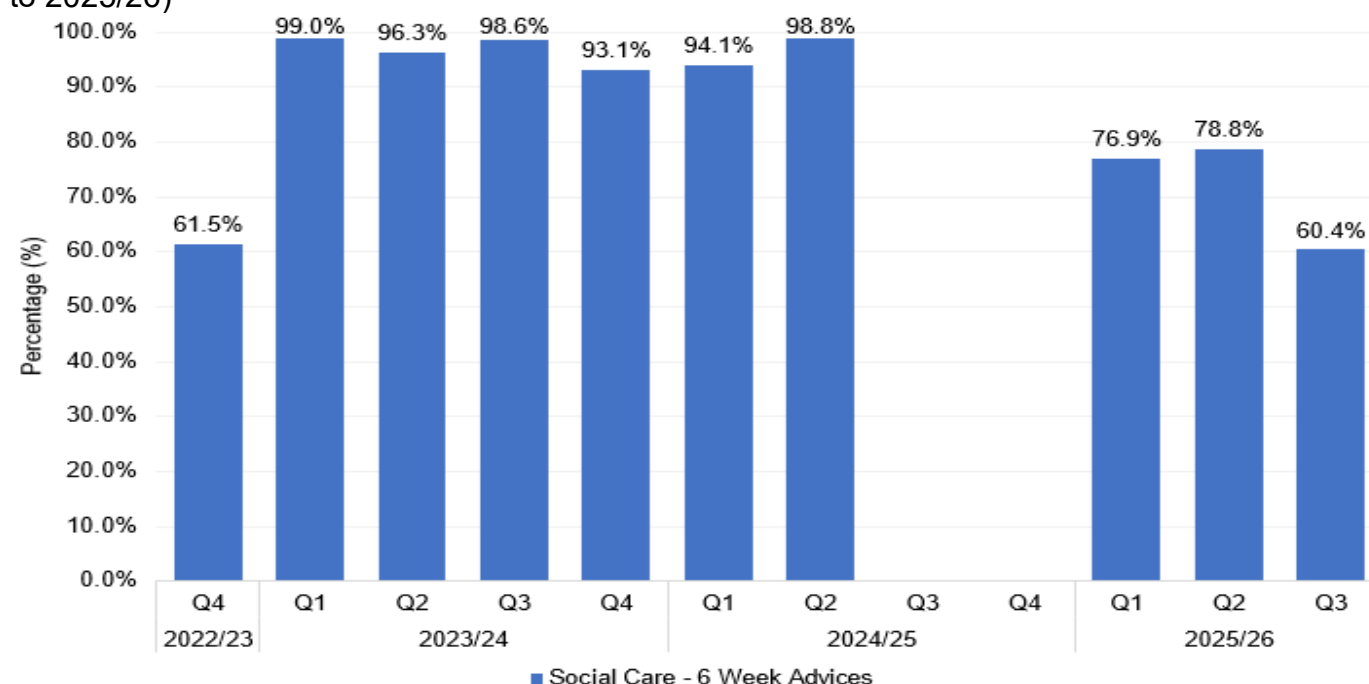


Source: Wirral Educational Psychology Team 6-week Report, Internal Document (2025)

Social Care Advices

The latest Wirral rate (Q3 - 2025/26) for advices received within 6 weeks from Social Care, is 60.4% (**Figure 69**), which is down from 78.8% in Q2 2025/26. Wirral's performance in 2023/24 and Q1 and Q2 of 2024/25 was over 90% for each quarter. Figures for Q3 and Q4 in 2024/25 were unable to report on and performance in 2025/26 has dropped by 25% since (Wirral Social Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document)

Figure 69: Percentage (%) of Advices received within 6 weeks from Social Care, Wirral, (2022/23 to 2025/26)



Source: Wirral Social Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document (2025)

Note: Please note that figures in quarter 3 and quarter 4 of 2024/25 were unable to be reported on and therefore missing in figure 70

Health Advices

The Advices received within 6 weeks from Health are generated from six services and these are: Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Paediatrics, Wirral CYP Mental Health Services (formerly CAMHS), Educational Psychologist and the 0-19 Team.

The data in **Table 14** show that throughout 2024/25, there is a wide variation in rates, of advices received within 6 weeks, between these six services. This is from 100%, to the lowest recorded in 2023/24, at 15.4%. (Wirral Health Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document).

Table 14: Percentage (%) of advices received within 6 weeks, by Health Service in Wirral, (2024/25)

Health Service Advices	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
CAMHS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.0%	97.0%	100.0%	92.0%	94.0%	95.2%	*	*
Comm Paeds	15.4%	53.6%	45.7%	42.9%	14.3%	20.6%	41.2%	30.4%	38.7%	15.6%	*	70.0%
Health Visitors & School Nursing	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Occupational Therapy	100.0%	67.0%	64.0%	90.0%	50.0%	67.0%	*	100.0%	100.0%	86.0%	75.0%	50.0%
Physiotherapy	*	64.0%	63.0%	80.0%	52.0%	83.0%	*	*	100.0%	75.0%	37.5%	36.4%
SALT	85.7%	92.7%	91.0%	90.0%	100.0%	95.0%	100.0%	86.0%	100.0%	100.0%	86.0%	100.0%

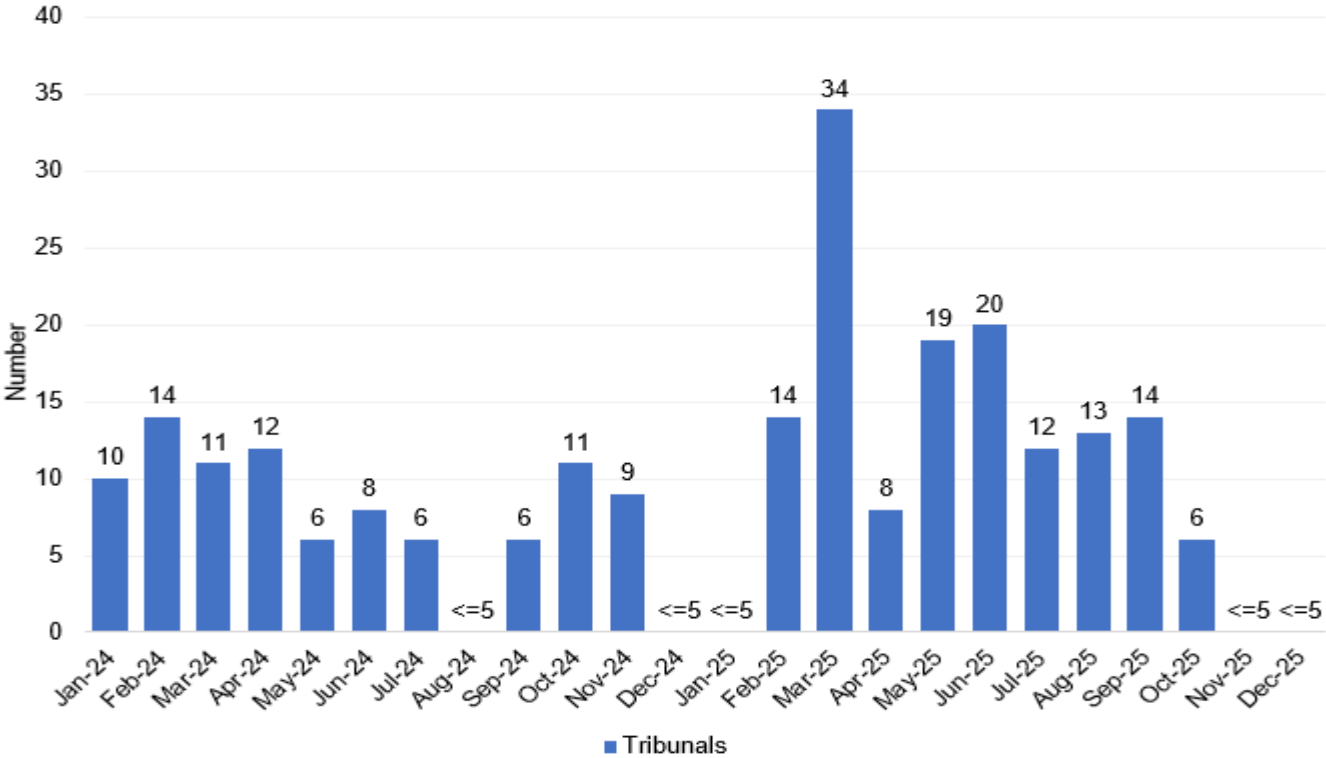
Source: Wirral Health Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document (2025)

Note: * in table above for months not reported

6.3 Tribunals

Figure 70 shows tribunals (between January 2024 and February 2025) the average number of tribunals was reporting approximately 8 per month. March 2025 saw the greatest amount of tribunals (34) in any month in the last 24 months, but since then the figures have shown a slow decline in trend and the latest reporting month (December 2025) with <=5 tribunals being recorded (EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document).

Figure 70: Number of Tribunals within the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process, Wirral, (January 2024 to December 2025)



Source: EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document. (2025)

Tribunal reasons

Data in **Table 15** show that from January 2025 to December 2025 there have been 175 tribunals. (EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document).

Table 15: Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Tribunal reasons in Wirral, January 2025 to December 2025

Tribunal Reason	2025
Refusal to assess	21
Refusal not to issue	17
Sections B and F	7
Sections B, F and I	75
Sections B, F and I and extended powers	24
Sections F and I	*
Section I only	18
B, F, and health extended powers	6
B, F, and health and social care extended powers	*
I and health extended powers,	*
I and social care	*
Failure to maintain	*
Total	175

Source: EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document (2025)

Note: * Not recorded

7.0 Health

Health data relates to Children and Young people under the age of 18, unless specified otherwise.

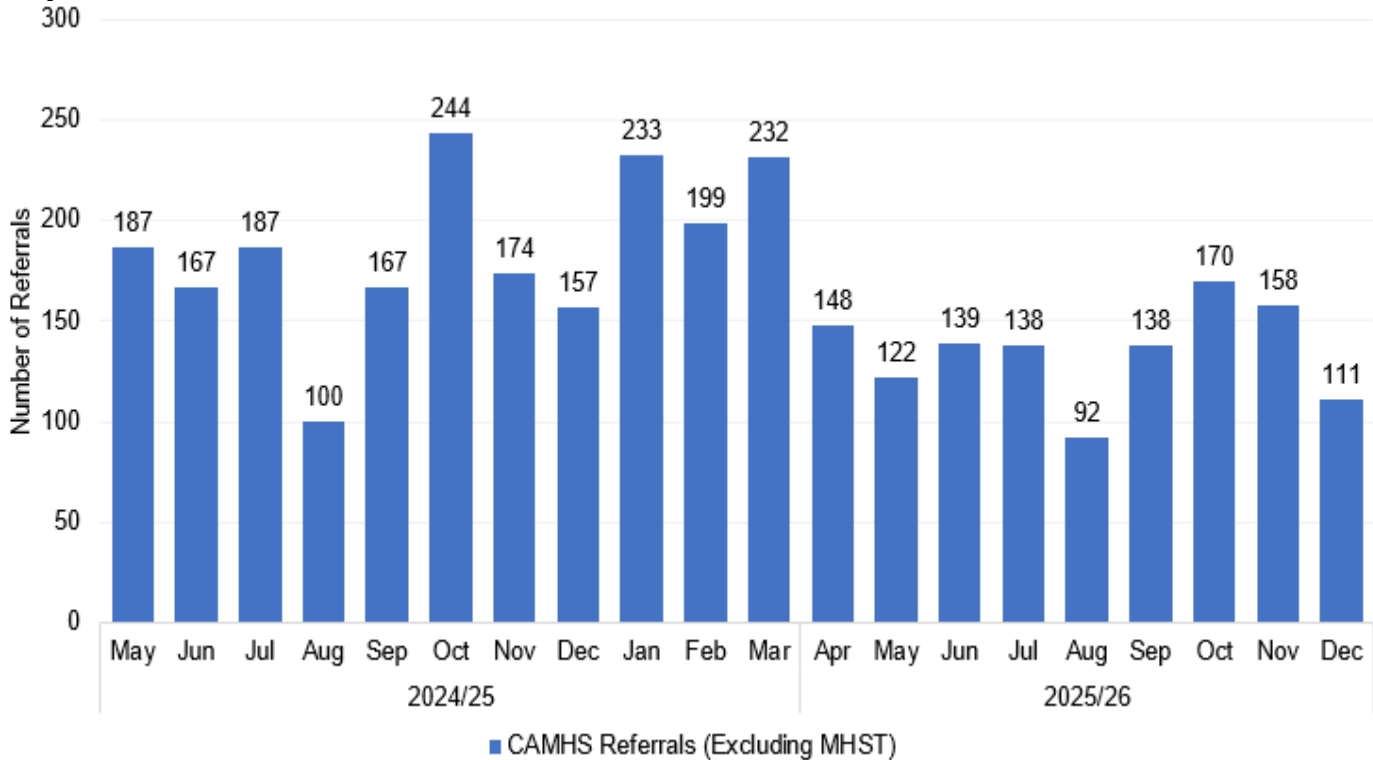
7.1 Wirral Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Services

Figure 71 shows the trend of referrals into Wirral CYP Mental Health Services (formerly Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service CAMHS and excluding Mental Health Support Team MHST) since May 2024/25.

Data for 2024/25 (excluding April) shows 2,046 referrals and 1,216 since April 2025 (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

The first nine months reporting in 2024/25 compared to nine months reporting in 2025/26 shows a 25% decrease in the number of referrals to CYP Mental Health Services.

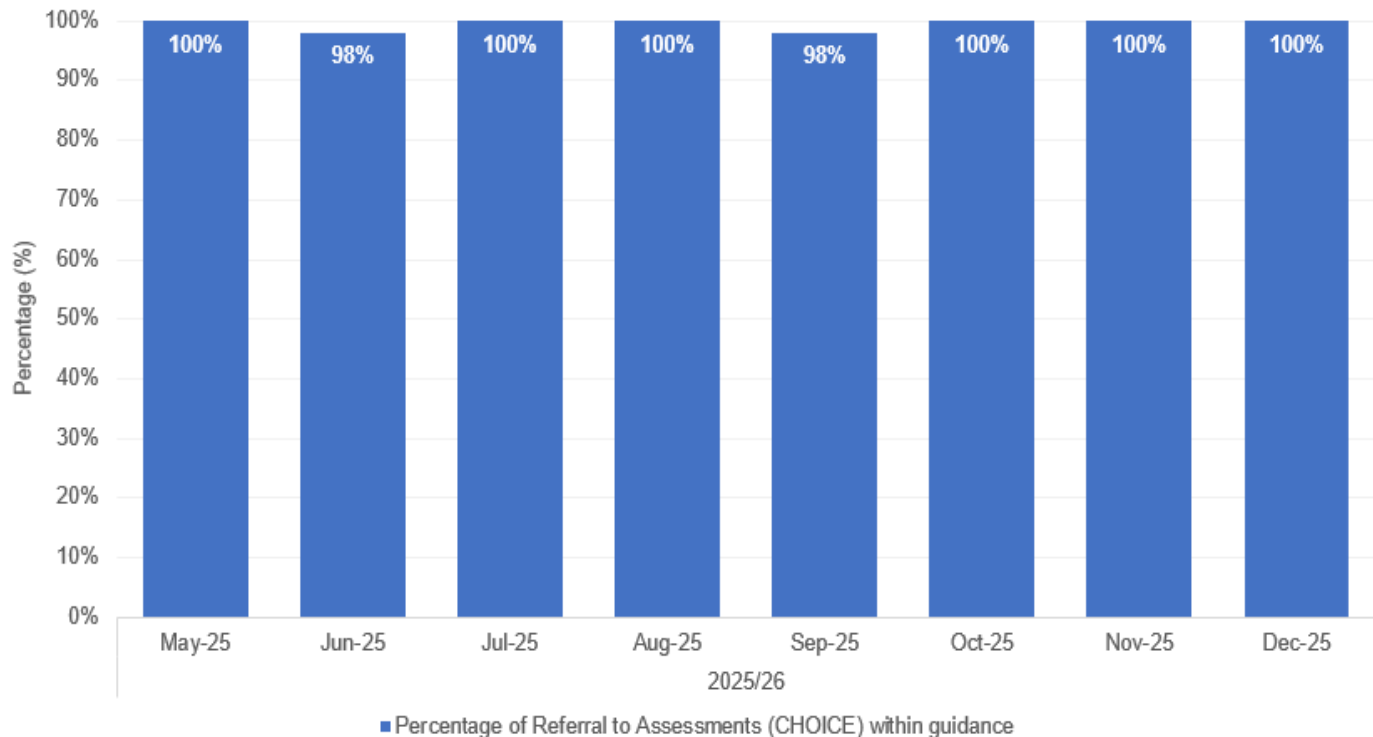
Figure 71: Number of referrals to Children and Young Peoples (CYP) Mental Health Services, May 2024/25 - December 2025/26, Wirral



Source: CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document (Updated data 2025)

Figure 72 below shows the percentage of referral to assessments (CHOICE) within guidance compliance between May 2025 and December 2025. Apart from June and September (98%) recorded, all other months reported 100%.

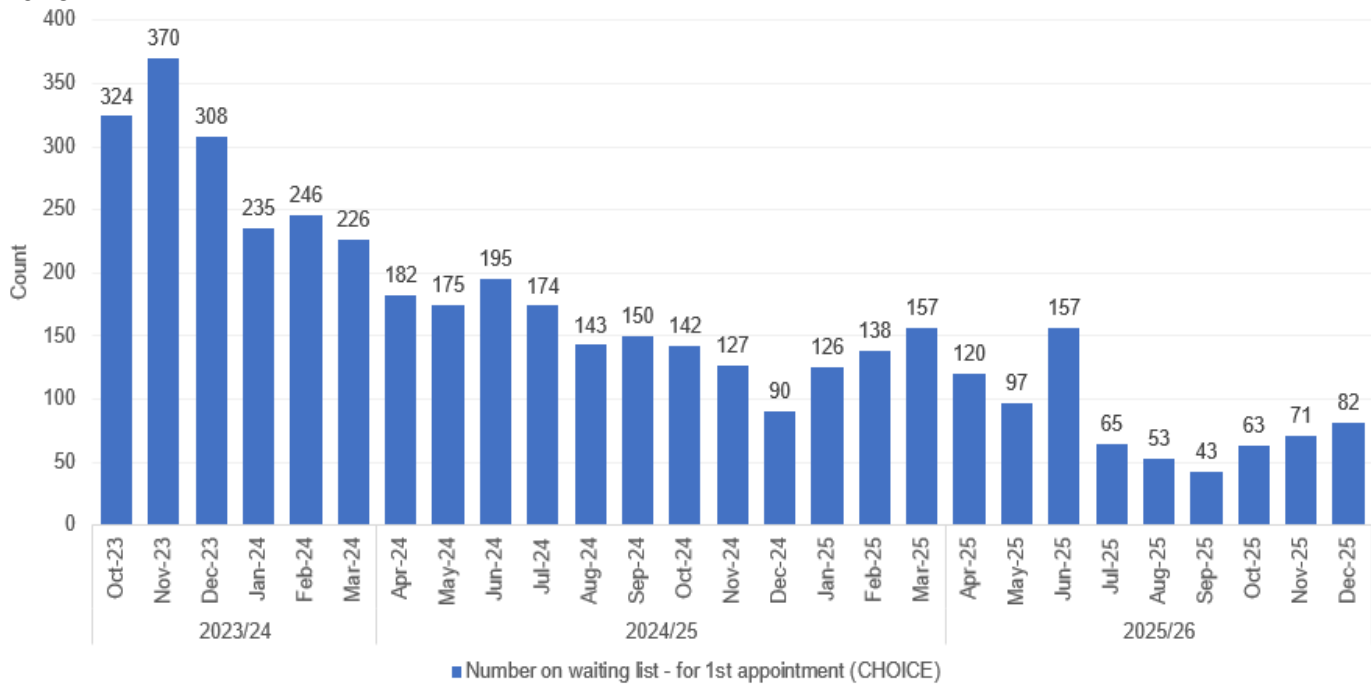
Figure 72: Percentage of Referral to Assessments (CHOICE) within guidance May 2025 to December 2025



Source: CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document (2025)

Figure 73 below shows the numbers on the waiting list for a first appointment (CHOICE) from October 2023 to December 2025.

Figure 73: Number on waiting list - for 1st appointment (CHOICE) October 2023 to December 2025



Source: CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document (2025)

Numbers on the waiting list for first appointment (CHOICE) have been steadily falling since November 2023. This month saw the highest number of waits with 370 but they have since fallen month on month to a low number of waits in September 2025 of 43. However, the latest figure for December 2025 has seen this almost double to 82 compared to September 2025 but this is still below most months in the last 27 months.

The average waiting time from referral to assessment (CHOICE) in May 2025 was 5 weeks. The average fell month on month from May to November where the average waiting time was 2 weeks. The latest figure for December 2025 has increased slightly to 3-weeks from referral to assessment (CHOICE).

Local approach to children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing

Branch is a system-wide approach to improving children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing in Wirral, centred around a digital platform that acts as a single front door to support. It was developed to address fragmented services, high levels of inappropriate CAMHS referrals, and a lack of clear pathways for families and professionals.

Through an online questionnaire, Branch identifies a young person’s needs and matches them to the most appropriate support, combining digital triage with input from a dedicated matching team and a daily multi-agency panel (including My Mind/CAMHS) to ensure referrals are appropriate—directing those who need specialist intervention to My Mind while guiding others to more relevant early help or community services, supported by an Alliance of providers with wider signposting into over 50 local organisations.

The impact is a more coordinated, responsive and prevention-focused system, where children and young people access support more quickly, services are better matched to need, and partners benefit from shared data and insight to improve provision—ultimately enabling earlier intervention, better outcomes, and more effective use of My Mind within the wider system.

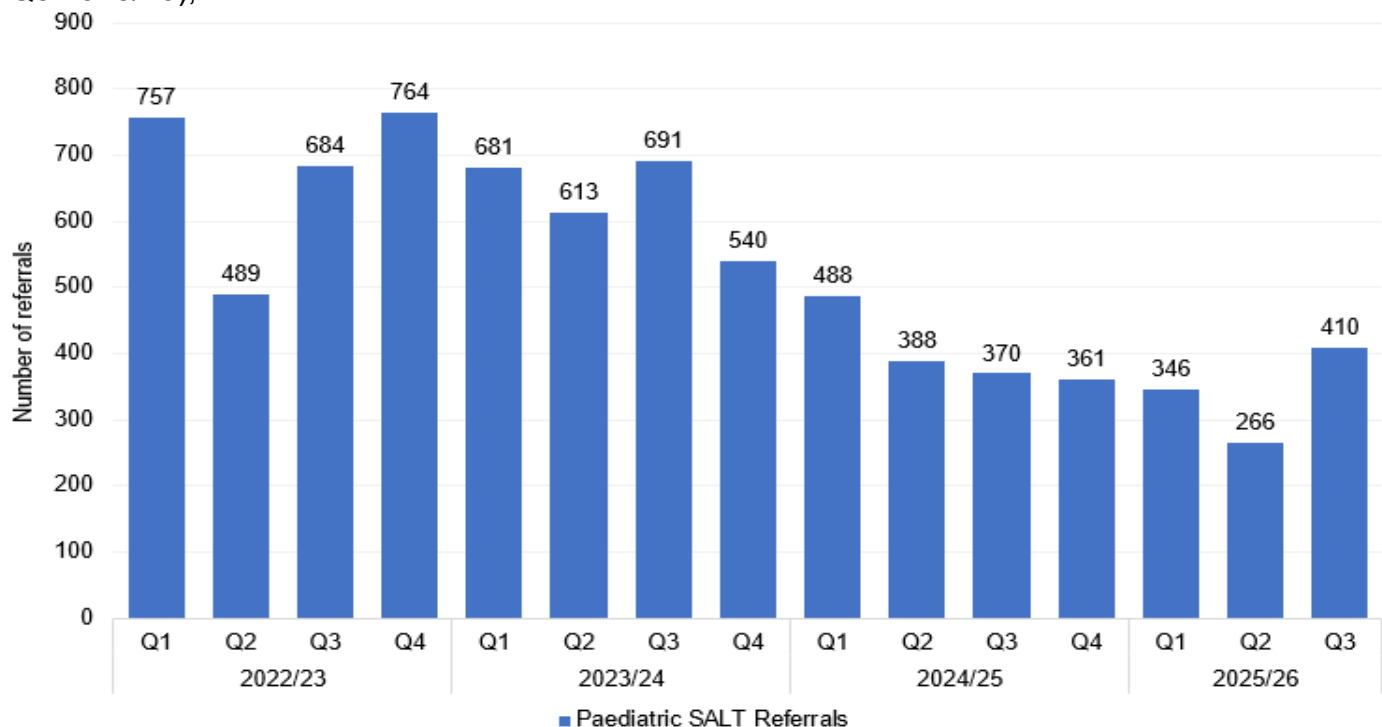
7.2 Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

The number of referrals into the paediatrics speech and language therapy service has seen a gradual decrease for the reporting period below.

For example, **Figure 74** shows a low of 266 referrals in Q2 2025/26, to a high of 764 in Q4 2022/23 (NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document).

Since Q4 2022/23, there has been a general downward trend in the number of referrals. The latest quarter (Q3 2025/26) has seen the first increase (410) in referrals since Q3in 2023/24.

Figure 74: Number of referrals to Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) per quarter (2022/23 to Q3 2025/26), Wirral



Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2025)

The Wirral Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) offer is delivered through a Balanced System Model that provides a coordinated approach across universal, targeted and specialist support. It focuses on prevention and early intervention by equipping schools with training, communication clinics, and accessible advice, alongside maintaining specialist assessment and therapy where required.

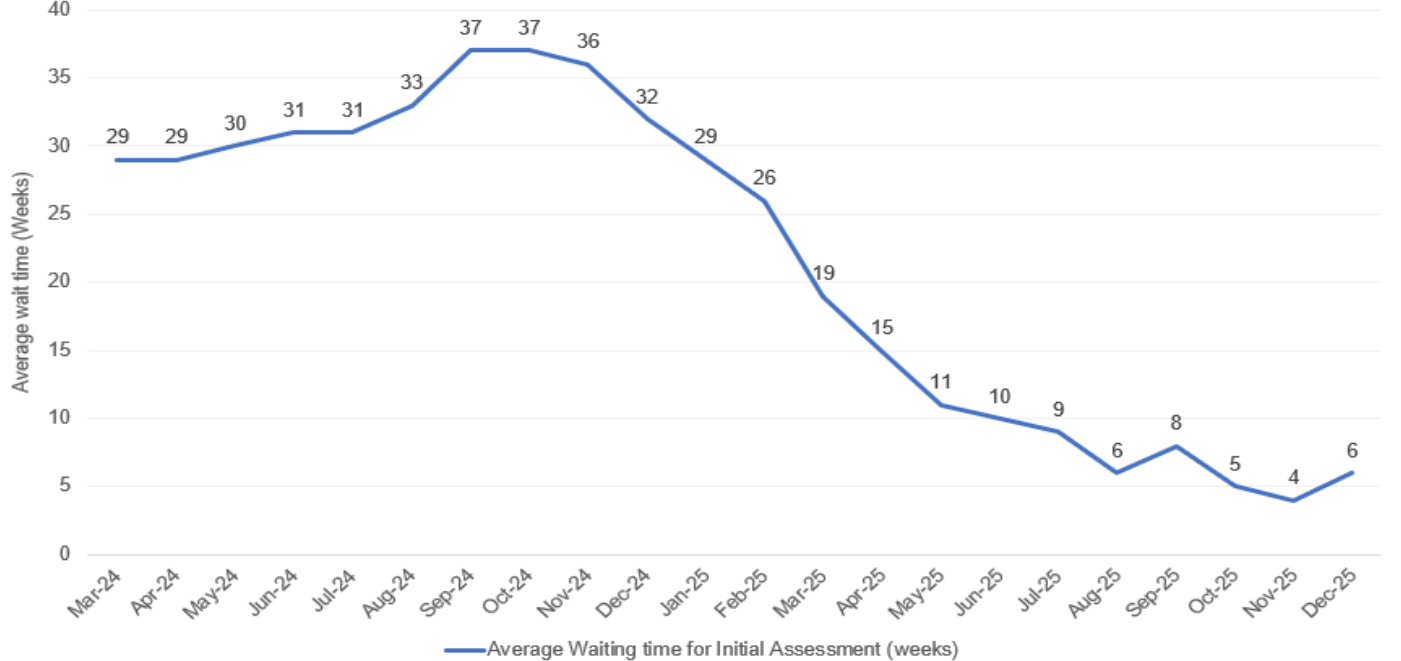
This model addresses previous capacity challenges and rising demand by strengthening the graduated approach, reducing reliance on EHCPs and ensuring a more consistent and equitable offer across the system.

Average waiting time for initial assessment

Figure 75 below shows that between March 2024 and December 2025, the average waiting time in weeks for an initial assessment by the paediatric speech and language team, has shown a significant decrease. In March 2024, the average wait in weeks was 29 and this increased to 37 weeks in September 2024.

Since October 2024, the average waiting time in weeks has decreased month on month to a low of 4-week wait in November 2025. The latest performance for December 2025 is 6 weeks average wait, slightly up from November but is overall 31 weeks less wait than September and October of 2024.

Figure 75: Average waiting time for Initial Assessment (weeks) Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) by month (March 2024 to December 2025)

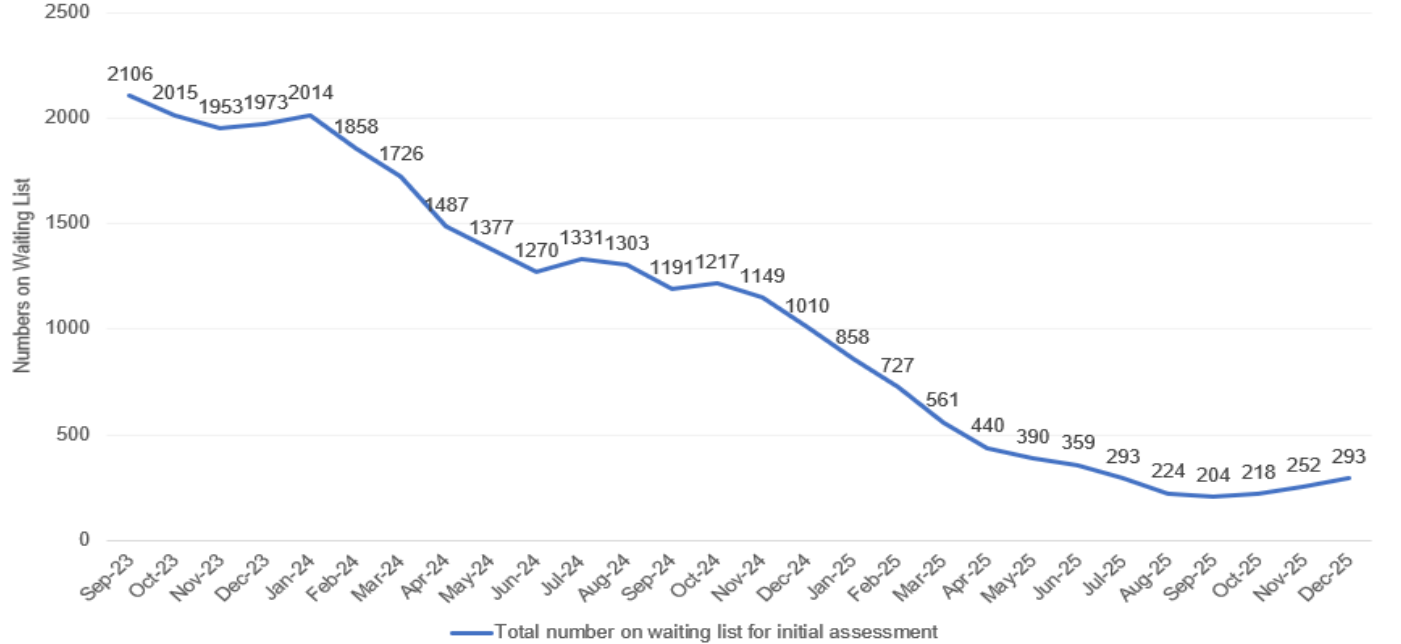


Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2025)

Total number on waiting list for initial assessment

In September 2023, there were 2,106 on the waiting list for initial assessment (**Figure 76**). By September 2025 that number had fallen to a low of 204, with the last three months of 2025 showing a slight uptick in the numbers waiting to 293 in December of 2025.

Figure 76: Total number on waiting list for initial assessment, September 2023 to December 2025, Wirral

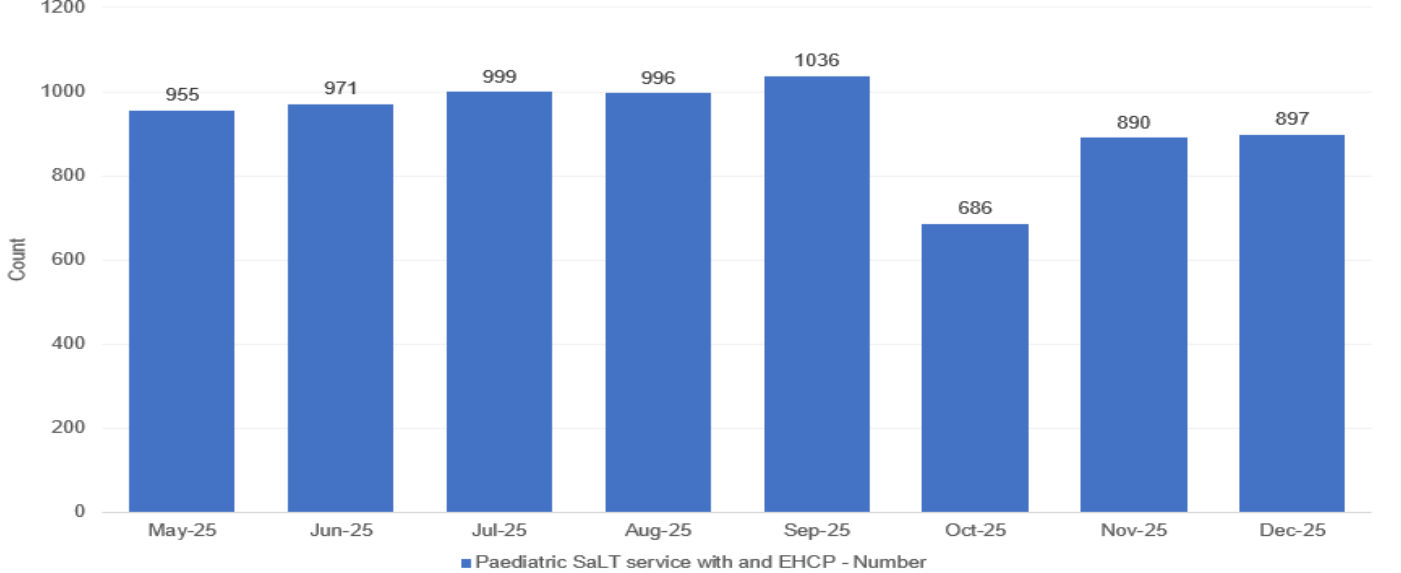


Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2025)

Paediatric SALT and Education and Health Care Plan

Figure 77 below considers a new metric, the number of Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) service and Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) since May 2025.

Figure 77: Number of Paediatric SALT service with and EHCP, May 2025 to December 2025, Wirral



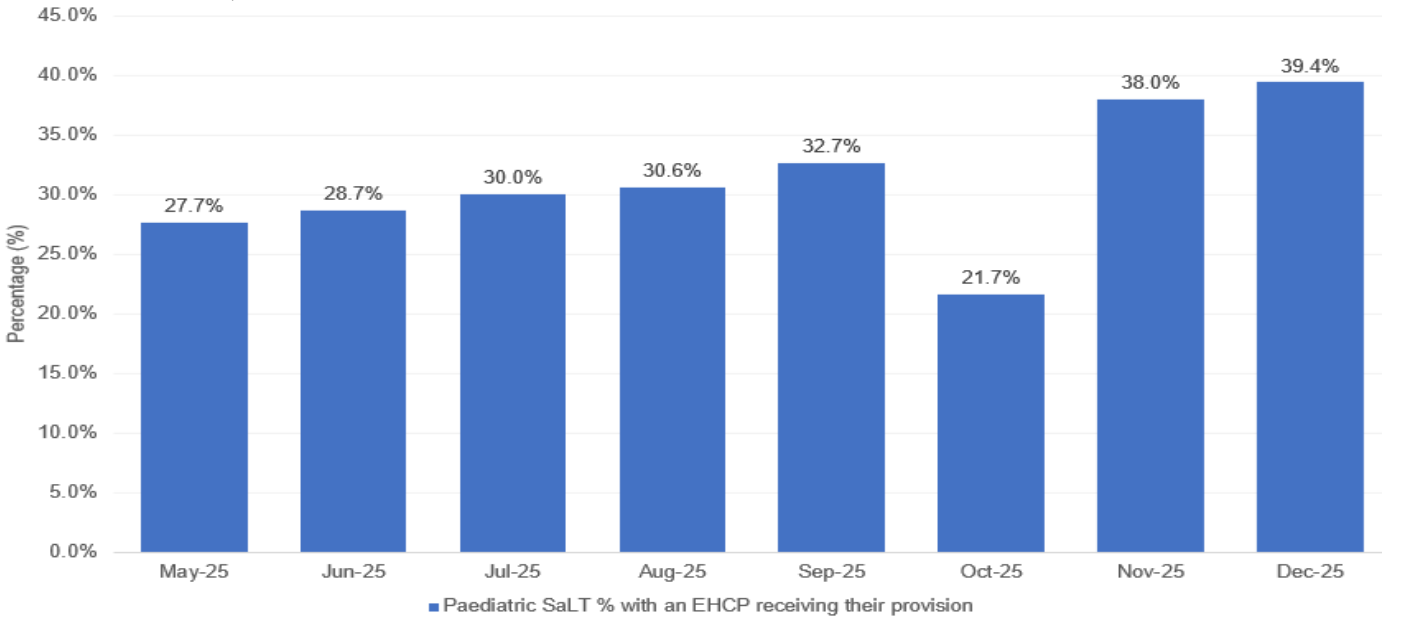
Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2025)

Figure 77 above shows a steady increase in the number of clients with an EHCP within the paediatric SALT service, from May 2025 (955) to September (1,036). The numbers decreased in October to 686 before increasing again to 890 (November 2025) and 897 (December 2025).

Paediatric SALT and EHCP receiving provision

Figure 78 below shows those children with an EHCP receiving their provision by the paediatric SALT team has increased month on month since reporting in May 2025. In May 2025 27.7% received their provision, this had increased to 39.4% in December 2025.

Figure 78: Paediatric SALT percentage with an EHCP receiving their provision, May 2025 to December 2025, Wirral



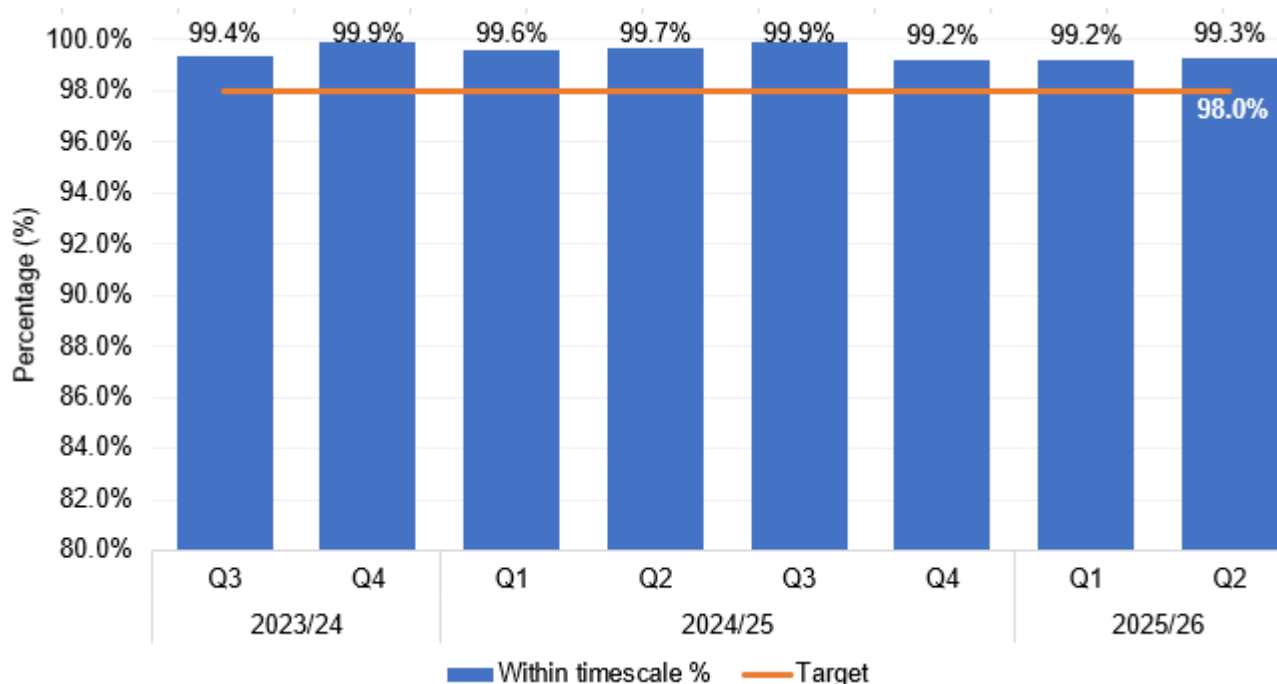
Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2025)

7.3 Newborn Hearing

Figure 79 details how the proportion of babies eligible for newborn hearing screening who were seen within 28 days (4 weeks) corrected gestational age (timescale), currently 99.3% (Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document) (Q2 2025/2026).

The newborn hearing screening service has a target of 98% for clients accessing service within 28 days (4 weeks) corrected gestational age (timescale). Since September 2023 to date the service has achieved above this target.

Figure 79: Percentage (%) rate of newborn screening undertaken within timescale, Wirral, (Q3 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26)



Source: Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2025)

For the latest 24 month reporting period (Q3 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26), 100% of babies with a no clear response result in one or both ears (or other) were referred for audiological assessment within timescale.

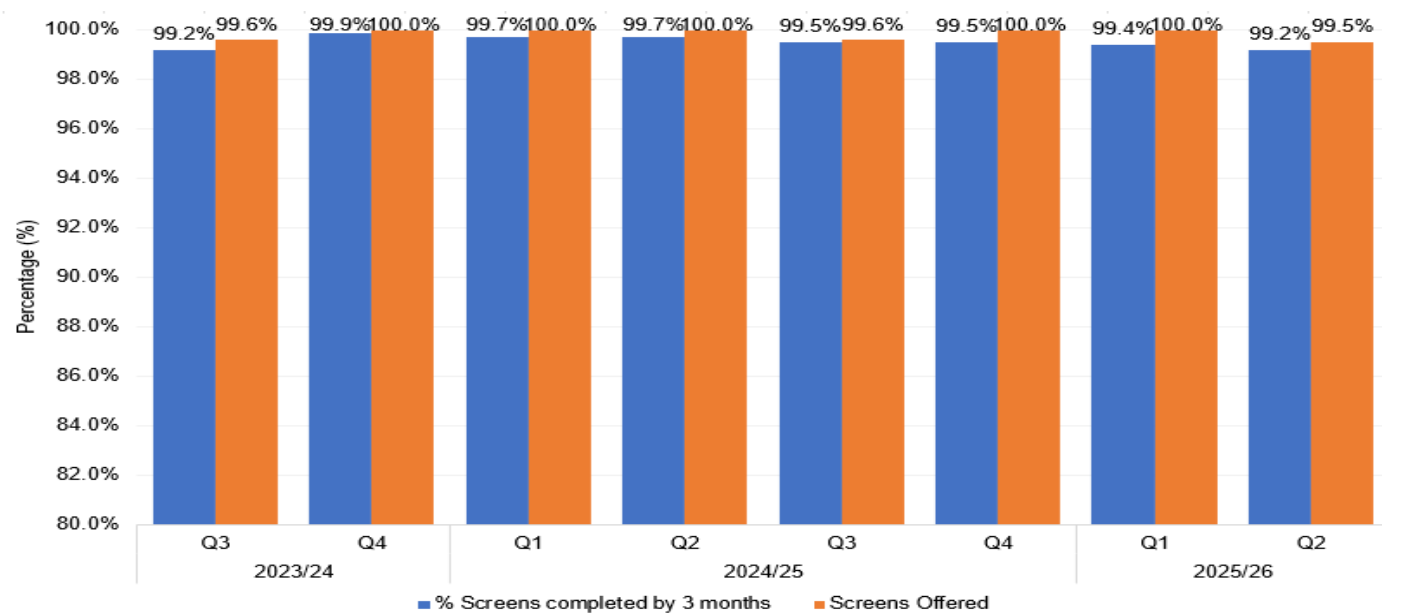
Furthermore, except for two quarters (Q3 2024/25 and Q2 2025/26), 100% of babies with a no clear response result in one or both ears (or other) that were referred for audiological assessment within timescale, received the assessment (Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2025)).

For each quarter since Q3 2023/24, over 99.5% of hearing screens were offered to newborns.

for each quarter since Q3 2023/24, over 99.0% of those screens offered were completed within 3 months. (**Figure 80** below).

There were only 0.8% (combined) of newborn hearing screens declined in Q3 of 2024/25 and Q2 2025/26, the remaining screens between Q3 2023/24 and Q2 2025/26 were all accepted (Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2025)).

Figure 80: Proportion of newborn hearing screens offered, and screens completed by 3 months, in Wirral, Q3 2023/24 to Q2 2025/26



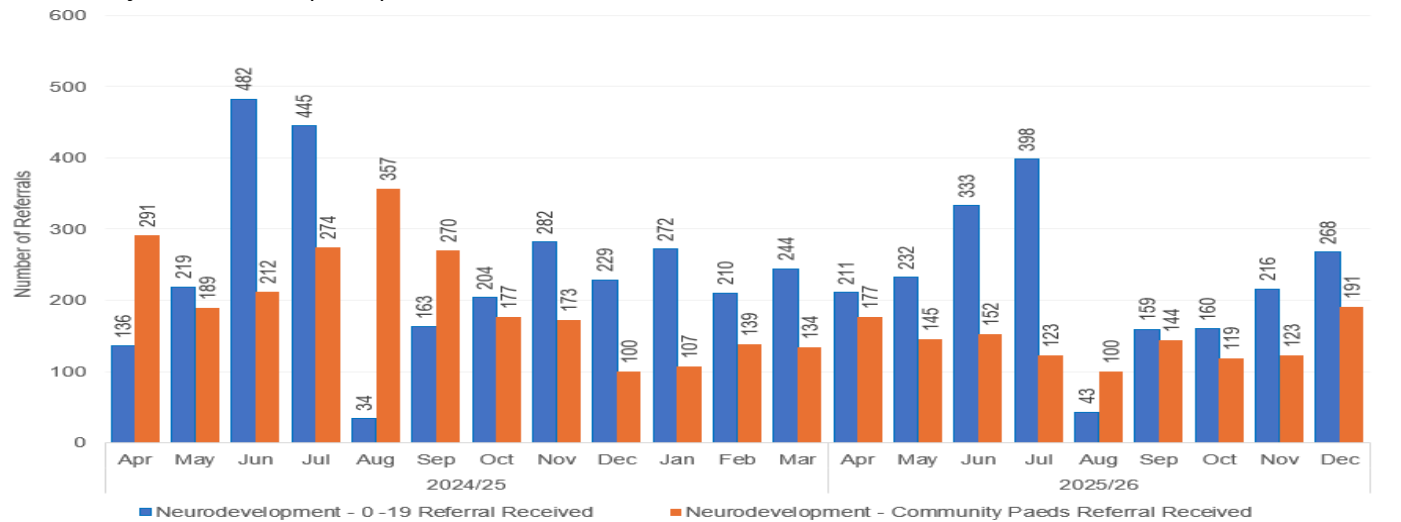
Source: Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2025)

7.4 Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic Pathway

Figure 81 below shows the number of neurodevelopmental referrals to both the 0-19 teams and also the community paediatric team for 2024/25 to December 2025/26. For the 0-19 team just over 5,000 referrals have been received since 2024/25 compared to just under 4,000 to the community paediatric team. For the 0-19 referrals the peaks for the last two reported year have been in the months of June and July, 482 and 445 in 2024/25 and 333 and 389 in 2025/26. The average number of referrals in 2024/25 for the 0-19 team was just over 240 compared to 225 in December 2025, showing a slight downward trend in the number of referrals.

The average number of referrals for the community paediatric team in 2024/25 was just over 200, this has decreased to just under 150 for the reporting year of 2025/26 showing another downward trend in referrals.

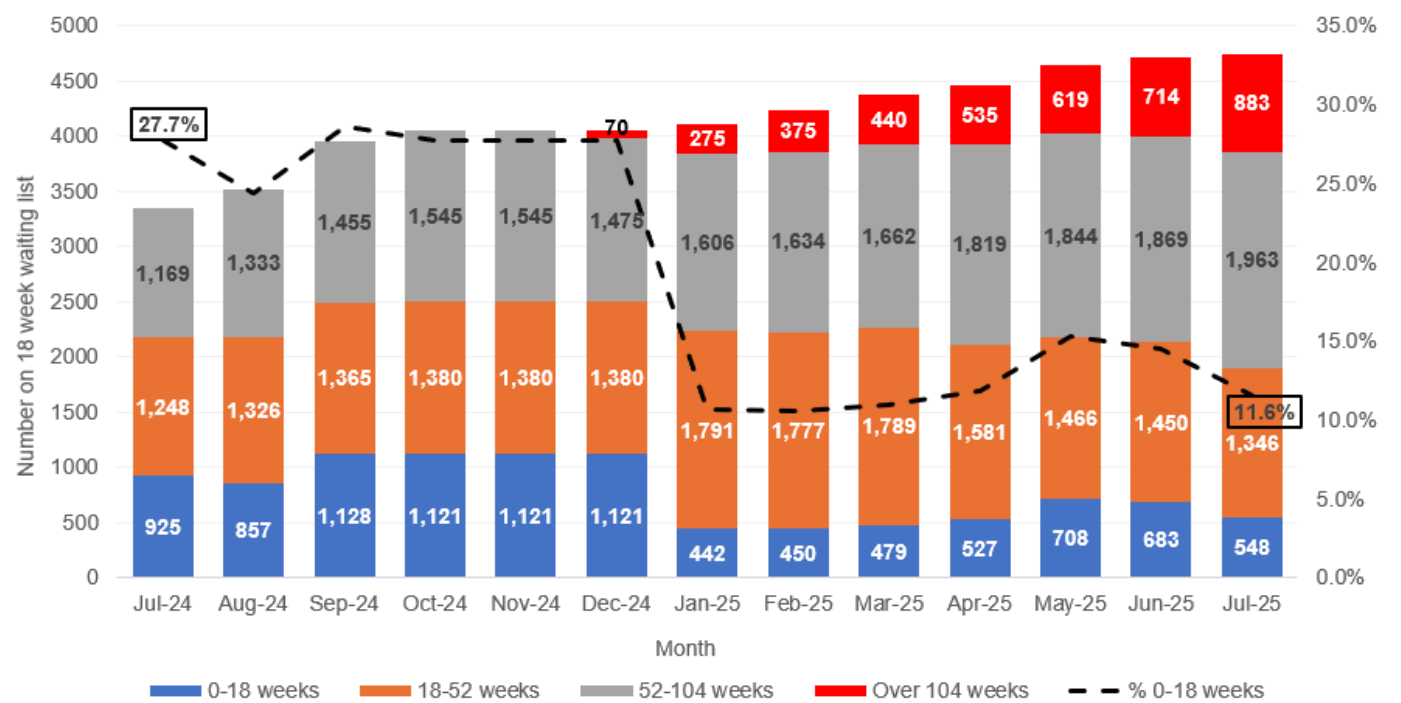
Figure 81: Number of referrals to the 0-19 and Community paediatric teams, 2024/25 and 2025/26 year to date (YTD), Wirral



Source: Wirral Neurodevelopment Scorecard (Internal Document), 2025

All neurodevelopment referrals are currently seen by Wirral’s community paediatrics team following any required diagnostic assessments. **Figure 82** below shows the waiting times trend over time to be seen for a first appointment by a community paediatrician.

Figure 82: Number of Children and Young People (CYP) for first appointment by a community paediatrician, waiting by weeks over time, and percentage (%) within 18 weeks trend



Source: National community waiting times data submission (NHS Digital), Cheshire & Merseyside ICB BIP Report
Note: Data for August 2025 to December 2025 not available. Please note the breakdown of 52+ weeks is only available from December 2024 onwards: ‘NHS England began providing a further breakdown of 52+ week waiters in December 2024, with the introduction of 52-104 weeks and 104+ weeks wait bands. Prior to this, this detail is not available so patients over 52 weeks will show in the 52-104 week band, although a proportion of those may have waited longer than 104 weeks’.

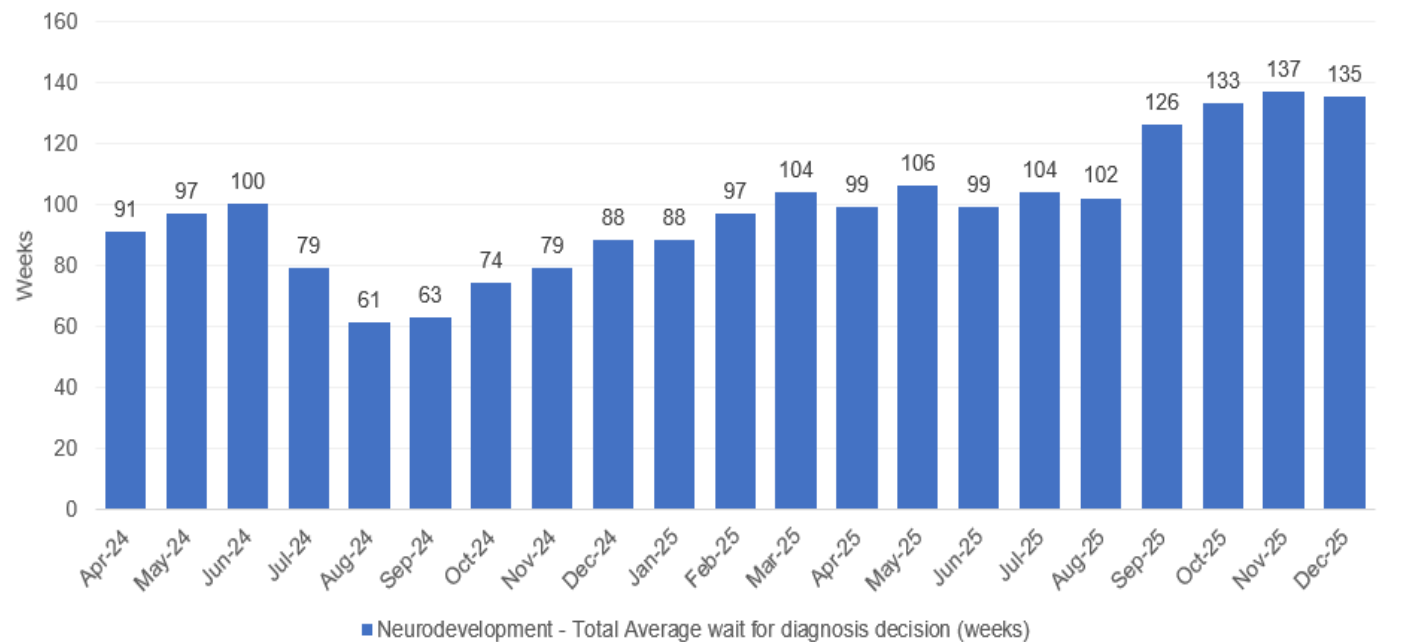
In July 2024 there were 3,342 Children and Young People (CYP) waiting for assessment with those waiting 18-52 weeks the greatest (1,248). In July 2025, there were 4,740 CYP waiting for a first appointment with a community paediatrician (30% increase), with 883 of those waiting more than 104 weeks to be seen. The majority of those waiting to be seen in July 2025 were waiting between 52 and 104 weeks (1,963). It is worth noting that those patients waiting over 104 weeks was first introduced in December 2024 and only reported from that data onwards (see notes under **figure 82**).

Average waiting time for diagnostic appointment (weeks)

Figure 83 below shows the average waiting time for diagnostic appointment (in weeks) from April 2024 to December 2025.

The overall trend during this time period has seen the average increase from a low in August of 61 weeks to more than doubling 137 weeks in November 2025.

Figure 83: Total Average wait for diagnosis decision (weeks) April 2024 to December 2025, Wirral



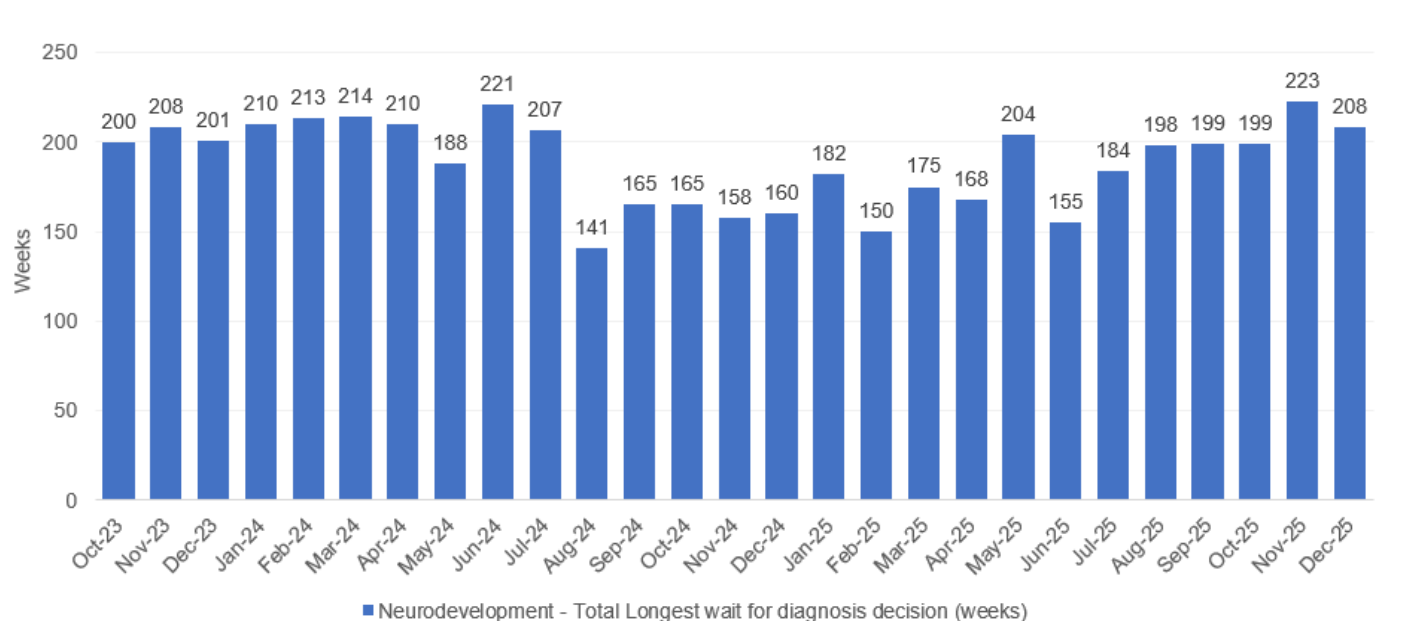
Source: Wirral Neurodevelopment Scorecard (Internal Document), 2025

Longest waiting time for diagnostic appointment (weeks)

Figure 84 below shows data for the total longest wait for diagnosis decision (in weeks) between October 2023 and December 2025. With **Figure 84** showing average waiting time in weeks rising since April 2024, the longest waits have remained fairly stable over a similar time period. Between October 2023 and June 2024, the average longest wait was 200 weeks.

This dipped between August 2024 to June 2025 with approximately 150 weeks being the longest wait in weeks. Since then, the latest 6 months to December 2025 have increased to on average 190 weeks for the longest wait time for a diagnostic decision.

Figure 84: Total longest wait for diagnosis decision (weeks) October 2023 to December 2025, Wirral

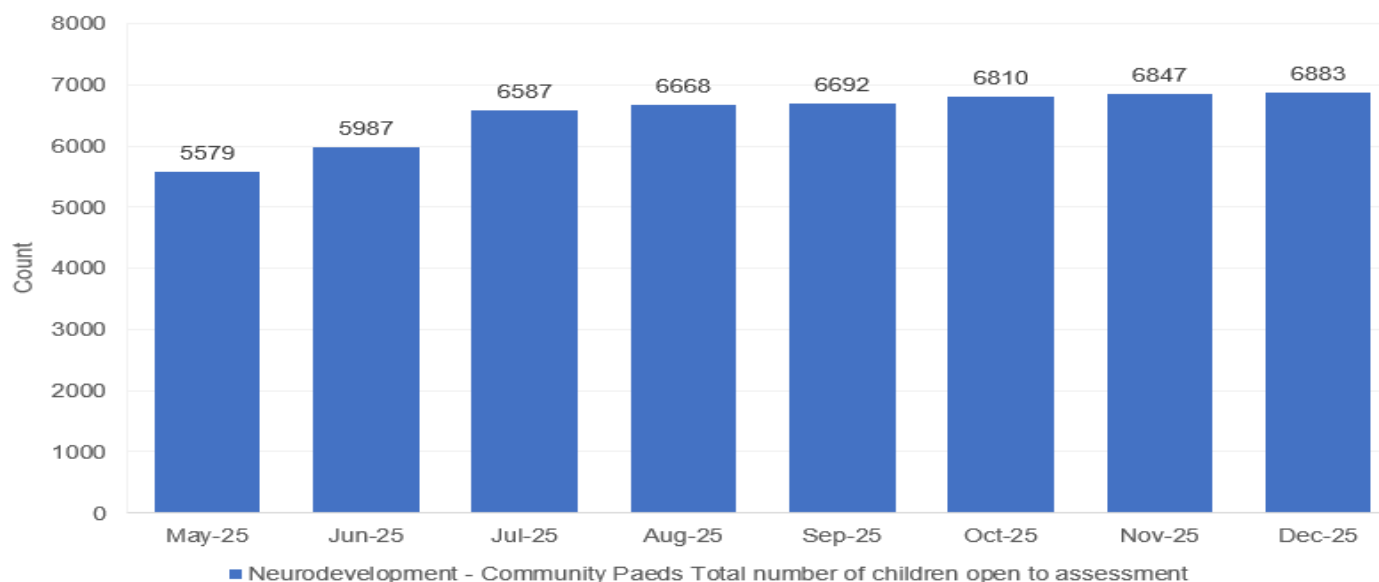


Source: Wirral Neurodevelopment Scorecard (Internal Document), 2025
Note: The figures above are a combination of the longest waiting time for Community Paediatrics and similar for 0-19 Service.

Total number of children open to assessment

Figure 85 below shows the community paediatric total number of children open to assessment between May 2025 and December 2025. Since May 2025, the trend has shown an increase in the number of children open to assessment from 5,579 to 6,883, a rise of just over 23% in eight (8) months.

Figure 85: Community Paediatric Total number of children open to assessment, May 2025 to December 2025, Wirral



Source: Wirral Neurodevelopment Scorecard (Internal Document), 2025

Note: 'Open to assessment' is the number of children on the caseload who have not yet had a diagnosis, they may be on the Outpatient Waiting List waiting for a first appointment with a clinician or on the Follow Up Waiting List having been seen by a clinician but not yet received a diagnosis, with assessments being carried out and further appointment(s) required.

In June 2025, in addition to those waiting to be seen by a community paediatrician, there were 1,642 CYP waiting for neurodevelopment diagnostic assessments. The total number of CYP waiting on the Neurodevelopment pathway in Wirral in June 2024 (including those waiting for diagnostics and those waiting for a community paediatrician) is 6,355

Wirral Neurodevelopment Pathway

The Wirral neurodevelopmental pathway is moving towards a more joined-up, needs-led model that prioritises early identification and support rather than relying on diagnosis alone.

A strengthened graduated approach sits at the centre, supported by use of a neurodevelopmental profiling tool to better understand children's needs and guide support in education and other settings. This is complemented by a developing Neurodiversity Hub, which provides accessible advice, strategies and signposting for families, schools and professionals to ensure children receive help earlier and while waiting for assessment.

The new diagnostic pathway implemented in January 2026 is delivered through a multi-disciplinary model, with referrals triaged via an MDT using evidence from profiling and schools, alongside risk-based prioritisation. Improvements to pathway management, including a system-wide dashboard and clearer discharge processes, are helping reduce caseloads and ensure children access the right support at the right time.

7.5 Health Visitors / School Nurses

The unpublished local performance data for 2025/26, shows that the proportion of new birth visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days has increased to 95.3%. (*Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Performance Report, Internal Document (2026)*). With the latest monthly data (January 2026), showing that this proportion is now at 95.7%. Please note that data published by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is up to the reporting year of 2024/25.

Data as seen in **Figure 86**, as published by OHID ([Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(2026\)](#)) up to March 2025, shows that since 2019/20, overall rates had also improved with the proportion of new birth visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days rising from 91.1% in 2019/20 to 94.7% in 2024/25.

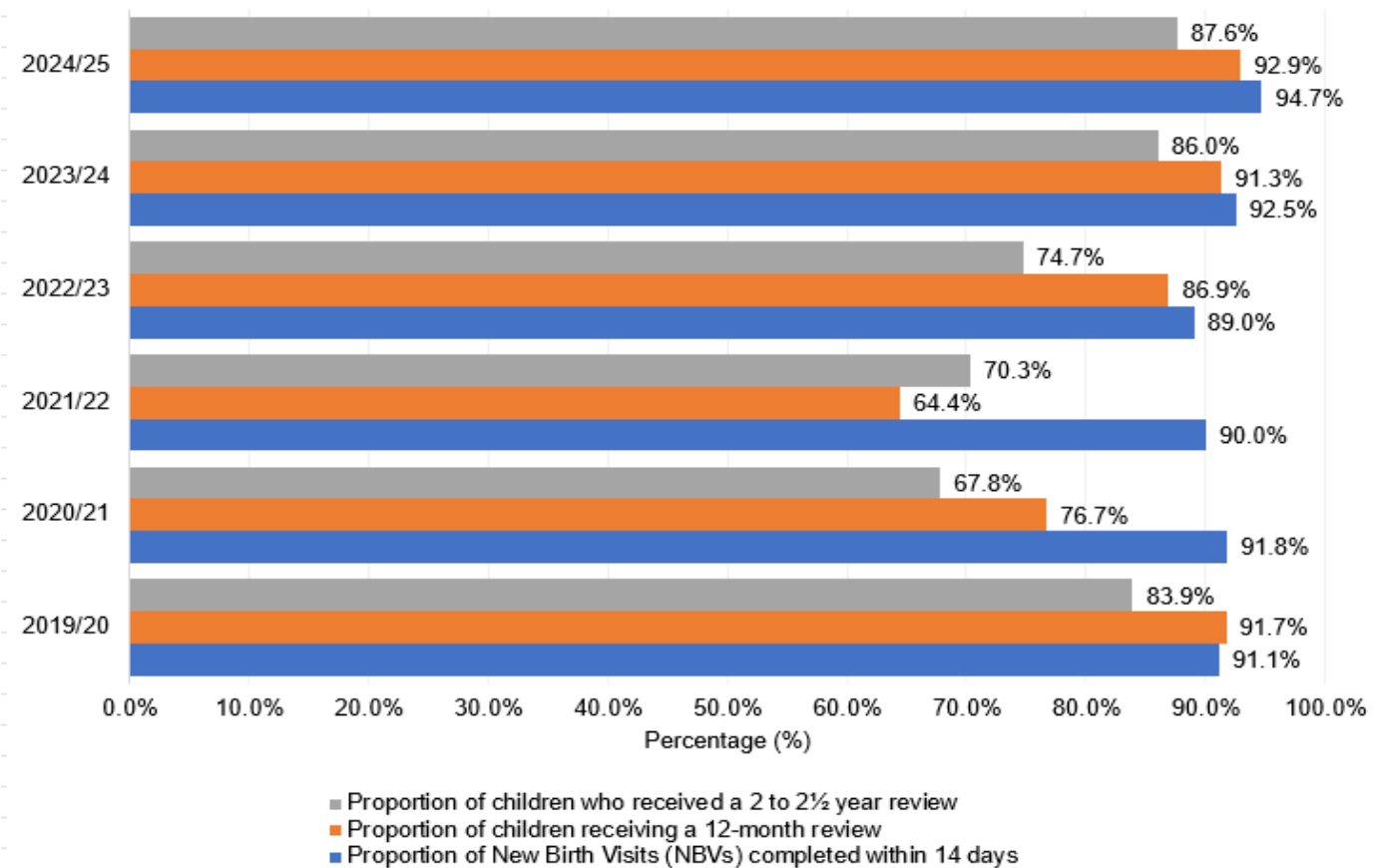
Unpublished local data, also shows that by the end of 2025/26 approximately the proportion of children receiving a 12-month review will be 91.5%. With the latest monthly data (January 2026), then showing that this proportion is now at 94.6% (*Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Performance Report, Internal Document (2026)*). Please note that data published by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is up to the reporting year of 2024/25.

Performance for 2019/20 was in line with what has been reported in 2023/24 and 2024/25 by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. In 2020/21 and 2021/22 the pandemic had an effect on the performance on the 12 month target with reporting dropping to a low of 64.4% in 2021/22 ([Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(2026\)](#)).

Finally, the most recent unpublished local performance data, suggest that the proportion of children receiving a 2 to 2½ year review will increase to approximately 88.0% at the end of 2025/26 (*Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Performance Report, Internal Document (2024)*) and the latest monthly data (January 2026) showing that this proportion is now at 92.6%. Please note that data published by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) is up to the reporting year of 2024/25.

Previously OHID published data (up to March 2024/25) showed there was an increase in the proportion of children receiving a 2 to 2½ year review, with the rate increasing of 67.8% since 2020/21 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and year on year improvements to the latest reporting figure of 87.6% in 2024/25 ([Office for Health Improvement and Disparities \(2026\)](#)) (see **Figure 86** below)

Figure 86: Proportion of Health Visitor / School nurse reviews within timescale in Wirral, 2019/20 – 2024/25

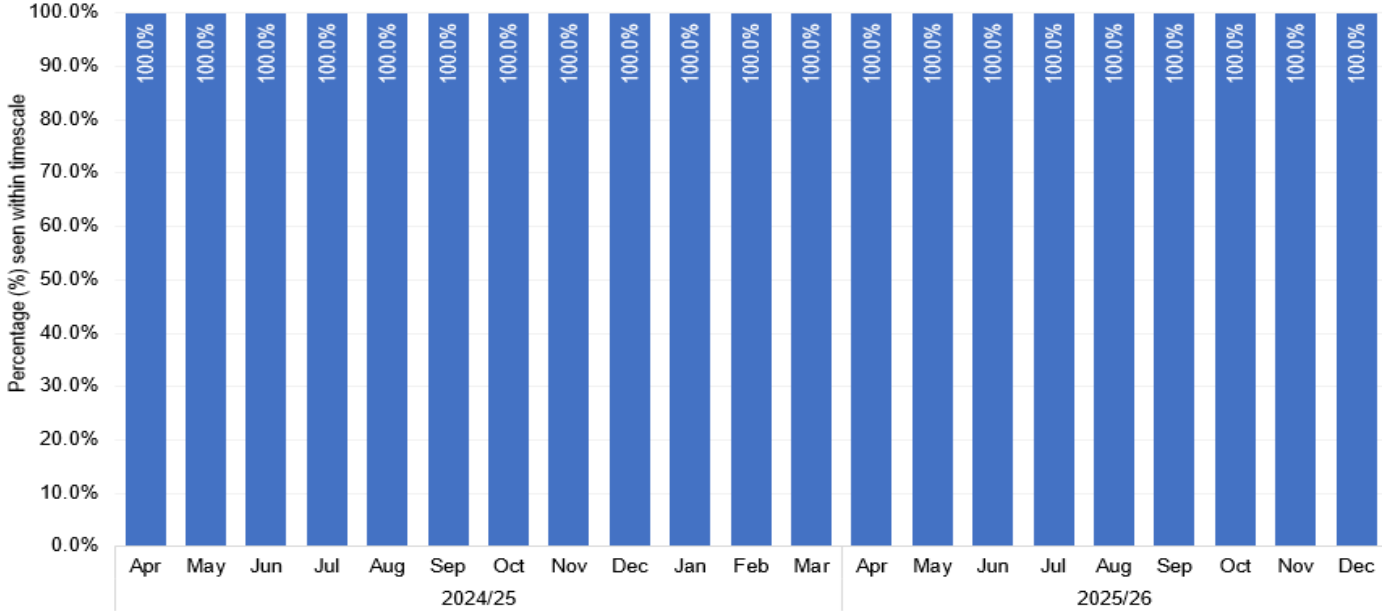


Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities ([OHID](#)), (2026)

7.6 Paediatric Continence

The latest data (**Figure 87**), from April 2024, show that the rate of patients seen for paediatric continence within timescale has remained at 100% for all months.

Figure 87: Paediatric continence percentage seen within statutory timescale, Wirral, (2024/25, 2025/26)

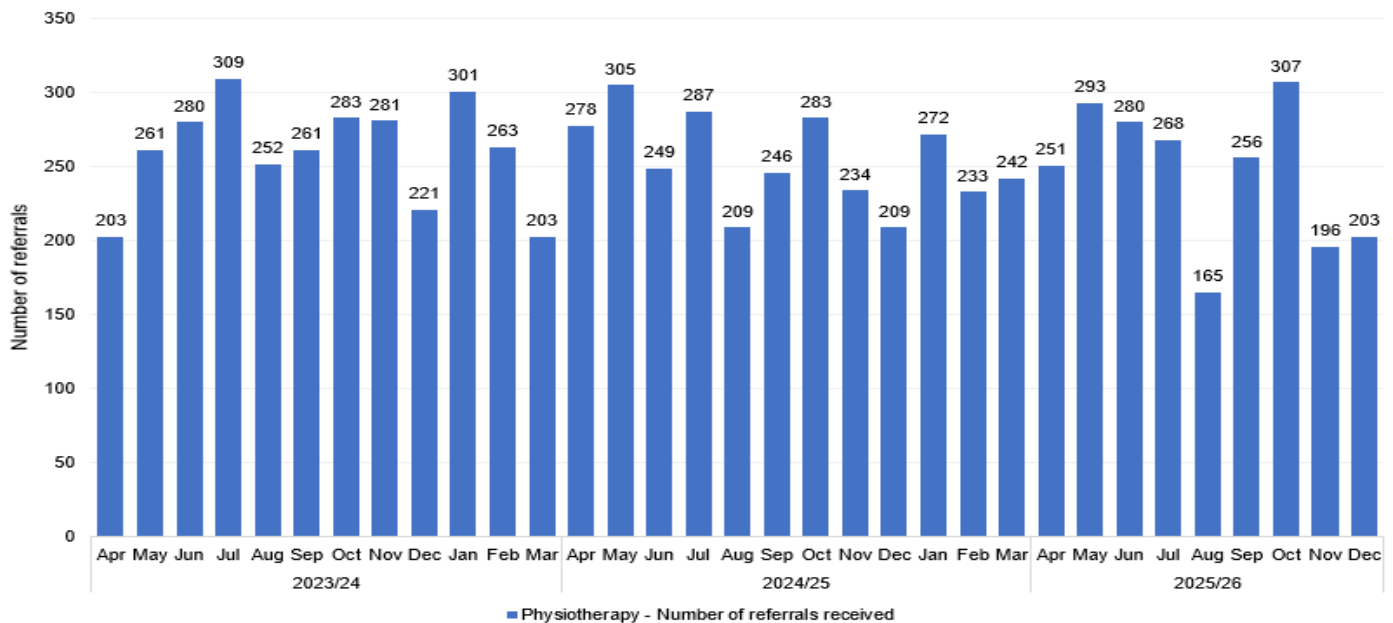


Source: Health Visitor and School Nurse Report, Internal Document (2025)

7.7 Physiotherapy (age 0 – 25 years)

Figure 88 shows that the number of physiotherapy referrals (age 0 – 25 years) have been steady between April 2023/24 to December 2025/26, varying from a high of 309 in July 2023, to a low of 165 in August 2026.

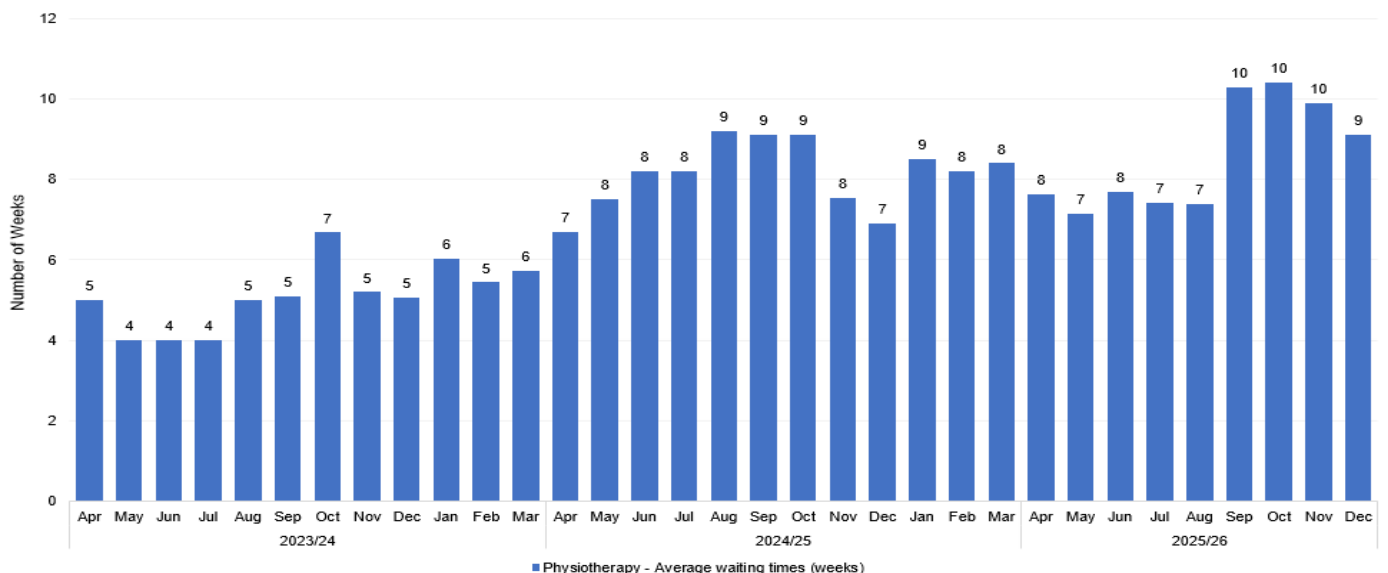
Figure 88: Numbers of Physiotherapy referrals received, aged 0 – 25 years, by month, April 2023/24 - December 2025/26, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health Report - Physiotherapy, Internal Document (2025)

Data in **Figure 89** shows that, despite the number of referrals remaining steady between April 2023/24 and December 2025, there has been an increase in the wait times (in weeks) of referrals to physiotherapy. The average waiting time in April 2023/24 was 5.0 weeks, whereas the latest data in December 2025 shows the average wait time is 9.1 weeks (rounded to 9 in the chart), an increase of 4 weeks. The longest wait in the same time period was in October 2026 of 10.4 weeks.

Figure 89: Physiotherapy, average waiting times (age 0-25 years), in weeks per month, April 2023/24 - December 2025/26, Wirral

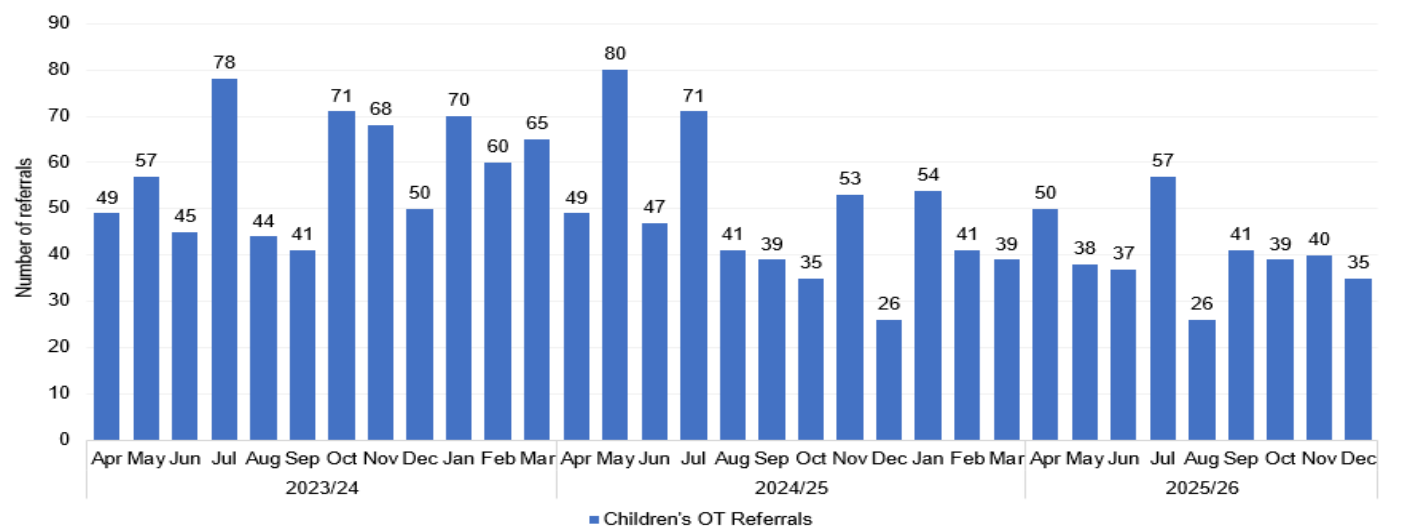


Source: Wirral Health Report - Physiotherapy, Internal Document (2025)

7.8 Paediatric Occupational Therapy (age 0 – 18 years)

Figure 90 shows data of children’s referrals for Paediatric Occupational Therapy for 2023/24 up to Q3 of 2025/26. The trend shows a gradual decrease in numbers of referrals per month, with the average number of referrals for Q1 2023/24 being fifty referrals, whilst in Q3 of 2025/26 the average was 38 referrals. The highest number of referrals in a month was in May 2024/25 (n=80), whilst the lowest number of referrals per month was in December 2024/25 and August 2025/26 (n=26).

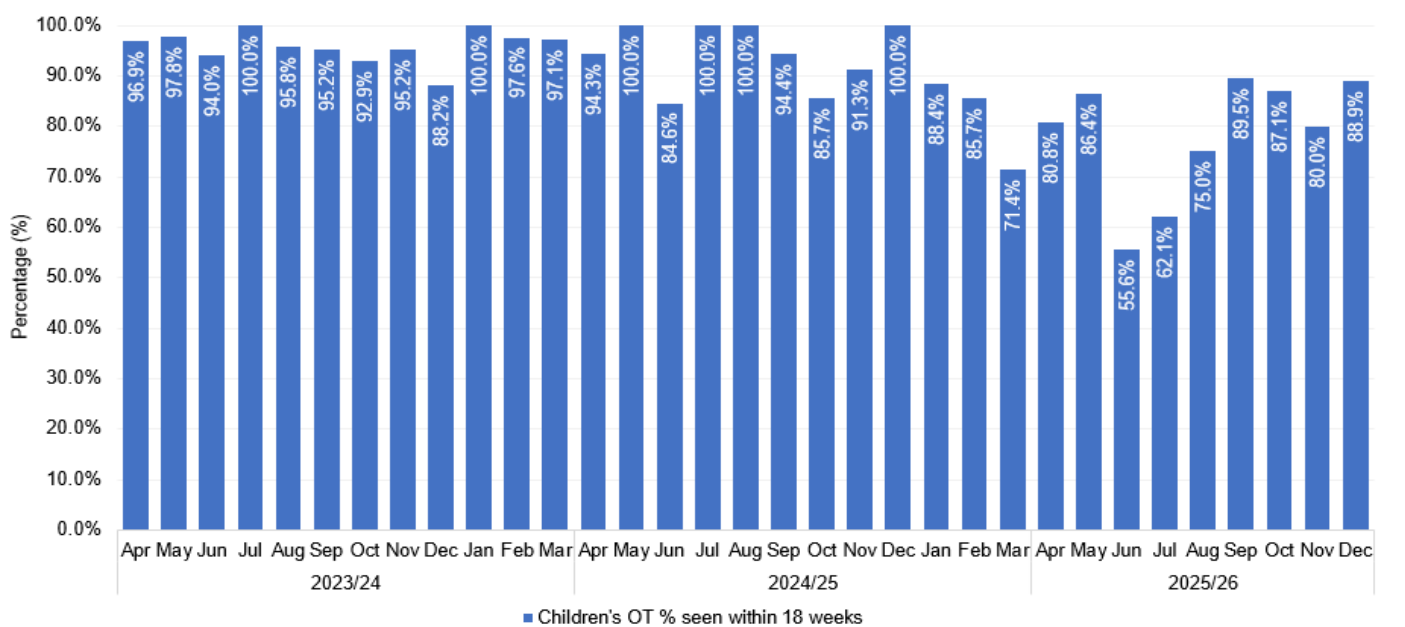
Figure 90: Number of referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy, aged 0 – 18 years, by month, April 2023/24 – December 2025, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health Report – Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2025)

Data in **Figure 91** shows that the general trend of the rate of Paediatric Occupational Therapy referrals seen within 18 weeks has reduced from 96.9% in April 2023 to a low of 55.6% in June 2025. This is a reduction of over forty percentage points. Since June 2025 performance has improved to 89.9% (December 2025).

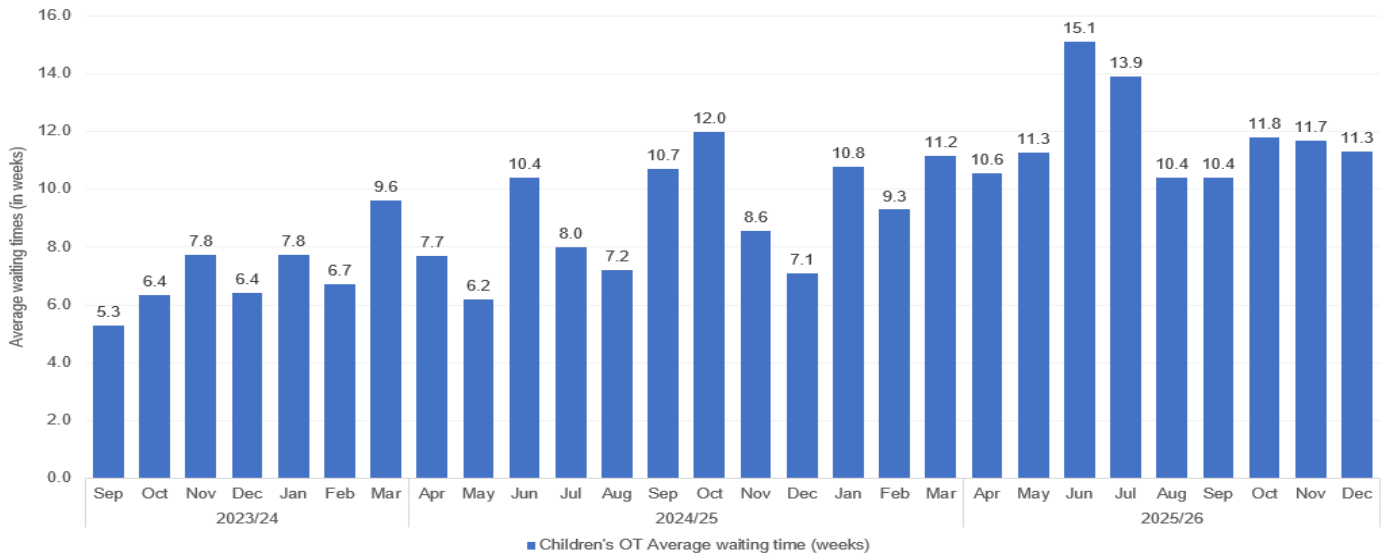
Figure 91: The proportion of referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy seen within 18 weeks, April 2023/24 – December 2025, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health Report – Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2025)

Over the same period, it was also seen that the average waiting time (in weeks) has increased from 5.3 weeks in April 2023, to a high of 15.1 weeks in June 2025 (see **Figure 92** below). Since June, the waiting times in weeks has shown a steady decrease to 11.3 weeks (December 2025) (Wirral Health Report – Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2025)).

Figure 92: Children's Occupational Therapy average waiting time (weeks), April 2023/24 to December 2025, Wirral

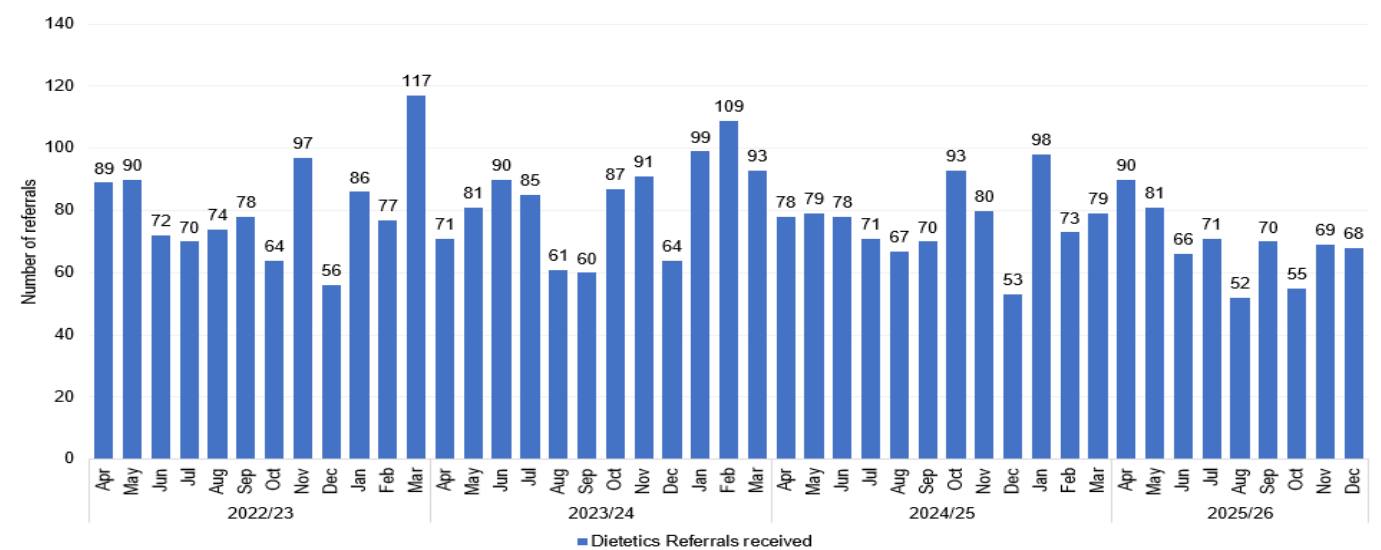


Source: Wirral Health Report – Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2025)

7.9 Dietetics

Data in **Figure 93** below show that in 2022/23 the average number of referrals was approximately 81 with a high of 117 referrals in March 2023 and a low of 56 referrals in December 2022. In 2023/24 the average number of referrals (83) was slightly higher than in 2022/23, the highest number of referrals was in February 2024 (109) and a low in September 2023 of 60. The average in 2024/25 dropped to 76 per month, with a high of 98 referrals in January 2025 and a low in the month of December 2024 of 53. So far in the nine months in 2025/26 the average number of referrals so is 69, with the greatest number of referrals in April 2025 (90) and a low in August of 52.

Figure 93: Number of referrals received to Dietetics, April 2022/23 – December 2025/26 in Wirral by month.



Source: Wirral Health Report - Dietetics, Internal Document (2025)

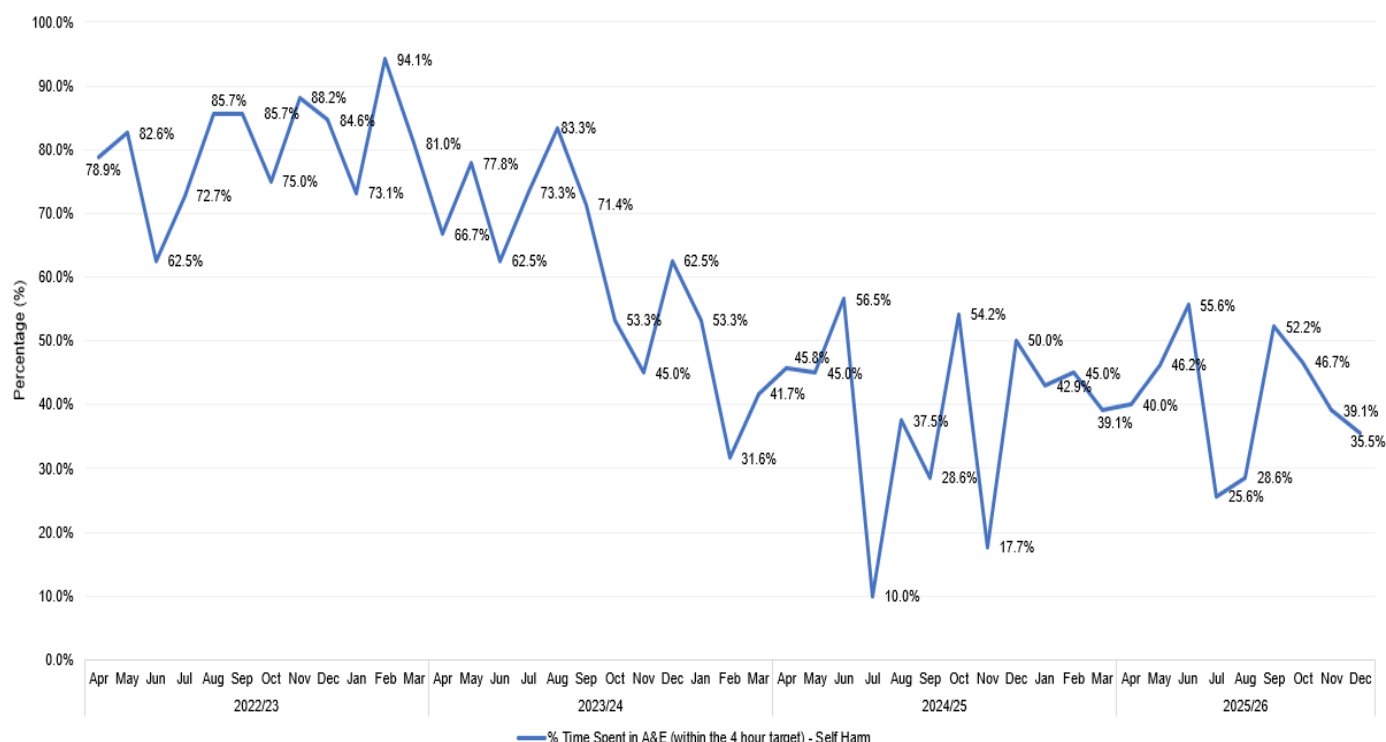
7.10 Accident and Emergency (A&E)

Data illustrated in **Figure 94** show that the general trend of patients presenting at A&E are less likely to be seen within 4 hour &E Target for self-harm since April 2022/23 (78.9%) compared to the latest data of December 2025 (35.5%).

Since April 2023, the overall trend of being seen within four hours in A&E for self-harm has been decreasing. In 2022/23 four in five (78.9%) of children and young people were seen within 4 hours and this had dropped to just one in three ((35.5%) in December 2025.

In June 2024 it is worth noting that only one in ten children and young people were seen within 4 hours (10.0%). The month/year with the highest percentage of children and young people seen withing 4 hours was February 2023 (94.1%), or nine in ten children and young people.

Figure 94: Proportion (%) of children seen within 4 hour target, in Accident and Emergency (A&E) for self-harm in Wirral, April 2022/23 – December 2025

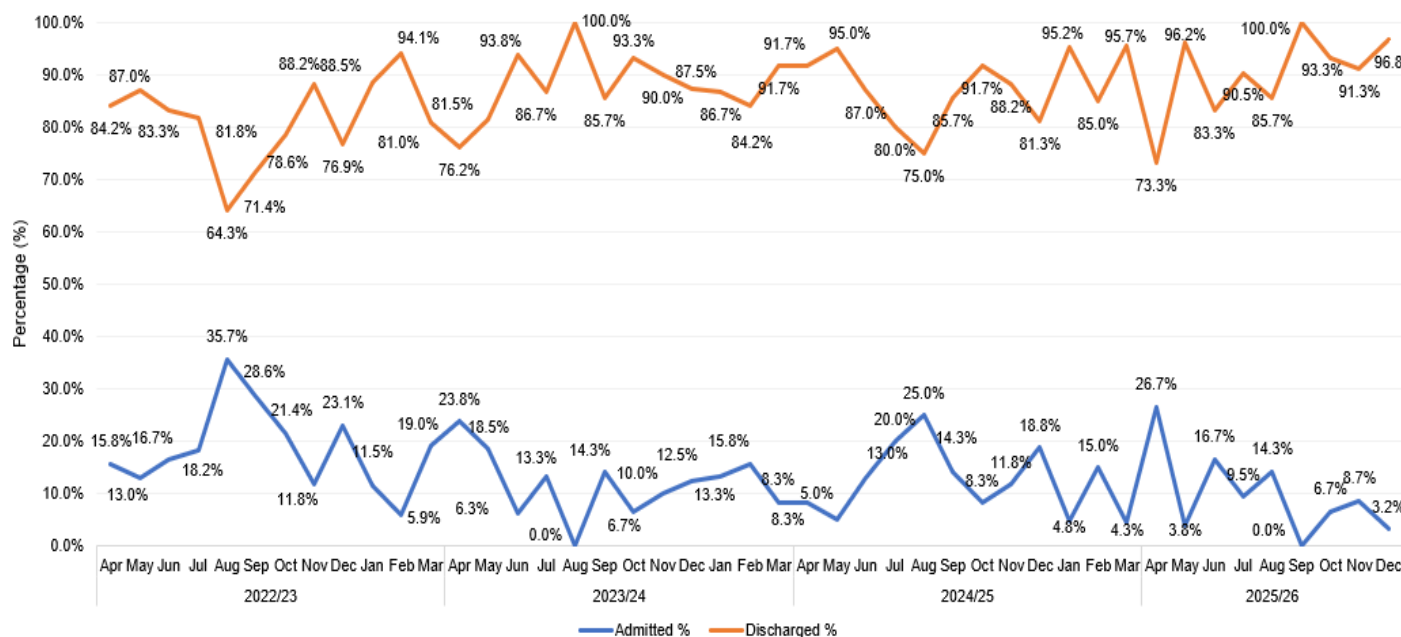


Source: Wirral Health A&E Report, Internal Document (2025)

Data illustrated in **Figure 95** shows that, of those presented to A&E with self-harm, the general trend is that there has been a reduction in the rate admitted, and an increase in those discharged.

The rate admitted has reduced from 15.8% in April 2022/23 to 3.2% in December 2025. The proportion of discharged, however, has increased from 84.2% in April 2022/23 to 96.8% in December 2025.

Figure 95: Proportion (%) of children admitted and discharged at Accident and Emergency (A&E) for self-harm, April 2022/23 – December 2025, Wirral

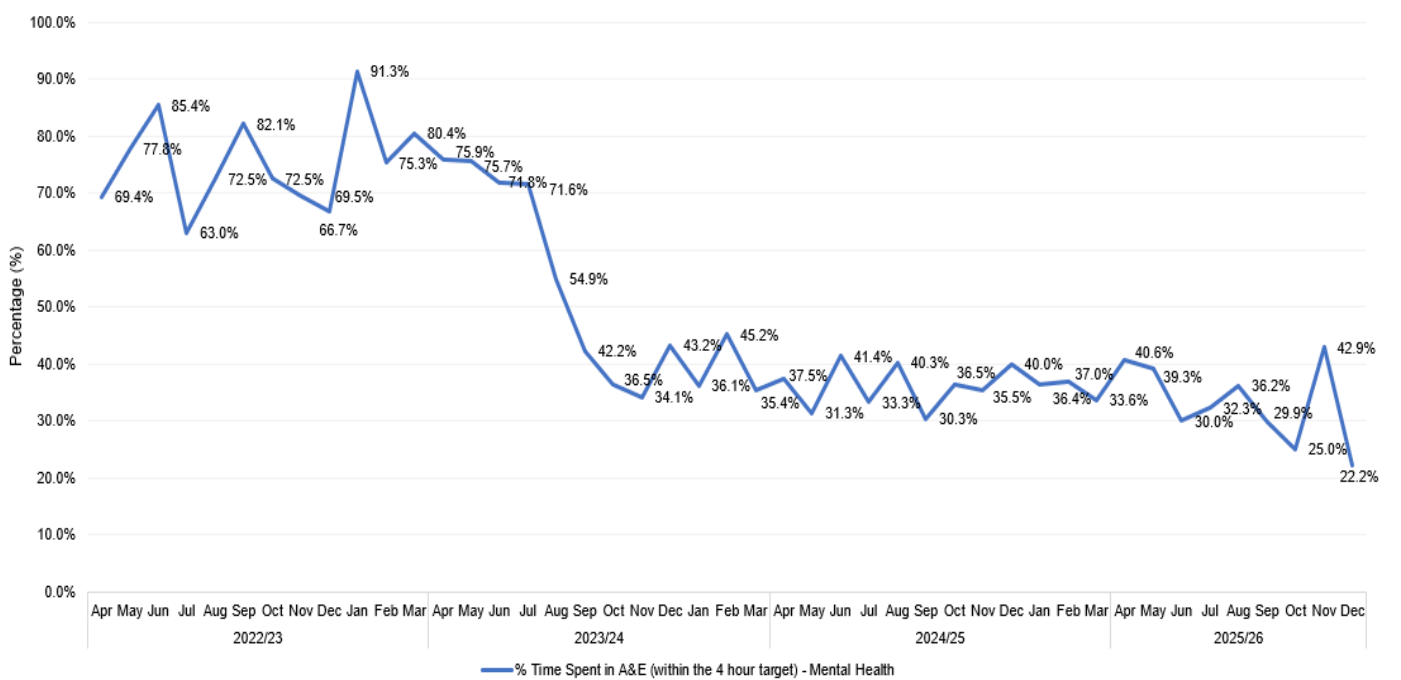


Source: Wirral Health A&E Report, Internal Document (2025)

Data illustrated in **Figure 96** show that the general trend of children and young people presenting at A&E for mental health and being seen in A&E within 4 hour target, has been worsening since 2022/23.

From a high of 91% (January 2023), or nine in ten, being seen within the four hour target. Conversely, a low of 22.5%, or one in five, in December 2025. Since September 2023, by month, more than half of patients presenting at A&E for self-harm were spending over four hours waiting to be seen.

Figure 96: Proportion (%) of children seen within 4 hours in Accident and Emergency (A&E) for mental health, April 2022/23 – December 2025, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health A&E Report, Internal Document (2024)

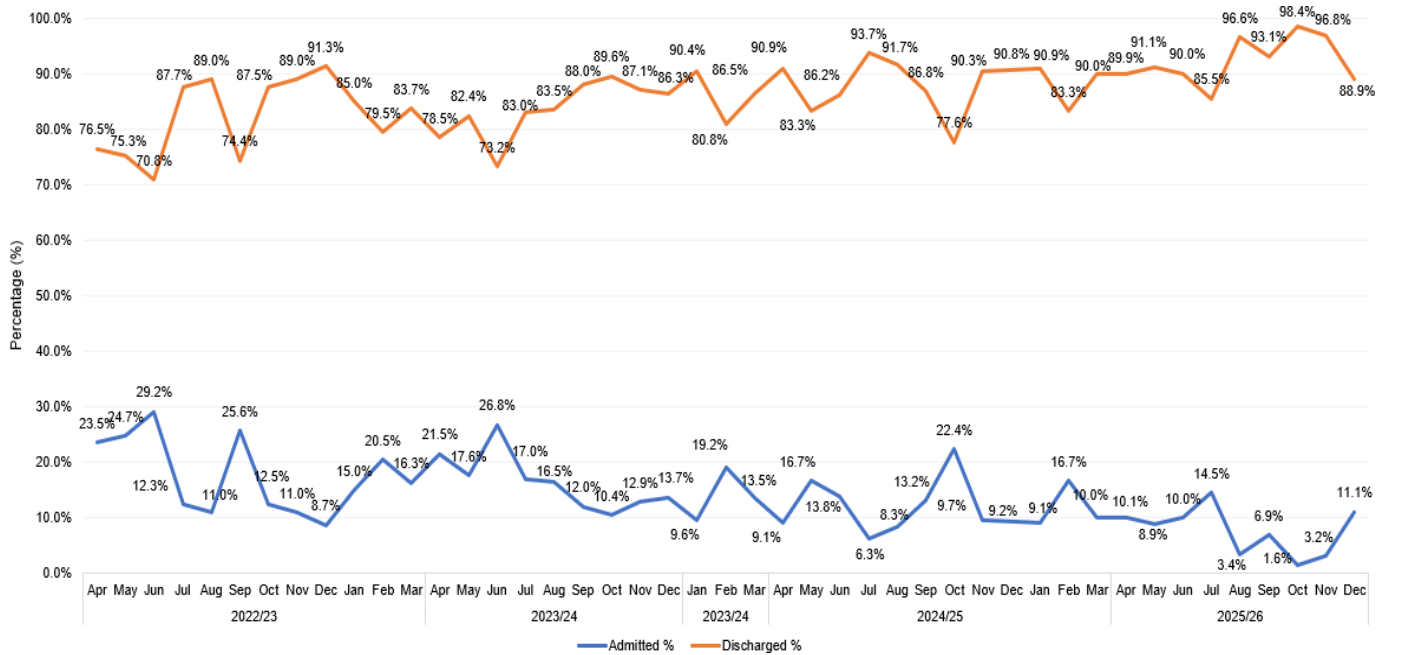
Data illustrated in **Figure 97** show that, of those presented to A&E with self-harm, the general trend is that there has been a reduction in the rate admitted, and an increase in those discharged.

The rate admitted has reduced from 23.5% in April 2022/23 to 11.1% in December 2025/26.

The proportion of discharged, however, has increased from 76.5% in April 2022/23 to 88.9% in December 2025/26.

It is worth noting, again in Figure 85, that for August, October and November 2025 the percentage admitted was below 5% (3.4%, 1.6% and 3.2% respectively for admissions)

Figure 97: Proportion (%) of children admitted and discharged at Accident and Emergency (A&E) for mental health, April 2022/23 – December 2025, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health A&E Report, Internal Document (2025)

9.0 Next Steps

This SEND JSNA technical document provides an important overview of many of the key metrics related to this topic area. The presentation of this data and information is an initial step in developing that key understanding and insight that can in turn influence the evidence based decisions of local commissioners and partners.

The next stage of this process will see those local key commissioners provide their local awareness and understanding, added to this data and intelligence, so widening our collective knowledge.

This information, amongst other key content, will be presented on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities web page on our Wirral Health and Wellbeing Knowledge Hub.

For more information

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