

Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

Monday 4 October 2021
10.00 am Luttrell Room - County Hall,
Taunton



SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA

To: The Members of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee

We are now able to enclose the following information which was unavailable when the agenda was published:

Item 7	<p>Education, Health and Care - Assessments and Plans (Pages 3 - 14)</p> <p>To consider presentation from C Merchant-Jones, Strategic Manager, SEND.</p> <p>Dr Hart, Assistant Director, Inclusion will give an update on the WSoA by way of introduction to the item and the focus on EHCPs.</p> <p><i>Note: The Chair will be allowing 1 hour for this agenda item to allow for discussion.</i></p>
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Published on 29 September 2021

Democratic Service Team, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

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Education, Health and Care Assessment and Reviews Deep Dive

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Claire Merchant-Jones
Strategic Manager Statutory SEND

Agenda item 7



“Thank you for taking such a long time to explain Patrick’s EHCP process to me, I was rather nervous about it.

I felt very reassured by the whole process... the officer was very patient explaining everything to me in great detail-that made a huge difference to me as I was really anxious about the whole situation.

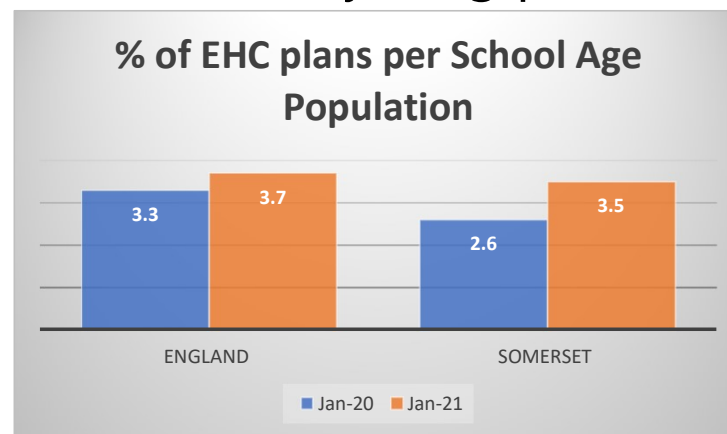
I enclose a picture of Patrick just so that you can put a face to the name, he may be “different” but he’s such a loving little boy and if he understood any of this, he'd want to give you the biggest hug for helping him”



Education, Health and Care Assessments

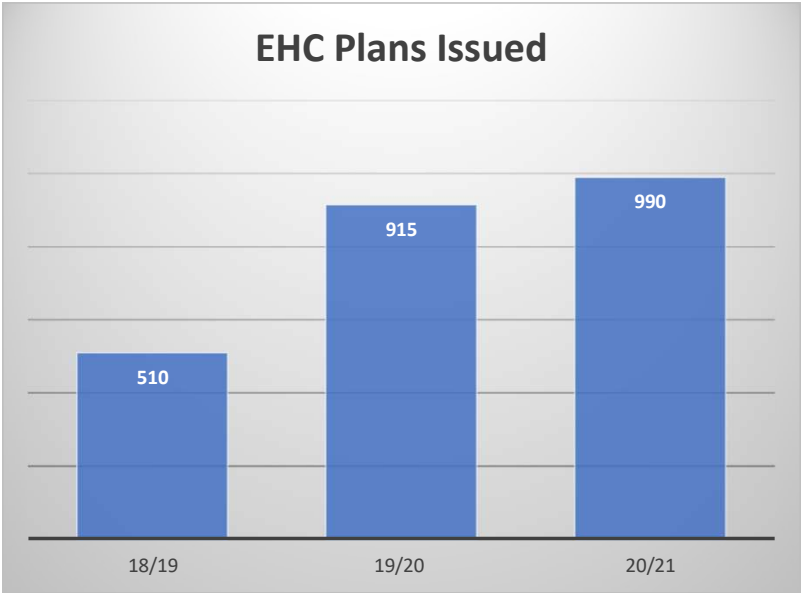
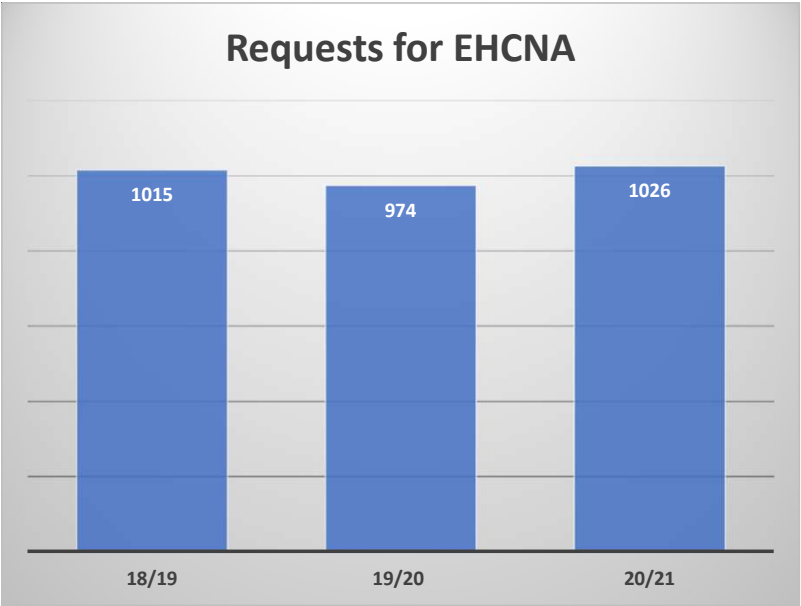
- Most children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND) will have their needs met within local mainstream early years settings, schools or colleges.
- Some children and young people may need an Education, Health and Care needs assessment (EHCNA)
- The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational **provision** to meet the special educational **needs** of the child or young person

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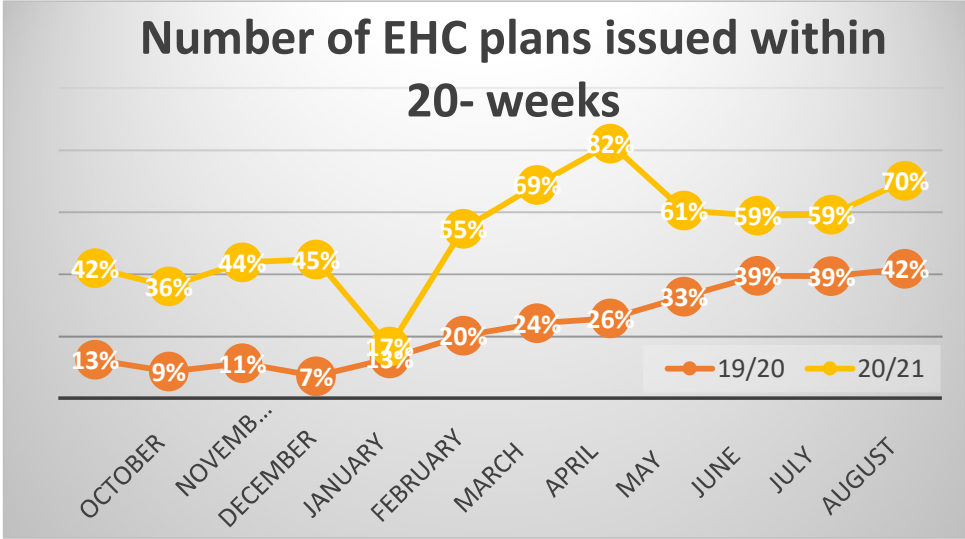
Education, Health and Care Assessments

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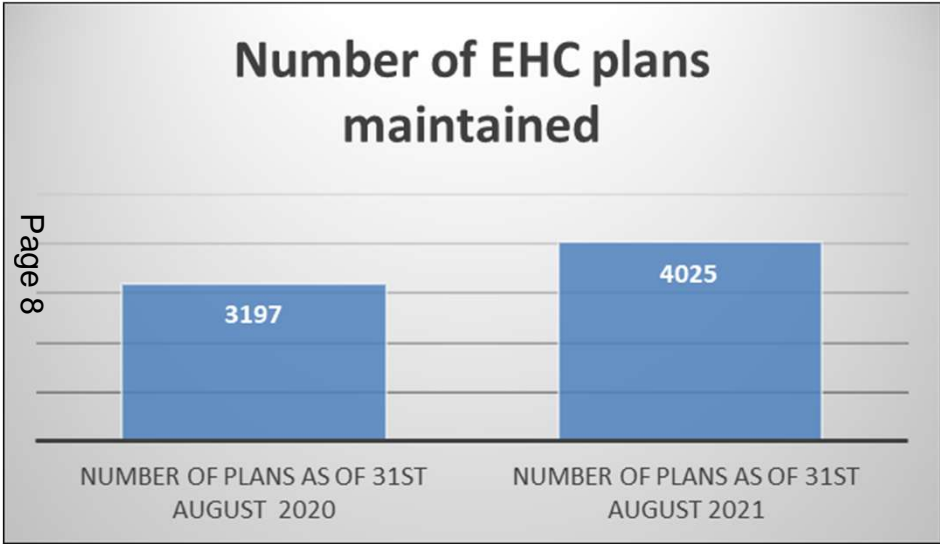
- Requests for EHC assessments remain high
- improved capacity across teams has reduced the back-log and increased the productivity in relation to the number of plans issued.

Education, Health and Care Plans



- Timeliness has improved consistently over past 6 months owing to increased capacity in the team and compliancy with the law.
- Performance continues to improve - **70%** for August **2021** compared to **41%** in August **2020**.

Annual Reviews

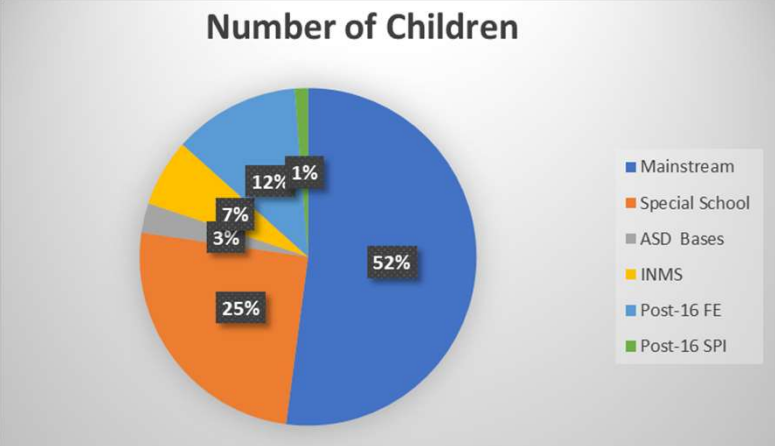
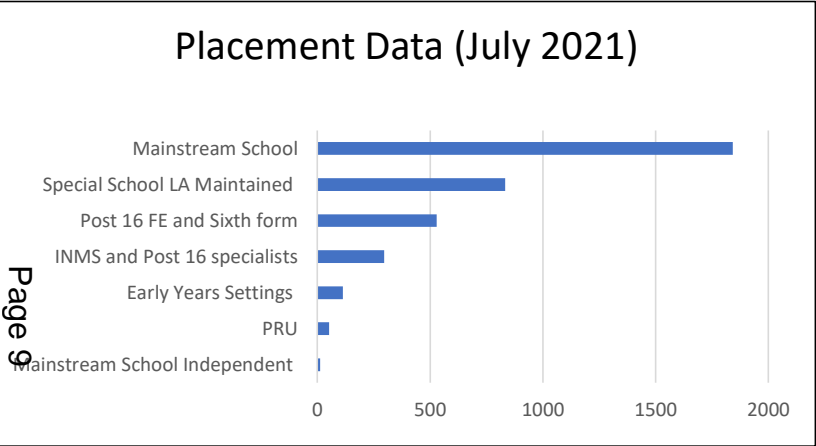


	Annual Reviews 2019/2020	Annual Reviews 2020/2021
AR Received	1987	3017
% processed	99%	94%
Amendment Notices issued	1096	1140

- Somerset County Council has a duty to **review** each EHC plan annually but this does not mean that plans will be updated every year.
- This is a 12 week process and includes a meeting held by the educational setting.
- Increased capacity in the Statutory SEND Team has improved our compliancy and quality of plans.
- There has been a **52%** increase in the number of AR's received between **19/20** and **20/21**.



Working with Education Settings



- More children with EHC plans attend **Mainstream Schools** and **Independent Specialist Settings** in Somerset that national levels
- **Proactive engagement** with **all settings** with a focus on inclusion and keeping children with their local communities.
- The capital investment programme of **£60M** is creating over **450** additional places at Special Schools including the building of a new school in South Somerset.

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Working with Families

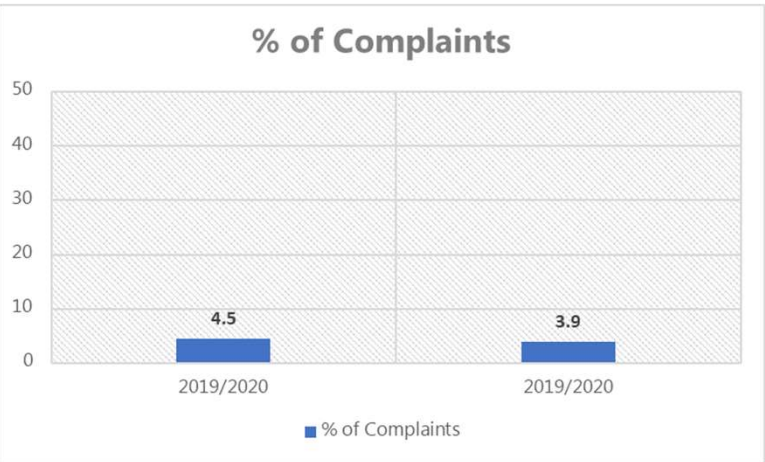
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Co-produced letters

Initial Phone calls

Access to Citizens Portal

Collaborative outcomes meetings



Number of complaints per EHC plan maintained have reduced from last year and scaling up these activities will further improve this.

Findings from Tribunal Review

- We know that tribunals are costly and stressful for families, difficult for those working in the team and often leave the ongoing relationship between the Local Authority and the family hard to repair.
- Tribunal Review will be available through the [SEND Improvement Board \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/SEND-Improvement-Board)

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Increase Collaborative Outcomes Meetings

Increase availability and take up of mediation

Provide training and advice to settings, families, and practitioners.

Increase access to advice from therapy services earlier in the process

Commitment 2021- 2022

- **Collaborative Outcome Meetings** will be scaled up to be available to more families.
- **Issuing of EHC plans** within **20-weeks** is consistently above the national rate of **61%**.
- **Targeted training** relating to EHC assessment and reviews will be delivered across settings, practitioners and families.
- **Reduction** in the number of Tribunals registered will be below **3.5%** of decisions taken.

Questions?



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