

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	June 2024	First draft – additions and amends <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matt Ray - Wirral Council• Jack Font - Wirral Council• John Highton - Wirral Council• Stuart Glavin - Wirral Council
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Key findings

- Of all pupils identified as having SEND; as attending an education setting on Wirral and residing in Wirral (via the School Census), 37.5% (4,778 Children and Young People) have an EHCP, 62.5% (7,956 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 10.6% of the total EHCP population and compares to the England rate, where 9.2% 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 also aged 12 years old, equating to 10.8% of all pupils with SEN Support. Rates of SEN Support is lower for pupils aged 10 years and younger on Wirral compared to England and higher for those aged 11 years and older (Section 2.3: Age).
- The most common Primary Need amongst pupils with SEND in an education setting on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health, accounting for 27.5% of all Primary Needs. This is followed by Speech, Language and Communication (23.3%) and then Specific Learning Difficulties (13.9%) of all Primary Needs (Section 2.8: Primary Need).
- The most common Primary Need for pupils with an EHCP in an education setting on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health, accounting for 23.7% of all Primary Needs. This is followed by Autistic Spectrum Disorder (22.9%) and Speech, Language and Communication needs (19.9%) (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 29.3% of Primary needs, which compares to the rate in England at 22.3% (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 9.0% (1,117 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 43.3% of where all SEND pupils are educated. 37.8% in mainstream Secondary, 15.3% in a Special school and 0.8% in mainstream Nursey. Of the 15.3% in a special school, 46.0% attend secondary special school, 46.2% primary special school and 0.1% nursery special school (Section 3.2: Education Setting).
- For Wirral pupils with an EHCP and in an education setting on Wirral, 51.0% are eligible for Free School Meals. This is higher than the England rate for 2023/24, which was 42.2%. For pupils with SEN Support the rate is 48.6%, compared to the England 2023/24 rate of 38.3% (Section 3.3: Free School Meals).

- For Academic Year 23/24 Attendance for pupils with SEND was 86.9%. For pupils with an EHCP, attendance for Academic Year 23/24 was 85.4%. Of this Primary was 89.4%, Secondary was 77.6% and Special was 86.6%. For pupils with SEN Support, Academic Year 23/24 attendance was 89.9%. Of this, Primary was 92.2%, Secondary was 86.6% and Special was 44.5% (Section 3.4: Attendance and Absence).
- For those with an EHCP, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS1 was 11%, for writing it was 4% and maths it was 12%. For those with an SEN support, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS1 was 33%, for writing it was 18% and maths it was 35% (Section 3.5 Attainment).
- For Children and Young people with an EHCP in 2022; Wirral has a rate of 19.6% which are also Child Looked After. This rate is significantly lower than the England rate for 2022, which was 30.2% (latest data). Wirral has a rate of 27.1% which are also a Child in Need. This rate is slightly higher than the 2022 rate in England, which was 26.9% (latest data) (Section 4.3: EHCP).
- For Children and Young People with SEN Support in 2022; Wirral has a rate of 30.1% which are also a Child Looked After. This rate is higher than the 27.2% seen in England in 2022 (latest data). Wirral has a rate of 24.7% which are also a Child in Need. This rate is higher than the 21.3% seen in England in 2022 (Section 4.3: EHCP) (latest data)
- Amount of EHCP's final plans issued per year, excluding exceptions in the full year 2023 was 368 (Section 6.1: Plans Issued).
- New EHCP's issued within 20 weeks on Wirral is 43.0% for 2022/23. The average fell in 2023/24 to just under 39% and has fallen again at the start of 2024/25 to 16%. The England average for EHCP's issued in 20 weeks is currently 50.3% (2022). (Section 6.1: Plans Issued).
- The first quarter in 2024/25 showed a 5.5% decrease in the number of referrals to CYP Mental Health Services compared to the first quarter of 2023/24. Also there has been a decreasing trend to the total number of children on the waiting list for CYP Mental Health Services between April 2023/24 and June 2024/25. In April 2023/24, this number was 458, whilst in June 2024/25, the number was 174 – a 62.0% 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 fluctuations over the reporting period (Q1 2022/23 – Q1 2024/25), with a high of 764 in Q4 2022/23 and a low of 489 in Q2 2022/23 (Section 7.2: SALT).
- Data shows a gradual increase to the number of children's referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy between April 2023/24 and June 2024/25. 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 September 2023/24 (n=41) (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 16,169 (**Table 1**), of which 51.3% are male and 48.7% 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 5.0% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the percentage is 5.4% (ONS).

Wirral has an estimated under 25 population of 86,704 (**Table 3**), of which 51.5% are male and 48.5% are female. This compares to the England gender estimate of 51.1% males and 48.9% females. The under 25 population accounts for 26.9% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the rate is 29.1% (ONS).

Table 1: Number and Proportion (of Total Population) of Under 5's in Wirral by Ward, mid-2022

Ward	Population	% of Total under 5 population
Bebington	659	4.3%
Bidston and St James	1,224	7.6%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1,165	7.0%
Bromborough	990	6.0%
Clatterbridge	559	4.0%
Cloughton	589	4.0%
Eastham	733	5.1%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	610	4.3%
Heswall	440	3.3%
Hoylake and Meols	472	3.6%
Leasowe and Moreton East	822	5.5%
Liscard	788	5.1%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	631	4.5%
New Brighton	585	4.0%
Oxton	559	4.1%
Pensby and Thingwall	584	4.5%
Prenton	753	5.2%
Rock Ferry	910	5.9%
Seacombe	1,057	7.0%
Upton	951	5.7%
Wallasey	587	4.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	501	4.0%
Total	16,169	

Source: [Ward-level population estimates, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) \(mid-2022 edition\)](#)

Note: This is mid-2022 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 65,690 (**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 20.4% 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-2022

Ward	Population	% of Total under 18 population
Bebington	3,047	19.9%
Bidston and St James	4,235	26.4%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	3,949	23.8%
Bromborough	3,477	21.0%
Clatterbridge	2,450	17.7%
Claughton	2,766	18.8%
Eastham	2,965	20.6%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	2,513	17.7%
Heswall	2,154	16.2%
Hoylake and Meols	2,326	17.8%
Leasowe and Moreton East	3,608	23.9%
Liscard	3,260	20.9%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	2,536	18.2%
New Brighton	2,386	16.5%
Oxton	2,318	17.0%
Pensby and Thingwall	2,261	17.5%
Prenton	3,043	20.8%
Rock Ferry	3,753	24.4%
Seacombe	3,924	25.8%
Upton	3,668	22.0%
Wallasey	2,656	18.3%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	2,395	19.2%
Total	65,690	

Source: [Ward-level population estimates, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) \(mid-2022 edition\)](#)

Note: This is mid-2022 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 86,704 (**Table 3**), of which 51.5% are male and 48.5% are female. This compares to the England gender estimate of 51.1% males and 48.9% females. The under 25 population accounts for 26.9% of the estimated total Wirral population. This compares to England, where the rate is 29.1% (ONS).

Table 3: Number and Proportion (of Total Population) of Under 25's in Wirral by Ward, mid-2022

Ward	Population	% of Total under 25 population
Bebington	4,023	26.3%
Bidston and St James	5,459	34.0%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	5,427	32.7%
Bromborough	4,577	27.6%
Clatterbridge	3,228	23.3%
Claughton	3,859	26.2%
Eastham	3,816	26.5%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	3,268	23.0%
Heswall	2,839	21.3%
Hoylake and Meols	3,043	23.3%
Leasowe and Moreton East	4,550	30.2%
Liscard	4,441	28.5%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	3,369	24.2%
New Brighton	3,258	22.5%
Oxton	3,075	22.6%
Pensby and Thingwall	2,953	22.9%
Prenton	4,022	27.5%
Rock Ferry	5,130	33.3%
Seacombe	5,070	33.3%
Upton	4,745	28.5%
Wallasey	3,474	23.9%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	3,078	24.6%
Total	86,704	

Source: [Ward-level population estimates, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) \(mid-2022 edition\)](#)

Note: This is mid-2022 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 2023 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, 2023, 2,760 (Wirral Birth Report, Internal Document).

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

Year of Birth	Girls	Boys
2019	49.0%	51.0%
2020	49.2%	50.8%
2021	50.0%	50.0%
2022	46.4%	53.6%
2023	49.9%	50.1%

Source: Internal Wirral Birth Data calculated from ONS data (2024)

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: 2022, Accessed 31st July 2024](#)).

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: 2022, Accessed 31st July 2024](#)).

1.1.3 Language is known or believed to be English

Those who's language is known or believed to be English is 93.5% for all Children and Young People attending an education setting on Wirral (Wirral School Census).

1.1.4 Deprivation

According to data published in 2020, 17.4% of children under 16 on Wirral live in low-income families, which compares to a national rate in England of 18.1% (ONS). This figure of 17.4% is the same as the full Wirral population that is estimated to be income-deprived ([Office for National Statistics, Exploring Local Income Deprivation, 24th May 2021, accessed 31st July 2024](#)).

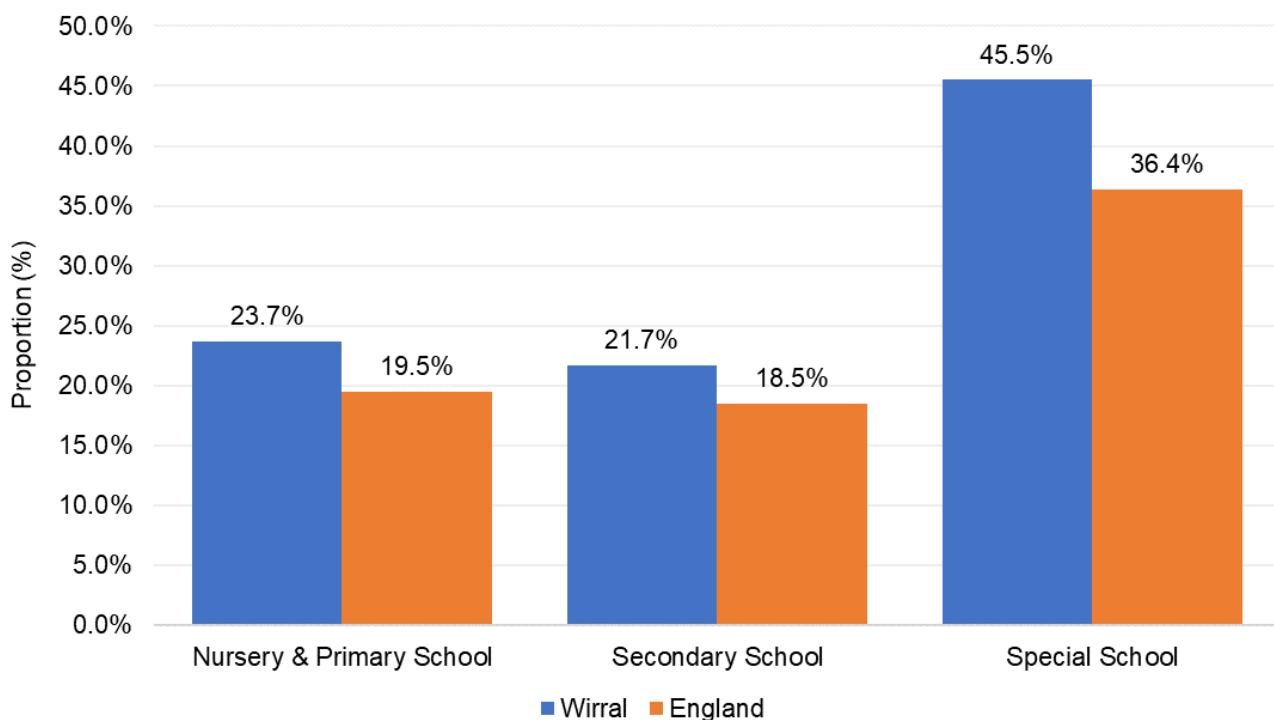
The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019) allows for the local super output areas (LSOA) to be ranked between 1 and 10 amongst the 32,844 LSOA's across England. These deciles are calculated by dividing all the LSOA's into 10 equal groups. LSOA's in decile 1 are within the most deprived 10% of all 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 2019](#).

Using the 2019 IMD Data, across Wirral, 31.3% 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, 4.6% reside within areas of least deprivation, in decile 10 (ONS).

1.1.5 Free School Meals

As **Figure 1** shows, the proportion of children taking free school meals in Wirral are 23.7% for those in Nursery and Primary School (19.5% England), 21.7% for those in Secondary School (18.5% England) and 45.5% for those in Special Schools (36.4% England) ([LG Inform](#)).

Figure 1: Proportion of pupils taking free school meals (FSM), by education setting in Wirral and England, Academic Year 2023/24



Source: Department for Education: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, via [LG Inform](#) (2024)

1.1.6 Education Setting

Of those attending an education setting on the Wirral in January 2024, the majority, at 48.9% or 24,777 Children and Young People, attend a Primary School. This population compares to 37.5% or 18,998 Children and Young People in a Secondary School setting, 4.7% or 2,404 Children and Young People attend a Nursery and 3.0%, or 1,514 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, 2024

Setting Type	Population	% of Total Population
Nursery	2,404	4.7%
Primary	24,777	48.9%
Secondary	18,998	37.5%
Collage	2,996	5.9%
Special	1,514	3.0%

Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024)

Of those in an education setting on Wirral, the highest number Children and Young People, 3,266, reside in Bidston and St. James ward (**Table 6**). This accounts for 6.7% 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, 2024

Ward	Number	Proportion (%) of Total
Bebington	2,308	4.7%
Bidston and St. James	3,266	6.7%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	2,951	6.1%
Bromborough	2,439	5.0%
Clatterbridge	1,680	3.4%
Claughton	2,095	4.3%
Eastham Ward	2,020	4.1%
Greasby Frankby and Irby	1,914	3.9%
Heswall	1,392	2.9%
Hoylake and Meols	1,770	3.6%
Leasowe and Moreton East	2,821	5.8%
Liscard	2,411	4.9%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	1,832	3.8%
New Brighton	1,824	3.7%
Oxton	1,532	3.1%
Pensby and Thingwall	1,622	3.3%
Prenton	2,160	4.4%
Rock Ferry	2,804	5.8%
Seacombe	3,198	6.6%
Upton	2,814	5.8%
Wallasey	2,085	4.3%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	1,786	3.7%

Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024)

1.1.7 Attendance

As published in the 2024 DfE release, the latest school attendance data (for Spring Term 2024) show an overall attendance rate of 92.7% across all education settings in England and for Wirral 91% ([Gov.UK](#)).

1.1.8 Absence

Using the latest published data available from the Local Authority Interactive Tool ([LAIT](#), Department for Education) in March 2024, for all Wirral pupils, the rate of authorised absence for those in a primary school setting is 5.3%. This is above the England average, which is 4.8%. For Wirral pupils in a secondary school the rate is 6.7%, which is again above the England average, which is 6.2% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). The rates of unauthorised absence for those attending a primary school on Wirral is 1.4%, below the England average of 1.5%. For pupils attending a secondary school on Wirral it is 3.1%. This is higher than the England average, which is 2.8% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

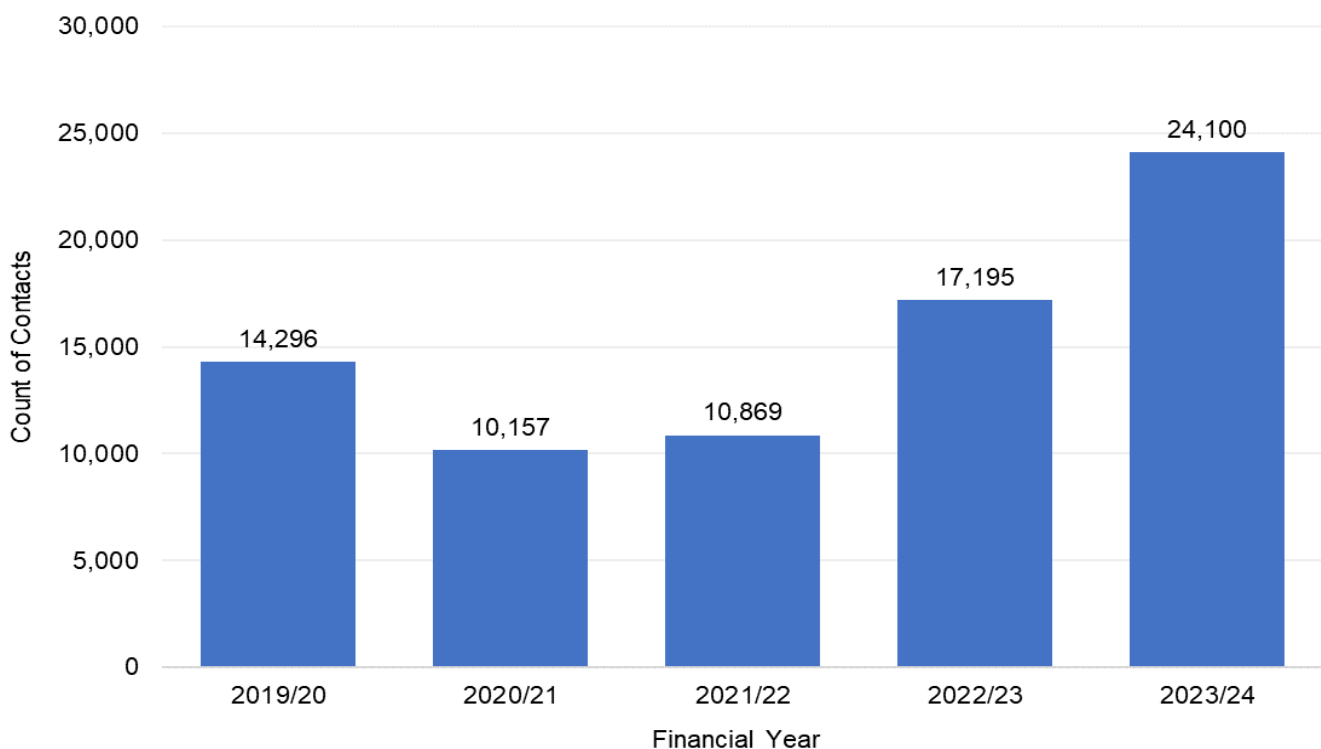
1.1.9 Exclusions

Across all education settings, the rate of permanent exclusions in primary schools is below 0.01%, compares to the England average of 0.02%. The rate for secondary schools is 0.14%, which is below the England average of 0.16% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

1.1.10 Social Care

Figure 2 shows that in the year 2023/24, there were 24,100 contacts to Children’s Social Care on Wirral. This number is an increase from the previous four reported years as shown below in figure 2 (Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document)

Figure 2: Number of Contacts to Wirral’s Children’s Social Care, via the Integrated Front Door, 2019/20 - 2023/24



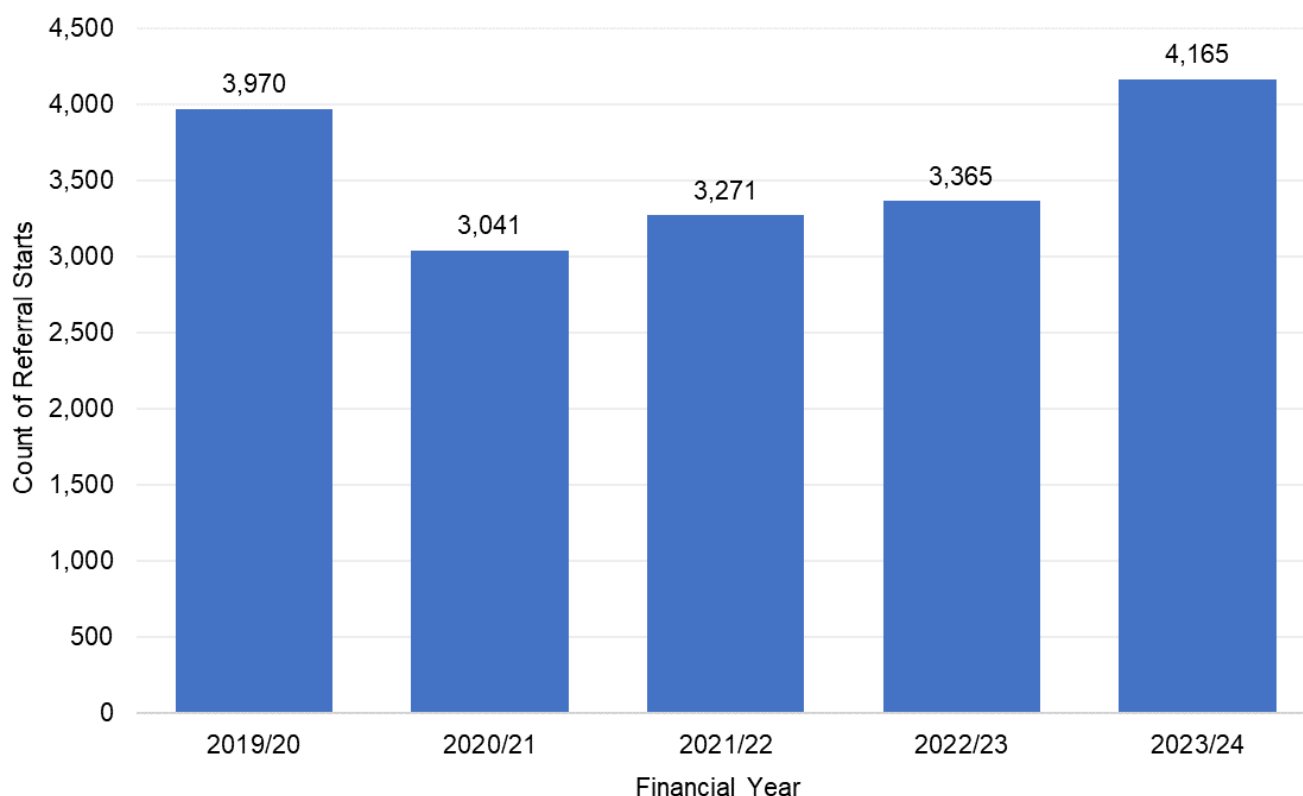
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document (2024)

In 2023/24, there were 4,165 referrals into Social Care on Wirral (Wirral Liquid Logic, Internal Document). This equates to a referral rate of 449.3 per 10,000 and compares to England, where the referral rate was 494.3 per 10,000.

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 and as part of section 17 of the Children’s Act 1989, it is the duty of the local authority to safeguard 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).

Figure 3: Number of Children’s Services Referral Starts, 2019/20 - 2023/24



Source: Wirral Liquid Logic - Internal Document (2024)

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 2022/23, the rate of Children in Need on Wirral was 399.8 per 10,000 (Wirral data book, Internal Document). This rate compares to England, where the rate was 342.7. The rate of Child Protection plans was 57.1 per 10,000 on Wirral, which compares to a rate of 43.2 in England. The rate of Children Looked After in Wirral was 118.0 per 10,000. This compares to England, where the rate was 71.0 per 10,000 (DfE).

For care leavers in suitable accommodation (aged 17-18) Wirral’s rate for 2022/23 was 90.0% compared to the North West (92.0%) and our statistical neighbours (92.8%). For care leavers aged 19-21 Wirral was 94.0% compared to North West (90.0%) and England (88.0%).

2.0 Demographics and Profile

2.1 Births

As shown in **Table 7** below shows, over the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 period, the rate of births in Wirral has decreased by 8.7%. From 3,150 in 2019 to 2,958 in 2020, then 3,024 in 2021 and finally, 2,877 in 2022. This mirrors the national rate, which over the same period has reduced by just over 5.5% (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, 2019 – 2022

Ward	2019	2020	2021	2022	% difference 2019 - 2022
Bebington	158	115	121	111	-29.7%
Bidston and St James	249	228	247	233	-6.4%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	262	231	228	213	-18.7%
Bromborough	203	186	178	162	-20.2%
Clatterbridge	81	86	109	108	33.3%
Claughton	110	111	89	114	3.6%
Eastham	113	129	141	112	-0.9%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	94	81	92	105	11.7%
Heswall	85	60	80	87	2.4%
Hoylake and Meols	86	89	81	69	-19.8%
Leasowe and Moreton East	169	176	152	150	-11.2%
Liscard	161	149	157	148	-8.1%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	147	117	111	117	-20.4%
New Brighton	114	120	118	112	-1.8%
Oxton	112	102	116	94	-16.1%
Pensby and Thingwall	103	110	104	124	20.4%
Prenton	144	141	133	113	-21.5%
Rock Ferry	194	184	186	160	-17.5%
Seacombe	185	201	213	188	1.6%
Upton	192	170	188	171	-10.9%
Wallasey	101	97	106	103	2.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	87	75	74	83	-4.6%
Total	3,150	2,958	3,024	2,877	-8.7%

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS ([Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas](#)), 2024

Table 8 shows the latest full year data (2022) that the largest proportion of births on Wirral were in Bidston and St. James, at 233, or 8.1%, of all births in 2022 having the mother residing within this Ward. Hoylake and Meols, with 69 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, 2022

Ward	2022	Proportion (%) of Total
Bebington	111	3.9%
Bidston and St James	233	8.1%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	213	7.4%
Bromborough	162	5.6%
Clatterbridge	108	3.8%
Cloughton	114	4.0%
Eastham	112	3.9%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	105	3.6%
Heswall	87	3.0%
Hoylake and Meols	69	2.4%
Leasowe and Moreton East	150	5.2%
Liscard	148	5.1%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	117	4.1%
New Brighton	112	3.9%
Oxton	94	3.3%
Pensby and Thingwall	124	4.3%
Prenton	113	3.9%
Rock Ferry	160	5.6%
Seacombe	188	6.5%
Upton	171	5.9%
Wallasey	103	3.6%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	83	2.9%

Source: Office for National Statistics via NOMIS ([Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas](#)), 2024

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 and Education, Health 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.

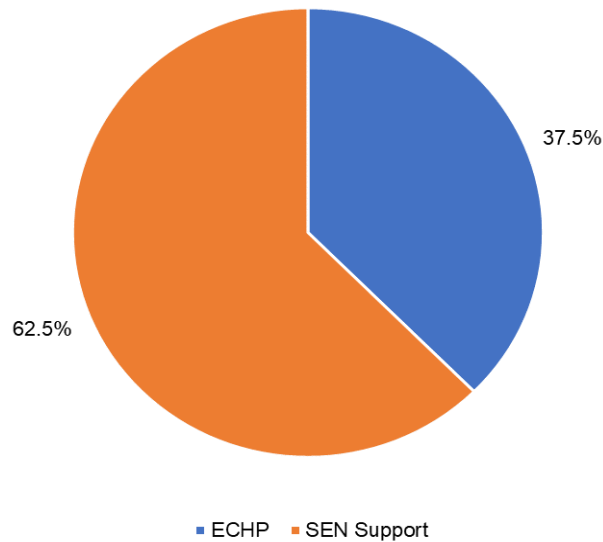
This information is only currently available for Children and Young People who are reported via the School Census returns at the time data was collected for this return and the internal Capita data for those aged 0-25.

Using the January 2024 School Census and latest Capita 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 25.1%, or 12,734 pupils, who are also resident on Wirral have been identified as having SEND. This is made up of 4,778 having an EHCP and 7,956 having SEN Support.

The SEND population for Wirral is currently made up from 37.5% with an EHCP and 62.5% with SEN Support (Wirral School Census and Capita data) (**Figure 5**). Nationally, they make up is 23.1% with an EHCP and 76.9% with SEN Support ([LAIT](#), Department for Education).

Figure 5: The Percentage (%) Breakdown of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), by Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support, in Wirral, 2024



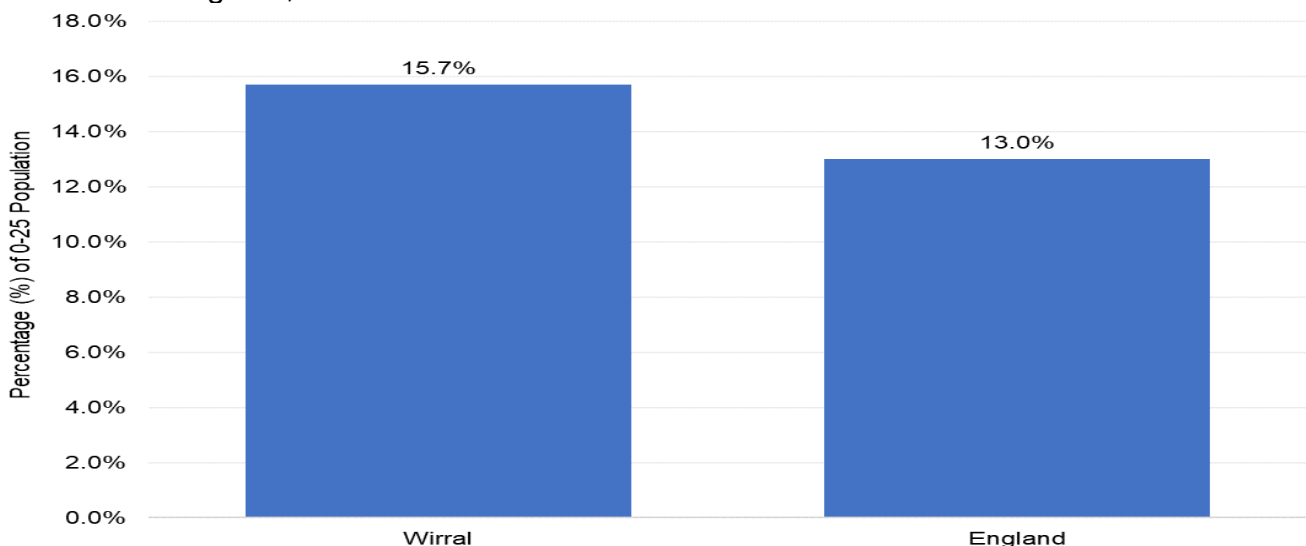
Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

Population – SEN Support

Figure 6 shows the percentage of 0-25 year olds with SEN support on Wirral is 15.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data), 7,956 Children and Young People, compared to the national figure of 13.0% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education), 1,083,083 Children and Young People.

Wirral is ranked 15th highest for SEN Support out of 152 local authorities ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). SEN Support accounts for 62.8% of all pupils with SEND on Wirral (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

Figure 6: Percentage of SEN Support, by Children and Young People (CYP) (0-25) Population, in Wirral and England, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2023)

2.3 Age

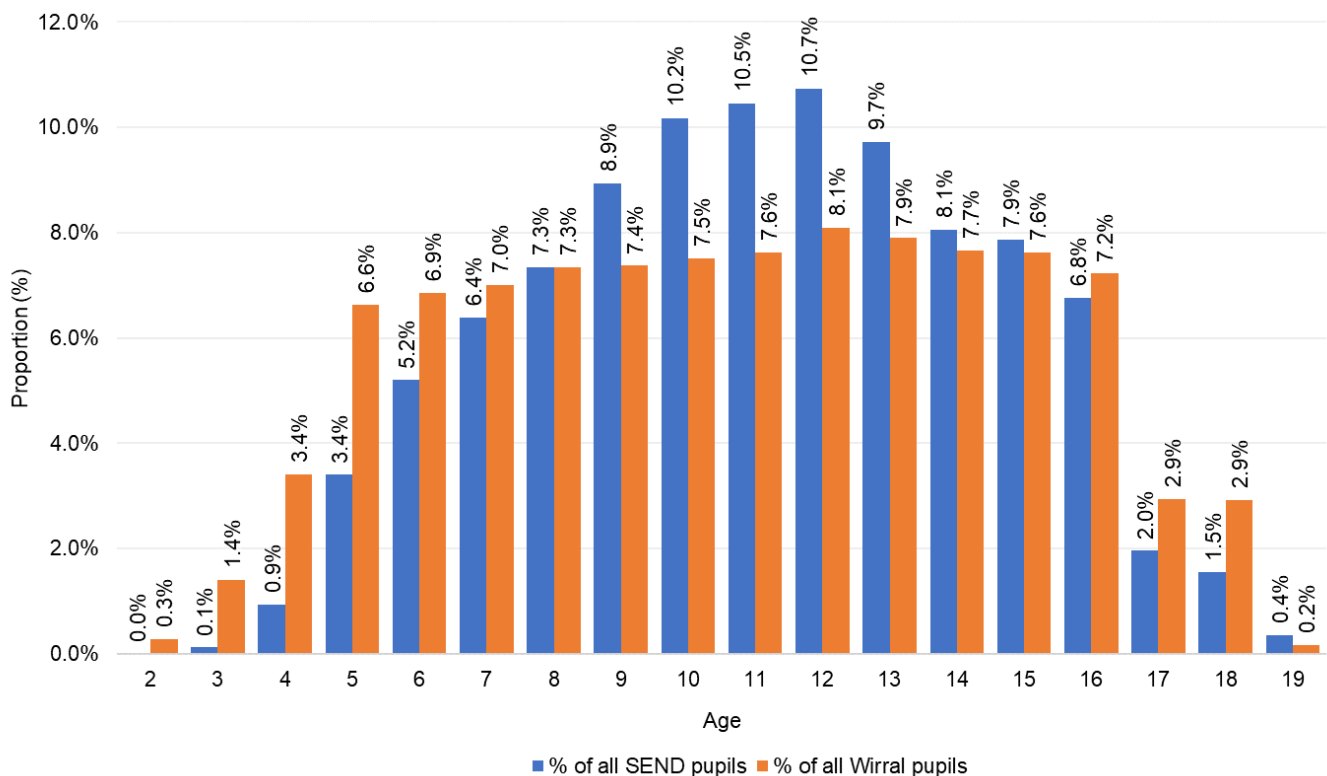
Caveat (see coverage guidance <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/data-guidance>) figures for those aged over 19 have been taken out to match the analysis and benchmarking against England as only SEN and EHCP who are in an education setting included (708 unknowns in local SEND data with no education setting and over 19 years old)

Figure 7 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 10.73% for pupils aged twelve (12). This is followed by a steady decrease from 9.72% at aged thirteen (13), through to 6.77% at aged sixteen (16).

From this point onwards, the percentages drop significantly, from 6.77% at aged sixteen (16) to 1.96% for those pupils aged seventeen (17) and 1.55% at aged eighteen (18) before again another significant drop off, to 0.36% for those pupils nineteen (19) (**Figure 7**).

The data in **Figure 7** 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 eight (8) and fifteen (15), they differ significantly. Wirral SEND children have lower percentages than the total Wirral school cohort from the ages of two (2) through to seven (7). From the ages of nine (9) to thirteen (13) 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 7: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) (SEND and total) attending an education setting in Wirral, by single year of age, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

Age – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

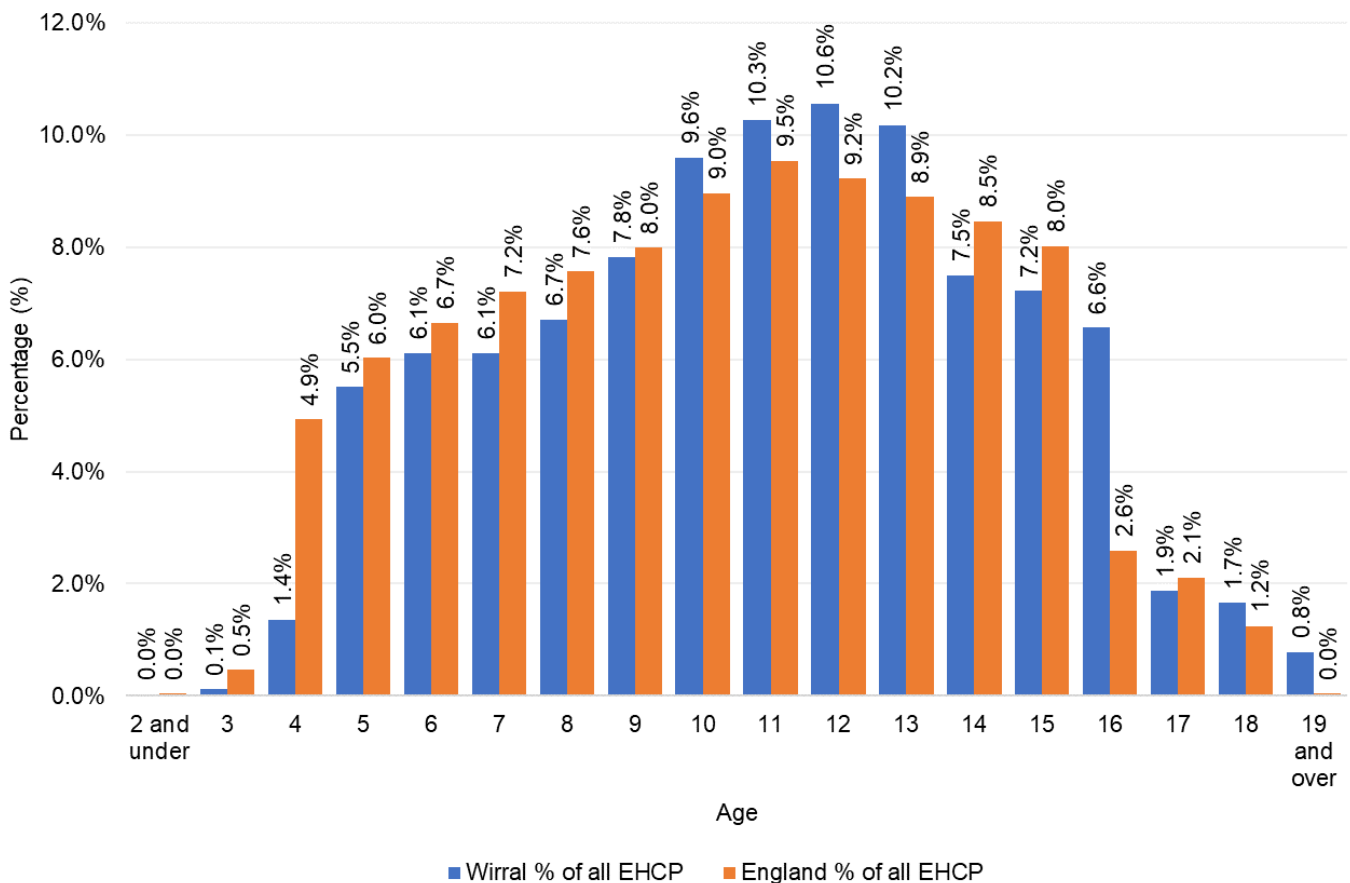
Figure 8 shows the ages of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) on Wirral follow a similar trend to that seen in England with significant increases in rates in pupils aged four and over.

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

For Wirral 10.6% are aged twelve (12) (Capita data), comparing to England, where those aged twelve (12) account for 9.2% (Gov.UK). For those aged eleven (11), England has a rate of 9.5% (Gov.UK), just below the Wirral rate of 10.3% (Capita). Both Wirral and England follow a similar profile, with both seeing a significant drop off in rates from pupils aged seventeen (17) onwards.

Wirral drop from 6.6% aged sixteen (16) to 1.9% aged seventeen (17) (Capita data), whilst the England drops from 8.0% at fifteen (15) to 2.6% at sixteen (16) (Gov.UK). Both have low number for those aged three (3).

Figure 8: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with an EHCP attending an education setting in Wirral and England, by single year of age, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024) and Gov.UK (2024)

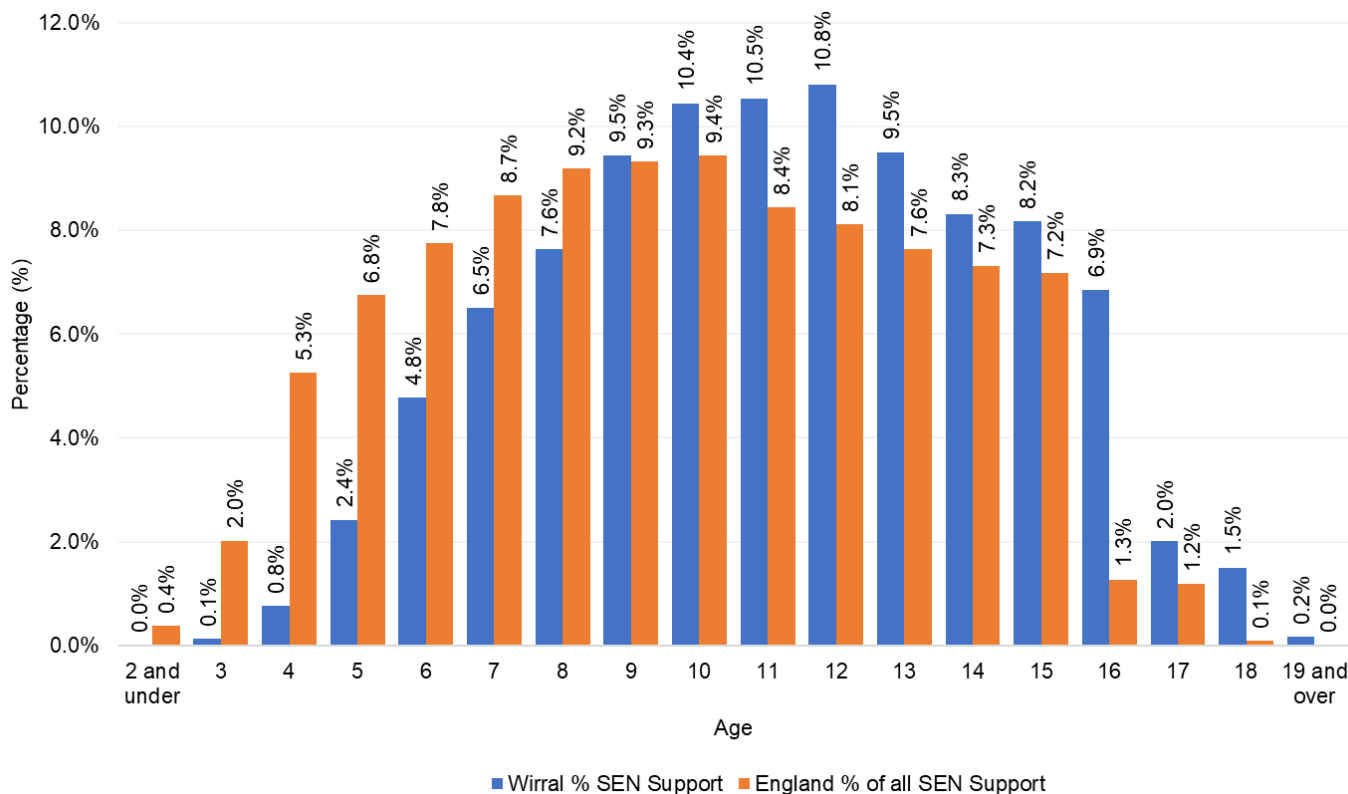
Age – SEN Support

As seen in **Figure 9**, 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 31st July 2024](#)), with percentages rising from aged two (2) and under, peaking between ages ten (10) (England) and twelve (12) (Wirral), before reducing.

However, it can be noted that for Wirral (Capita data) the percentage of pupils with SEN support aged two (2) and under through to aged eight (8) are lower than England (Gov.UK) and whilst percentages increase up to a pupil being aged twelve (12), the peak. Wirral percentages (Capita data) are overall higher than England.

From aged nine (9) the Wirral percentages are higher than England for every age, most noticeably for those aged sixteen (16) with a difference of 5.6% (higher for Wirral compared to England).

Figure 9: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEN support attending an education setting in Wirral and England, by single year of age, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024) and Gov.UK (2024)

2.4 Gender

Within the full SEND Cohort, there are 8,301 boys and 4,431 Girls (Capita data). When looking at the gender breakdown by age for the full SEND cohort, **Figure 10** 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 eighteen (18) and nineteen (19). However, at the younger ages, rates in boys are higher.

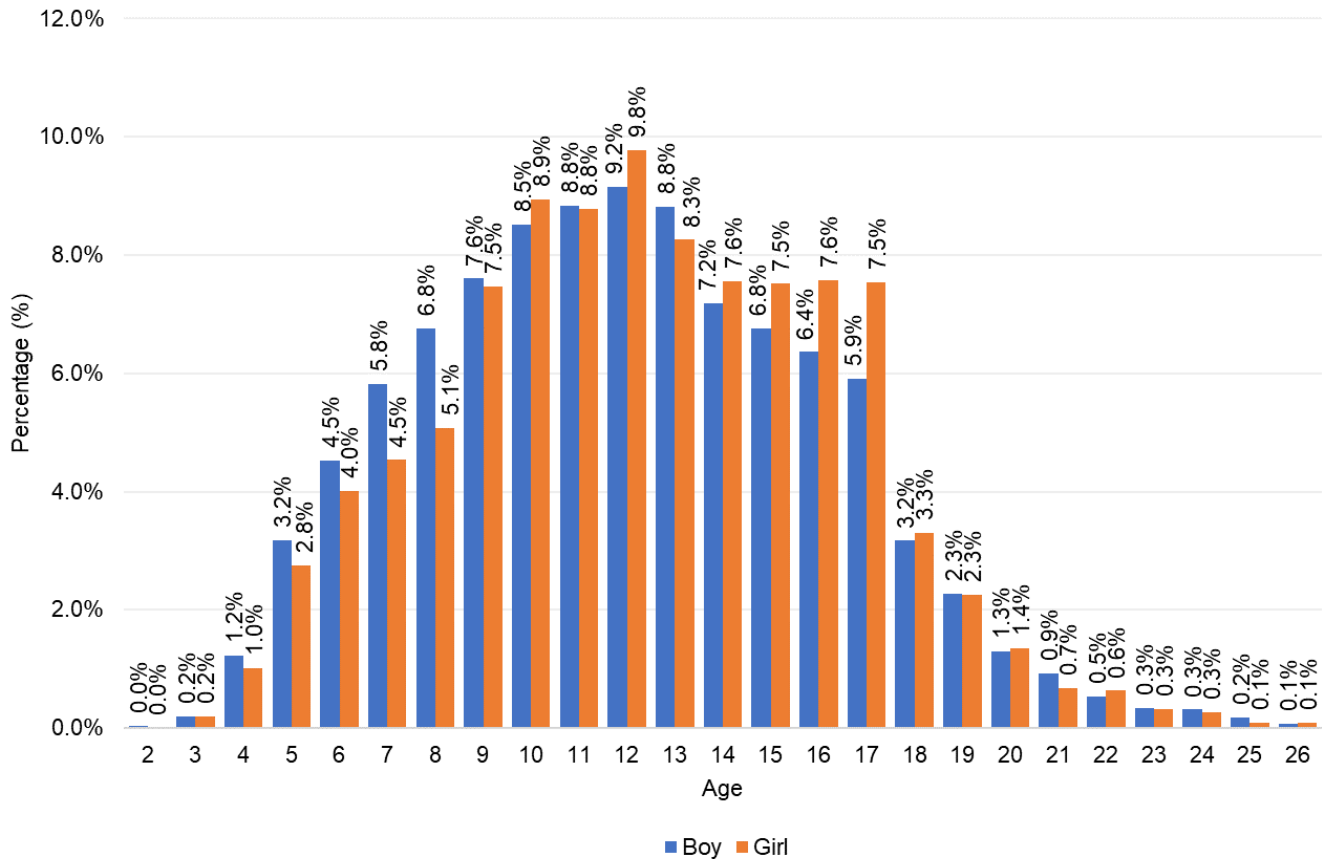
At age seven (7) there are 5.8% of boys, compared to 4.5% girls, similarly aged eight (8), with 6.8% boys and 5.1% girls (Capita data).

In contrast for pupils with SEND aged fifteen (15), sixteen (16) and seventeen (17), girls have higher percentages. Age fifteen (15) percentage of girls is 7.5%, compared to 6.8% boys (Wirral Schools Census).

Age sixteen (16) the percentage of girls is 7.6% compared to boys at 6.4% and age seventeen (17) girls are at 7.5% and boys are at 5.9%. Girls have the highest percentage of SEND children aged twelve (12) (9.8%) compared to 9.2% for boys (also boys' highest percentage).

Rates in boys are higher at younger ages and for girls' rates are higher in older ages (Wirral Schools Census).

Figure 10: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEND, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

Gender – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

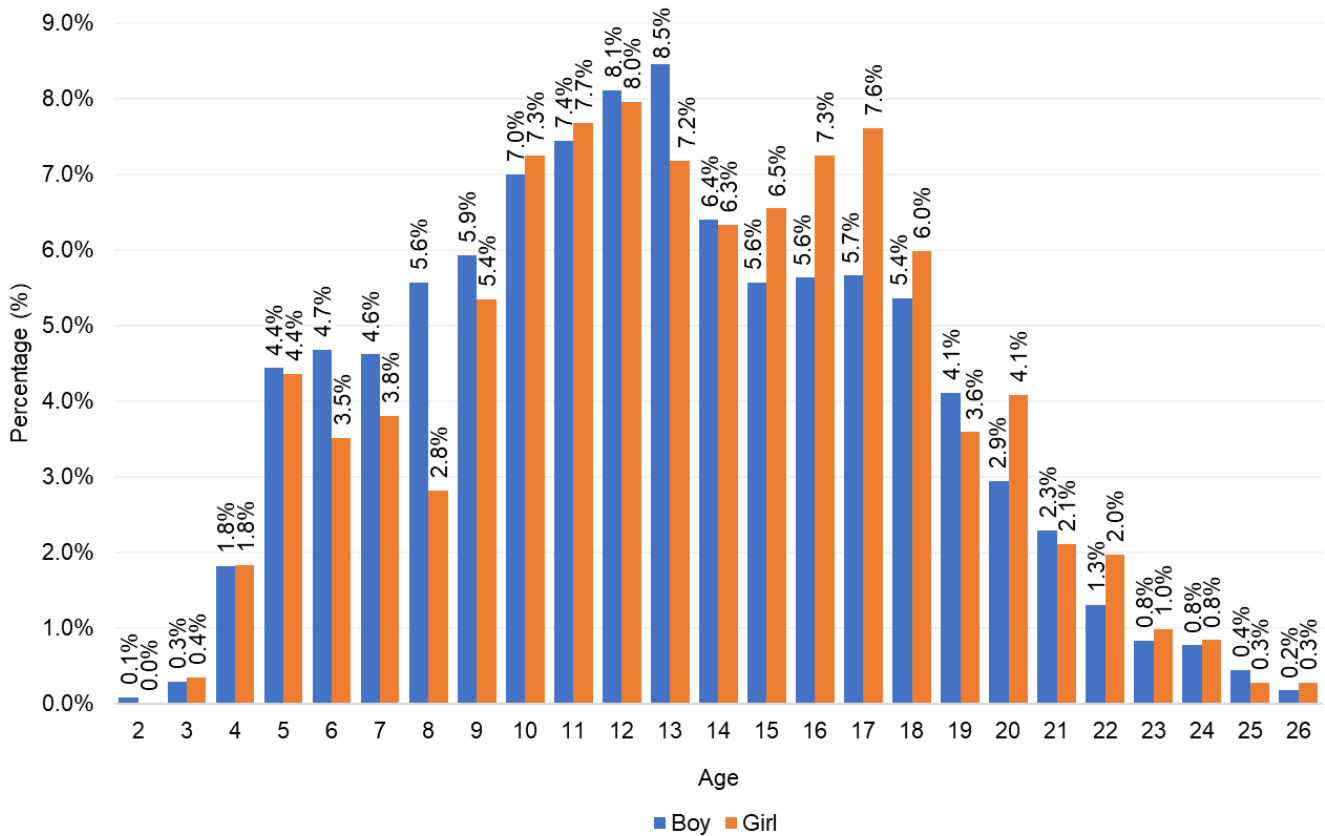
Wirral has 70.3% (3,356) boys and 29.7% girls (1,420) who have an EHCP who are recorded in the Wirral Capita data EHCP data is captured for those aged up to twenty-six (26).

When looking at gender in age groups (**Figure 11**), both boys and girls follow a similar trend of increasing rates as the pupil age increase, before rates dropping once the pupil is ages sixteen (16) and over.

However, there are noticeable difference between the ages of boys and girls with an EHCP, most significantly is the rate of pupils aged eight (8), sixteen (16) and seventeen (17). There are 56% of boys with an EHCP are aged eight (8), this compares to 2.8% of girls. 7.3% (aged sixteen (16)) and 7.6% (aged seventeen (17)) of girls with an EHCP compared to boys where the rate is 5.6% and 5.7% respectively (Capita data).

The highest rates for boys are age thirteen (13) at 8.5%, age twelve (12) at 8.1% and age eleven (11) at 7.4%, the highest rates in girls are age twelve (12) at 8.0%, followed by ages eleven (11) with 7.7% and seventeen (17) at 7.6% (Capita data).

Figure 11: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with an EHCP, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

Gender - Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

Wirral has 62.2% boys (4,945) and 37.8% girls (3,011) who have SEN Support recorded in July 2024.

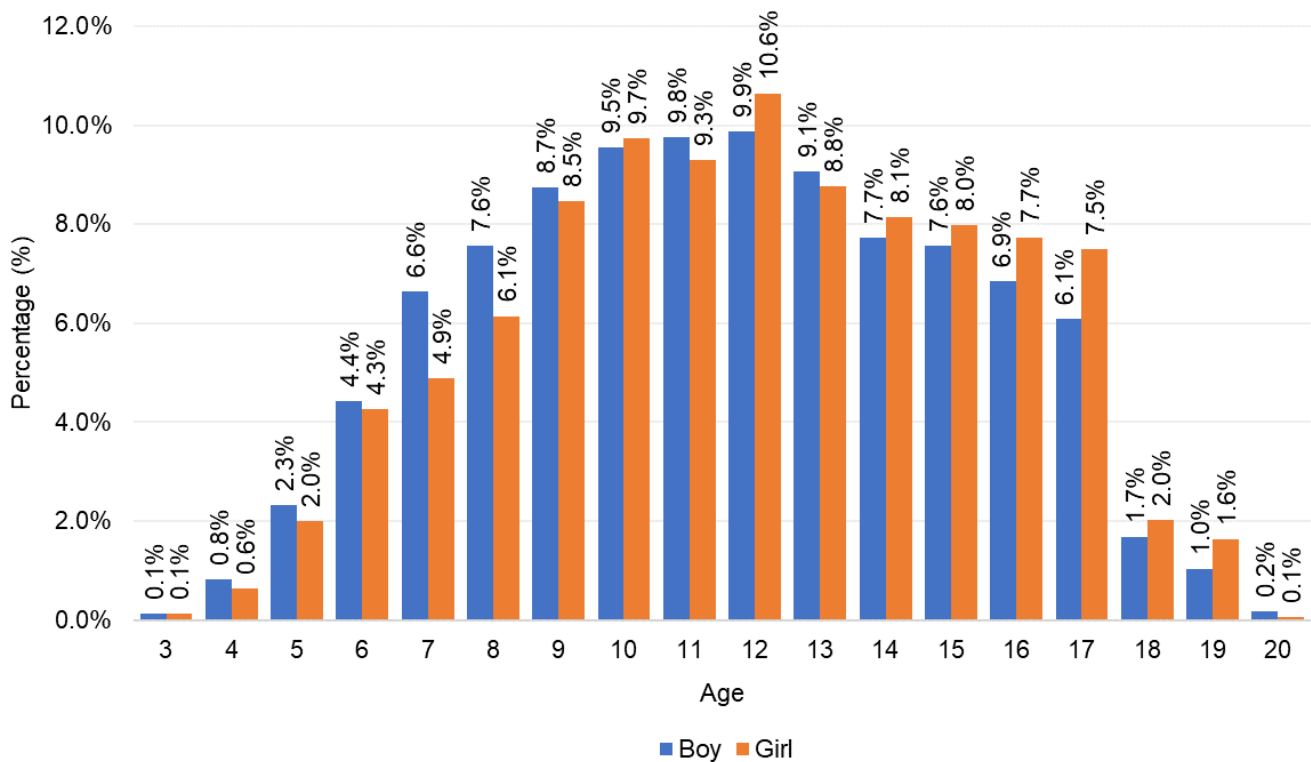
The ages of boys and girls with SEN Support follow a similar trend between those aged one (1) and those aged eighteen (18), with a steady rise followed by a steady drop, as seen in **Figure 12**. The highest proportion of girls are aged twelve (12) and this is also the same for boys aged 12 (Capita data).

The genders show some differences with the frequency rising quicker amongst boys at younger ages. At age seven (7), 4.6% of boys have SEN Support, compared to 3.8% girls, and similar for those aged eight (8), with 5.6% of boys compared to 2.8% for girls (Capita data).

For the ages of ten (10) and eleven (11) the frequency for girls exceeds boys. Frequency in girls between ages fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) 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 12: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP) with SEN Support, by single year of age and gender, in Wirral, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

2.5 English as first language

Those who's language is known or believed to be English is 97.3% for all Children and Young People (aged 0 -25) and with SEND. **Figure 13** includes 30.5% of unknown language recorded for EHCP and 10.2% of unknown language recorded for SEND (Capita data).

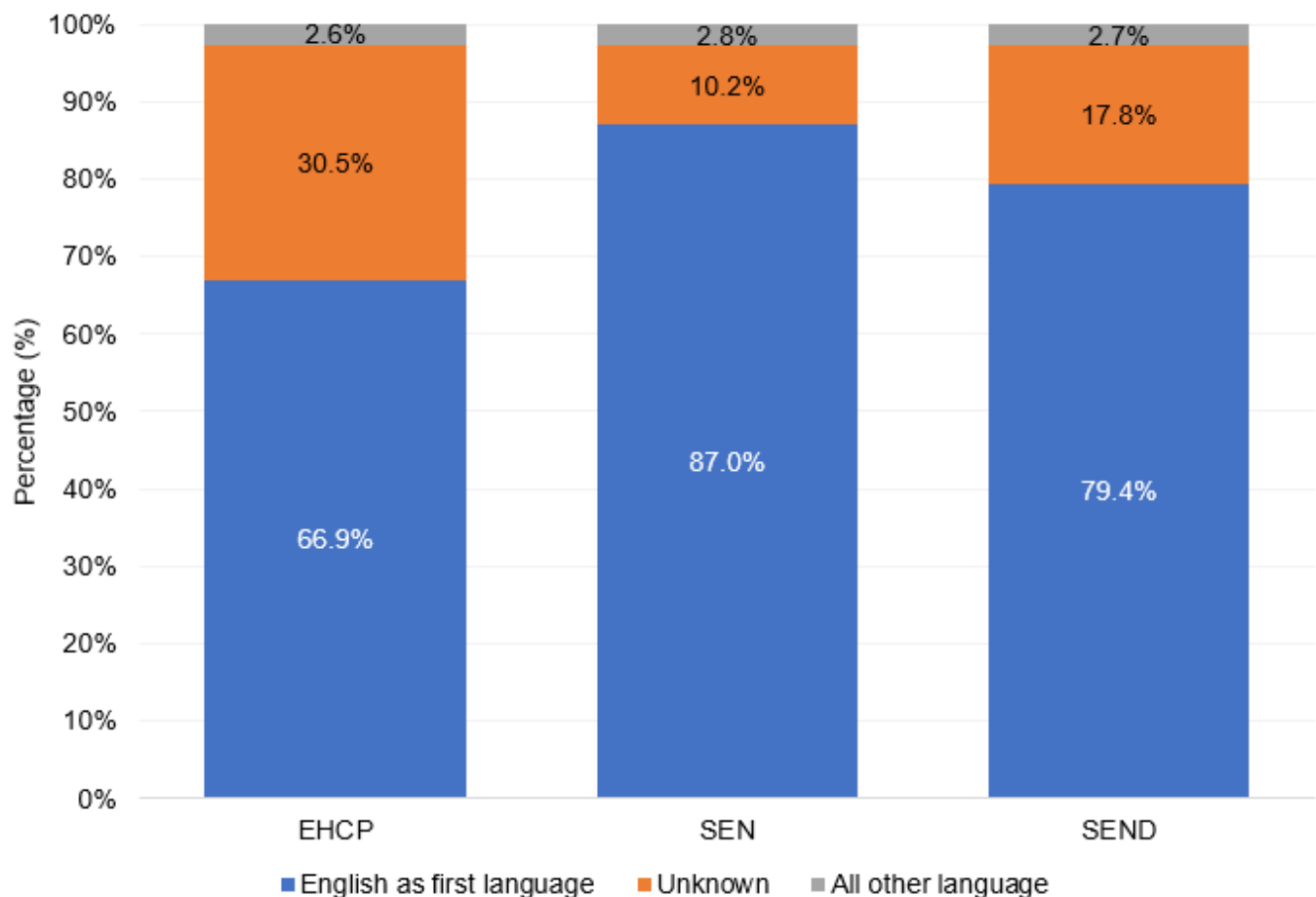
English as first language – EHCP

The rates for pupils with an EHCP where it is known or believed that their first language is English is 97.4% (which include 30.5% unknown language recorded) (**Figure 13**) (Capita data).

English as first language – SEN Support

The rates where English is known or believed to be the pupils first language on Wirral is 97.2% (which include 10.2% unknown language recorded) for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 13**) (Capita data).

Figure 13: Proportion of Children and Young People (CYP), who have English as a first language, by EHCP, SEN Support and SEND, in Wirral, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

2.6 Residence location

Wirral consists of twenty-two wards, 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 9.0% (1,117 Children and Young People) of all those with SEND and compares to Heswall ward, where 1.3% (157 Children and Young People) of all those with SEND reside (Capita data).

For all C&YP with as detailed in **Figure 14 and Table 9**, SEND, the greatest proportion by population, reside in Leasowe and Moreton East. With a rate of 2009.7 per 10,000. Leasowe and Moreton East Ward has a SEND population that is 20.1% of the total 0-25 population. This equates to 950 (Capita data) Children and Young People 0-25 years old out of a total 0-25 year old population of 4,727 ([Office for National Statistics](#)).

With a rate of 1970.4 per 10,000 population in Bidston and St James Ward (or 1,117 residents (Capita data)) out of a total 0-25 year old population of 5,669 ([Office for National Statistics](#)).

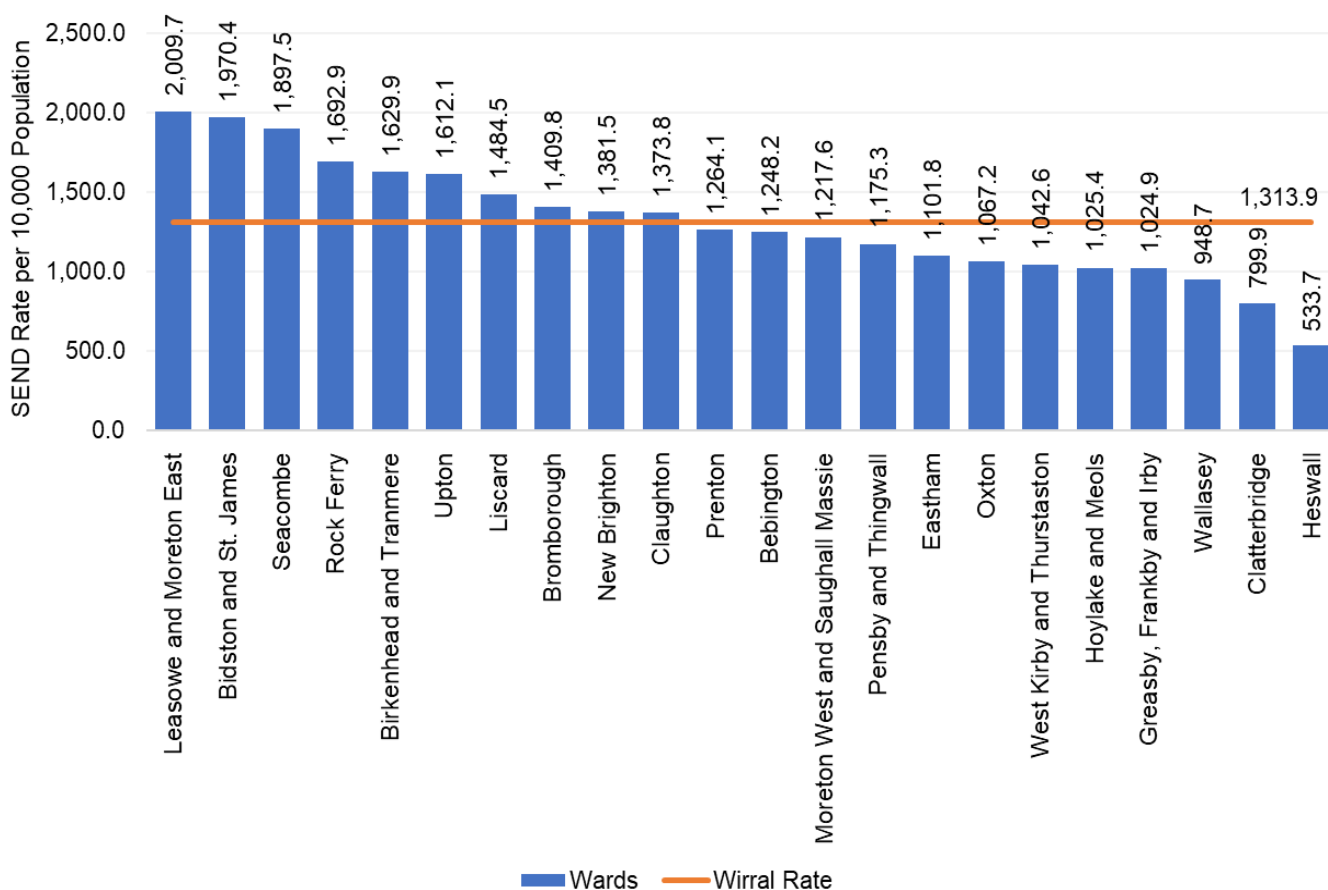
Seacombe at 1897.5 per 10,000, (or 1,003 residents (Capita data)) out of a total 0-25 year old population of 5,286 ([Office for National Statistics](#)) and Rock Ferry at 1692.9 per 10,000, or 902 residents (Capita data) out of a total 0-25 year old population of 5,328 ([Office for National Statistics](#)).

These four wards all have a 0–25-year-old SEND population that is 18.0% of the 0–25-year-old population, a combined total of 3,785 out of a combined total 0–25-year-old population of 21,047.

In contrast the Wards in Heswall, Clatterbridge, Hoylake and Meols and West Kirby and Thurstaston, all have the lowest rates per 10,000, or under 10%, at a combined rate of 8.5% from a combined number of 1,077 0–25-year-olds (Capita data) with SEND out of a total 0–25-year-old population of 12,601 residents (ONS).

Heswall, with a rate of 533.7 per 10,000, has the lowest rate of SEND per 10,000 of all wards, at 5.3%. This equates to 157 Children and Young People aged 0-25 (Capita data) with SEND out of a total 0-25 year old population of 2,942 ([Office for National Statistics](#)).

Figure 14: Rate of Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024) and [ONS mid 2022 population](#) (2024)

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 show Bidston St. James, Leasowe and Moreton East, Rock Ferry, 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, 2024

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	5,669	9.0%	1,970.4	8.3%	689.7	9.4%	1,280.6
Seacombe	5,286	8.1%	1,897.5	7.7%	684.8	8.3%	1,212.6
Leasowe and Moreton East	4,727	7.6%	2,009.7	7.7%	770.0	7.6%	1,239.7
Birkenhead and Tranmere	5,706	7.5%	1,629.9	7.3%	601.1	7.6%	1,028.7
Rock Ferry	5,328	7.2%	1,692.9	6.9%	610.0	7.4%	1,083.0
Upton	4,950	6.4%	1,612.1	6.1%	583.8	6.6%	1,028.3
Liscard	4,594	5.5%	1,484.5	5.7%	583.4	5.3%	901.2
Bromborough	4,795	5.4%	1,409.8	5.5%	536.0	5.4%	873.8
Claughton	4,018	4.4%	1,373.8	4.0%	465.4	4.7%	908.4
Prenton	4,161	4.2%	1,264.1	4.6%	521.5	4.0%	742.6
Bebington	4,168	4.2%	1,242.8	4.1%	460.7	4.2%	782.1
New Brighton	3,402	3.8%	1,381.5	4.3%	593.8	3.5%	787.8
Eastham	3,948	3.5%	1,101.8	3.6%	433.1	3.4%	668.7
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	3,515	3.4%	1,217.6	3.2%	423.9	3.6%	793.7
Pensby and Thingwall	3,063	2.9%	1,175.3	3.0%	466.9	2.8%	708.5
Oxton	3,242	2.8%	1,067.2	3.0%	434.9	2.6%	632.3
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	3,376	2.8%	1,024.9	2.7%	379.1	2.8%	645.7
Wallasey	3,605	2.7%	948.7	2.9%	380.0	2.6%	568.7
West Kirby and Thurstaston	3,146	2.6%	1,042.6	2.9%	429.1	2.5%	613.5
Hoylake and Meols	3,150	2.6%	1,025.4	2.6%	384.1	2.6%	641.3
Clatterbridge	3,363	2.2%	799.9	2.3%	318.2	2.1%	481.7
Heswall	2,942	1.3%	533.7	1.5%	244.7	1.1%	288.9

Source: [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024) Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

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 9.0% of all SEND pupils residing here. This is followed by Seacombe Ward with 8.1%, Leasowe and Moreton East Ward with 7.6% and Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward with 7.5%. The data also show that at 32.2%, over a third of all pupils with SEND reside in four wards: Bidston St. James, Seacombe, Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward and Leasowe and Moreton East Ward. These four wards equate to 18% of the total twenty-two wards.

Whilst these four wards account for 32.2% of all pupils with SEND, this is higher than the 23.7% of total 0–25-year-old population that reside in these wards.

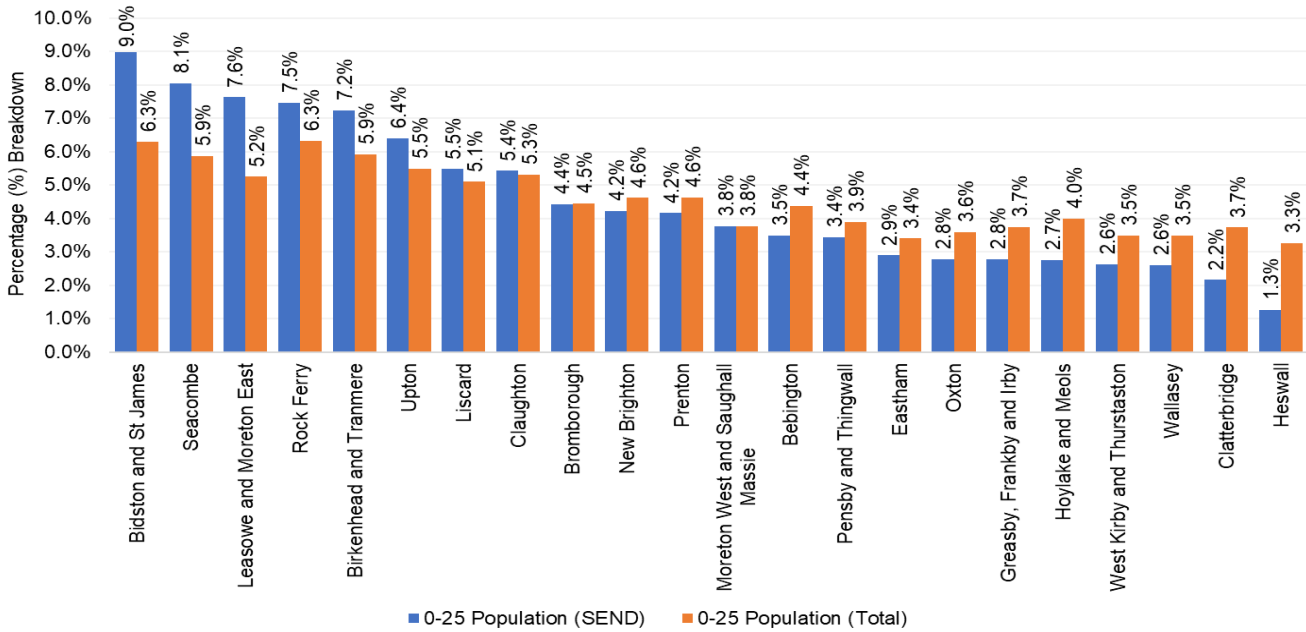
It must also be noted that using the rate per 10,000 of ward population for 0–25-year-olds, this gives different profile of C&YP with SEND distribution, with the highest rates being Leasowe and Moreton East Ward at 2009.7, followed by Bidston and St James Ward on 1970.4, Seacombe Ward on 1897.5 and Rock Ferry Ward on 1692.9 per 10,000.

For pupils with an SEN the highest rate per 10,000 of under 18 years old population reside in Seacombe, with a rate of 1212.6 per 10,000. This is followed by Bidston and St James on 1280.6, Leasowe and Moreton East on 1239.7 and Rock Ferry on 1083.0 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 770.0 per 10,000. The other top three wards match up to the overall SEND ward rates per 10,000 0-25 population.

Figure 15 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 15: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by SEND and Total), 2024



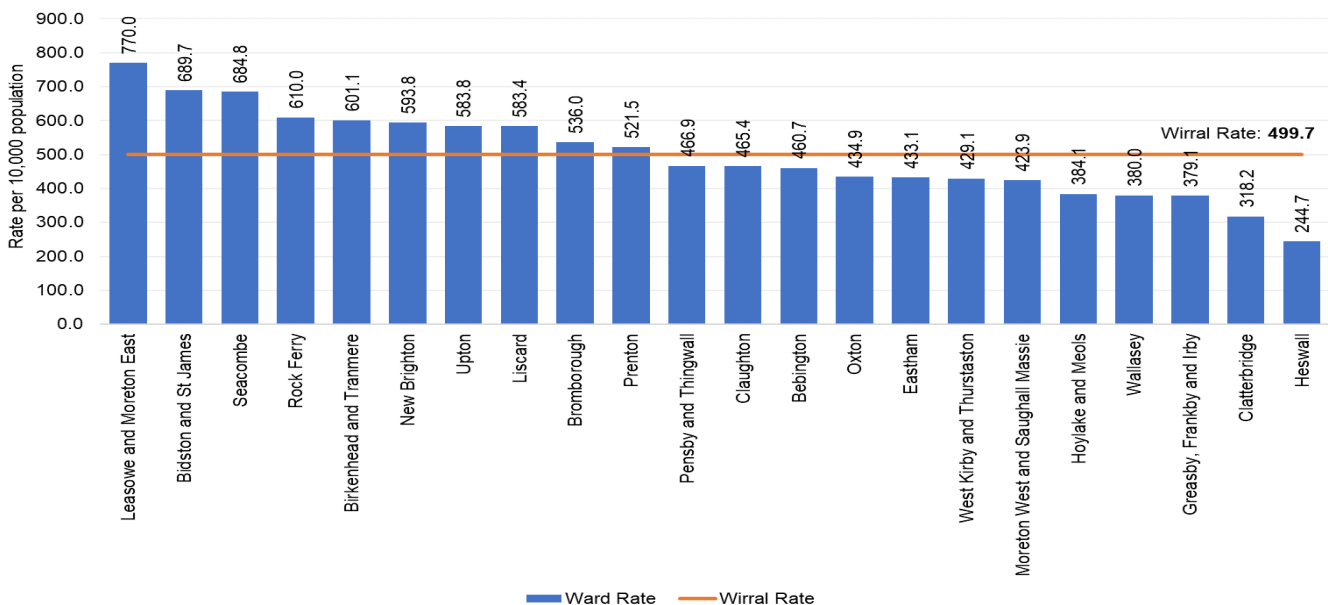
Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

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

For all pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) aged 0-25, **Figure 16** shows the greatest proportion by population, reside in Leasowe and Moreton East Ward. With a rate of 770.0 per 10,000, Leasowe and Moreton East has an EHCP population that is 7.7% of the total 0–25-year-old population.

Bidston and St James has a rate of 689.7 per 10,000, Seacombe 684.8 per 10,000 and Rock Ferry at 610.0 per 10,000. This compares to Heswall, with a rate of 244.7 per 10,000, which is 1.5% of the 0-25 population having an EHCP. This is significantly lower than the Wirral average of 499.7 per 10,000 (Capita data).

Figure 16: Rate of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2024



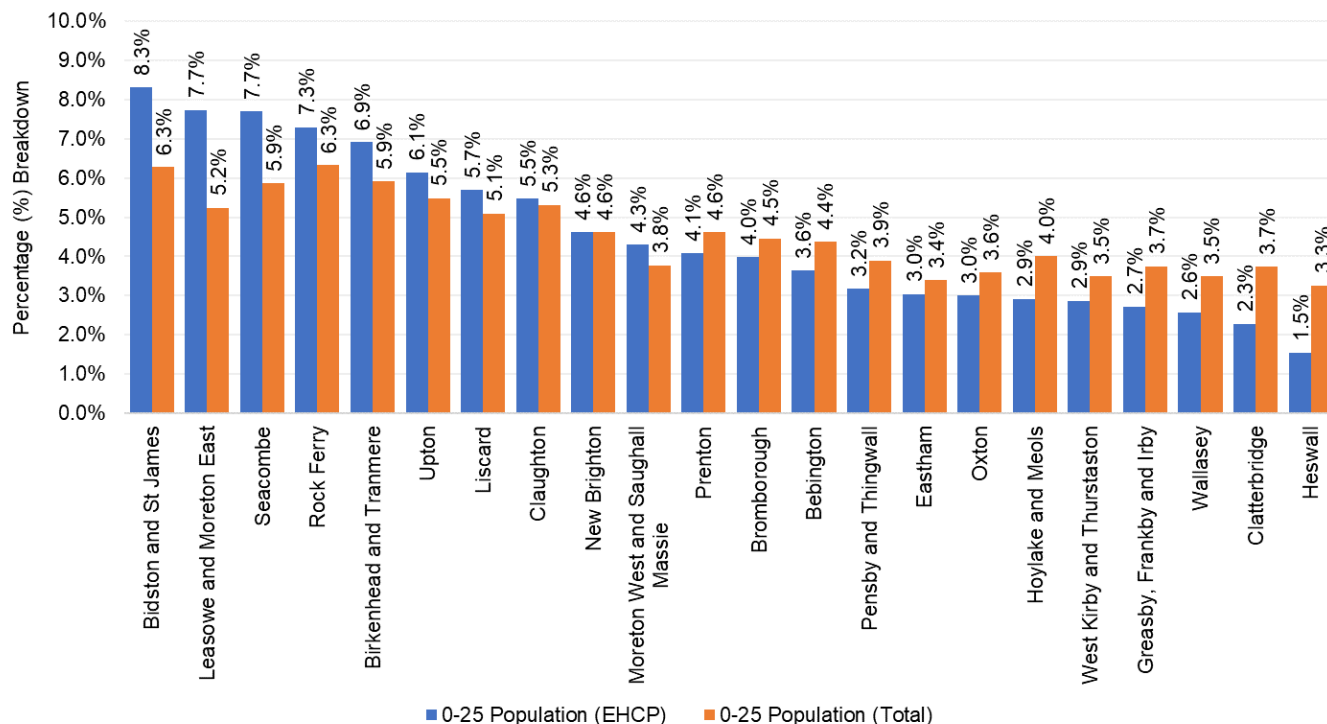
Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

Of the total Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupil cohort (**Figure 17**), the highest numbers reside in Bidston and St James Ward, with this ward being where 8.3% 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 Leasowe and Moreton East, with 7.7% of the total residing here.

This is different to the rate per 10,000, where Leasowe and Moreton East had the highest prevalence in the 0-25 population (Capita data and ONS)

Figure 17: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by EHCP and Total), 2024



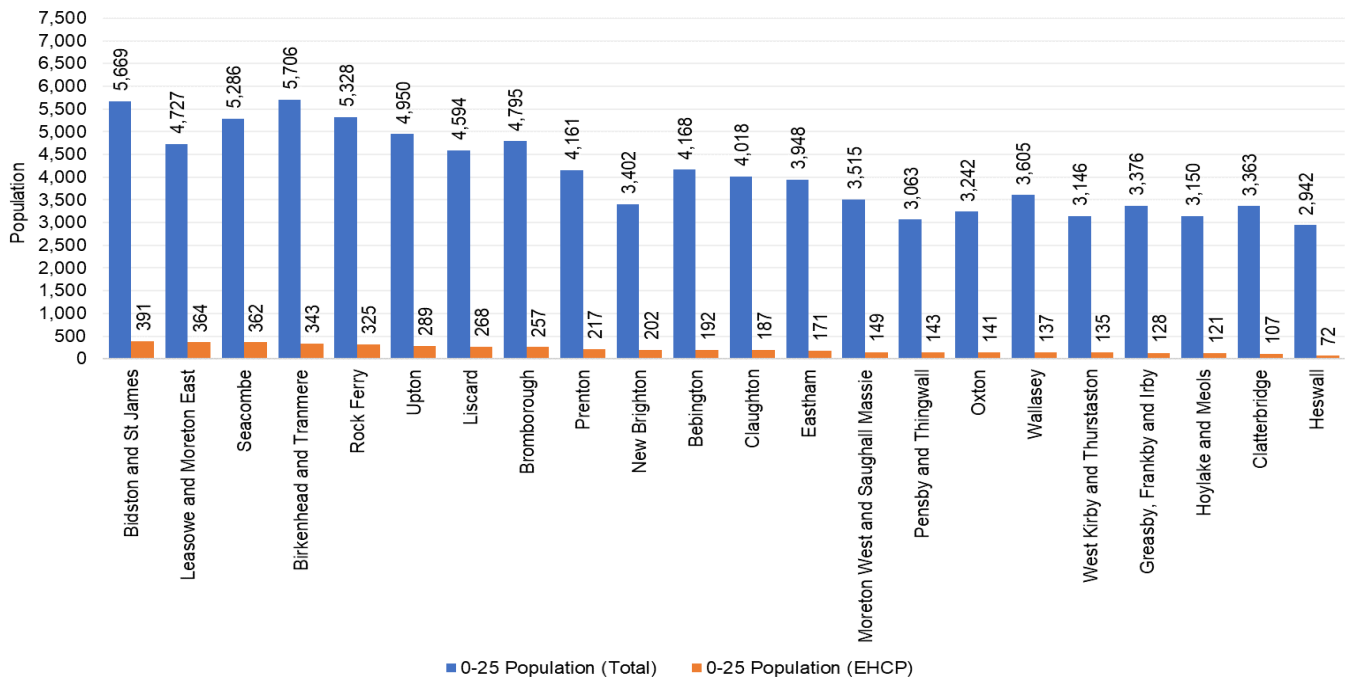
Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

Figure 18 illustrates that Bidston St. James, Leasowe and Moreton East, Seacombe, Birkenhead and Tranmere and are where 31.3% of all pupils with an EHCP reside, yet these four wards account for 18% of the total twenty-two wards 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 (Capita data).

Figure 18: 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by EHCP and Total), 2024



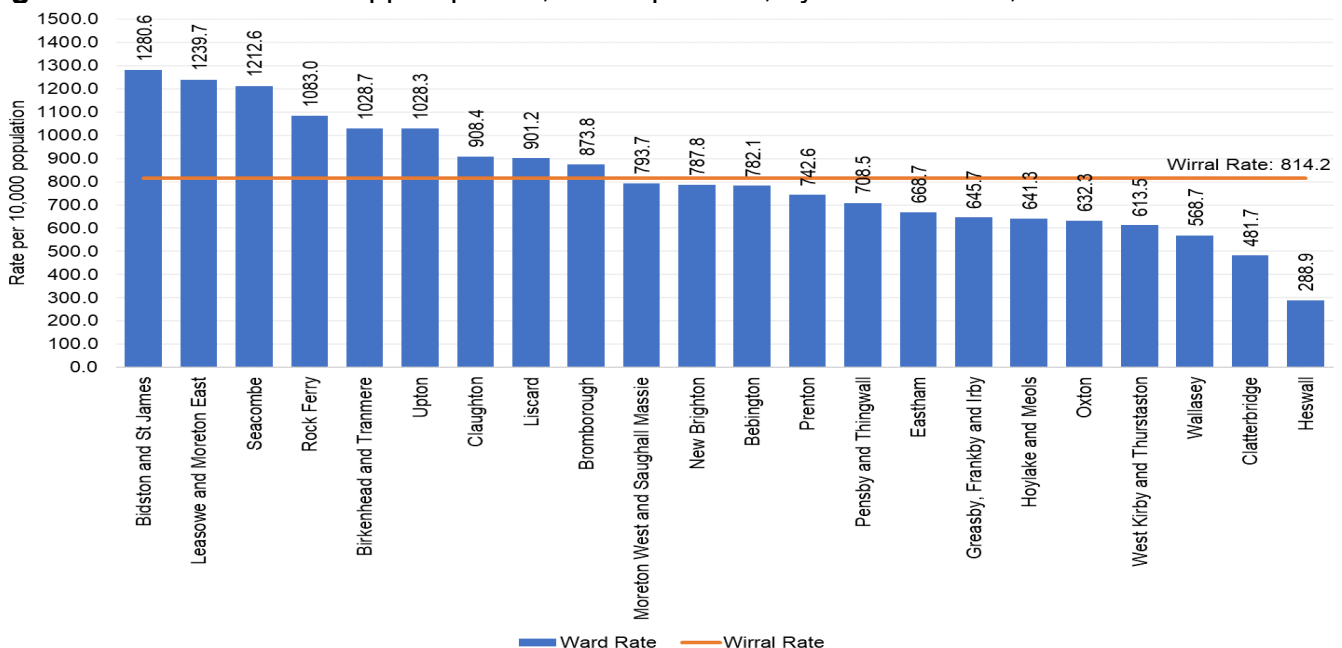
Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

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 19**, with a rate of 1280.6 per 10,000, Bidston St. James has a SEN Support population of 6.9% of the total 0–25-year-olds ward population. With a rate of 1239.7 per 10,000 is Leasowe and Moreton East, Seacombe at 1212.6 per 10,000 and Rock Ferry at 1083.0 per 10,000.

These four wards have a SEN Support population of over 12% of the total ward 0-25 population. This contrast to Heswall, which has a rate of 288.9 per 10,000, Clatterbridge at 481.7 per 10,000 and Wallasey at 568.7 per 10,000 (Capita data and [Office for National Statistics](#)).

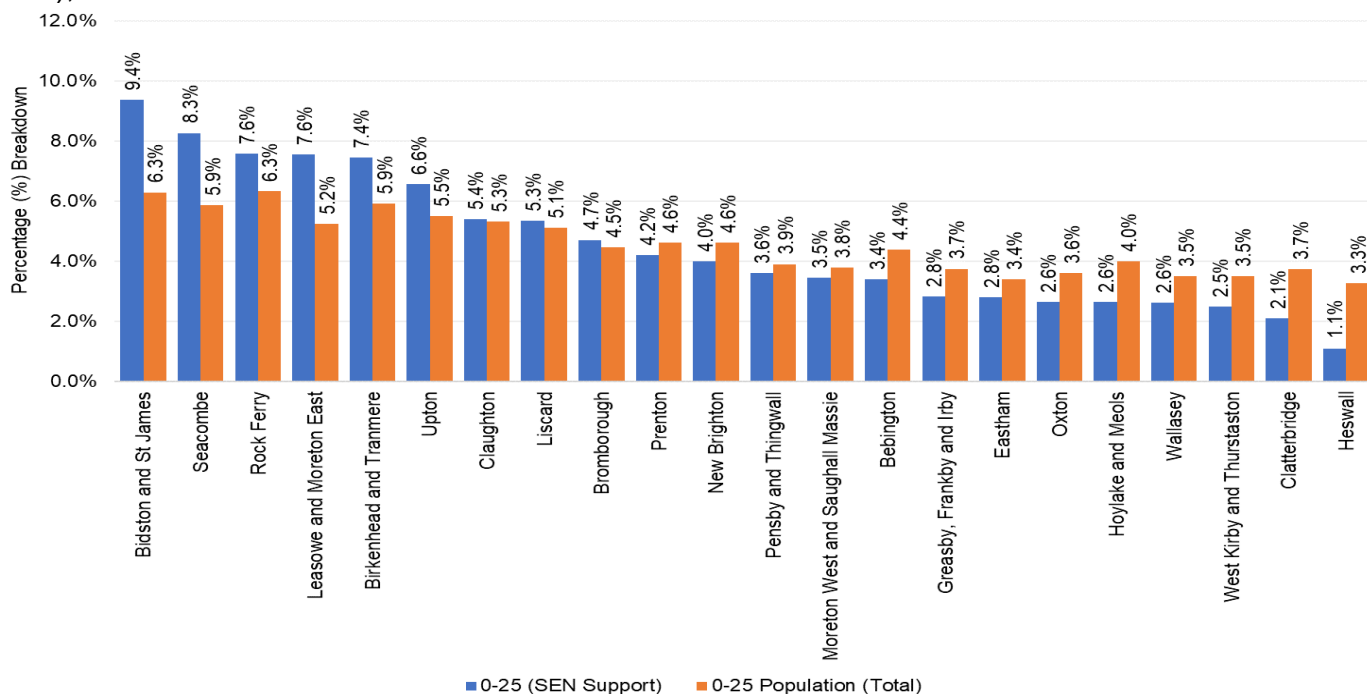
Figure 19: Rate of SEN Support per 10,000 Population, by Wirral Wards, 2024



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

Of the total SEN Support (**Figure 20**) 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 9.4% of all pupils with SEN Support reside. This is followed by Seacombe, where 8.3% of the SEN Support pupils reside, Rock Ferry with 7.6% and Leasowe and Moreton East also with 7.6%. These four wards account for 32.7% of all pupils with SEN Support (Capita data and ONS).

Figure 20: Percentage (%) Breakdown of 0-25 Population by Wirral Ward (by SEN Support and Total), 2024

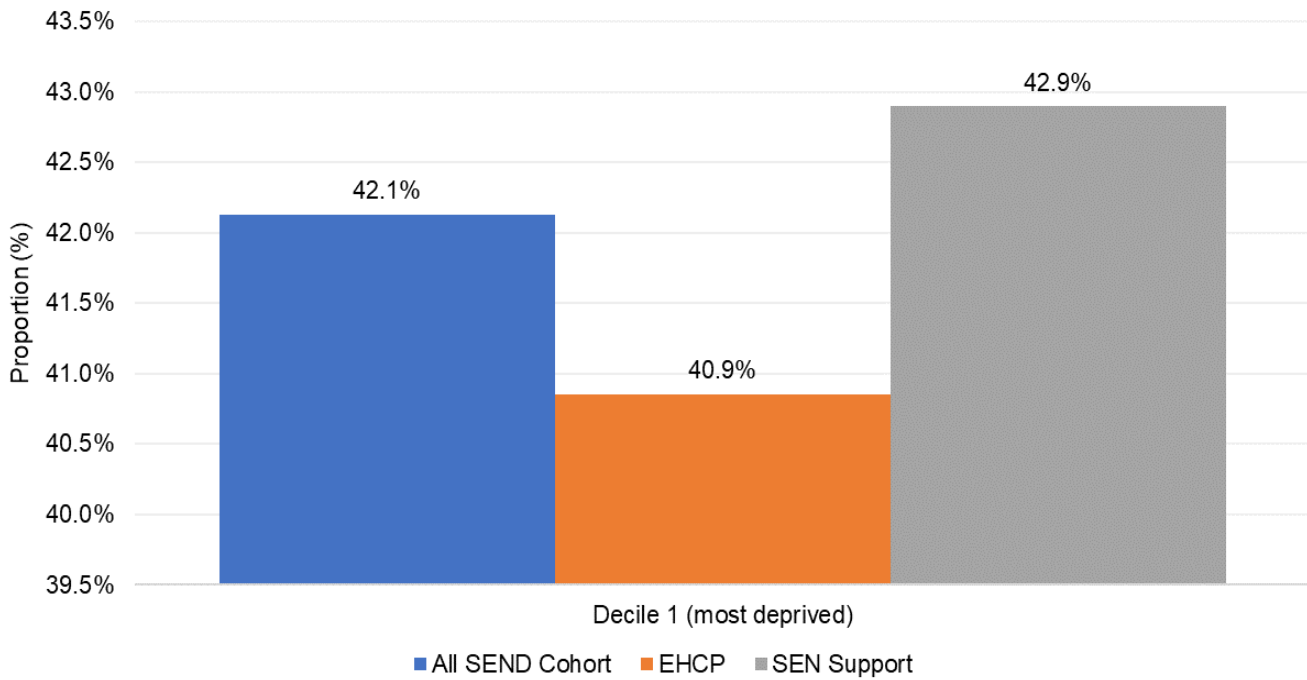


Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [ONS mid population 2022](#) (2024)

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; \(Office for National Statistics, Exploring Local Income Deprivation, 24th May 2021, accessed 31st July 2024\)](#).

Figure 21: Proportion (%) of each SEND Cohort that reside in Decile 1, in Wirral (2024)

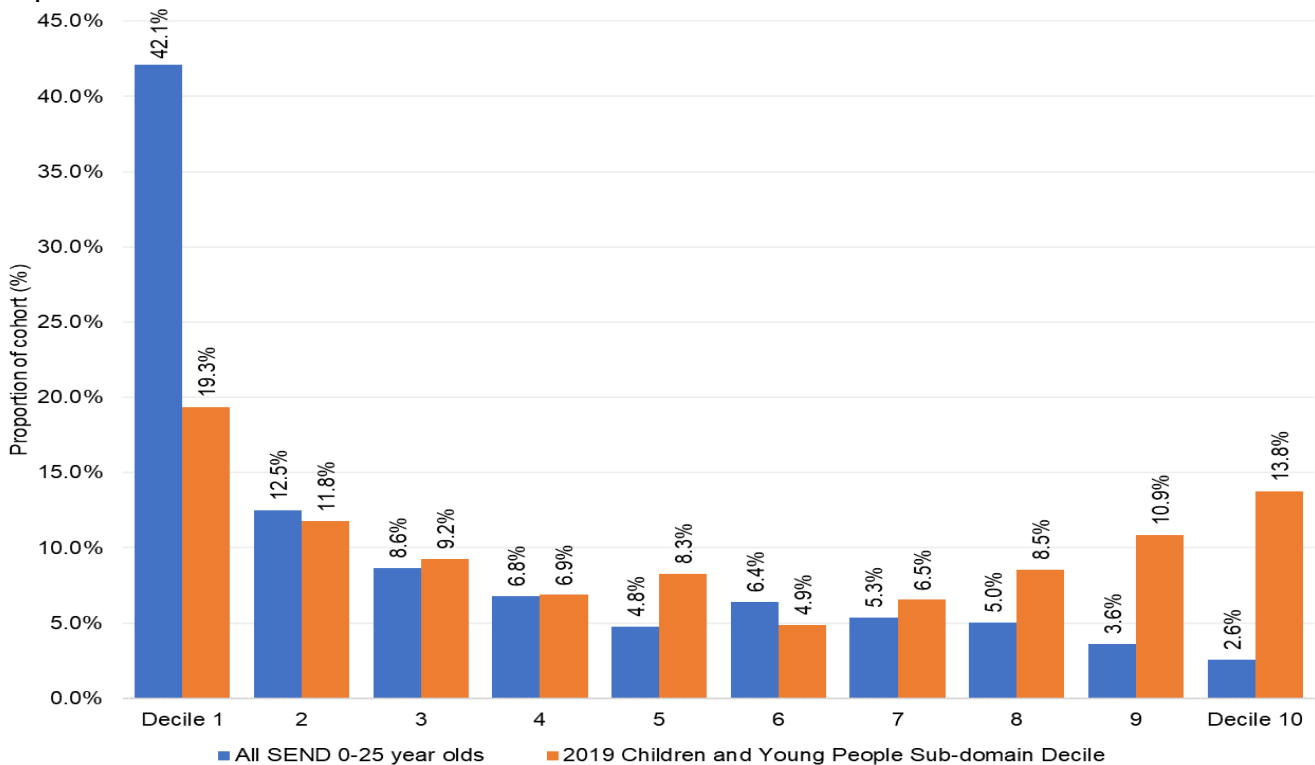


Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024)

Figure 21 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 42.1% (Capita data), nearly half of all pupils with SEND on Wirral the most deprived 10% on wards in England.

This compares to 19.3% of the children and young people sub domain IMD population residing in the most deprived decile for Wirral (2019 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 22**).

Figure 22: Proportion of All SEND C&YP (0-25) (2024) compared with 2019 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [2019 Indices of Deprivation \(IMD\)](#)

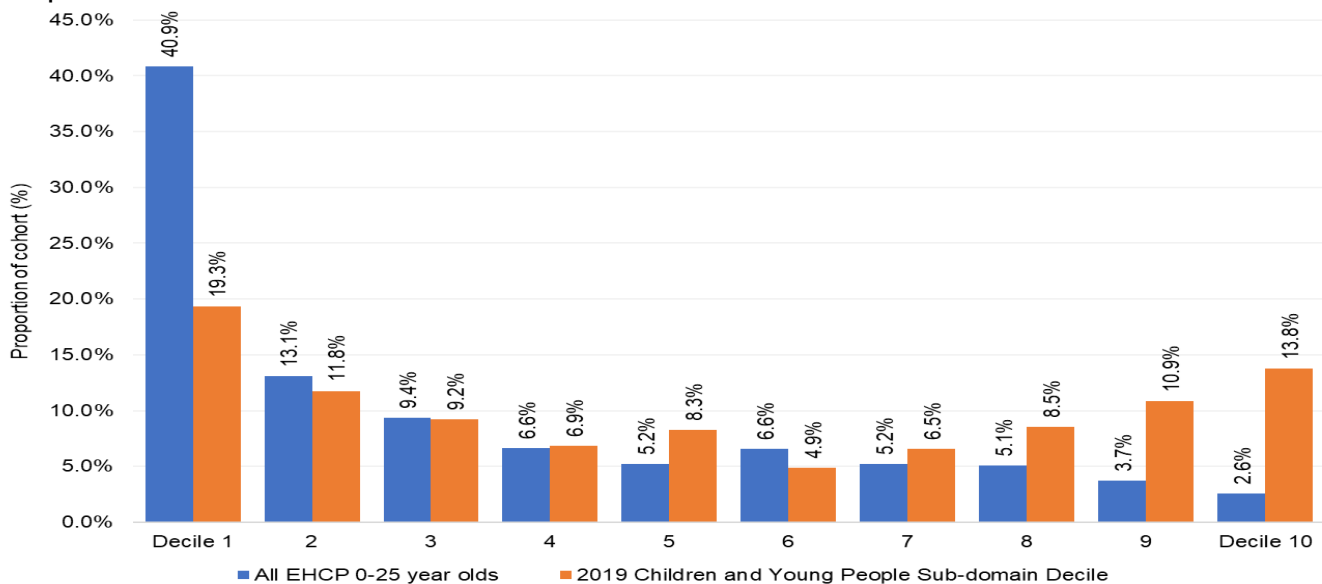
Deprivation – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For all C&YP (0-25) with an EHCP on Wirral (**Figure 23**), there is a higher proportion that live within the most deprived areas. A rate of 42.1% (Capita data) of all children and young people with an EHCP reside within the most deprived 10% of wards in England.

This compares to 19.3% of the children and young people sub domain IMD population (Capita data). The data also show that the rates of C&YP with an EHCP in the least deprived areas is lower that the IMD 2019 sub domain population.

This is particularly noticeable within the wards with the least deprivation, decile ten. Of the full sub children IMD population, 13.8% reside here, yet for the EHCP population, just 2.8% reside here (Capita data).

Figure 23: Proportion of All EHCP C&YP (0-25) (2024) compared with 2019 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [2019 Indices of Deprivation \(IMD\)](#)

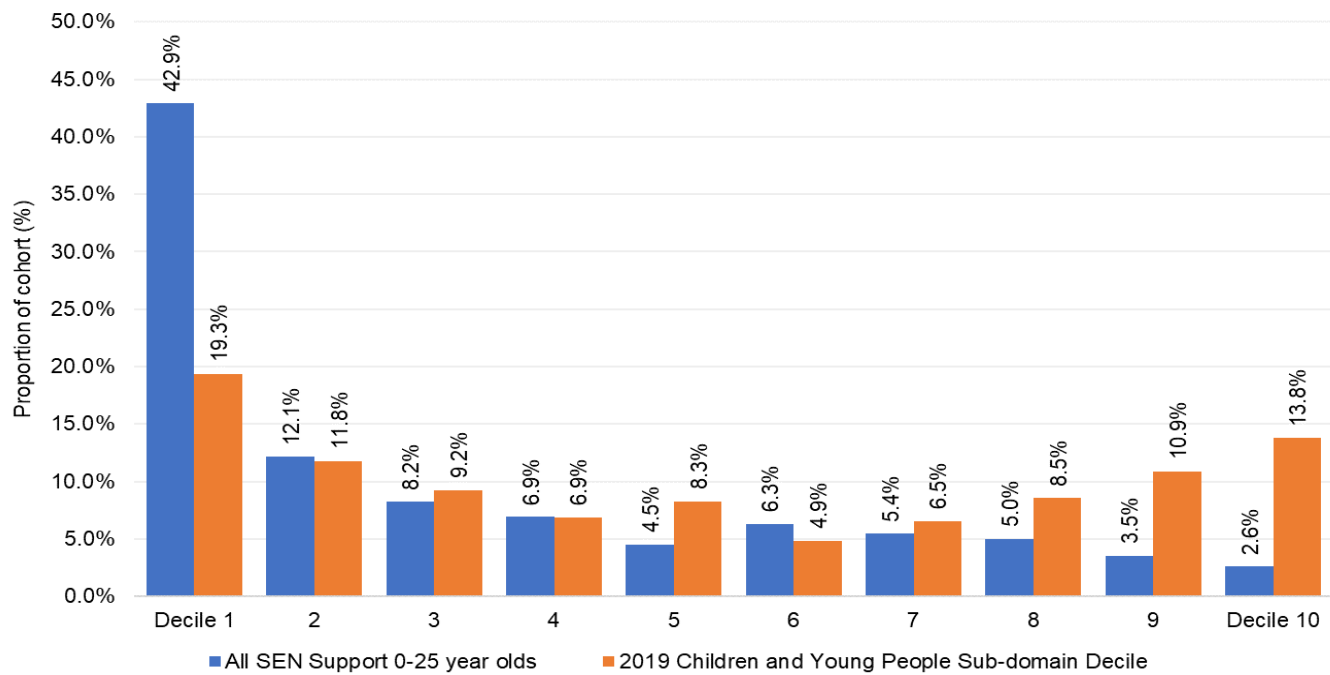
Deprivation – SEN Support

For all pupils with SEN Support on Wirral (**Figure 24**), there are a higher proportion who reside within the most deprived areas. Data show 42.9% (Capita 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 19.3% (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, with the least deprived 10%, Decile 10, having a SEN Support rate of 2.6% (Capita data), compared to all 2019 C&YP sub domain population at 13.8% (2019 IMD).

Figure 24: Proportion of All SEN Support C&YP (0-25) (2024) compared with 2019 Children and Young People Sub-Domain in Wirral



Source: Capita internal data (PowerBI CYP SEND report), internal source (July 2024), [2019 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**)

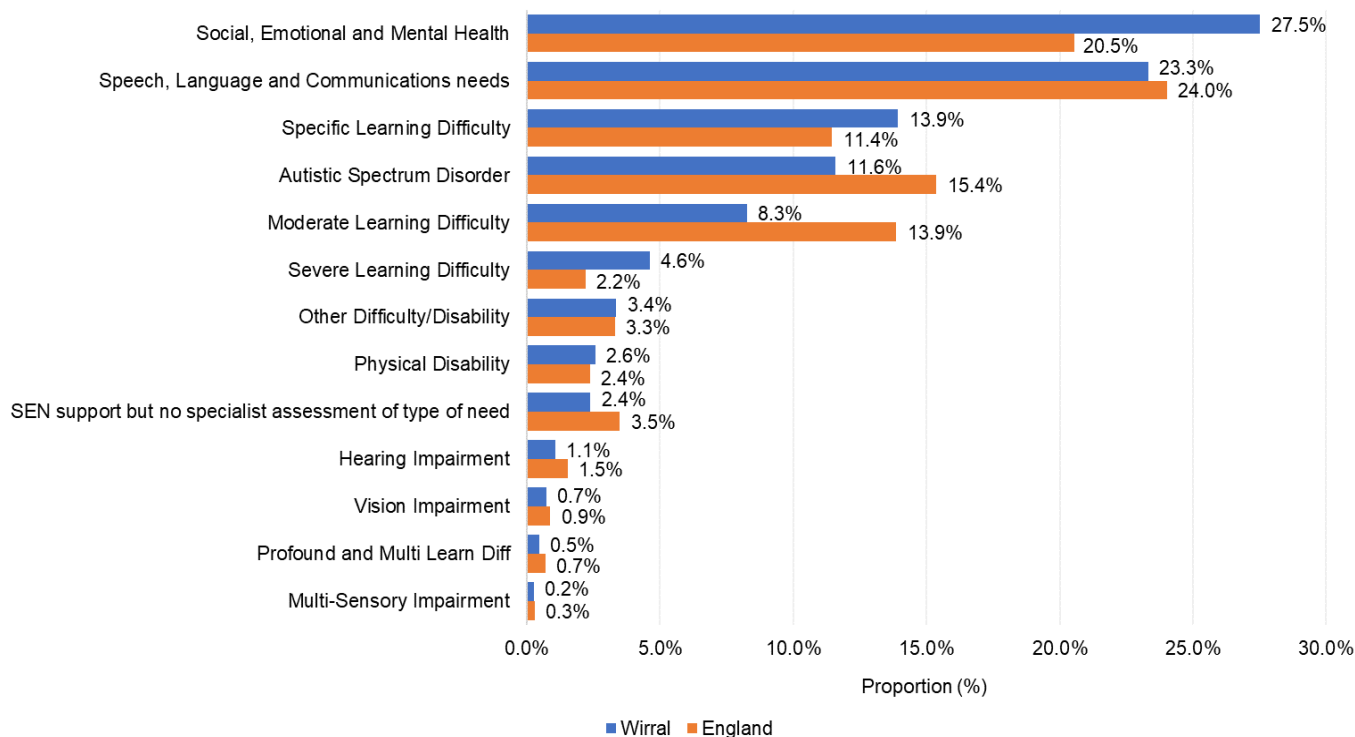
The most common Primary Need amongst pupils (Wirral School Census and Capita data) (**Figure 25**) with SEND attending an education setting on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health, accounting for 27.5% of all Primary Needs, followed by Speech, Language and Communication needs, accounting for 23.3% and then Specific Learning Difficulties accounting for 13.9% of all Primary Needs.

These three categories of Primary Need account for 64.8% of all Primary Needs. It must be noted that there is a rate of 3.4% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of pupils with a Primary Need as 'Other.' This is in line with the England figure of 3.3% (Gov.UK), it does mean that there is a small number of pupils who have a Primary need that is not specifically categorised.

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 Social, Emotional and Mental Health is significantly higher in Wirral at 27.5% than England at 20.5%. The rate of pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties as their Primary Need is 4.6% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) on Wirral, which is more than double the England rate of 2.2% (Gov.UK).

In contrast the rates of pupils with Moderate Learning difficulties in Wirral nearly half that of England, with Wirral at a rate of 8.3% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of all with SEND having this as their Primary Need, compared to England where it is 13.9% (Gov.UK).

Figure 25: Proportion (%) of all SEND pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024) and Gov.UK (2024)

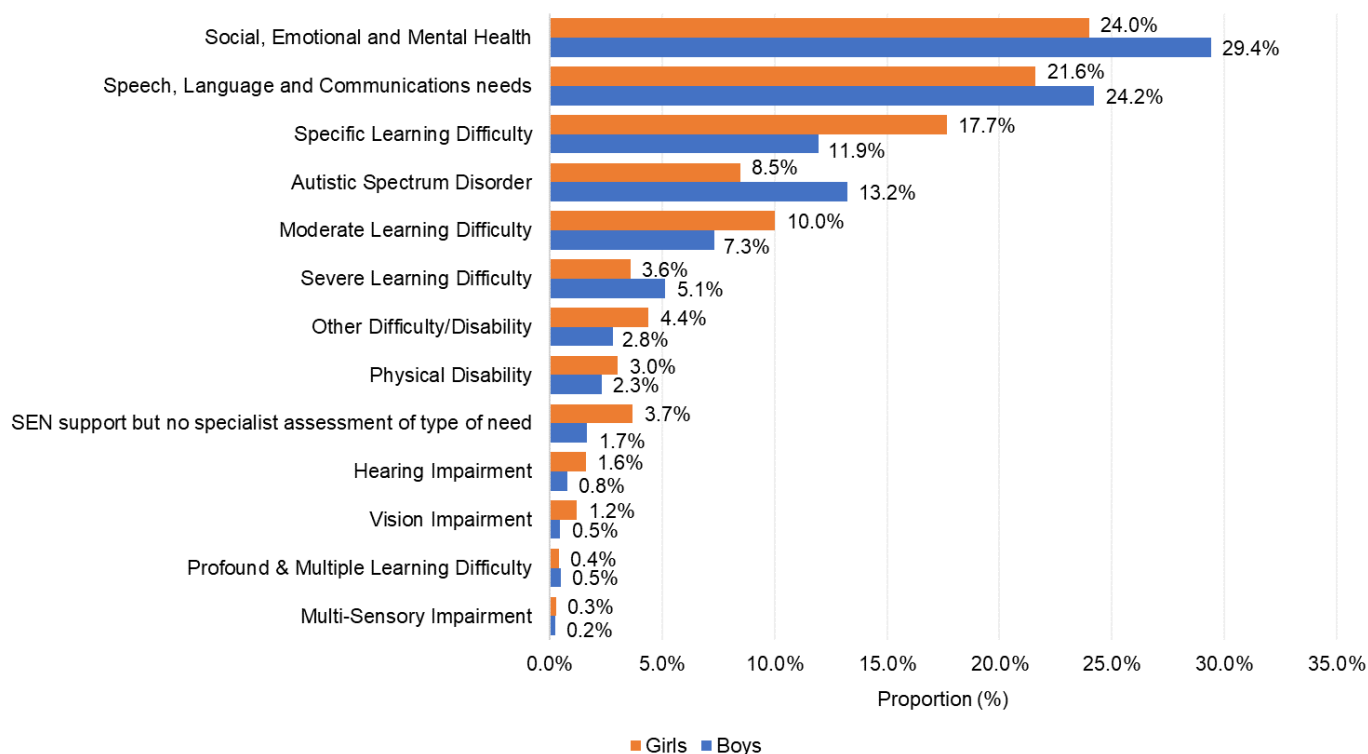
Looking at the gender within Primary Need (**Figure 26**), there are noticeable differences.

A noticeable difference is within those pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health as their Primary Need. For boys, this accounts for 29.4% of all, yet for girls this is 24.0% (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

The rates of Specific Learning Difficulty are noticeably higher amongst girls 17.7% than boys 11.9%. Autism Spectrum Disorder is significantly higher amongst boys than girls with 13.2% of boys having this as Primary Need, compared to 8.5% of girls.

In contrast, for No Specialist Assessment of type of need, is over twice as prevalent amongst girls than boys with girls at 3.7% and boys at 1.7%. Similarly, girls with Vision impairment as Primary Need, is nearly twice that of with boys with girls at 1.2% and boys at 0.5%.

Figure 26: Proportion (%) of all SEND pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

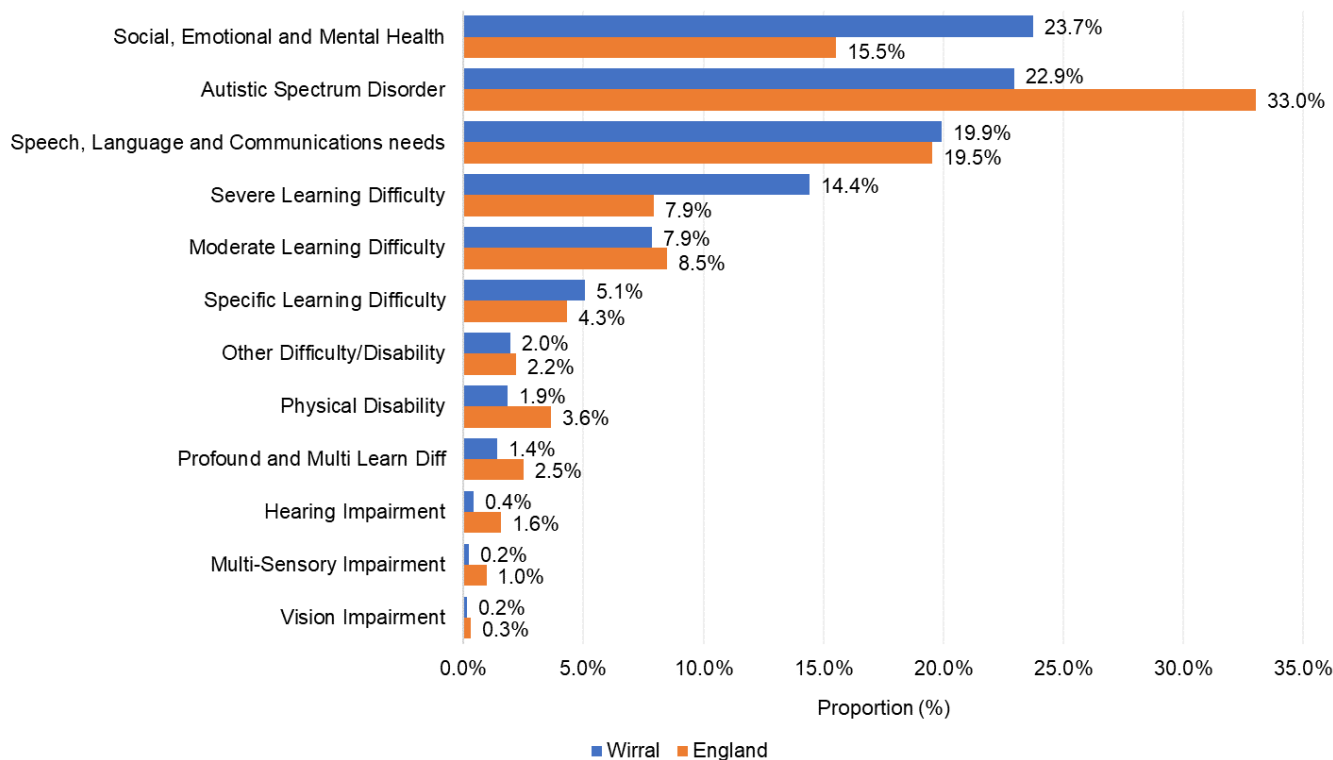
Primary Need – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

As detailed in **Figure 27**, the most common Primary Need for Wirral pupils with an EHCP is Social, emotional and mental health, with 23.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of all pupils with an EHCP having this as their Primary Need. This rate is over a third the rate across England (Gov.UK), which is 15.5% and shows as a significant difference between Wirral and England pupils with EHCP.

Other notable differences can be seen with the levels of Severe learning difficulty needs on Wirral, at 14.4% being higher than the England rate of 7.9% (Gov.UK). In contrast, there are Primary Needs that are higher in England than on Wirral, with the most noticeable being Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

With England at 33.0% (Gov.UK) and Wirral at 22.9% (Wirral School Census and Capita data), Wirral has a rate at nearly a third lower than that of England. In addition, although Wirral sees 1.9% of Primary Needs being physical disability, this is noticeably below the rate in England, which is 3.6% (Gov.UK).

Figure 27: Proportion (%) of all EHCP pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2024)



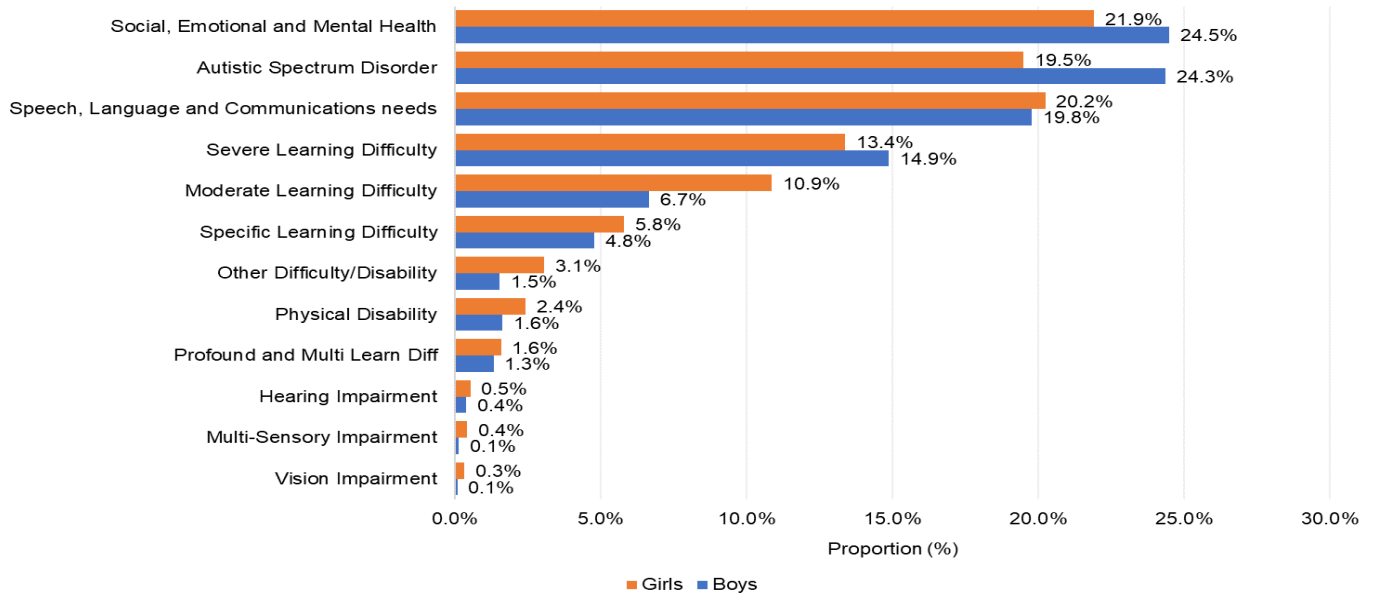
Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024), Capita data (2024) and Gov.uk (2024)

The difference in Primary Needs amongst pupils with an EHCP is significant with boys and girls having different profiles (**Figure 28**). The most significant differences are for the other difficulty/disability and moderate learning difficulty.

Although other difficulty/disability has a lower percentage, still girls have over twice the level than boys. For the Primary Need of Moderate Learning Difficulty, girls are also significantly higher at 10.9%, compared to boys at 6.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data). In contrast to this, there are two stand out Primary Needs where rates are higher amongst boys.

At 24.5%, the rate of Social, Emotional and Mental Health amongst boys is significantly higher than girls, which is 21.9% (Wirral School Census and Capita). To a similar extent, but still as a standout difference, the rate of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, at 24.3% amongst boys, is higher than 19.5% amongst girl (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

Figure 28: Proportion (%) of all EHCP pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2024)



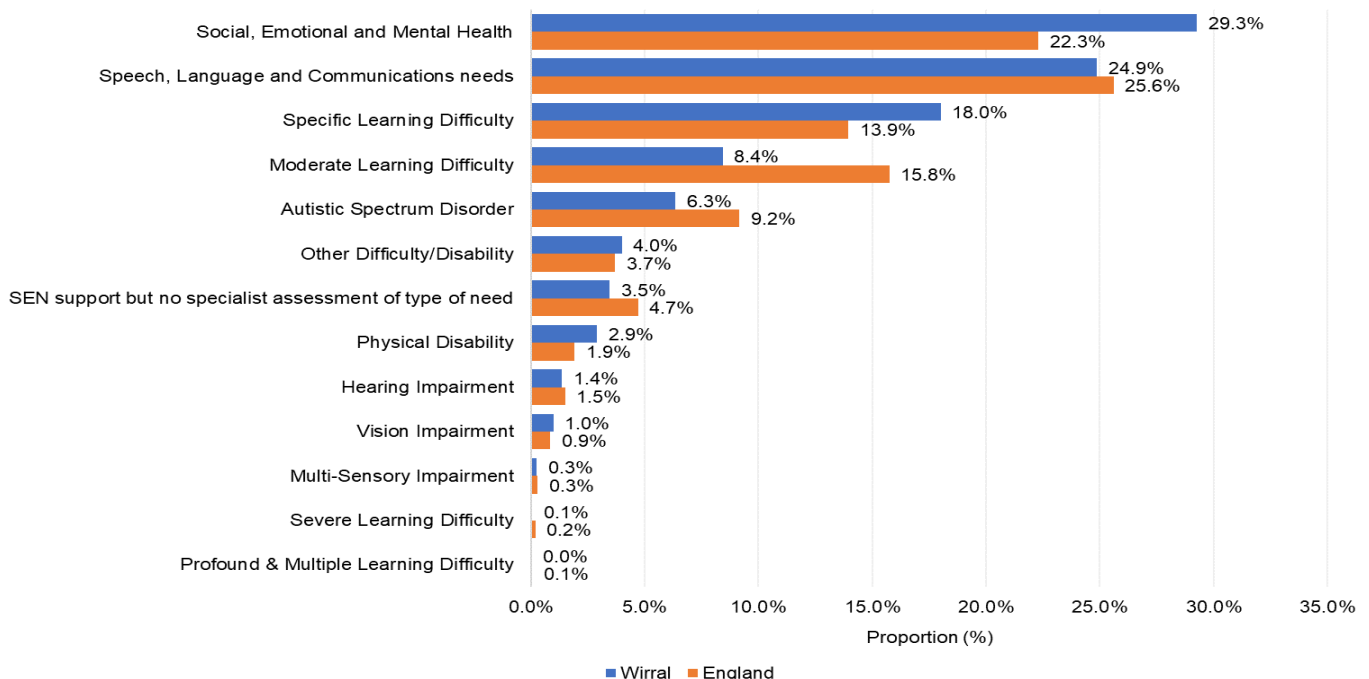
Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data (2024)

Primary Need – SEN Support

The most common primary need type for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 29**) on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, accounting for 29.3% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of Primary needs, which compares to the rate in England at 22.3% (Gov.UK).

The rates on Wirral being noticeably different than England are also seen for the Primary Need of Physical disability, which although is low rates, the difference between Wirral at 2.9% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) and England at 1.9% (Gov.UK) shows Wirral rate double than that in England. In contrast, the Primary Need of Moderate Learning Difficulty in Wirral, at 8.4% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) is almost half the England figure (15.9%).

Figure 29: Proportion (%) of all SEN Support pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need, Wirral and England (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data (2024)

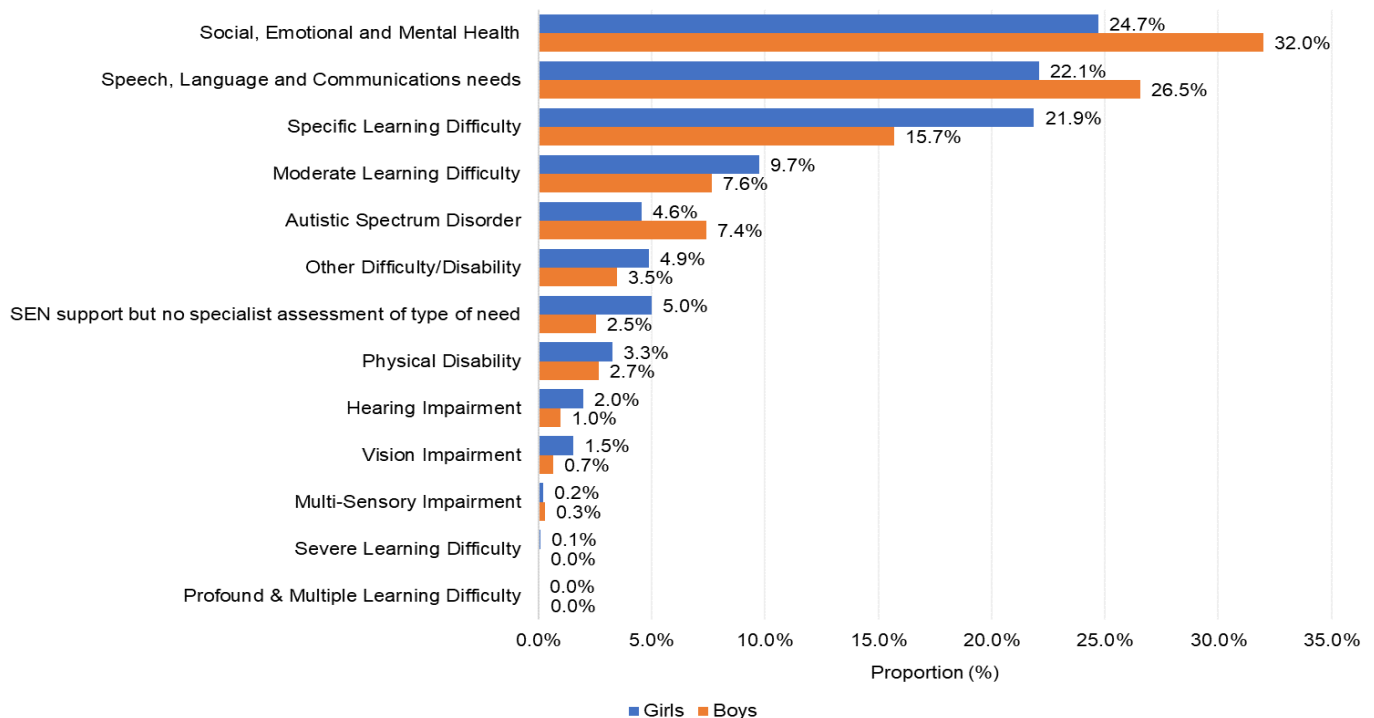
When looking at the gender breakdown of Primary Needs for pupils with SEN Support (**Figure 30**), there are noticeable differences. The highest frequency of Primary Needs for boys is Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs.

At 32.0% (Wirral School Census and Capita data), this accounts for nearly a third of all boys Primary Needs and is at a rate 25% higher than that in girls, at 24.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data). A similar disparity between genders can be seen within the Primary Need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

In boys the rate is 7.4%, which is over 50% higher than the girls' rate of 4.6% highlights the difference between genders. In contrast the higher rates in boys amongst some Primary Needs, girls have higher frequency in No Specialist Assessment of Type of Need.

With these as a Primary Needs, there is still SEN support and as such it is noteworthy and with a girl's rate of 5.0% compared to a boy's rate of 2.5%, is over double within girls. Girl's rate for Primary Need with Specific Learning Difficulties is also significantly higher at 21.9%, compared to the boy's rate of 15.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

Figure 30: Proportion (%) of all SEN Support pupils attending an education setting, by Primary Need and Gender in Wirral (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data (2024)

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 4** show Wirral's locations of the Special Schools on Wirral. These are:

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Postcode: CH46 1RA.

- 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.

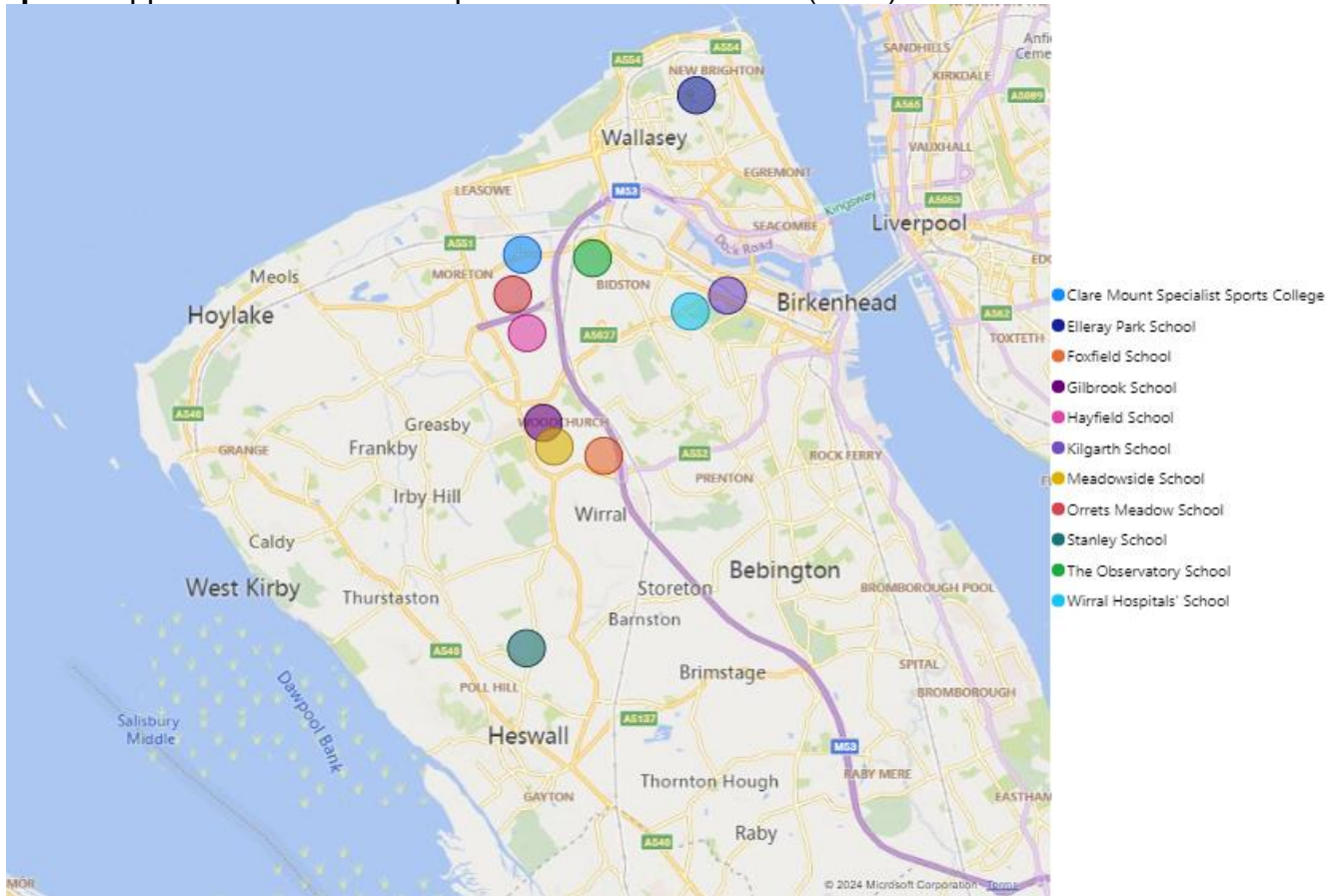
Wirral Hospitals' School, Postcode: CH41 0EZ

- 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 4** below.

Map 4: Mapped locations of the Special Schools on Wirral (2024)



Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, Wirral Council (2024)

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

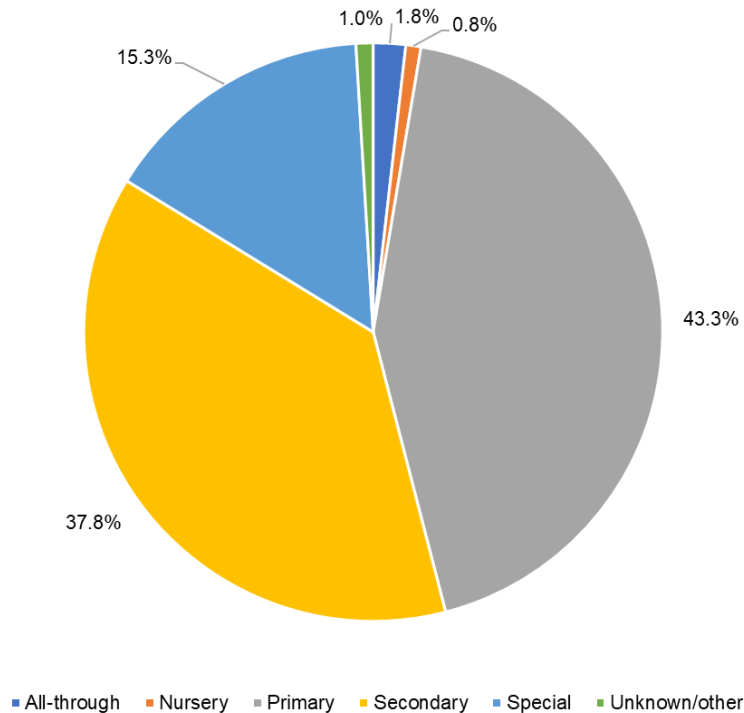
- **Co-op Academy Bebington** - Resourced provision
SEN Categories: Specific Learning Difficulty, Visual Impairment, Other Difficulty/Disability, Hearing Impairment, Speech, language and Communication, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Multi-Sensory.
- **Hilbre High School** - 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 31**), the majority attend a mainstream Primary school, with this making up 43.3% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of where all SEND pupils are educated.

This compares to 37.8% attending mainstream Secondary, 15.3% attending a Special School, 0.8% attending mainstream Nursey settings, 1.8% attending all-through schools and 1.0% of unknown/other recoded (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

Figure 31: Proportion (%) of SEND pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data (July 2024) internal only

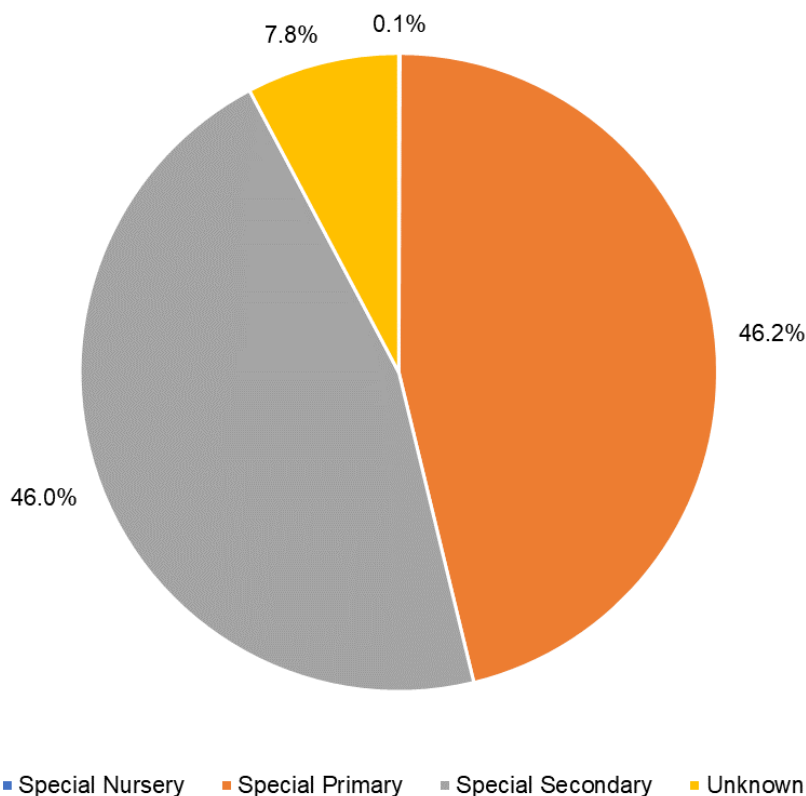
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to aged 18)

Looking specifically at the pupils 15.3% of all pupils that attend a special school in as in **Figure 31 above**.

A slim majority of Wirral pupils with SEND attend a special Primary school (46.2%) (Wirral School Census) (**Figure 32**).

This compares to 46.0% attending Special Secondary, then 0.1% a Special Nursery and 7.8% with an unknown education setting (Wirral School Census).

Figure 32: Proportion (%) of SEND pupils in Wirral, by type of special school attended, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data (July 2024) internal only

Table 10: Proportion (%) of all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), by ward and education setting type, 2024

Ward	All-through	Special	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Unknown
Bebington	0.2%	12.1%	1.1%	42.4%	43.3%	0.9%
Bidston and St James	2.5%	16.8%	1.4%	44.4%	33.5%	1.5%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1.2%	17.7%	0.5%	42.7%	36.2%	1.8%
Bromborough	1.8%	15.8%	0.5%	44.6%	36.7%	0.5%
Clatterbridge	0.9%	15.8%	0.0%	50.7%	32.6%	0.0%
Claughton	6.9%	13.8%	0.0%	42.1%	36.5%	0.7%
Eastham	0.3%	15.1%	0.0%	35.5%	48.3%	0.8%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	2.9%	11.8%	1.1%	37.6%	46.2%	0.4%
Heswall	3.6%	15.3%	0.0%	45.0%	36.0%	0.0%
Hoylake and Meols	6.2%	11.2%	0.0%	45.0%	37.6%	0.0%
Leasowe and Moreton East	0.5%	16.7%	0.4%	48.3%	33.0%	1.1%
Liscard	0.5%	14.2%	0.4%	46.0%	37.5%	1.4%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	0.8%	14.4%	0.6%	44.1%	39.5%	0.6%
New Brighton	1.1%	12.9%	0.3%	42.1%	42.9%	0.8%
Oxton	7.4%	15.1%	0.0%	40.2%	36.2%	1.1%
Pensby and Thingwall	0.3%	15.3%	1.0%	51.0%	32.3%	0.0%
Prenton	2.9%	18.7%	0.2%	34.7%	43.4%	0.0%
Rock Ferry	1.6%	16.5%	0.3%	45.8%	34.6%	1.3%
Seacombe	0.3%	16.2%	1.3%	50.6%	30.9%	0.7%
Upton	1.2%	13.8%	4.6%	38.1%	40.8%	1.5%
Wallasey	1.5%	15.0%	0.0%	40.1%	41.6%	1.8%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	2.0%	13.9%	1.2%	32.1%	50.8%	0.0%

Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

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

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 Prenton, with 18.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

For pupils with SEND, attending a Mainstream Nursery, the largest percentage live in Upton Ward at 4.6% of the Wards with a SEND population.

For pupils with SEND and attending Mainstream Primary School, Pensby and Thingwall, with 51.0%, has the highest percentage for Wards with a SEND population.

For Mainstream Secondary Schools with pupils attending with SEND, West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward, with 50.8%, has the highest rate.

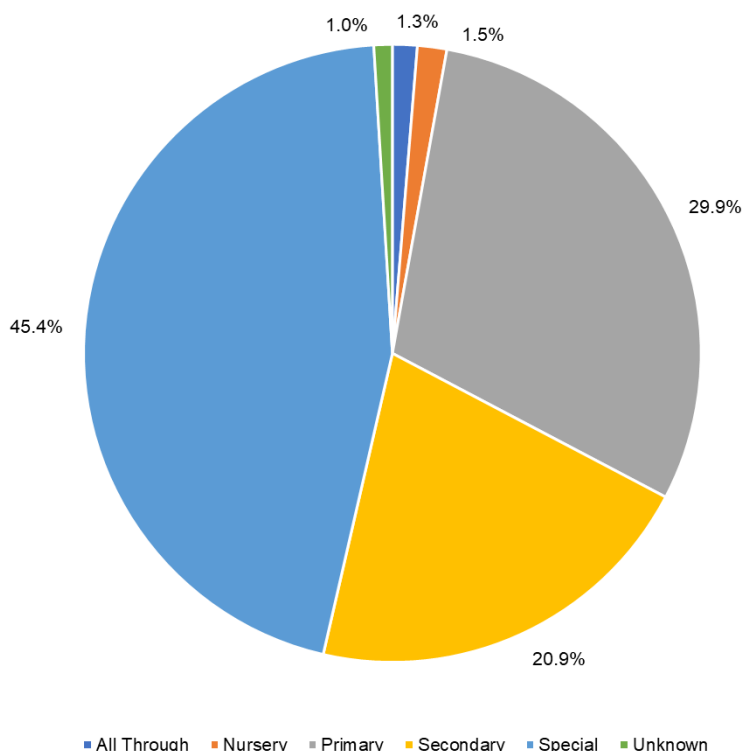
Education Setting – Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), 45.4% attend a Special School, accounting.

Then 29.9% of pupils attend a Mainstream Primary, 20.9% a Mainstream Secondary, 1.5% a Mainstream Nursery, 1.3% the one Wirral all-through education setting and 1.0% with an unknown education setting recorded.

This is illustrated in **Figure 33** below.

Figure 33: Proportion (%) of EHCP pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2024

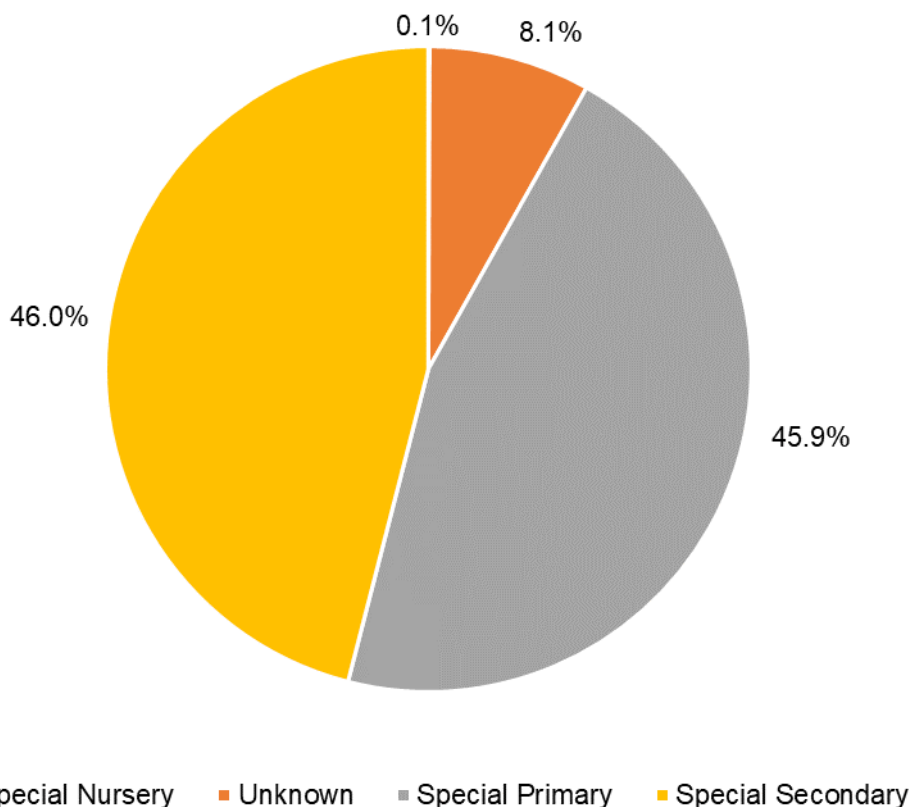


Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

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 34** shows that the split is nearly 50/50 for Primary (45.9%) and Secondary (46.0%) schools with a small proportion recorded as unknown (8%)

Figure 34: Proportion (%) of EHCP pupils in Wirral, by type of special school attended, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

Table 11 below shows that for pupils with an EHCP, the ward with the largest proportion attending a special school is Birkenhead and Tranmere, with 52.7% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards EHCP population. Attending a nursery school is Upton, with 6.9% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards EHCP population.

Attending a primary school is Rock Ferry with 50.0% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards EHCP population. Attending a secondary school is West Kirby and Thurstaston, with 30.6% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards EHCP population.

Table 11: Proportion of all pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), by Wirral ward and education setting type (2024)

Ward	All-through	Special	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Unknown
Bebington	0.0%	37.9%	2.3%	35.6%	22.0%	2.3%
Bidston and St James	1.4%	49.8%	3.2%	23.1%	23.1%	1.8%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	0.8%	52.7%	1.2%	24.9%	18.7%	1.7%
Bromborough	1.1%	46.5%	1.1%	33.5%	17.3%	0.5%
Clatterbridge	0.0%	44.6%	0.0%	33.8%	21.6%	0.0%
Claughton	2.4%	46.8%	0.0%	30.2%	20.6%	0.0%
Eastham	0.0%	39.5%	0.0%	33.3%	26.4%	0.8%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	1.2%	37.8%	2.4%	36.6%	22.0%	0.0%
Heswall	5.1%	41.0%	0.0%	43.6%	10.3%	0.0%
Hoylake and Meols	7.6%	35.4%	0.0%	38.0%	19.0%	0.0%
Leasowe and Moreton East	0.0%	49.0%	1.2%	28.4%	19.8%	1.6%
Liscard	0.0%	42.0%	1.1%	33.1%	22.7%	1.1%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	1.5%	35.6%	0.8%	30.4%	19.6%	1.0%
New Brighton	1.5%	34.6%	0.8%	32.3%	30.0%	0.8%
Oxton	6.6%	44.0%	0.0%	26.4%	23.1%	0.0%
Pensby and Thingwall	0.0%	45.3%	2.1%	36.8%	15.8%	0.0%
Prenton	0.7%	50.0%	0.0%	26.8%	22.5%	0.0%
Rock Ferry	1.3%	51.3%	0.4%	50.0%	18.8%	0.8%
Seacombe	0.7%	45.5%	1.7%	33.7%	17.4%	1.0%
Upton	1.0%	43.1%	6.9%	26.5%	21.1%	1.5%
Wallasey	2.0%	41.8%	0.0%	24.5%	29.6%	2.0%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	2.4%	40.0%	2.4%	24.7%	30.6%	0.0%

Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

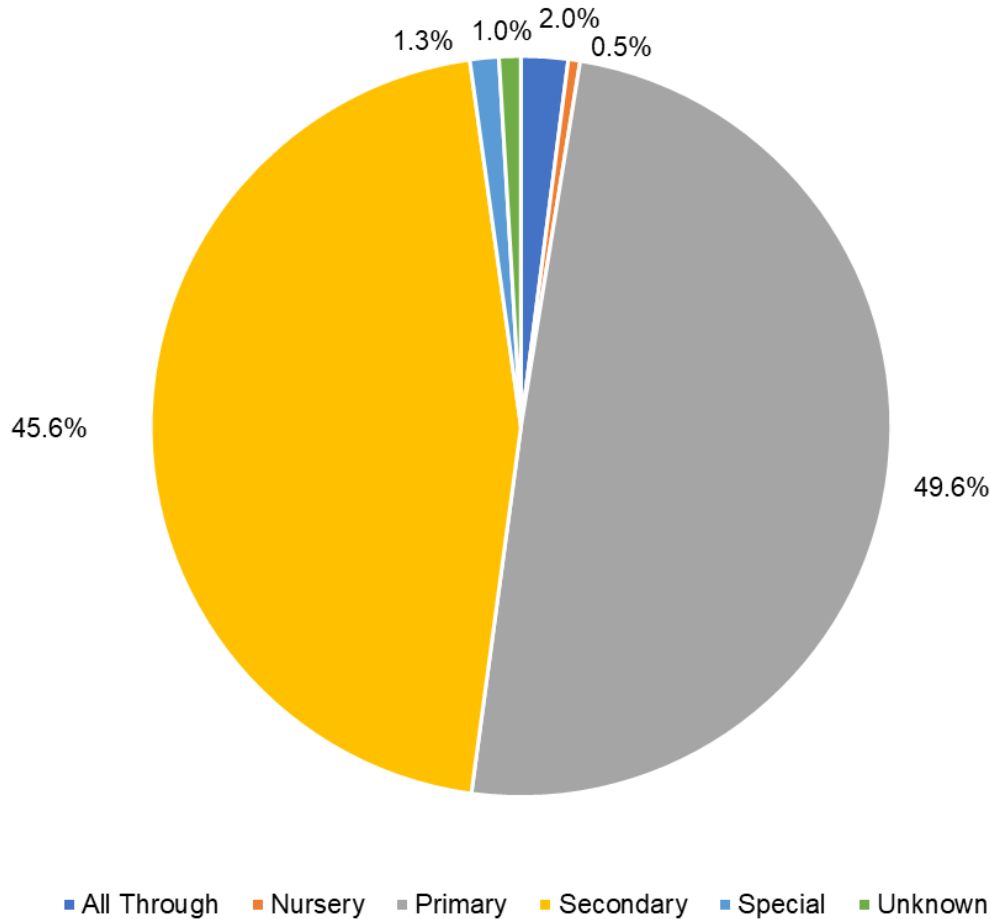
Note: All-through school refers to Birkenhead High School Acadamy (BHSA – pupils in that setting - aged 3 years to

Education – SEN Support

As illustrated in **Figure 35**, of all pupils with SEN Support, the majority, at 49.6% (Wirral School Census and Capita data), attend a Primary School.

This rate compares to 45.6% in a Secondary School, 0.5% in a Nursery, 1.3% in a Special School setting, 2.0% in All-through education and 1.0% unknown (Wirral School Census and Capita data).

Figure 35: Proportion (%) of SEN Support pupils in Wirral, by type of education setting attended, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

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**), the ward with the largest proportion attending a Special School is Bidston and St James Ward with 2.6% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards SEN Support population attending a special school.

Attending a Nursery is Upton, with 3.5% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of the wards total SEN Support population.

Attending a Primary School is Clatterbridge Ward, with 59.6%, of the wards total SEN support population.

Attending a Secondary School is West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward, with 61.1%, the wards total SEN Support population.

Table 12: Proportion of all pupils with SEN Support, by Wirral ward and education setting type (2024)

Ward	All-through	Special	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Unknown
Bebington	0.3%	1.0%	0.7%	45.3%	52.4%	0.3%
Bidston and St James	2.9%	2.6%	0.6%	53.5%	39.0%	1.4%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	1.3%	1.7%	0.2%	50.8%	44.1%	1.9%
Bromborough	2.1%	1.0%	0.3%	50.0%	46.1%	0.5%
Clatterbridge	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	59.6%	38.3%	0.0%
Cloughton	8.7%	0.9%	0.0%	46.7%	42.7%	0.9%
Eastham	0.4%	1.3%	0.0%	36.7%	60.7%	0.9%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	3.6%	1.0%	0.5%	38.1%	56.3%	0.5%
Heswall	2.8%	1.4%	0.0%	45.8%	50.0%	0.0%
Hoylake and Meols	5.6%	0.6%	0.0%	48.0%	45.8%	0.0%
Leasowe and Moreton East	0.7%	1.1%	0.0%	57.9%	39.3%	0.9%
Liscard	0.8%	1.0%	0.0%	52.1%	44.5%	1.6%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	0.4%	1.6%	0.4%	49.6%	47.6%	0.4%
New Brighton	0.8%	1.2%	0.0%	47.3%	49.8%	0.8%
Oxton	7.8%	0.6%	0.0%	47.2%	42.8%	1.7%
Pensby and Thingwall	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%	57.8%	40.2%	0.0%
Prenton	4.1%	2.2%	0.4%	38.9%	54.4%	0.0%
Rock Ferry	1.7%	0.8%	0.2%	54.0%	41.8%	1.5%
Seacombe	0.2%	1.9%	1.0%	58.9%	37.5%	0.5%
Upton	1.3%	0.7%	3.5%	43.3%	49.7%	1.5%
Wallasey	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	48.9%	48.3%	1.7%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	1.8%	0.6%	0.6%	35.9%	61.1%	0.0%

Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita data July 2024) internal only

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

3.3 Free School Meals

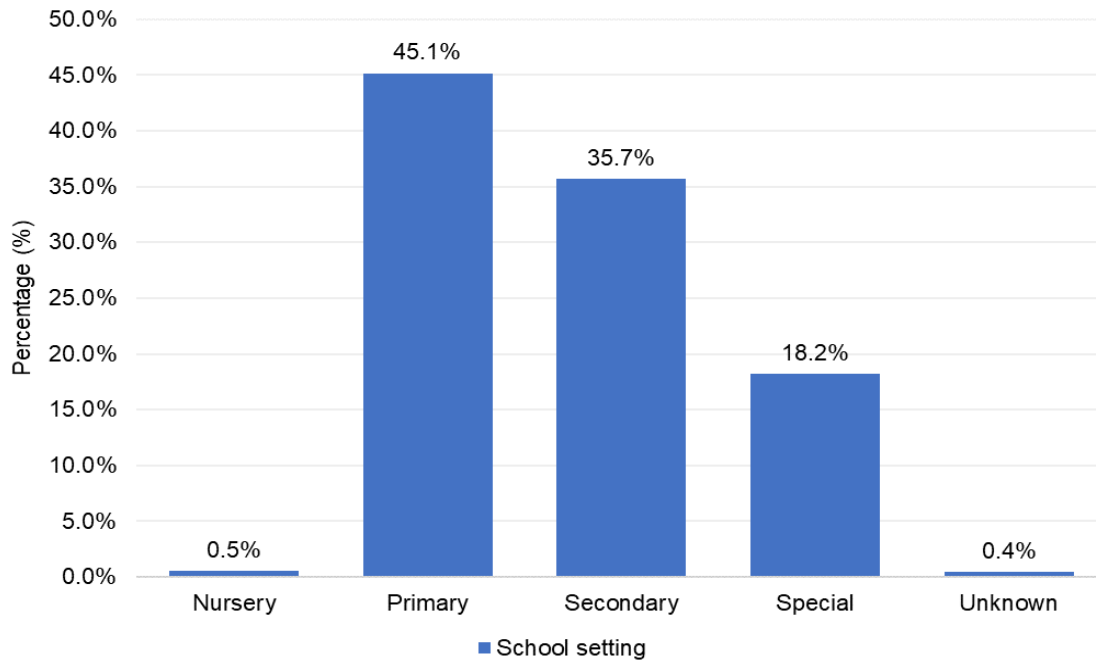
Free School Meals (FSM) are means tested and eligibility is assessed by Wirral on a set of criteria. Information on the Free School Meal criteria can be found on the Wirral.gov website: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/funding-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-pupil-premium>

For all pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) on Wirral, 49.4% (Wirral School Census and Capita Data) are eligible for FSM.

This compares to the full school pupil cohort, where 29.4% (Wirral School Census) are eligible for FSM.

The largest proportion of pupils eligible are within a Primary School setting, with 45.1% of all eligible pupils (**Figure 36**) (Wirral School Census).

Figure 36: Percentage (%) of all SEND pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2024)

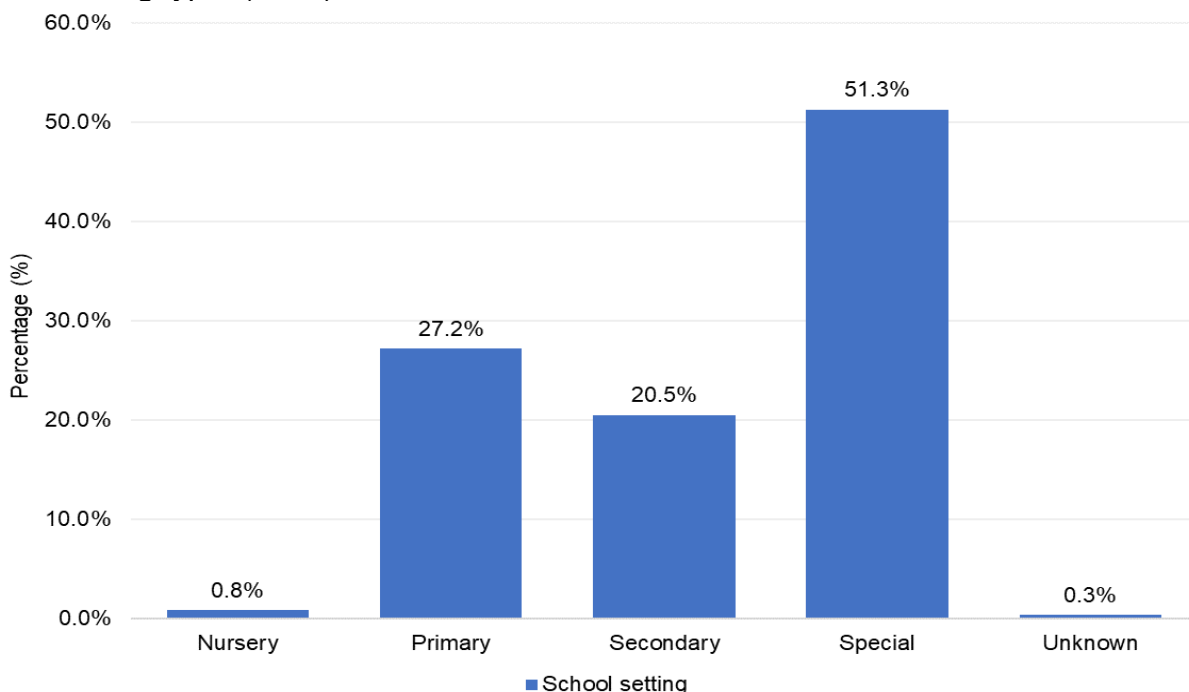


Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita Data (July 2024)

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

For those with an EHCP, 51.0% (Wirral School Census and Capita) 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 29.4% (Wirral School Census). **Figure 37** shows most pupils eligible for FSM attend a Special school setting, with this accounting for 51.3% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) of all eligible. For England, in 2023/24, 42.2% of pupils with an EHCP are eligible for Free School Meals ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

Figure 37: Percentage (%) of all EHCP pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2024)



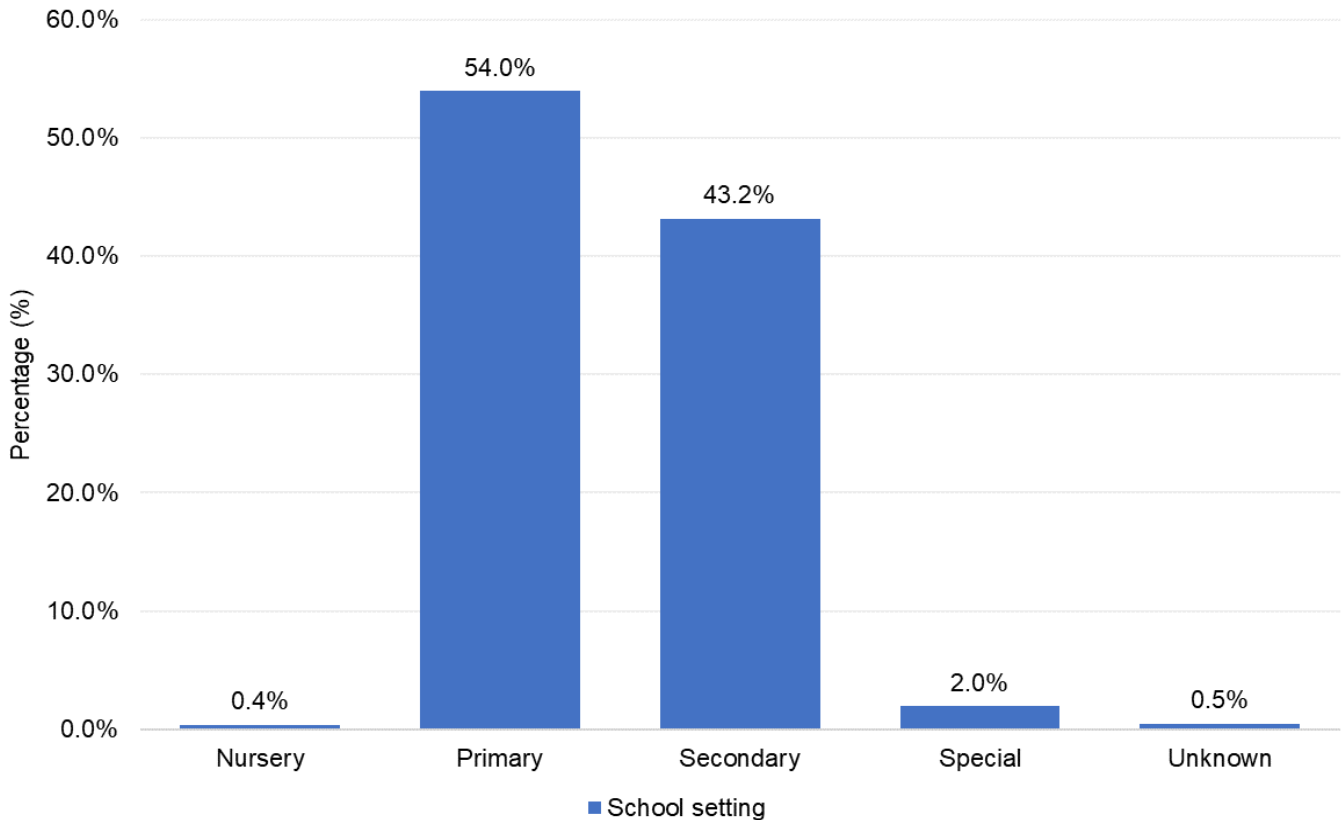
Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita Data (July 2024)

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, 48.6% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). This compares to the overall Wirral pupil cohort which has an FSM rate of 29.4%.

Of all those eligible with SEN Support, **Figure 38** shows the majority, at 54.0% (Wirral School Census), attend a Primary School setting. For England, in 2023/24, 38.3% of pupils with SEN Support are eligible for Free School Meals ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

Figure 38: Percentage (%) of all SEN Support pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Wirral, by education setting type, (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) and Capita Data (July 2024)

3.4 Attendance and Absence

For Academic Year 23/24 Attendance for pupils with SEND was 86.9%. For pupils with an EHCP, attendance for Academic Year 23/24 was 85.4%. Of this Primary was 89.4%, Secondary was 77.6% and Special was 86.6%. For pupils with SEN Support, Academic Year 23/24 attendance was 89.9%. Of this, Primary was 92.2%, Secondary was 86.6% and Special was 44.5%.

EHCP Authorised Absence – Data for July 2024. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the authorised absence rate is 7.2%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the authorised absence rate is 11.8%. **Source:** Capita data (2024)

EHCP Unauthorised Absence – Data for July 2024. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the unauthorised Absence rate is 2.6%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the unauthorised absence rate is 9.3%. **Source:** Capita data (2024)

EHCP Persistent Absence (where attendance is 90% and below) - Data for July 2024. For pupils with an EHCP attending a Primary school setting, the persistent absence rate is 6.6%. This compares to pupils in a Secondary school setting, where the persistent absence rate is 8.7%.
Source: Capita data (2024)

3.5 Attainment

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

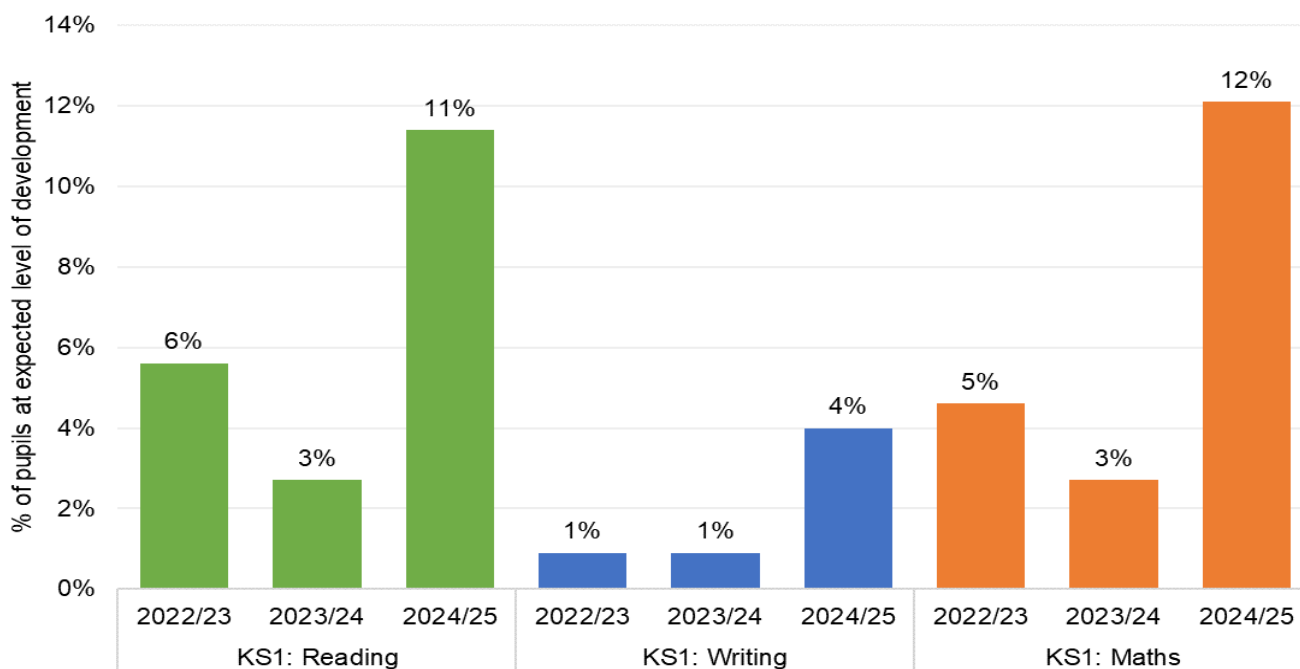
Key Stage 1

Figure 39 shows the proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 1 (KS1) was 11%. This is an increase from 3% in 2023/24 and 6% in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS1 was 4%. This is an increase from 1% in both 2023/24 and 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS1 was 12%. This is an increase from 3% in 2023/24 and 5% in 2022/23.

Figure 39: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP achieving the expected level of development at key stage 1 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2024/25



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2024)

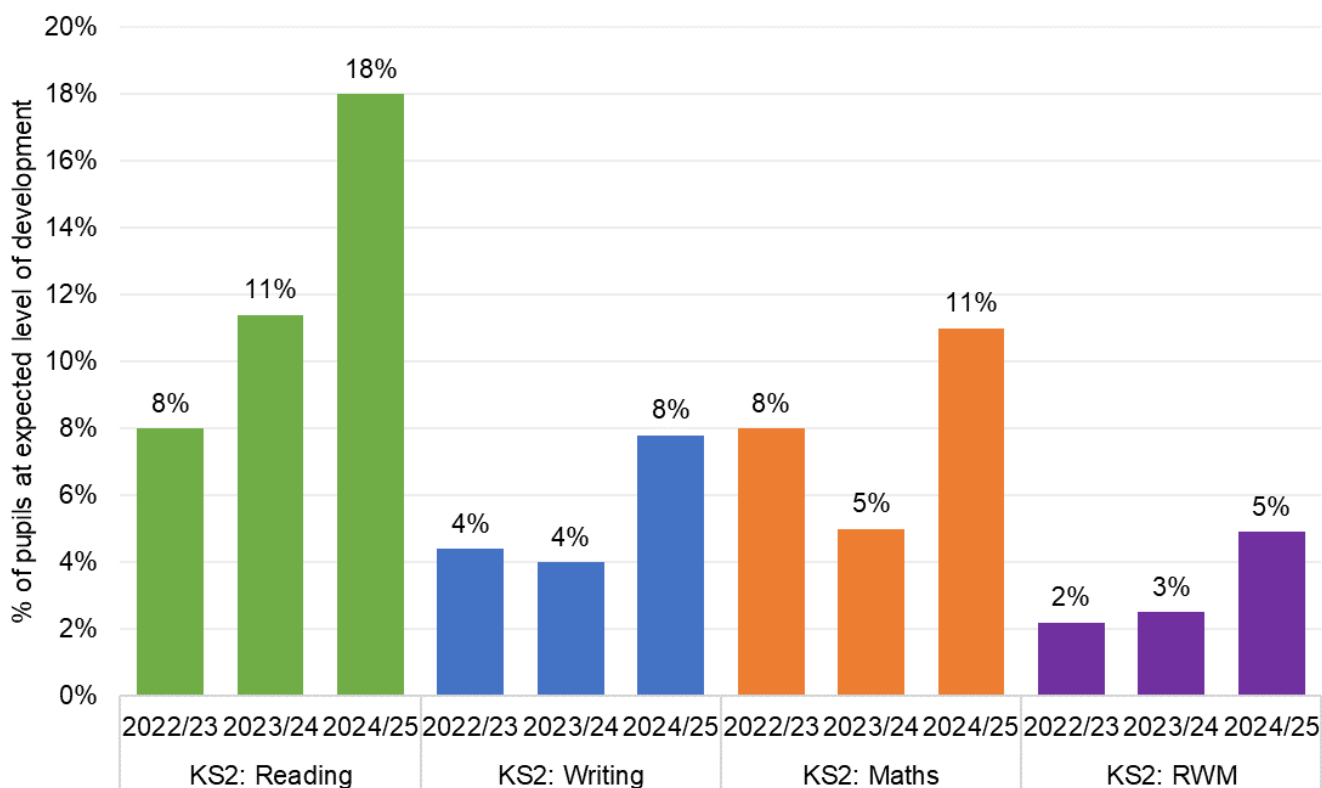
Key Stage 2

Figure 40 shows the proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 2 (KS2) was 18%. This is an increase from 11% in 2023/24 and 8% in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS2 was 8%. This is an increase from 4% in both 2023/24 and 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with an EHCP that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS2 was 11%. This is an increase from 5% in 2023/24 and 8% 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 5%, an increase from 3% in 2023/24 and 2% in 2022/23.

Figure 40: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP achieving the expected level of development at key stage 2 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2024/25



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2024)

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

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

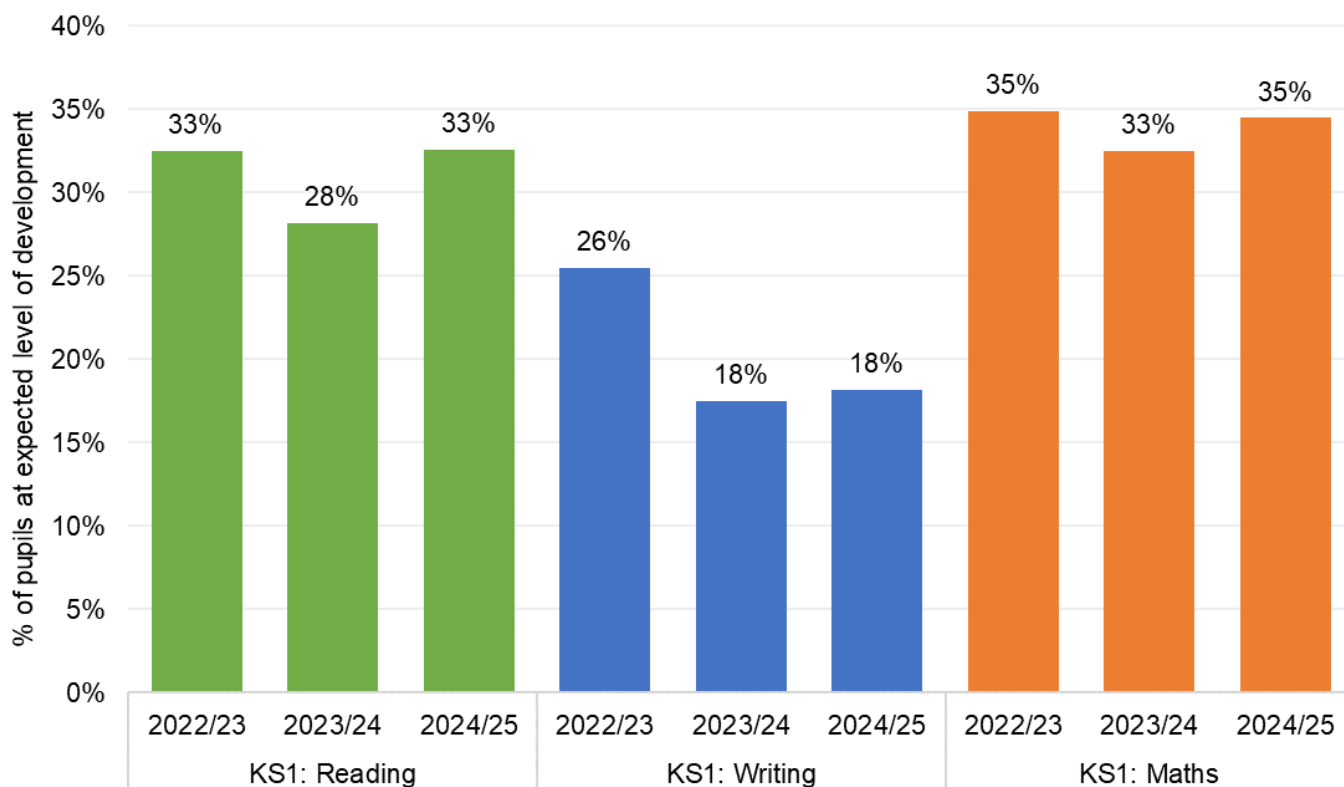
Key Stage 1

Figure 41 shows the proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 1 (KS1) was 33%. This is an increase from 28% in 2023/24 and is the same proportion as 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS1 was 18%. This is the same as the proportion in 2023/24 and lower than the proportion in 2022/23 (n=26%).

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS1 was 35%. This is an increase from 33% in 2023/24 and is the same as the figure in 2022/23.

Figure 41: Percentage of pupils with SEN support achieving the expected level of development at key stage 1 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2024/25



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2024)

Key Stage 2

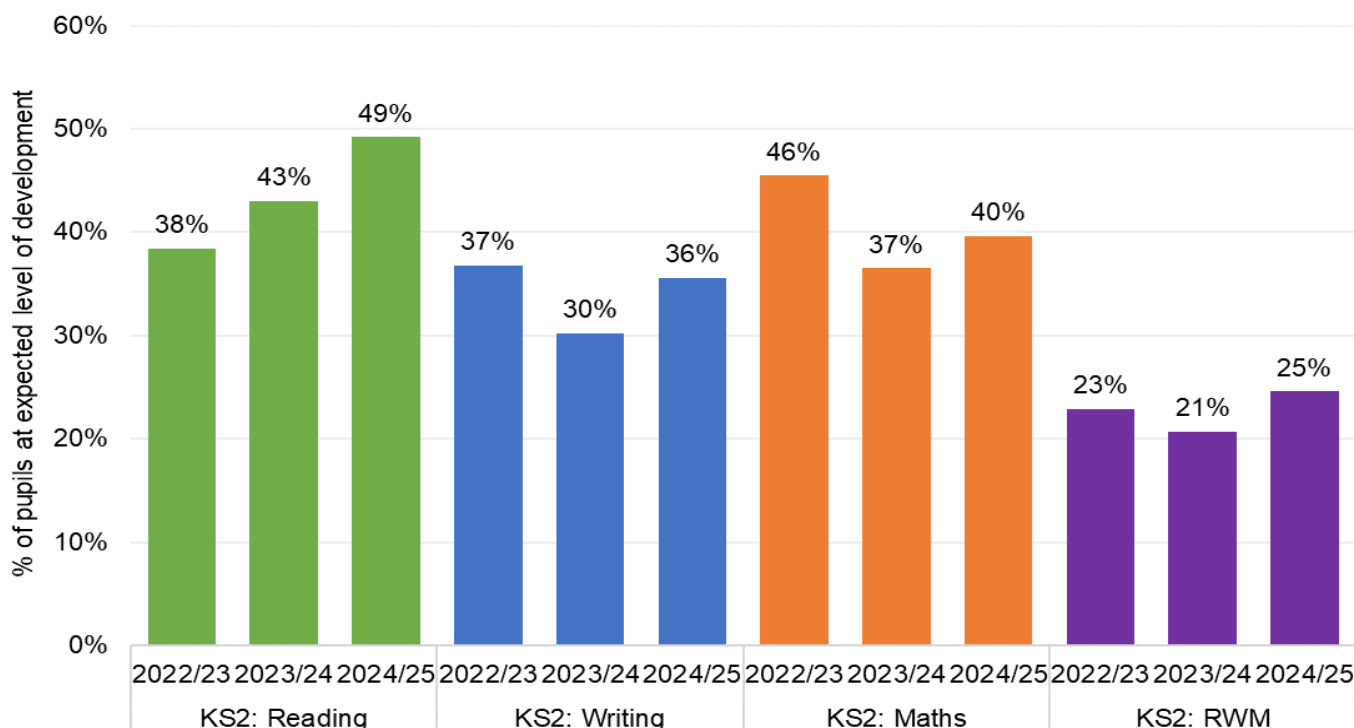
Figure 42 shows the proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in reading in Key Stage 2 (KS2) was 49%. This is an increase from 43% in 2023/24 and 38% in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in writing in KS2 was 36%. This is an increase from 30% in 2023/24 and lower than the 37% achieved in 2022/23.

The proportion of pupils with SEN support that achieved the expected level of development in maths in KS2 was 40%. This is an increase from 37% in 2023/24 but lower than the 46% 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 25%, an increase from 21% in 2023/24 and 23% in 2022/23.

Figure 42: Percentage of pupils with SEN support achieving the expected level of development at key stage 2 in Wirral, by topic, 2022/23 – 2024/25



Source: Wirral SEND Scorecard, Internal Document (2024)

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 5% (2023). This rate is up from 3% in 2016 and slightly down from 6% in 2018. Comparing this rate to England shows that the Wirral rate is significantly lower than the England average. For England, the latest rate is 8%, which is up from 7% in 2022 and just below the levels recorded in 2018 and 2018 (9%).
- **Key stage 2 Progress score for SEN 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 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 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 34.8%. This rate shows a continued decrease from 40.5% in 2021 down to 35.5% in 2022. The Wirral rate remains higher than the England average, which is 33.6% in 2023. Like the Wirral rate, the England rate is also on a downward trend, reducing from 36.7% in 2021 to 34.9% in 2022.
- The average attainment 8 score per pupil at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils with an EHCP on Wirral is 13.6%, which is the lowest recorded since 2016. Compared to England, which has a rate of 14.0% (2023).

(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 -0.44, which is a downward trend from -0.29 in 2018 and moves the Wirral rate to close to that in England, which is -0.45 in 2023. 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 -1.03. This is on a downward trend from -0.80 in 2016 and -0.85 in 2018. However, the Wirral rate is currently closer to zero than that in England, where the rate is -1.12. The England rate is also on a downward trend, 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>

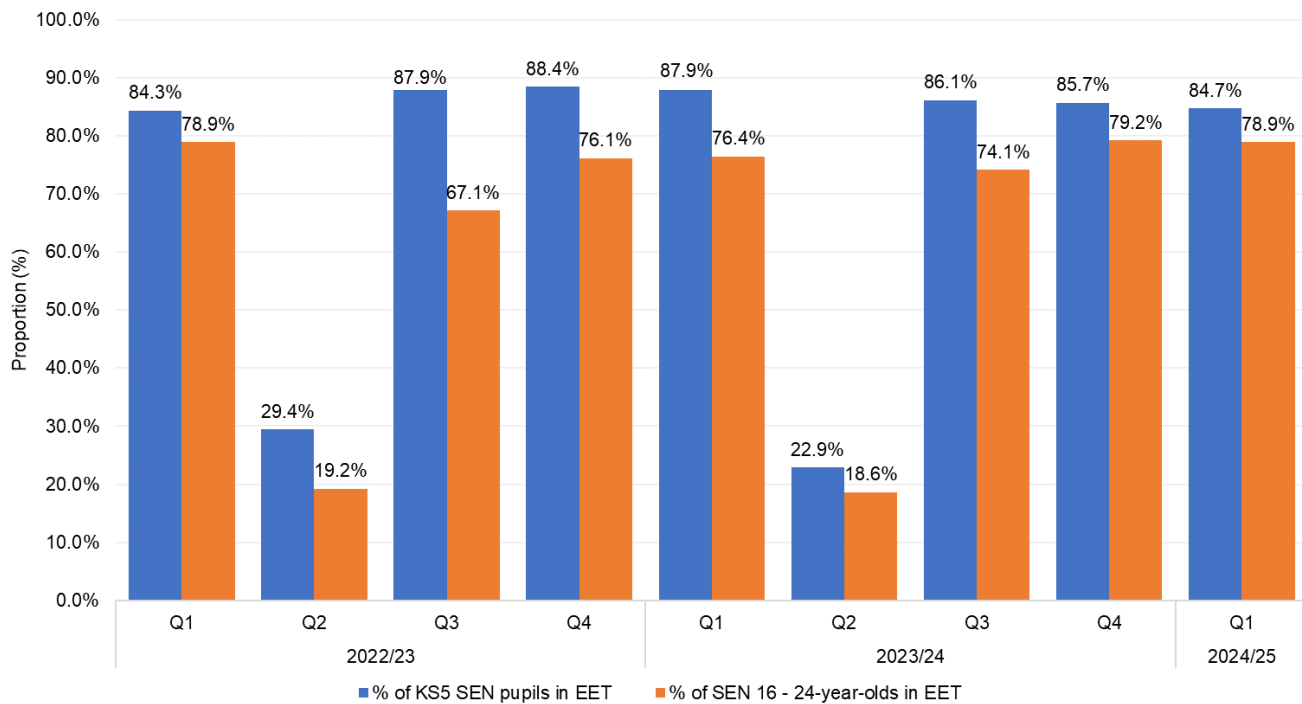
3.6 Engagement in education, employment and training (EET)

As illustrated in **Figure 43**, the current rate of all SEND children and young people who are in Key Stage 5 (KS5) year who are EET is 84.7% (Q1 2024/25), which is lower than England rate (87.0%, March 2024). For those children and young people aged 16 – 24 the rate lowers to 78.9% (Q1 2024/25) (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document) which is higher than the England rate of 57.1% (March 2024).

Table 13 shows the rates of Young Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support people who are KS5 and identified as EET has fluctuated between a low of less than 30% in Q2 22/23 and 23/24, to a high of 88.4% in Q4 22/23 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document). Decreases only accrue in the month of September for both 22/23 and 23/24. The average for all other months is over 85%.

The rate for young SEN people who are aged 16-24 and identified as EET has seen rates increase over the last 12 months of data and is not showing the same low levels that were seen in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document).

Figure 43: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are EET in Wirral, Q1 2022/23 to Q1 2024/25



Source: Wirral (N)EET Report - Internal Document (2024)

Table 13: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are NEET or EET in Wirral, Q1 2022/23 to Q1 2024/25

Category	2022/2023				2023/24				2024/25
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
% of KS5 SEN pupils in EET	84.3%	29.4%	87.9%	88.4%	87.9%	22.9%	86.1%	85.7%	84.7%
% of KS5 SEN pupils NEET	14.8%	8.8%	10.6%	10.1%	10.0%	6.1%	9.5%	12.9%	13.9%
% of SEN 16 - 24-year-olds in EET	78.9%	19.2%	67.1%	76.1%	76.4%	18.6%	74.1%	79.2%	78.9%
% of SEN 16 - 24-year-olds NEET	19.0%	15.5%	18.6%	19.3%	18.4%	15.9%	13.7%	17.4%	17.3%

Source: Wirral (N)EET Report - Internal Document (2024)

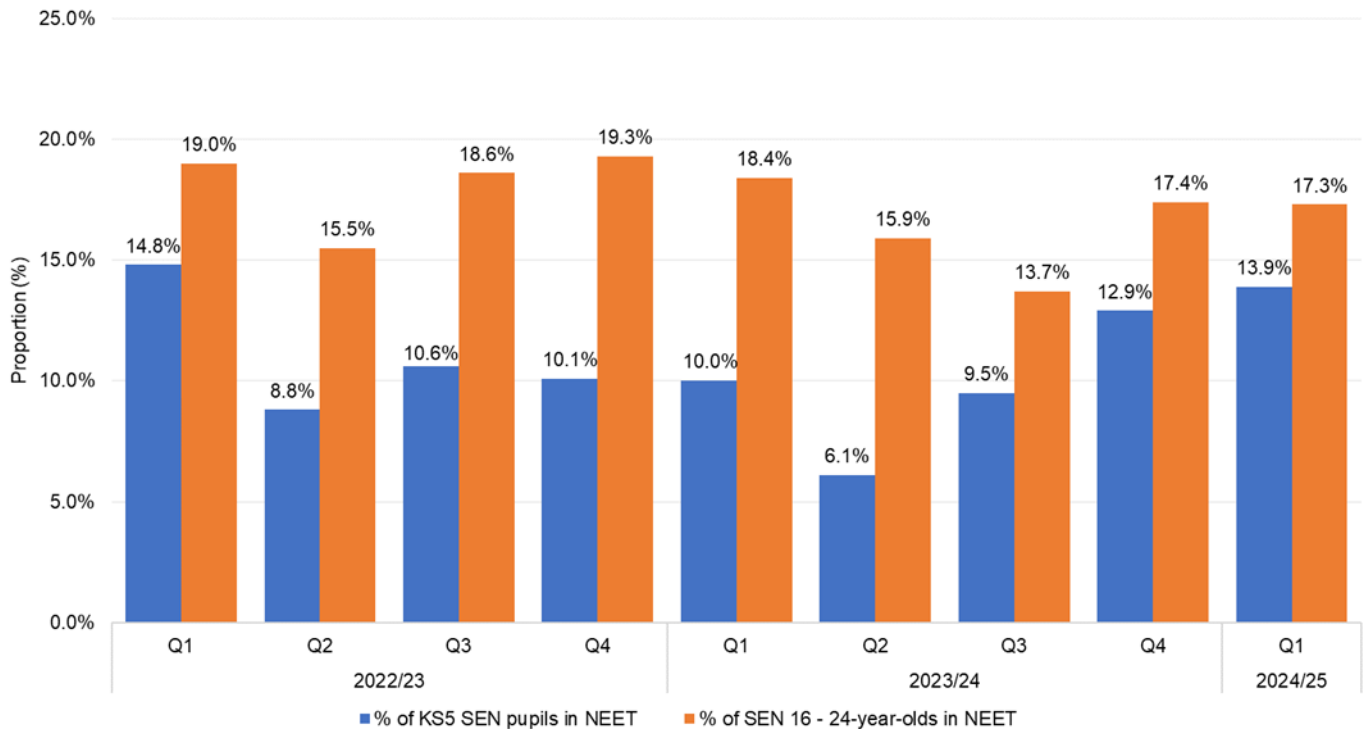
Note: The totals for EET and NEET may not add up to 100% and this is due to where activity is not known.

3.7 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

As illustrated in **Figure 44**, the current rate of all SEND children and young people who are in Key Stage 5 (KS5) year who are NEET is 13.9% (Q1 2024/25) which is higher than England rate (8.8%, March 2024).

For those children and young people aged 16 – 24 the rate increases to 17.3% (Q1 2024/25) (Wirral (N)EET report, Internal Document) which is higher than the England rate of 10.1% (March 2024).

Figure 44: Proportion of SEN pupils (KS5 and 16–24-year-olds), who are NEET in Wirral, Q1 2022/23 to Q1 2024/25



Source: Wirral (N)EET report - Internal Document year (2022)

The data in **Figure 44** show that the rates of young SEN people that are NEET in KS4 has fluctuated over the past two years between 14.8% in Q1 2022/23 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 19% in 2022/23 to a low of 13.7% in Q3 2023/24. The current trend it is showing an upward tick to over 17% in the last two reported quarters (as shown above).

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 though 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, Children with Disabilities 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.

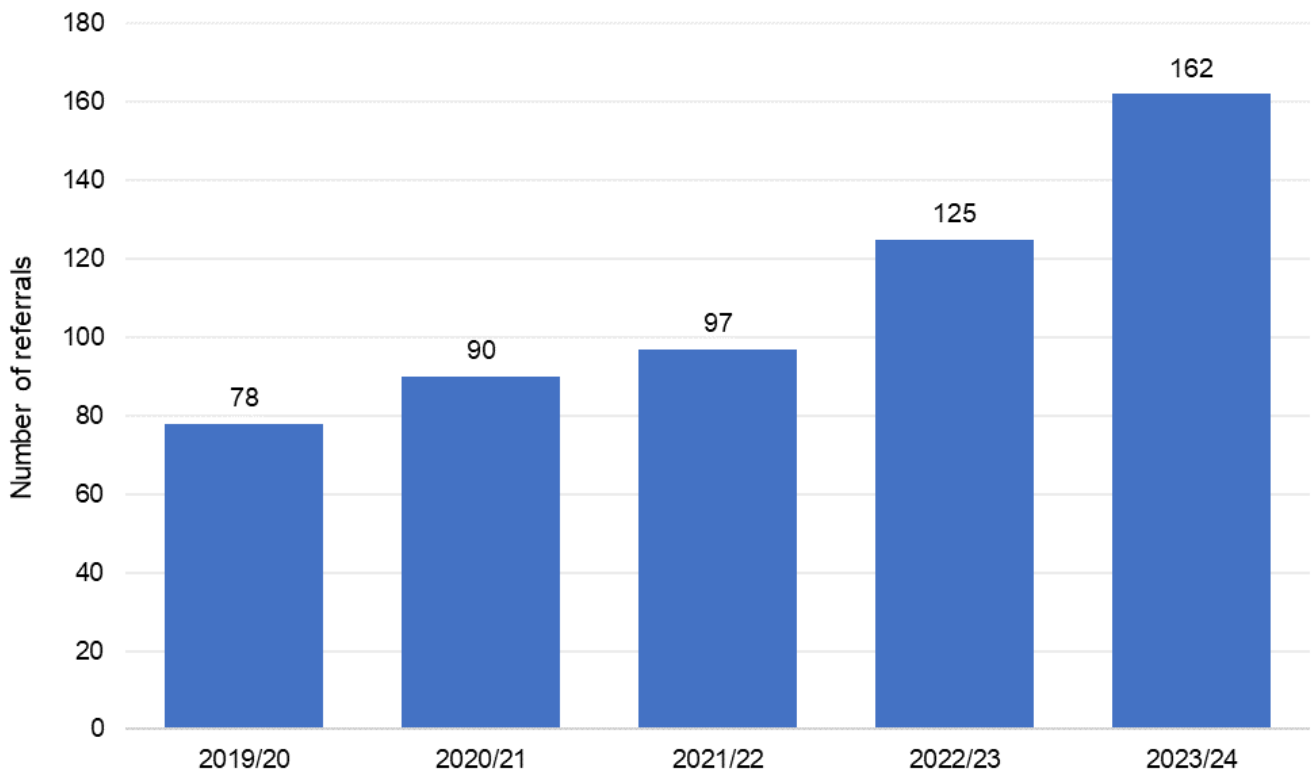
Data shows that in June 2024, 26.1% (Wirral Capita One report, internal data) of Children and Young people open to Social Care as a Child Looked After having been identified as SEND. 31.6% (Wirral Capita One report, internal data) of Children and Young people open to Social Care and in Child Protection 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 show 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 for the period (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 2023/24)

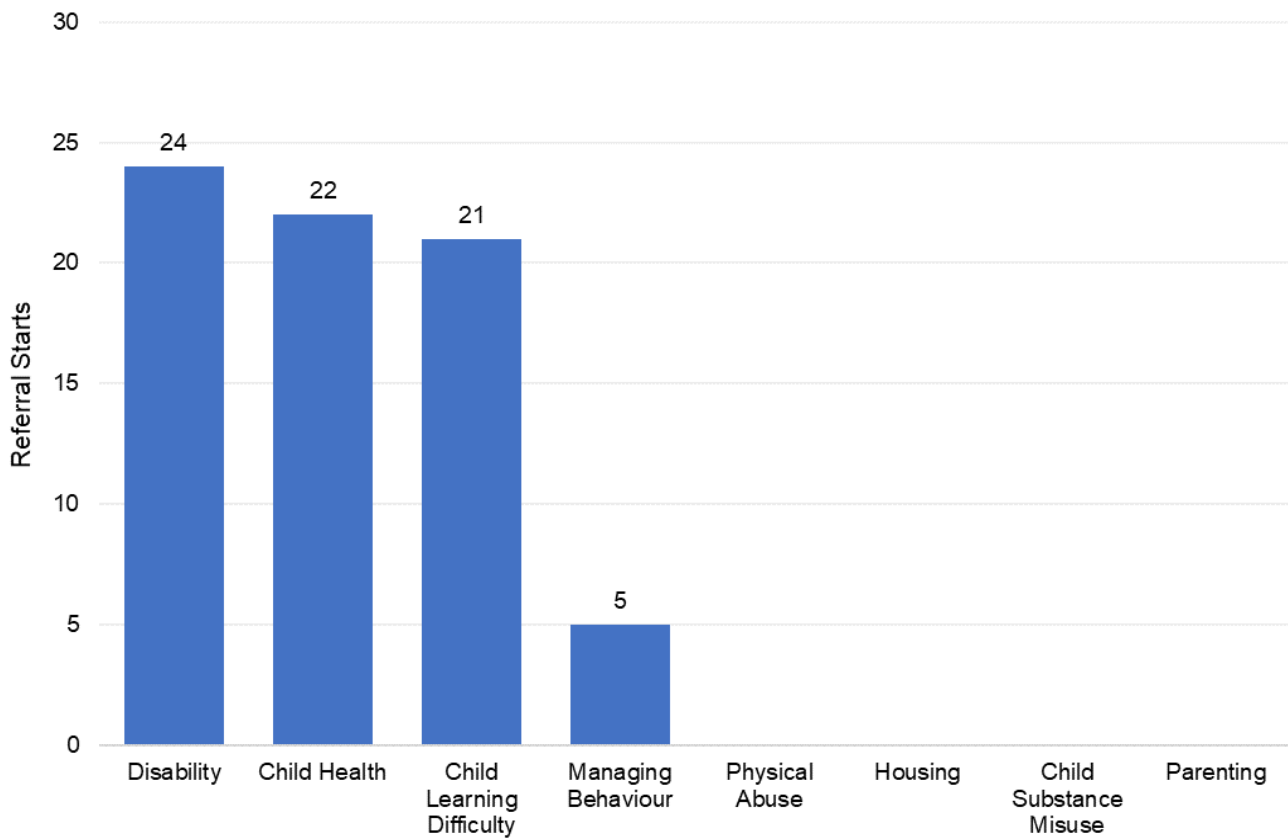


Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

Of the referrals starts within the disability category on need, the contact category provides more insight. Over the three-year period, 'Disability' has the highest number each year. This is followed by Child Health and Child Learning Difficulty.

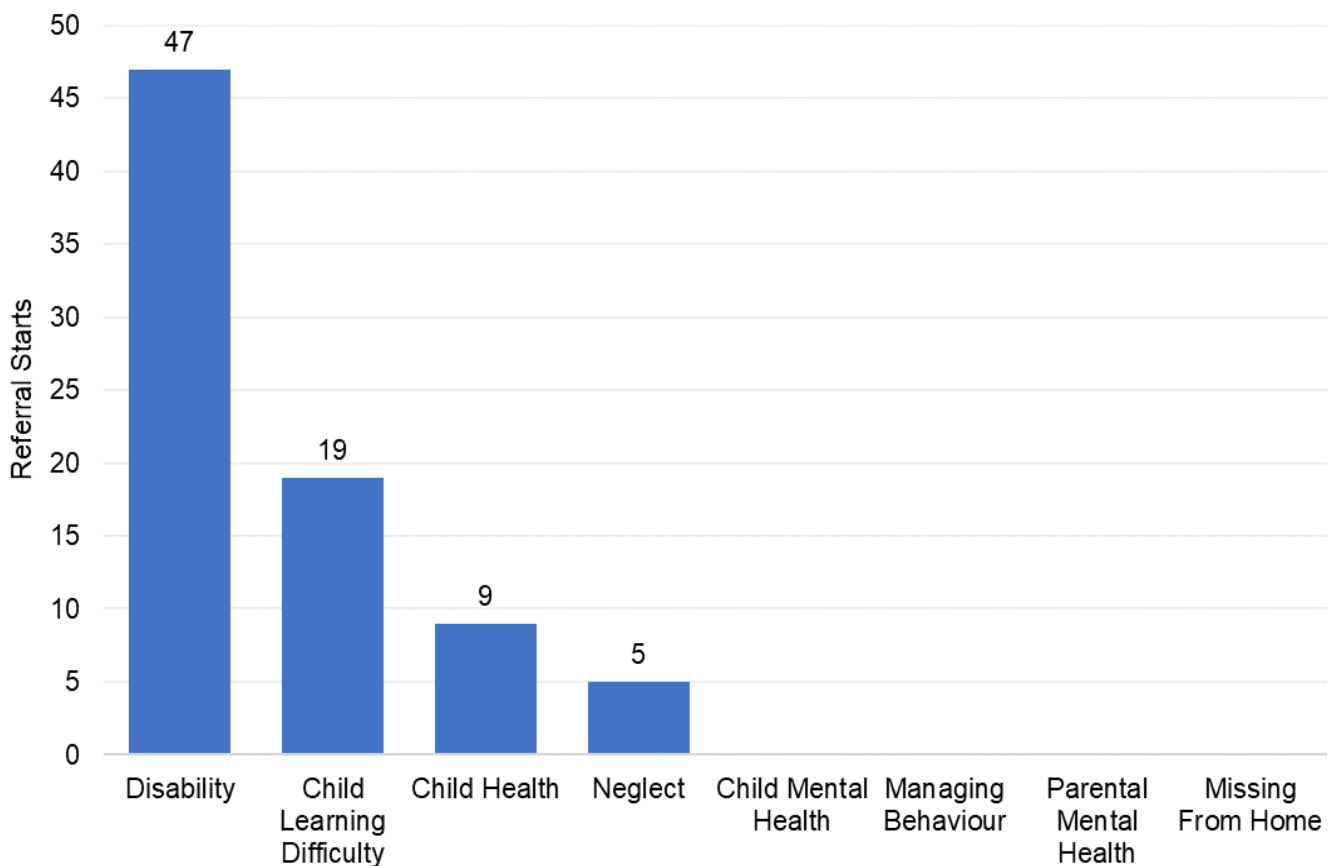
Figure 46, Figure 47, Figure 48, Figure 49 and Figure 50 show the Contact Category for Referral starts for 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 please note numbers with a count under 5 have been removed and as such some categories will appear to have no data (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

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



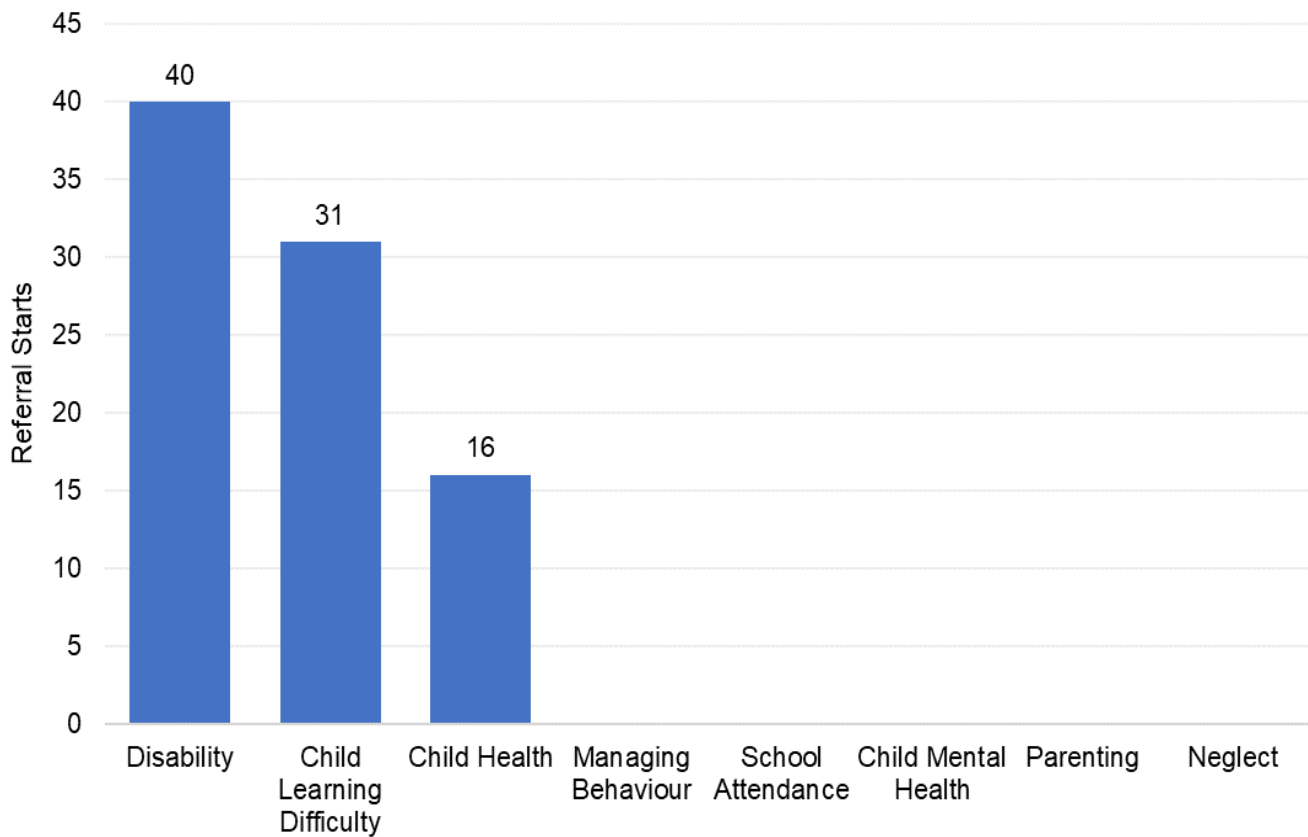
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

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



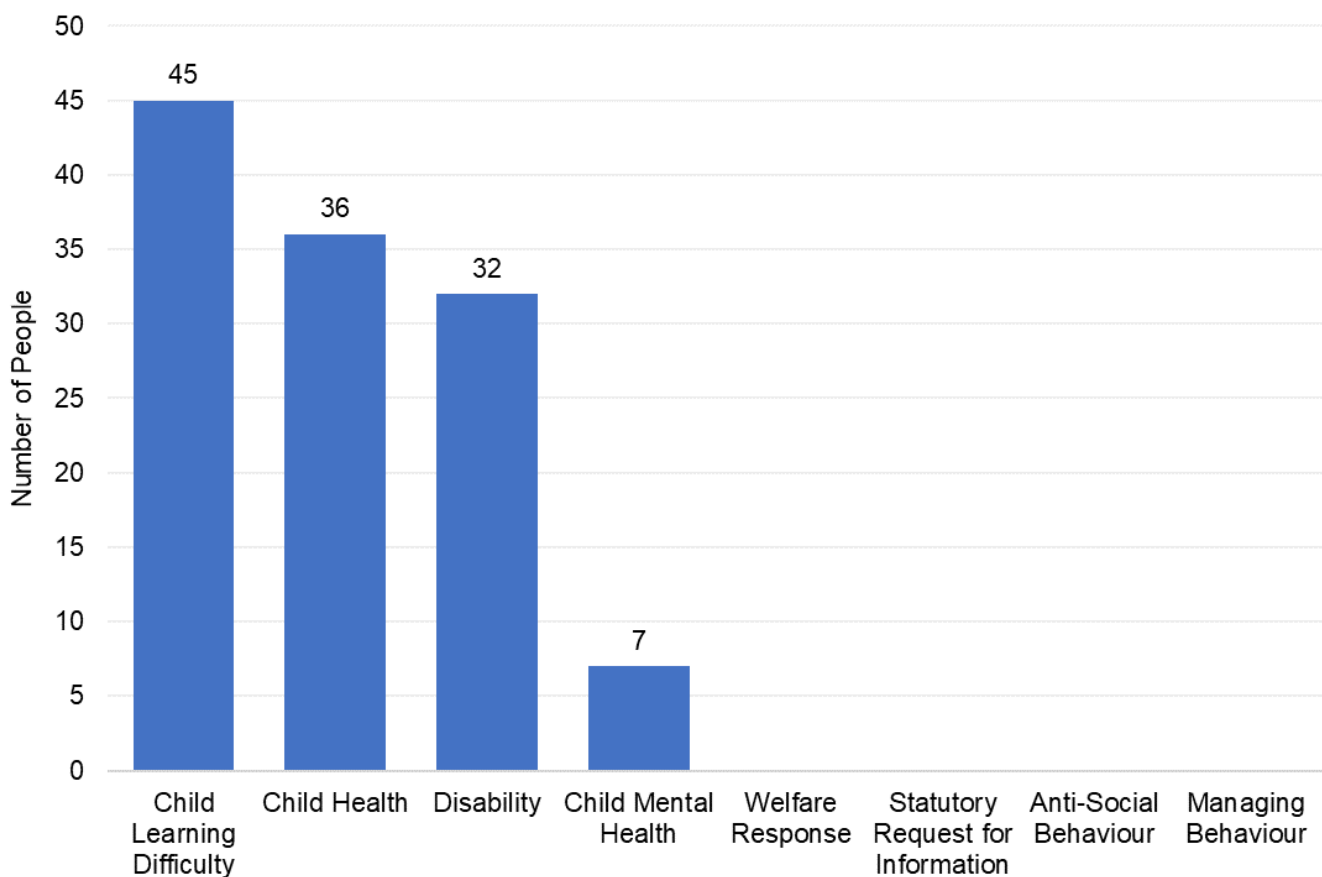
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

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



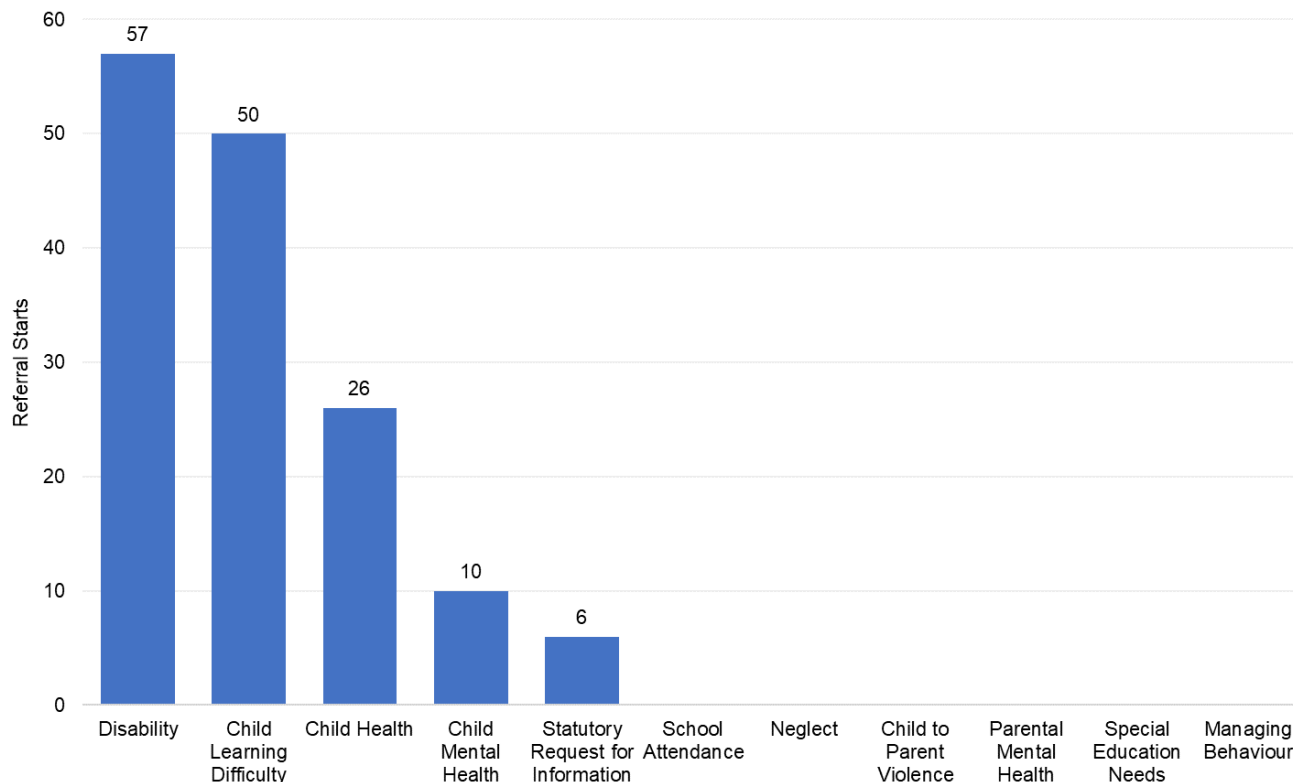
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document (2024)

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)

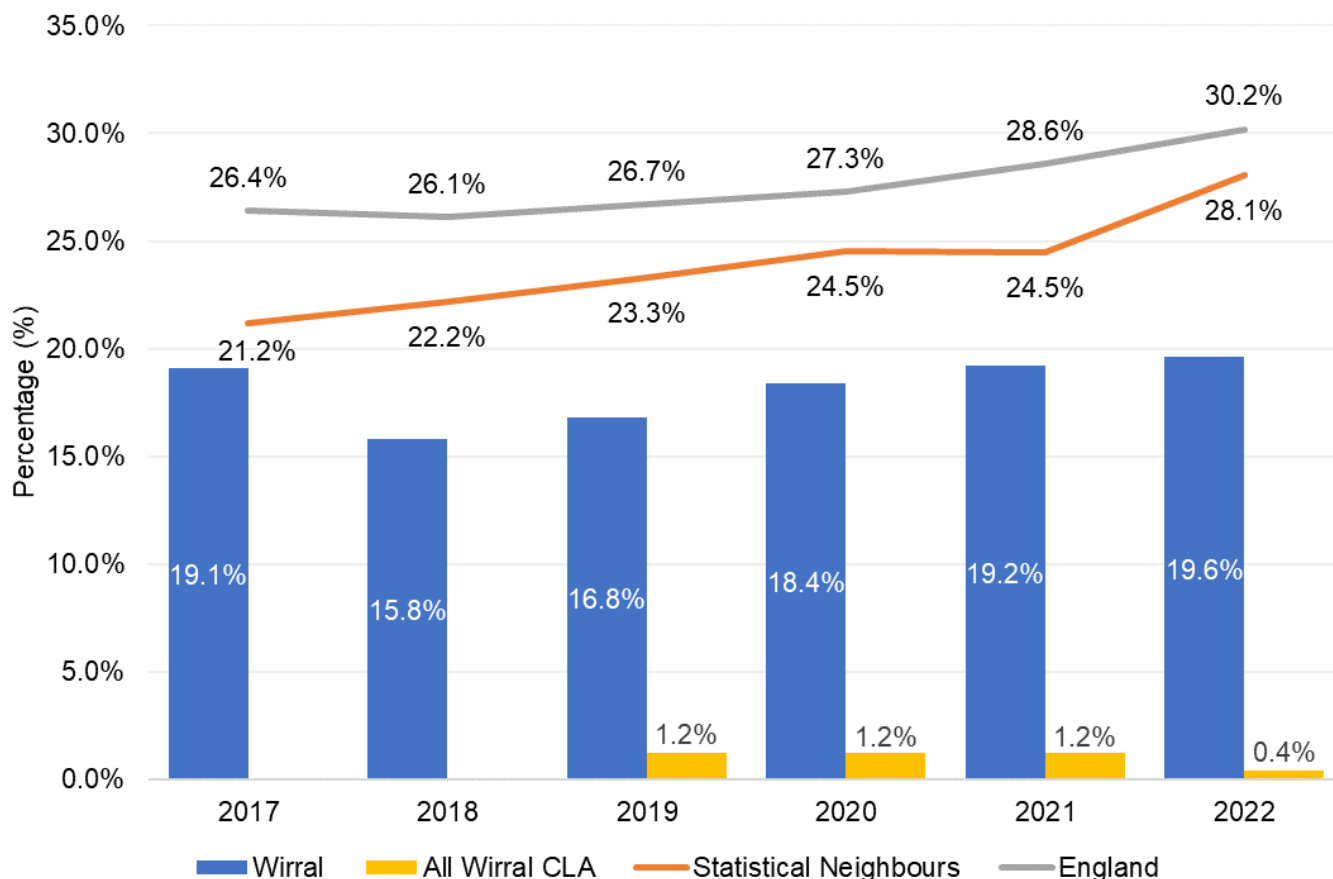
4.3 Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Of those Children and Young people with an EHCP in 2022, **Figure 51** shows that Wirral had a rate of 19.6% 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 0.4% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) are Child Looked After.

The rate of EHCP with CLA has risen between 2019 and 2022 on Wirral and in England year on year. It compares to the England rate in 2022 of 30.2% and Statistical Neighbours at 28.1% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). The Wirral pupil rate is significantly lower than the England rate.

Figure 51: Percentage (%) of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are Child Looked After, in Wirral and England, 2017-2022



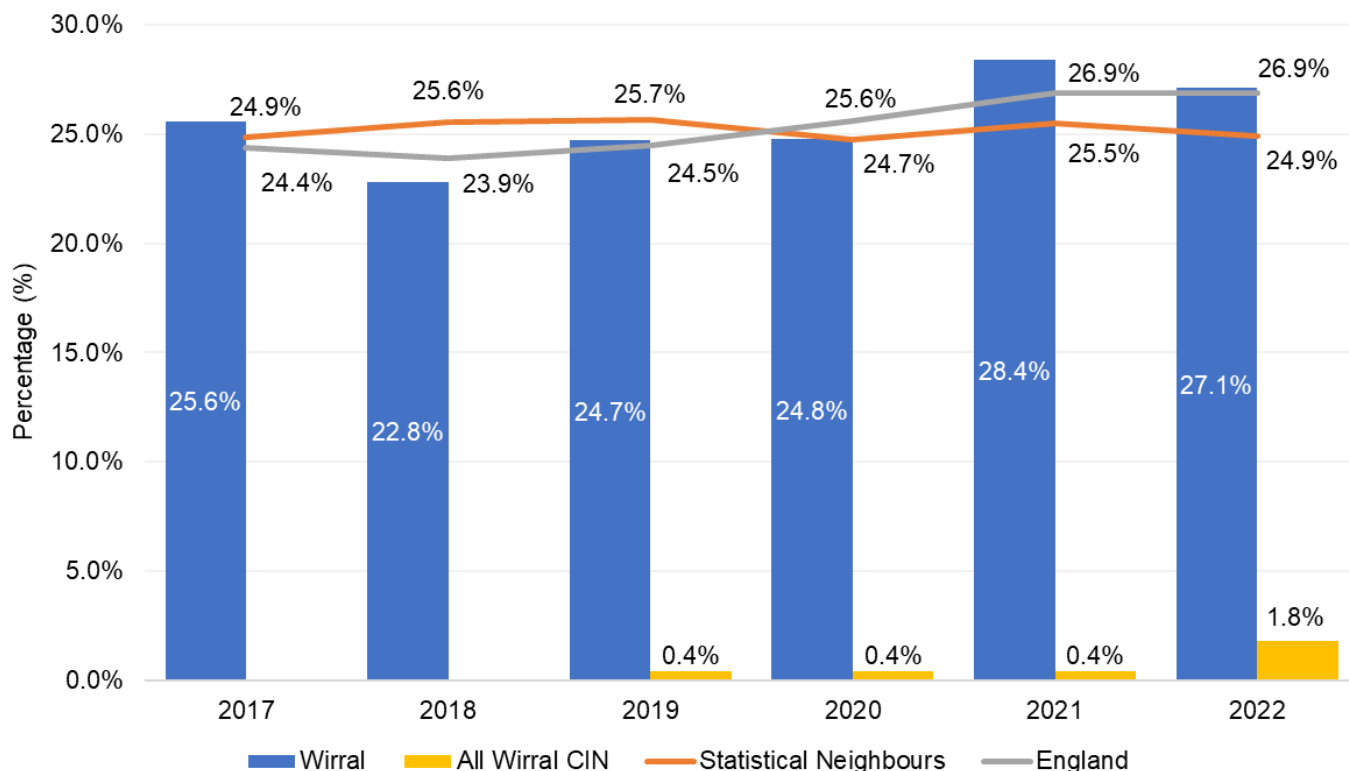
Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2024)

For the Children and young people with an EHCP in 2022, **Figure 52** shows that Wirral has a rate of 27.1% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) also being a Child in Need.

This rate has 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).

The rate is significantly higher than the 1.8% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) of all Children and Young people on Wirral who are Child in Need. It compares to the England rate for 2021 of 26.9% ([LAIT](#), Department for Education). The Wirral rate is above the England rate.

Figure 52: Percentage (%) of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are Child in Need, Wirral and England, 2017-2022

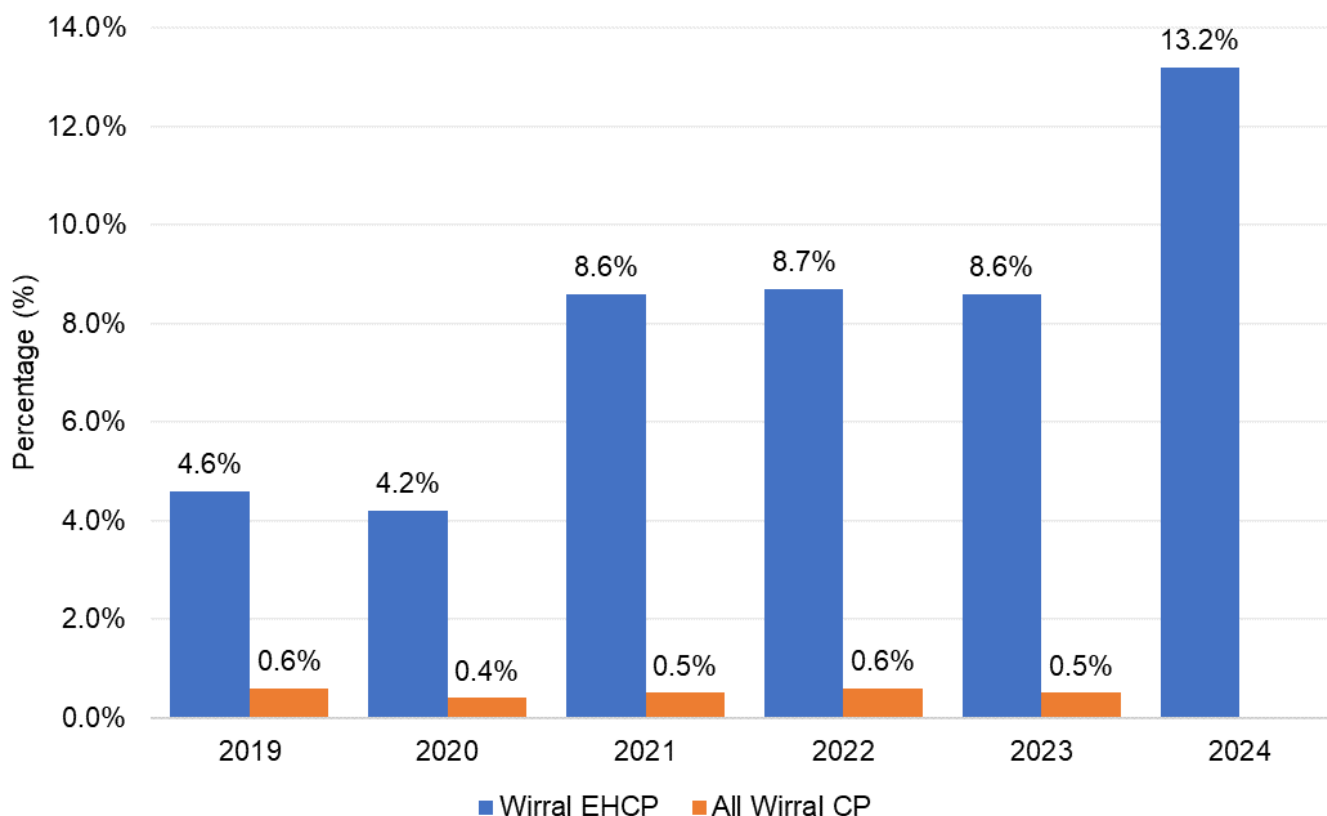


Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and [LAIT](#), Department for Education (2024)

For the Children and Young People with an EHCP (**Figure 53**), Wirral has a rate of 13.2% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) also being within Child Protection. This rate has increased from 4.2% in 2020, which was a reduction from 4.6% in 2019 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This overall rate of Children and Young People within Child Protection has followed the same trend over the three years with it currently at 0.5% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 53: Percentage (%) of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) pupils who are in Child Protection, Wirral, 2019-2024



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

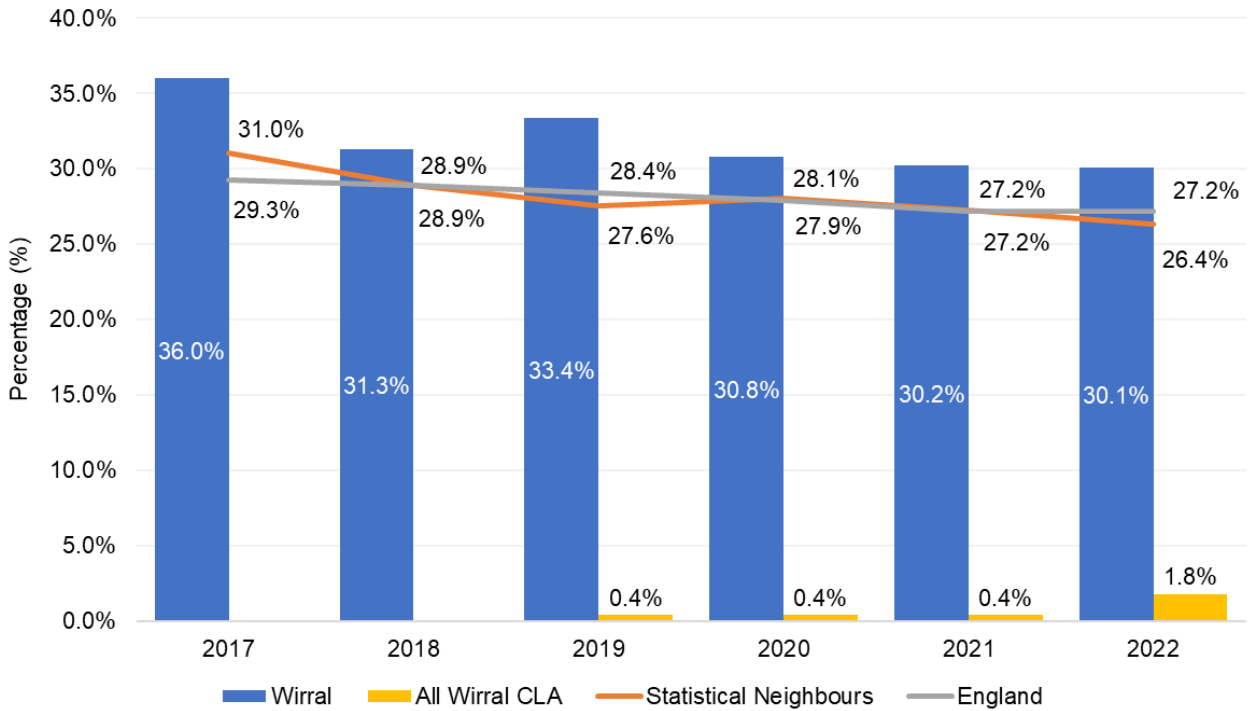
Note: Please note that the overall Wirral CP population unavailable until the end of the year (2024)

4.4 SEN Support

For pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support and a Child Looked After (CLA) in 2022, **Figure 54** shows the Wirral rate is 30.1% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document). This compares to 27.2% ([LAI](#), Department for Education) in England and is down from 33.4% in 2019 and 30.8% in 2020 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This Wirral rate is significantly higher than the full Children and Young People cohort, where 1.8% are CLA (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

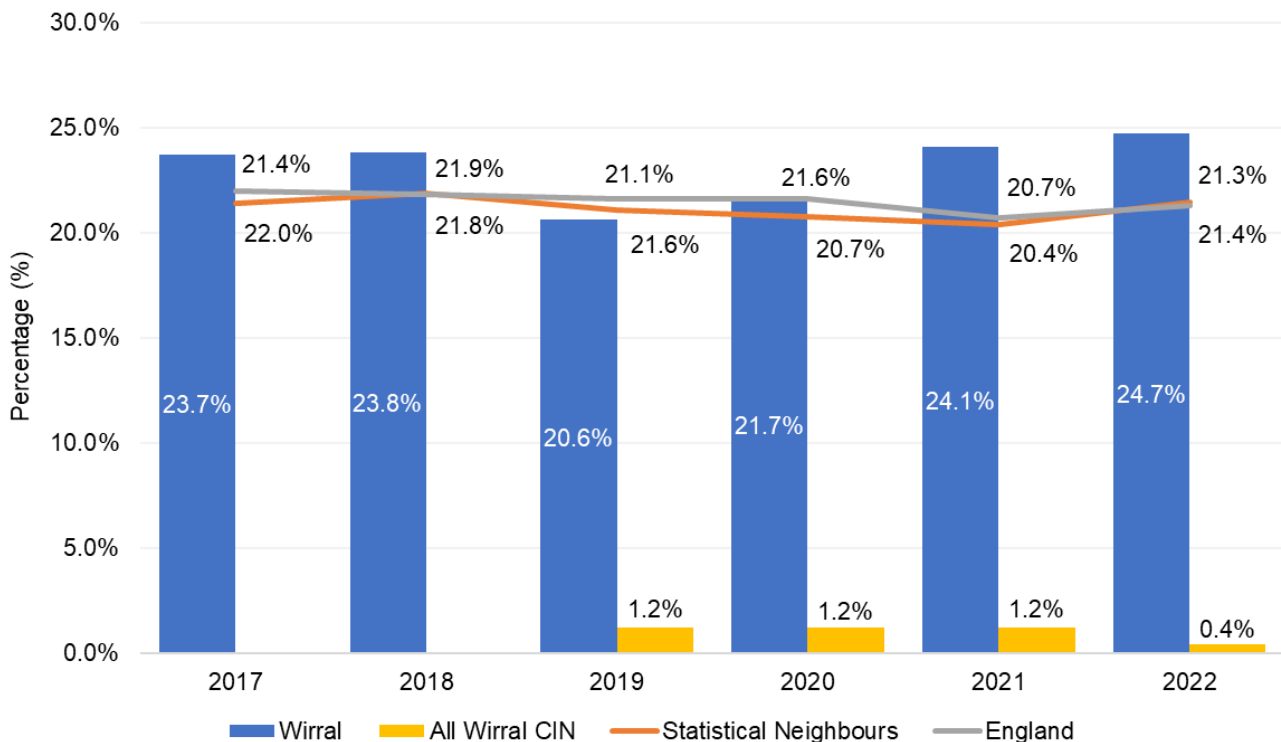
Figure 54: Percentage (%) of SEN Support pupils who are a Child Looked After, Wirral and England, 2017-2022



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

For Children and Young People with SEN Support in 2021, **Figure 55** shows Wirral has a rate of 24.7% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document) also being a Child in Need. This compares to an England rate of 21.3% (LAIT, Department for Education). The rate on Wirral has increased between 2019 and 2022 by 4.1 percentage points, whilst the rate in England has decreased over the same period by 0.3 percentage points. The SEN Support rate is significantly higher than the full pupil cohort rate of 0.4% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 55: Percentage (%) of SEN Support pupils who are Child in Need, Wirral and England, 2017-2022

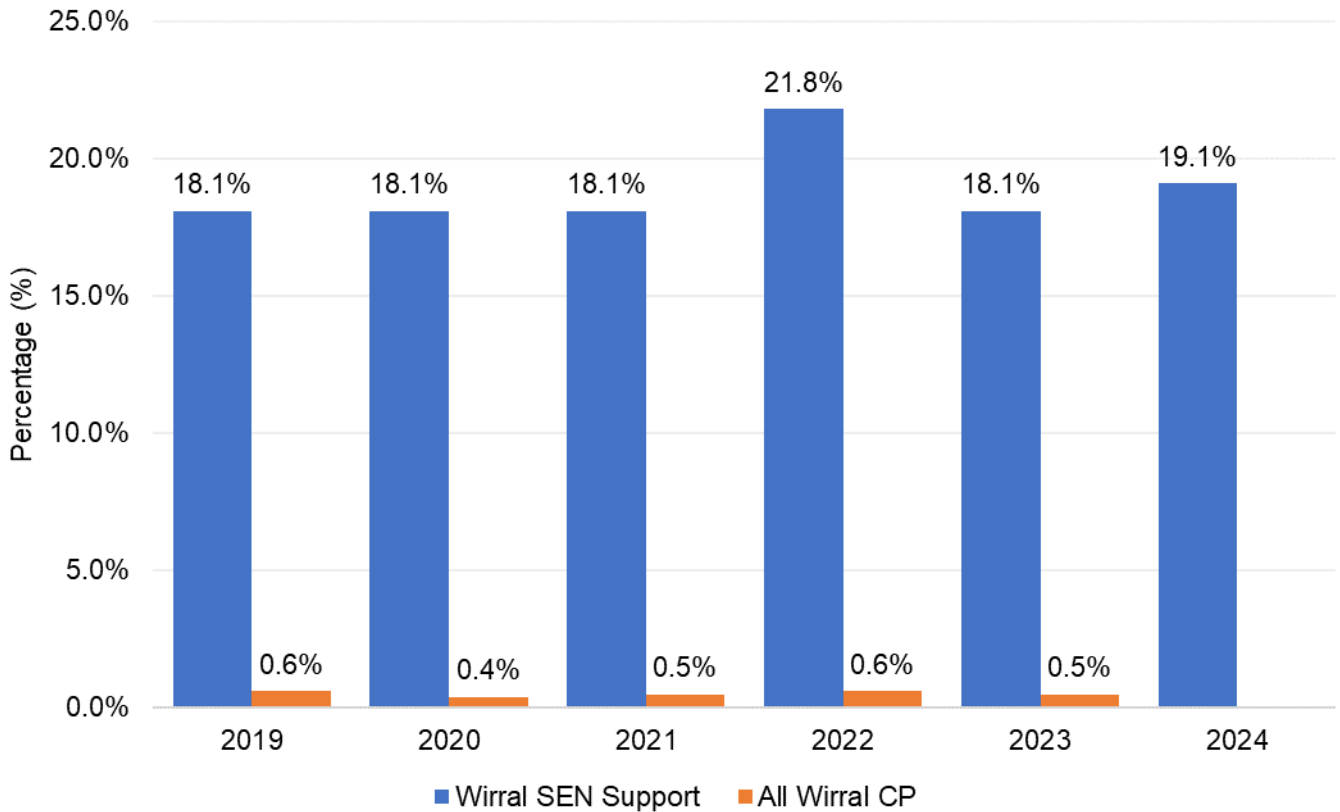


Source: Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document and LAIT, Department for Education (2024)

For the Children and Young People with SEN Support and being subject to Child Protection, **Figure 56** shows Wirral has a rate of 19.1% (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

This rate has stayed level for the period 2019 to 2021, whilst the overall pupil cohort has seen rates fluctuate over the same period, rising by 25% between 2020 and 2021 (Wirral Liquid Logic Report, Internal Document).

Figure 56: Percentage (%) of SEN support pupils who are in Child Protection, Wirral, 2019-2024



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

Note: Please note that the overall Wirral CP population unavailable until the end of the year (2024)

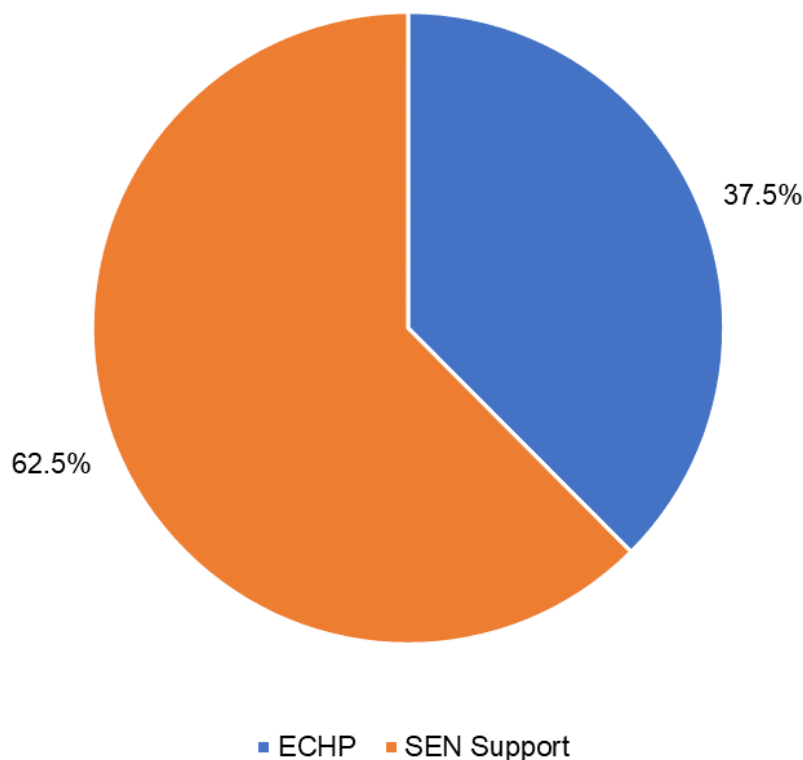
5.0 Early years

Children under the age of 5 years old (Early Years) account for 4.7% (Wirral School Census) of the total Wirral pupil in education population and 1.4% (Wirral School Census) of those in education identified with SEND. Within this document these Children and Young People in education may be identified as 'Under 5's'.

For children under the age of 5 years old with SEND and attending an education setting that report via the school census, **Figure 57** illustrates that 37.5% have an EHCP, leaving the remaining 62.5% with SEN Support (Wirral School Census).

The under 5-year-olds with SEND account for 0.9% of all pupils with SEN Support and 2.2% of all with an EHCP (Wirral School Census).

Figure 57: Percentage (%) breakdown of Early Years by EHCP and SEN Support (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

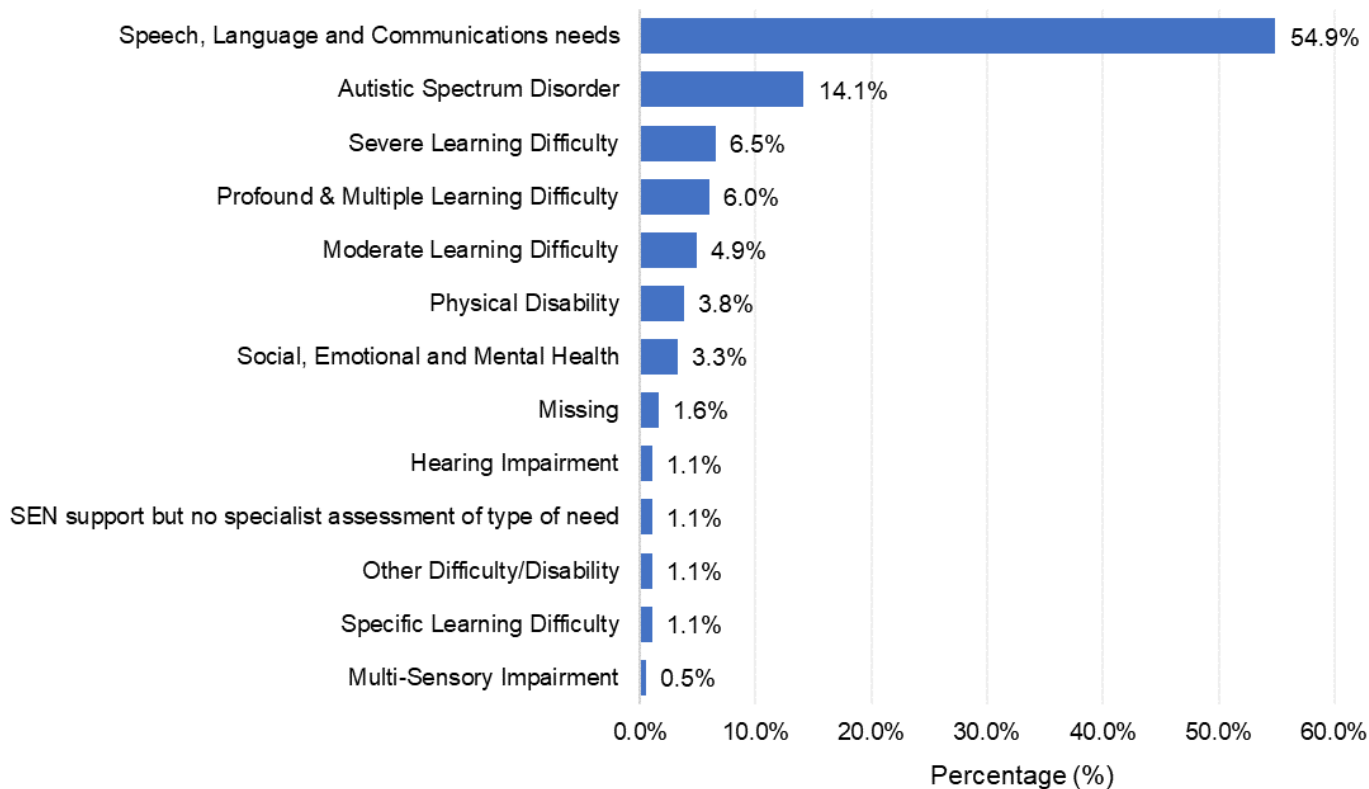
5.1 Early Years - Primary Need

Figure 58 shows that for pupils under 5 and identified as having SEND, the most common Primary Needs is Speech, Language and Communication needs, with this Primary Need accounting for 54.9% of all Primary Needs (Wirral School Census). In England for 2023/24 the most common Primary Need was also Speech, Language and Communication needs, but the rate is higher at 57.8% ([Age and Gender, by type of SEN provision and type of need - 2016 to 2024, Accessed 6th August 2024](#)).

This Wirral rate is noticeably significantly higher than any other Primary Need, with the second highest Primary Need accounting for 14.1% (Wirral School Census), which is Autistic Spectrum Disorder (in England second most common was also Autistic Spectrum Disorder at 14.9%). It is worth noting that there are no pupils with a Primary Need of Vision Impairment on Wirral, whereas in England this rate is 0.6% ([Age and Gender, by type of SEN provision and type of need - 2016 to 2024, Accessed 6th August 2024](#)).

There is also a low rate under the category “Other Difficulty/Disability” on Wirral, which could be seen as a positive as this means that the vast majority, 98.9%, of all children have been categorised into a specific Primary Need (Wirral School Census).

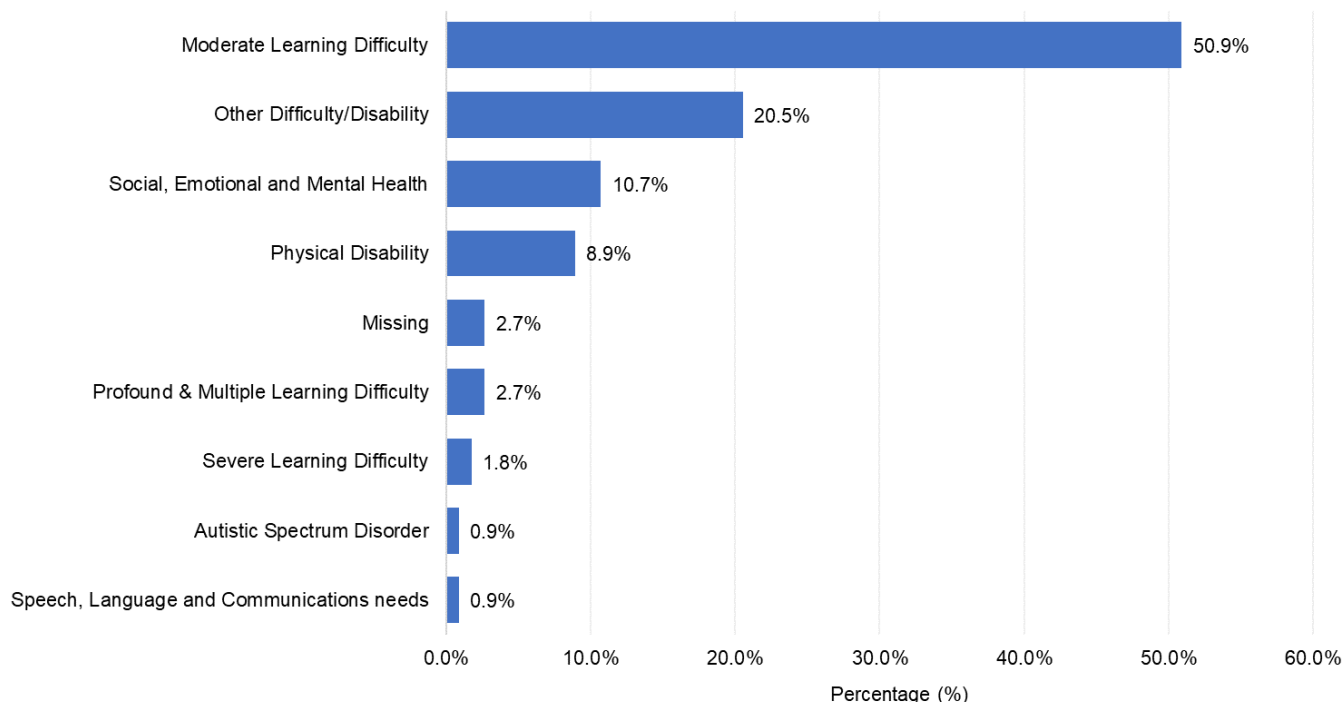
Figure 58: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with SEND attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

For pupils under 5 years old and in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (Figure 59) the most common Primary Needs is Moderate Learning Difficult, making up 50.9% Primary Needs (Wirral School Census). This is followed by Other Difficulty/Disability needs at 20.5% and Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 10.7% (Wirral School Census).

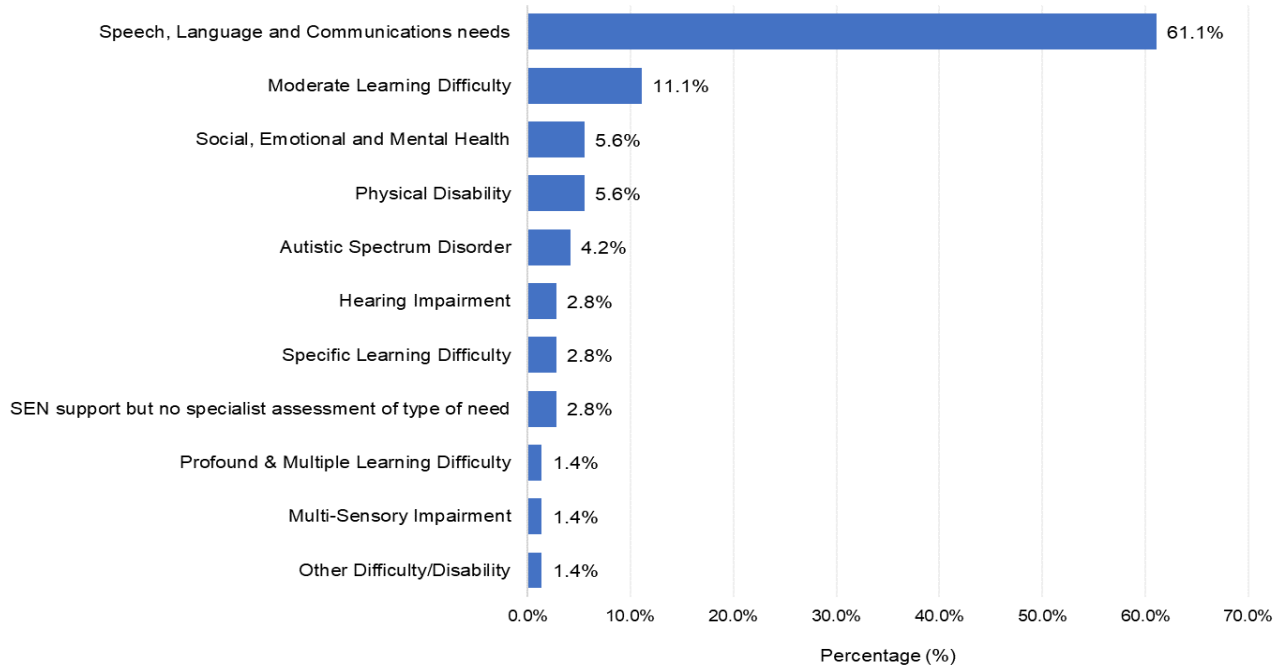
Figure 59: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with an EHCP attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

For pupils with SEN support (**Figure 60**), the most common Primary Need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, being 61.1% (Wirral School Census). This is followed by Moderate Learning Difficulty at 11.1% and Social, Emotional and Mental Health with 5.6% (Wirral School Census).

Figure 60: Proportion of Children and Young People (<5) with SEN Support attending an education setting in Wirral, by Primary Need, 2024

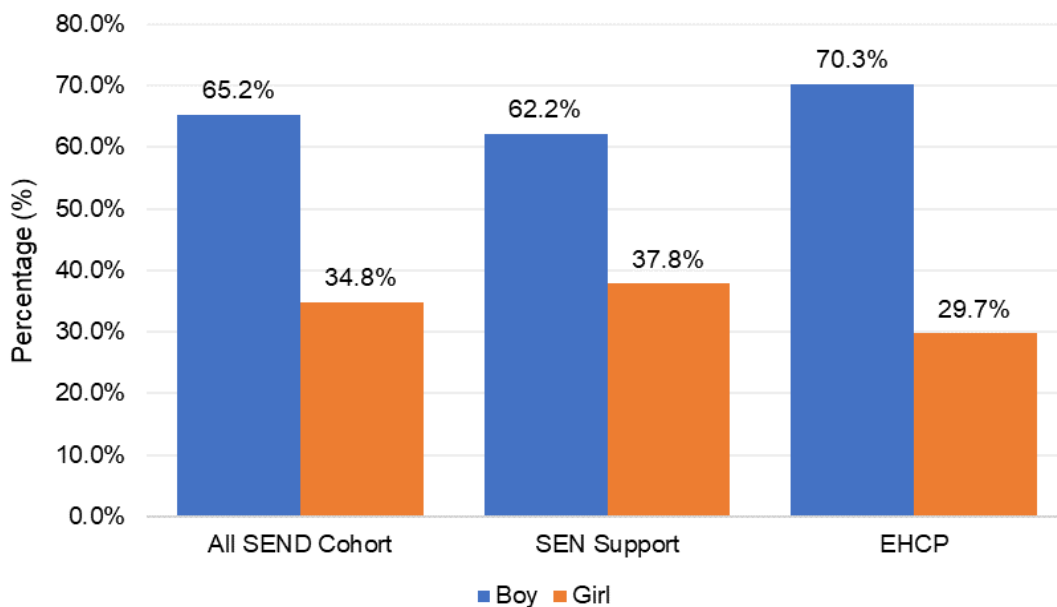


Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

5.2 Early Years - Gender

Figure 61 details that for those under 5 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), 70.3% are boys and 29.7% girls. For those with SEN support, the rate is 62.2% boys and 37.8% girls (Wirral School Census).

Figure 61: Breakdown (%) of Children and Young people (<5) in Wirral with SEND, by Gender (2024)



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

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 8.2% of all pupils under 5. This is followed by the following Wards: Leasowe and Moreton East (7.6%), Seacombe (7.6%) and Birkenhead and Tranmere (7.2%) (Wirral School Census, 2024).

Bidston and St James Ward is also the ward with the largest proportion of pupils under 5 with SEN support (9.2%). This is followed by Seacombe (8.1%), Birkenhead and Tranmere (7.4%) and Leasowe and Moreton East (7.4%) (Wirral School Census, 2024).

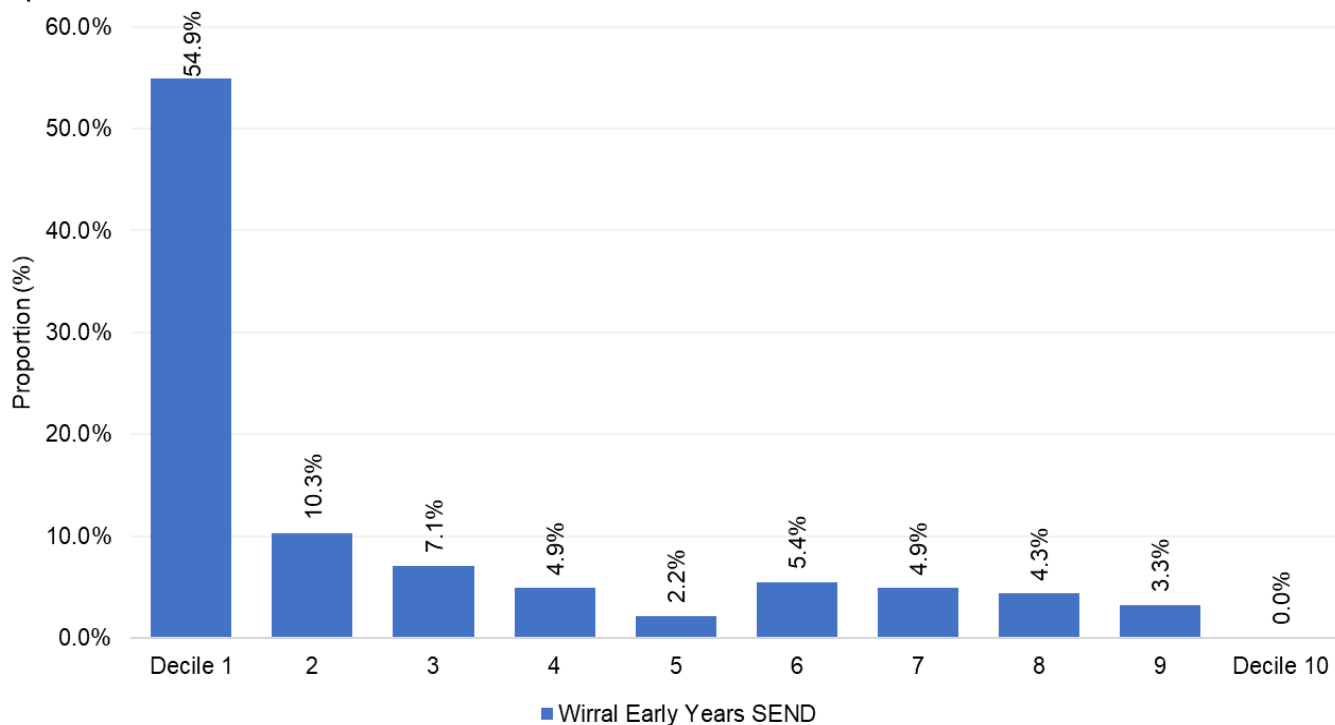
The largest proportion of the SEND cohort who are aged under 5 reside in Bidston and St James Ward (8.8%), followed by Seacombe (7.9%), Leasowe and Moreton East (7.5%) and Birkenhead and Tranmere (7.3%).

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 bottom 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; \(Office for National Statistics, Exploring Local Income Deprivation, 24th May 2021, accessed 31st July 2024\)](#).

For Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils, 54.9% (Wirral School Census and Capita data) reside within the most deprived decile in Wirral (see **Figure 62 below**).

Figure 62: Proportion (%) of Wirral SEND Children and Young People (<5) in Education, by Deprivation Decile, 2024

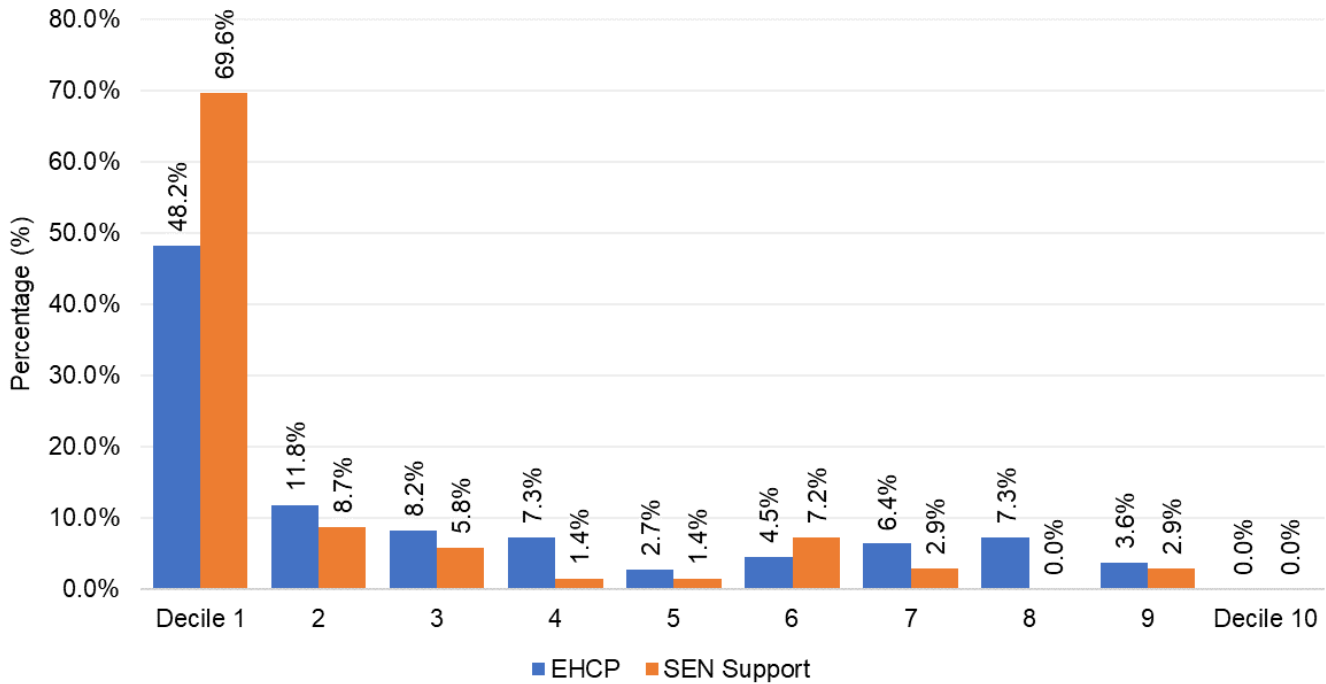


Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

Note: zero under five recorded in data for early years in decile 10 (most affluent)

Early year SEND is split between Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) support in **Figure 63** below, where 48.2% are within Decile 1 and in receipt of an EHCP, whilst the rate is 69.6% for those with SEN Support and in Decile 1.

Figure 63: Breakdown of Children and Young People, by EHCP and SEN Support, by IMD Decile in Wirral, 2024



Source: Wirral School Census (January 2024) Capita data (2024)

Note: zero under five recorded in data for early years in decile 10 (most affluent) and for decile 8 SEN support only

5.5 Early Years - Portage

Portage is a home-visiting educational service for early years children. In the 12 months up to and including July 2024, the service received 90 referrals. Latest data (July 2024) records that 26% of families receive Triage (invite to group) within 1 month of referral.

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. Since data collection began, in September 2023, to July 2024 (latest data set), there has been 312 children who have been awarded SENIF.

5.7 Early Years – Disability Access Fund

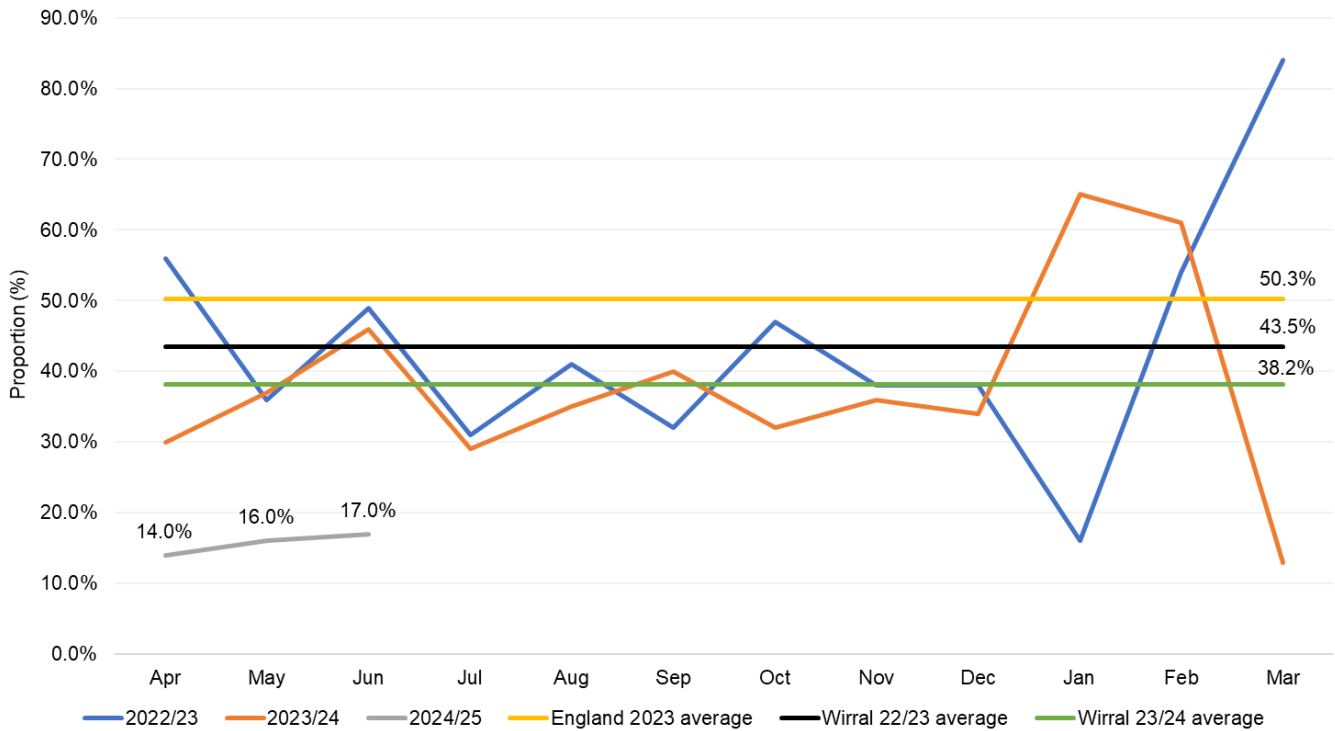
This is funding for early years providers including Foundation 1 classes in schools, to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It aids access to early years places by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. This fund is for 3- and 4-year-olds in early year settings and for 3-year-olds (Year F1) for those in schools. For the 12 months up to and including July 2024, there has been 110 pupils that have been awarded Disability Access Fund.

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 year, excluding exceptions in the 2023, was 368. This compares the 305 issued in 2022 (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document).

Figure 64: Proportion (%) of Wirral EHCPs issued within the 20-week statutory timescale, by year for Wirral, with England average (2022/23 to 2024/25)



Source: Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document (2024) EHCP scorecard

As can be seen in **Figure 64**, the average percentage of new EHCP's issued within 20 weeks on Wirral is over 43% for 2022/234 (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document). This average fell in 2023/24 to just under 39% for the year and has fallen again at the start of the 2024/25 reporting year to 16% (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document). The England average for EHCP's issued in 20 weeks is currently 50.3 (2022)% ([Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)).

As **Figure 64** shows, the rates for 2024/25 across Wirral are on an upward trajectory but remains the lowest three months reporting in the last two financial years. (Wirral PowerBI Report, Internal Document).

6.2 Advices within 6 weeks

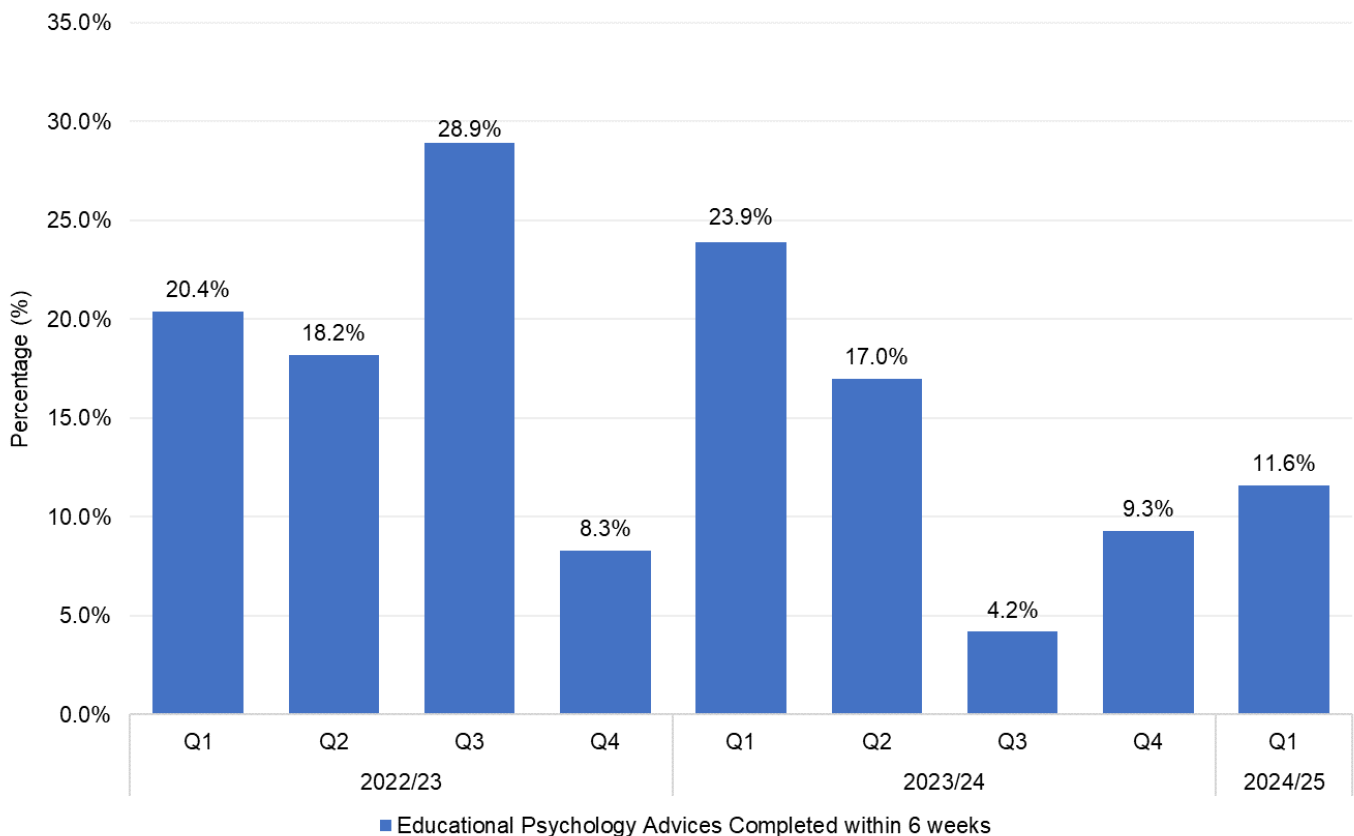
In order to produce high quality and fit for purpose Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), that are produced in a collaborative format that includes the child or young person (where applicable), parents / carers, professionals and partners, advices must be obtained. Advices come from Social Care (where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

Educational Psychology

The latest data shown in **Figure 65** below is for 2022/23 to 2024/25 (by quarter reporting). The period Quarter with the highest percentage of advices completed for education psychology was in Q3 2022/23 at 28.9%.

The lowest percentage of advices completed is 12 months later, for Q3 in 2023/24, at 4.2%. Although performance has improved since then in the last two reported quarters for 2023/24 into 2024/25.

Figure 65: Percentage of Educational Psychology Advices Completed within 6 weeks, by Quarter, 2022/23 to 2024/25, Wirral

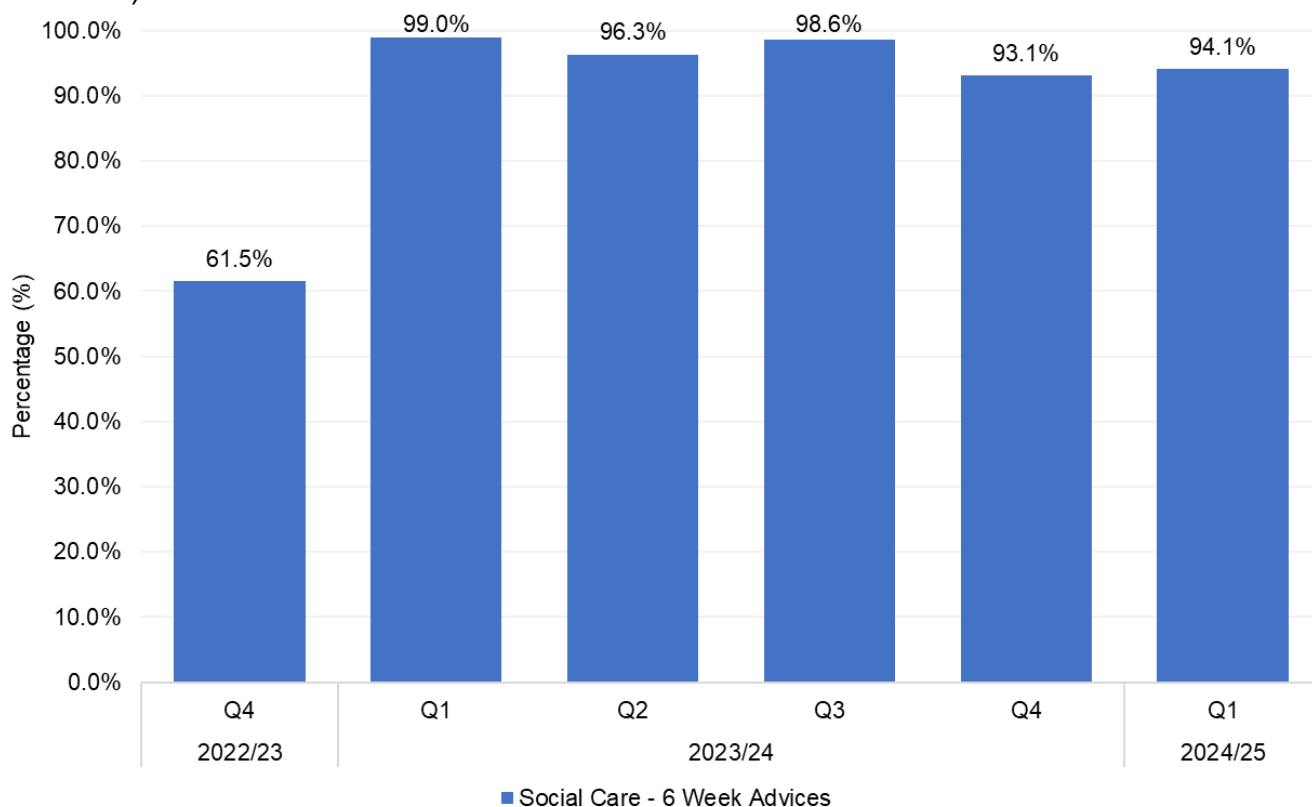


Source: Wirral Educational Psychology Team 6-week Report, Internal Document (2024)

Social Care Advices

The latest Wirral rate (Q1 - 2024/25) is 94.1% (**Figure 66**), which is up from 93.1% in Q4 2023/24. Wirral's performance since Q4 2022/23 (61.5%) has improved significantly and has been well over 90% in the reporting year since (Q1 - 2023/24) (Wirral Social Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document)

Figure 66: Percentage (%) of Advices received within 6 weeks from Social Care, Wirral, (2022/23 to 2024/25)



Source: Wirral Social Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document (2024)

Health Advices

The Advices received within 6 weeks from Health are from six services within Health. The six services 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 2023/24, the rates received within 6 weeks has a wide variation of difference between the six services that offer the advices (from 100%, to the lowest recorded in 2023/24, 24.0%). (Wirral Health Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document).

Table 14: Percentage (%) of advices received within 6 weeks, by Health Service in Wirral, (2023/24)

Health Service Advices	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
CAMHS	36.4%	66.7%	81.3%	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	94.1%
Comm Paeds	77.8%	100.0%	40.0%	24.0%	79.5%	41.9%	67.6%	62.1%	33.3%	47.5%	65.4%	*
Health Visitors & School Nursing	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.8%	97.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	*
Occupational Therapy	66.7%	35.7%	40.0%	87.5%	100.0%	87.5%	80.0%	75.0%	57.1%	*	85.7%	88.9%
Physiotherapy	33.3%	*	80.0%	87.5%	75.0%	70.0%	84.2%	83.3%	66.7%	*	58.3%	68.8%
SALT	*	33.3%	96.9%	79.2%	100.0%	76.9%	53.7%	95.5%	94.1%	85.7%	72.4%	74.1%

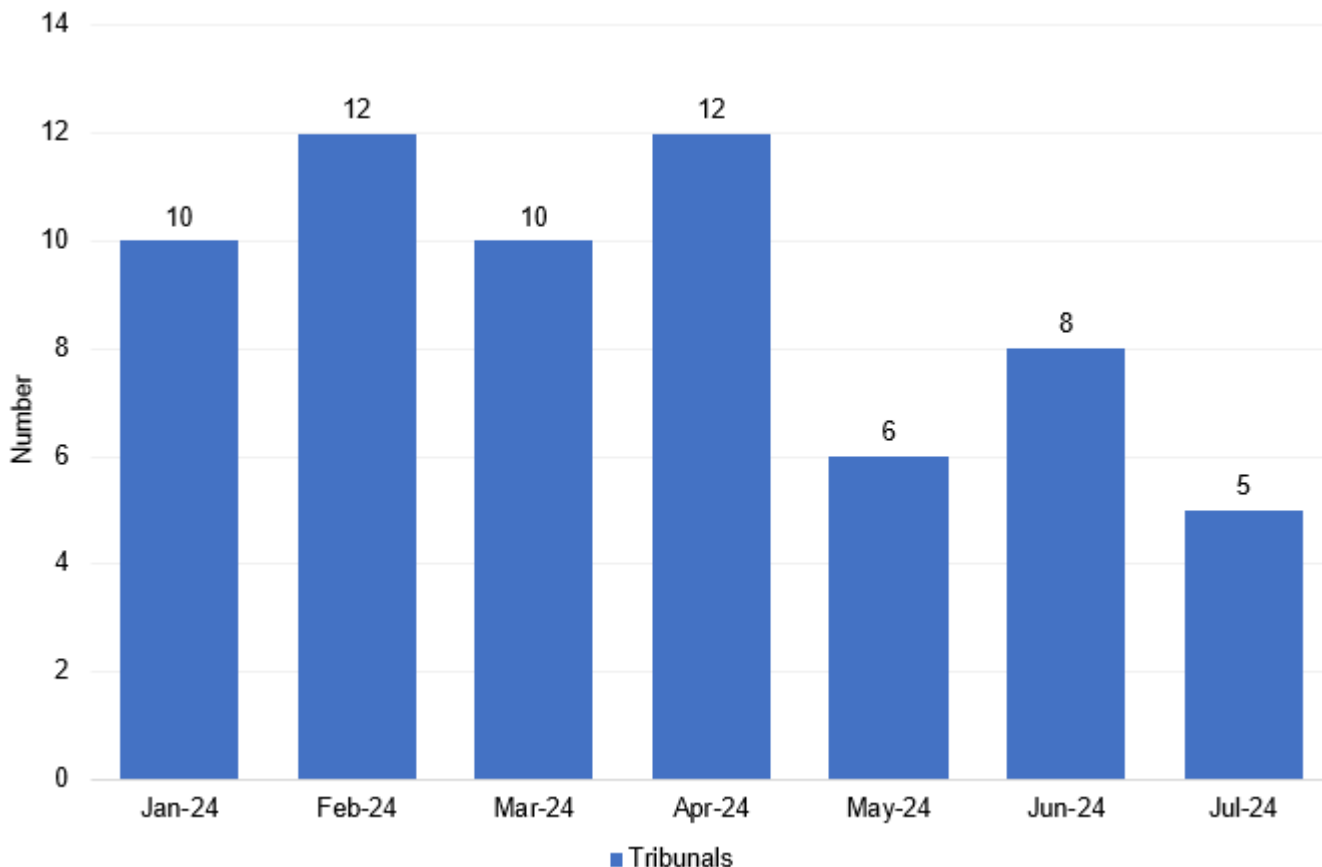
Source: Wirral Health Care Team 6 Week Report, Internal Document (2024)

Note: * in table above for months not reported

6.3 Tribunals

Figure 67 shows tribunals (since January 2024) have started to decrease since April and are now reporting single figures per month compared to double figures in the first four months of 2024. (EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document).

Figure 67: Number of Tribunals within the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process, Wirral, (January 2024 to July 2024)



Source: EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document. (2024)

Tribunal reasons

Data in **Table 15** show that from January 2024 to July 2024 there have been 63 tribunals. (EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document).

Table 15: Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Tribunal reasons in Wirral, January 2024 to July 2024

Tribunal Reason	2024
Decision not to assess	*
Against Provision	*
Against named school	*
Decision not to issue EHCP	*
Pilot scheme	*
Section B	*
Section I	*
Cease to maintain EHC Plan	*
Section F	*
Total	63

Source: EHCP Scorecard, Internal Document (2024)

Note: * Not recorded

7.0 Health

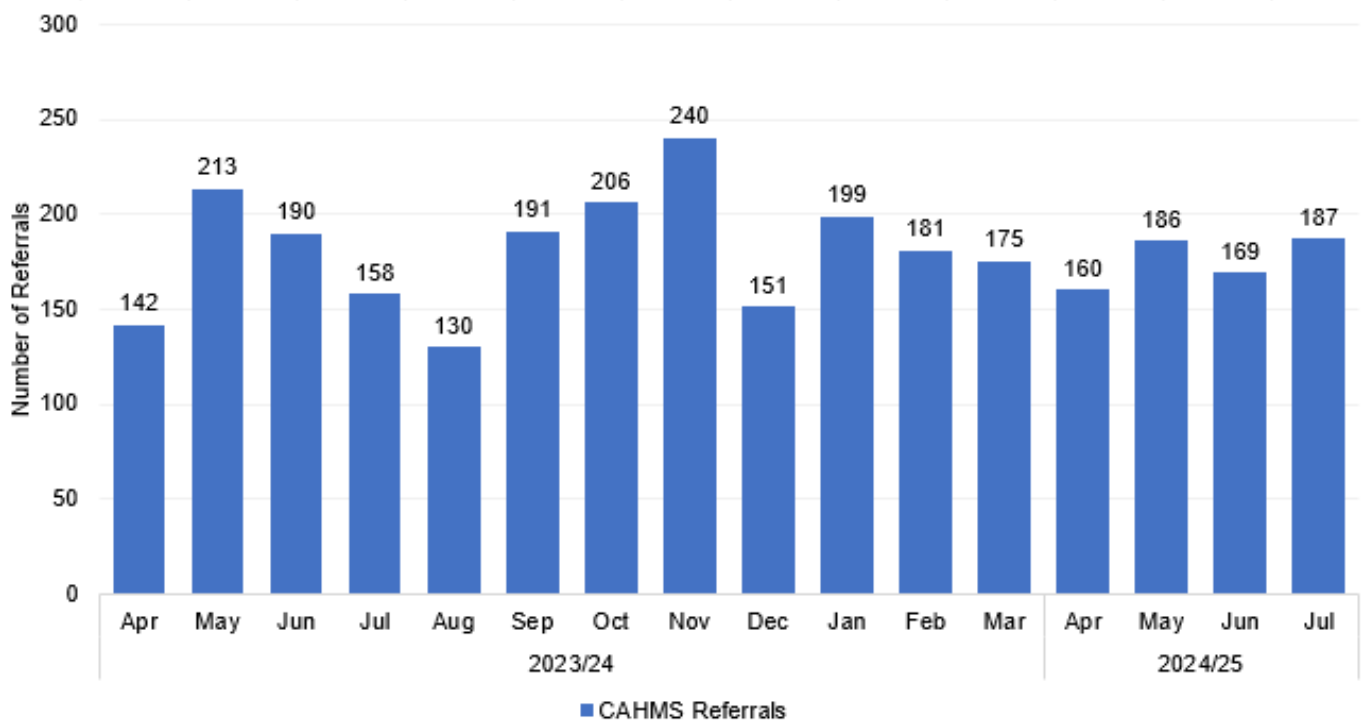
Health data relates to Children and Young people under the age of 18, unless specified otherwise.

7.1 Wirral CYP Mental Health Services (formerly CAMHS)

Figure 68 shows the trend of referrals into Wirral CYP Mental Health Services since April 2023/24. The full year data for 2023/24 shows 2,176 referrals and 702 so far in 2024/25 (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

The first quarter in 2024/25 shows a 5.5% decrease in the number of referrals to CYP Mental Health Services compared to the first quarter of 2023/24.

Figure 68: Number of referrals to CYP Mental Health Services, April 2023/24 – July 2024/25, Wirral

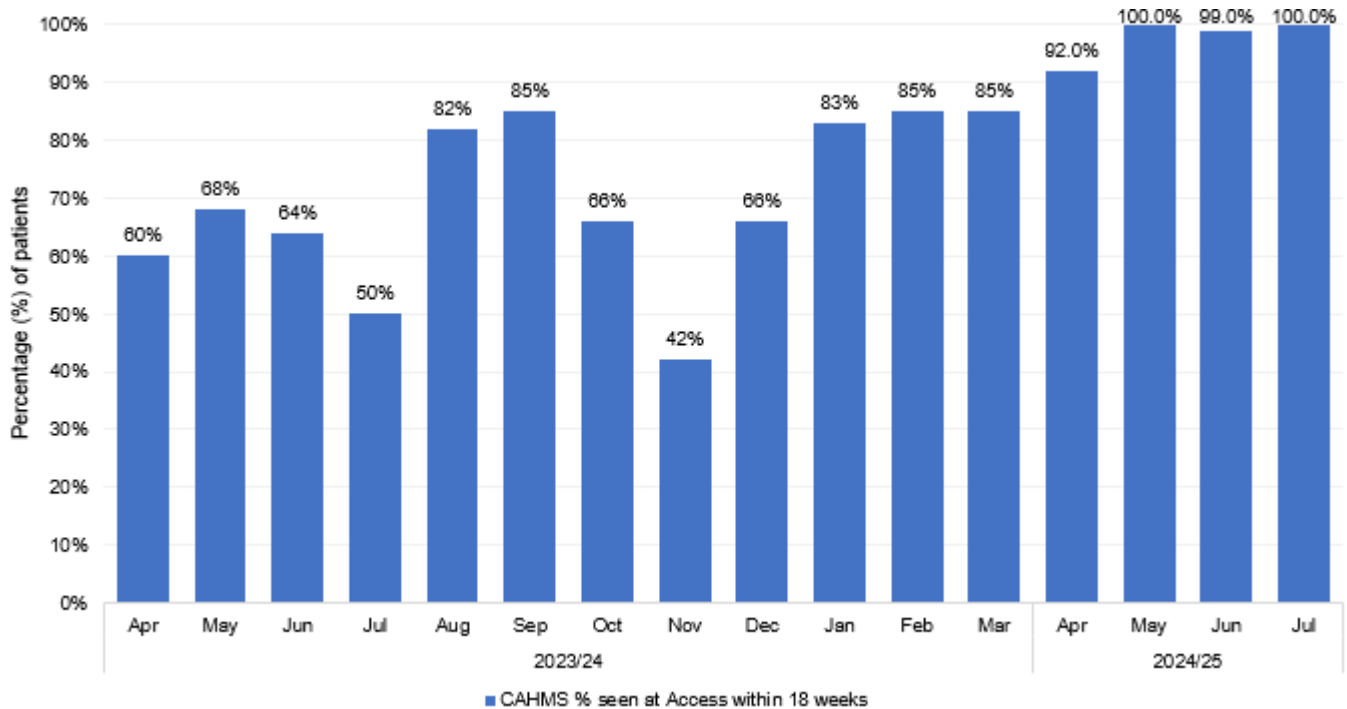


Source: CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document (Updated data September 2024)

Figure 69 illustrates that since April 2023/24, there has been an improvement in the rate of children and young people seen by access for assessment in less than 18 weeks in the reporting month and since May 2024/2025 it has been above the 95% target (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

This compares to a low figure within this period of 42% in November 2023/2024 (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

Figure 69: Proportion (%) of CYP Mental Health Services referrals within 18 weeks, seen by access for assessment in less than 18 weeks in the reporting month, April 2023/24 – July 2024/25



Source: CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document (2024)

There is a decreasing trend to the total number of children on the waiting list to CYP Mental Health Services between April 2023/24 and June 2024/25. In April 2023/24, this number was 458, whilst in July 2024/25, the number was 174 – a 62.0% decrease (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

This coincides with a decrease in the average wait time from seen by access for assessment in less than 18 weeks at CYP Mental Health Services. In April 2023/24, this figure was 14 weeks, whilst in July 2024/25, the figure was 7 weeks – a decrease of 50%, or half the time (CYP Mental Health Services Report, Internal Document).

Additional information

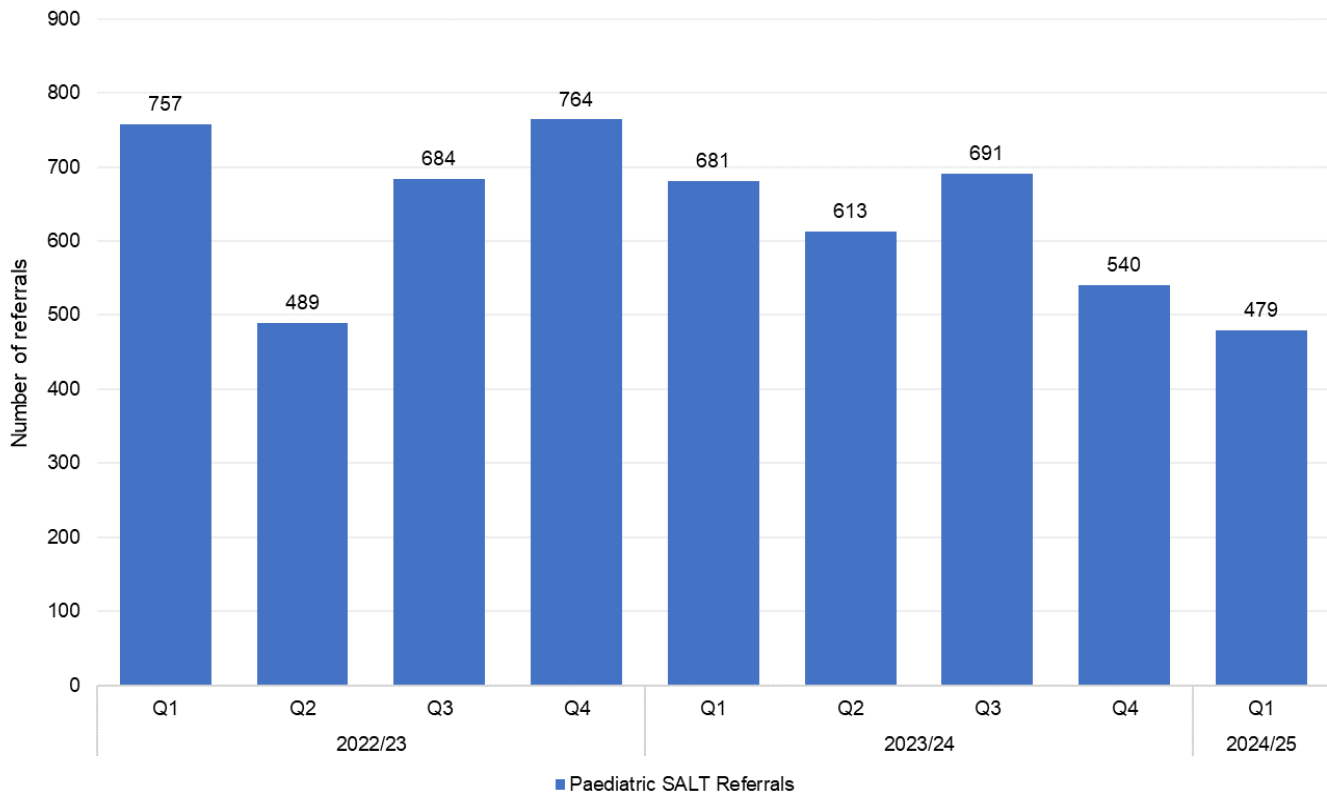
- A new mental health & wellbeing website 'Branch' is due to be launched November 2024 'Branch' is an online central point of access for mental wellbeing for children and young people in Wirral. The website will hold a host of information about good health and emotional wellbeing and self-help resources to promote good mental health. This is supported by an Alliance of 5 organisations with a breadth of knowledge and experience in Wirral who will be delivering a range of services for children and young people, and training programmes to support professionals.
-
- Branch will be aligned to CYP Mental Health Services ('My Mind') so that all referrals are considered and matched to the most appropriate service to meet needs and ensure children are able to be offered a service right for them.
-
- Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST) are now operational in all Primary schools and are currently being rolled out in some Secondary schools. The MHSTs will form part of the mental health approach within education settings, providing timely, evidence-based support, care and interventions for children who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. This means that schools have a first port of call and experts on site to provide immediate response, and planned programmes of work to support emotional wellbeing.

- My Happy Mind, a positive psychology and resilience building programme has now been rolled out across all primary schools. This programme is centred around how the brain works and how to look after it, helping children to manage their emotions to promote positive growth and development. This was previously successfully piloted in several Primary Schools over the last couple of years before expanding its coverage.
- Risk and Resilience. This new holistic offer (to be launched in September 24) includes a range of support, including one-to-one sessions, groupwork, workshops and digital provision to meet the needs of children and young people around risk taking. Training and support will also be provided for parents/carers/professionals and education settings. The offer will be agile so that it is able to respond to emerging risks.
- Health Services in Schools continue to operate across secondary schools with a designated Youth worker that provides young people with an opportunity to access confidential support on a range of issues including topics such as: building resilience, reducing risks, healthy relationships, sexual health, drugs, alcohol, emotional health and stress and anxiety. [HSIS Youth Workers Available in Wirral Schools and Colleges — zillowirral HSIS — zillowirral](#)

7.2 Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

The number of referrals into the paediatrics speech and language therapy service has seen fluctuations over the reporting period (Q1 2022/23 – Q1 2024/25). For example, **Figure 70** shows a low of 479 referrals in Q1 2024/25, 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.

Figure 70: Number of referrals to SALT, per quarter (2022/23, 2023/24, and Q1 2024/25), Wirral



Source: NHS Wirral Report, Internal Document (2024)

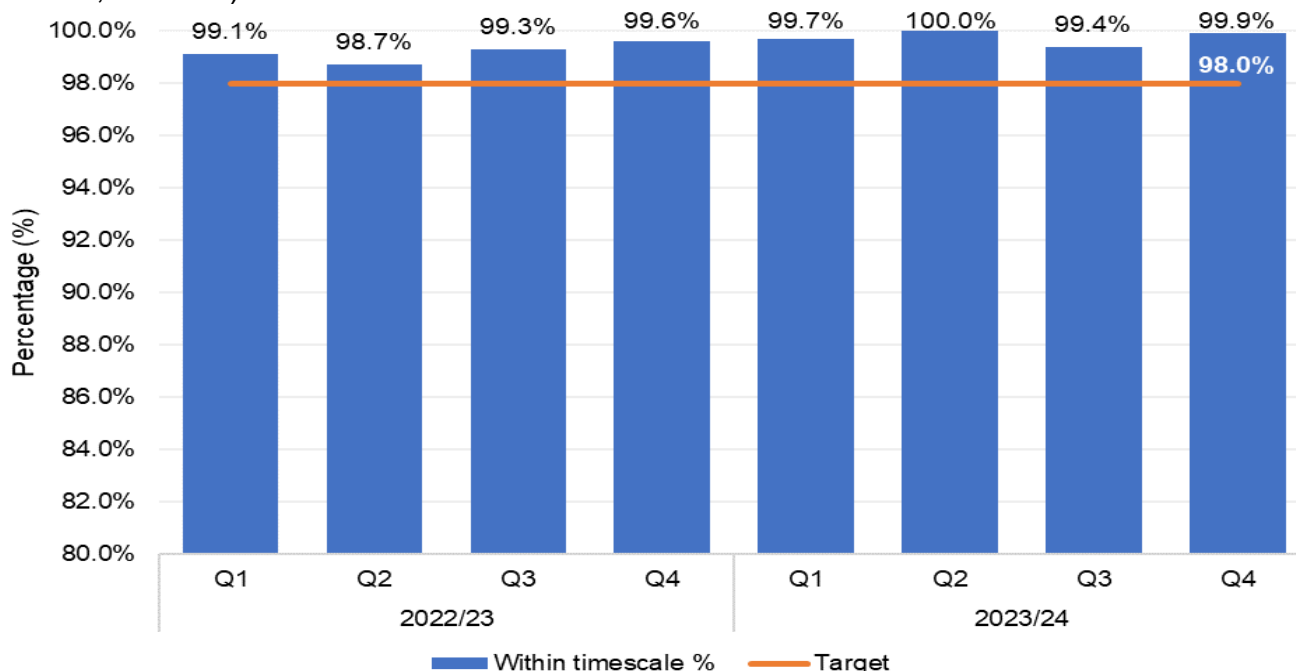
The development of speech and language therapy and support is through a Balanced System Model (Marie Gascoigne) offering therapy across the universal, targeted and specialist spectrum. This is aligned to the graduated approach both in schools and early years and supported by evidence-based resources for identification and interventions. Pathways through to the specialist service will be clear as part of the graduated approach and a waiting list initiative is underway. Primary clusters will have a nominated Speech and Language Therapy assistant to ensure readily available advice and expertise.

7.3 Newborn Hearing

Figure 71 details how the proportion of babies eligible for newborn hearing screening who were seen within timescale is currently 99.9% (Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document) (Q4 2023/2024).

This is above the target of 98% and for the last year of data, the rate has been above the target.

Figure 71: Percentage (%) rate of newborn screening undertaken within timescale, Wirral, (2022/23, 2023/24)

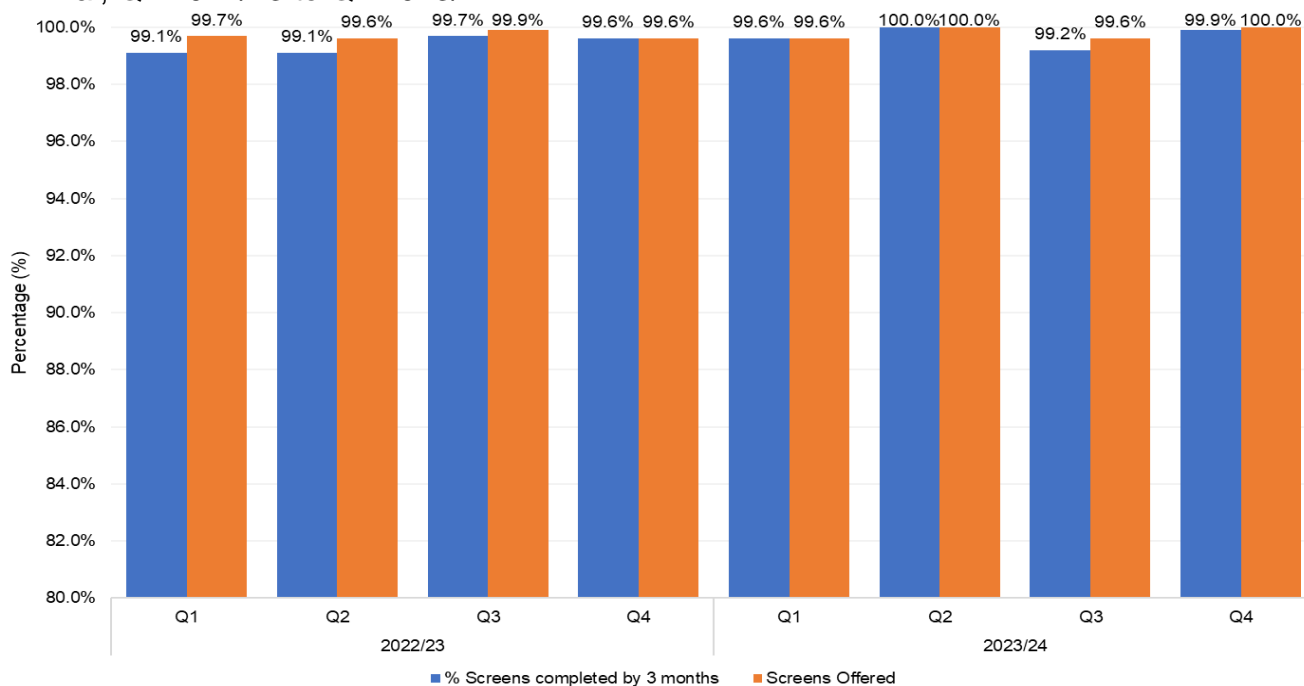


Source: Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2024)

For the latest two years (2022/23 and 2023/24), 100% of babies with a no clear response result in one or both ears (or other) were referred for audiological assessment within timescale. Furthermore, with the exception of one quarter (Q1 2023/24), 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 (2024)).

For each quarter since Q1 2022/23, over 99.5% of hearing screens were offered to newborns. Within 3 months, for each quarter since Q1 2022/23, over 99.0% of those screens offered were completed in 3 months. (**Figure 72 below**).

Figure 72: Proportion of newborn hearing screens offered, and screens completed by 3 months, in Wirral, Q1 2022/23 to Q4 2023/24



Source: Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2024)

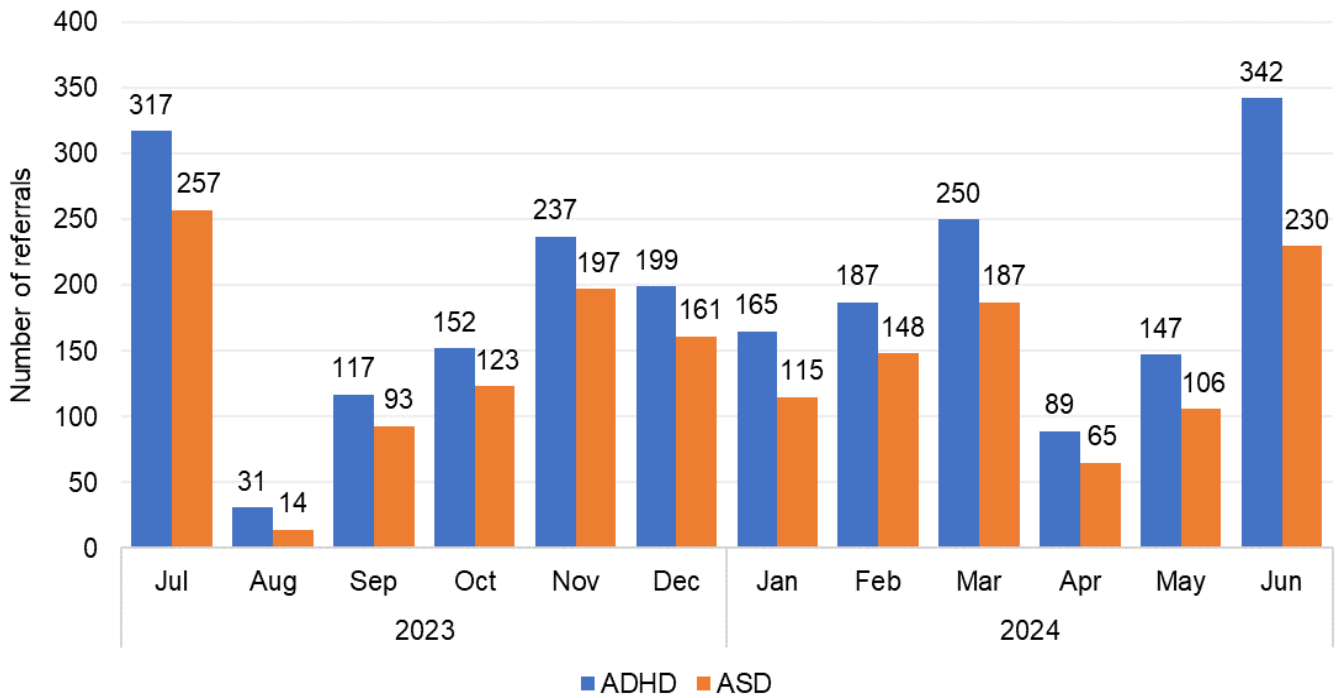
There were only 0.1% of newborn hearing screens declined in Q1 of 2023/24, the remaining screens between Q1 2022/23 and Q4 2023/24 were all accepted (Wirral Audiology Report, Internal Document (2024)).

7.4 Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic Pathway

This section covers referrals for Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) only. Development Coordination Disorder (DCD) is not included in the SEND Scorecard referrals data.

As **Figure 73** describes the number of referrals for ADHD has consistently been higher than ASD for each month of the period shown. The highest month for referrals for ADHD was in June 2024 (n=342), whilst the highest month of referrals for ASD was in July 2023 (n=257). For both conditions, the month with the lowest number of referrals was in August 2023 – 31 for ADHD and 14 for ASD. It should be noted that Schools are the main referrers to Wirral’s neurodevelopment diagnostic pathway, and so referral trends could reflect peaks and troughs consistent with school terms and holidays.

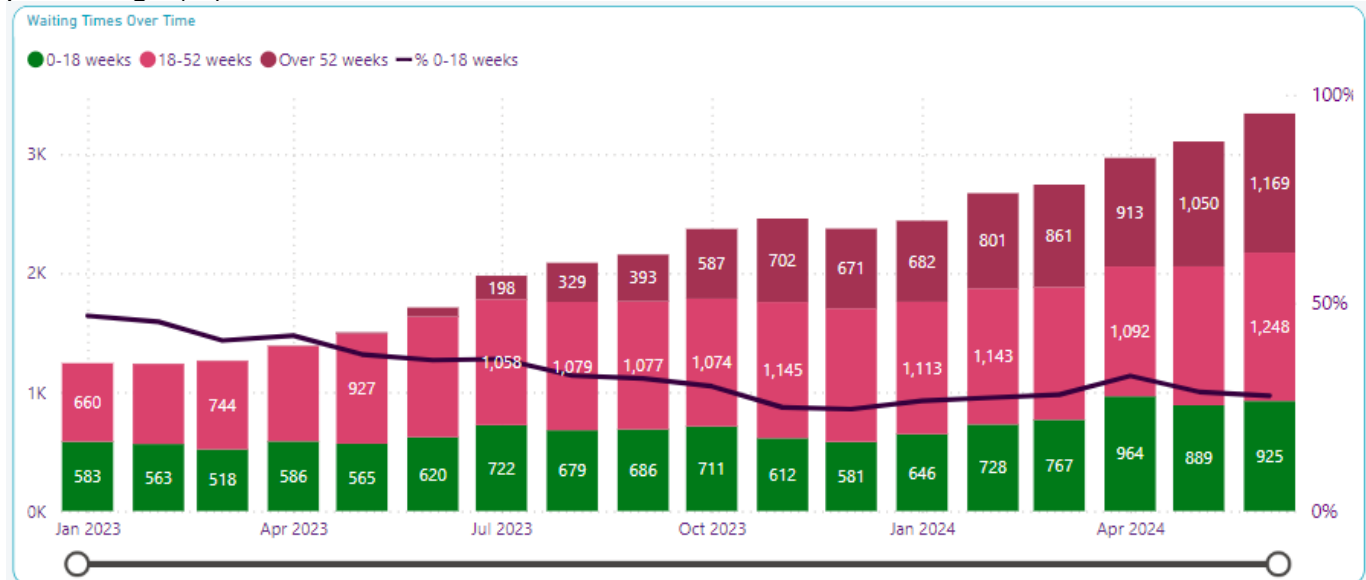
Figure 73: Number of Referrals by Neurodevelopment Condition, Wirral, July 2023 – June 2024



Source: Wirral Neurodevelopment Scorecard (Internal Document), 2024

All neurodevelopment referrals are currently seen by Wirral’s community paediatrics team following any required diagnostic assessments. **Figure 74** below shows the waiting times trend over time to be seen for a first appointment by a community paediatrician.

Figure 74: Number of Children and Young People (CYP) 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

In April 2023 there were 1,469 Children and Young People (CYP) waiting for assessment with none waiting more than 52 weeks. In June 2024, there were 3,442 CYP waiting for a first appointment with a community paediatrician (127.5% increase), with 1,169 of those waiting more than 52 weeks to be seen.

In June 2024, in addition to those waiting to be seen by a community paediatrician, there were 1,654 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 4,996.

- **Neurodevelopment Pathway** - Transformational work has been undertaken to design a new model of support and diagnosis for children with neurodevelopment needs which aligns to the NHS England, Autism guidance (2023) and best practice models across Cheshire & Merseyside. The ambition is to improve people's experiences and journey of care, shifting to a multi-professional disciplinary Neurodevelopment Team focusing on an individualised approach to need and earlier support building on the graduated approach. The diagnostic pathway will include a range of assessments that are to be undertaken within the (MDT). Key elements of the new model are as follows:
 - Screening and Triage through a multi-disciplinary team encompassing advice and support with a face-to-face appointment within 12 weeks.
 - Coordination of appropriate assessments to support diagnosis.
 - Diagnosing accordingly using a nurse led model for ADHD.
 - Education and support across a range of settings including the graduated approach in schools.
 - Leadership & Accountability for full delivery and associated Key Performance Indicators

The intention is for professionals to work closely with schools to provide support and appropriate assessments during the school day.

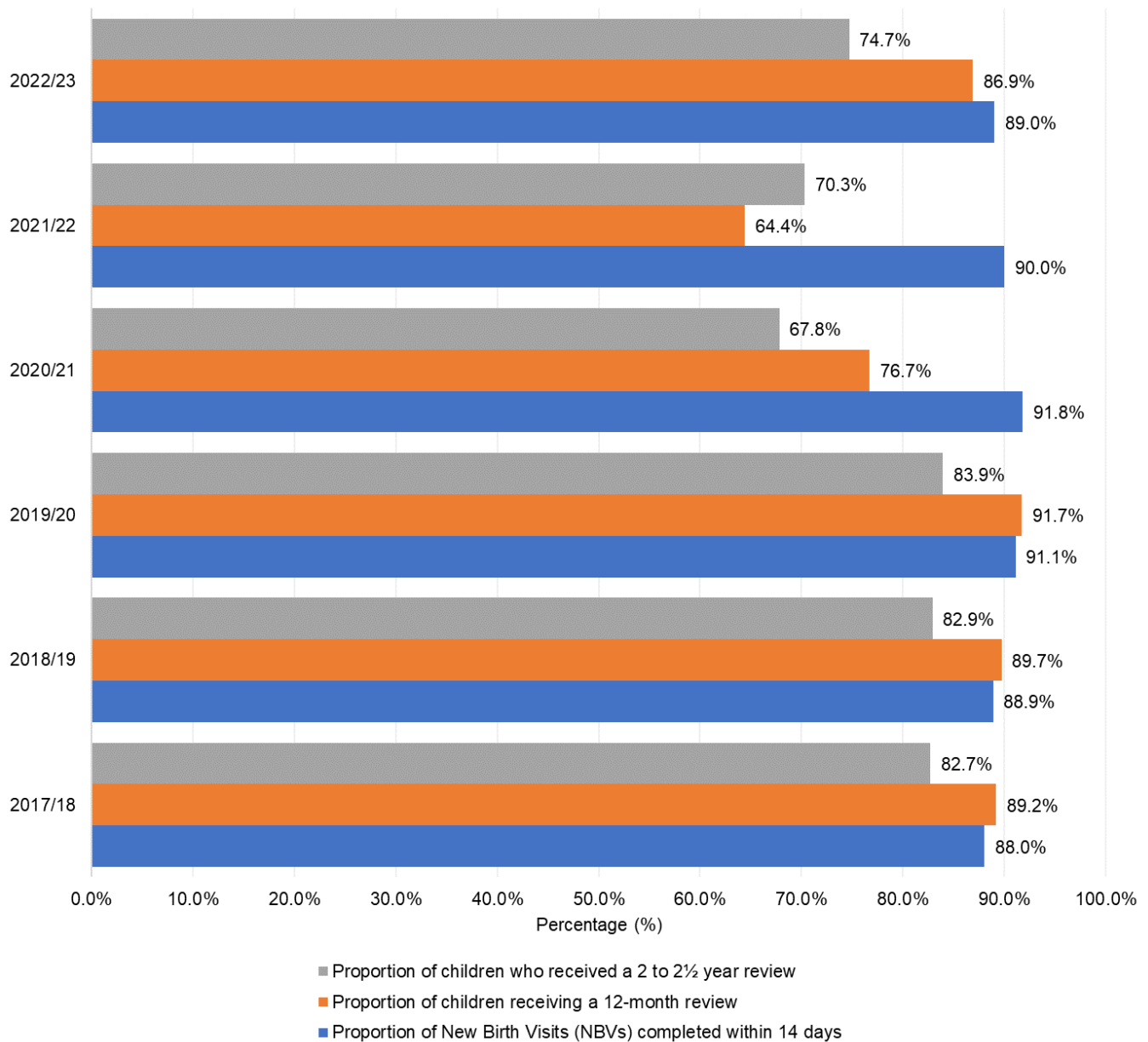
7.5 Health Visitors / School Nurses

Data in **Figure 75** show since 2017/18 the rates have improved within one out of three data measure areas, with the proportion of New Birth Visits (NBVs) completed within 14 days improving from 88.0% in 2017/18 to 89.0% in 2022/23.

There has been a slight reduction in the proportion of children receiving a 12-month review, with the rate decreasing from 89.2% in 2017/18 to 86.9% in 2022/23.

There has also been a reduction in the proportion of children receiving a 2 to 2½ year review, with the rate decreasing from 82.7% in 2017/18 to 74.7% in 2022/23.

Figure 75: Proportion of Health Visitor / School nurse reviews within timescale in Wirral, 2017/18 – 2022/23

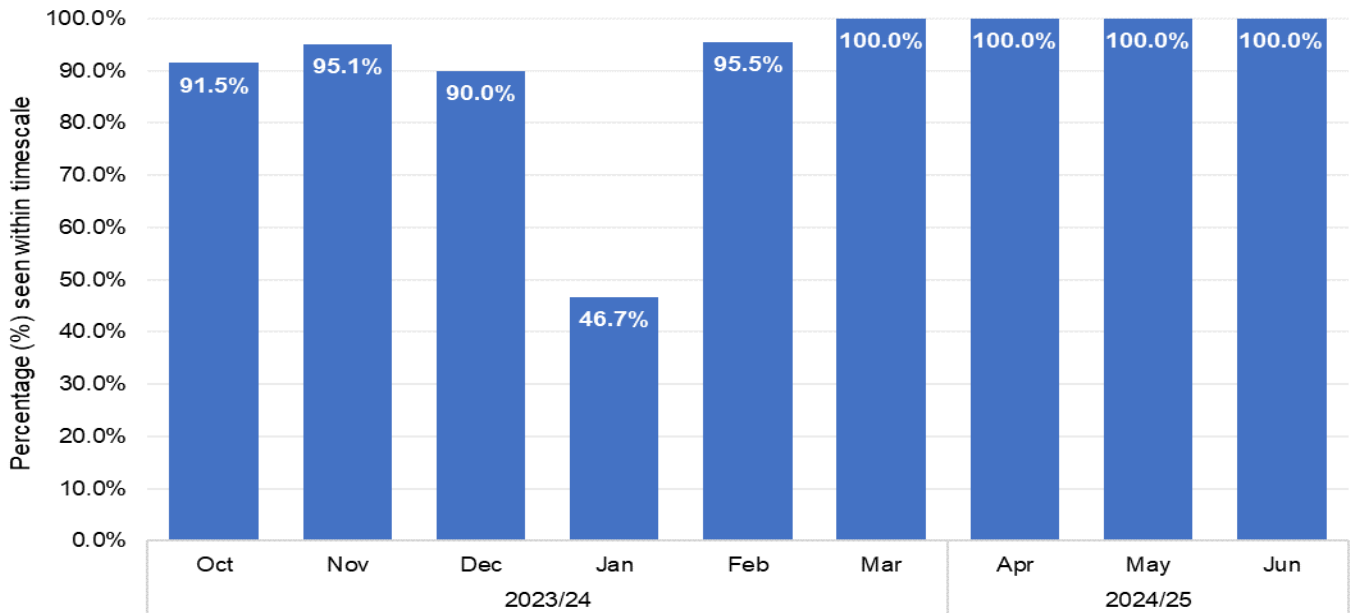


Source: Health Visitor and School Nurse Report, Internal Document (2024)

7.6 Paediatric Continence

The latest data (**Figure 76**), from October 2023, show that the rate of patients seen for paediatric continence within timescale has remained at 90% or above for all months (except for January 2024), and for the latest four months (March 2024 – June 2024), have been 100%.

Figure 76: Paediatric Continence percentage seen within statutory timescale, Wirral, (2023/24, 2024/25)

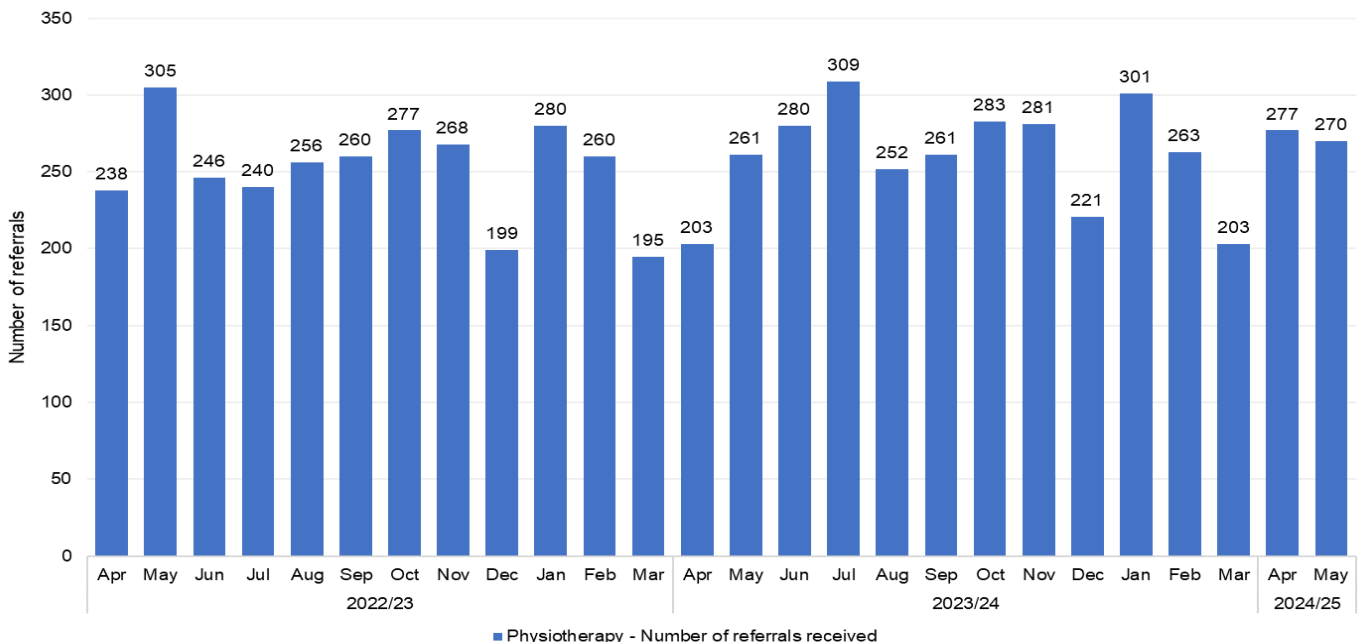


Source: Health Visitor and School Nurse Report, Internal Document (2024)

7.7 Physiotherapy (age 0 – 25 years)

Figure 77 shows that the number of physiotherapy referrals (age 0 – 25 years) have been steady between April 2022 and May 2024, varying from a low of 195 in March 2022 and a high of 309 in July 2023.

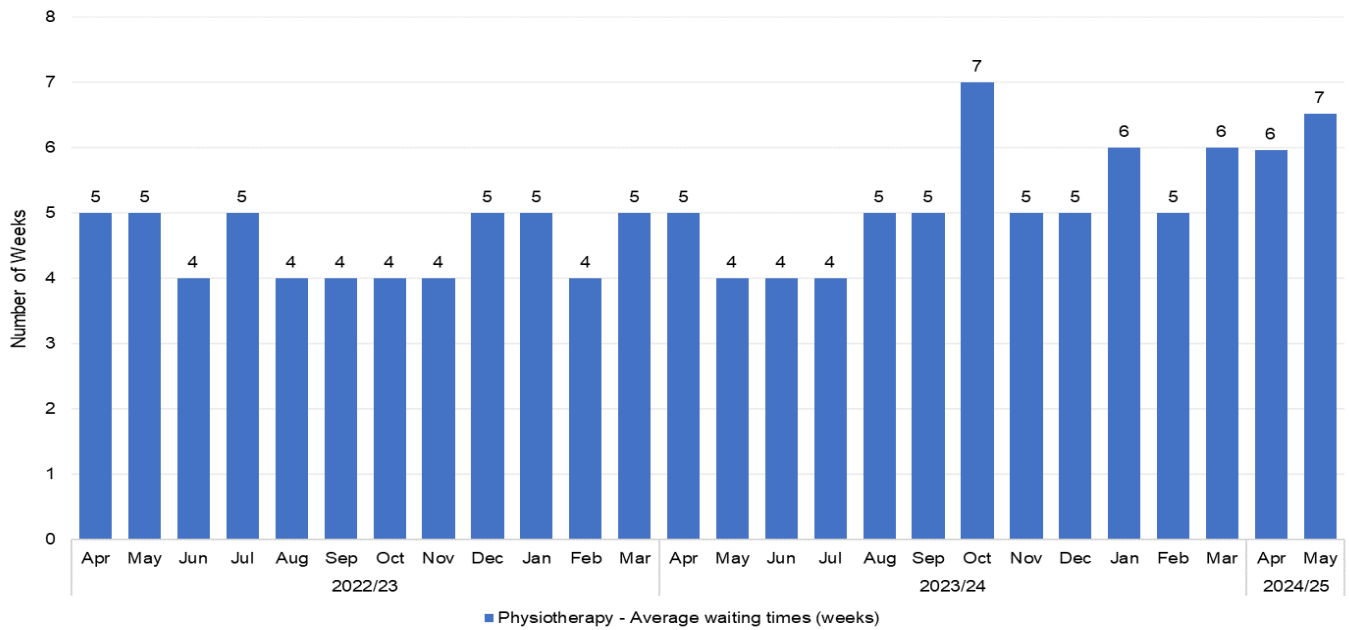
Figure 77: Numbers of Physiotherapy referrals received, aged 0 – 25 years, by month, April 2022/23 - May 2024/25, Wirral



Source: Wirral Health Report - Physiotherapy, Internal Document (2024)

Data in **Figure 78** shows that, despite the number of referrals remaining steady between April 2022/23 and May 2024/25, there has been a slight increase in the wait times (in weeks) of referrals to physiotherapy. The average waiting time in April 2022/23 was 5.0 weeks, whereas the latest data in May 2024/25 shows the average wait time is 6.52 weeks (rounded to 7 in the chart), an increase of 10 days.

Figure 78: Physiotherapy, average waiting times (age 0-25 years), in weeks per month, April 2022/23 - May 2024/25, Wirral

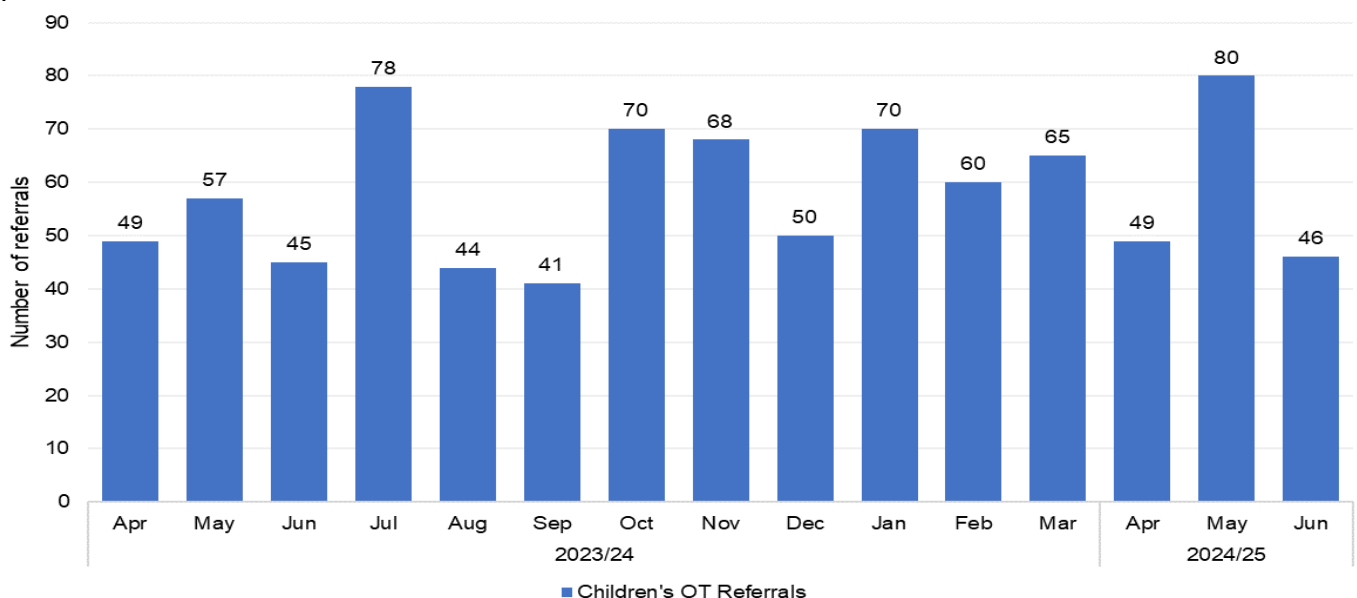


Source: Wirral Health Report - Physiotherapy, Internal Document (2024)

7.8 Paediatric Occupational Therapy (age 0 – 18 years)

Figure 79 shows data of children’s referrals for Paediatric Occupational Therapy for 2023/24 and Q1 of 2024/25. The trend shows a gradual increase in numbers of referrals per month, with the average number of referrals for Q1 2023/24 being fifty referrals, whilst in Q1 of 2024/25 the average was 58 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 September 2023/24 (n=41).

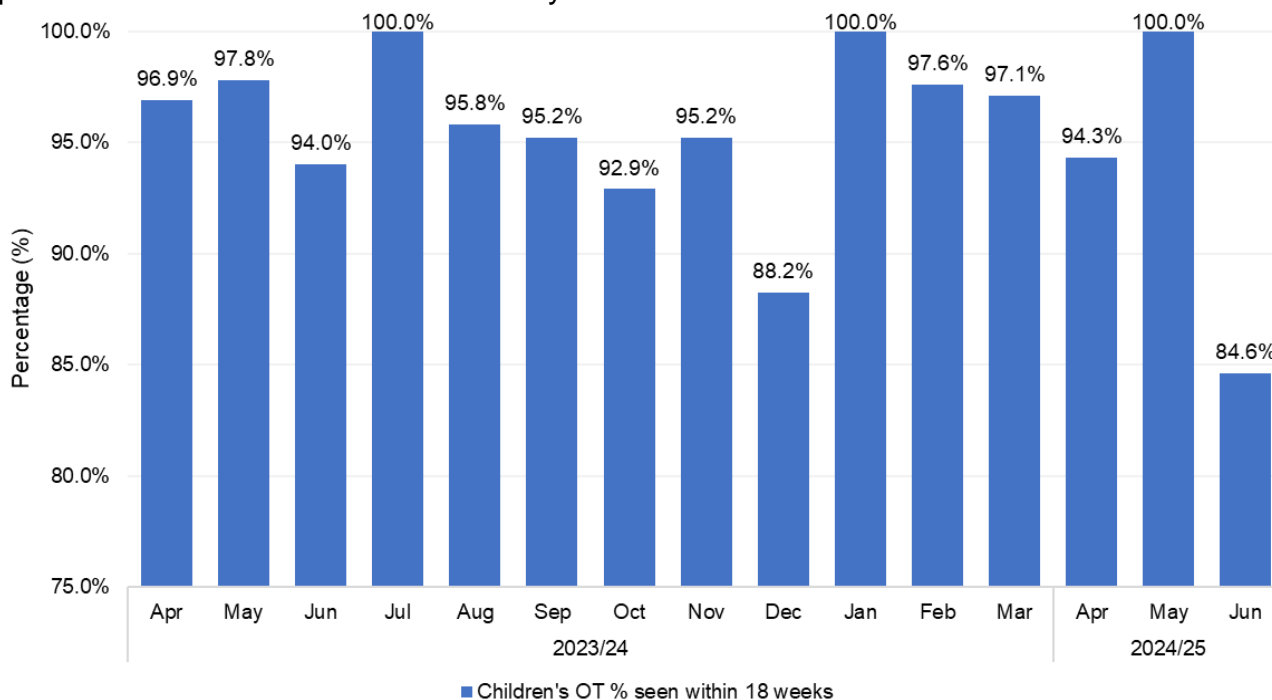
Figure 79: Number of referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy, aged 0 – 18 years, by month, April 2023/24 – June 2024/25 in Wirral



Source: Wirral Health Report – Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2024)

Data in Figure 80 shows that the general trend of the rate of Paediatric Occupational Therapy referrals seen within 18 weeks has reduced from 96.9% in April 2023/24 to 84.6% in June 2024/25. This is a reduction of over twelve percentage points.

Figure 80: The proportion of referrals to Paediatric Occupational Therapy seen with 18 weeks, April 2023/24 – June 2024/25 in Wirral by month



Source: Wirral Health Report – Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2024)

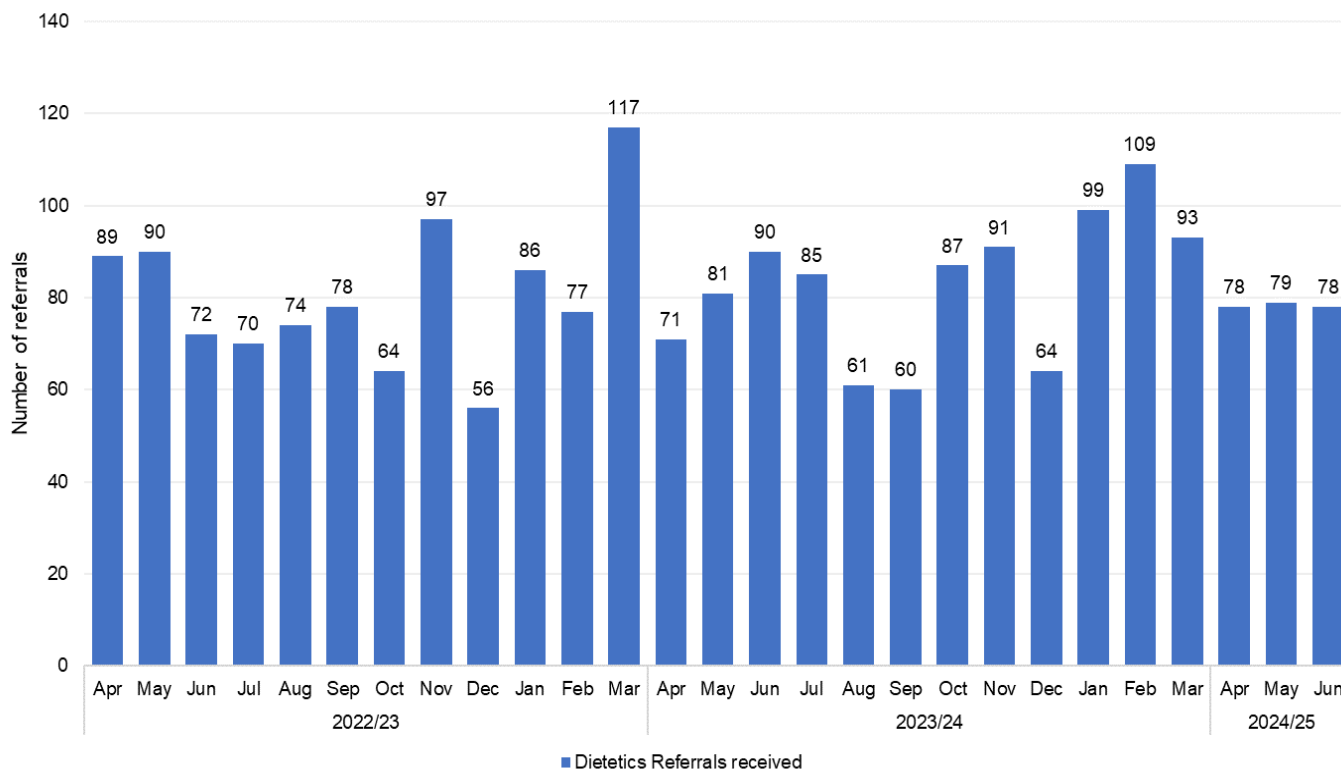
Over the same period, it was also seen that the average waiting time (in weeks) has increased from April 2023/24 to June 2024/25, from 5.3 weeks to 9.7 weeks (Wirral Health Report – Occupational Therapy, Internal Document (2024)). A recent review of this service identified a need to develop a sensory offer.

7.9 Dietetics

Data in **Figure 81** show that between April 2022/23 and June 2024/25 the number of referrals received by Dietetics has remained consistent, with most months ranging from between 70 and 100 referrals.

The exceptions to this are March 2022/23 and February 2023/24 (117 and 109 referrals respectively), and October 2022/23, December 2022/23, August 2023/24, September 2023/24 and December 2023/24 (64, 56, 61, 60 and 64 referrals respectively).

Figure 81: Number of referrals received to Dietetics, April 2022/23 – June 2024/25 in Wirral by month.

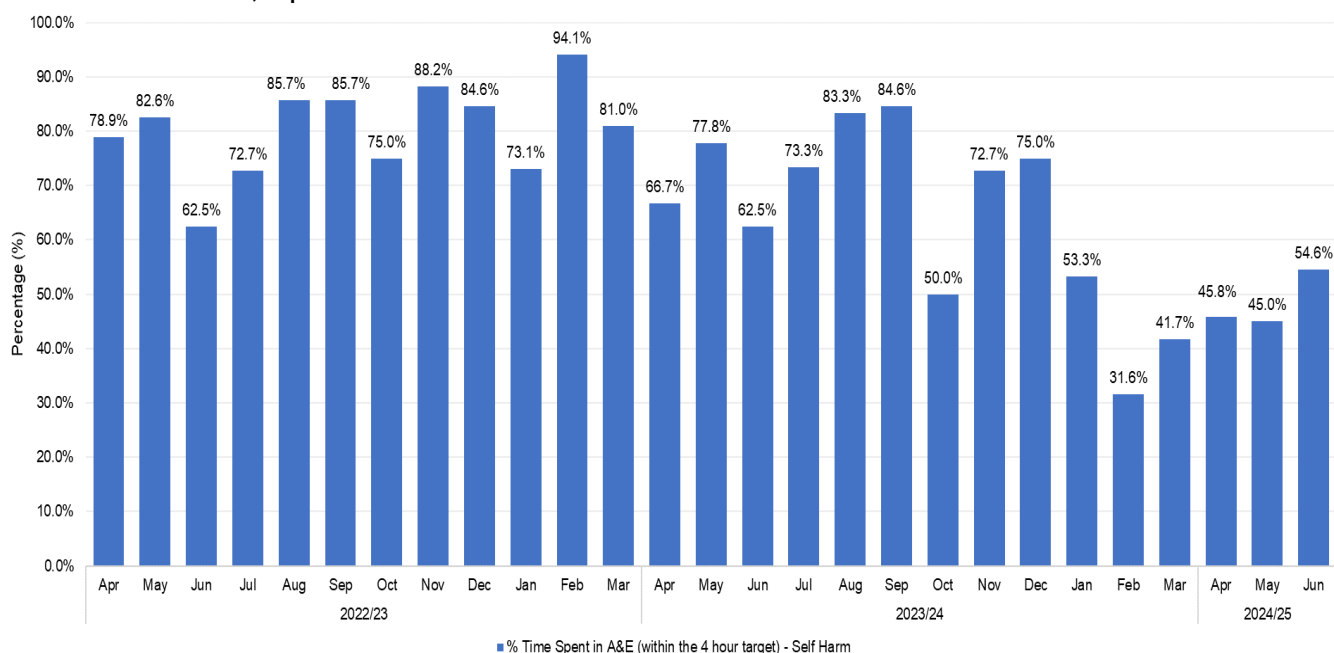


Source: Wirral Health Report - Dietetics, Internal Document (2024)

7.10 Accident and Emergency (A&E)

Data illustrated in **Figure 82** show that the general trend of patients presenting at A&E are less likely to be spending fewer than 4 hours in A&E for self-harm since April 2022/23 (78.9%) compared to the latest data of June 2024/25 (54.6%). In four of the most recent five months of data, more than half of patients presenting at A&E for self-harm were spending longer than four hours there.

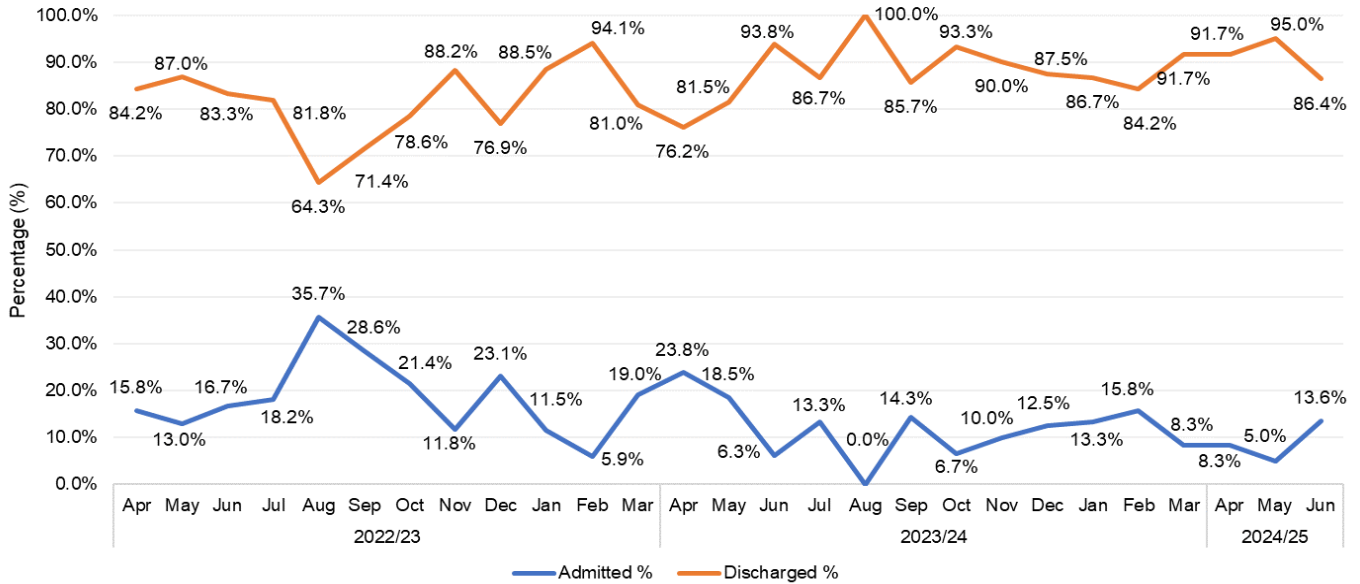
Figure 82: Proportion (%) of children spending under 4hrs in Accident and Emergency (A&E) for self-harm in Wirral, April 2022/23 – June 2024/25



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

Data illustrated in **Figure 83** 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 15.8% in April 2022/23 to 13.6% in June 2024/25. The proportion of discharged, however, has increased from 84.2% in April 2022/23 to 86.4% in June 2024/25.

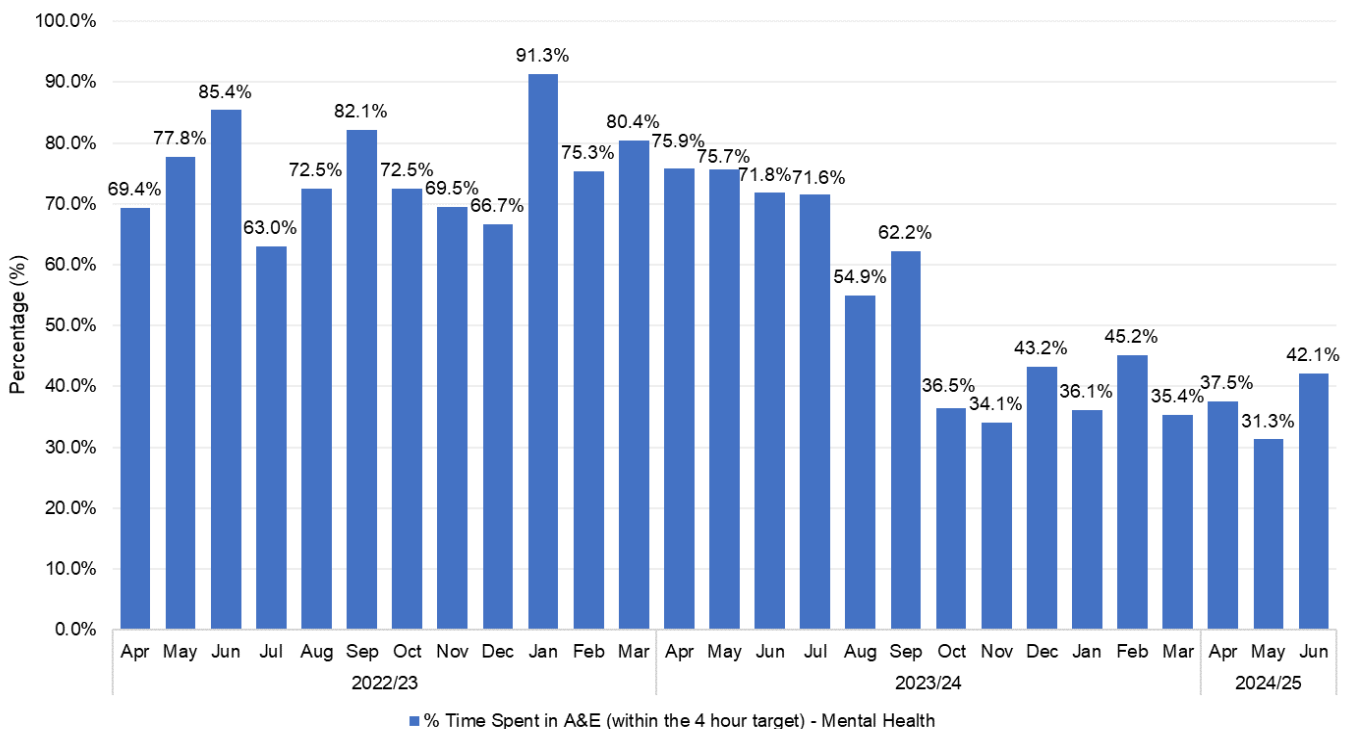
Figure 83: Proportion (%) of children admitted and discharged at Accident and Emergency (A&E) for self-harm in Wirral April 2022/23 – June 2024/25



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

Data illustrated in **Figure 84** show that the general trend of patients presenting at A&E are less likely to be spending fewer than 4 hours in A&E for mental health since April 2022/23 (69.4%) compared to the latest data of June 2024/25 (42.1%). In the most recent eight months of data, more than half of patients presenting at A&E for self-harm were spending longer than four hours there.

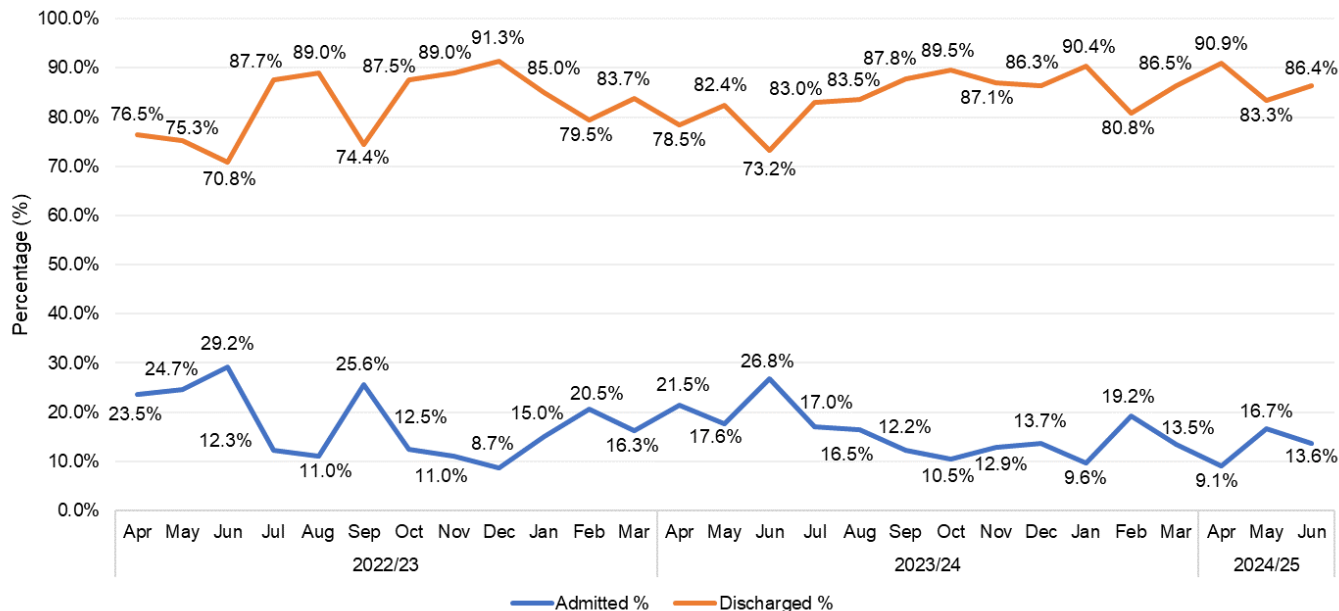
Figure 84: Proportion (%) of children spending under 4hrs in Accident and Emergency (A&E) for mental health in Wirral, April 2022/23 – June 2024/25



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

Data illustrated in **Figure 85** 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 13.6% in June 2024/25. The proportion of discharged, however, has increased from 76.5% in April 2022/23 to 86.4% in June 2024/25.

Figure 85: Proportion (%) of children admitted and discharged at Accident and Emergency (A&E) for mental health in Wirral April 2022/23 – June 2024/25



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

9.0 What is the data telling us?

9.1 Scene setting

[Please refer to Section 1.1](#)

9.2 Demographics

All SEND Cohort

Of all 0–25-year-old children and young people with SEND on Wirral, 62.5% have SEN Support while 37.5% have and EHCP.

Age Profile

For pupils with SEN Support, the rates on Wirral are higher amongst pupils up to the age of 12, as a total proportion of the SEN Support cohort. Before the age of 9 Wirral rates are lower than the rates in England. As a proportion of the SEN Support cohort.

The largest proportion of pupils with an EHCP are aged 12 on Wirral, compared to age 11 in England. EHCP children and young people follow the same trend compared to England as that of those children with SEN support (lower than England aged under 9 higher than England aged 9 and over)

Primary Needs

The most common primary need type for pupils with SEN Support on Wirral is Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. This is followed by Speech, Language and Communication needs, Specific Learning difficulties and Moderate Learning difficulties.

The Wirral profile does differ significantly from the England profile. Wirral has 29.3%, compared to England having 22.3% of the SEN Support pupils having Social, Emotional and Mental health as their Primary Need. This is a 31.4% difference. In addition, with Wirral on 8.4% and England on 15.8% for Moderate Learning Difficulties, there is 88.1% difference.

For pupils with an EHCP, the Primary Need with the greatest rate is Social, emotional and mental health, followed by Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech, language and Communication needs and Severe Learning Difficulties. There is a large variance between Wirral and England for EHCP Primary Needs, with Wirral at 14.4% of Primary Needs being Severe Learning Difficulties, compared to 7.9% in England. Nearly double the need on Wirral compared to England.

It can also be noted that for the Primary Need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Wirral is 22.9%, whilst England is 33.0%.

9.3 Schools, Education and Training

School Provision

For all children and young people (aged 0-25), the greatest proportion by population, reside in Leasowe and Moreton East (rate per 10,000 of the 0-25 Ward population). This is followed by Bidston and St James, Seacombe and Rock Ferry. However, if looking at total numbers rather than the rate per 10,000 of the 0-25 Ward population, then the highest number residing in each ward are firstly Bidston and St James, Seacombe then Leasowe and Moreton East followed by Birkenhead and Tranmere.

When looking at those on an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the greatest proportion, using the rate per 10,000, reside in Leasowe and Moreton East. This is followed by Bidston and St James, Seacombe and Rock Ferry. Looking away from the rate per 10,000 towards pure numbers, the highest number reside in Bidston and St James then Leasowe and Moreton East followed by Seacombe and Birkenhead and Tranmere. 42.4% of all pupils with an EHCP reside in the 10% most deprived wards.

For pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, the largest as a proportion of population per 10,000 reside in Bidston St. James, followed by Leasowe and Moreton East, Seacombe and Rock Ferry. Looking away from the rate per 10,000 towards pure numbers, the highest number reside in Bidston St. James, followed by Seacombe, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Leasowe and Moreton East. 42.9% of all pupils with SEN Support reside in the 10% most deprived wards.

Both the proportion by population and total numbers appear to correlate to levels of deprivation, with 42.1% of all pupils on Wirral with SEND residing in the most deprived 10% of wards in England.

Education setting

Of all pupils with SEN Support, 49.6% attend a Primary School setting. Looking at the individual Wards, Upton has 3.5% of the wards total SEN Support population in a Nursery setting. Clatterbridge has the highest proportion of all Wards SEN Support population in a Primary School Setting, at 59.6%. West Kirby and Thursaston, at 61.1% has the highest of all Wards total SEN Support population being in a Secondary school.

Of all pupils with an EHCP, 45.4% attend a Special School, with the majority attending a Special Primary school. Of all Wards, Birkenhead and Tranmere has the highest proportion of pupils with an EHCP attending a Special School, at 52.7% of the ward EHCP population. The ward with the highest proportion attending a Nursery is Upton. For Primary is Rock Ferry and for Secondary is West Kirby and Thurstaston.

Free School meals

48.6% of pupils with SEN Support are eligible for Free School Meals. For pupils with an EHCP, the rate is higher, at 51.0%. Both these rates are significantly higher than the 'all Wirral' school pupil rate of 29.4%

Attainment

For those with an EHCP, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS1 was 11%, for writing it was 4% and maths it was 12%.

For those with an EHCP, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS2 was 18%, for writing it was 8% and maths it was 11%. Those achieving the expected level of development across all subjects (reading, writing and maths), was 5%.

For those with an SEN support, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS1 was 33%, for writing it was 18% and maths it was 35%.

For those with an SEN support, latest figures for 2024/25 shows that, those achieving the expected level of development in reading in KS2 was 49%, for writing it was 36% and maths it was 40%. Those achieving the expected level of development across all subjects (reading, writing and maths), was 25%.

9.4 Social Care

For Children and Young People with SEN Support, data shows that 24.7% are also Child in Need and this rate is increasing, whilst the national rate has remained around 21% over the last six reported years.

Rates for Children and Young People with SEN Support and Child Protection have stayed level between 2019 and 2024, but with a slight increase in 2022 to 21.8% compared to an average of between 18% and 19% for the other five reported years. The full Children and Young People cohort has seen rate static for the same time period of on average 0.5%.

30.1% of Children and Young People with SEN Support are also a Child Looked After. This rate is higher than the England rate of 27.2% but has dropped by 6.0 percentage points since 2017. 19.6% of the Wirral CLA cohort also has an EHCP, which is significantly higher than the full Children and Young People cohort, where 0.4% are CLA. However, this rate is noticeably lower than the rates in England (30.2%).

For Children and Young People with and EHCP, latest data has 27.1% also being a Child in Need, a rate that is similar to that in England (26.9%), but significantly higher than the 1.8% of all Children and Young People on Wirral being a Child Looked After.

The rate of Children and Young People with an EHCP and Child Protection has grown significantly since 2020 (4.2%) to 2024, now 13.2%.

9.5 Early Years

Birth rates on Wirral continue to decline, with them decreasing by 13.5% from 2019 to 2022, which is similar to the National rate decreasing by over 5% over the same period. The highest rates of birth in last full year (2023), were in Bidston St. James, where 7.5% of all birth mothers from Wirral resided.

Of all Early Years pupils with SEND, 60.9% have an EHCP and 39.1% have SEN Support. Of those with an EHCP, the most common Primary Need is Moderate Learning Difficulty, making up 50.9% of all EHCP Primary Needs.

Of those with SEN Support, most common primary need is Speech, Language and Communication needs, being 61.1% of all those with SEN Support.

The largest proportion of under 5's with an EHCP reside in Birkenhead and Tranmere and for those with SEN Support they reside in Seacombe. This is supported by the fact that 54.9% of all Early Years SEND pupils reside in areas on most deprivation, decile one, or 10% most deprived in England.

9.6 Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

The number of final-plan EHCP's issued, has increased steadily from 141 in 2019 to the latest full year reporting for 2023, to 368, this gives an increase between 2019 and 2023 of over 260%.

Educational Psychology Advices completed in 6 weeks have seen rates below 30% the past two full years with the trajectory reducing into 2024/25. With the latest data from Q1 2024/25 showing 11.6% of advices within 6 weeks. Advices in Social care have remained well above 90% for the same time period and for health advices the levels have fluctuated between 100% compliance to lows of 24% for the six services offering this support.

The number of Mediations taking place in 2024 is 7 (to July 2024) while the number of tribunals for the up to the same time period in 2024 have been 63.

9.7 Health

Within the Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic Pathway:

- There is a national increase in Neurodevelopmental (ND) referrals and other areas are experiencing similar unprecedented demand of referrals for assessment. Whilst it is recognised that the Covid pandemic has influenced the volume of referrals, it is unclear when the increase will plateau as the service continues to experience elevated referral numbers for all three pathways.
- It is difficult to identify those children and young people who are presenting with behaviours that could be similar to ADHD (for example) but are unlikely to gain a diagnosis of ADHD as their behaviours are linked to the emotional impact of the Covid pandemic.
- In essence there may be children and young people being referred to the ND pathways where a referral would not previously have been made.

- The significant increase in referrals and demand for neurodevelopmental diagnosis has led to a large increase in the waiting list and waiting times. In June 2024, there were 3,342 Children and Young People (CYP) waiting to see a community paediatrician and 1,169 of these (35%) were waiting 52 weeks or more.
- The number of CYP Mental Health Services referrals is down in Quarter 1 2024/25 compared to the same quarter last year, showing a 5.5% decrease.
- Decreased referral numbers have meant decreased numbers seen by the service. However, the rate for access to seen within 18 weeks has increased, with the latest two months (May and June 2024/25), showing 100% and 99% seen within 18 weeks.
- This coincides with a decrease in the average wait time from referral to access to CYP Mental Health Services. In April 2023/24, this figure was 14 weeks, whilst in June 2024/25, the figure was 7 weeks – a decrease of 50%, or half the time.
- Since Q4 2022/23, in general, there is a decreasing trend in the number of referrals to SALT service, with a 29.3% decrease between Q4 2022/23 and Q4 2023/24.

For more information

Please email us at phintelligence@wirral.go.uk