

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2025

MEMBER QUESTIONS

M1	<p>Submitted by Councillor Catherine Powell</p> <p><i>“Please can the Cabinet Member provide the following information relating to this year’s Key Stage Transfer (KST) statutory process for children and young people with SEND</i></p> <p><i>a. How many children in each key stage cohort (Early Years, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4) had a finalised EHCP by 15 February this year?</i></p> <p><i>b. Out of those children, by the 15th of February 2025, how many of the children in each key stage cohort for which that is the relevant deadline had:</i></p> <p><i>i. A type of setting identified but no named school/placement?</i></p> <p><i>ii. A named school/placement identified?</i></p> <p><i>iii. No school or setting recorded in Section I</i></p> <p><i>c. By cohort, of those children with a finalised EHCP by 15th February this year where a placement / school has been named, in how many cases does the named placement / school not match the setting type identified in their EHCP e.g., mainstream school or mainstream specialist unit where the need for a specialist school has been identified?</i></p> <p><i>d. Does the service have a goal for when a type of setting will be converted into a named school/placement for each cohort?</i></p> <p><i>e. How many children with an EHCP in each key stage cohort who had a Key Stage Transfer starting in September 2024 are still without a named placement / school?</i></p> <p><i>f. How many children with an EHCP in each key stage cohort who had a Key Stage Transfer starting in September 2024 have yet to attend their named placement / school, or are persistently absent?</i></p> <p><i>g. How many children in each key stage cohort who should have received a finalised EHCP for Phase Transfer by 15 February 2025 did not have an updated plan issued by the statutory deadline?</i></p>
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Answer

- a. **2,085** pre-16 pupils started the key stage transfer process for September 2025,

Year Group	Number of pupils
Year R	196
Year 3	786
Year 7	1,103
Total	2,085

The EHCPs for 106 of these pupils were not finalised and would have not received a final prior to the statutory deadline for one of the following reasons; a live appeal where we are unable to amend the EHCP (however families received a letter explaining this), they moved out of county mid process, they deferred their year group, or their EHCP has been ceased.

- b. i. **258** pre-16 pupils had a placement Named By Type in their final EHCP for the February 15 deadline . The breakdown by year group is below:

	Year R Transition	Year 3 Transition	Year 7 Transition	Total
Name by Type	31	87	127	245
Live Appeal	0	4	9	13
Total	31	91	136	258

13 pre-16 pupils had a live appeal at the time of the deadline, and therefore their EHCP could not be amended to name by type, however all the families were contacted by phone and a letter was sent to them confirming next steps.

Prior to an EHCP being issued ahead of 15 February deadline where the EHCP named a type of setting rather than a school, all parents were contacted to by phone to inform and reassure them that we are continuing to pursue a school placement for September 2025 and explained that the EHCP currently names a type.

- ii. 1,721 pre-16 pupils had a named school finalised in their EHCP by 15 February 2025.
- iii. None; 1,721 had a named school and 258 had a placement named by type.

C.

	Year R	Year 3	Year 7	Total
Special School or Centre Recommended but placed in Mainstream – Parental Preference	2	3	9	14
Special School or Centre Recommended but placed in Mainstream – Not Parental Preference	0	0	0	0

Where the recommendation was for a special school or centre provision and the pupils were placed in a mainstream school, this is where parents had made a preference for this mainstream school. The level of support is being reviewed in order to support the placement in a mainstream setting.

- d. We are working to ensure that all of the February 15 deadline Name By Type pre-16 pupils (258) have secured an appropriate placement for the start of the academic year.
- e. For the pupils in the statutory group as at February 15 2024, there are now **13** pupils currently accessing AP or remaining in their nursery where their EHCP named specialist. This has reduced by **242** pupils since February 15 2024.

Year Group (Sept 24)	Number of Pupils
R	4
3	2
7	7
Total	13

There are a further **3** pupils who have remained on roll at their mainstream school whilst we are securing a specialist placement. Work with the mainstream school is ongoing to support the children.

- f. In order to collate this information, we require more time than is available because while we have data on attendance, our system does not differentiate between the 2,351 pupil that went through KST 2024 as a specific group and this would have to be collated manually.
- g. We are aware of one child who due to an address change mid process, who did not receive a final EHCP by the statutory deadline. This was rectified on 24 February 2025, confirming a placement at a named school.

M2

Submitted by Councillor Catherine Powell

“Please can the Cabinet Member advise the following regarding post 16 education for young people with EHCPs and / or learning difficulties.

- a. What is SCC’s obligation to provide an educational place that meets the requirements defined in an EHCP?*
- b. As of 1 March 2025 how many KST post 16 young people have a type of setting only identified, and how many have a named placement / school?*
- c. For young people moving into post 16 placements in September 2025, is the service on target to name a placement / school for all by the end of March? If not, approximately what percentage of young people will only have a type of setting named?”*

Answer

- a. The Participation of Young People in Education, Employment or Training (2024) guidance places a duty on local authorities to pay particular attention to children and young people with additional needs and disabilities (AND). The law requires all young people to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday, or until the end of the academic year they turn 18. Defining participation can be broken down into:

- Full Time Education
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Supported Internships
- Employment with Part Time Education or Training

For young people moving from secondary school to a post-16 institution or different participation pathway, the EHCP must be reviewed, amended if necessary, and finalised naming a type of institution or naming a specific institution by 31 March of the calendar year of the transfer.

- b. Due to the statutory deadline being 31 March 2025, there are currently no young people with a type of institution named on their EHCP. Discussions with provisions and pathways for pupils are still underway and placements being sought.

There are 1,052 young people with an EHCP going through the key stage transfer process transitioning from Year 11 into Year 12. Of these young people, 324 have a confirmed placement whilst liaising with provisions to confirm type or placement for the remaining 728.

- c. Post 16 KST, unlike KST for younger age groups, there are a much wider range of options available, and it is very different as there is no limit to the number of offers any one young person can have. The majority of young people will not yet have decided on the college or course they wish to undertake at this time, and in many cases, confirmation of GCSE exam

	<p>results is required to be assured of entry to their preferred course, subject or sector of interest and employment pathway. All these factors make it difficult to confirm which college and course they will attend. Moreover, as with any young person there is a careers element to their decisions and in many cases, they have not reached a decision by 31 March for the beginning of September. Hence this combination of multiple offers and the very early deadline date means in a significant number of cases, young people and their families have not yet decided on their preferred GFE college or course by 31 March, so naming a provision is not helpful in these circumstances, for the young person and the college.</p> <p>For the September 2024 cohort at the statutory deadline, 23.5% of pupils had GFE named by type for the above reasons and they required a general further education placement (non-specialist). A further 8.5% of pupils had specialist named by type in their EHCP for the deadline.</p> <p>The Service is on track to name a placement or type by the 31 March statutory deadline for the 2025 cohort of pupils, and we are anticipating a similar percentage of name by type to that of 2024.</p>
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M3	<p>Submitted by Councillor Catherine Powell</p> <p><i>“Please can the Cabinet Member advise the following regarding post 19 education for young people with EHCPs and / or learning difficulties.</i></p> <p><i>a. What are SCC’s obligations in respect of young people with an EHCP who want to transfer to post 19 provision?</i></p> <p><i>b. As of 1 March 2025, how many post 19 young people with an EHCP - and who have chosen post 19 provision - have a type of setting only identified, and how many have a named college / placement?</i></p> <p><i>c. For young people moving into post 19 placements in September 2025, is the service on target to name a placement for all young people by the end of March? If not, approximately what percentage of young people will only have a type of setting named?”</i></p> <p>Answer</p> <p>a. Post 19 is not a KST year group, but Surrey County Council (SCC) has specific obligations for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who wish to transfer to post-19 provision. These obligations are guided by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued Support: SCC must not cease an EHCP simply because a young person turns 19. The plan should continue if the young person needs more time to achieve their educational or training outcomes and make a successful transition to adulthood. 2. Assessment and Review: SCC must conduct regular reviews of the EHCP to ensure that the educational, health, and care needs of the
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young person are being met. This includes considering any additional support required for further education, training, or employment.

3. **Suitable Placement:** SCC is responsible for securing a suitable educational placement that meets the needs outlined in the EHCP. This could include further education colleges, training providers including vocational pathways, or supported internships.
4. **Preparation for Adulthood:** SCC must support young people in preparing for adulthood, which includes planning for higher education, employment, independent living, and participation in the community.

Post-19 is non-statutory for education, so SCC young people with an active EHCP can if they choose not to engage, be NEET or even simply not attend a provision currently.

- b. In Surrey, as of 6 March 2025, there are approximately 2,325 EHCPs for young people in National Curriculum Years (NCY) 14 through to NCY 20. Since all these young people are either already 19 or will turn 19 this academic year, this number represents the total of our post-19 cohort (19-25) with an active EHCP. The number of SCC learners with EHCP's from NCY 15 to NC20 (20–25-year-olds) is 1,582. So the number of young people in NCY 14 is 743.

Of the 2,325 post-19 cohort, 162 SCC young people with an EHCP are recorded as NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) currently we are actively working with this group to support them to engage.

- c. For post-19 students, the local authority (LA) is not required to name a specific 'type of setting' in Section I of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for the next academic year. This is because education is no longer statutory for this age group. The focus for post-19 students is on preparing for adulthood, which includes outcomes related to employment, independent living, community participation, and health.

Approximately annually 5% with complex health needs will be open to Health support as Continuing Health Care eligible and will receive support beyond age 25 and in most cases will have lifelong support. A further 11% will be eligible for Adult Social Care support and will also have lifelong support either as jointly funded and supported with SEND if in a residential setting with an EHCP or if in a day placement on a pathway to Adult Social Care support when their EHCP ceases.

In line with the Code of Practice 9.181, transitions between different Post 16 institutions can happen at various times in a calendar year and the review process must take account of this, therefore this is not bound by the 31 March deadline. The LA however, must still ensure that the EHCP is tailored to the individual needs of the young person and supports their transition to adulthood effectively. It is not possible to estimate how many Post 19 pupils will not have a specific institution named as this transition work continues throughout the academic year on an ongoing basis.

M4

Submitted by Councillor Catherine Powell

“Please can the Cabinet Member advise how many EHCP appeals in 2023/24 and to date this year relate to section I, and how many were upheld?”

Answer

When analysing EHCP appeal data, Surrey County Council distinguishes between appeals related solely to Section I (placement) and those concerning Sections B, F, and I (contents and placement).

2023/24 Appeals Data

- 222 appeals were registered against Section I (placement only). Of those that have been heard, the LA position was upheld in 18% of cases.
- 265 appeals were registered against Sections BFI (contents and placement). Of those that have been heard:
 - The LA position was upheld in 16% of cases.
 - A further 24% of cases were partially upheld in favour of the local authority.

Due to an average 12-month waiting time for a hearing date with SENDIST, many cases registered in 2023/24 are still awaiting resolution. Officers continue to work with families to reach agreements where possible before cases proceed to tribunal.

2024/25 Appeals Data (to date)

- 139 appeals have been registered against Section I (placement only).
- 121 appeals have been registered against Sections BFI (contents and placement).

Given the current SENDIST backlog, cases registered this academic year have not yet been heard. Officers will continue working with families to resolve disputes at the earliest opportunity.

Surrey County Council remains committed to reducing the need for tribunal escalation by improving early dispute resolution, engaging with families constructively, and ensuring timely and legally robust decision-making.

M5

Submitted by Councillor Mark Sugden

“Can the Committee confirm whether the Cullum Centre at Hinchley Wood School is classed by SCC as mainstream or specialist, what has been the recent historical number of SCC placements at the Cullum Centre and how many placements are approved for this coming school year?”

Answer

As with all units or specialist resource provision in Surrey, they are regarded as specialist provision above a mainstream placement, however, as they are not registered with the DfE as separate institutions and encompassed within the mainstream school’s registration, it is the mainstream school that is named on a final EHCP. The interventions and provision stated in section F however, should reflect that of specialist interventions provided by the unit or specialist resource provision.

The planned places for Hinchley Wood Cullum Centre for Academic Year 2024/2025 is 20 places which is their maximum capacity. The planned places for Academic Year 2025/2026 agreed with the school through the annual ESFA return, is to remain at 20 places in line with their maximum capacity.

	Planned Places	Number on roll
Academic Year 2024/2025	20 (maximum capacity)	20
Academic Year 2025/2026	20 (maximum capacity)	20

Projecting to Academic year 2025/2026, we are aware there will be two pupils aging out of the provision, and two pupils have been agreed for a year 7 September 2025 start through the key stage transfer process.

M6

Submitted by Councillor Jonathan Essex*“Question 1:*

- a. Please provide a breakdown of Surrey's current SEND school places in SEND units in mainstream schools and publicly funded specialist schools (funded through council and direct by government for different types of SEND needs located in each of Surrey's Borough and District Council areas.*
- b. Please provide a breakdown of the SEND school places currently proposed in the capital programme again broken down by borough and district council areas split for mainstream SEND unit or specialist school and then broken down by SEND provision type (including distinguishing between different types of autism provision).*
- c. Please provide a similar breakdown of average home-to-school transport distances by borough and District councillors area and provision type.”*

Answered by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning**a) Places in Maintained Special Schools as of Academic Year 2024/25**

Borough/District	Complex ASD (CSCN)	ASD (COIN)	SEMH	MLD (LAN)	SLD
Elmbridge	0	77	0	0	88
Epsom & Ewell	141	0	0	12	0
Guildford	149	0	61	130	47
Mole Valley	147	0	80	154	104
Reigate & Banstead	74	0	0	216	88
Runnymede	60	0	0	230	0
Spelthorne	0	0	0	0	85
Surrey Heath	0	0	82	180	145
Tandridge	15	175	0	0	70
Waverley	0	154	63	158	109
Woking	234	0	0	110	0

Places in Maintained Mainstream Schools with SEN Units/ Specialist Resourced Provision as of Academic Year 2024/25

Borough/District	ASD (High COIN)	SLCN (Low COIN)	MLD (LAN)	HI	VI
Elmbridge	132	6	16	0	0
Epsom & Ewell	29	15	0	27	0
Guildford	23	28	14	15	0
Mole Valley	48	41	16	0	0
Reigate & Banstead	36	33	14	0	0
Runnymede	57	41	28	0	0
Spelthorne	63	20	2	0	0
Surrey Heath	7	23	0	0	0
Tandridge	12	36	0	0	24
Waverley	63	30	12	0	0
Woking	0	0	16	0	20

This, and further information, is available on the Surrey website [here](#) and can be navigated by district and borough from the left-hand menu.

b) Table 1 sets out the twenty-six remaining SEND and AP Construction Projects to be delivered by Surrey County Council's SEND and AP Capital Programmes as of March 2025.

Table 1: Remaining projects deliverable by Surrey's SEND and AP Capital Programmes (2024/25-2027/28)

No	Project	Capital Prog	Additional Built Places	Reprovided existing accommodation	District/Borough	Provision Type	School Designation	Project Status
In Contract - Committed								
1	Dovers Green Primary School	SEND	8	16	Reigate & Banstead	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	In Contract (completes Mar 2025)
2	Fordway Centre	AP	0	24	Spelthorne	Alternative Provision Academy	Alternative Provision	In Contract (completes Mar 2025)
3	Ashford Park Primary School	SEND	4	21	Spelthorne	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	In Contract (completes Oct 2025)
4	Walton Leigh School	SEND	0	20	Elmbridge	Special School	SLD/PMLD	In Contract (completes Apr 2025)
5	Hopescourt School	SEND	200	0	Elmbridge	Special School	ASD	In Contract (completes Mar 2026)
6	Guildford County School	SEND	25	0	Guildford	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	In Contract (completes June 2025)
Total			237	81				
In Development – Committed and Live								
7	Pond Meadow School	SEND	51	0	Guildford	Special School	ASD/SLD	Contract start on site April 2025
8	Hythe Primary School	SEND	16	25	Runnymede	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD/MLD	Contract start on site May 2025
9	Manor Mead School, Satellite site	SEND	60	0	Runnymede	Special School	ASD/SLD	Procurement. Information Sharing event April-May 2025
10	St John the Baptist School	SEND	30	0	Woking	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	Contract start on site June 2025
11	Portesbery School	SEND	15	18	Surrey Heath	Special School	SLD/PMLD	Contract start on site June 2025
12	Bramley Oak Academy	SEND	43	6	Guildford	Special School	SEMH	Contract start on site June 2025

13	Brooklands College	SEND	30	30	Elmbridge	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	Contract start on site Sep 2025
14	Three Rivers Academy	SEND	30	0	Elmbridge	Mainstream SEN Unit	ASD	Concept Design following agreed change of scope Feb 2025
15	North East Surrey Short Stay School	AP	15	45	Elmbridge	Alternative Provision School	Alternative Provision	Contractor appointed under PCSA. Pre-app commences May 2025
16	Walton Leigh School, Hurst Road campus	SEND	60	0	Elmbridge	Special School	SLD/PMLD	Procurement. Public Consultation /Information Sharing event April-May 2025
17	Reigate Valley College, Parkhall campus	AP	10	62	Reigate & Banstead	Alternative Provision Academy	Alternative Provision	Planning (deferral Nov 2024)
18	Wey Valley College	AP	0	44	Guildford	Alternative Provision Academy	Alternative Provision	Concept design
19	Woodlands School	SEND	32	16	Mole Valley	Special School	SLD/PMLD	Concept design
TOTAL			356	246				
Planned – Deliverable by Surrey County Council within approved budget allocations								
20	Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision 1	SEND	20	0	TBC	Mainstream SRP	ASD	Identifying sponsor/ awaiting Service re-prioritisation decision end of March 2025
21	Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision 2	SEND	20	0	TBC	Mainstream SRP	ASD	Identifying sponsor/ awaiting Service re-prioritisation decision end of March 2025
22	Secondary Specialist	SEND	20	0	TBC	Mainstream SRP	ASD	Identifying sponsor/ awaiting

	Resourced Provision 3							Service re-prioritisation decision end of March 2025
23	Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision 4	SEND	20	0	TBC	Mainstream SRP	ASD	Identifying sponsor/ awaiting Service re-prioritisation decision end of March 2025
24	Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision 5	SEND	20	0	TBC	Mainstream SRP	ASD	Identifying sponsor/ awaiting Service re-prioritisation decision end of March 2025
25	North West Short Stay School	AP	16	24	Woking	Alternative Provision	Alternative Provision	Awaiting Service decision on proposals by end of March 2025
26	Brooklands School	SEND	21	0	Reigate & Banstead	Special School	SLD/ASD	On Hold – awaiting asset availability
TOTAL			137	24				

Table 2: Remaining Special School Additional Built Places to deliver as of March 2025 – by Provision Type

District/Borough	Special School Provision Additional Build Places	Mainstream SEN Provision Additional Built Places	Alternative Provision Additional Built Places
Tandridge	0	0	0
Reigate and Banstead	21	8	10
Mole Valley	32	0	0
Epsom and Ewell	0	0	0
Elmbridge	260	60	15
Spelthorne	0	4	0

Runnymede	60	16	0
Woking	0	30	16
Surrey Heath	15	0	0
Waverley	0	0	0
Guildford	94	25	0
TBC	0	100	0
TOTAL	482	243	41

c) The tables provide a breakdown of average home to school transport distances by borough. Mileages are a snapshot of journeys for March 2025

Special Schools - average journeys in miles by child's home district/borough

Child Home District	Education Season Tickets	Independent Travel Allowance	Taxi	Grand Total
Elmbridge		7.35	6.99	7.03
Epsom and Ewell		4.70	7.12	6.80
Guildford	4.57	6.15	7.11	6.99
Mole Valley	18.26	7.27	9.71	9.48
Reigate and Banstead		5.67	7.00	6.87
Runnymede		5.15	8.30	7.91
Spelthorne		6.95	8.49	8.35
Surrey Heath		5.43	7.44	7.19
Tandridge		7.53	7.97	7.90
Waverley		8.60	8.31	8.34
Woking	2.33	4.99	6.97	6.73
Grand Total	7.43	6.35	7.70	7.55

Units in Mainstream Schools - average journeys in miles by child's home district/borough

Child Home District	Coaches	Education Season Tickets	Independent Travel Allowance	Taxi	Grand Total
Elmbridge		2.24	4.63	4.64	4.59
Epsom and Ewell			5.78	3.89	4.18
Guildford	5.04	10.32	4.49	7.32	6.79
Mole Valley		2.15	5.18	5.54	5.24
Reigate and Banstead			5.14	6.67	6.33
Runnymede			3.37	4.38	4.10
Spelthorne			5.16	5.78	5.64
Surrey Heath	2.88		5.95	7.20	6.75
Tandridge	4.25	5.17	3.77	8.18	6.26
Waverley	2.28		6.54	8.81	7.93
Woking		2.24	6.30	6.59	6.39
Grand Total	3.55	5.23	4.87	6.46	6.01

Average journeys in miles by establishment need designation

Establishment Designation	Coaches	Education Season Tickets	Independent Travel Allowance	Taxi	Grand Total
Special School		7.43	6.35	7.70	7.55
COIN			8.96	11.65	11.40
CSCN			6.01	7.13	6.92
LAN		10.30	6.49	7.11	7.08
SEMH		7.13	9.48	10.00	9.96
SLDD		2.01	5.41	5.95	5.86
Unit	3.55	5.23	4.87	6.46	6.01

COIN	2.57		4.68	5.57	5.24
HI			7.25	8.33	8.18
LAN			6.17	5.53	5.66
SLCN	3.39	5.71	4.70	7.18	6.67
VI	4.25	4.12	4.17	4.86	4.53
Grand Total	3.55	5.86	5.88	7.51	7.27

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M7	<p>Submitted by Councillor Jonathan Essex</p> <p><i>“Question 2:</i></p> <p><i>The Surrey Virtual School report annexed to Agenda item 6 notes that 2.7% of looked after children nationally were not in school. Page 40 of the agenda provides a breakdown of children not in school overall in Surrey by the following categories: EHE, change of school placement, accessing AP, CME and other (eg moved out of area). Please can you provide a similar breakdown for Surrey's looked after children (% and totals) and comment on how this compares to the national average.”</i></p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The table referenced on p40 is not “a breakdown of children not in school” but rather it was the current education situation, in February 2025, of the children who were recorded as Severely Absent at the end of the Autumn Term 2024/25. I have therefore provided the same breakdown below for children looked after.</p> <p>The most recent comparable published data on CLA absence is for the academic year 2022-23, which shows 4.1% of Surrey CLA with Severe Absence, compared to 4.9% Nationally</p> <p>At the end of the Autumn Term 2024, there were 50 children looked after who were severely absent that term. At the end of February, of those 50 children, 41 remain on roll at their school</p> <p>Of the 9 that are no longer on roll at the school in which they were recorded as being severely absent in Autumn 24/25, there are children in the following categories: change of school placement, accessing AP, CME and no longer CLA. However, we are unable to share exact numbers below 5, as in line with GDPR these must be masked to avoid identification of children</p>
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Destination Situation	Number of CYP	Of which EHCP
EHE	0	0
Change of school placement	<5	<5
Accessing AP	<5	0
CME	<5	<5
No longer CLA	<5	0
Total	9	<5

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