

Shropshire SEND Data

Number of EHCPS maintained by Shropshire

to 5 : 74

to 16: 1429

to 25: 563

total: 2066

SEN Support

total: 4194

SEN accounts for approx. 15% of the total school population (total school population 37419)

Temporary changes to the law in respect of The Children and Families Act (CAFA)2014

2 key areas

1. Relaxation of statutory timescales in relation to the education health and care (EHC) needs assessment (in place until 30 September 2020) which allow a local authority to apply an exemption if advice is late as a result of COVID. This means that the assessment is likely to take longer than 20 weeks to complete.
2. The duty for a local authority to use '**reasonable endeavours**' to put in place the provision described within the EHCP. This was initially provided until 31 May and has now been extended until 30 June 2020. This means that where the provision identified within an EHCP cannot be put in place because it would be impractical to do so whilst schools are closed it remains the responsibility of the local authority to support schools and other professionals to make 'reasonable provision'. This will include access to online learning, work sent home, virtual classrooms, video/facetime calls etc. and is likely to be a blended approach to learning using a range techniques.

All other elements of the CAFA remain in force including the statutory responsibility to conduct an annual review of all EHCPs.

END DATA

Impact of Covid 19 on the number of requests for SEN and EHC needs assessment:

The SEN team has seen an increase in requests from schools based on the same period last year. i.e. from 01 March to 07 June for the **5 to 25 age group**

Number of new requests for assessment		Number of assessments agreed	
2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
28	41	22	31

Of the 31 assessments that have been agreed, we are already aware that 14 will be delayed as Educational Psychologists will not be able to undertake a meaningful assessment due to school closure.

This number may increase if other professionals inform the SEN Team that they are unable to provide a meaningful assessment as a result of the requirements of lockdown.

This increase in the number of assessments may reflect a year on year increase that has been seen historically since the introduction of the Children and Families Act but is likely to have been further impacted by the closure of schools allowing time for school staff to complete paperwork.

Requests for assessment for children aged 0 – 5 through the Child Development Centre (CDC)

The majority of EHC needs assessment for this age group are undertaken through the CDC utilising the multi-disciplinary assessment (MDA). This process is led by health colleagues and enables assessment to take place where a child has significant special educational needs that are likely to be apparent from an early age and where the child may not be already accessing an education placement:

March to June 2019	March to June 2020
30	0

We are working with health professionals to establish alternative methods of assessment using online assessment tools to support a virtual assessment. This is early days and the first pilots are currently taking place.

School attendance and risk assessments

- All vulnerable children have been able to request a placement in school, this has included those with an EHCP.
- Where children are not accessing a school placement risk assessments are undertaken to identify any children that may be at risk.
- The SEN Team are currently contacting all families of children and young people with an EHCP to establish what concerns they have they have with regard to returning to school and what additional support they may need.

Concerns for the future:

- Heightened levels of anxiety could impact on mental health
- Difficulty for some children transitioning back into school following an extended period of home schooling and continued concerns with regard to the safety of schools
- Lack of transition opportunities may impact on those pupils transferring to a new phase in their education from September
- Additional increase in numbers of assessment requested for 5 to 25 age group for those children who may be close to compulsory school age and who have not accessed a MDA as a result of the closure of the CDC.
- Increase in numbers of children being identified with SEN as a result of:
 - Gap widening SEN/ none SEN as children reduced access quality first teaching is more likely to have a greater negative impact on progress of children with SEN
 - Lack of access to specialist teachers and therapists
 - Delayed identification may cause escalation of need.
 - Increase in number with SEN specific training opportunities for school staff cancelled may mean settings have reduced capacity to meet need in the short term

Opportunities

- Development of virtual working is likely to increase capacity of professionals to work directly with more children and minimise the impact of the geographical nature of Shropshire
- Enabled schools to develop virtual learning experiences which could be positive for some children who are anxious about attending school and may support children to gradually re-integrate into school where there has been a period of poor attendance.
- Some children who have accessed school during this time have had an enhanced learning experience in an environment where there is less noise/higher ratio of adult to child support/changed expectations with regard to social interaction reducing anxiety levels for some children
- Increased attendance of SEN officers at annual reviews and pupil planning meetings using virtual platforms