

# Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) in Children in Shropshire 2018

'SEMH difficulties is an overarching term for children who demonstrate difficulties with **emotional** regulation and/or **social** interaction and/or are experiencing **mental health** problems.

Children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional and social development may have immature social skills and find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships. These difficulties may be displayed through the child or young person becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as through challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour.

A wide range and degree of mental health problems might require special provision to be made. These could manifest as difficulties such as:

- problems of mood (anxiety or depression)
- problems of conduct (oppositional problems and more severe conduct problems including aggression)
- self-harming
- substance abuse
- eating disorders
- physical symptoms that are medically unexplained
- attention deficit disorder (ADD)
- attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD)
- attachment disorder
- autism or pervasive developmental disorder
- an anxiety disorder
- a disruptive disorder or, rarely, schizophrenia or bipolar disorder

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Table 1 shows the number of children recorded on the school census and pupil referral unit with having a SEMH in Shropshire by age band. The highest numbers are for those children aged 02-18 years.

**Table 1 Number of children recorded with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in Shropshire 2018**

Shropshire	02-04 years	05-09 years	10-14 years	15-18 years	Total 02-18 years
SEMH	21	333	352	60	766

*Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council*

Table 2 shows that the percentage of children with SEMH in January 2017 was significantly lower in Shropshire compared to the England average in 2016.

**Table 2 Percentage of Shropshire children with social, emotional & mental health difficulties compared to England**

Percentage of school population with an SEN - March 2018	Shropshire 2018	England 2017
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	14.4%	16.3%

Source: England - Department of Education January 2017; Shropshire School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

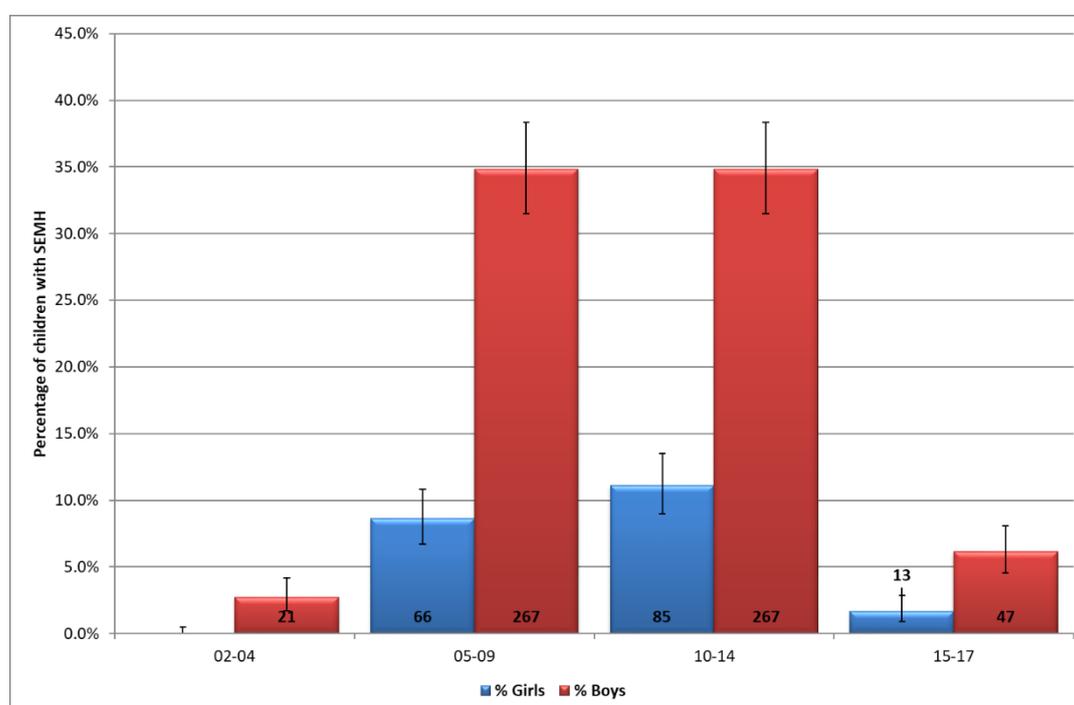
## Children with social, emotional & mental health difficulties in Shropshire

The following information looks at profiling children with SEMH recorded on the Shropshire school census.

### Age, gender and ethnicity:

In Shropshire around 79% of children with SEMH are boys and 21% are girls. The following chart shows the age and gender of all Shropshire children recorded as having SEMH. There were higher rates for both boys and girls for those aged 05-09 and 10-14 years, but there were significantly higher rates for boys compared to all the other age groups across both genders. The number of children in each category is displayed in the columns bases.

**Figure 1: Social, emotional & mental health difficulties in children in Shropshire by age and gender 2018**



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

In terms of ethnicity 91.3% of children on the school census with SEMH were recorded as being white English. The remaining 8.7% were from a variety of different ethnic groups (2.7% being from other white groups and the remaining 6% either not stated or from other black and minority ethnic groups).

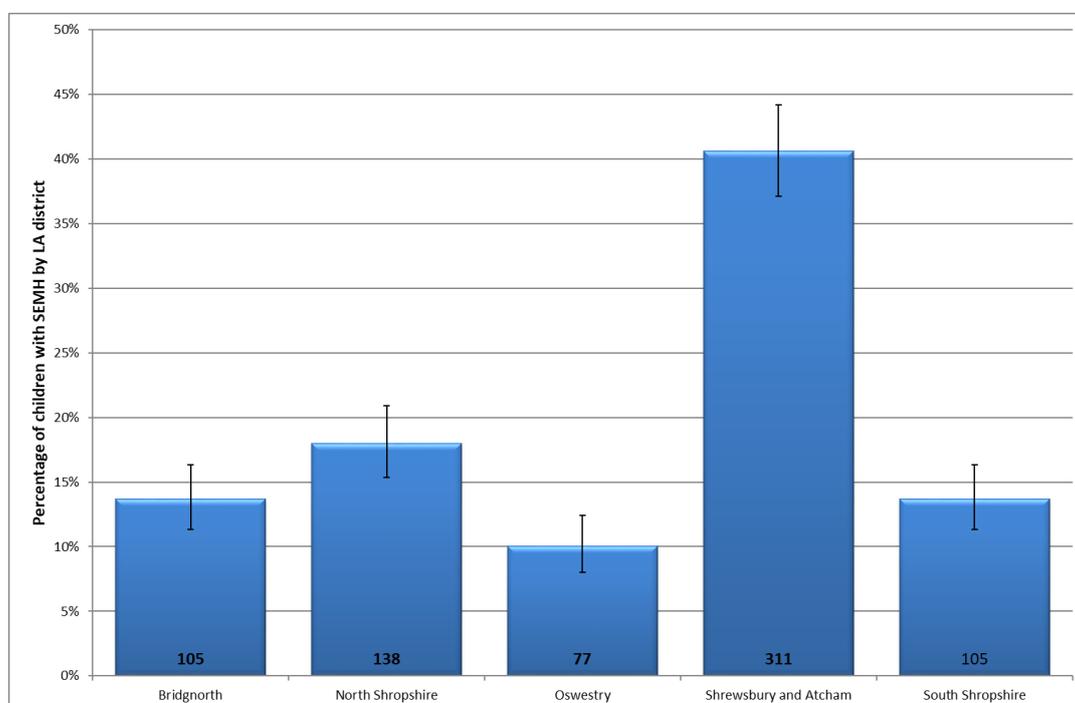
### **Geographical and socio-economic distribution of children with social, emotional & mental health difficulties:**

Although the Shropshire School Census (March 2018) estimate suggests that around 2% of all children in Shropshire may have a social, emotional & mental health difficulty, it is not distributed evenly in the population. Knowing and understanding more about the geographical and socio-economic distribution of children with SEMH can enable more efficient and appropriate care and enable the needs of children with SEMH to be better met.

Around 32% of all children on the school census in Shropshire live in the most rural areas, e.g. villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings. However, 29.5% of children with SEMH live in these areas, with the remaining 70.5% living in small towns and urban areas.

The following figure 2 shows the proportion of all children with SEMH in Shropshire by the old Local Authority districts, with the number of children highlighted at the base of each column. Shrewsbury & Atcham had a significantly higher proportion of children with SEMH compared to all the other areas; with the largest population of children living in the Shrewsbury area. Although SEMH accounted for 2% of all children recorded on the school census overall, the percentage in each area varied from 1.5% of children on the school census in Oswestry to 2.4% of children in Shrewsbury & Atcham. The other areas were between 1.7% in North Shropshire and Bridgnorth to 2.3% in South Shropshire.

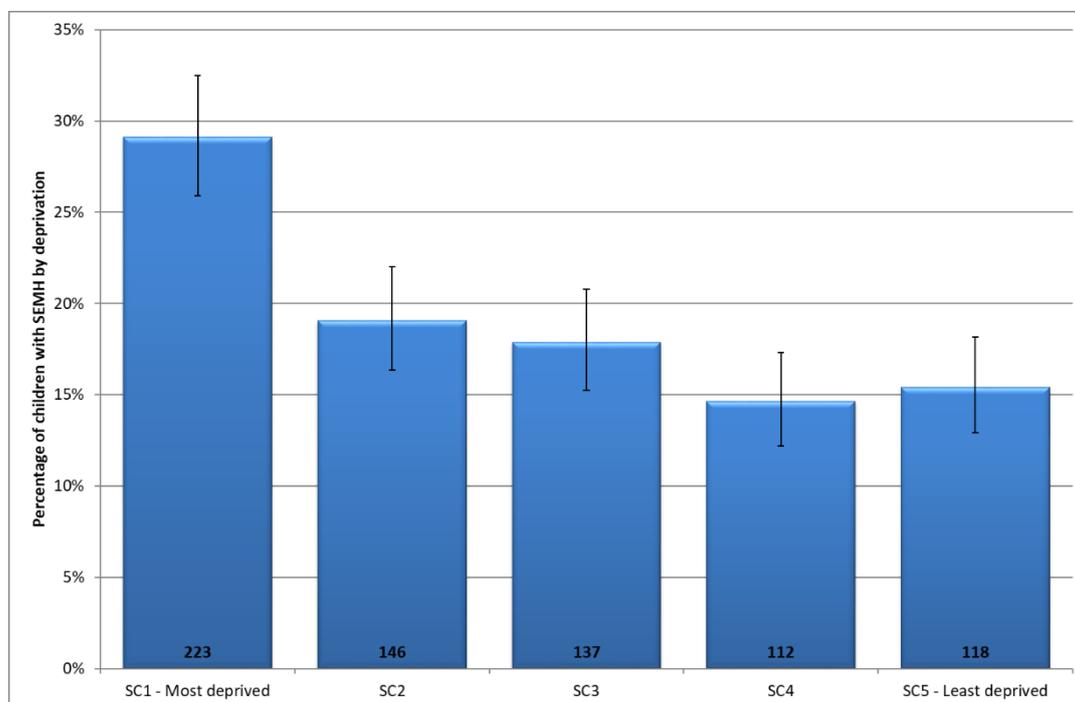
**Figure 2: Location of where children with SEMH in Shropshire live by former local authority 2018**



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

The following chart shows the relationship of children with SEMH to deprivation in Shropshire. There was a significantly higher proportion of children with SEMH living in the most deprived areas of the county compared to all other areas.

**Figure 3: Location of where children with SEMH in Shropshire live by deprivation 2018**



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

### Place Plan:

Based on a total of all children with an SEN, North East Shrewsbury was significantly higher than the Shropshire average.

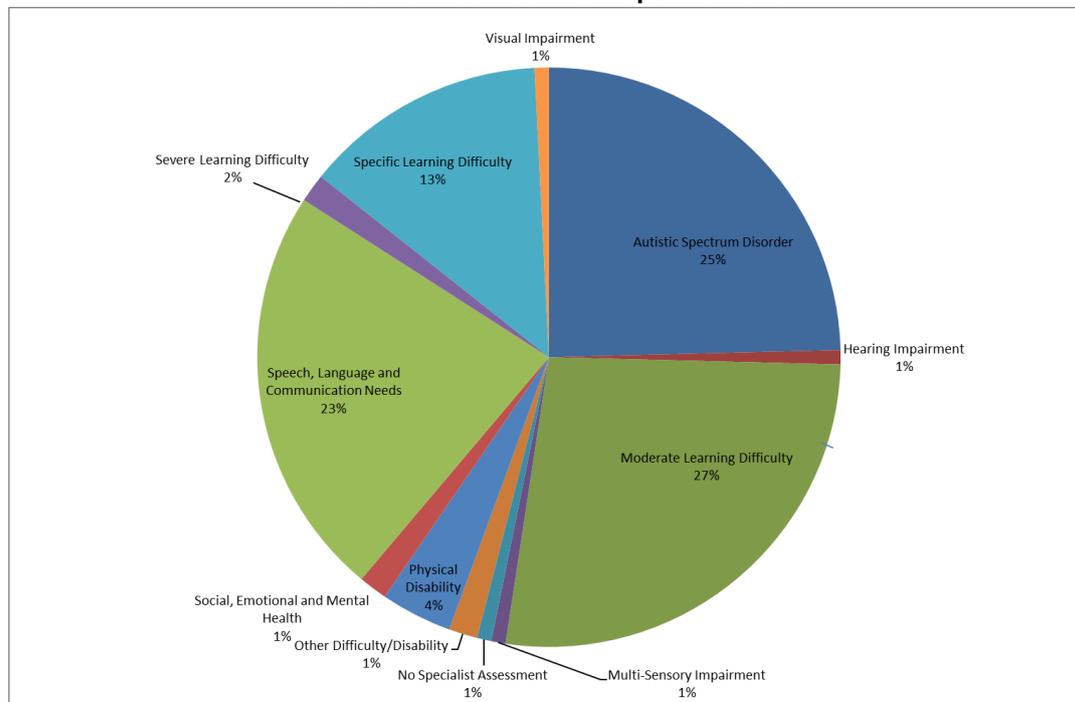
When calculated as a percentage proportion of all children on the census with a SEMH, Shrewsbury North East was still significantly higher than all the other place plan areas which also has some of the most deprived wards within its location area.

### Social, emotional & mental health difficulties and multiple vulnerabilities:

It is recognised that many people with SEMH also have other conditions such as moderate learning difficulties, ASD and sensory impairments. Overall in Shropshire 16.4% of children with SEMH were also recorded as having another special educational need. The following chart highlights the type and proportion of additional special educational needs of that 16.4% of children recorded on the school census as having SEMH in Shropshire.

As a percentage of those children with SEMH, the most likely additional special educational need of children was moderate learning difficulties, ASD and speech language and communication needs.

**Figure 4: Additional special educational needs of children with social, emotional & mental health difficulties in Shropshire 2018**



Source: School Census, March 2018, Shropshire Council

### Summary

- The recorded prevalence of SEMH in children from Shropshire was significantly lower than the England average.
- Boys aged 05-09 and 10-14 years were most likely to be recorded as having SEMH, and overall boys were more likely than girls to have SEMH.
- A significantly higher proportion of children with SEMH came from the Shrewsbury & Atcham district with a significantly higher proportion coming from the most deprived areas.
- A significantly higher rate of children with SEMH came from North East Shrewsbury (an area with high deprivation).
- Around 16.4% of children recorded as having SEMH in Shropshire also had an additional special educational need which included moderate learning difficulty.