

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (0-25) JSNA

SEN Population Highlights

1. Scope & Strategic Context

2. Wider determinants

3. SEN Population Profile

4. Education

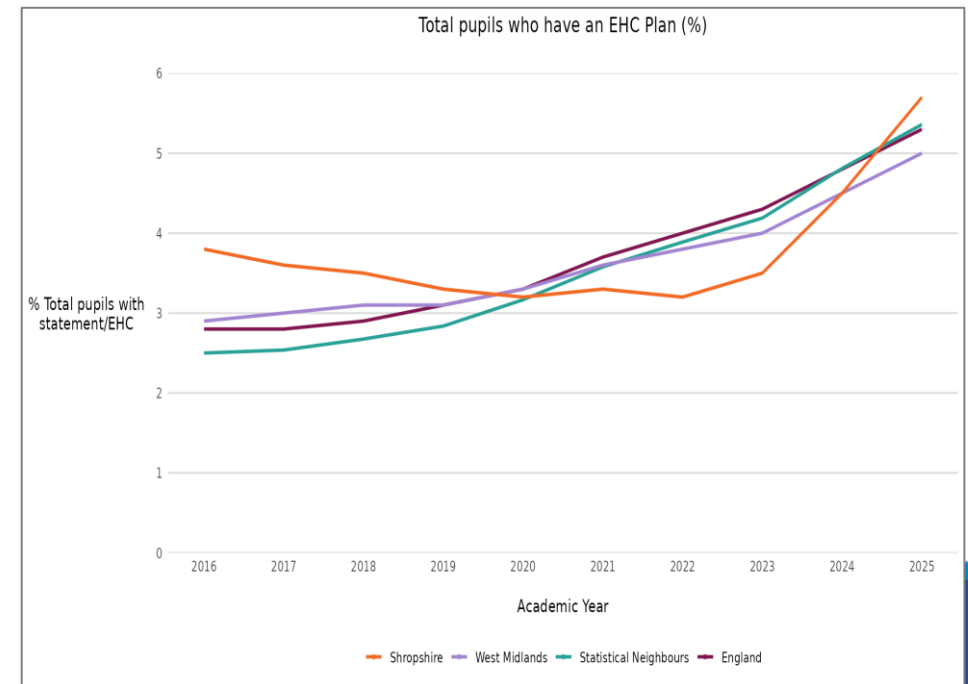
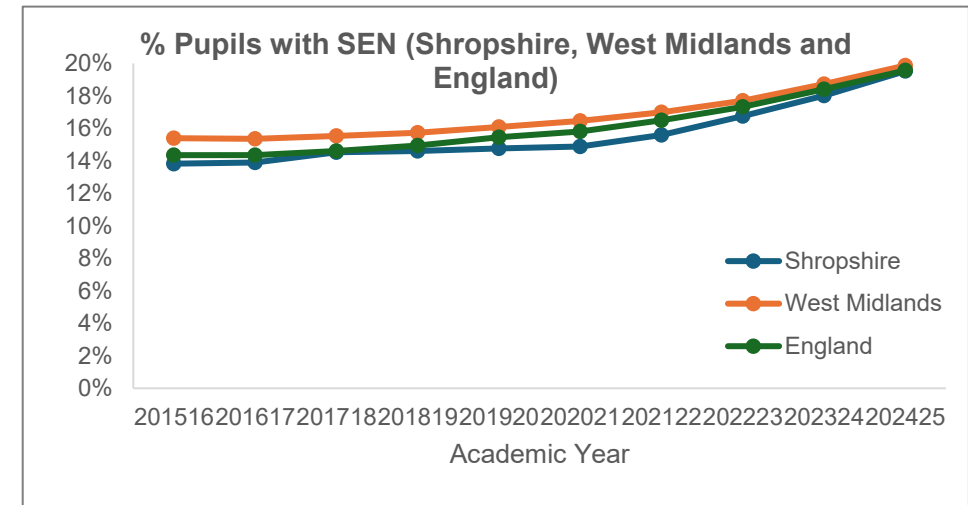
5. Social Care

6. Health

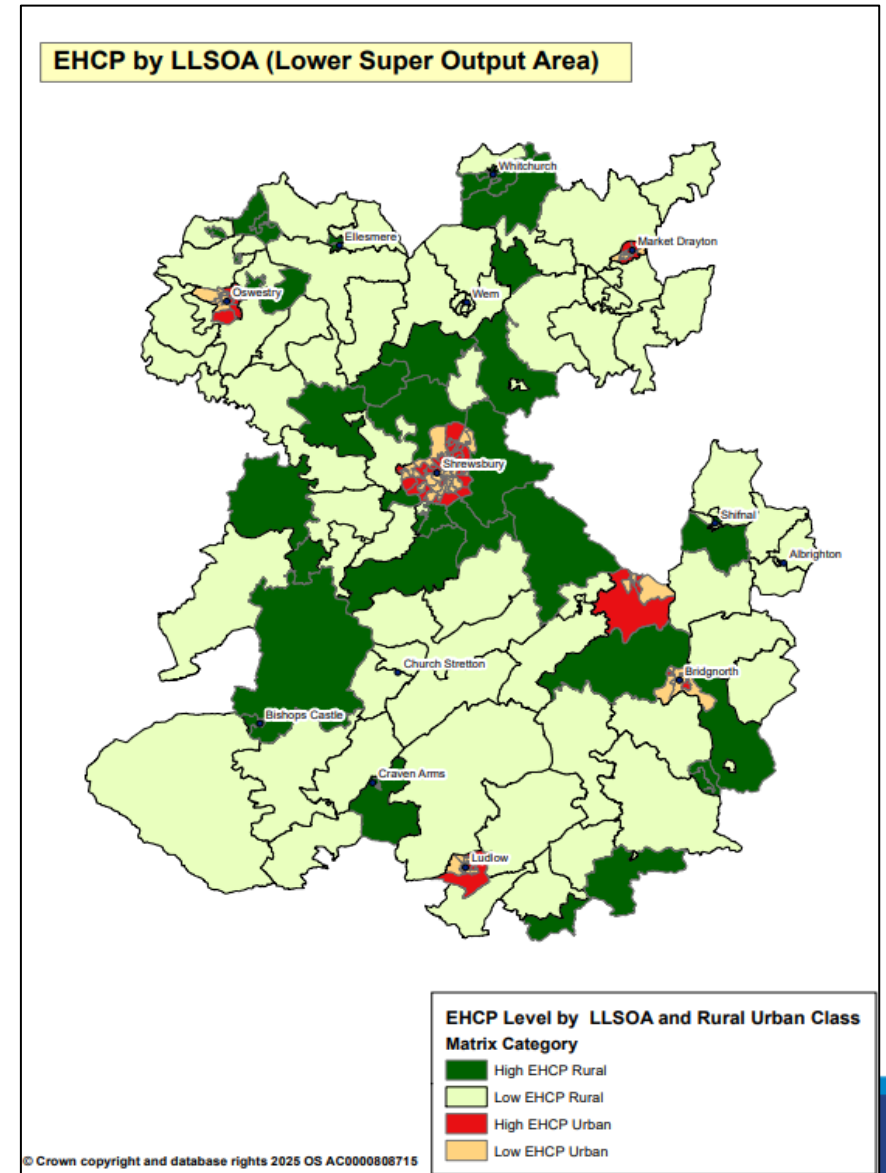
7. Stakeholder engagement

8. Recommendations

- 8, 653 school aged children in Shropshire have SEN (2024/25).
- Equates to 19.5% of Shropshire’s school aged children, similar to nationally and regionally;
 - 13.9% with SEN Support
 - 5.7% have an EHCP
- The SEN population in Shropshire is increasing rapidly, up 32% post pandemic.
- Increasing at a much faster among children with EHCPs (+78%) than SEN Support (+20%) since pre-pandemic
- 5% of electively home educated children have an EHCP (40 children).



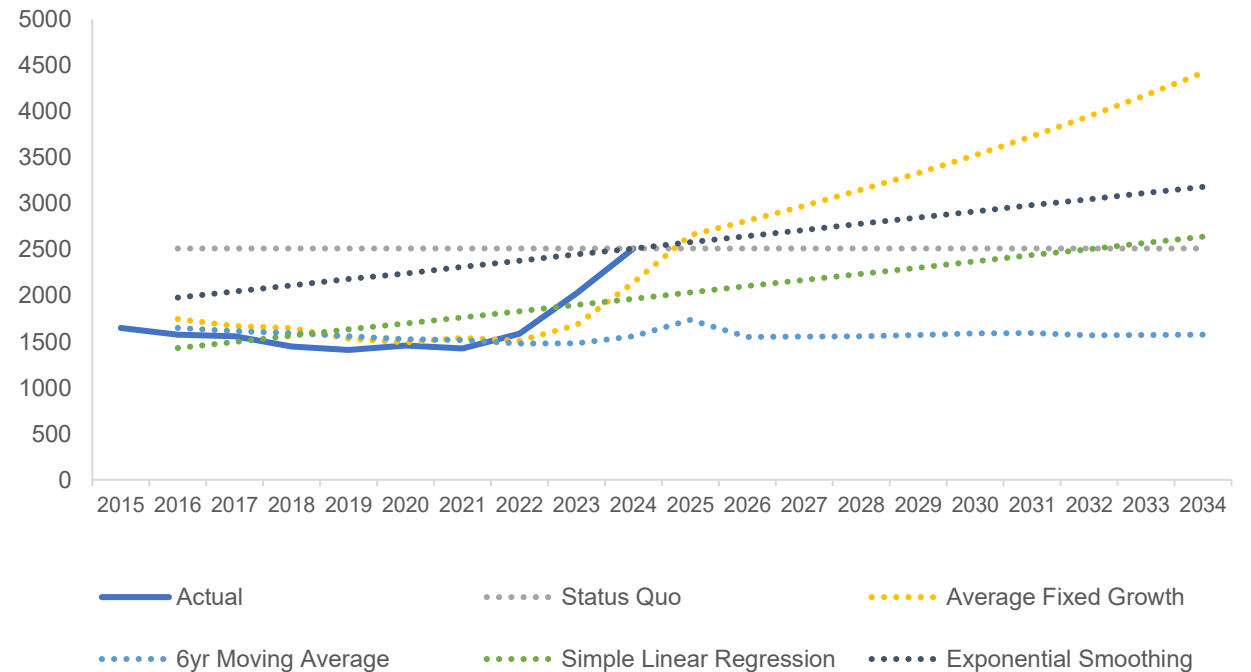
- More males with SEN than females, similar to national.
- Half (51%) of Shropshire's SEN population are aged 5-10 years old and 42% are 11-15 years old, both rising, similar to national age profile.
- Mostly living in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas, pockets in Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Highley, Oswestry, Whitchurch and Market Drayton.
- Many areas with large numbers of SEN children living there and classified as rural are on the borders of the county.



Forecasting the EHCP Population

- Preliminary forecasts suggest an increase in EHCPs for most methods – highest is to 4,421 (average fixed growth methodology)
- Based on 10 years of historic data, the forecasts suggest a mixed picture for EHCPs over the next 10 years. For EHCPs, average fixed growth and exponential smoothing show that numbers of pupils with EHCPs in Shropshire are forecast to rise by the highest amount, with linear regression projecting a more modest increase. The recent (2023 and 2024) uptick in EHCPs means that future trends are challenging to determine with certainty
- Given the non-linear and fluctuating trend in EHCPs from 2015 to 2024 (e.g., a dip followed by a sharp rise in 2024), the Exponential Smoothing method may be more suitable than Linear Regression or Average Fixed Growth. Exponential Smoothing adapts to recent changes and is best for short-term planning, especially when recent years show a shift (eg 2024 spike).

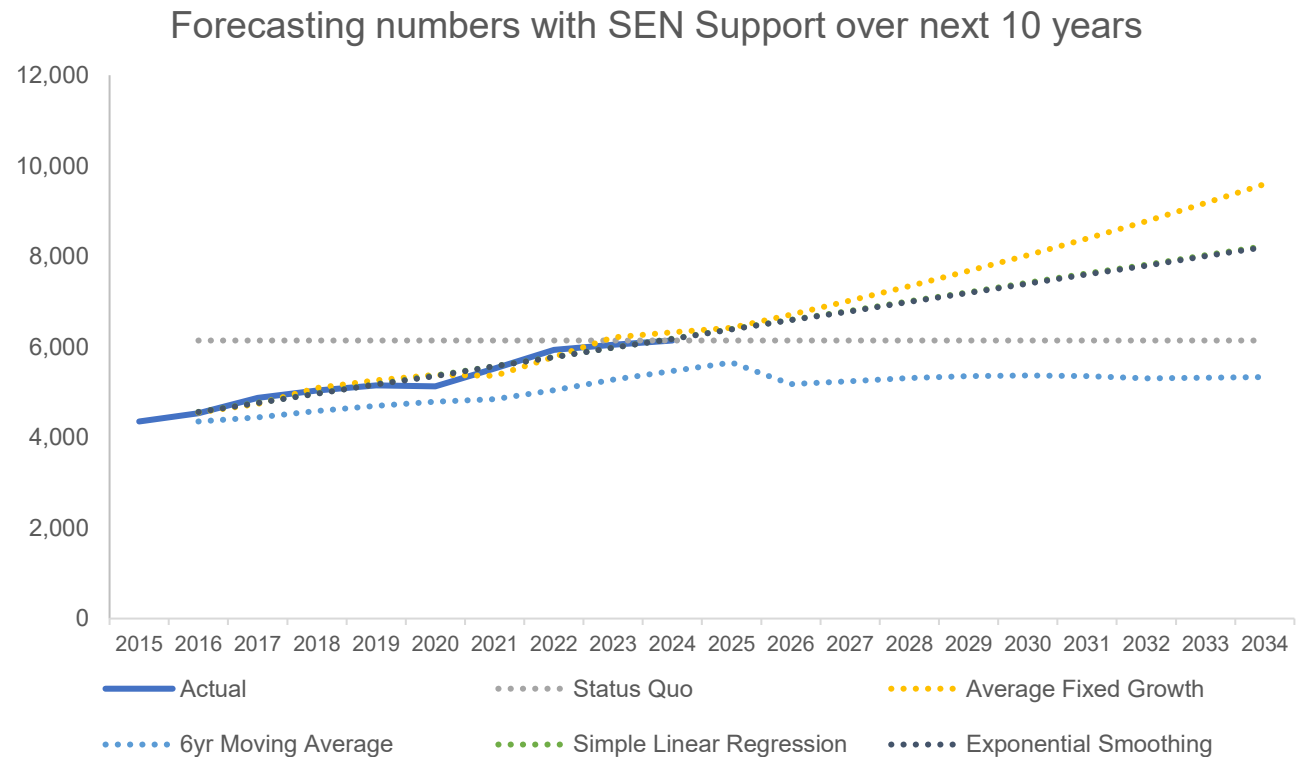
Forecasting number of EHCPs over next 10 years



Note: future population change are not incorporated into these forecasts.

Forecasting the SEN Support Population

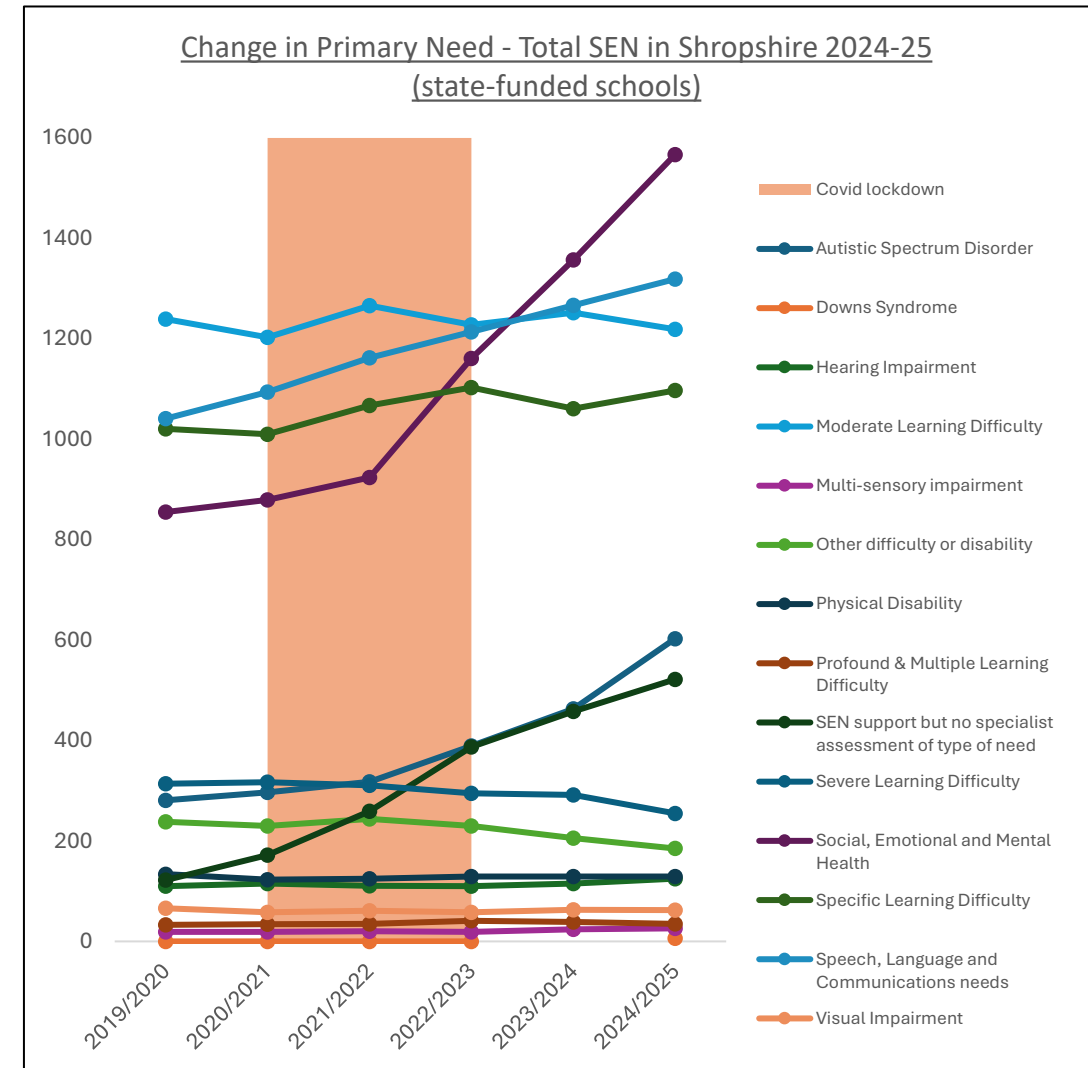
- Preliminary forecasts suggest and increase in SEN Support for most methods – highest is to 9,595 (average fixed growth methodology)
- Most methods suggest continued growth in SEN support over the next decade. Linear Regression and Exponential Smoothing give nearly identical results, projecting a steady increase of 34% over the next decade.



Note: future population change are not incorporated into these forecasts.

Primary type of need

- **Most prevalent primary need is social, emotional and mental health, above the regional and similar to national rates. Primary needs may be flagged without a supporting diagnostic. It may be that the presenting behaviour has been classified, rather than the actual need. This data is only as accurate as how the schools have reported it.**
- **Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN) second most prevalent, below regional and national rates.**
- **Since the pandemic, certain primary needs have been rising significantly: SEMH, SLCN, Autistic spectrum disorder and ‘SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need’.**



Primary needs by school phase

- **SEMH most prevalent need for both EHCPs and SEN support pupils across all school phases in 2024/25.**
- **State primary schools:** SLCN and SEMH most prevalent among SEN population.
- **State secondary schools:** SEMH and Specific Learning Disability most prevalent among SEN population
- **Special schools:** Severe learning difficulty and SEMH most prevalent among Shropshire SEN population, higher than regional and national.