

## Freedom of Information – Response – 26808

*This request constitutes Phase 1 of a structured, evidence-based review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision across local authorities in England and Wales. The purpose is to establish a consistent, comparable dataset on statutory compliance, public expenditure, and outcomes for children with SEND.*

*The information requested relates directly to your authority's statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, associated Regulations, and the SEND Code of Practice (2015). It also concerns the use of public funds and the effectiveness of local decision-making affecting some of the most vulnerable children in your area, which are matters of clear and significant public interest.*

*Please provide the following information for each of the last five financial years, broken down by year:*

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>1. EHCP Timeliness (Statutory Compliance)</b>				
<i>a. Total number of requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments received.</i>	1,988	2,350	2,746	1917
<i>b. Percentage of assessments completed within the statutory 20-week timeframe</i>	14%	6.8%	19.8%	13.7%
<i>c. Percentage of assessments exceeding the 20-week timeframe.</i>	86%	93.2%	80.2%	86.3%
<i>d. Longest recorded delay (in weeks) from request to final decision.</i>	71	70	79	81

Please note that the data for 2025/26 is up to 31/12/2025 as a full financial year has not elapsed.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>2. Annual Reviews (Ongoing Compliance)</b>				
<i>a. Total number of EHCP annual reviews due.</i>	3,802	7,344	8,792	8,187
<i>b. Number completed within statutory timescales.</i>	83 *	1,889	3,254	3,383
<i>c. Number completed late.</i>	196*	2,872	2,708	2,430
<i>d. Number not completed within the year.</i>	3,523	2,583	2,830	2,374

Please note:

- Data for 2025/26 is up to 31/12/2025 as a full financial year has not elapsed
- \*Data is for partial year due to changes in recording

### **3. Tribunal and Legal Outcomes (Accountability)**

a. *Number of SEND Tribunal appeals lodged against the authority.*

A –

<b>2022-23*</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
108	219	331	366

Please note:

- \*Data is for partial year due to changes in recording
- Data for 2025/26 is up to 31/12/2025 as a full financial year has not elapsed

b. *Number of appeals heard and lost by the authority.*

A – Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not use this terminology and therefore cannot answer this question.

The Tribunal Outcomes used in SCC are listed below:

- Consent Order Upheld
- Not Opposed
- Withdrawn
- Upheld
- Consent Order Largely Upheld
- Denied
- Dismissed
- COUP
- No Outcome yet Recorded

If you would like to receive numbers of the outcomes listed above, then please let us know and we may be able to provide this.

c. *Total legal expenditure on SEND cases (internal and external combined).*

A – Please see information below in relation to external legal expenditure for the financial years requested:

2020/21: £24,782.35  
2021/22: £36,108.33  
2022/23: £26,157.50  
2023/24: £12,365.00  
2024/25: £15,558.75  
(All figures excluding VAT)

[These figures exclude staff costs, which are not recorded.]

### **4. Complaints and External Scrutiny**

a. *Number of formal complaints received about SEND services.*

b. *Number of complaints upheld.*

c. *Number of cases referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.*

d. *Number of Ombudsman findings of maladministration or service failure.*

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. The information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

**Section 21** of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Please use the following link: [Committee Documents - Committee Minutes](#)

Once opened please select each of the Audit Committees dated for September, our Compliments, Comments and Complaints reports can be found within that contain details for the information that Suffolk holds in answer to this question.

### **5. SEND Budget and Provision (Use of Public Funds)**

*a. Total annual SEND (High Needs Block) budget.*

A –

2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
£54,061,564	£62,305,326	£70,575,401	£80,573,795	£88,126,374

*b. Totals spend on out-of-area placements.*

A –

2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
£10,616,493	£12,697,686	£11,630,181	£14,739,193	£18,347,602

*c. Percentage of children with EHCPs placed in specialist provision (as opposed to mainstream).*

A – Data is for calendar year for statutory reporting purposes.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
29.9	28.6	24.6

### **6. Children Awaiting Provision (Impact on Children)**

*a. Number of children with EHCPs awaiting a specialist placement at any point during the year.*

A – Owing to the ever-changing element of this data SCC can only report as a snapshot figure. As at December 2025 there were 177 with EHCP's awaiting a specialist placement.

*b. Number of children with EHCPs recorded as out of school or on reduced timetables while awaiting suitable provision.*

A – Suffolk County Council can only report on the number of children with EHCP's awaiting a specialist placement as a snapshot figure as explained in Q6a. SCC do not hold information on children that may be recorded as out of school or on reduced timetables specifically for those awaiting a suitable provision .

<b>7. Mediation, Dispute Resolution and Reconsiderations</b>	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<i>a. Number of requests for SEND mediation received.</i>	58*	412	225	305
<i>b. Number of cases resolved at mediation without proceeding to tribunal.</i>	54*	365	200	266
<i>c. Number of cases proceeding to tribunal after mediation.</i>	31	17	8	12

<p><i>d. Number of requests for reconsideration of EHCP decisions received</i></p>	<p>Suffolk County Council are unable to respond to this question as we are unsure what you are referring to. If you are able to provide us with more information as to the information you are seeking we are more than happy to revisit this question for you.</p>
--	---

Please note:

- \*Data is for partial year due to changes in recording
- Data for 2025/26 is up to 31/12/2025 as a full financial year has not elapsed

**8. Staffing and Capacity within SEND Services**

*a. Total number of SEND caseworkers employed by the authority (headcount).*

A – Please note this data includes staff at Grade 4, 5 and 6 case workers with the job titles Assistant Coordinator, Coordinator, Lead Coordinator, Assessment Coordinator and Assessment Lead (EHCNA Lead).

March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025
37	41	52	53	75

*b. Number of SEND caseworker vacancies at year end.*

A –

March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025
The information for these years is not recorded.	6	5	9	

*c. Average caseload per SEND caseworker.*

A – As of Feb 2026 the average caseload is 300 for review teams and 45 in the assessment team.

**9. SEND-Related Transport and Associated Costs**

*a. Total annual spend on home-to-school transport for children with EHCPs.*

*b. Number of children with EHCPs in receipt of dedicated transport provision.*

Suffolk County Council do not hold this information broken down to children with EHCP's

However, whilst SCC cannot provide the information as requested we could provide you with the total amount spent on home-to school transport if you would like to receive this.