

Schools Capacity Survey 2025

Local Authority Commentary

Local Authority Name	North Tyneside
Local Authority Number	392
Contact Names	
E-mail / Tel	

You are asked to provide a commentary to assist the Department in its analysis of current and projected pupil place pressures and available capacity. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTARY ON THIS TEMPLATE ONLY. It provides an opportunity to qualify the impression that might be obtained from capacity data, pupil forecasts and planned places data.

The commentary is distinguishable from the separate Forecast Methodology Statement in which you will indicate how these issues have been factored into your pupil forecasts. You should refer to the separate guidance for detail of requirements.

Sections 1 and 2 – Commentary on LA wide trends and factors influencing these trends.

Sections 3 and 4 – Commentary on planning areas where there are current or projected shortfalls or surplus, or where there are pipeline free schools or planned presumption schools.

The commentary should provide a brief explanation where school capacity is an issue. This may be where there is a surplus or a shortfall of capacity. Where schools/planning areas currently have or are projected to have a shortfall of places, please record the steps being taken to address these. Please use the commentary to explain where there is planned action to secure additional capacity, for at least the next two academic years.

You should also use the commentary to provide an explanation of any other significant changes to capacity (including free schools and presumption free schools) and the effect this would have on school places available. Where issues and/or solutions cross planning area boundaries, please indicate this in the relevant section below.

New sections 5-11 – commentary on LA wide trends in demand for specialist educational provision and factors affecting the forecasts provided in SCAP. There is also a spaces for any sub-LA area variations.

Commentary should include details on any: anticipated gaps in local provision offers; pipeline free schools or planned presumptions; and imminent and planned LA changes/commissioning priorities in the local high needs estate. Please also include an overview of independent placements and the key drivers behind placements (e.g. parental preference, provision gap, local capacity constraints, etc.).

1 General LA overview indicating LA wide trends (including both primary and secondary age)

The borough is split into four planning areas for the purposes of pupil place planning (these are each split into primary and secondary planning areas for the purposes of the SCAP return)

A two-tier system exists in three of the four planning areas. In the fourth, the North East, there is a mixture of two and three tier with first, middle and high schools, and both a Catholic primary and secondary academy.

A Strategic Review of Education across the borough is currently being carried out. The Strategic Review will consider the longer-term implications of the reduced birth rate across the borough and consider where amendments to PAN's and capacities may be appropriate. The statistics within this document, reflect the capacity and projections in 25/26, prior to the conclusion of the first phase of approved statutory decisions (closure of Monkseaton High School with effect from 31st August 2026, within the North East Secondary Planning area) – further details are available within the section relating to this planning area (39200005)

Projections of primary aged pupils show an 8% decrease over the next five years. This is likely to be because of a falling birth rate since 2010/11, with a significant reduction in the birth rate from 2019/2020. This reduction has continued consistently until births in 23/24, with early indications that 24/25 follows the same reduced trend. This means that the surplus capacity will increase in primary school settings from 14.75% in 25/26 to 21.59% in 29/30.

For Secondary schools, years 7 to 11, over reporting period (to 2031/2032) there is expected to be:

- an 8.6% decrease in Secondary pupils (Y7-Y11) with surplus places increasing from 2.3% 3.68% (this includes the adjustment for the closure of 1 high school in the North East Planning area)
- a 1.9% increase in the 6th form population, with surplus places remaining in the region of 30%.
- Overall, surplus capacity across all secondary schools (Y7 - Y13) will increase in the period from 7.63% to 8.19%

Further consultation is due to commence in two planning areas to address the reducing birth rate, increasing surplus places and sustainability of schools across the borough. Two local Multi Academy Trusts have had amendment to primary school

PAN's approved, for September 2025 and September 2026. These are referenced in the Primary Planning area descriptions for the South East and South West.

2 Factors affecting overall LA pupil numbers e.g. migration, housing development, live births. If you experience cross local authority boundary movement please identify the other local authorities involved and the scale of places affected.

Birth rates. From 2009/10 to 2018/19 the average birth rate was 2,281 each year, with a peak in 2010/11 of 2,447, and a lowest of 2,170 in 2016/17. Since 2019/20 we have seen a notable drop in the number of births. 2019/20 saw the birth rate drop by 236 pupils (11%) to 1,996 which equates to almost 8 forms of entry across the borough. In 2020/21 there was a further drop of 78 pupils (4%), another 2.5 forms of entry. We saw an increase in 2021/22 of 34 pupils and a further drop in birth rates in 22/23 of 70 places compared to 21/22. The birth rate in 22/23 declined again, to 1845, a drop of 107 births, compared to 21/22. Early indications are that the birth rate for 24/25 will be similar to the previous year.

Recent comparisons of Annual birth rate to corresponding Reception intake year, indicates that the rate of admissions is largely equal to the birth rate, therefore indicating a decline in inward migration from the rate above 100% in previous years. However, our expected admissions to Reception in September 2025, currently indicate a 5% increase on the corresponding birth year, though this does not counter the cumulative decline of in year births, which reflect a net annual reduction when comparing 2018/2019 to 2023/2024 of 403 births. This will be confirmed in the October 2025 Census.

The reduction of births in 19/20 resulted in 228 fewer admissions to Reception in September 2024, when compared to the previous reception cohort, now Y1.

Our SCAP projections only include the pupil yield from housing developments which have been approved and building work has commenced. The Council's Local Plan (approved in 2017) includes some significant housing developments, particularly in the North West of the borough, and indicates that additional school places will be required during the build out of the plan. The recent reduction of the Birth rate across the borough has impacted those projections and will continue to be monitored.

North Tyneside is bordered by South East Northumberland to the north and by Newcastle to the west. We know that there is some cross border movement; our model allows for this as home postcode is not taken into consideration, rather the total number of pupils educated in our schools wherever they live. We do recognise that any changes to

housing and schools, particularly on our border with Newcastle may have an impact on our pupil numbers specifically in the North West planning areas.

3 Summary of primary places in individual planning areas where:
a) there is current or projected pressure on places,
b) there is current or projected sustained surpluses in capacity, or
c) there are pipeline free schools or planned presumption schools.

You should include details on:

- i) local factors affecting the area, relating them to the LA-wide factors described above;
- ii) schools experiencing particular shortfall or surplus of places (referencing establishment number and name); and
- iii) issues and/or solutions that cross planning area boundaries.

If you plan at Local Authority level only and do not use planning areas, you should complete this section to illustrate any regional variations.

Please copy and paste additional rows as needed.

Total number of primary planning areas across the Local Authority.

4

**Planning
area
name/ID**

a.

Overview

PRIMARY
NAME:

This planning area includes 8 first schools (2 Foundation Trust, 6 Community), a Catholic primary academy, and the primary element of 4 Foundation Trust middle schools.

North East
Primary
(NEPA)

Over the reporting period there is a projected 10% decrease in the pupil numbers in the area. This reflects the reduction in the birth rate which we have seen across North Tyneside. It is expected that the surplus capacity in the area in September 2026 will be 10%, rising to 19% by 29/30

Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.

ID: 3920001

We are undertaking a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work. This will focus upon capacity and projections for Years R to Y4 in this area.

	<p>Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)</p> <p>We are aware that there is movement of pupils across planning areas, and the North East schools in particular attract pupils from other planning areas, and from Northumberland with which this planning area borders. This may mean that as more spaces become available in the North East planning area, because of the reduced birth rate, that these are filled up with pupils moving in from other areas.</p> <p>As of January 2025, there were 2837 primary (R – Y6) pupils who live in catchment areas within this planning area and 3,433 attend schools within this area: therefore, a net gain of pupils particularly from the NW (3920002) (net gain 370 pupils) and the SE (3920003) (net gain 157 pupils).</p> <p>Within the Local Plan, there is also significant housing development planned for the NW planning area (3920002) and given the movement of pupils from this area it is likely that some of the pupils living here will choose to attend a school in the NE.</p>
<p>b.</p> <p>PRIMARY NAME:</p> <p>North West Primary (NWPA)</p> <p>ID: 3920002</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>This planning area includes 4 Community, 10 Foundation Trust, 1 Voluntary Aided, and 3 Academies. There are two primary schools in this planning area with an Academy Order.</p> <p>Over the projection period we have projected a 7.74% reduction in pupil numbers and again this reflects the lower birth rates seen in recent years. This means that the surplus capacity in this area is projected to increase from 16% to 22% in 29/30. Only housing where building has commenced is included in our projections for the SCAP return. However, the north west of the borough has the largest strategic housing site and therefore this planning area is likely to see the largest impact of any future housing developments, including those in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.</p>

	<p>Additional capacity within Backworth Park Primary school is being brought into use to provide places for the demand specifically within this area of the North West. This is the area of the North West where most of the housing development is taking place.</p>
	<p>Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)</p>
	<p>As described in the section relating to 3920001 (NE) there is 'drift' from this planning area to the North East.</p> <p>This area also has the highest number of pupils whose address is within Newcastle LA, this is due to the catchment area of one of our Primary schools, bridging the border between both LA's.</p>
c.	<p>Overview</p>
PRIMARY NAME:	<p>This area includes 6 community, 3 Foundation Trust, 1 Voluntary Aided and 5 Academies, and the primary element of an all-through academy</p>
South East Primary (SWPA)	<p>As a result of the declining birth rate, pupil numbers are expected to reduce by 9.7% over the projection period. This means that surplus capacity will increase from 16% to 22%. By 29/30.</p>
	<p>Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.</p>
ID: 3920003	<p>The all-through academy has increased its admission number from that set out in the funding agreement and based on capacity guidance, the capacity recorded within the SCAP is based on the increased PAN the school is admitting to (this has been noted as typical operating method). This has had the result of increasing available capacity within this planning area.</p> <p>Two Primary Academies in this area have confirmed reduced PANS from September 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Gardens Primary School – Reducing PAN from 60 to 45 • St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Reduction PAN from 45 to 30

	There are currently no specific actions to be taken. We are undergoing a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work.
	Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)
	As at Jan 25 there were 4,283 pupils living in this planning area and 4,158 attending schools in this area. There is movement between other planning areas, with the most noticeable export from this area to the North east, reflecting a net loss of 157 pupils.
d.	Overview
PRIMARY NAME:	The area includes 5 Foundation Trust primaries and 8 Primary academies. There is one Foundation primary school with an Academy Order.
South West Primary	The pupil numbers in this area are expected to reduce by 4.6% over the reporting period and the surplus capacity therefore will increase from 18% to 20% by 28/29.
	Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.
ID: 3920004	<p>There are several schools in this planning area which are projected to have 25%+ surplus capacity by 2028/2029 Some of these schools have previously had their PAN reduced and some of the net capacity within this schools remains.</p> <p>One Primary Academy has secured approval to reduce their PAN with effect from September 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle Hill Primary School reducing PAN from 60 to 30 with Effect from September 2025. <p>There are currently no specific actions to be taken. We are undergoing a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work.</p>

	Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)
	This planning area borders Newcastle, and we see movement of pupils from Newcastle to the schools within this area. As at the Jan 25 school census 5.9% of the primary pupils living in this area have an address which is outside of North Tyneside.

4 Summary of secondary places in individual planning areas where:
d) there is current or projected pressure on places,
e) there is current or projected sustained surpluses in capacity, or
f) there are pipeline free schools or planned presumption schools.

You should include details on:

- iv) local factors affecting the area, relating them to the LA-wide factors described above;
- v) schools experiencing particular shortfall or surplus of places (referencing establishment number and name); and
- vi) issues and/or solutions that cross planning area boundaries.

If you plan at Local Authority level only and do not use planning areas, you should complete this section to illustrate any regional variations.

Please copy and paste additional rows as needed.

Total number of secondary planning areas across the Local Authority.		4
Planning area name/ID		
a.	Overview	
SECONDARY NAME:	Within this planning area we have both a 2 and 3 -tier system. It includes 2 high schools, the secondary element of 4 middle schools and a secondary RC academy.	
North East Secondary (NEPA)	There are more secondary places in this planning area than in the equivalent primary planning area (3920001).	
	Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.	
ID: 3920005	Following a Statutory Consultation period in the Autumn of 2024, a decision was taken to close Monkseaton High School (392/4034). This closure come in to effect on 31 st August 2026 and in the interim period, the school will not admit to Y9 or Y12 in September 2025, and pupils that would transfer to Year 10 for September 2025 have been offered placements elsewhere in the borough. Additional capacity has been	

	<p>provided at other sites, one within the planning area, the other within the South East Planning area to allow temporary bulge years to accommodate displaced pupils.</p> <p>The next phase of the strategic review will consider the capacity in year groups 5 to 8 in this Planning area.</p>
	Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)
	<p>The impact of the planned closure of Monkseaton High School will reduce the capacity in the area for Y 9 – Y11 by 720 places. As we are in the early stages of this strategic decision, our projection modelling does not fully reflect the anticipated change in profile. The pupil projections show a decline in pupil numbers in Years 7-11 of 179 pupils. The current level of Surplus places in the area is 15% but reduces significantly to 2.9% by 2031/32.</p> <p>Whilst there are 2,260 (Jan 25) pupils in Yr7-Y11 living in this planning area there are 3,832 pupils attending schools in this planning area. Many of these pupils coming into the planning area from other areas attend the Catholic academy within North Tyneside which happens to be located within this planning area. However, even if we exclude the Catholic academy (St Thomas More), this planning area remains a net importer of pupils, particularly from the NW (3920006).</p> <p>Of the 758 pupils who attend schools in this planning area (Y7-11) and who live in the SE planning area (3920007), 581 attend St Thomas More Catholic Secondary Academy. 440 of the 486 who live in the South West (3920008) and attend a North East Planning area secondary attend St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School. Of the 410 pupils coming from the NW planning area (3920006) to attend schools in this planning area, just 123 attend the Catholic academy whilst 138 attend Monkseaton High School.</p> <p>This planning area borders SE Northumberland and 3.74% of the pupil's attending schools in this area live outside of North Tyneside.</p>
b.	Overview

<p>SECONDARY NAME:</p> <p>North West Secondary (NWPA)</p> <p>ID: 3920006</p>	<p>This area includes 3 secondary schools, of which one is an academy. The area is bordered by Newcastle to the west, and Northumberland to the North.</p> <p>Over the reporting period, the pupil numbers (Y7 – Y11) in this area are expected reduce by approximately 2.5% over the reporting period, and surplus places increase from 2.9% to 5.29%.</p> <p>One secondary School in this area has agreed to admit bulge years in Years 9 and 10 in September 2025 and September 2026, to accommodate pupils displaced as part of the closure of Monkseaton High School (NEPA)</p> <p>This planning area contains the strategic housing sites within the Local Plan and, although does see a movement of pupils into other planning areas, is most likely to see the impact of housing. Only housing developments which have started build have been included in our SCAP forecasts.</p>
	<p>Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.</p>
	<p>There are currently no specific actions to be taken though we continue to consider options to support the stability of all schools within the planning area. We are undergoing a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work.</p> <p>One of the Secondary Schools is noted for inclusion within the School Rebuilding Programme and anticipating entry to the programme in Spring 2027.</p>
	<p>Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)</p>
	<p>Compared to the other planning areas, the NW have the highest number attending the schools within it who live outside of North Tyneside (208 pupils of 2,500 attendees Y7 – 11). Some of this is affected by pupils living in a North Tyneside catchment area but whose addresses are in Newcastle.</p>

c.	Overview
<p>SECONDARY NAME:</p> <p>South East Secondary (SEPA)</p> <p>ID: 3920007 –</p>	<p>This planning area includes 3 secondary schools, one of which one is an in-year academy conversion, none of which include post 16 provision. It also includes the secondary element of the all-through academy which does includes a 6th form.</p> <p>Over the projection period, the number of pupils in this planning area is expected to increase by 3%. This is due to two schools' agreement to bulge classes in Years 9 and 10 in September 2025, and again in September 2026, to accommodate displaced pupils from the closure of Monkseaton High. This impacts on the capacity in the area, until those pupils leave the projection system.</p>
	<p>Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.</p>
	<p>There are currently no specific actions to be taken though we continue to consider options to support the stability of all schools within the planning area. We are undergoing a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work.</p>
	<p>Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)</p>
	<p>Of the 2902 (Y7 – Y11) pupils attending a secondary school in the Planning area 77% live in that planning area. A further 8% commute from the North West.</p>
d.	Overview
<p>SECONDARY NAME:</p>	<p>This planning area includes 2 secondary schools, both with 6th forms. One secondary school has an Academy Order.</p> <p>Over the 10-year projection period, we expect the number of pupils (Y7 – 11) to reduce by 10.5%. This increases the surplus capacity for Y7 – Y11 from 11.6% to 20.9%.</p>

South West Secondary	Actions (current and planned) to address shortage/excess of places. Include the number of places to be added or removed in each school and by what date.
ID: 3920008	There are currently no specific actions to be taken though we continue to consider options to support the stability of all schools within the planning area. We are undergoing a review of school places across the borough and any necessary actions would be considered as an outcome of this work.
	Please indicate relationship with issues and solutions in other planning areas (including identification of the planning area)
	Only 63% of the pupils living in the planning area attend a school in that area. 90% of the pupils attending a school in the planning area live in the same. This indicates a significant move to other areas of the borough. Predominantly to the Borough wide Faith Secondary, included in the North East Planning area statement.

5 General LA overview indicating LA wide trends in demand for specialist educational provision.

The Authority is currently engaging with the Safety Valve Programme, with the production of a DSG Recovery plan.

There are 5 borough wide special schools, serving needs across ages 2 – 19. A range of mainstream schools at both primary and secondary provide Additional Resourced Provision and SEN Units. There is additionally a Pupil Referral Unit supporting pupils at KS2,3 and 4.

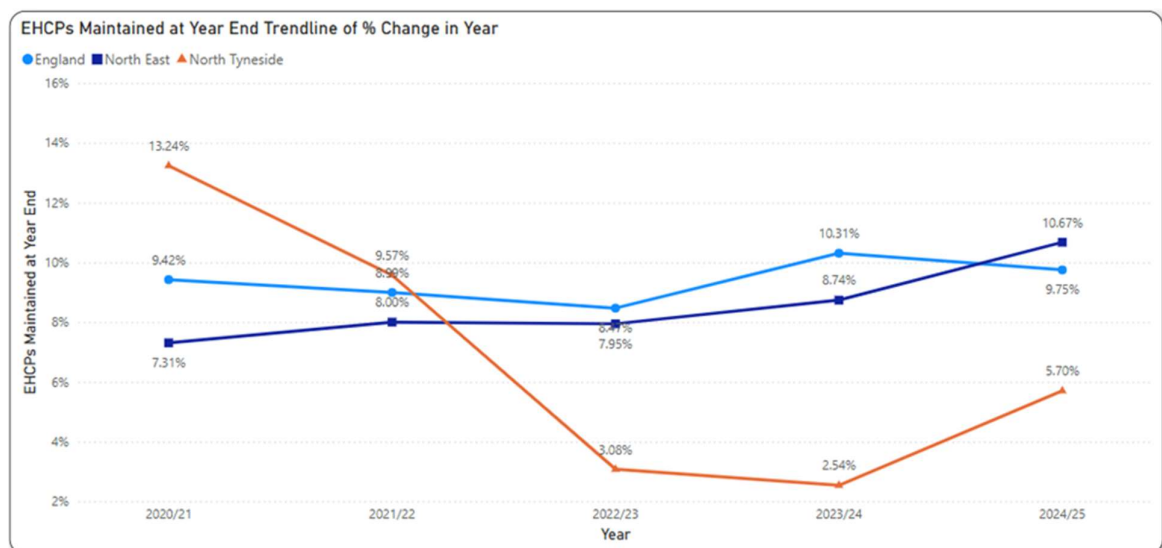
In 2024, there was a continued national increase in the total number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained to year end.

Across England overall, the number of EHCPs rose by 9.75%, while the North East region recorded a slightly higher rate of 10.67%.

In North Tyneside, the total number of EHCPs increased by 5.7%, rising from 2,167 in 2023 to 2,298 in 2024. Although this represents a higher growth rate than in the previous two years, when increases had slowed to 3.1% (2022/23) and 2.5% (2023/24); the latest annual rise remains below both the regional and national rates.

Over the five-year period shown in the chart, North Tyneside experienced an initial period of higher growth (peaking at 13.2% in 2020/21) followed by a sustained deceleration through to 2023/24.

The most recent year indicates a moderate upward shift in the rate of increase.



Provision	North Tyneside	North East	England
Mainstream School (Including LA Maintained, academies and free schools across both SEN units and resourced provisions)	844 (36.7%)	11,167 (38.0%)	278,236 (43.6%)
Special Schools (Including LA Maintained, academies and free schools, Independent and Non-Maintained special Schools)	877 (38.2%)	11,331 (38.5%)	193,880 (30.4%)
Alternative Provisions (Including Pupil Referral Units, Academies and Free schools)	47 (2.0%)	253 (0.9%)	4,858 (0.8%)
Further Education and Post 16 (Including FE colleges and 6 th Forms, Specialist post-16 Establishments and UKRLP providers)	411 (17.9%)	4,253 (14.5%)	88,158 (13.8%)
Educated Elsewhere (Including EHE, OLA, OPA, Other and NEET)	108 (4.7%)	1,712 (5.8%)	49,750 (7.8%)

6 Factors affecting overall numbers of pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans.

In 2024, there was a further national rise in the number of requests for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs).

Across England overall, the volume of requests increased by 10.52%, while the North East recorded a more modest growth of 2.0%.

In North Tyneside, the number of EHCNA requests grew by 2.65%, from 440 in 2023 to 452 in 2024, slightly above the regional growth rate.

It is important to note that 2023 and 2024 are the first two years in which data has been collected at a person level rather than as aggregated totals at the local authority level.

This change in methodology constitutes a major shift in how requests are recorded and reported.

As a result, comparisons between data collected prior to 2023 and more recent figures should be treated with caution, as apparent trends may partly reflect improved accuracy and consistency rather than changes in underlying demand.

	2024			2023		
	North Tyneside	North East	England	North Tyneside	North East	England
Under 5	124	1613	38535	148	1573	36806
%	27.4%	26.0%	24.9%	33.6%	25.9%	26.6%
5 to 10	182	2724	67207	173	2460	59089
%	40.3%	43.9%	43.5%	39.3%	40.5%	42.7%
11 to 15	131	1680	42455	73	1659	36559
%	29.0%	27.1%	27.5%	16.6%	27.3%	26.4%
16 to 19	15	180	5898	21	190	5411
%	3.3%	2.9%	3.8%	4.8%	3.1%	3.9%
20 to 25	0	3	393	1	14	377
%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%

The data shows that, consistent with previous years, the largest proportion of EHCNA requests in North Tyneside continues to be for children aged 5 to 10 years.

In 2024, this group accounted for 40.3% of all requests.

While this remains the most significant cohort, the proportion is slightly below both the regional figure (43.9%) and the national figure (43.5%), a pattern that was also evident in 2023.

For children under 5 years old, North Tyneside has maintained a higher share of requests relative to regional and national benchmarks.

In 2024, 27.4% of requests were for this age group, compared to 26.0% regionally and 24.9% nationally.

However, this represents a notable decline compared to 2023, when the proportion stood at 33.6%.

This downward shift is more pronounced locally than the modest reductions seen at the national level, suggesting changes in either demand or referral practices within the authority.

Among young people aged 11 to 15, North Tyneside has seen a significant increase in the proportion of requests, rising from 16.6% in 2023 to 29.0% in 2024.

This change has effectively brought North Tyneside in line with the regional (27.1%) and national (27.5%) proportions, where previously it was markedly below both comparators.

For those aged 16 to 19, the proportion of requests in North Tyneside decreased from 4.8% in 2023 to 3.3% in 2024.

This drop means that the local figure is now slightly above the regional average (2.9%) but below the national rate (3.8%). Compared to 2023, when North Tyneside's proportion was higher than both the regional and national averages, this decline suggests a potential shift in where and when assessments are initiated for older cohorts.

Finally, requests from young people aged 20 to 25 remain very low both locally and nationally.

In North Tyneside, no requests were recorded for this group in 2024, compared to one request in 2023, aligning closely with regional and national patterns where these requests consistently account for less than 0.5% of the total.

7 Details on any anticipated gaps in existing LA high needs provision offers.

The Authority's DSG Management Plan set out three strategic priorities, to strengthen inclusion in schools and settings, strengthen school place planning and provision in the borough to meet changing needs, and strengthen our statutory functions and support wrapped around our schools and settings.

The Authority harnessed the opportunity when submitting the DSG Management Plan, to further strengthen and build on our existing prevention and early intervention agenda, recognising that where funding is redirected to meet children and young people's needs earlier in their lives, we create the possibility to reduce spend on statutory, more costly services, later on. The DGS Management Plan set out a number of strategic priorities, in addition to the existing SEND Improvement Plan, which would meet children and young people's needs earlier, reducing demand on more costly provision, including specialist provision. During 2023-24 and into 2025, the Authority has made strong progress against each of these strategic priorities.

The risk to the Authority is that the system change we lead on do not materialise in reduced pressure on maintained special school schools, independent specialist provision and non-maintained special schools.

This will be more acutely felt should we not deliver on the expanded ARP and SEN Unit offer.

8 Details of any imminent and planned changes/commissioning priorities in the high needs' estate, including pipeline free schools or planned presumption schools.

The partnership is working with over 40 Headteachers and SENDCos, and wider partners across education, health and care, to expand commissioned places from 110 in April 2023 to 258 in April 2028; we are on track with 188 places commissioned for September 2025. The partnership has co-produced and implemented a new service level agreement and funding model for each school and is developing its wider multi-disciplinary offer which wraps around these schools.

This work is gaining national attention from the DfE, who have visited one ARP and one SEN Unit, and who have invited us to work with Ambition Institution, commissioned by the DfE, to set up a community of leaders who can begin to define principles of best practice.

9 Overview of independent placements and the key drivers behind placements (e.g. parental preference, provision gap, local capacity constraints, etc.).

Our intention is to reduce the number of pupils placed in Independent Specialist Provision and Non-Maintained Special Schools.

The Authority is, none the less, experiencing significant challenges in this area; our maintained special schools are all experiencing large increases in numbers over recent

years, not all with expansion in school building capacity. Where pupils are placed in Independent Specialist Provision and Non-Maintained Special Schools, it is because our local maintained special schools cannot meet need, more often due to capacity.

Out of all **new** EHCP issued in 2024, there has been a 66.7% increase of those CYP in an Independent Special School or Non-Maintained special school. (We had 3 in 2023 and 5 in 2024, were 8 in 2022).

Out of all EHCP maintained at the end of 2024, there has been a 20% increase of those CYP in an Independent Special School or Non-Maintained Special School. (We had 60 in 2023 and 72 in 2024. Were 64 in 2022).

The Authority does not, however, intend to grow our maintained special schools by any significance; instead, we are and intend to grow our ARP and SEN Unit capacity and in doing so, place pupils in them as an alternative, where they can meet need, to our maintained special schools. The intention, therefore, is that this will create the capacity in our maintained special schools to further reduce our use of Independent Specialist Provision and Non-Maintained Special Schools over time.

10 Is your LA part of the Safety Valve or Delivering Better Value for SEND programmes?

The Authority has entered year three of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme in April 2025.

11 For high needs provision, which is reported at a local authority level only, you should complete this section to illustrate any sub-LA regional variations where these create specific pressures that require actions to address impacts, over and above the general LA level pressure on places.

Please copy and paste additional rows as needed.

Planning area name/ID and region	
e.	Overview
PA NAME:	Specialist provision is considered at an LA level. As we expand our ARP capacity, this will be informed by the needs of pupils in particular areas and phases of education.

ID:	
	Actions (current and planned) to address shortage of places.
Region:	

12 Any further information