

Borough Context

In 2020 to 2021, 21.8% of children in the borough were living in relatively low-income families, higher than London (16.6%) and England (18.5%).

92 % of the borough's 78 schools are graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted and 94% of Ofsted registered early years providers are rated good or outstanding.

For the academic year 2022/23 there were 4,896 children or 11.5% at SEND Support, which was 1.4% lower than national average. Of this group, 37.6% were disadvantaged and 76% were from Black and Minority Ethnic heritages and 38.8% spoke English as an Additional Language. There were 2,268 children or 5.3% of the population with an EHCP. This is 1.3% higher than the national average.

Of this, 41.8% were disadvantaged, 80.9% were from Black and Minority Ethnic heritages and 38.9% spoke English as an Additional Language. The Local Area has a strong understanding of the cumulative impacts of potential vulnerabilities. This is reinforced by the Educational Psychology service (EPS) monitoring of referrals which shows that 79% speak English as a home language, 37% speak at least one home language other than English, 70% were males, compared to 51% of the school population.

We are in the process of reviewing the disproportionality action plan that was devised in 2020 as part of the AP strategy. This will be developed through a task and finish group that will include partners including schools, youth justice, SEND and Children Social Care. To address racial disparity and further develop our anti-racist agenda with schools as part of our AP strategy action plan. An example of this strong understanding can be seen in the outreach work through the Vanguard programme, which recognises the co-location of vulnerabilities for children and young people known to the Youth Justice system.

The proportion of children with EHCPs, as shown below, is the joint highest with Enfield when looking at our statistical neighbours:

Borough	%SEND	%EHCPs
WF	16.9	5.3
All London	16.9	4.8
Haringey	17.4	5.0
Greenwich	19.4	4.0
Croydon	18.1	4.8
Enfield	16.4	5.3

Source: LG Inform

For 2022/23 academic year, educational performance can be summarised:

Indicator	Waltham Forest SEND Support	Waltham Forest Whole Cohort	Difference (% pt)	WF Non-SEND Support	Difference (% pt)	Waltham Forest – children with an EHCP
EYFS - GLD	34%	74%	-40	82%	-48	15%
Y1 Phonics	63%	83%	-20	89%	-26	33%
Key Stage 1 Exp (RWM)	36%	67%	-31	72%	-36	17%
Key Stage 1 GD (RWM)	4%	14%	-10	16%	-12	0
Key Stage 2 Exp(RWM)	39%	69%	-30	78%	-39	9%
Key Stage 2 GD (RWM)	3%	14%	-11	17%	-14	0
Attainment 8/ P8 to be added						

In terms of the Early Year's profile, 28.6% of children with SEND (Support plus EHCPs) achieved Good Levels of Development, which compares favourably with the London (21.5%) and national (19.9%) rates. By the end of Key Stage. In Waltham Forest, 63% of pupils with SEN Support are meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding, compared to a All London Boroughs average of 53%. 28% of pupils with EHC plans in Waltham Forest meet the standard, compared to 25% in All London Boroughs.

By the end of Key Stage 2, 29.2% of children with SEND in Waltham Forest achieved expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to 27.1% across London and 20.1% nationally.

Expected	Waltham Forest	London	National	High Standard	Waltham Forest	London	National
Reading	42.6%	44.8%	38.5%	Reading	13.6%	13.0%	10.1%
Writing	37.2%	37.1%	28.9%	Writing	4.2%	4.1%	2.6%
Maths	46.5%	45.3%	36.3%	Maths	10.3%	10.3%	6.5%

By Key Stage 4, children with SEND in Waltham Forest achieved marginally less well than their peers nationally in 2022/23 and less well than those across London. The Attainment 8 score for children with EHCPs and at SEND Support was 27.1 compared to 28 nationally and 31.7 for London. Progress 8 was -0.71 compared to -0.37 in London and -0.62 nationally.

In 2020/21, the percentage of the SEN cohort studying in Waltham Forest at the age of 16 who attain a Level 2 qualification, including English and Maths, by the age of

19, is 46.8%, compared to an average of 47.6% across All London Boroughs for those with SEN support. This compares to those with EHC plans of which 21.2% attained a Level 2 qualification, including English and Maths in Waltham Forest and 21.7% in All London Boroughs.

In 2020/21, the percentage of the SEN cohort studying in Waltham Forest at the age of 16 who attain a Level 3 by the age of 19 is 48.8% for those with SEN support and 16.9% for those with an EHC plan. This compares to 47.1% for SEN Support and 22% for EHC plans in All London Boroughs. In 2021/22, in Waltham Forest, 1.3% of adults with learning disabilities are in paid employment, compared to 1.5% in 2020/21 and the All London Borough Average of 5.2%.

Attendance for children with SEND is 91.7% and so lower than the whole cohort rate for Waltham Forest although compares favourably to children with SEND nationally (89.9%). Persistent absence is 25.8%, which again is high compared to the Waltham Forest whole cohort but lower than their peers nationally.

The permanent exclusion rate was 0.18 for last academic year to Spring 2023. This is slightly higher than the national rate and higher than the London rate. Suspension rates at 7.63 were lower than national and higher than London.

In 2021, the percentage of 16 and 17 year olds with SEND recorded as NEET was 0.4% in Waltham Forest, which compares to 2.5% in the previous period and the all 'All London Boroughs' average of 5.3%. Those with SEN Support recorded as NEET was 0.0% in Waltham Forest, which compares to 6.1% in the previous period, and the All London Boroughs average of 6.2%. In the last 3 years 85-90% of children have moved into education, employment or training at Post 16. All AP College providers have onsite careers staff and sessions to support children to make applications for Year 12. All AP providers ensure that they meet the Gatsby Benchmarks. As part of the LA's response to the SEND Review, the 14-19 Tracking Service has invested in improving tracking for children and young people with SEND in 2023/24. In addition, the Local Authority's work around an Inclusive Economy reflects the Corporate commitment to ensure that all young people, including those with SEND have access to meaningful occupation in adulthood, working with local anchor institutions, such as the new University of Portsmouth London Campus in the borough on a shared commitment to inclusion, for example, a focus on those young people leaving care (where there is a high prevalence of special educational need). The Local Authority is also modelling being an anchor institution locally, working with the local College in the development of a new LBWF Supported Internship. Through the Preparing for Adulthood Strategy, transition pathways have improved at 14+, including work with school links to deliver the Gatsby benchmarks and our two special school trusts have developed their post-16 curriculum, with employability as a key component.



In 2020/21, in Waltham Forest, the rate of suspensions for pupils with EHC plans was 6.55% and for SEN Support was 6.43%. This compares to averages of 8.48% for EHC plans and 7.40% for SEN Support, in All London Boroughs. In 2020/21, in Waltham Forest the permanent exclusion rates for pupils with SEN Support was 0.06%, compared to the previous period when it was 0.12%. In All London Boroughs the rate in 2020/21 was 0.09%. There is a strong focus locally on reducing suspensions for all children, with the approach to alternative provision and fair access reflecting a mature local position that behaviour is a form of communication and risk of exclusion requires a trauma informed approach that seeks to identify unmet need. There is improving connectivity across Alternative Provision and SEND, with two reviews looking at future need simultaneously reflecting this synergy.

77% of Parents and Carers who participated in the Annual SEND Service Survey 22.23 said that they feel the support they have received via their setting has improved their independence and preparation for adulthood.

We are working with our acute health services (Whipp's Cross) to improve access for young people to health services, including consideration for accessing health services in adulthood. Children receiving Continuing Care are supported to transition to adult services through the most appropriate route. Work is ongoing, in line with the new NHSE Policy on DSRs and CETRs, to ensure we have appropriate mechanisms for transitioning young people on the Children's DSR to the adult's DSR.

The SEND Social Care Team receives a high volume of referrals from the SEND Education Team, to ensure children and young people care needs are assessed to ensure they receive sufficient support. This also included multi agency working to ensure the child and young person as the right type of support and taking into consideration offering a carers assessment to full-time carers. The SEND Teams social care Dash performance has improved over the last year which is evident in the Council's DASH board Report in June 2022 and April 2023. Children in Need are seen on time. Those children being supported on a CIN Plan are never usually longer that 1 year in duration.

