



Quality Assurance
Safeguarding Report:
Review of Children
*with no educational placement,
unknown provision and Imports,*
June 2023.

EMcQ



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Executive Summary – Key Learning Points

- A small proportion of children with no placement are recorded as Children Missing Education (CME). Children of compulsory school age, not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise, out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time.
- There should be no assumptions that children with an unknown provision, have a provision in place which has not been entered onto Synergy.
- Some children with unknown or no placement also have a category of Elected Home Educated, this is a data error.
- Children, with no access to education or additional support due to lack of placements could be vulnerable to a number of safeguarding risks, any harm experienced or behaviours related to harm could potentially go unnoticed.
- When children are absent from school for extended periods, they miss important opportunities to build relationships, establish social networks, and develop essential social and emotional skills.
- Understanding professional networks and additional interventions cannot be properly identified through the Synergy system. In the absence of a UPN number, Liberi and Synergy cannot be cross referenced to understand if children have additional needs.
- There is no longer an EHCP Lozenger (icon) on Liberi to be able to alert workers or managers that the child has additional needs, this has been since the upgrade to V16, the place where the information re EHCP is now under the Additional tab.
- East is an outlier for children with SEMH, there are 43 children (53%) in East with SEMH, of the total number of children, 29 (67%) are in year 10 or below and still have many educational years ahead of them.
- The significant majority of children with no placement or unknown is male (72%). Females with no placement or unknown increases in year 9,10,11, (56%), SEMH as the primary need is more predominant.
- There are 12 appeals, six in East, five in North and one in the South. Ten of the twelve appeals related to children recorded as male.
- This report has not deep dived into ethnicity; however it is clear from the number of no placement/unknown ethnicities this area lacks priority and understanding it is also not clear on the guidance used to record categories. BAME children with no placement or unknown are disproportionately over represented.
- SEND is not assured of the oversight of children with the category of Imports, there is a lack of robust approach to the Import process. Other Local Authority Children also present as a risk as the level of oversight from their authority is unknown.

- There was a stark number of children out of education their final year of their GCSE's and this will have future implications with regards to education, employment, and future training.

Background to the report

The purpose of this report is to understand the situation and safeguarding risks of children who are not currently going to school and are not known to have an educational placement. The report explores information with regards to this cohort, such as age, gender, school year and their primary educational need, along with the geographical area the child lives in and trends related to EHCP. The report also considers children who are subject to Child in Need (CIN), Child Protection (CP) and Children in care (CLA), although this data is not altogether reliable, reporting for children in SEND is run from recordings on Synergy and only includes reports on Children in care. Children subject to additional statutory interventions (CP and CIN and Early help) are reported from Liberi, the two systems are not currently linked, data can be cross referenced from UPN numbers but these are not always on a child's file. This report has not considered children open to Early Help for the same reason.

There are a number of reasons children, who are the responsibility of Kent County Council, issued with an EHCP might not be attending a school setting, these may include:

- *Waiting for a suitable placement:* A child may be waiting for an appropriate educational setting that can meet their specific needs as outlined in their EHCP. This could be due to limited availability, waiting lists, or the process of consulting with the preferred setting.
- *Transport:* Transport to school and it is not available or has not been provided yet.
- *Medical reasons:* A child may have medical issues or health-related concerns that prevent them from attending school. These reasons may require temporary home tutoring or hospital education until the child is well enough to return to school.
- *Exclusion:* A child might be temporarily or permanently excluded from school due to behavioural concerns or other issues. In such cases, it is expected that SEND ensures the provision of alternative education arrangements.
- *Transition periods:* A child might experience gaps in their attendance due to transitions between school (educational) settings, such as moving from primary to secondary school, or from mainstream to a specialist provision.
- *School refusal or anxiety:* A child may be experiencing school refusal or anxiety due to a range of factors, including social difficulties, or unmet educational needs. It is expected that consideration should be given to these children requiring additional support to help the child reintegrate into (or back into) an educational setting.
- *Parents and local authority do not share the same agreement to a school setting:* Sometimes, disagreements between parents and Kent County Council regarding the placement or provisions in the EHCP may lead to delays in the child attending school.
- *Children may not attend school for cultural reasons:* families can become disengaged from education, particularly during the secondary school phase.
- *Impact Covid 19:* Parental attitude towards attendance has weakened since the pandemic.

Methodology

This report specifically considers the profiling of children whose reason for being out of school with the reporting category 'no placement' or 'unknown.' We recognise without suitable school placements or alternative provision; children may be vulnerable to increased risk or safeguarding concerns either at home or in the community. By conducting this report, we aim to gain a better understanding of the gaps in the data in particular districts, highlight lack of resources at key stages related to primary needs, consider challenges children face

and identify a next steps strategy and effective ways to support the children. Data reviewed for the purpose of this report was:

The most up to date information on children in pre-school open county wide. As of the 21st of June, there was 28 pre-school children with an EHCP, four with no placement and 24 children with unknown, there are no Children in care in this cohort.

The most up to date information on children School Age (R-11) county. As of the 21st of June, there was 95 children reported as having no placement, of this number seven are Children in Care (CIC). There are 111 number of School Age (R-11) county wide whose placement status is currently unknown, 15 of these children are Children in Care.

Definition: No placement is distinguished as 'the child has no education provision mainstream or otherwise' and this is entered manually into the synergy by a worker in the SEND service and pulled through into the report. This is recorded as No Current Placement / Out of School.

Definition: Unknown (ukn) is distinguished from no placement when a worker in SEND ends the previous attendance (at an educational provision or alternative provision) but no new attendance is known.

The report also references the 'Imports', these are children transferred from other local authorities, the most up to date information as of 5th June 2023 as 274 Ongoing Import Workflows, of this number there are 103 cases where we have not adopted the plan – 82 are over the 6-week timescale (of which 23 are dated 2022) and 171 cases where we have adopted the plan but have not finished the workflow on Synergy – 145 are for workflows dated Dec 22 or older.

The Year no placement 12+ is static at 143 (1 CIC). The number of currently unknown Year 12+ is 463 (12 CIC). These young people have not been included in this report, however young people with EHCPs who are not in school may face greater difficulties in transitioning to further education, employment, or training.

Children with no placement and unknown provision

Data Analysis – Pre-school

There are currently 28 children with an EHCP who have no placement (4) or unknown (24) there are no Children in care in this cohort. ASD (10) is the highest primary need followed by SLCN (7). East is an outlier for children with no placement or provision not known. 23 of the children are recorded as being male and five children are recorded as being female, males are also an outlier throughout the report.

Area	Children	Primary Need	
	1 no placem, 2	Blank	3
Ashford (S)	ukn 3	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	10
Canterbury (E)	1 unknown 1	Moderate Learning Difficulty	1
Dartford (N)	1 unknown 1	Physical Disability	1
Folkestone & Hythe (S)	1 unknown 1	Profound and Multiple Learning	
Gravesend (N)	1 no placem, 3 4	Difficulty	1

	unknown		Severe Learning Difficulty	3
Maidstone (W)	1 no placem	1	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	1
Sevenoaks (N)	1 unknown	1	Speech, Language and Communication	
	1 no placem,		Needs	7
Swale (E)	10 ukn	11	Visual Impairment	1
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	3 unknown	3	Total	28
Tunbridge Wells (W)	2 unknown	2		
Total		28		

Reception

There are seven children in reception with no school placement and seven children whose provision is unknown. Gravesend N (two) and Sevenoaks N (two) have the highest number of children with no placement, whilst Dartford has the highest number of children with an unknown provision. Overall the North of the county has the highest number of reception children with no placement (five) and unknown (three). There are no reception children in the South without a school placement or provision.

Table 1 – Reception

Area	Children		Primary Need	Children
Dartford (N)	1, no placem, 3 ukn	4	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	6
Gravesend (N)	2, no placement	2	Physical Disability	2
Maidstone (W)	1, no placem, 1 ukn	2	Severe Learning Difficulty	1
Sevenoaks (N)	2, no placement	2	Speech, Language and	
Swale (E)	1, no placement	2	Communication Needs	4
Thanet (E)	1 unknown	1	Visual Impairment	1
Tunbridge Wells (W)	1 unknown	1	Total	14
Total		14		

There is one child in West of the County W (Maidstone) identified as a child in need (CIN), with an allocated social worker. Visits to children subject to CIN are four weekly and should involve CIN network meetings. If the child had a school provision or alternative provision, school representative would not form part of the network and be able to contribute to the CIN support plan, out of school children lack the additional oversight and support. The child's primary need is physical disability, notes on Liberi acknowledge that consultations are taking place in respect of schools for September.

No children in this category are reportedly Children in Care or subject to a child protection plan. Five of the children are recorded as female and nine of the children classified as male.

There are two appeals taking place with this cohort, Dartford (male child with SLCN) and Sevenoaks child (male child with ASD), both North of the borough. While it is important to approach vulnerability on an individual basis, vulnerability of children increase if they have a

physical, sensory, intellectual, or developmental disabilities and require additional support to meet their needs.

Year 1

Year 1 has the smallest number of children who are unknown or have no placement, both are recorded as female with speech and language identified as their primary need, both live East of the county. Neither children appear to be subject of statutory intervention: Child in Need, Child Protection (CP) or a Child in Care (CIC).

Table 2 Year 1

Area	Education		Primary Need	Children
Canterbury (E)	1, unknown	1	Speech, Language and	
Swale (E)	1, no placem	1	Communication Needs	2
Total		2	Total	2

The child from Canterbury (E) final EHCP issue date was August 2022, and is noted on the data as having '*moved out of Kent*' and has a category of child missing education, (CME). Further exploration is required to understand why we are reporting on this child 405679

Year 2

Year 2 children with no placement are relatively small, four, and unknown three, however it is of concern that there is an emerging picture of children in their second year of primary with no placement. Six of the seven children are male and two are noted to have Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) as their primary need code. One child in this cohort has no needs code 259075. Both of the children living in Canterbury (E) are CIC, one of whom is another Local Authority Looked After Child (OLA LAC), placed in Kent. 510225

Table 3 Year 2

Area	Education		Primary need	Children
Canterbury (E)	1, no placement, 1 unkn	2	None noted	1
Dartford (N)	2, no placement, 1 unkn	3	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	3
Gravesend (N)	1 no placement	1	Social, Emotional and Mental	
Maidstone (W)	1, unknown	1	Health	2
Total		7	Speech, Language and	
			Communication Needs	1
			Total	7

Children in Care not attending school is known to place addition pressure on carers and maintain permanence (stability). There are three children with the category of CME. There is one appeal in this year group (Dartford N) 331365. Two children in Year 2 have Higher Needs Funding, one for SEMH, one with an absent primary need. There are no children without a known education provision in the South of the County.

Year 3

This report highlights the number of children subject to an EHCP with unknown provision or no placement is increasing year on year. In Year 3 there are nine children with no placement or unknown provision, six of these children are recorded as male and three as female. There are no known appeals taking place for any of the children. Three of the children, have or have had statutory interventions, one child, Canterbury (E) is a Child in Need with an allocated social worker, (primary need ASD), a second child, in Thanet (E), is an OLA placed child and whose primary need is SEMH, a third child, Thanet (E) previously a Child Looked After (SEMH), would be considered as having additional vulnerabilities at possibly at risk of re-entering care or being lost outside of the system with no school provision. 475971

Table 4 Year 3

Area	Education		Primary Need	Children
Canterbury (E)	2, unknown	2	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	5
Dartford (N)	1, no place, 1 Ukn	2	Physical Disability	1
Gravesend (N)	1, unknown	1	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	2
Sevenoaks (N)	1, no placement	1	Speech, Language and Communication	
Swale (E)	1, no placement	1	Needs	1
Thanet (E)	2, no placement	2	Total	9
Total		9		

Three of the children have a category of CME, all are recorded under the 'unknown' category, this evidences that children classified as 'unknown' are not solely related to data errors and workers not updating Synergy. One of the three children has a *moved into Kent* status alongside the CME status, (Sept 2022) and is registered disabled, the primary need is Speech and Language Communication Needs (SLCN), the child has been known to Child Protection and Early Help, the case file closed in January 2023, there is little evidence of current oversight of this child 271856.

Of interest children in year 3 without provision or unknown are from the East and North of the County there are no children from the South or West of the county.

Year 4

There are four children in Year 4 who are without a provision and four children whose provision is unknown, total 8. Six of the children are recorded as male and two are female. This cohort of year 4 primary needs vary greater than those in earlier school years. There are three children noted to be CME, two with no placement and one unknown. Of these three, one child (no provision) with profound and multi learning difficulty is a CIN 508019. The second child CME 260533 has severe learning difficulties with no Social Care or Early Help involvement. Checks with the Liberi system note there is no obvious identifiable Lozenger children are EHCP.

Table 5 Year 4

Area	Education		Primary Need	Children
Canterbury (E)	1, no provision	1	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	2
Dartford (N)	1, no placement	1	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	1
Dover (S)	1, unknown	1	Severe Learning Difficulty	1
Gravesend (N)	1, no placement	1	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	2
Swale (E)	2, unknown, 1 no provision	3	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	2
Thanet (E)	1, unknown	1		
Total		8	Total	8

Consistent with Year 3, there are no children from the West of the county without a placement or unknown provision in Year 4. SEMH has featured as a primary need for a number of children in Years 2,3,4. These children are particularly vulnerable given the required type of available educational provision required to meet this group of children’s needs. When reviewing the findings and cross referencing the data there is little obvious additional support from wider agencies, very few are known to Social Care or Early help intervention. It may be parents / carers would benefit from additional signposting and support.

Year 5

There are ten children in Year 5 with no placement or unknown provision, of this number there are three children with social care intervention. All three are OLA, two are CIC and one is CP, all three children are placed in the East of the County, one with primary needs of SEMH, two with primary needs of ASD. The CIC children are not placed with Kent foster carers, the oversight of their welfare is through their placing authority, virtual school and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), due to the number of professionals involved these children are less vulnerable than a child with a CP plan 515291, although Kent is unaware of the level of oversight of these children from their originating authority, the lack of educational support for children in foster care increases the likelihood of breakdown.

Table 6 year 5

Area	Children		Primary Need	Children
Canterbury (E)	1, no placement		Autistic Spectrum Disorder	3
Maidstone (W)	1, unknown	2	Moderate Learning Difficulty	2
Swale (E)	1, unknown	1	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	4
Thanet (E)	1, no placement, 3 unknown	4	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	1
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	1, no placement	1		
Tunbridge Wells (W)	1, unknown	1		
Total		10	Total	10

One child East is reported to be EHE, his primary need is SEMH and there is an appeal taking place, parents are dissatisfied with the previous offer. Of the seven remaining children, two are classed as unknown and are also noted to be CME, this is further evidence that unknown is a risk factor, children may not have oversight of a professional and this increases their vulnerability. 46390 40700

Year 6

The figures for children in year 6 have almost doubled from year 5. East is the greatest outlier with nine of the 19 children with no placement or unknown, of this number ASD (4) is the highest primary need, followed by SEMH (3) and SLCN (2). There are four children where HNF was/is in place but the children are not in school, these are in the North x 2, South x 1 and East x 1. There is no correlation between those children with HNF and their primary need, although it is interesting to note there is only three primary needs in this considerable number of children, SEMH, ASD and SLCN. One appeal in place in respect of a child with High Needs Funding and ASD (East). 16 of the 19 children are recorded as male, this is a consistent emerging theme of disproportionate numbers of males (84%).

Table 7 year 6

Area	Children		Row Labels	Children
Ashford (S)	1 unknown	1	Autistic Spectrum	
Canterbury (E)	1, no placem, 2 ukn	3	Disorder	8
Dartford (N)	1, no placem, 1 ukn	2	Social, Emotional	
Dover (S)	2 unknown	2	and Mental Health	5
Folkestone & Hythe (S)	1 unknown	1	Speech, Language and	
Gravesend (N)	2 unknown	2	Communication Needs	6
Not Kent Address	Error to clarify	1	Total	19
Swale (E)	2 unknown	2		
Thanet (E)	2 no placem, 2 ukn	4		
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	1 unknown	1		
Total		19		

There are three children EHE, all three also have the unknown category, two of whom have ASD and one SEMH. Six children have a category of CME, four are recorded as male, two female, all six children are from either North (3) or East (3) of the County. The primary need for all three CME children in the North is SLCN. Four children have social work intervention, two of these children are CIN, one is not a Kent address, 497417. Two children are placed in Kent by other Local Authorities (OLA) (North and East), these are areas where resource is already stretched, therefore these children are further disadvantage.

14 of the 19 children are in the category of unknown, this could be a reporting matter where Synergy is not updated and the child has a provision, the report would be accurate if the 'unknown' resource were correctly recorded. No placement in Year 6 is concerning as the transition to secondary school, specialist or otherwise, will not take place for the children unless there is a targeted and robust intervention.

One child, CME, does not have a named worker, and has moved within Kent 174121

Year 7

There are 26 children in year 7 without a provision (15) or unknown (11). The majority of these children are male, 22 (84%), female four. There is a notable steep rise of children out of school with SEMH (12) in comparison to previous years totalling 46% of this cohort, all of whom are male. Nine of the 12 children are noted to be CME, eight live in the East of the County, with the other four living in the South x 1, East x 1 and North x 2.

Table 8 year 7

Area	Primary Need	Children
Ashford (S) 1, no placem, 1 ukn 2	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	9
Canterbury (E) 2, no placem, 1 ukn 3	Hearing Impairment	1
Dartford (N) 2 no placem, 1 ukn 3	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	12
Folkestone & Hythe (S) 1 unknown 1	Specific Learning Difficulty	1
Gravesend (N) 2 unknown 2	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	3
Maidstone (W) 1, no placem, 1 ukn 2	Total	26
Sevenoaks (N) 1, no placem, 1 ukn 2		
Swale (E) 2, no placem, 1 ukn 4		
Thanet (E) 4 no placem, 1 ukn 5		
Tonbridge and Malling (W) 1 no placem, 1 ukn 2		
Total 26		

There are three appeals in place and all three appeals relate to East of the County. One of these children is particularly vulnerable as he has previously been a Child in Care 76000. This data indicates there is less likely to be sufficient inclusion/ provision once a child reaches secondary school age, especially with SEMH and especially in the East of the County. It is not understood fully why the children have no placement and if this is related to resource, lack of targeted intervention, or the children have fallen through the gaps with the continuous change of workers in SEND and lack of consistent oversight.

Year 8

There is a slight reduction in numbers of children out of school or unknown in year 8, the number of males, 15 (79%), female: four, remains high throughout this report, with eight children having SEMH as their primary need, (53%) and two females with SEMH. In contrast to year 7 there are more children with no placement or unknown in the North of the County (8) as opposed to East (7) where numbers are still relatively high. In the North, the primary need relates to ASD and SEMH, as opposed to East where the predominant primary need is SEMH. There is an emerging picture of SEMH provision being a significant factor regarding resource in the East of the County particularly with regards to males. There are six children in this cohort who have a notification of CME, four are male and two female.

Table 9 year 8

Area	Children			
Canterbury (E)	1 unknown	1	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	8
Dartford (N)	2 no placement, 3 ukn	5	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	10
Dover (S)	1 unknown	1	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	1
Gravesend (N)	2, no placement	2	Total	19
Not Kent Address	Query error	1		
Sevenoaks (N)	1 no placement	1		
Swale (E)	2, no placem, 2 ukn	4		
Thanet (E)	1, no placem, 2 ukn	3		
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	1, no placement	1		
Total		19		

Given the number of children subject to SEMH, there remains very few children noted as having social care support even though the number of children is increasing. One child is OLA CIC, of concern there are two children who have previously been looked after, both reside in the East of the County, they will have increased vulnerability due to their age, gender and profiling. The trajectory for children out of school for prolonged periods of time, having been a child in care, with an EHCP is poor, this is based on profiling of children subject to Youth Justice intervention with an EHCP. These are the children who should be targeted with an educated provision. 171620 170026.

Year 9

Year 9 is the second largest group of children with no placement (12) and unknown (19), unlike other children with no placement, 11 out of the 12 children have a category of CME meaning they have all been out of school for a period of time, increasing their level of community vulnerability through social interaction and developing peer networks, of this number three children are subject to appeals. One each from North, South and East, two with SEMH and one child with ASD.

Table 10 Year 9

Row Labels			Count of Home District
Ashford (S)	2, no place, 2 ukn	4	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Dartford (N)	1 unknown	1	Moderate Learning Difficulty
Dover (S)	1, no place, 2 ukn	3	Social, Emotional and Mental Health Specific Learning Difficulty
Gravesend (N)	1, unknown	1	Speech, Language and
Maidstone (W)	3, unknown	3	
Not Kent Address	unknown	1	
Sevenoaks (N)	3, no place, 3 ukn	6	
Swale (E)	2, no place, 2 ukn	4	
Thanet (E)	2, no place, 2 ukn	4	
Tonbridge and	1 unknown	1	

Malling (W)		Communication Needs	
Tunbridge Wells (W)	1, no place, 2 ukn	Total	31
Total	3		

SEMH (13) continues to increase year on year, with equal numbers in North (4) and West (4) followed by South (3) and East (1). One child is recorded as 'not a Kent address.' The second highest category is ASD and the numbers are higher in the South for ASD (4) and West (4) followed by East (2) and North (2). The four children with SEMH in the North all live in Sevenoaks and three of the four children are female, this is a significant outlier in respect of females and district. Overall there is six females in this cohort with SEMH, a noticeable rise in females having no placement or unknown in Year 9. Two of the children are CIC (unknown) and one child is CIN (no provision), the primary needs for children with statutory intervention vary; MLD, SEMH, SLCN.

Year 10

There is less children in year 10 with no placement (12) or unknown (13) than in years 9 or 11, however the total number of children remains high at 25. SEMH remains the highest category in this cohort (11) with four of the children female, followed by ASD (10), three of whom are female. Year 10 has seen an increase again in females. The South has the highest number of children with SEMH (4), and all have the category of unknown with regards to their education. The East had the highest number of children with ASD (5).

Table 11 year 10

Area	Children	Primary Need	Children
Ashford (S)	3 unknown	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	10
Canterbury (E)	5, no placement	Physical Disability	1
Dartford (N)	1, unknown	Severe Learning Difficulty	2
Dover (S)	3, unknown	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	11
Gravesend (N)	1, no placement	Speech, Language and Communication	1
Sevenoaks (N)	2, no placement, 2 ukn	Total	25
Swale (E)	1, no provision		
Thanet (E)	2, no placement, 1 ukn		
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	1, unknown		
Tunbridge Wells (W)	2 unknown		
Total	25		

13 children are recorded as CME, of this number five are EHE. Of the EHE children four are females, from the East of the County with different primary needs, SLD x 2, ASD, SEMH. There are seven children who have statutory social care intervention, two children CIC, four children CIN, and one a Child and Family Assessment is taking place. There are no appeals taking place in respect of the 25 children in year 10.

Aside from the children who are EHE (and this is likely to be a data/ recording issue on Synergy they are being pulled up as unknown), 21 children should be commencing their final year of secondary school in September 2023.

Year 11

Year 11 is the greatest number of children with no placement (18), 12 of whom are CME or unknown (18), three of the 18 are CME. At the time of writing this report, all *should* have completed their final year of secondary education and *should* be moving onto year 12 in September 2023. The data suggests that the majority of children Year 11 missed their key educational milestones. Only 18 of these children had an amended EHCP plan, three undertaken in 2018, three undertaken in 2019, one in 2020, three in 2021, two less than a year ago.

Six of the children had amended plans in 2023. Three of the children had ASD as their primary need and three had SEMH, five of the six children were male, unfortunately all the categories were reported as unknown, it may be that a provision has been identified but not yet confirmed or the recording has not been updated.

Table 12 year 11

Area	Children	Primary Need
Ashford (S)	2, no placement, 4 ukn	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Canterbury (E)	5 no placement , 3 ukn	Moderate Learning Difficulty
Dartford (N)	1, no placement, 2 ukn	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Folkestone & Hythe (S)	2, no placement	Specific Learning Difficulty
Gravesend (N)	1, no placement	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
Maidstone (W)	1 unknown	
Sevenoaks (N)	3, no placement	
Swale (E)	1, no placement, 2 ukn	
Thanet (E)	1, no placement, 7 ukn	
Tonbridge and Malling (W)	1, no placement	
Grand Total	36	36

There is statutory intervention taking place with four of the children, two are CIN and two CLA, three of the four children live in the East of the borough and have a primary need of ASD x 2, and SEMH x 1. Two children have previously been CIC; this increases their vulnerability. 18 (50%) of the 36 children live in the East of the County, mainly Canterbury and Thanet, East is a significant outlier for children with no placement or unknown in Year 11, of this number 14 of the children's primary need is SEMH, with the remaining three ASD.

Risks to secondary school children not in education.

- Research tells us risk factors associated with gang involvement and youth violence tends to attract 'children outside a mainstream setting.' In most cases, the children who are vulnerable to these type of risk and had chaotic and unstable home lives, frequent but usually sporadic contact with different agencies and a complex set of emotional health issues, usually combined with SEND.

- Children’s Commissioner ‘still not safe’ Feb 21 identified those children at risk of exploitation fall through the gaps in education and social care and include children who are excluded from school or are persistently absent.
- KENT recent Youth Justice System (YJS) audit on a small number of children subject to EHCP noted all young people were not in school for some time prior to their crime, none had their EHCP’s regularly reviewed and 50% of that number had or was a CIC.

Children transferred into the County – IMPORTS

As part of the Import process, if a child or young person has a final EHCP, as part of the transfer process Kent will be sent the EHCP along with the supporting documentation from the previous Local Authority. Once Kent has been notified of child’s move into Kent, an Import workflow should be created on Synergy, with a start date that should be the same date as the day we were notified. KCC should view all the documents and decide if we are going to ‘adopt’ the transfer in EHCP. The timescale for the decision whether to adopt must be made within 6 weeks. If there is a decision not going to adopt the plan, the Import workflow should be ended, and a new Statutory Assessment workflow created. If there is a decision to adopt the plan, then the process involves sending out an amendment notice, 15 days later a new plan is issued in the Kent format.

As of 5th June 2023, the current Imports on the Data Quality report show:

Imports	Children
Ongoing Import workflows	274
Cases where a plan has not been adopted	103
Cases over the 6-week timescale	82 (23 dated 2022)
Cases where we have adopted the plan but not finished the workflow on synergy	171 (145 dated dec 2022 or older)
Activities	274

Where KCC has adopted the workflow can be reported on as the workflow has been started on Synergy. However, what is not clear is how many Imports are sitting in Group emails that have yet to be uploaded onto Synergy and if so, the total number and date of transfer request is not known. This work will need to be added to the backlog work and team as the provision provided to these children is largely unknown and the children will not form part of our active EHCP cohort, and therefore may not be getting the SEN support they need.

Import audit activity methodology has identified several EHCP’s have a current amended date on and have been adopted as the plan, yet on closer analysis the plan has remained unchanged for some time (up to several years). The explanation for this is; if not formally adopted, and the six-week timescale is missed Imports are automatically adopted as part of the SEND 2 returns and the new date that appears next to the plan is the upload date, meaning there has been no oversight and no understanding of the child’s current needs or provision. These children are separate from those with no placement and unknown, although a minority (less than five) have been noted on the no placement, unknown data.

The data in respect of Imports has not been analysed in detail or included in the Ethnicity breakdown in Appendix 1.

Vulnerabilities within the SEND Service - Conclusion

There is insufficient evidence to conclude that children with an unknown provision is a data error, where one might consider that their placement has not been correctly inputted into Synergy. Some of these children have been identified as having no placement through the child missing education category (CME). CME is a category for children who are of compulsory school age and are not on a school roll, nor being educated otherwise (e.g. privately or in alternative provision) and who have been out of any educational provision for a substantial period of time. In Kent, the child's school refers a pupil to the Local Authority for further investigation if s/he has been continually absent for more than 10 school days without permission and the school has conducted reasonable checks and failed to establish the child's whereabouts and the reason for absence. For the children CME for some time and with no provision, it is unclear at what frequency, if any checks take place.

There are several options to understand the detail of no placement and no provision, these include; further investigations from the case officer and the update of synergy records, review the data of children provided with additional provision and cross reference for any errors, clarification on welfare checks of CME children and removing EHE children from the no placement category (update to records). The application of following statutory duties and processes applies to children with the terminology of Imports, only then can we consider that the information for the no placement, unknown and Imports is dependable, this will give a clearer indication of the primary needs, and district sufficiency. The data recording and reporting of children's educational circumstance relies heavily on the allocated worker in SEND and management oversight.

There are safeguarding risks and increased vulnerability of children at various points of their school years for children out of sight. 'unseen.' Young children, with no access to education due to lack of placement could be at risk of harm and there is the potential for this to go unnoticed, one has to acknowledge children not being in education, who have additional needs, can place parents and carer under increased pressure and stress. Regular school attendance facilitates social interaction and the development of social skills. When children are absent from school for extended periods, they miss important opportunities to build relationships, establish social networks, and develop essential social and emotional competencies. This social isolation can lead to feelings of loneliness, lower self-esteem, exacerbated emotional wellbeing and difficulties in forming connections with peers.

Older Children with an EHCP outcomes are significantly impacted further without the support to address their needs, these children could be at risk of abuse and exploitation, their ability to re-engage in education, training and move onto employment is significantly compromised the longer they are without a placement or provision.

Understanding professional networks and additional interventions cannot be properly identified through the Synergy system. Very few children in this report, particularly those with SEMH and not in school, appear to have no additional support services in place or professional oversight, whilst some social care intervention is noted, the numbers are small. In the absence of a UPN number the two systems cannot be cross referenced. This review further identified there is no EHCP Lozenger (icon) on Liberi to be able to alert workers or managers that the child has additional needs related to SEND.

East is an outlier for children with SEMH, there are 43 children (53%) in East with SEMH, 22 are known not to have any educational provision and 22 children's provision is unknown, of the total number of children, 29 (67%) are in year 10 or below and still have many educational years ahead of them.

The significant majority of children with no placement or unknown is male (72%), females out of school or with no placement becomes apparent in their older school years, of the total 57 female (28%), 32 (56%) are in year 9,10,11, SEMH as the primary need is more predominant than other primary needs.

With regards to appeals there are 12 in total, six in East, five in North and one in the South, the main primary need of the child is SEMH, (6) followed by ADS (5) and SLCN (1) of these were for children whose primary need was SEMH (4) ASD (one), with the main school years being year 7 (4) and year 9 (3). Ten of the twelve appeals related to children recorded as male.

This report has not deep dived into ethnicity; however it is clear from the number of absent/unknown ethnicities this area lacks priority in SEND. It is also unclear what the Guidance is to record Ethnicity. Children out of school who are BAME are disproportionately represented in relation to the entire population of children with SEND, parents of one child absent from school could not speak English therefore their ability to understand and challenge the system is limited, not least as we correspond mainly through letters, reintegrating this child into school will require additional planning with translators. Equality and Diversity and attention to ethnicity needs to be given greater priority and embedded in the work that we do.

Children with the category of Imports have been additionally considered within this report. Having crossed reference children with no placement or unknown with children who are categorised as Imports, few appear on both lists, however, SEND is not assured of the oversight of these children and the lack of robust approach to the Import processing.

This report has not addressed how long children have been out of school, a further report could be run to identify the date the children had no placement and the date their provision became unknown. In terms of transitioning children back into school, children recently out of school and younger children should be considered a priority, along with children in care and those with previous care episodes, the longer the child experiences a school absence the harder it will be for children to reintegrate back into education, there was a stark number of children missing education in their final year of their GCSE's and this will have future implications with regards to education, employment and future training.

Next steps

Action Plan	Lead	Date
Respective Data to be shared with East, North, South, West to under take Data Quality work in respect of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children unknown • CME • EHE 	QA service/ MIU	July 2023
Alternative Provisions Data to be cross referenced with unknown list to identify if children have provision and it is not recorded	MIU?	July 2023
Develop a targeted intervention to address no placements, related to the sufficiency strategy.	Placements / case officer service	Aug 2023
Monthly report with key areas of data to inform service area performance management meetings, to ensure effective targeted approach and to serve as a risk register for children with no placement from preschool to year 12.	MIU	Monthly until April 2024
Review standing operating procedures for Imports – develop a clear plan (mapping) to address the way that SEND processes imports and timeliness improves	Case Officer Team/ Jenna Hilman	July /Aug 2023
Additional training / refresh on Synergy recording, identified through allocated workers.	QA & MIU	July / Aug/ Sep 2023
Develop / review Guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording Ethnicity • Hand over protocol including management oversight (case transfer within Teams). • Transfer to different teams within SEND protocol 	EHC Casework Manager/ QA Procedures	Sep 2023
UPN number to be included on the child's synergy / Liberi file, to increase the efficiency of reporting	Case officers/ SW's	Sept – December 2023
Information to be shared to inform the provision / sufficiency for children with SEMH	Director Education (CI)	July 2023
Explore with Children Missing Education department (under fair access) to determine if the children with no provision (who are technically missing education) are covered by the CME protocol.	Elise McQueen/ Natalie Conetta	July 2023

Next Steps, where children are at unknown risk.

1. The clarity, prioritisation and recording of our work to review the education of children who are placed out of county.
2. Children who are on school role but not attending
3. illegal schools, unregistered provision, institutions believed to be illegal, unregistered children's homes.

Appendix 1 – Data Breakdown

Children & YP	234	Districts	Including pre-school
Pre-School	28	South	34
Reception	14	Ashford	19
Year 1	2	Dover	10
Year 2	7	Folkstone & Hythe	5
Year 3	9		
Year 4	8	East	100
Year 5	10	Canterbury	29
Year 6	19	Swale	37
Year 7	26	Thanet	34
Year 8	19		
Year 9	31	West	32
Year 10	25	Tonbridge and Malling	12
Year 11	36	Tonbridge	9
		Maidstone	11
		North	65
Primary Need		Dartford	27
SEMH	81	Gravesend	18
ASD	77	Sevenoaks	20
SLCN	26		
Moderate learning difficulty	7	Not Kent Address	3
Physical Difficulty	4		
Severe Learning Difficulty	4	Children without a named worker	3
Specific Learning Difficulty	3		
Hearing Impairment	1	Gender	
Visual Impairment	1	Male	149
Blank	1	Female	57
Profound Learning Difficulty	1		
Ethnicity 206			
Unknown	25 (+ reception 8)	White/ British	48 (+9 reception)

Information not yet obtained	29 (+reception 1)	White – Cornish	1
Any other Ethnic Group	1	White – English	72 (+ 6 reception)
Any other white background	1	White / Any other Asian background	1
Any other ethnic group	1	White/ Any other ethnic group	2 (+ 1 reception)
Bangladeshi	1	White / Black Caribbean	1
Black African	2 (+ reception 1)	White Eastern European	2 (+ 1 reception)
Black Nigerian	1	White European	1
Chinese	1	White other	2
Black Caribbean	1	Any other Asian Background	(+ reception 1)
Greek	1		
Gypsy/ Roma	6		
Indian	1	Looked After Children	
Iranian	1	Children in Care	22
Other mixed background	1	Children Previously Children in Care	8
Traveller Irish Heritage	3		