

Appendix 1

Special School Review – Supporting Analytics

Item 1: Special School Rate, Kent at National Average

2024 Percentage of Pupils in a Special School

England: 1.6%

Kent: 2.3%

Chart 1

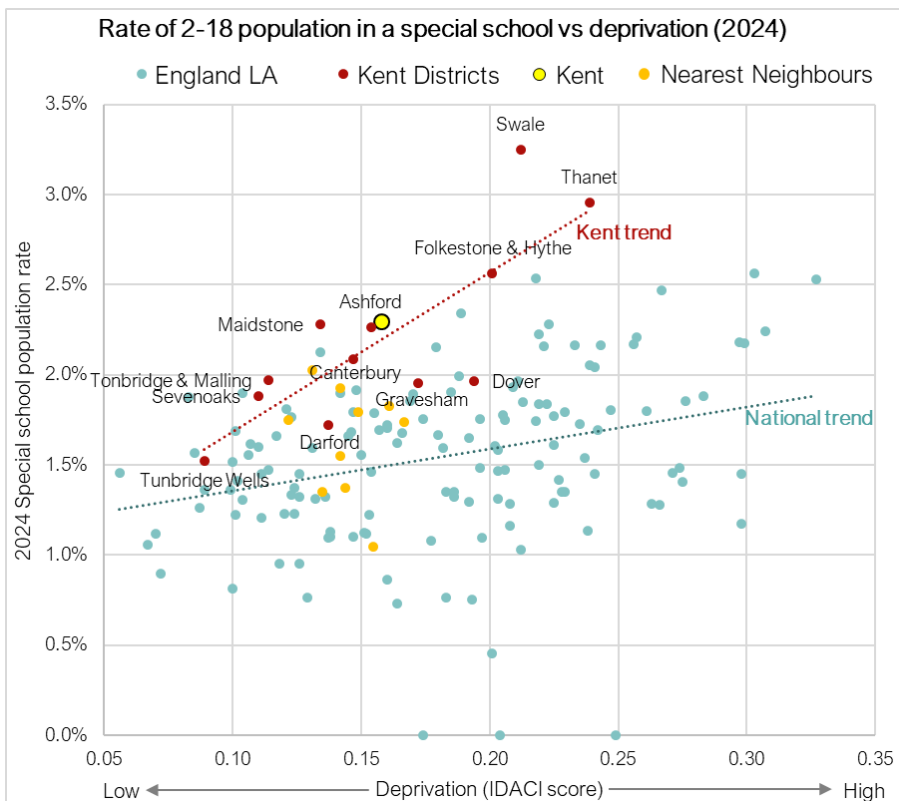
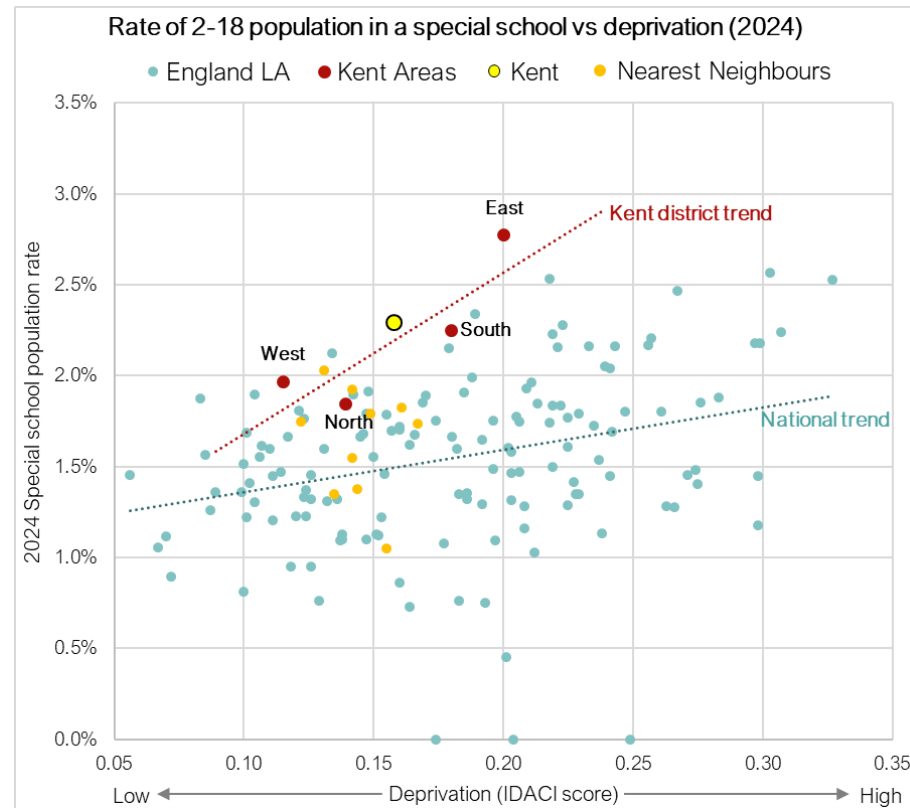


Chart 2



The charts show the percentage of the population in special schools (including INMSS) for all local authorities (LAs) in England in relation to the deprivation level (IDACI Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index). Chart 1 includes the special school rate for each District in Kent and Chart 2 shows the rate by area.

They indicate that both Kent and its districts have a higher percentage compared to the national trend. Kent recorded 2.3% of the population in special schools, while the percentage for England was 1.6%.

Item 2: Special School Rate, Kent at National Average

2024 Percentage of Pupils in a Special School

England: 1.6%

Kent: 2.3%

Chart 1 shows the current special school pupil rate (including INMSS) by district and the necessary adjustment, in each district, required (blue arrows) for Kent to reach the national average of 1.6% overall. Whereas Chart 2 shows the adjustments required at the area level. This adjustment takes into account the local variability observed across the county's districts based on deprivation levels.

Table 1 details the change in the rate of the population in a special school that is required in each area for Kent to achieve the national average. It also includes the proposed special school places in each area as a rate of the 2024 population.

Chart 1

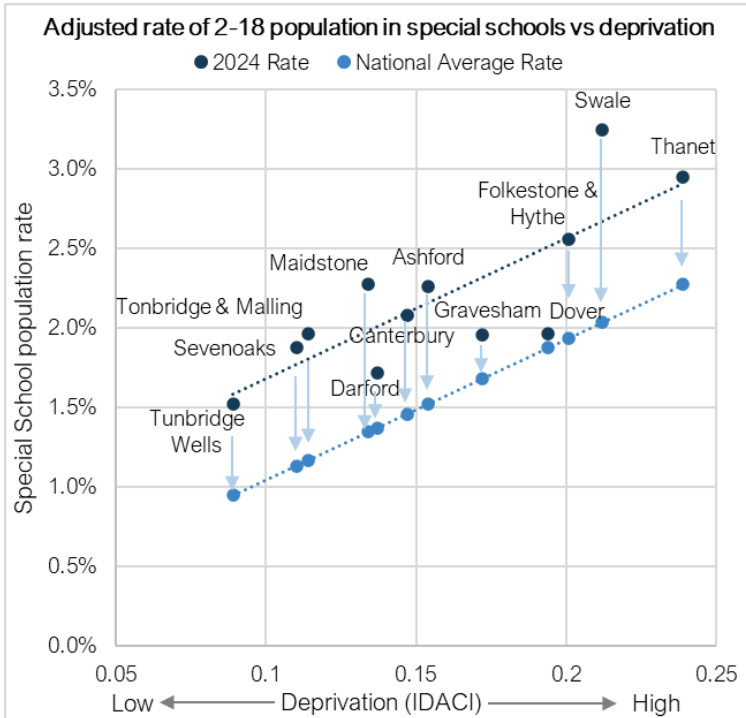


Chart 2

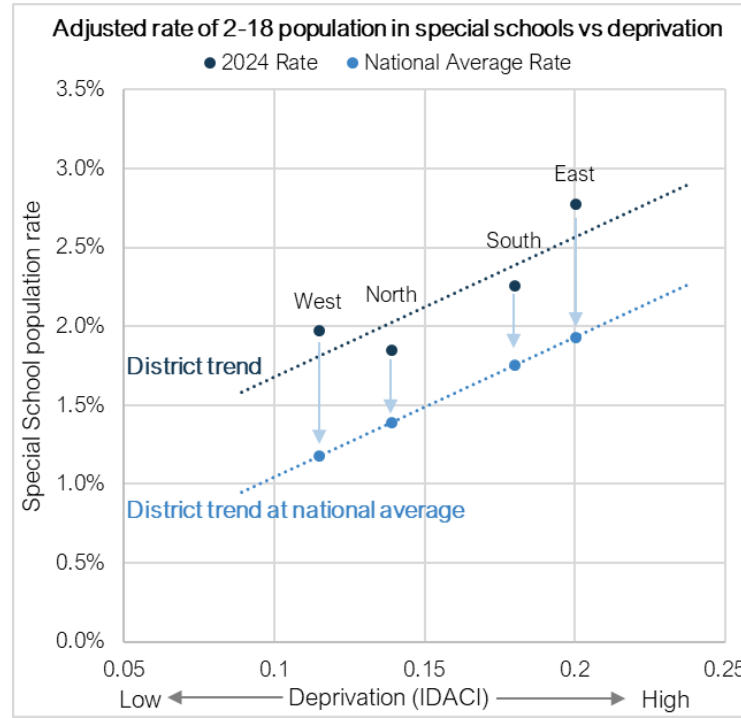


Table 1: Rate of population in special schools & proposed placements

Area	Current Pupils (2024)	Adjusted for Kent to be at National Average
North	1.8%	1.4%
South	2.3%	1.8%
East	2.8%	1.9%
West	2.0%	1.2%
Kent	2.3%	1.6%

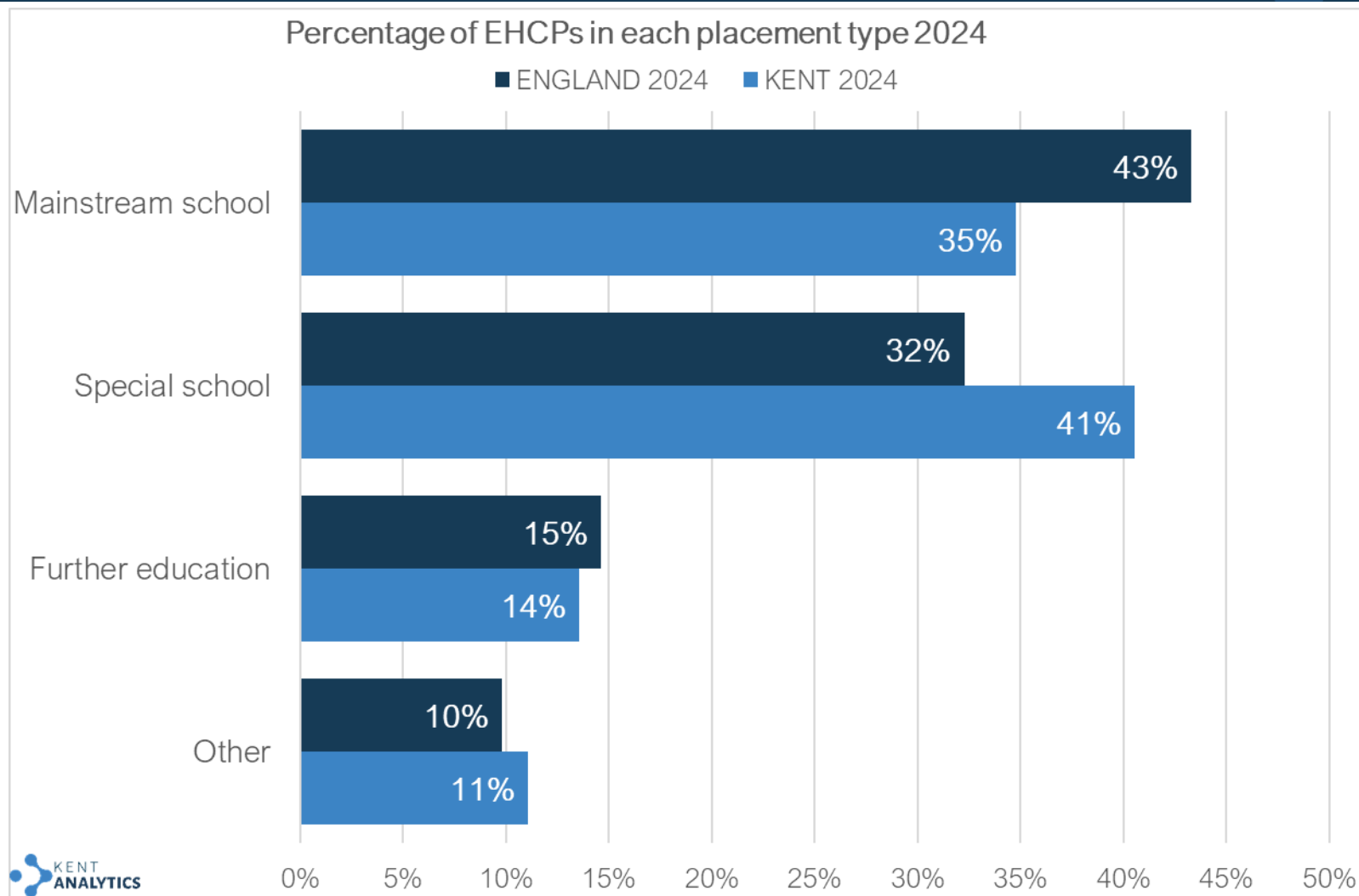
[Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2024 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

District/Area Source: Finance 23-24 INMSS & Special School spend by district

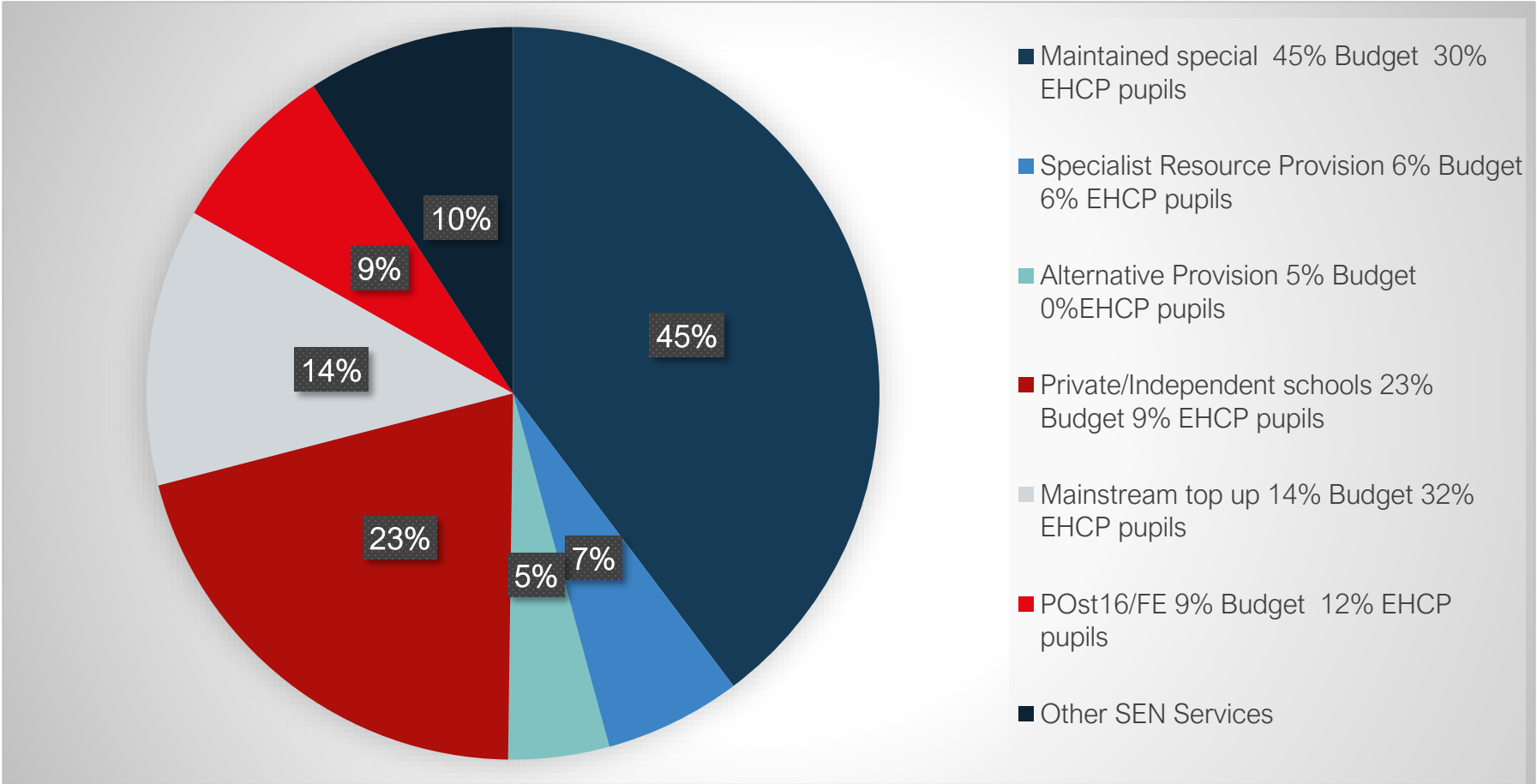
Item 3: 2024 EHCP: England vs Kent (SEN2) Placement Type

When analysing the distribution of EHCPs by placement type in 2024, Kent has proportionally more CYP with an EHCP in special schools and fewer in mainstream schools, when compared to England.

Compared to 2023, these rates have not significantly changed in England. However, Kent significantly decreased from 18% to 14% in further education and increased from 8% to 11% in other placements.

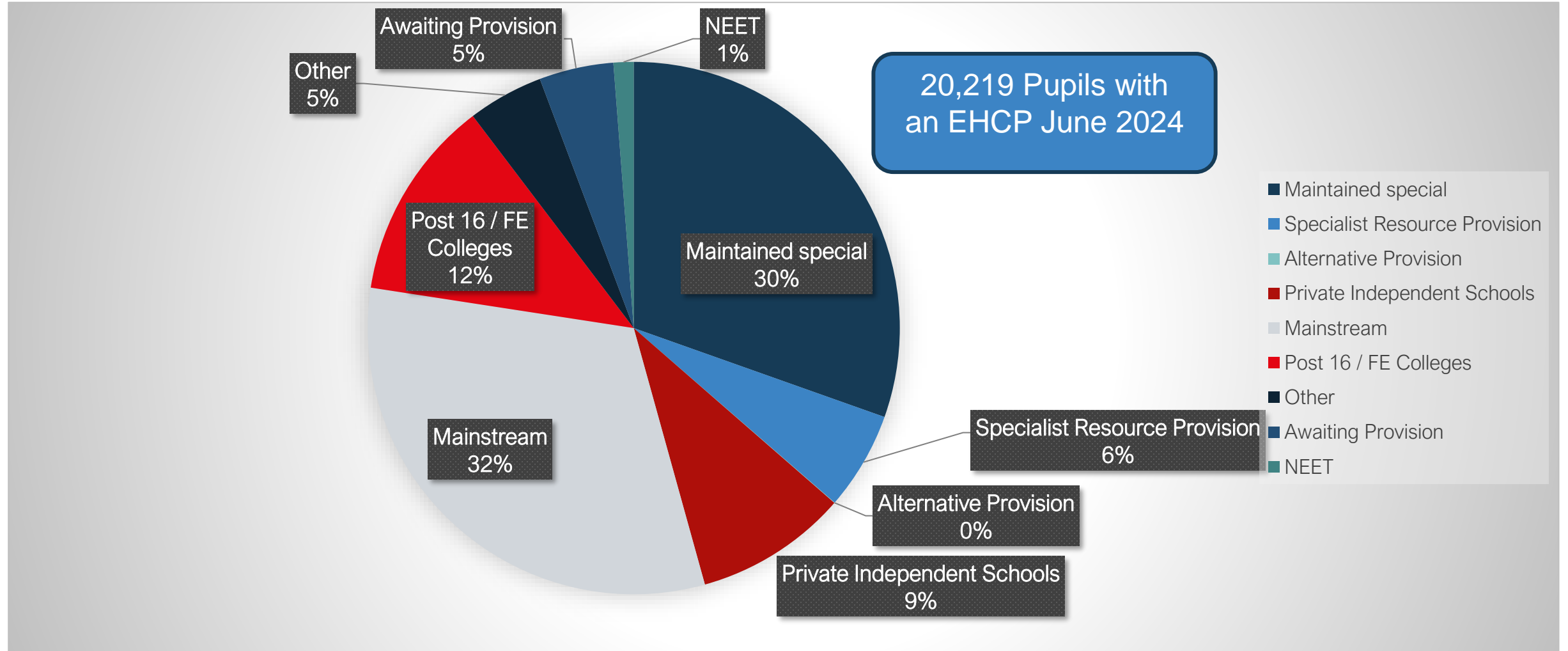


Item 4: High Needs Funding Budget Spend 2023-24



- Total spend £371.2m
- Total income £328.9m
- 113% of the income - Percentage calculated against income

Item 5: Distribution of Pupils (excluding EY)



Item 6: Kent Special School Pupils

The following table shows which districts special school pupils are attending based on their primary needs. For example: 37.1% of pupils with MLD attend school in Maidstone.

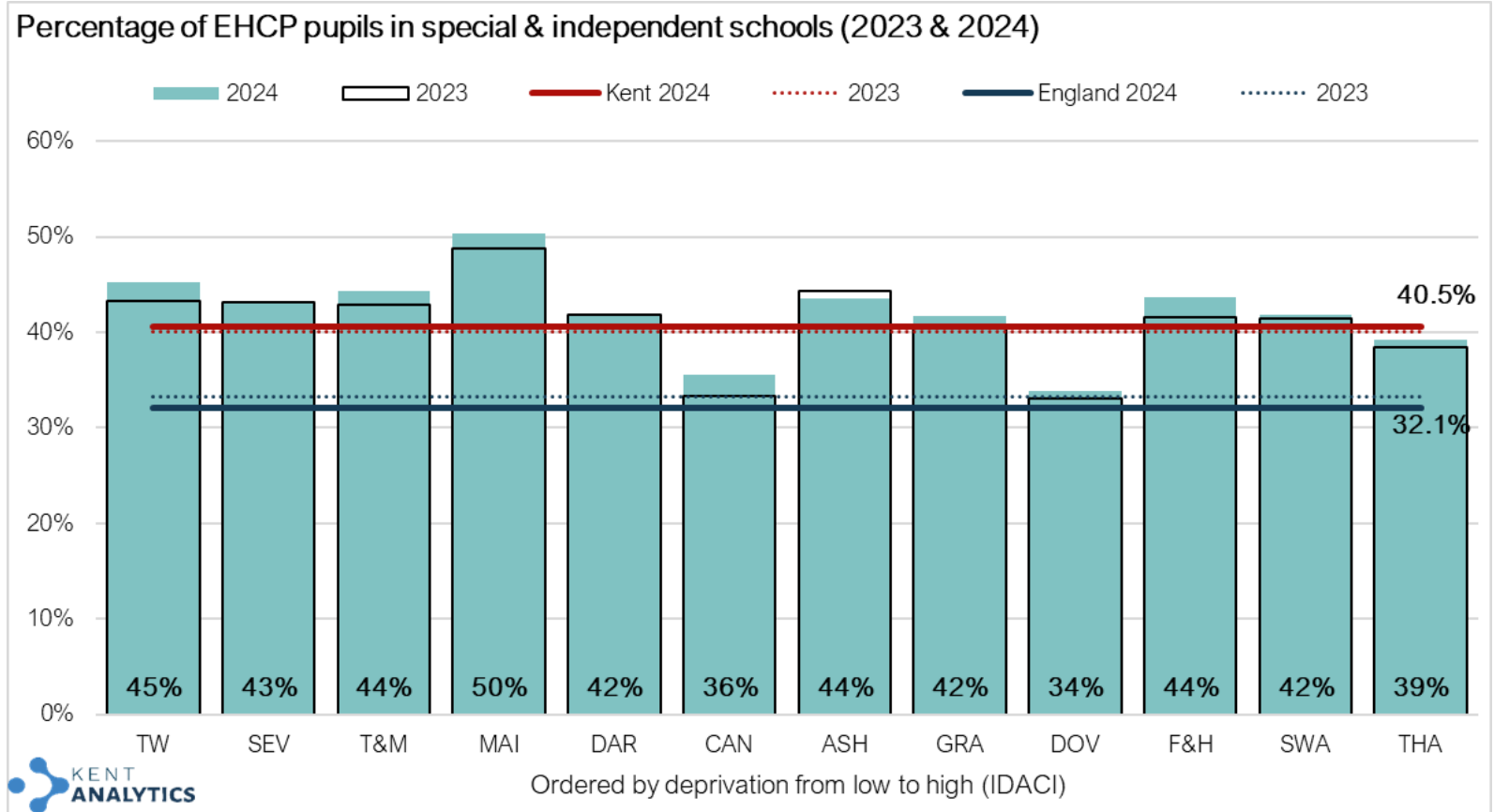
		School District											
		ASH	CAN	DAR	DOV	F&H	GRA	MAI	SEV	SWA	THA	T&M	TW
Primary Need	ASD	8.4%	5.2%	2.2%	1.5%	6.2%	4.5%	19.0%	6.5%	10.4%	14.3%	9.7%	12.0%
	HI		14.3%			7.1%		28.6%			42.9%		7.1%
	MLD	5.2%	9.5%	1.0%	0.5%	12.4%	2.4%	37.1%	1.0%	0.5%	2.4%	7.1%	21.0%
	MSI		20.0%			20.0%		20.0%			20.0%		20.0%
	OTH	10.0%	8.3%			6.7%		15.0%	3.3%	1.7%	30.0%	6.7%	18.3%
	PD	5.7%	8.3%			4.8%	2.2%	12.2%	54.6%	4.4%	2.6%	3.1%	2.2%
	PMLD	8.1%	5.6%			11.1%	7.0%	14.4%	21.9%	11.5%	12.6%	7.4%	0.4%
	SEMH	15.9%	8.4%	10.3%	21.8%	0.6%	0.7%	26.1%	0.7%	1.0%	8.9%	2.5%	3.1%
	SLCN	3.6%	15.5%	1.4%	0.6%	10.4%	7.8%	25.4%	4.3%	8.4%	8.7%	4.0%	9.9%
	SLD	13.8%	8.8%			7.1%	5.7%	21.1%	8.8%	16.9%	5.5%	7.3%	5.0%
	SPLD	3.2%	8.1%	14.5%		21.0%		17.7%		11.3%	4.8%	14.5%	4.8%
VI	16.7%	11.1%			22.2%	16.7%	16.7%	11.1%	5.6%				
Grand Total		8.9%	7.6%	2.7%	3.3%	6.8%	4.5%	21.0%	8.0%	9.1%	11.3%	7.5%	9.4%

It is important to note:

- Dover pupils with PSCN needs are placed in Whitfield Aspen 1 (primary) & 2 (secondary) Special Resource Provision (mainstream) rather than special school.
- Milestone school is in the north of Sevenoaks on the boundary with Dartford district.
- Dartford doesn't have a PSCN school. Dartford children and young people are placed at Milestone.

Item 7: 2024 EHCP England vs Kent vs District (SEN2) Special School Rate

The percentage of EHCP pupils in special and independent schools is much higher in all districts compared to England, except for Dover. The largest proportion is in Maidstone.

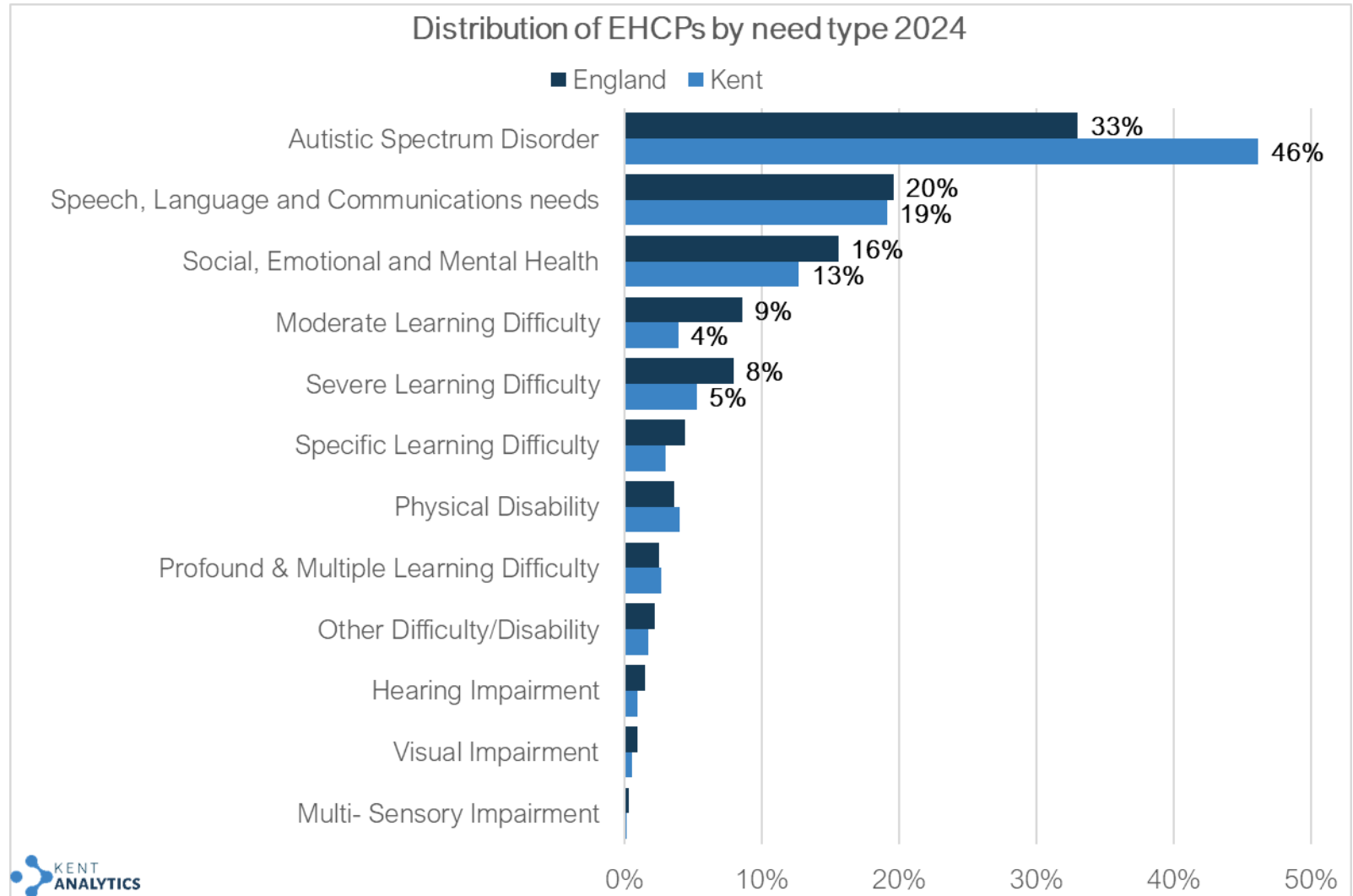


Source: Residential district, January 2024 SEN2. It includes maintained special and independent special and non-special schools.

[Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2024 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

Item 8: 2024 SEND Pupils: England vs Kent (School Census) EHCP Need Type

When analysing the distribution of pupils with an EHCP by need type in 2024, Kent has proportionally more pupils with an EHCP for autism spectrum disorder and proportionally fewer with moderate learning difficulties, when compared to England.



Summary of previous special school reorganisation

During the reorganisation, moderate learning difficulties special schools were repurposed into schools for 'behaviour and learning', while some schools retained their specialisms, such as physical disabilities and complex medical needs at Valence and social, emotional, and mental health ("**SEMH**") with average or above-average attainment at Goldwyn and Portal House. Schools that had previously specialised in meeting speech and language or specific learning difficulties, such as Laleham Gap and Grange Park, were designated as communication and interaction ("**C&I**") schools. This shift reflected the increasing demand for children with autism spectrum disorder provision, as well as KCC's aim to reduce reliance on high-cost placements in private and non-maintained special schools.

As part of the changes, Broomhill Bank, which had previously been a day and residential school for girls with moderate learning difficulties, transitioned to a communication and interaction special school. More recently, Snowfields, a new special school near Maidstone, was opened to serve secondary pupils with C&I needs, and Aspire, a new primary-age special free school was established in Sittingbourne for pupils with C&I. Stone Bay was maintained as a day and residential school for pupils with C&I and more significant learning disabilities.

The reorganisation was successful in reducing reliance on private and non-maintained special school placements in the short term, with numbers decreasing from 450 in 2002 to just under 240 in 2006. The objective was also to ensure more localised provision so that families with a child or children with profound, severe, and complex SEND ("**PSCN**") would have access to a local special school within the district where they lived. These schools would provide special education for between 120 and 200 children and young people aged 2-19 within their local area. The new behaviour and learning schools were for children and young people with challenging behaviour. These special schools were to provide special school placements for families across two districts and planned to provide for, approximately 60 secondary pupils and between 12 and 36 primary pupils. Schools with a more specialist function were intended to serve a broader geographical area.

Further Information

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