

Analysis of Evidence for the Extension of the External Tuition Service

There is no readily available population dataset for children and young people (CYP) receiving External Tuition in Kent. Therefore, this analysis draws on data extracted from Synergy and financial records covering the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, to develop a profile of Children and Young People (CYP) receiving External Tuition funded by Kent County Council (KCC).

Synergy IDs were used to match additional personal characteristics from the SENFIO dataset provided by Management Information. A total of 731 unique CYP were identified within the finance dataset, of which 89% were successfully matched to the SENFIO data. This provides a robust sample for analysis and comparison with the wider Kent cohort of CYP with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

The comparative analysis explored characteristics including gender, age, primary need, and district distribution. Ethnicity and deprivation (IMD deciles) were also considered, although no significant differences were found, so these have not been included in this summary.

An analysis of CYP Educated other than at School (EOTAS) was not possible within this report, as the data required to reliably identify this subset was not available at the time of analysis.

Headline Findings

- Growth in demand: The number of CYP receiving External Tuition increased by 19% between 2022/23 and 2023/24, and by a further 81% between 2023/24 and 2024/25. Over the same period, the number of EHCPs increased at a significantly slower rate of 3% and 6% respectively.
- Proportion of EHCP cohort: CYP receiving External Tuition as a proportion of the total EHCP population increased from 1.5% in 2022/23 to 3% in 2024/25.

Profile of CYP Receiving External Tuition (2023/24–2024/25)

- Gender: Males represent 59% of CYP receiving External Tuition compared to 41% females. This mirrors the gender profile of the wider EHCP cohort, where males are also overrepresented.
- Age: The majority of CYP receiving External Tuition are aged 12–17 years (66%), compared with 45% of all CYP with EHCPs. Fewer CYP aged 11 and under access

Tuition, reflecting the greater prevalence of exclusion, anxiety-related non-attendance, and medical needs among secondary-aged pupils.

- Primary Need: The largest group of CYP receiving External Tuition have Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as their primary need (48%). The second largest group have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs (35%), which is notably higher than the 19% observed across the overall EHCP cohort. CYP with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) are underrepresented in tuition data (8%) compared with the wider EHCP cohort (17%).

- Ethnicity and Deprivation: Ethnicity was not consistently captured within the available datasets. Analysis of deprivation (IMD deciles) indicated no notable difference between CYP receiving External Tuition and the broader EHCP cohort.

Summary and Implications for Equality

The data evidences that CYP accessing External Tuition are predominantly secondary-aged males with ASD or SEMH as their primary need. These groups are already identified as being at higher risk of exclusion, non-attendance, and educational disengagement.

The increase in Tuition demand demonstrates the continuing need for flexible, high-quality education provision for CYP unable to attend school. Maintaining and extending the current MDPS framework will therefore help ensure equitable access, continuity of education, and robust quality assurance for these disproportionately affected groups.