

# SEND Pupil Forecasting Methodology 2019

## PURPOSE OF FORECAST

The Portsmouth SEND pupil forecasting methodology will estimate the future requirement for special school places in Portsmouth. It will be produced annually alongside the existing mainstream pupil projections.

The methodology currently focuses on providing projections for school age pupils with an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) broken down by primary area of need.

The purpose of the forecasts is intended to provide the LA, as well as partner organisations, with information to plan future service needs, including the planning of suitable education provision.

## AVAILABLE DATA SETS

School census data - a statutory data collection that takes place every term which collects information on all pupils in local authority maintained schools, academies, UTCs and free schools. Raw data is produced by schools from their Management Information Systems, using guidance provided by DfE with support from the LA.

SEN 2 submission - a special educational needs survey which is a statutory data collection that takes place every January which collects information on all children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) maintained by the local authority, regardless of where the pupil's educational placement is located (in or out of area).

LA forecasts of future mainstream pupil numbers - these are updated annually during the summer term and submitted to the DfE through the statutory SCAP data collection. Forecasts are informed by the HCC small area population forecasts (SAPF) and are prepared using a cohort survival methodology.

## PORTSMOUTH METHODOLOGY

Primary and secondary forecasts are calculated separately.

- 1) Calculate the estimated total number of EHCPs.
- 2) Split the total number of EHCPs by primary area of need.
- 3) Determine the estimated number of places required at Special Schools and Resourced units by primary area of need.

## **1) Estimated total number of EHCPs**

*This is influenced by the changing school population and the change in prevalence of EHCPs within Portsmouth.*

The estimated total EHCPs is expressed as a % of the total Portsmouth mainstream school population.

The number of EHCPs maintained by Portsmouth LA for pupils in Years R to 11 is obtained from SEN2 data.

The total mainstream school population is from the January schools census (for past years) and the SCAP mainstream pupil forecasts (for future years).

The change in prevalence of EHCPs is accounted for by determining the trend (increase/decrease) in % of EHCPs year on year. This requires at least 2 years SEN2 data. The change in % of EHCPs from Year 1 to Year 2 is used to adjust for change in prevalence.

## **2) EHCPs split by primary area of need**

*This prevalence of a particular need will change over time and with changes in Education and Healthcare practices and testing/diagnosis methodology.*

The total number of EHCPs from Step 1) is split into primary area of need.

The number of statements for Pupils in Years R to 11 for each area of need (expressed as a % of total EHCPs) is derived from previous SEN2 data.

To take account of changes in the prevalence of each area of primary need several years data is compared to determine a trend in the change over time. This is either increasing, stable or decreasing. Where the trend is increasing or decreasing the % of EHCPs used for forward projections will be adjusted to take account of change of prevalence.

If the trend is stable then no adjustment will be made.

## **3) Number of pupils requiring Special school places**

*Not all pupils with EHCPs require a place at a special school. Some pupils with a primary area of need can have needs which are complex and require a place at a special school or resourced unit whereas other can be educated in mainstream schools with appropriate support.*

The expected number of pupils with EHCPs requiring a Special School place for each area of need is calculated using the % of pupils with that area of need in Special schools for the previous year as reported in SEN2.

## **LIMITATIONS OF FORECASTING MODEL**

The forecasting methodology is based on previous years data. Past data may not be an accurate indication of future trends. Where trends change there could be a lag in changes being reflected in forecasts.

SEN2 data is for Portsmouth resident pupils only. There are always likely to be pupils from other LAs placed in Portsmouth schools and Portsmouth pupils placed in Other LA maintained special schools.

Where schools have more than one site SEN2 data may not split pupils between the sites.

## Step by Step description of SEND Pupil Forecasting Process

### STEP 1 - Obtain base data for EHCP pupils

(by year group and primary need and placement type)

**EHCP Pupils** - use SEN2 as source for base data



### STEP 2 - Forecast future total number of EHCPs for Portsmouth resident pupils

**estimate total** number of EHCPs for future years in line with change in mainstream school population from the most recent School Capacity Forecast



### STEP 3 - Adjust for overall prevalence trends

**Prevalence trends** - adjust forecasts by rates of change in prevalence of EHCP



### STEP 4 - Split the total number of EHCPs for Portsmouth resident children by area of need

use previous years % split of total EHCPs to determine projected number of EHCPs for each need



### STEP 5 - Adjust for change in prevalence of each need

Identify trend for each need and adjust as appropriate



### STEP 6 - For each primary area of need forecast the number of Portsmouth EHCP pupils in Special schools, resourced units and independent / non-maintained schools

Forecast using the latest % of total EHCPs in each type of provision



STEP 7 - Calculate the forecast number of places for each need required at each special school and the total for resourced units for Portsmouth pupils based on the latest % of each need attending the school / provisions