

ALDCS SEND BULLETIN

JUNE 2024 ISSUE

The ALDCS SEND Bulletin highlights events and news for colleagues in local authorities who work with children and young people with SEND. Find out more about LIIA's work in SEND [here](#).

NEWS

London SEND Leadership Programme Launches Cohort 1!

On 12th June, the first cohort of the London SEND Leadership Programme launched with an inspiring Module 1. Attendees heard from notable London leaders, including Chair of ALDCS Florence Kroll, Chair of ALDCS SEND Programme Elaine Allegretti, Annamarie Hassall MBE, Neil Kenneth-Brown, and Matt Jones. The day culminated in an inspirational speech on leadership and overcoming adversity by Michael Fuller, the UK's first Black Chief Constable.

Throughout the session, attendees delved into various perspectives within SEND, enriched by insights from Our Time All Ability Youth Group. The group highlighted the key expectations of SEND leaders from a young person's viewpoint, prompting reflections on the current challenges in SEND systems. The discussion also explored innovative methods of system-thinking leadership to address these challenges.

Nominations for the second cohort of the programme are now open, with further information available below.



After the significant oversubscription for Cohort 1 of the London SEND leadership Programme, we are excited to open nominations for Cohort 2 of the leadership programme!



Nominate here!

We are taking applications for the second cohort until 28th June!

There are 4 modules in the first cohort, with each module consisting of:

- At least one in-person day in central London
- Preparation workshops and wrap up workshops via teams
- Some out-of-classroom work in between modules

To maximise the impact of the programme, we expect all participants to be available to attend in person for each of the module dates.

Prep work for Module 1	From late-Sept
Module 1	15 th October
Module 2	5 th November
Module 3	3-4 th December
Module 4	28-29 th January

Who is eligible to join the programme?

We're running three cohorts of the Leadership Programme. The first started in June 2024 and was 100% over subscribed. The second cohort will start run from Oct 2024 to Jan 2025, with the final cohort starting in Feb 2025.

We are targeting current and aspiring leaders from:

- Local Authorities (60-70 places)
- Health (15-25 places)
- Parent/Carer Reps through the NNPCF (6-10 places)

Who might we expect to be nominated?

- Assistant Director SEND, Head of SEND/Inclusion, Head of Commissioning,
- Delegated financial responsibility of DSG (e.g. deputy S151 or SEND finance Lead)
- SEND Transformation Leads, deputy SEND leads
- Managers aspiring to senior leadership roles.

If you are interested in being a part of the Programme, then please express interest to your senior leader (Director +) who will then put nominations forward to be part of the Programme.

What's in it for me?

The London SEND Leadership Programme empowers leaders to drive change and innovation in a dynamic system. Whether you're a current or aspiring leader, this programme helps you develop essential skills, knowledge, and networks to positively impact children and young people with SEND. Learn from experts, collaborate with diverse peers, and apply your learning to real-world challenges. Join a dedicated cohort aiming to elevate London's SEND workforce with a fully funded opportunity to:

- Network with peers and leaders across the SEND London workforce
- Gain immediately applicable skills and knowledge for leading complex change
- Access coaching from SEND experts during and after the programme
- Engage with specialists in local government improvement and leadership
- Upskill in Systems Leadership, crucial for system-wide collaboration.

Find out more about the programme [here!](#)

If you have already nominated more than 2-3 people, then please note any additional nominations will go on a waitlist for the programme pending overall programme capacity.

Deadlines for nominations are the **28th June 2024**.

KEY UPDATES

ALDCS SEND SUMMIT 2024



Thanks to all those who attend our annual SEND Summit on March 18th! It was great to see so many partners in attendance come together to discuss key developments in national send policy.

You can now access a full report from the summit, summarising speeches, key actions and feedback as well as slides [here](#). We look forward to welcoming you to our next summit scheduled for May 2025!

ALDCS SENDAP PLAN 2024/25

Following discussion at ALDCS SEND Steering Group and SEND Strategic Manager Parent Carer Network, the final version of the ALDCS SENDAP Plan for 2024/25 has been developed. The proposed focus of work and an overview of the workplan for 2024-25 can be found [here](#), all of which build on the 2023-24 priorities, SEND OfSTED inspections to date and the SENDAP Plan.

The programme sits across four cross cutting priorities; Enhancing Provision and Support for Children and Young People with SEND, Supporting pan-London Collaboration and Joint Working, Building Capacity and Capability within the SEND Workforce, and Supporting Developments and Sharing Learning across SEND.

If you would like to support strands of work highlighted within the plan, please get in touch with LIA SEND Lead, [Frank Offer](#).

LONDON SEND FINANCE NETWORK

The April meeting of the London SEND Finance Network brought together SEND and Finance leads to discuss updates on national SEND Finance Programmes and examples of good practice across London Local Authorities. Attendees heard from:

- Tanya Hussain and Josh Somerville provided an update on behalf of DfE on the **Bands and Tariffs Programme**, discussing progress, challenges, and next steps, including cost data analysis and short-term system improvements.
- Julie Ely - Kensington and Chelsea, shared their experience with the **Delivering Better Value Programme**, which has reduced their financial deficit. Julie emphasized the importance of committed leadership and effective communication in achieving this
- Tom Procter and Katharine Brook - Merton, presented on their involvement in the **Safety Valve Programme**, which addresses the challenges of increased specialist placements and associated costs. Their efforts include increasing placements in mainstream and state special schools.
- Michael Hallick and Steve Preston - Wandsworth, demonstrated the **High Needs Demand Forecasting tool**, which uses complex algorithms to predict future trends. They discussed future development plans to enhance the tool's usability for local authority planning.
- Cigdem Alkan - Enfield, presented on the **Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS)**, a programme aimed at improving speech and language support through early investment. ECASS has shown positive impacts on phonics attainment and plans to expand its outreach.

The next SEND Finance Network meeting will take place in the Autumn, focusing on commissioning, sufficiency planning, and benchmarking. Minutes and slides from this workshop are available in the [SEND Members areas](#). If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please [get in touch](#).

MAY - SEND STRATEGIC MANAGER PARENT CARER NETWORK

The SEND Strategic Manager Parent Carer Network met on the 16th of May for a focused workshop on Early Years chaired by Anna Chiva, Assistant Director for SEND at LB Southwark.

During the meeting, attendees heard from representatives of the Bromley Parent Carer Forum, who shared their children's and their own insights on Early Years Support from a parent carer perspective. This item was followed by a presentation from Janet Rickman, Chair of the National Portage Association, on the association's work, followed by a Q&A session.

Health perspectives were presented by colleagues from the Evelina London Children's Community Speech & Language Therapy Team who presented on the WellComm Toolkit, and Lesley Platts who presented on Islington's SEND Family Hubs and Start for Life Programmes. An overarching update on Pan-London Early Years projects was also delivered by Samira Islam of London Councils, including the London Councils Early Years Integration report and tools for local authorities.

Discussions in breakout rooms focused on identifying effective practices in early years provision, key actions for local authorities, and pan-London initiatives.

The next SEND Strategic Manager Parent Carer Network meeting will take place on **4th July** - with a focus on measuring impact, including headlines from the 2024 DfE EHCP Data.

SEND TRANSPORT SCOPING SURVEY



Following discussions at ALDCS, LIA has launched a [survey](#) on **SEND Transport**. The survey aims to identify spending across London, highlight examples of good practice, and explore opportunities for subregional and pan-London collaboration. We are keen to hear perspectives from SEND Leads and SEND Transport Leads. Please share the survey with relevant colleagues and **complete it by 25th June**.

SEND WORKFORCE

LIA recently conducted a regional SEND Workforce survey with the support of the SEND Steering Group. The aim of the survey was to better understand the challenges faced by LAs regarding the SEND Workforce recruitment and retention. A summary of findings are available [here](#).

Key actions LIA are progressing following the survey are:

- Working with agencies to develop case studies and map SEND Roles, Categories and Rates and gain an understanding of roles that are off/On contract
- Further analysis and Mapping of EPs.

An update on this work will be given at ALDCS SEND Steering Group on **24th June**.

RESOURCES AND REPORTS

DEVELOPING A NEW MODEL OF CARE FOR CYP IN LONDON

The final Commissioning for ASD SEMH business case has been published - you can read the case in full [here](#), alongside its financial annex - developed with support from the Society of London Treasurers.

The report outlines a case for redistributing resource from the crisis end, to a more graduated response for children with ASD/SEMH (including crisis and long-term residential care in London - but being clear that has to go alongside earlier intervention, and routes out of care and back home for children).

Next steps for this project include working with each of the five ICB areas to develop pilot programmes to prove this concept.



SEND COMMISSIONING REPORT

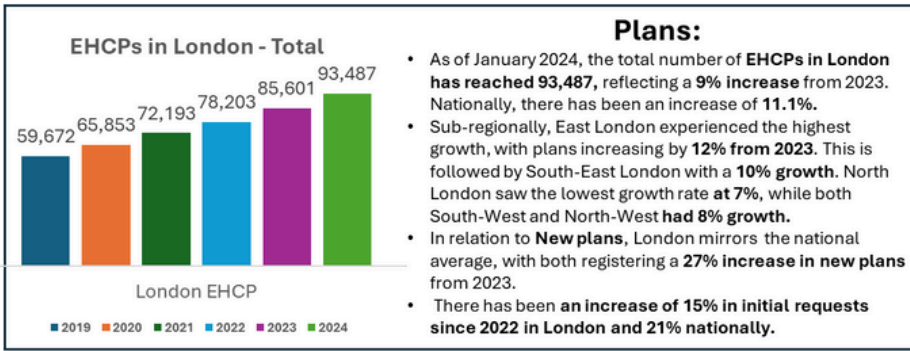
LIA has commissioned a [new report](#) to improve understanding of SEND commissioning arrangements across London. This report aims to foster discussion among pan-London SEND leads on opportunities for more collaborative commissioning. The report highlights the 'Pan-London Commissioning Programme' and its focus on high-cost, low-incidence placements for children in care, aligning with the Department for Education's initiative to pilot Regional Commissioning Co-operatives (RCCs).

Key recommendations include defining a commissioning model, sharing spend and quality assurance data, reviewing and auditing the SEND commissioning workforce, establishing SEND commissioning networks, developing a SEND data strategy, publishing a pan-London market position statement, and developing regional or sub-regional fee negotiations with schools. The report is available for review in the [LIIA SEND Members area](#).

DFE 2024 DATA RELEASE

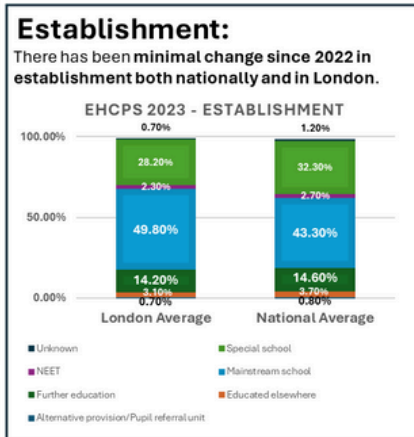
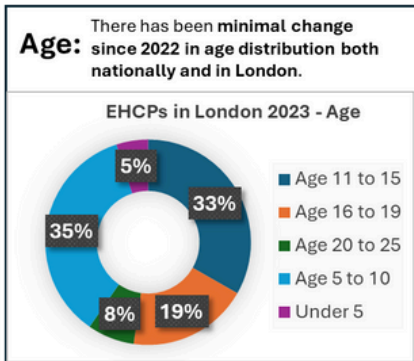
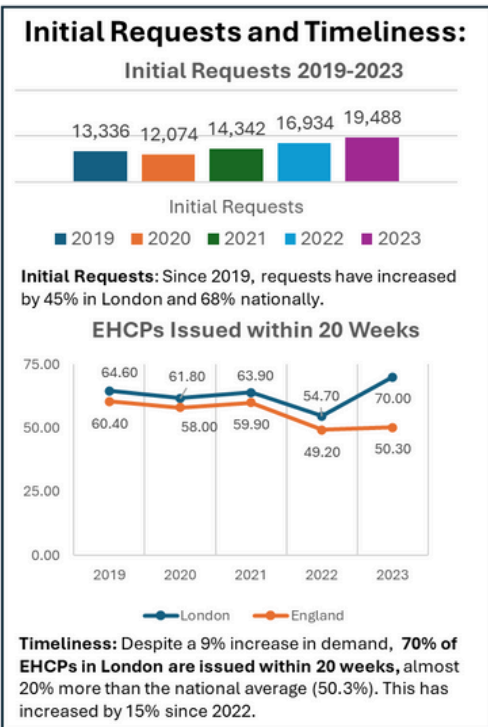
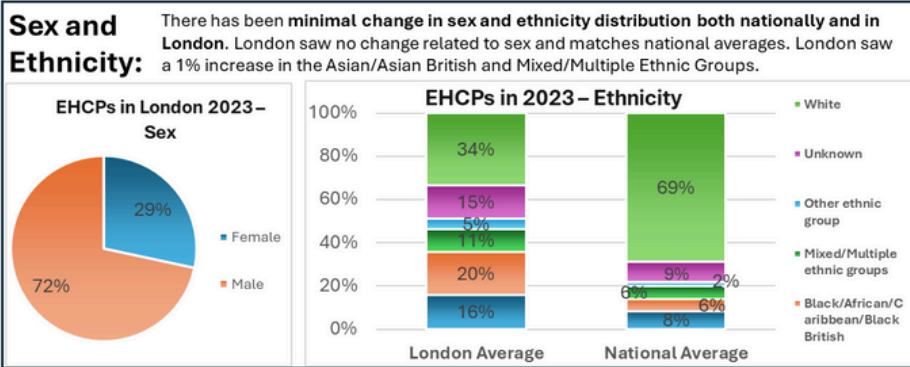
On the 13th June, DfE released the 2024 EHCP Data, providing data on children and young people with an education, health and care (EHC) plan in England and, historically, for those with a statement of special educational needs (SEN). Data is presented for both the caseload as at January 2024, for example the number of EHC plans, and for activity during the 2023 calendar year, for example the number of new EHC plans in the calendar year.

The data can be accessed in full [here](#). LIIA are working to integrate the updated data into our London SEND Data Dashboard, until then, we have developed headline analysis, available below and downloadable [here!](#)



Initial headlines indicate:

- There has been another increase in the total number of EHCPs, with London's total now reaching 93,487—a 9% increase since 2023.
- Initial requests have also risen in London and nationally. London has seen a 15% increase in initial requests, slightly lower than the national average of 21%.
- Similarly, new EHCP plans have grown, with both national and London figures showing a 27% increase.
- Despite increased demand, London's timeliness has improved, with now 70% of plans being issued within 20 weeks—almost 20% higher than the national average (50.3%). London's timeliness has improved by 15% since 2022.
- London continues to have a higher percentage of children supported in mainstream school than nationally.



The full data is available at national, regional and local authority level, you can access the full set of data [here](#). Please [contact the LiIA team](#) with any questions.

ACCESS THE LIA SEND DASHBOARD



LiIA is continuing to develop the London SEND Data Dashboard as part of the SEND programme to support Local Authorities. The dashboard offers valuable tools for London Authorities to facilitate both local and regional monitoring of SEND Services.

[You can access the Dashboard here.](#)

GET IN TOUCH

Please visit our website: liia.london for more detailed information on each of the ALDCS priorities, or [contact the team directly](#) to discuss anything in greater detail. As always, [you can click here to register for access to our dedicated](#) SEND Members' Area.

[EXPLORE THE ALDCS SEND PRIORITY AREA](#)

If you would like to discuss any areas of the programme in more detail or support a particular area of work, please reach out to our LIIA SEND Programme Lead, [Frank Offer](#).

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE SEND PROGRAMME!

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