

Needs Analysis

Proposed new Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs (SEMH) Designated Special Free Schools: Application to DfE Special Free Schools Programme

August 2022



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Needs Analysis for the proposed new DfE SEMH Designated Special Free Schools

Rationale for Very Special Circumstances:

This report sets out a clear rationale for the community benefit circumstances of the two proposed new special free schools in the North and South East of Surrey for pupils with social, emotional, and mental health difficulties who require a specialist school placement.

Context:

1. Surrey County Council has a legal duty to manage its specialist education estate efficiently to avoid detriment to schools' educational offers, creating disadvantage to children and young people who have distinct types of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in different geographical areas, or the local authority's financial position.
2. The [Community vision for Surrey in 2030](#) and [Surrey Children and Young People's Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Strategy](#) define the Council's strategic priorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a school local to them so that they can learn, grow and develop in their community. This includes the adopted county-wide commitment to root children in their local communities and ensure no one is left behind.
3. Children and young people nationally are experiencing increased and significant social, emotional, and mental health challenges. Surrey County Council (SCC) saw significant growth of 46% (from 290 places in 2018/19 to 420 places in 2020/2021) in the number of children and young people with SEND who have social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs aged 11-19 years and require a maintained specialist school placement. By 2026/27 this growth is expected to increase by around 120% (to 630 places) when compared to 2018/19 figures.
4. A long term sufficiency gap for additional specialist school places for this cohort has been identified in the north and the south east of the county. The impact of this means that approximately 300 children in Surrey with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs are currently educated in the independent sector and around 55% are educated out of county. These children have to travel long distances outside of their resident district and quadrant each day to attend a special school that can successfully meet their needs, which severely impacts on their readiness to learn when they get to school.
5. The Department for Education (DfE), launched its next wave of [DfE Special Free School Applications 2022](#) in June 2022, which is one of the routes local authorities can follow to apply to set up a new school in their area.
6. SCC proposes to submit two applications, and three potential sites have already been identified by SCC Land & Property teams for this purpose: two in the north of the county and one in the south east of the county. If our applications are successful, the new schools will be delivered by the DfE in 2026/27 and the expectation is that the schools will reach capacity over a 4–5-year period.
7. Should SCC be successful, the developments will create two new SEMH Designated Special Schools, delivered by the DfE which will provide around 320 urgently needed additional specialist school places from 2026/27.

8. The location of the two new coeducational special schools will provide local residents in the north and south east quadrants who have children with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs closer access to high quality specialist education and dramatically reduced home to school journey times.

Growing SEND Needs in Surrey

Social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs in Surrey:

9. Children and young people with significant SEMH needs often feel anxious, scared, and misunderstood. This means that they may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways.

These may include:

- Language and communication needs, leading to becoming withdrawn or socially isolated.
- Severe difficulty in building and maintaining healthy relationships with peers and adults, which increases social vulnerability, safeguarding risks and impacts on successful community participation.
- Sustained difficulty engaging with learning and coping in classroom environments without additional specialist strategies and interventions to help manage their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.
- Displaying worrying behaviour that may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harm, substance misuse, eating disorders, habit disorders, oppositional disorders, or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. These can impact severely on children and young people's development of independence, ability to cope with the normal stresses of life, engagement with productive and fruitful activity, and capacity to contribute to his or her community.
- Trauma, post-traumatic stress, or depressive conditions associated with adverse childhood experiences, including neglect or abuse. These experiences can have long-term impacts on children and young people's emotional well-being, mental health, and future life chances.
- Cooccurring special educational needs including autism spectrum conditions, mild to moderate learning difficulties and speech and language difficulties. This can mean that individuals may be at increased risk of placement breakdown if their primary and secondary needs are not well understood.
- Progress can be very challenging in some or all areas of the school curriculum because difficulties such as phobias, anxiety, depression, aggression, oppositional problems, and hyperactivity all create significant barriers to learning.

SEMH needs are not necessarily a lifelong condition. With appropriate therapeutic support and highly specialist teaching, children and young people can develop the right strategies to move forward and live successful independent lives.

County-wide Strategic Commitments:

10. Surrey's [Surrey Children and Young People's Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Strategy](#) has been brought together by children, young people, adults and family carers together with professionals from across Surrey's service system, to make our joint ambitions clear. We want a consistent approach to support our residents to help them stay emotionally well and maintain their mental health across the whole County in education, health, social care, work, and local communities. We want services to have a more joined-up, proactive, timely and accessible offer so that all people have equality of access. The Strategy will promote a cultural shift so that community and service settings are understanding and

welcoming for children, young people, and adults with social, emotional and mental health needs.

11. Our vision is for Surrey to be a place that offers opportunities for people to live healthy and fulfilling lives, where people's contributions to their local communities are welcomed, supported, and valued, and no-one is left behind. These opportunities should extend to all children, young people, and adults in Surrey, regardless of where they live.

All organisations involved in developing and implementing this strategy are committed to ensuring that the vision and aims will be delivered in full.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Growth in Surrey

12. Latest sufficiency modelling projections from September 2021 indicate growth in the total number of Surrey resident pupils aged 4-19 years with EHCPs over the forecast period 2018-2031, reaching its peak in 2026/27 and 2027/28, reducing slightly thereafter. This represents 29% growth from 2020/21.
13. By 2030/31, the total number of Surrey EHCP pupils in Reception (4-5 years old) to Year 14 (18-19 years old), is more than 2,500 higher than the 2020-21 total. General population data for Surrey pupils aged 4-19 years projects annual population increase year on year from 2018, reaching its peak in 2024-2025 before declining thereafter. Alongside falling population rates, EHCPs per percentage of the total population are expected to remain steady at between 5-5.2% of the general 4-19 population from 2024-2031.
14. Latest analysis as of January 2022 actuals, prior to the Census submission date, has revealed that EHCP numbers for the Year R to Year 14 cohorts is 2% higher than the projections for 2021/22. It is not yet known whether this growth is as a direct result of the recent pandemic, particularly as Surrey saw an equivalent decline in the number of Year R - Year 14 new EHCPs issued in the previous academic year. Therefore, indications are that Surrey will experience a similar trajectory to pre-pandemic.
15. Primary age projections show moderately increasing demand from around 1,890 places in 2020/21 which is expected to peak at more than 2050 places in 2024/25, before declining there after towards the end of the forecast period. This represents and 8.4% increase in demand for specialist school places over that 4-year period and is equivalent to 160 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged 4-11 who require a specialist school placement (in order of prevalence) are Autism and Communication & Interaction needs and Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties.
16. Secondary age projections show significantly increasing demand from around 2,240 places in 2021/22 which is expected to peak at 2,977 places in 2027-2028, before a minor decline to the end of the forecast period. This represents 33% growth within that 7-year period and is equivalent to approximately 740 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged 11-16 years who require a specialist school placement are Autism and Communication & Interaction needs, Social Emotional & Mental Health Needs and Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties.
17. Post 16 projections show significantly increasing demand which is projected to almost double from around 460 places in 2020/21 to around 840 places in 2030/31, continuing along a similar trajectory to the end of the forecast period. This represents 83% growth within that 10-year period and is equivalent to 380 places. The most prevalent primary needs for pupils aged

16-19 who require a specialist school placement are Severe or Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties, Autism and Communication & Interaction needs and Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs.

Legal Duties to Efficiently Manage Surrey's Specialist Education Estate: Specialist School Place Sufficiency Planning in Surrey:

18. Surrey County Council's sufficiency planning for specialist school places (including SEN Units in mainstream primary and secondary schools, and special schools) for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) uses the same basic demographic projections as for mainstream pupils. These are underpinned by the same birth, population, and housing data. Surrey's eleven local district and borough councils provide data on housing permissions and trajectories, which are incorporated into long term pupil placement forecasts.
19. Pupil movement trends are also determined in a comparable way, using information from the school census alongside the council's pupil level information. However, whilst the proportion of pupils with an EHCP who attend a mainstream educational setting is included as part of mainstream projections, the demand generated by those pupils whose needs mean they require a specialist school placement is projected separately.
20. Additional information relating to pupils' special educational needs and disabilities, such as primary need and designation of specialist educational provision attended, are fed into these projections. Specialist school place demand is analysed for each of Surrey's four quadrants (North East, North West, South East, South West of the county), as well as at district and borough level across the county's district and boroughs (Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Guildford, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Tandridge, Waverley and Woking). This is because when compared to mainstream figures, the projections involve a significantly smaller number of pupils and schools.
21. Specialist school place planning projections draw from a wider range of the type of educational provision for pupils with EHCPs, from SEN Units or Resourced Provision attached to mainstream Primary or Secondary schools, Special Schools, Alternative Provision schools (AP), Further Education (FE) Colleges, and places at Non-Maintained Independent (NMI) or Specialist Independent (SPI) settings.
22. Special school place sufficiency planning is also informed by detailed local knowledge enhanced through consultation with parents and carers and good relationships with local schools. This supports the strategic approach to evidence-informed place planning. In Surrey, as is the case nationally, specialist school provision does not just meet the needs of learners in the immediate surrounding district or borough. As such, special schools have a far wider intake than most mainstream schools.
23. Surrey's existing maintained specialist estate (Appendix 1), which includes specialist school places in 52 SEN Units in mainstream primary and secondary schools and in 25 Special Schools, has over 3,700 places and is full. This capacity constraint, given the significant increase in demand requires in-county provision of up to 6,000 maintained specialist school places for pupils aged 4-19 years within the next 10 years. As Surrey's specialist estate has historically not expanded at the same rate as the demand, the council has had to increase reliance on out of county placements and the independent sector to ensure all local resident pupils with EHCPs that require a specialist school placement are able to access their statutory entitlement to special educational provision and a suitable full-time education.

24. Tables 1 and 2 show the breakdown of Surrey resident pupils that attended specialist educational provision across maintained and independent sectors at the beginning of September between 2018-2021. Alongside this are the cost implications to Surrey's Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget during this period.

Table 1: Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years placed in Maintained Specialist School Provision as of 1 September 2021

School Location	Actual number of Surrey-resident pupils		
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Surrey-based schools	2,759	2,790	3,100
Out of County Schools	184	242	260
Total	2,943	3,032	3,360
Growth	~	3%	11%

 edge-ucate SEN

Table 2: Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years Non-Maintained and Independent specialist school provision as of 1 September 2021

School Location	Actual number of Surrey-resident pupils		
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Surrey-based schools	552	646	719
Out of County Schools	383	452	497
Total	905	1,098	1,216
Growth	~	21%	11%

 edge-ucate SEN

25. These data clearly show that sustained use of the independent sector in the future would constitute an inefficient use of limited resources and severely impact Surrey's ability to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

26. Surrey's ambition for children and young people who have SEND is to develop high quality fit for purpose local specialist maintained school provision that enables better long term outcomes. This in turn ensures that Surrey resident pupils are educated closer to home, more connected to local communities and local support services, and have increased opportunities to enter employment in the future.

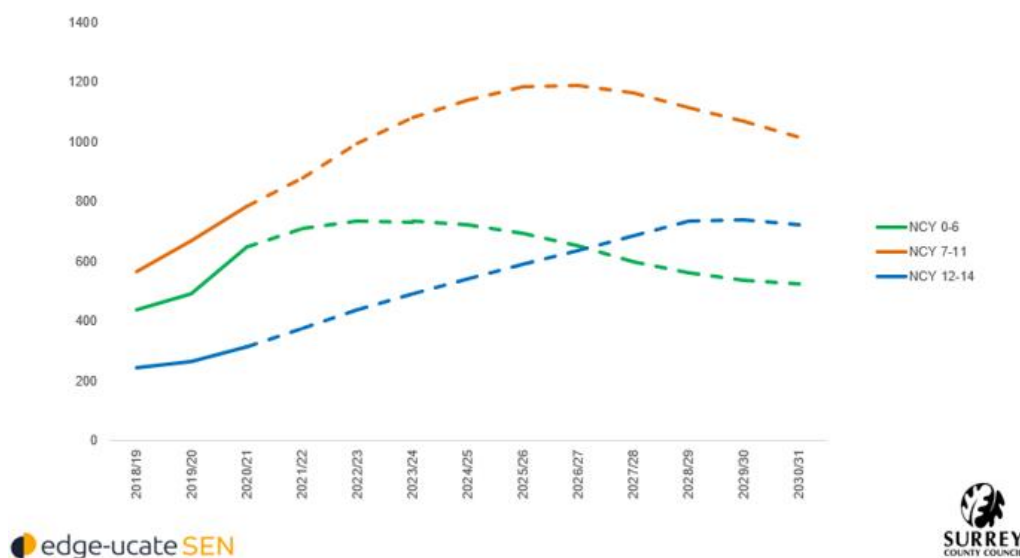
27. To that end, Surrey's Cabinet approved the strategy for four Phases of the SEND Capital Programme with a combined capital investment of £139.6m between 2019-2022, This will expand the specialist education estate by approximately 2,300 additional places between 2019-2026 and places will continue to be phased in until 2030/31 (Appendix 2). SCC's proposal to submit two [DfE Special Free School Applications 2022](#) is a key delivery aspect of the Capital strategy approved by Cabinet in 2022.

28. Should SCC be successful, the developments will create two new coeducational SEMH Designated Special Free Schools, delivered by the DfE which will provide around 320 urgently needed additional specialist school places for pupils aged 11-19 years from 2026/27. The location of the new special schools will provide local residents in the north and south east quadrants who have children with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs closer access to high quality specialist education and dramatically reduced home to school journey times.

Projected needs Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs in Surrey 2021-2031

29. Graph 1 shows the latest projections for pupils aged 11-19 years with EHCPs in Surrey who have SEMH needs identified as their primary need. Secondary age projections (11-16 years) show an exponential increase year on year to 2026-2027, followed by a gradual decline thereafter. Post 16 projections (16-19 years) show a gradual increase until 2030-2031 before plateauing towards the end of the planning period. Primary age projections evidence minimal increases year on year between 2021-2023 before declining thereafter.

Graph 1: Projections for Surrey EHCP pupils aged 4-19 years with primary needs identified as Social, Emotional and Mental Health



Surrey pupils aged 11-19 years with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who have SEMH needs

30. As of 2021/22, Surrey County Council maintains a total of 1,212 statutory EHCPs for the county’s children and young people who have SEND aged 11-19 years who have social, emotional, and mental health needs. Tables 4 and 5 show the breakdown of pupil numbers in the north and south east quadrants of the county, compared to the rest of Surrey.

Table 4: North and South East Quadrant EHCPs for pupils with SEMH needs aged 11-16 years

District	Total EHCPs	SEMH EHCPs	Percentage
North	1,926	381	20%
South East	991	184	19%
Rest of Surrey	856	165	19%
Total	3,773	730	19%

Table 5: North and South East Quadrant EHCPs for pupils with SEMH needs age 16-19 years

District	Total EHCPs	SEMH EHCPs	Percentage
North	780	137	18%
South East	487	95	20%
Rest of Surrey	382	74	19%
Total	1,649	306	19%



Future demand for special school places in Surrey

31. Tables 6 and 7 detail the number of pupils aged 11-19 years currently attending SEMH designated special schools. These data evidence the projected demand for additional special school places on top of planned expansion in the quadrants over the next 5 and 10 years.

Table 6: North and South East Quadrant resident pupils aged 11-16 years who attend SEMH designated special schools and projected demand for additional places to 2030/31.

Quadrant	Actuals 2020-2021	Projected demand for places 2025-2026	Projected growth from 2021	Projected demand for places 2030-2031	Projected growth from 2021
North	186	272	46%	225	21%
South East	107	161	50%	158	48%
Rest of Surrey	80	112	40%	77	-4%



32. Forecasts clearly show that the north and south east of Surrey will have the highest demand for SEMH places going forwards.

Table 7: North and South East district/ borough resident pupils aged 11-16 years who attend SEMH designated special schools and projected demand for additional places to 2030/31.

District/ Borough	Quadrant	Actuals 2020-2021	Projected demand for places 2025/26	Projected growth from 2021	Projected demand for places 2030/31	Projected growth from 2021
Elmbridge	NE	39	52	33%	44	13%
Epsom & Ewell	NE	23	39	70%	37	61%
Spelthorne	NE	51	78	53%	66	29%
Runnymede	NW	22	28	27%	19	-14%
Surrey Heath	NW	22	28	27%	21	-5%
Woking	NW	29	46	59%	38	31%
Mole Valley	SE	32	44	38%	38	19%
Reigate & Banstead	SE	48	72	50%	80	67%
Tandridge	SE	27	45	67%	41	52%
Rest of Surrey	ALL	80	112	40%	77	-4%



33. The highest projected growth for pupils aged 11-16 requiring SEMH designated special schools is in Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead, as compared to the other boroughs and the rest of Surrey.

34. Tables 8 & 9 detail the number of pupils aged 16-19 years currently attending SEMH designated special schools. These data evidence the projected demand for additional special school places on top of planned expansion in the quadrants over the next 5 and 10 years.

Table 8: North and South East Quadrant resident pupils aged 16-19 years who attend SEMH designated special schools and projected demand for additional places to 2030/31.

Quadrant	Actuals 2020-2021	Projected demand for places 2025-2026	Projected growth from 2021	Projected demand for places 2030-2031	Projected growth from 2021
North	19	39	105%	51	168%
South East	18	21	17%	22	22%
Rest of Surrey	11	18	64%	21	91%

 edge-ucate SEN

35. The North East quadrant has the highest projected demand for places until the end of the forecast period.

Table 9: North and South East Quadrant resident pupils aged 16-19 years who attend SEMH designated special schools and projected demand for additional places to 2030/31.

District/ Borough	Actuals 2020-2021	Projected demand for places 2025-2026	Projected growth from 2021	Projected demand for places 2030-2031	Projected growth from 2021
Elmbridge	5	11	120%	14	180%
Epsom & Ewell	4	8	100%	10	150%
Spelthorne	4	11	175%	13	225%
Runnymede	2	2	0%	2	0%
Surrey Heath	3	7	133%	10	233%
Woking	1	1	0%	1	0%
Mole Valley	3	2	-33%	1	-67%
Reigate & Banstead	12	16	33%	18	50%
Tandridge	3	2	-33%	3	0%
Rest of Surrey	11	18	64%	21	91%

 edge-ucate SEN

36. The highest projected growth for pupils aged 16-19 requiring SEMH designated special schools is in Spelthorne and Surrey Heath, as compared to the other boroughs and the rest of Surrey.

SEMH Designated Special School provision in Surrey

37. Appendix 3 provides a geographical view of the location of Surrey's four maintained special schools designated to meet the needs of pupils with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs, and the three potential sites for the new Special Free Schools. These pupil cohorts cannot be mixed in other designated special schools because of their significantly different needs, academic and pastoral curriculum requirements and prospects into adulthood are divergent.

38. Table 10 shows the existing SEMH designated maintained special schools in Surrey, and those that are already in the process of being expanded through the county's SEND Capital programme.

SEMH Designated State-Maintained Special Schools in Surrey

Setting	Trust	District/ Borough	Age Range	Gender	School Capacity	Occupancy Sep May 22	Planned expansion
Wishmore Cross Academy	Academies Enterprise Trust	Surrey Heath (NW)	7-16 years	Co-education	93	81 (87%)	28 places (Sep 2021)
Bramley Oak Academy	London & South East Academies Trust	Guildford (SW)	7-11 years	Boys	61	61 (100%)	49 places (Sep 2024)
Grafham Grange	Orchard Hill College Academy Trust	Guildford (SW)	11-16 years	Boys	56	55 (98%)	0
Unified Academy	Orchard Hill College Academy Trust	Mole Valley (SE)	9-16 years	Boys	105	75 (71%)	0

Impact on local pupils with SEMH needs who require special school places in North and South East Surrey

39. Sufficiency data from the 2020/21 academic year highlights a number of issues facing pupils with social, emotional, and mental health needs resident in the South East and North quadrants who require a special school place. These are summarised in Table 11.

Table 11: Issues facing pupils with SEMH needs living in the North and South East quadrants in Surrey

Measure	North	South East	Rest of Surrey
Growth of pupils with SEMH needs who require a special school placement to meet their education needs by 2026/27	143%	107%	90%
Proportion of pupils with SEMH needs aged 11-19 years educated out of district	98%	74%	71%
Proportion of pupils with SEMH needs aged 11-19 years educated out of quadrant	89%	46%	55%
Proportion of pupils with SEMH needs aged 11-19 years who travel more than 7 miles between home and school each day	86%	79%	79%



Local children and young people with SEMH needs are not educated at their nearest most appropriate school, as their mainstream peers are.

40. As of academic year, 2020/21, 421 pupils aged 11-19 years with this need-type were educated in special school provision. The sufficiency data demonstrates that almost all of the cohort of pupils resident in the north of the county who require a special school place (around 200 pupils) have to travel out of district to receive an appropriate full-time education; the majority (more than 180 pupils) also have to travel out of the quadrant each day. The highest proportion (36%, approximately 75 pupils) attend special schools out of county, the next highest (21%, 43 pupils) go to schools in the Surrey Heath district (see Appendix 3 below). Around 40% (more than 80 pupils) attend a non-maintained or independent school, rather than a local state-funded maintained school.
41. Of pupils resident in the south east of the county who require a special school place, 74% (more than 90 pupils) have to travel out of district to receive an appropriate full-time education; almost half (more than 55 pupils) also have to travel out of the quadrant each day. The highest proportion (38%, approximately 45 pupils) attend special schools out of county, the next highest (32%, 40 pupils) go to schools in the Mole Valley district (see Appendix 4 below). Around 40% (more than 50 pupils) attend a non-maintained or independent school, rather than a local state-funded maintained school.
42. This evidences the fact that pupils with the highest needs and their families spend excessively lengthy periods of time travelling between home and school twice a day for 38 weeks of the year; some travel for up to 4 hours a day. This affects pupils' readiness to learn when they get to school and in turn their academic as well as personal development potential. The proposed

two new SEMH special free schools would provide pupils and families resident in the north and south east of the county more equitable access to special school education, as well as opportunities for developing independence, local friendships with peers and social opportunities in their local communities.

43. This supports the view that the proposed two new SEMH designated special free schools are critical to achieving the Council's strategic priorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a school local to them so that they can learn, grow, and develop in their community. This includes the adopted county-wide commitment to root children in their local communities and ensure no one is left behind.

Potentially not having needs fully met and increased risk of placement breakdown

44. Of the pupils (280) who currently remain in Surrey for their SEMH designated special school placement, a large proportion (36%, over 100 pupils) attend a special school with a different designation to their identified primary need. These include Moderate Learning Difficulties, Autism or Severe Learning Difficulties. Therefore, pupils resident in north and south east quadrants have reduced access to maintained special educational provision that is specifically fit for purpose, meets their special educational needs, and achieves high quality outcomes, as well as value for money. The proposed two new coeducational SEMH designated special free schools would better meet the demand for secondary and post-16 age pupils and reduce the need for a change of placement outside of key stage transfer year groups.

Growing demand for additional SEMH Designated Special School Provision in North and South East Surrey

45. The points above highlight issues that already exist for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs resident in both the North of the county and the South East who need a special school placement. There is strong evidence that each of the pupils identified may be affected by at least one of those issues. In addition, forecasts of pupil numbers indicate that these issues will continue to apply for the near future and are likely to worsen unless action is taken, with demand increasing in the next five years and beyond.
46. By 2025/26, there are expected to be more than 50 additional pupils aged 11-16 years with these needs living in the South East quadrant, of which, over 20 will be resident in Reigate and Banstead. Within that same period there are expected to be more than 85 additional pupils aged 11-16 years with these needs living in the North East/North West quadrants. Of these, around 60 will be resident in the North East and around 30 resident in the North West of the county. Tables 13 and 14 show the expected growth in pupil numbers over the next five years.

Table 13: North Quadrants EHCP forecasts for pupils with SEMH needs

North Quadrants	Actual		Forecast			
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Pupils	186	193	219	242	258	272
Increase since 2020-21	-	4%	18%	30%	39%	46%
Pupils aged 16-19	19	28	31	32	36	39
Increase since 2020-21	-	47%	63%	68%	89%	105%

Table 14: South East Quadrant EHCP forecasts for pupils SEMH needs

SE Quadrant	Actual	Forecast				
Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Pupils aged 11-16	107	117	136	148	157	161
Increase since 2020-21	-	9%	27%	38%	47%	50%
Pupils aged 16-19	18	21	20	20	20	21
Increase since 2020-21	-	17%	11%	11%	11%	17%



Summary

Legal Duties:

Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 and Part 27 Section 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that:

- There are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas
- They keep under review the educational provision for children and young people who have special educational needs and or a disability (SEND)

As is the case nationally, the Department for Education expects Surrey County Council to manage its specialist education estate efficiently to avoid detriment to schools' educational offers, creating disadvantage to children and young people who have distinct types of SEND or the local authority's financial position. This means ensuring the availability of maintained specialist school places that are appropriately matched to need-type, phases of education and geographic location so that all of Surrey's pupils with an EHCP that require a full-time specialist setting in either a mainstream SEN Unit or Special School have a named placement, ready for the beginning of each academic year by 1 September.

Growing SEND Needs:

It is for this reason that the proposed two new coeducational DfE Special Free Schools are business critical to ensure the projected demand for SEMH designated special school places from local pupils in the north and south east areas of the county is realised.

Benefits to North and South East Surrey's local families with children and young people who have significant Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs

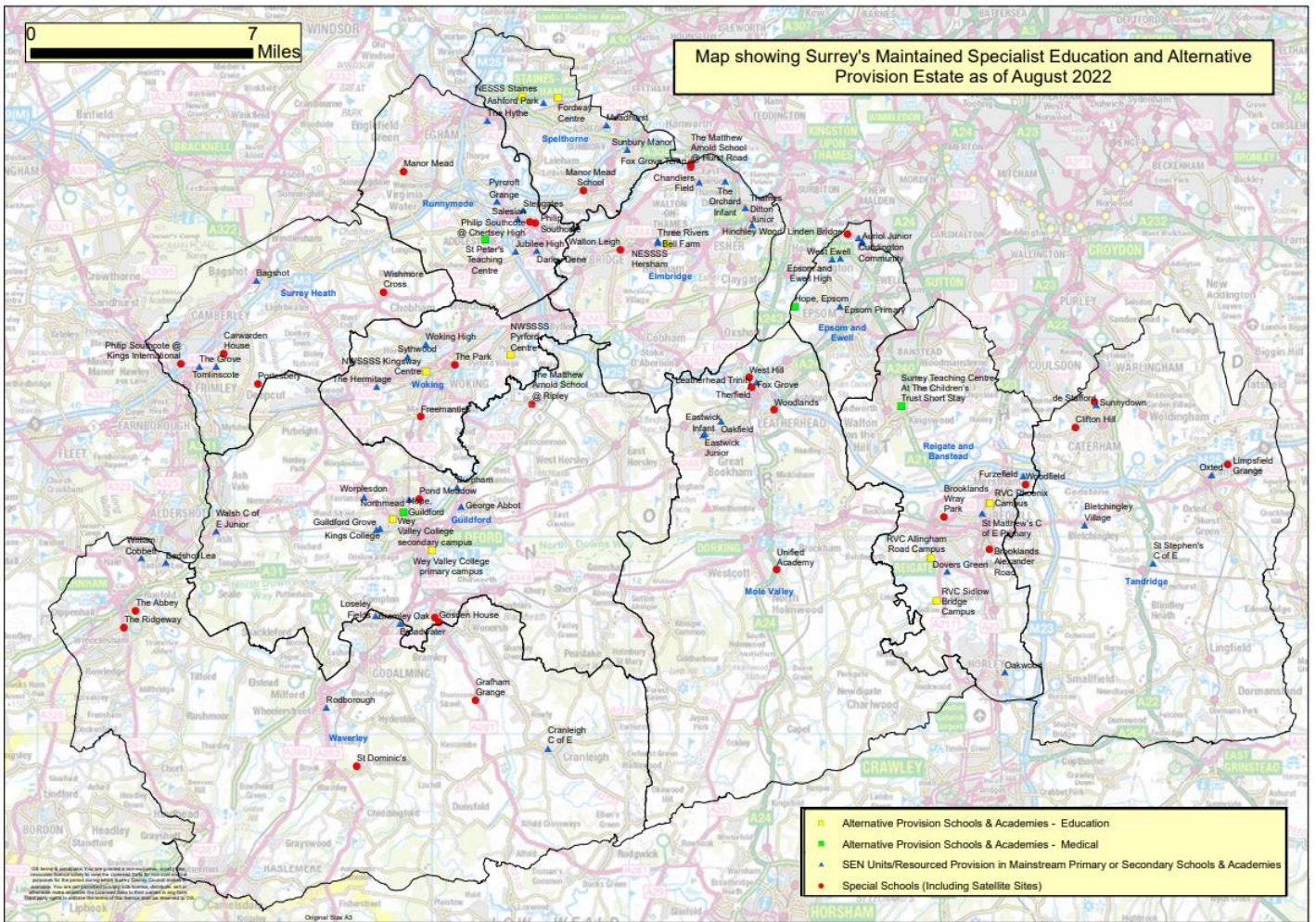
The proposed developments would meet the projected demand in the medium to long term and the potential sites identified for this purpose are ideally located to address this current deficit of specialist school places.

The development of the proposed two new coeducational DfE Special Free Schools are aligned with the [Community vision for Surrey in 2030](#), [Surrey Children and Young People's Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Strategy](#) and Surrey's SEND Capital Strategy (Appendix 2) to ensure delivery of sufficient SEMH designated specialist school places and realisation of strategic priorities by 2030.

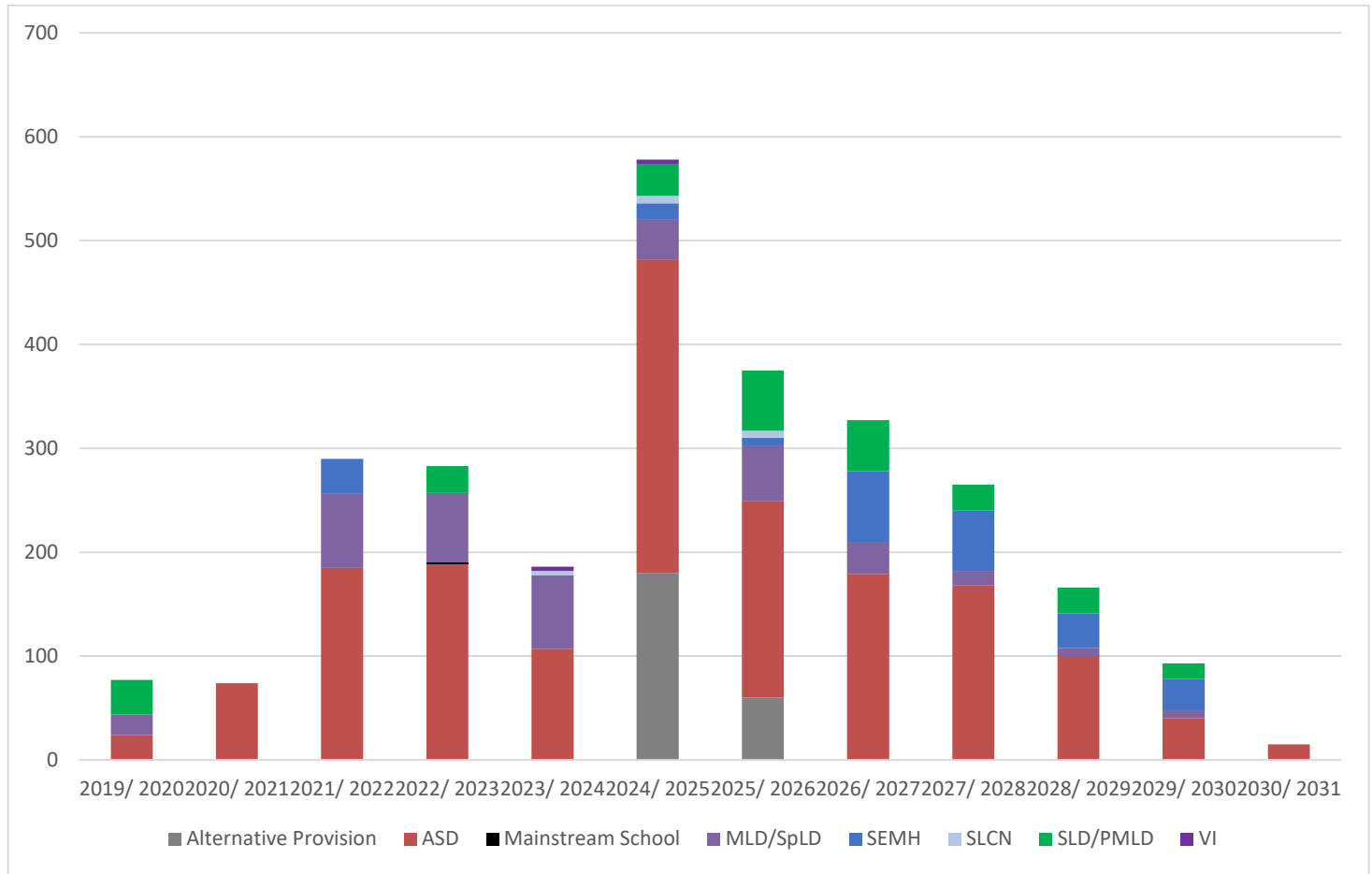
Benefits to local residents include:

- Surrey's vulnerable pupils with SEMH needs who are resident in the north and south east of the county can attend their nearest most appropriate state-maintained school.
- Provides residents in the north and south east of the county and surrounding areas access to the same level of high-quality specialist support as the rest of Surrey. (Appendix 1)
- Helps to ensure Surrey's Local Offer matches the identified needs of children and young people who have SEND in the area.
- Aligns with Surrey's Preparation for Adulthood programme and strategy for Post-16 to create local further education and employment pathways such as apprenticeships and supported internships. This enables young people who have SEND and are resident in the north and south east of the county to make a successful transitions to adulthood and secure future employment.
- Will reduce journey times and maximise opportunities for developing independent travel skills. This will also address local congestion in the north and south east of the county around school sites as well as traffic flow around the county, which will be of benefit to Surrey's Green Agenda.
- The project will realise c£9.6m total cost containment to Surrey's Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Budget (DSG HNB) per year once the schools are at full capacity. 320 additional specialist school places in the independent sector would equate to c£17m per year every year, which is based on an average cost of £53k per learner per annum.
- These figures are compared to the average cost for maintained special school places at £23k per learner per annum and equivalent costs for 320 places of £7.4m. Provision of additional maintained special school places at the proposed two new SEMH designated coeducational DfE Special Free Schools would generate an approximate saving from 2026-2030 of £30k per place per year.
- The proposed two new coeducational SEMH designated DfE Special Free Schools ensures increased access to local educational provision that achieves high quality outcomes, as well as a more efficient use of limited resources that can be used to deliver improved services to more children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- The proposed two new coeducational SEMH designated DfE Special Free Schools supports achievement of cost containment that results in an in-year balance in the DSG HNB by 2029/30 to allow Surrey to continue to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

Appendix 1: Map of All Surrey Maintained Specialist Education Estate as of September 2022



Appendix 2: Surrey Capital Strategy delivery 2019-2030



Appendix 3 : Map of existing and proposed Surrey SEMH Designated Special Schools

