

## Appendix One: SEND Need

- 1. Needs and support requirements relating to SEND have increased significantly** in Wokingham between 2017 and 2020; analysis of trend data suggests that future increases are likely over the next three years.
- Trend data from 2017-2020 show **increasing numbers and proportion of Wokingham children and young people with EHCPs**. The increases are in excess of local population growth (approximately 4% over the past 3 years, compared with an increase of 8% in the number of children and young people with EHCPs between 2019 and 2020).
- Within this group, the **increasing numbers of younger children (in Reception, KS1 and KS2) with EHCPs requires attention**, and explanations for this require further research and discussion. Although absolute numbers are small, between 2019 and 2020 there was a **75% increase in the numbers of children at Reception age with EHCPs**. Data collected at the local level also demonstrates **increased demand for support for children aged between 3 months and 5 years**. Increases in the numbers of children at early Curriculum years have potentially significant implications for increased demand for services and support in coming years.
- In terms of primary SEN needs featured in EHCPs, the greatest areas of need show consistently across various data sets as being for ASD, SEMH, SLC and MLD. In recent years, there have been **significant proportionate increases in ASD and SEMH in KS2 and KS3 particularly**. This also has potentially significant implications for demand for services and support as these children age through the education system.
- Through consultation on the SEND Strategy in general, **the sufficiency of local support for SEMH-related needs** is an area which professionals, parents and carers have consistently flagged as a priority area of focus for the SEND Strategy.
- Reviews of EHCPs show **there are increases in several types and levels of SEN needs at KS2 level**. Explanations for this, implications of services and how the system needs to be shaped over the lifetime of this Strategy require further research and discussion. As of 2020, **more children at KS2 receive SEN support than any other Curriculum Year (41% of the total number of children and young people receiving SEN support are in KS2)**. In terms of SEN Support, there are also increasing levels of needs relating to ASD in KS2 and an upward trend between 2017 and 2020.
- 7. There is also a general upward trend in demand for SEN Support**. Currently 9% of children and young people in Wokingham receive SEN Support, and numbers of children with SEN support in state-funded Wokingham schools have increased significantly since 2017. **Increases in SEN support needs related to SEMH across most Key Stages** over the last three years is particularly striking.

8. As with many other local areas across the country, it is a consistent struggle to ensure that needs are met through local provision in Wokingham. A significant proportion (**approximately 33%**) of children and young people with EHCPs are **educated Out of Borough**. Over 62% of children and young people educated out of borough are 16+.

9. Collectively, the scale and nature of trend increases has significant implications for the strategic approach to **strengthening local arrangements for children and young people with SEND and their families**: particularly in relation to **the sufficiency of in-borough provision** particularly for areas of growing need; support for children and young people in **mainstream settings**, and **strengthening transition arrangements** between school years and into adulthood.