

Special educational needs and disabilities in children and young people

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment at a glance

The definition of **special educational needs and disability (SEND)** draws attention to the fact that it is not the diagnosis, difficulty or disability that is of concern, but specifically the impact it has on children's abilities to participate fully in their education.

Four main areas of SEND need:

- Communication and interaction needs
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Cognition and learning difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

Tower Hamlets has **high levels of total SEND compared to London and England.**

This is driven by the borough having a higher percentage of pupils with EHC plans than London and England but broadly similar levels of pupils in receipt of SEND support (ie SEND need but no EHC plan).

Of all children with **any SEN needs** in Tower Hamlets:

- 37%** have 'speech, language and communication' needs – second highest in England
- 20%** have 'cognition and learning difficulties'
- 18%** have 'social, emotional and mental health' needs
- 11%** have 'sensory and/or learning difficulties'



With EHC plan is higher than London and England and is increasing.
4.6% with an EHC plan – second highest in England
12% require SEN support – similar to London and England

Double the levels of identified need are found amongst boys

Double the percentage of boys have been identified as having SEND.

SEND is more common amongst boys for many possible reasons, such as a combination of the way we diagnose and describe SEND, and some biological differences between boys and girls.



There are **over 9000** children and young people in Tower Hamlets, between the ages of **2 and 25**, who have SEND.



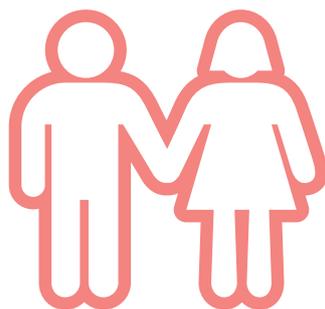
The percentage of pupils with an EHC plan in Tower Hamlets is **increasing**, and at a **greater rate** than for London or England.

| | England | London | Tower Hamlets |
|---|---------|--------|---------------|
| Pupils with statements or EHC plans: | 3% | 3% | 5% |
| Pupils with SEND support: | 12% | 11% | 12% |
| Total pupils with SEND: | 15% | 15% | 17% |

Risk factors for SEND

Material poverty

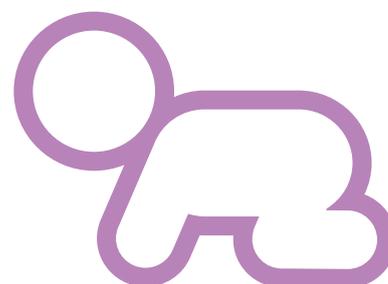
32% of children grow up in poverty in Tower Hamlets, amongst the highest in England



Environmental factors

Such as infections, injuries or air pollution

Children in need and looked after are **significantly** more likely to have a special educational need as are **those eligible for free school meals**



Poor pregnancy outcomes

Such as low birth weight and pre-term birth and, in turn, the risk factors for those, such as smoking or substance misuse during pregnancy, intimate partner violence, maternal weight or low and high maternal age



Gender

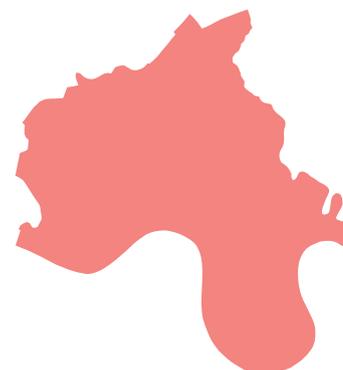
The prevalence of all-cause childhood disability is higher among boys than girls in the early years, by late teens the prevalence among girls is similar to that of boys



Multiple genetic factors

(interacting between themselves and with environmental factors) often underlie SEND

The proportion of pupils in **all settings** with **ASD as primary need** has **increased in Tower Hamlets and London**



How well are we meeting need?



Education outcomes: better than England averages. In Tower Hamlets – 40% of SEN support pupils achieve expected or higher for KS1 reading; 13% of EHC plan pupils achieve expected or higher for KS2 reading, writing and maths; 88% of 16 and 17 year olds are in education or training



Local services have worked hard to increase opportunities for identifying additional needs and intervening through early help and Tower Hamlets children's school experience (in terms of poor attendance and exclusions) is better than that nationally.



Rates of childhood poverty remain high despite reductions, we have low coverage of some antenatal and postnatal screening tests and some poor maternal health and pregnancy outcomes.