

## Schools Forum

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

<b>Subject: EHCP Timeliness and Performance Update</b>	
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### 1. Purpose

This report is to provide an update to the forum on the current position regarding EHCP timeliness and performance, highlighting the mitigating actions taken to reduce backlogs and areas of improvement.

### 2. Recommendations

To note the contents and developments shown within this report.

### 3. Background

The Children and Families Act, (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice (2015) present statutory guidance to Local Authorities, health services, early years settings, schools and further education providers about their obligation to identify and meet the needs of Children and Young People aged 0-25 years who have SEND.

Walsall Local Authority is subject to a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) as a result of the Walsall SEND Inspection on February 2019. The multi-agency SEND Local Area Improvement Board (LAIB) continue to meet on a monthly basis in order to monitor the progress of the SEND WSOA, EHCP timeliness and SEND Improvement.

### 4. Compliance Update Figures

**4.1** The compliance rate on new plans is currently at **77.3%** as of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

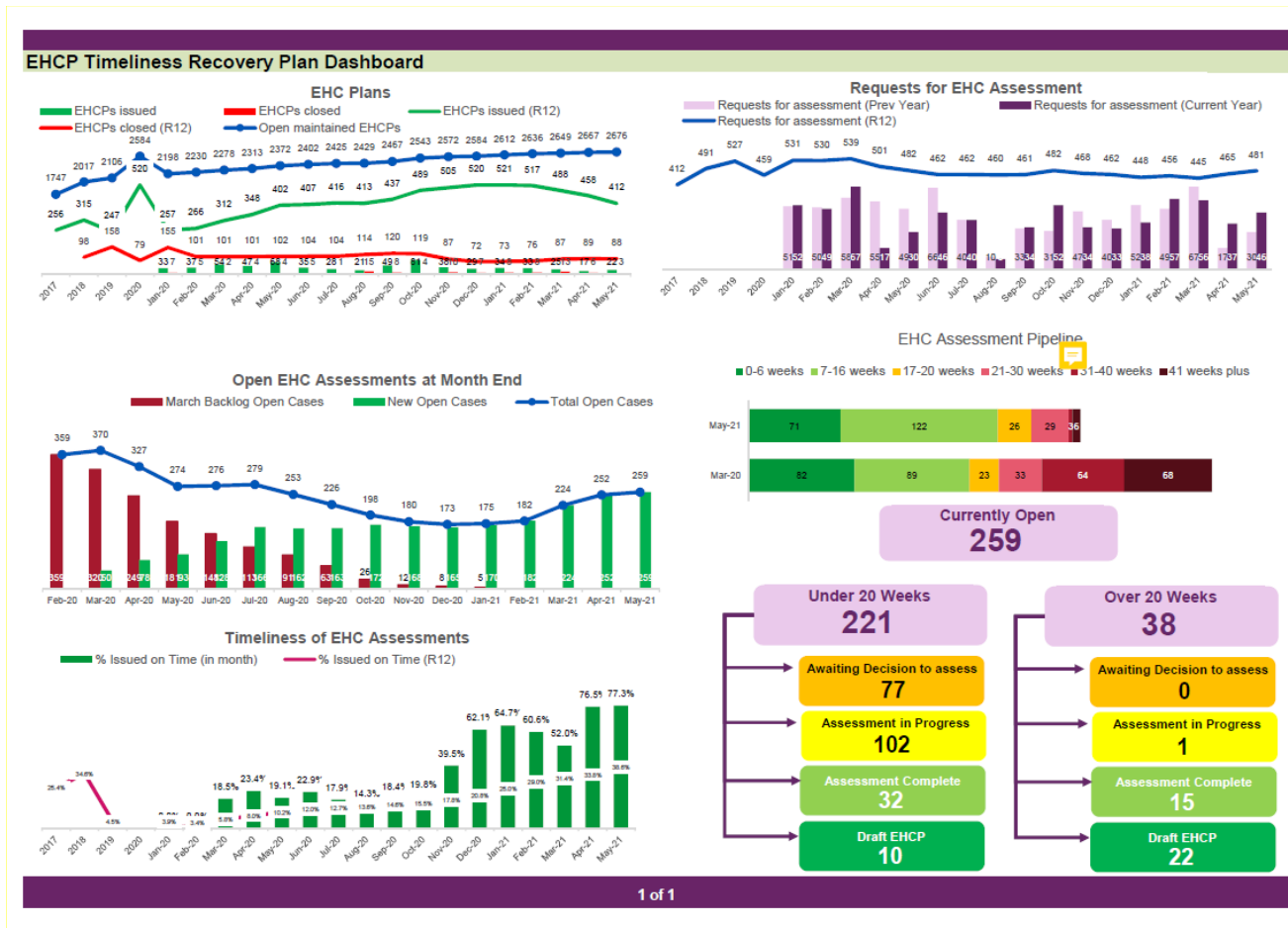
#### **Progress Report Re Completion Of EHCP Plans in 20 Weeks 2020 – LA Name Walsall**

	Aug. '20	Sept. '20	Oct. '20	Nov. '20	Dec. '20	Jan. '21	Feb. '21	Mar. '21	Apr. '21	May. '21
Number of EHCP Plans Issued, excluding exceptions	21	49	81	38	29	34	33	25	22	17
Number of these issued in 20 weeks	3	9	15	15	18	22	20	14	16	13
% in 20 weeks	14.3%	18.4%	18.8%	39.5%	62.1%	64.7%	60.6%	56%	76.5%	77.3%

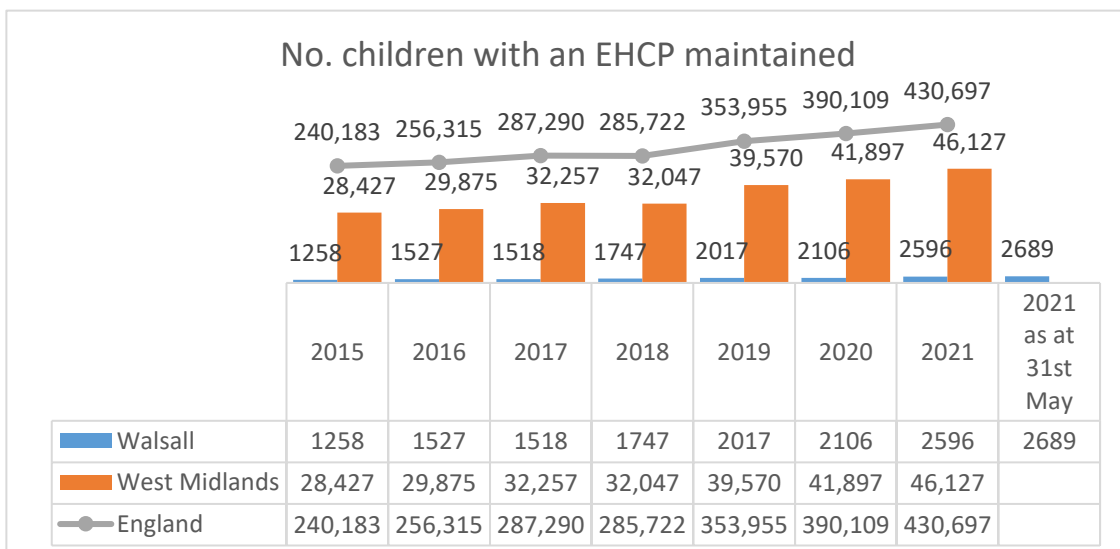
#### **4.2.**

- Timeliness over the rolling 12 month period has significantly improved from 16.7% (May 2020) to 77.3% (May 2021).
- There are currently 259 open EHC Assessments
  - 77 awaiting a decision to assess

- 103 assessments in progress
- 47 Completed assessments
- 32 Draft EHC



## 5. The National and Local Context (SEN2 Data – Jan '21)



- Nationally, there were 430,697 children and young people with an EHC plan maintained by local authorities as at January 2021, this is an increase of 40,588 (10%) from 2020.
- This increase is also reflected in the West Midlands figures, with an increase of 4,230 (10%) EHC plans from 2020.

- In Walsall, there is a significant increase in the number of CYP for whom Walsall Council maintain an EHC Plan. On the return date (14th January 2021) this stood at 2,596, the highest number of EHC Plans recorded in Walsall over the past five years. Walsall's increase is much higher than National and West Midlands at 23.3% an increase of 490 EHC plans from 2020.
- The number of CYP with an EHC Plan has been gradually increasing since March 2019. In May 2020, this stood at 2,390 and has increased by 12.5% over the last 12 months and now stands at 2,689.

## 6. Annual Review Backlog

As referenced in the last Schools Forum meeting, a backlog of EHCP's developed as a result of Covid-19 and the subsequent school closures. Following the schools reopening, scheduled reviews progressed, however this resulted in an increase of due annual reviews each month, which caused further pressure to schools and settings, as well as creating additional resource pressures within the SEND Team

### Current position:

- 755 outstanding Annual Reviews (ARs) – being processed by SEND team
- 686 overdue ARs – i.e. the AR reports which have not been received by the SEND Team from schools/settings (increased from 179 in January 2020) \* these are monitored on a weekly basis and SENCO's are being supported by the SEND Team accordingly.
- A total of 1470 AR's are delayed.

### Action Plan

Supplemental temporary staff have been recruited and after training and induction have been operational since May 2021.

The transformational change point is June 2021 when 400 of the backlog ARs are anticipated to be completed in the month utilising the additional resources.

We are expecting the AR backlog to be cleared by the end of July '21.

Furthermore, it is expected that there will be a slight decrease in the number of overall maintained EHCP's due to some plans ceasing, particularly for those young people in the Post 19 cohort.

## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Forum are asked to:

7.1 note the contents of this report.

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