



**Transforming
SEND and Inclusion
in Leicestershire**



**Leicestershire
County Council**

UPDATE TO CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON RISK 7.7

20th May 2024



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SEND and Inclusion
in Leicestershire**



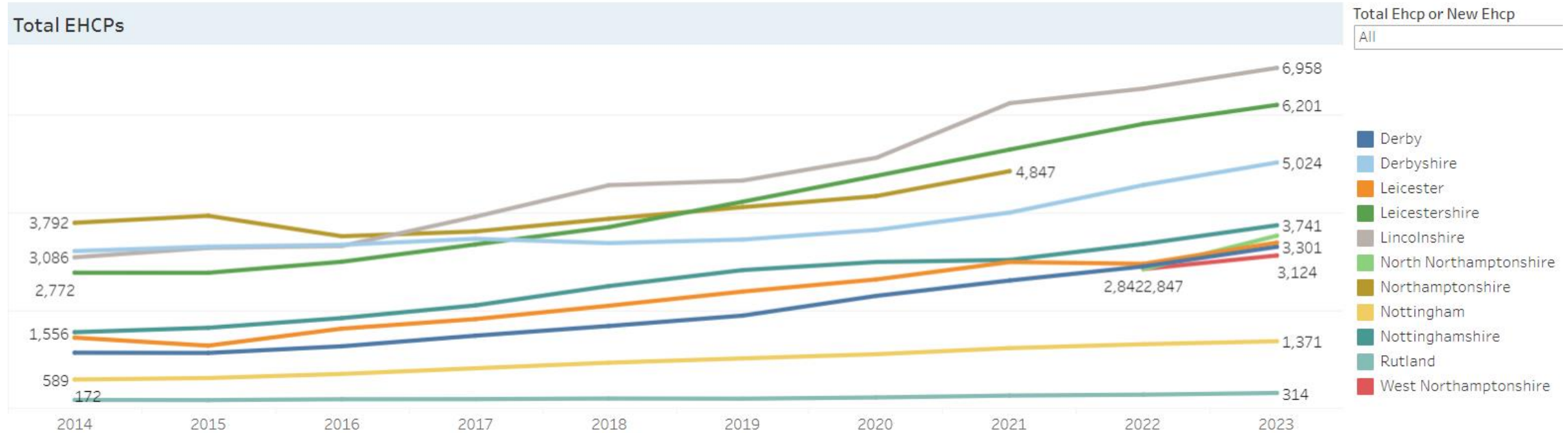
Risk 7.7

If current demand for Education Health Care (EHC) Needs Assessment and updating of EHC Plans after annual review exceeds available capacity of staff within SEND Services (particularly educational psychology and SEN Officer) then this leaves the Council vulnerable to complaints of maladministration with regards to statutory timescales. The situation is worsened by a lack of specialist placements which means that children with complex needs may not be placed in a timely way and hence may not receive the support to which they are entitled through their EHC Plan.

Numbers of EHCP total over time

Source: SEN2 2023 DfE data release (tableau)

East Midlands 2023 Education, Health and Care Plans DfE data release



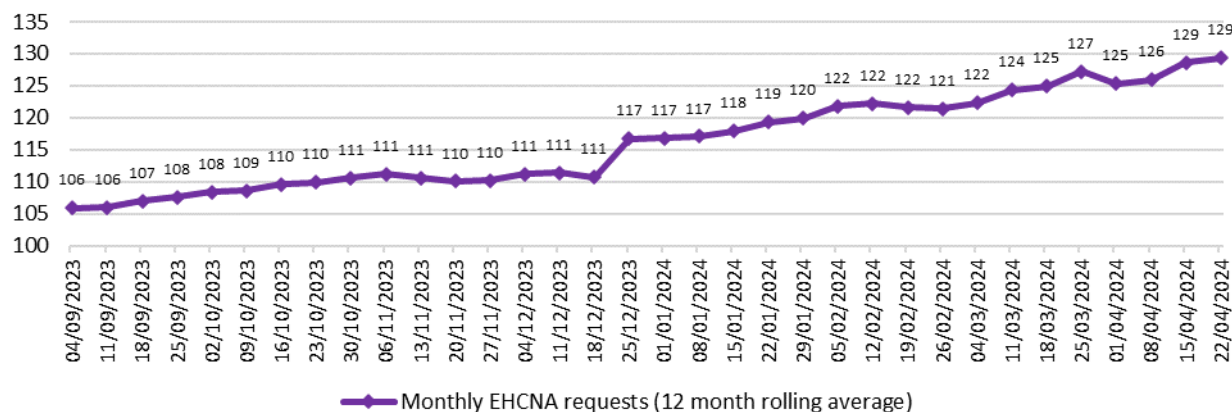
- Within Leicestershire (dark green line), :-
 - EHCP's increased from 2772 in 2014 to 6,201 in 2023. Rose to 6618 in April 2024 – no comparable data available.
- Other LAs within the East Midlands: -
 - Significant rises in EHCPs over the last 10 years, but rate of increase for Leicestershire is more pronounced.



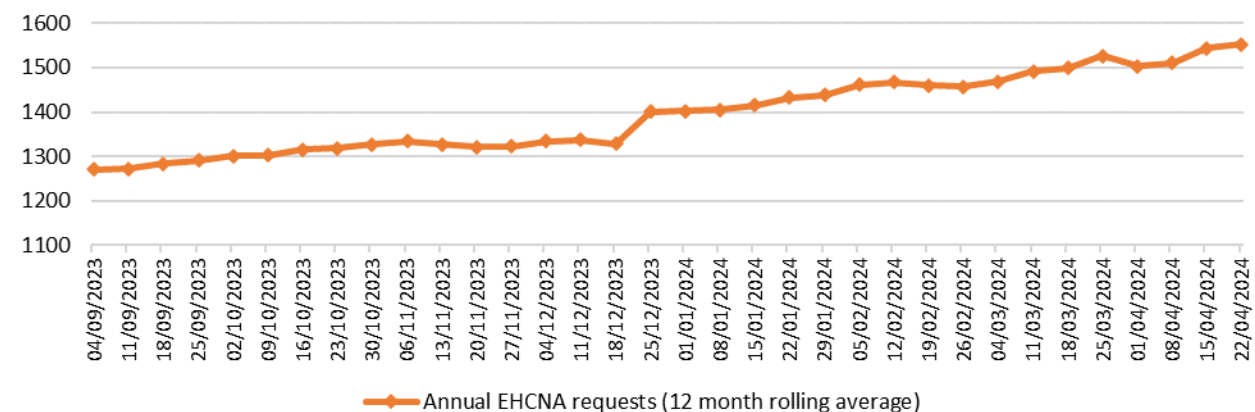
Demand for Education Health & Care Needs Assessments is increasing

Updated 02/05/24

Average EHCNA Requests per month 12 month rolling average



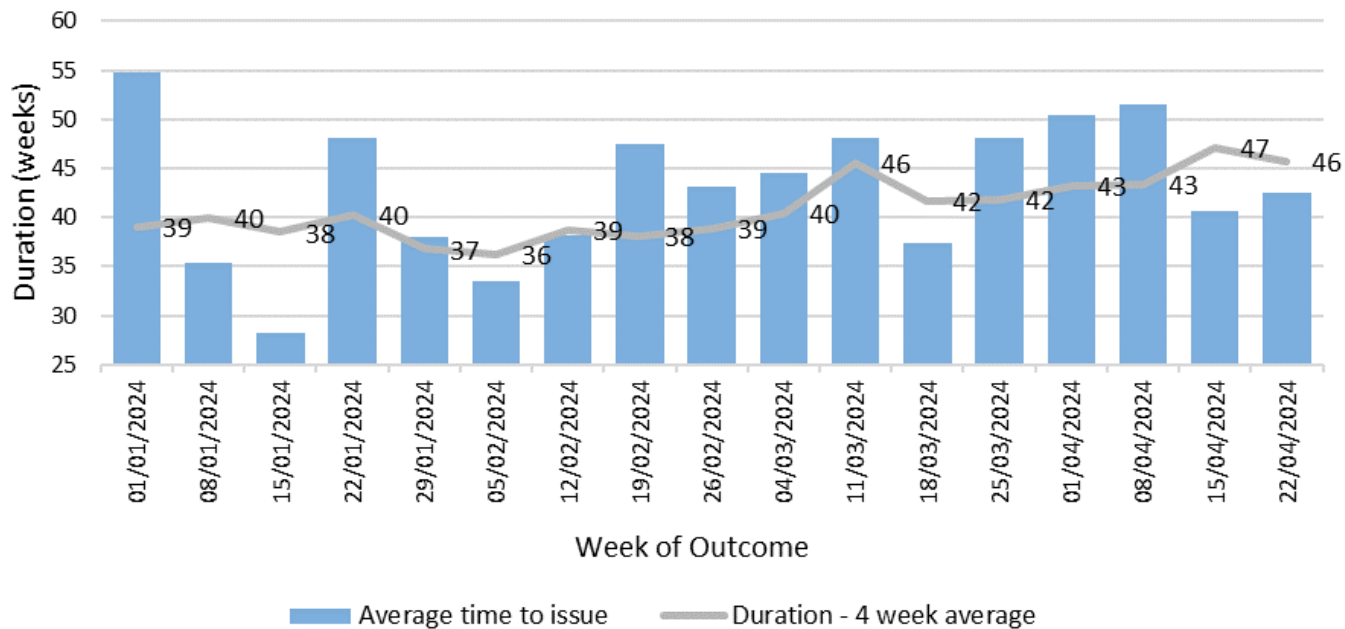
Average Annual EHCNA Requests 12 month rolling average



- Month on month increase in demand of around 20 additional assessments per month since September 2023
- Average annual number of EHCNA requests increased from 1271 to 1520 over the same time period (+ 22%).
- Nationally, requests for EHCNAs reflect a similar increase (+ 23%) from 2021 to 2022.
- Initial requests have increased each year since EHC plans were introduced.

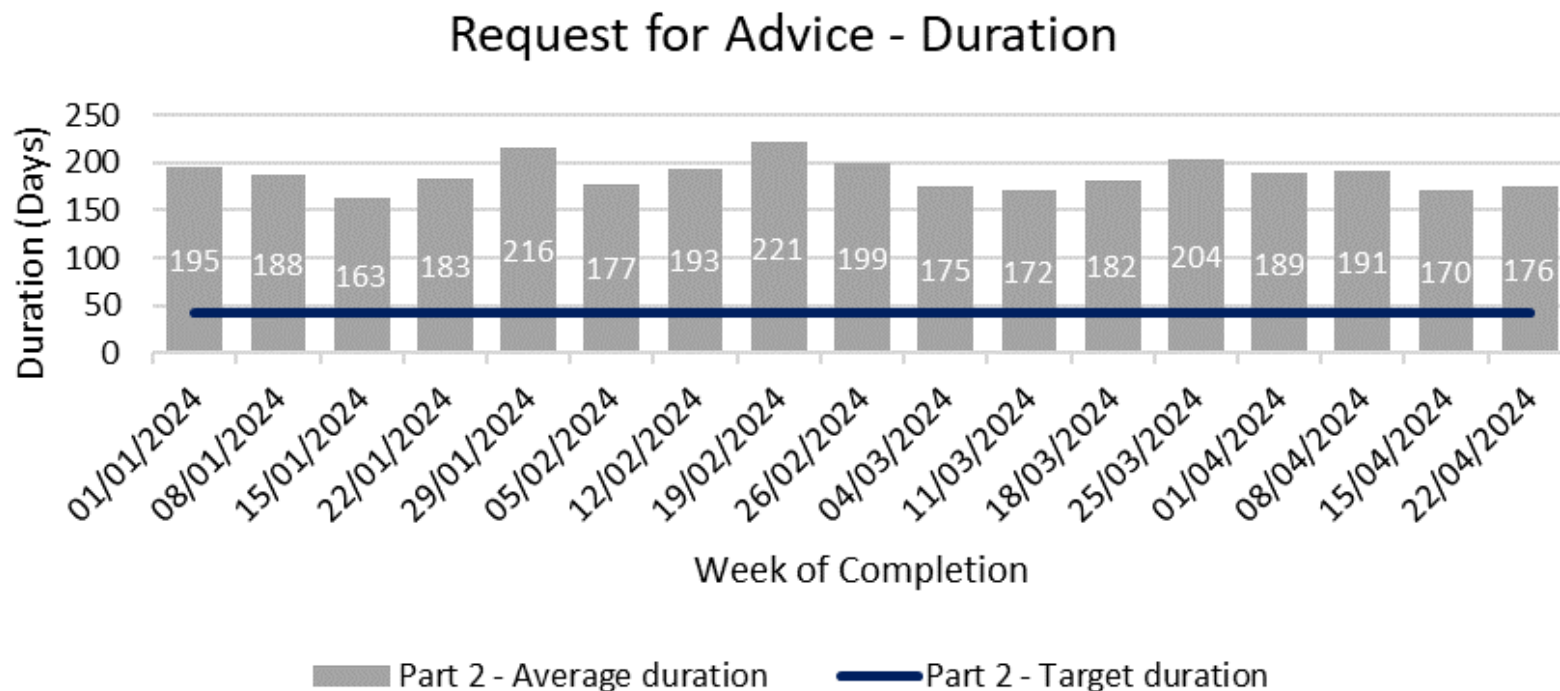
EHCPs Issued - Overall Timeliness

Average duration to issue EHCPs - Excluding Tribunals



- Average time to complete needs assessments has risen to around the same level as 2022 (baseline 43 weeks)
- Overall timeliness of issuing of EHCPs is well over the target of 20 weeks for completion & significantly out of line with national figures
- In April, Leicestershire rolling average of 3.8% of EHCNAs completed within 20-weeks (compared to average 55.2% all English LAs).

Request for Educational Psychology (EP) advice – timeliness



- Timeliness on requests for Educational Psychology (EP) advice continues to track significantly above the target duration.
- Significantly impacting overall timeliness as average time taken to return EP advice is in excess of the 20-week target for the whole EHCNA process (140 days)
- Ongoing EP recruitment alongside recruitment of locum EPs to increase throughput of advice issued is in place.



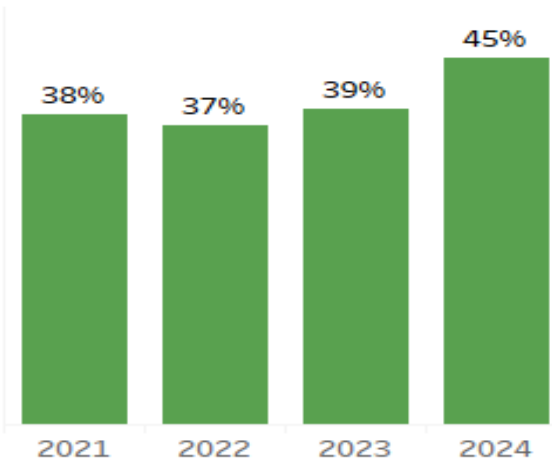
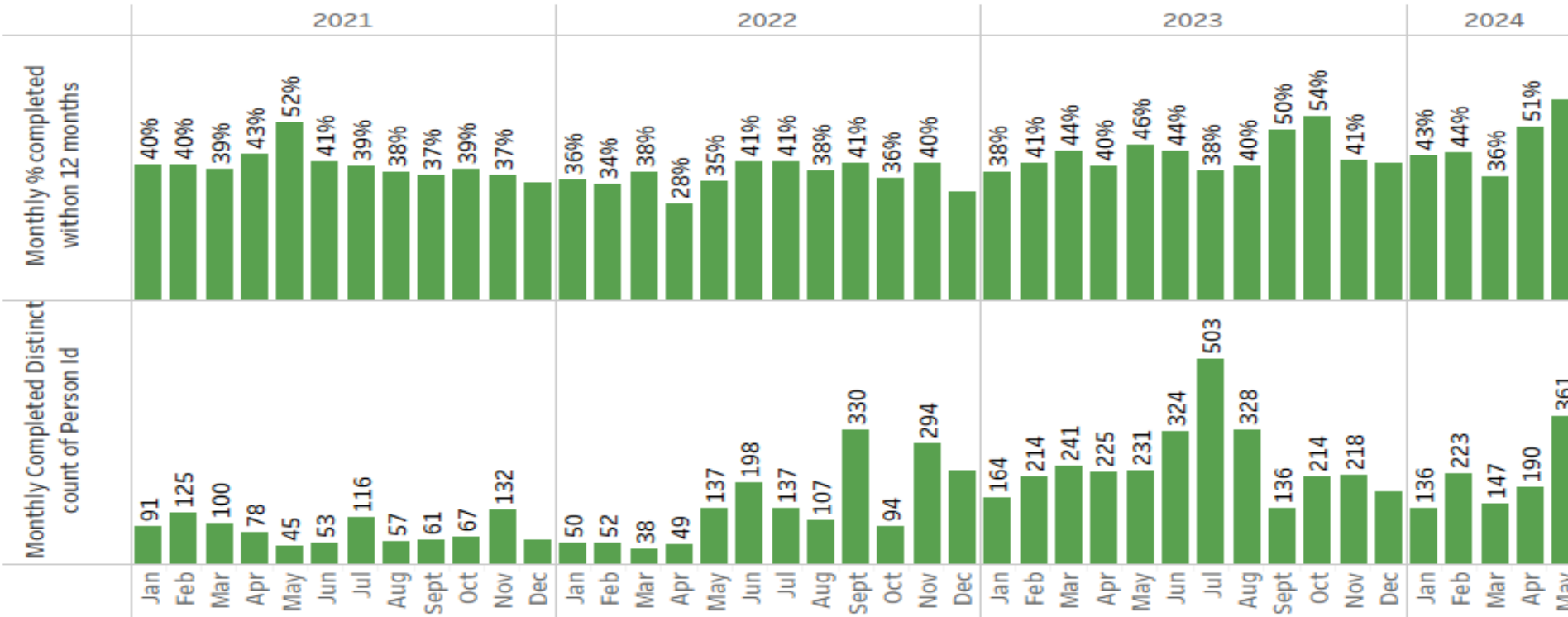
4b Percentage of Annual Reviews completed within the 12-month time scale %

Annual Reviews completed

4b. Percentage of Annual Reviews completed within the 12-month time scale %

2,082

2024



Currently 6618 EHCPs



- At any one time there are a number of children awaiting a specialist placement.
- The majority of these children are in a placement or mainstream but their annual review or EHCP has assessed that they need a different type of placement to meet their needs.
- Continue to open new specialist provisions across the county, including a new special school opening in September 2024



Actions taking place to improve timeliness

- The Transforming SEND and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) programme is now focused on ongoing Continuous Improvement, bringing together a range of initiatives targeting an improvement in timeliness and quality across Education and SEND.
- Work to improve timeliness can be broken down into a number of key actions focused on different parts of the assessment and review process:
 - Recruitment of 5 additional SENA caseworkers who are pivotal in supporting parents to choose a setting able to meet the needs of their child
 - Structural changes in SENA – dedicated assessment, review and placement teams were established within the SENA service at the end of 2023
 - Additional locum Educational Psychology staff have been recruited to tackle the increasing number of requests for Educational Psychology advice, a key component in overall time taken to complete an EHCNA assessment
 - Investigating opportunities to expedite completed reviews through additional capacity in SENA

