

## TAMESIDE SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT - JANUARY 2023

### 1. FUTURE SCHOOL PLACES REQUIREMENTS IN TAMESIDE

#### Context

- 1.1 All local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. These may be school places available at provision maintained by the local authority, academies, or other non-maintained schools. In order to carry out this statutory duty, Councils need to carry out school place planning and forecasting.
- 1.2 Planning for fluctuations in demand for school places is an important function which needs to be carried out at a local level and will differ depending on the phase of learning, for example, pupils will travel further to secondary schools than primary schools. The compact geography of the borough and the mix of types of school eg single sex means that place planning happens at a level higher than wards or towns.
- 1.3 School place planning is a complex process, that takes account a range of factors including the number of births in the borough, in year movement and cohort survival rates as well as parental preference and planned housing development. With rapid shifts in economic conditions for families and changing patterns of migration, planning for basic need for school places requires a proactive approach to best respond to both short and medium-term demand for places.

#### Strategic Planning

- 1.4 Planning school places is a dynamic process. Tameside Council has taken the view that, in the current situation of fluctuating demand for places, our strategy needs to be refreshed on a regular basis to be responsive to fluid and contemporaneous data. In order to do this, the Council's Executive Cabinet receives recommendations on an annual basis through the annual determination of admission arrangements process. The annual report highlights current issues and potential solutions in advance of the annual consultation on admission arrangements that includes consultation on changes to published admission numbers.

#### Factors affecting demand

- 1.5 The main factors affecting demand for school places are birth rates, in year movements within and without the borough, travel to learn patterns of pupils into schools in other local authorities, and equally pupils travelling to schools in Tameside from other boroughs, housing developments and availability of social housing and parental preference. Many of these are subject to quite short-term uncertainty and are difficult to plan for on a long-term basis.
- 1.6 In July 2022, the Department for Education published its latest national projections for the number of pupils in schools. The table below gives the headline figures for primary and secondary age children. Similar to the pattern in Tameside, the overall trend is down for primary age pupils but the rate of increase for secondary age pupils is slowing down.

	Actual population in 2022	Projection for 2028
Primary age children	4,597,370	4,064,902
Secondary age children	3,125,863	3,163,175
Source	DfE national pupil projections 2022	

#### Factors affecting supply

- 1.7 The main factors affecting the supply of school places are the availability of capital funding, land and premises. Expansion of existing schools is affected by the capacity of premises, the size of sites as well as wider considerations of their location. Establishing any new schools requires a longer lead in time through the competition framework. Equally, additional places can be introduced into the system through expansion proposals by governing bodies or

admission authorities that increase admission numbers into a school and the establishment of Free Schools that receive approval by central government.

**Challenges affecting planning to meet demand**

- 1.8 The main issues that can affect the Council’s strategic plans are late applications and in-year admissions that complicate planning both at school and at local authority level. Previously well-understood trends are changing and are proving difficult to predict, including short term tenancies, mobile populations and other changes in the housing market. Patterns of parental preference are also difficult to predict.

**Tameside track record**

- 1.9 The Council has been proactive in tackling the issue of rising births over the last 15 years. The Published Admission Number (PAN) increased by almost 18% in primary and 14% in secondary schools to accommodate increased demand. The number of places available is now beginning to decrease as illustrated in the table below.

Tameside primary school places – total places for reception entry								
16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
3195	3175	3175	3160	3145	3140	3110	3065	3065
Tameside secondary school places - total places for Year 7 entry								
16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
2806	2818	3035	3080	3172	3269	3224	3199	3074

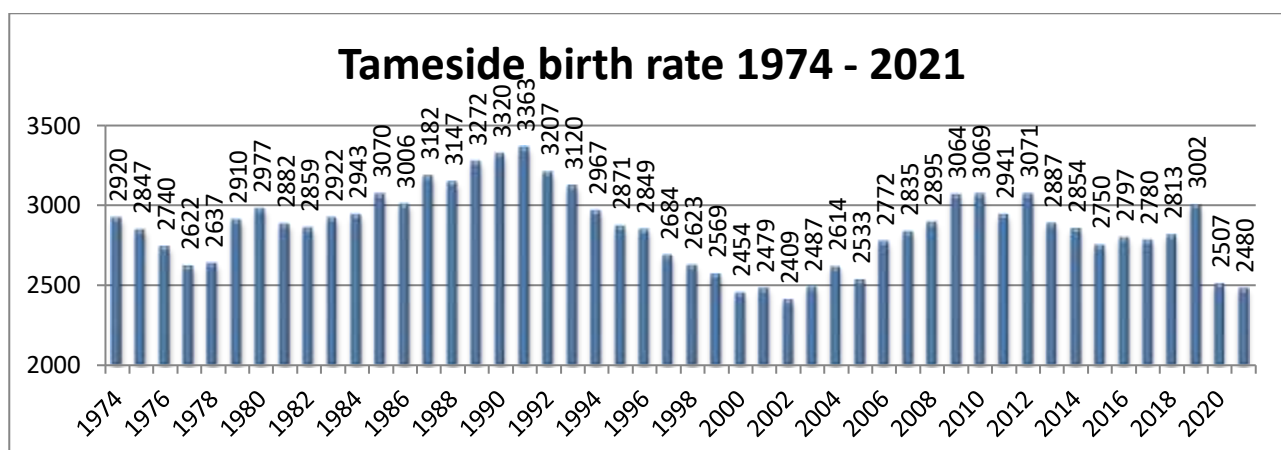
- 1.10 By being proactive, the Council has been able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. This has been done whilst also managing to maintain high levels of meeting parental preference and usually, at a higher level than the national average.

Preference allocations on national offer day	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	<b>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</b>									
	T’side	Eng	T’side	Eng	T’side	Eng	T’side	Eng	T’side	Eng
% 1st preference	84.6%	82.1%	83.9%	80.9%	85.6%	82.2%	85.4%	81.1%	85.0%	83.5%
% any preference	96.6%	95.5%	95.8%	94.9%	96.9%	95.6%	95.8%	95.5%	95.7%	96.4%
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</b>										
% 1st preference	93.5%	91.0%	91.5%	90.6%	91.5%	90.2%	94.3%	91.8%	93.3%	92.2%
% any preference	98.6%	98.1%	97.8%	98.0%	97.9%	97.8%	98.5%	98.5%	99.1%	98.5%

**2 Current demand**

- 2.1 In common with many areas of the country, Tameside experienced a surge in births between 2002 and 2012. The birth rate rose from a low of 2,409 in 2002 to a high of 3,071 in 2010, a 27% increase. The birth rate fell by 9% from 2010 to 2018 with a blip increase in 2019 but fell significantly again in 2020 and 2021 to 2480 births.
- 2.2 As can be seen from the graph below, over the last 47 years, the birth rate in the borough has followed a distinct cycle which appears to repeat over a 25 year period. The peak of births in the borough was reached in 1991 when 3,363 babies were born. The most recent peak was in 2012 with 3,071 babies born. There followed a relatively stable seven year period. Birth rates form the basis for any school place planning model. This led to a practice

of having a mix of permanent and temporary places when increases were needed to try and avoid significant levels of surplus places when the birth rate decreased.



2.3 A number of factors are used to predict how many year 7 places will be needed in the borough and to some extent planning to meet secondary needs is easier as pupils are in primary schools already. These include birth rates, the number of pupils in primary schools, in year pupil movement and planned housing developments. These factors give a range within which demand for school places need to be assessed. For many years, the Council has used an average of Year 6 numbers plus 5% to give an indication of demand; however, this increased to 6% for several years but has now fallen back to less than 4%.

**In year transfers**

2.4 The School Admissions Team in the Council deal with approximately 3,000 transfer movements every year. Around 2,000 are primary school movements and 1,000 are secondary. This is in common with most areas of the country where house moves are the commonest reason for moving schools. The tables below shows pupil numbers in each year group from 2004 onwards. As can be seen the number of children in Tameside primary schools reached a peak in 2018/19 but is now decreasing. Similarly, the overall number of children in secondary schools is increasing steadily as the numbers feed through from primary schools.

January census numbers								
	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
2009/10	2549	2589	2499	2411	2404	2461	2531	17444
2010/11	2681	2549	2600	2453	2414	2397	2473	17567
2011/12	2760	2690	2574	2581	2467	2420	2369	17861
2012/13	2908	2770	2701	2544	2544	2430	2394	18291
2013/14	2926	2953	2773	2699	2567	2581	2465	18964
2014/15	3104	2929	2931	2761	2692	2597	2580	19594
2015/16	3002	3128	2929	2942	2790	2725	2606	20122
2016/17	3066	3029	3127	2936	2951	2789	2727	20625
2017/18	2998	3089	3009	3118	2917	2926	2779	20836
2018/19	2873	3012	3094	3027	3110	2923	2938	20977
2019/20	2878	2894	2993	3088	3024	3127	2918	20922
2020/21	2787	2874	2896	2982	3073	3008	3119	20739
2021/22	2792	2804	2891	2901	2988	3062	3004	20442

- 2.5 The table below shows the percentage change in numbers due to in year transfers from one year to the next in Tameside. This shows that, despite the amount of in year transfers that occur each year, the numbers in each year group remain relatively stable as they progress through the year groups.

Change in numbers year to year									
	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Overall R to Y6	Overall % change
2004/05									
2005/06		12	-12	-2	-3	-6	6		
2006/07		-1	-9	3	7	-4	-11		
2007/08		-22	33	-6	-18	21	6		
2008/09		10	16	-2	13	1	-2		
2009/10		3	36	11	-23	-9	-5		
2010/11		0	11	-46	3	-7	12	13	0.5%
2011/12		9	25	-19	14	6	-28	-28	-1.1%
2012/13		10	11	-30	-37	-37	-26	-12	-0.5%
2013/14		45	3	-2	23	37	35	12	0.5%
2014/15		3	-22	-12	-7	30	-1	-6	-0.3%
2015/16		24	0	11	29	33	9	57	2.4%
2016/17		27	-1	7	9	-1	2	46	1.9%
2017/18		23	-20	-9	-19	-25	-10	19	0.7%
2018/19		14	5	18	-8	6	12	30	1.2%
2019/20		21	-19	-6	-3	17	-5	-8	-0.3%
2020/21		-4	2	-11	-15	-16	-8	15	0.5%
2021/22		17	17	5	6	-11	-4	2	0.1%

- 2.6 For secondary schools, the overall pupils numbers are as follows:

January census numbers							
	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	TOTAL
2009/10	2531	2714	2705	2829	2830	2876	<b>13954</b>
2010/11	2473	2582	2712	2713	2813	2819	<b>13639</b>
2011/12	2369	2519	2582	2710	2721	2809	<b>13341</b>
2012/13	2394	2438	2504	2581	2697	2683	<b>12903</b>
2013/14	2465	2538	2445	2528	2580	2686	<b>12777</b>
2014/15	2580	2538	2553	2431	2513	2551	<b>12586</b>
2015/16	2606	2677	2552	2548	2429	2475	<b>12681</b>
2016/17	2727	2694	2701	2549	2517	2411	<b>12872</b>
2017/18	2779	2791	2680	2674	2506	2496	<b>13147</b>
2018/19	2938	2870	2778	2648	2646	2474	<b>13416</b>
2019/20	2918	2957	2888	2747	2620	2640	<b>13852</b>
2020/21	3119	2960	2949	2889	2724	2604	<b>14126</b>
2021/22	3004	3141	2957	2912	2850	2707	<b>14567</b>

- 2.7 The table below shows the percentage change in numbers due to in year transfers from one year to the next in secondary schools in Tameside. This shows that, again, even with high levels of in year transfers, the numbers in each year group decrease as they progress through the year groups.

Change in numbers year to year							
	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Overall Year 7-11	Overall % change
2004/05							
2005/06	172	-7	-11	-28	-62		
2006/07	138	-3	-1	-25	-26		
2007/08	179	-7	-20	-27	-27		
2008/09	95	-13	0	6	-14	-49	-1.7%
2009/10	97	-7	-32	-21	-25	-42	-1.5%
2010/11	51	-2	8	-16	-11	-39	-1.4%
2011/12	46	0	-2	8	-4	-65	-2.3%
2012/13	69	-15	-1	-13	-38	-29	-1.1%
2013/14	144	7	24	-1	-11	-28	-1.0%
2014/15	73	15	-14	-15	-29	-31	-1.2%
2015/16	97	14	-5	-2	-38	-44	-1.8%
2016/17	88	24	-3	-31	-18	-27	-1.1%
2017/18	64	-14	-27	-43	-21	-42	-1.7%
2018/19	91	-13	-32	-28	-32	-64	-2.6%
2018/20	19	18	-31	-28	-6	-37	-1.4%
2020/21	42	-8	1	-23	-16	-90	-3.3%
2021/22	22	-3	-37	-39	-17	-84	-3.0%

2.8 The data in the tables shows that whilst there might be a large number of transfers in any given year, the overall change in pupil numbers is relatively small.

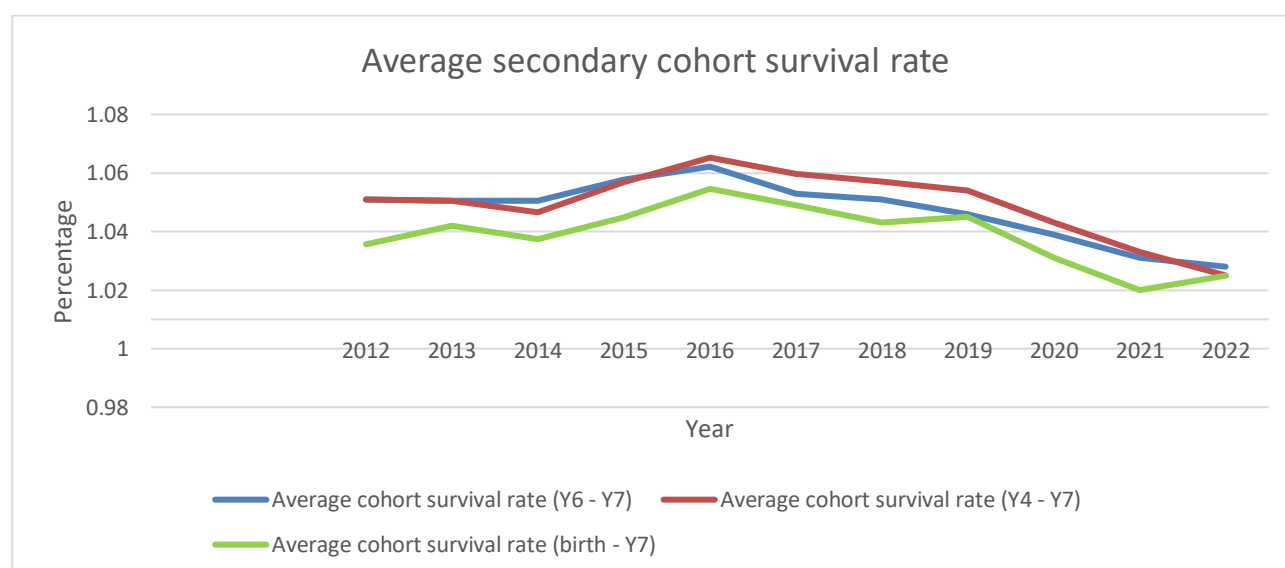
#### **Cohort survival rate**

- 2.9 When taken together, all of the above factors give a cohort survival rate. This is the ratio of the relationship of number of pupils from one point in time to another, for example, the birth rate number compared to the number of pupils allocated a place in Reception or the number of pupils in Year 6 in a Tameside school compared to the number of pupils allocated a place in Year 7.
- 2.10 In order to effectively plan for changes to school places in secondary schools, which starts two years in advance of entry into Year 7, a cohort survival rate based on year 4 numbers is also calculated. A five year rolling average of this ratio is the method used in Tameside to predict the number of places needed in any particular intake year.
- 2.11 Planning for primary school places is somewhat harder than secondary school place planning as the only constant source of data are the ward level birth rate information. A five year rolling average of birth rates to primary intake is calculated but unlike secondary schools where seven years of data are available from primary schools, only two years of data are available prior to planning commencing.
- 2.12 The cohort survival rate for Year 7 is shown in the table below:

YEAR 7 ACTUALS						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total on time applications	2949	3008	3148	3173	3396	3231
Tameside schools 1st preferences inc SEN	2739	2613	2948	2982	3396	3231
Tameside resident out of borough 1st prefs	244	203	200	191	168	211
Out of borough 1st prefs for Tameside schools	327	340	304	318	309	293
Total allocated - Sept	3069	3125	3247	3260	3466	3392
Total allocated for Tameside schools - Sept	2824	2906	3001	3004	3190	3059
Total allocated to out of borough and independent	201	174	237	170	190	195
Primary school Year 6	2727	2779	2938	2918	3119	3004
Cohort survival rate (Y6 - Y7)	103.6%	104.6%	102.1%	102.9%	102.3%	101.8%
Primary school Year 4	2692	2790	2951	2917	3110	3024
Cohort survival rate (Y4 - Y7)	104.9%	104.2%	101.7%	103.0%	102.6%	101.2%
Birthrate	2772	2835	2895	3064	3069	2940
Cohort survival rate (birth - Y7)	101.9%	102.5%	103.7%	98.0%	103.9%	104.0%

2.13 The five-year rolling cohort survival rate for entry into secondary schools over the last six years can be seen to have declined to its present level of 103%. The decrease in the birth – Y7 cohort survival rate mirrors the in-year changes to primary numbers.

Five years rolling average to	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average cohort survival rate (Y6 - Y7)	105.3%	105.1%	104.6%	103.9%	103.1%	102.8%
Average cohort survival rate (Y4 - Y7)	106.0%	105.7%	105.4%	104.3%	103.3%	102.5%
Average cohort survival rate (birth - Y7)	104.9%	104.3%	104.5%	103.1%	102.0%	102.5%

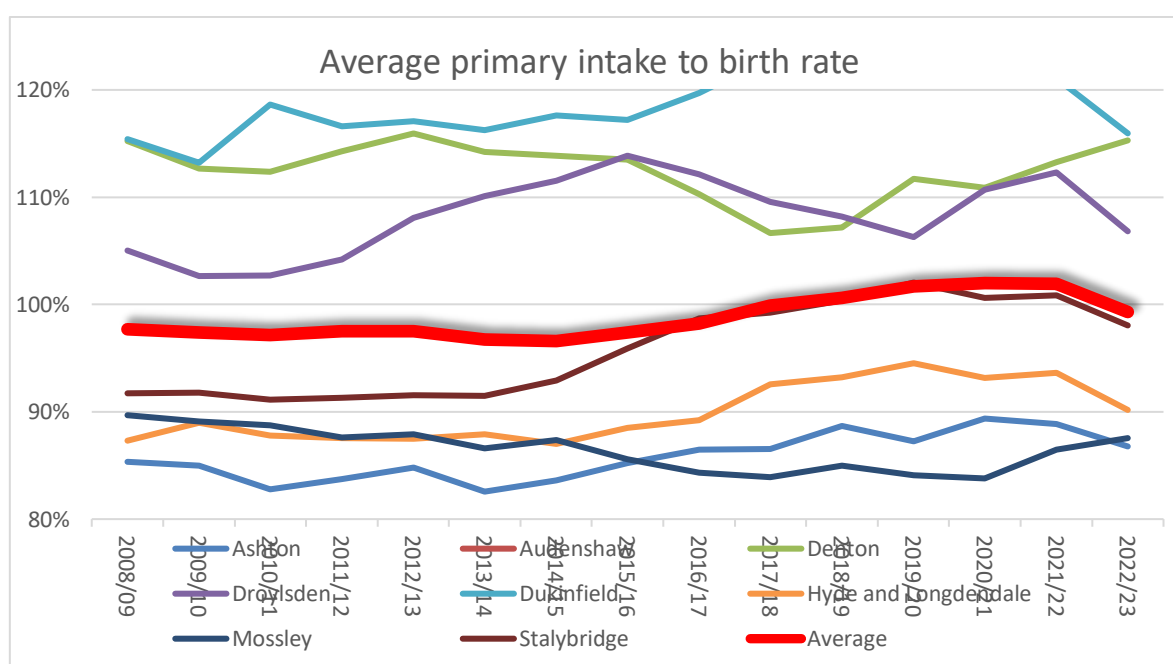


2.14 As can be seen from the graph above, the cohort survival rate is at its lowest level for ten years and is currently at 102.5%. Taking a five-year rolling average of the cohort survival rate from Year 6 to Year 7; from Year 4 to Year 7 and from birth to Year 7 is very similar and so current secondary school place predictions are based on 104% of Year 4 pupils. The

additional 1 - 2% gives some surplus capacity for in year transfers. This may need to be revised given the downward trend for the last six years.

2.15 The five-year rolling cohort survival rate for entry into primary schools over the last nine years can be seen to have fluctuated between 97% and 102%. It now appears to be on a downward trend. This pattern mirrors the changes in the birth rate nationally. As birth rates drop in Tameside and neighbouring boroughs, less non-Tameside resident applicants are being allocated places as they are able to secure places in their own boroughs.

Average Reception intake to birth rate	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Ashton	84%	85%	86%	87%	89%	87%	89%	89%	87%
Audenshaw	153%	152%	150%	158%	157%	145%	143%	146%	133%
Denton	114%	114%	110%	107%	107%	112%	111%	113%	115%
Droylsden	112%	114%	112%	110%	108%	106%	111%	112%	107%
Dukinfield	118%	117%	120%	123%	122%	127%	124%	121%	116%
Hyde and Longdendale	87%	88%	89%	93%	93%	95%	93%	94%	90%
Mossley	87%	86%	84%	84%	85%	84%	84%	86%	88%
Stalybridge	93%	96%	99%	99%	100%	102%	101%	101%	98%
<b>Average</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>99%</b>



**Housing development**

2.16 Another core factor in planning school places, is the amount of new housing development being planned in the borough. Tameside’s Core Strategy is the key compulsory Local Development document. Every Local Development document is built on the principles set out in the Core Strategy, regarding the development and use of land in Tameside’s planning area. The Core Strategy is currently being reviewed and it is predicted that an additional 8,000 houses, will be built in the borough, over the next 15 years.

2.17 The Council undertakes a housing yield analysis on a regular basis. The analysis looks at ten new development sites and matches new housing development postcodes to new pupil data from the annual school census together with housing information from the Land Registry

and Royal Mail to give intelligence on house move statistics and geographical distribution of the population movement into new development postcodes.

2.18 The ten development sites have been categorised based upon the type of housing present at each location, with pupil yield statistics generated for each category. The categorisation is as follows:

- Category A: Market housing, mostly semi-detached and terraced properties
- Category B: Market housing, larger proportion of detached properties
- Category C: Social housing

2.19 The estimation of the number of pupils resulting from new housing developments is a key element of the school place planning process for Tameside Council. Over the next ten years, housing growth is anticipated in each of Tameside’s nineteen wards.

2.20 Planning for school places will also need to take account of significant areas of proposed new development including sites in Hyde South and Godley Green and work has been undertaken to determine the level of need for additional school places in these areas. Education is a statutory planning consultee and as such has submitted responses to the planning applications.

2.21 Using all of the above, pupil yield is anticipated to be:

- **Category A: Market housing, mostly semi-detached and terraced properties**  
The school census data suggests a primary pupil yield of 0.15–0.36 per new home and a secondary pupil yield of 0.07–0.12 per new home. An estimated 44% of moves to these developments originate from outside Tameside.
- **Category B: Market housing, larger proportion of detached properties**  
The primary pupil yield averages 0.33 per new home. The secondary pupil yield averages 0.12 per new home. An estimated 45% of moves to these developments originate from outside Tameside.
- **Category C: Social housing**  
The school census data suggests a primary pupil yield of 0.41 – 0.60 per new home and a secondary pupil yield of 0.26 – 0.34 per new home. However, it is estimated that only 20% of moves to these new developments originate from outside Tameside.

2.22 As an overall model for calculating pupil yield and developer contributions, the Council uses a pupil yield per new home of 0.23 for primary aged pupils; 0.1 for secondary aged pupils and 0.01 for specialist places. This is predicted to lead to the following number of additional pupils:

	Housing numbers	Primary Places	Secondary Places	Specialist places
22/23	522	120	52	5
23/24	537	124	54	5
24/25	540	124	54	5
25/26	421	97	42	4
26/27	247	57	25	2
27/28	352	81	35	4
28/29	336	77	34	3
29/30	656	151	66	7
30/31	513	118	51	5
31/32	336	77	34	3
32/33	189	43	19	2



	Housing numbers	Primary Places	Secondary Places	Specialist places
33/34	198	46	20	2
34/35	301	69	30	3
35/36	552	127	55	6
36/37	409	94	41	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6109</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>61</b>
			Source 2022 SHELAA	

2.23 Taking all the above into consideration, projected demand for places is shown in the tables below:

### Primary school places

Primary school planning area		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
357001 (Ashton, Droylsden, Mossley)						
Actual intake	Predicted intake	1017	929	1103	924	913
Places available		1170	1170	1140	1140	1140
357002 (Audenshaw/ Dukinfield / Stalybridge)						
Actual intake	Predicted intake	812	843	873	755	680
Places available		885	855	855	855	855
357003 (Denton / Hyde/ Longdendale)						
Actual intake	Predicted intake	982	959	1120	898	878
Places available		1085	1085	1070	1070	1070
<b>Total</b>						
Actual intake	Predicted intake	2811	2731	3096	2577	2471
Places available		3140	3110	3065	3065	3065
Surplus capacity			379	-31	488	594

### Secondary school places

SECONDARY SCHOOL PREDICTIONS 4% COHORT SURVIVAL 2023 - 2032 (JAN 22 PUPIL CENSUS)										
	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29	Sep-30	Sep-31	Sep-32
Primary numbers	3088	2993	2894	2878	2763	2792	2890	3107	2578	2489
Predicted intake	3212	3113	3010	2993	2874	2904	3006	3231	2681	2589
Places available	3199	3074	3074	3074	3074	3074	3074	3074	3074	3074
Balance of places	-13	-39	64	81	200	170	68	-157	393	485

## 3 SUPPLY

### Primary places supply

3.1 The Council plans primary places using three geographical planning areas. The planning areas are based on linked towns, specific geography and travel to learn patterns. The number of primary school places increased substantially through a mixture of permanent and temporary places to take account of increasing pupil numbers. However, as numbers coming into Reception have decreased over recent years, the number of places has reduced to avoid large levels of surplus capacity in some schools and to reduce the number of schools with mixed age classes.

- 3.2 As shown in 2.23 above, taking into account the demand for primary school places combined with a predicted declining birth rate there are sufficient school places for another 10 to 15 years. However, consideration also needs to be given to the increasing levels of surplus capacity in some areas of the borough and in particular to significant surplus predicted from 2024 onwards. The significant increase in births in 2019 that will come in to primary schools in 2023 makes reducing surplus capacity difficult as it will be needed for September 2023. Action needs to be taken to reduce admission numbers and therefore surplus capacity for September 2024.
- 3.3 As there is an increasing diversity of types of school in the borough, it is imperative that colleagues in Education begin to work with primary headteachers to identify opportunities to reduce Published Admission Numbers in the borough. Large amounts of surplus capacity will impact on the financial viability of schools and could lead to increased levels of deficit budgets for schools.
- 3.4 In 2022, there have been a number of awareness raising sessions with primary headteachers in the borough to alert them to the issues of rising levels of surplus places. Further support has been offered to geographical clusters to identify where surplus capacity can be reduced. As yet, no proposals to reduce admission numbers have come forward for consultation in future years. This will be kept under review annually through the report to Executive Cabinet.

#### **Secondary places supply**

- 3.5 The Council plans secondary school places in a single borough wide planning area. The demographics of the borough are complicated with 16 high schools of which:
- 12 out of 16 are voluntary aided or academies
  - 11 out of the 16 being on the outskirts of the borough leading to high levels of cross local authority area travel to learn patterns
  - three Roman Catholic high schools
  - two single sex boys schools
  - one single sex girls school
  - a free school
- 3.6 All of these factors mean that ensuring sufficient places for secondary schools is challenging.
- 3.7 Due to the rise in numbers of pupils in primary schools, the focus of increasing places over the last few years has been on the secondary phase. Tameside has used a mixture of permanent and temporary places in primary schools to accommodate the increase in population. Being proactive in discussions with secondary headteachers has resulted in an increased number of secondary places being available and has increased by 16% from its lowest point of 2796 in 2010 to 3239 in September 2021.
- 3.8 The peak of secondary school numbers was reached for September 2021. September 2023 is expected to be high numbers again but we expect there to be sufficient places. As at the closing date (31 October 2022), the School Admissions Team had received \*\*\*\* applications for places in Tameside schools with 3199 places available.
- 3.9 The increased places that have been determined and /or agreed with our secondary schools means that supply was able to meet predicted demand. However, similarly to the primary phase, schools and academy trusts are now beginning to look at removing the temporary surplus places that have been created to avoid schools facing financial pressures with falling numbers coming into schools.
- 3.10 For September 2023, the following reductions to Published Admission Numbers have been implemented which are a mix of temporary and permanent:

Published Admission Numbers	Previous PAN	PAN for Sept 23
Audenshaw School	240	210
Droylsden Academy	195	180
Laurus Ryecroft	220	210

- 3.11 For entry in September 2024, the following consultations have taken place in the Autumn Term of 2022 to reduce PANs permanently:

	Current PAN	Proposed PAN for Sept 24
Denton Community College	330	270
Hyde High School	240	210
All Saints Catholic College	180	160

- 3.12 Secondary place numbers will be kept under review annually through the report to Executive Cabinet.

## 4 SPECIALIST PROVISION

### Outline of expected future growth in EHCPs

- 4.1 Tameside currently (as at end Nov 2022) maintains 2482 Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The number of plans maintained has been rising steadily since 2017. The number of EHCPs in Tameside has more than tripled since 2017, when the Local Authority maintained 823 plans. Tameside is now more in line with our statistical neighbours, with EHCPs representing approximately 3.64% of the population.

- 4.2 The recent growth in EHCP's was appropriate and necessary. It has however, placed significant additional strain on specialist providers and resource bases across Tameside. The rapid rate of the growth in EHCPs in Tameside has been such that it was never going to be possible to plan and deliver provision sufficiency at the same rate. This has inevitably created pressure on placements for children with EHCPs, and particularly across the specialist sector, where all schools are currently oversubscribed. This is also true of our specialist resource bases.

- 4.3 Work to establish additional SEND capacity is underway, but recently acquired data demonstrates the ongoing imperative to create additional SEND provision in Tameside, in order to appropriately accommodate our most vulnerable learners in line with future growth.

### SEND provision/ sufficiency planning

- 4.4 An over reliance on out of area provision, has undoubtedly contributed to current budget pressures. It is therefore vital that we take a strategic approach to planning provision driven by need, and invest available capital funding towards the creation of more local places, where necessary and appropriate.

- 4.5 Changing an established pattern of provision is a long-term process rather than a rapid change, given the importance of continuity for children and young people. We are therefore taking a strategic approach, by focusing on key areas of anticipated growth across SEND, and ensuring that appropriate local provision is available for these learners. Parents are a key partner in this work who will continue to be consulted and engaged throughout.

- 4.6 In response to the challenge this growth poses, and in order to ensure that we have appropriate quality provision for Tameside children and young people with SEND, we are now developing a comprehensive SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2021-2031. This strategy builds on key pieces of work (such as the SEND Forward Plan 2019-22) undertaken over the past 3 years and is written with the benefit of newly acquired data and intelligence commissioned

from data-science company, Edge Analytics. Edge Analytics is a data science company, specialising in demographic data analysis; who combine demographic intelligence, technology, local relevant data and analytical models to provide forecasting data. This has provided us with reliable SEND data, regarding population growth, trends and patterns for the next 10 years.

4.7 In order to aid Tameside forecasting, the Edge Analytic SEND model used SEN pupil data for years Reception to Y14 from 2018 onwards. It used this data, along with housing information (from pupil projections information) and population estimates to project EHCP numbers for Reception to Y14 until 2030-31. Edge Analytics has calibrated its Edge-ucate SEN model for Tameside using the latest available evidence on pupils with special education needs (SEN) and the schools they attend, together with key evidence on demographic change and planned housing developments. Historical evidence on SEN pupils has been used to generate forecasts of future SEN need for Tameside (in total),

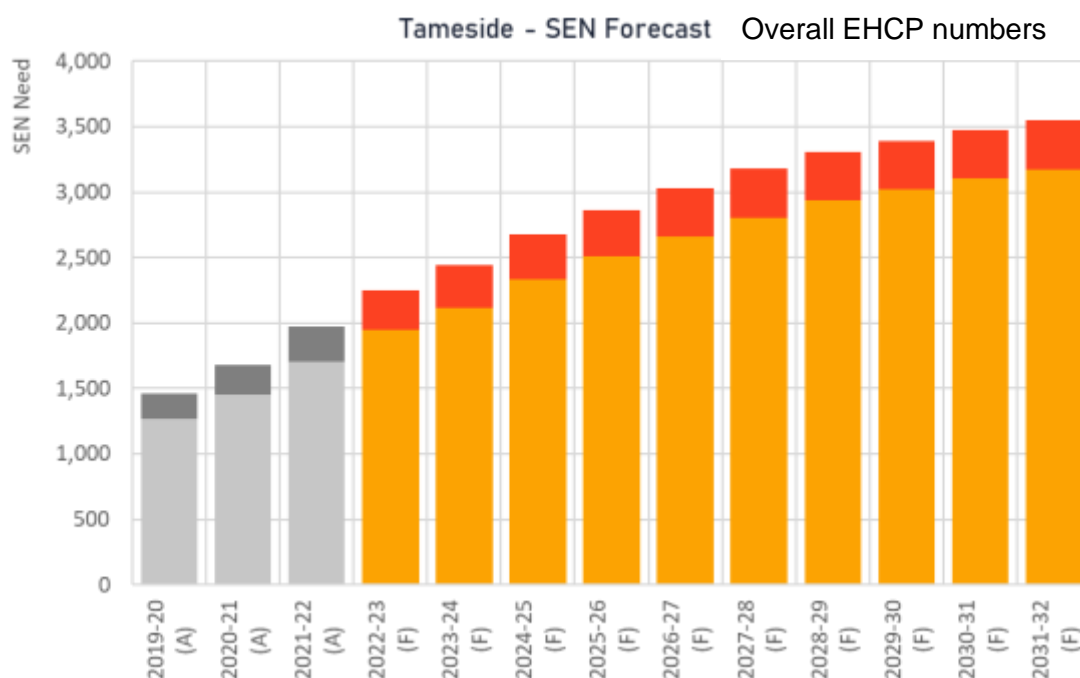
4.8 Breaking down this data by sector, age-range and areas of need and drilling down into these statistics, allows us to confidently plan SEND sufficiency across Tameside, and highlights priority areas for expanded capacity.

**Key areas of growth**

4.9 Recently acquired intelligence and data around SEND in Tameside provides us with the following growth projections: The data set below shows the anticipated percentage growth across all areas of need and sector between 2019 and 2032, in year groups R -14:

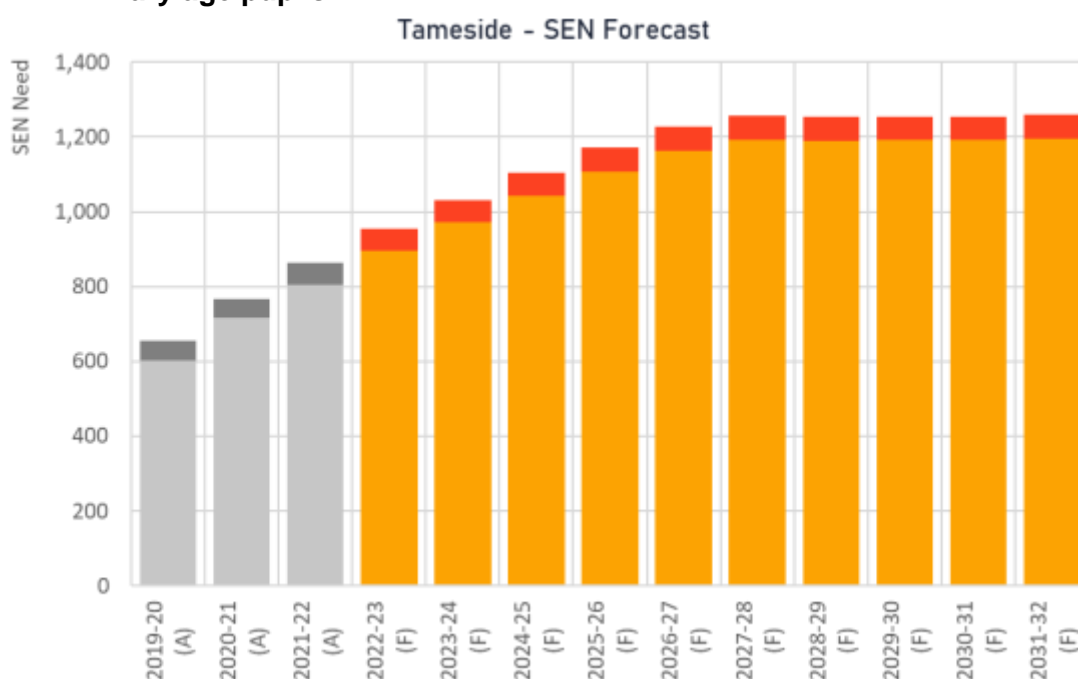
**Percentage growth year on year**

-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7	+8	+9	+10
19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32
Actuals			Forecast									
-	14.5%	17.6%	14.2%	9.0%	10.2%	7.5%	6.2%	5.3%	4.6%	2.9%	2.7%	2.3%
-	19.5%	15.0%	12.2%	8.3%	5.6%	1.5%	4.9%	1.5%	-0.2%	0.6%	0.9%	-0.7%
-	15.2%	17.2%	13.9%	8.9%	9.5%	6.7%	6.0%	4.8%	4.0%	2.6%	2.5%	2.0%



- 4.10 The Edge-ucate model projects that there will be over 1,500 more pupils with an EHCP in years R-14 by 2030-31. This averages out at more than 150 new EHCPs amongst R-14 (in and out of borough) a year.
- 4.11 The years 2022-23 and 2024-25 are projected to be the largest 2 years of growth with 274 (22-23) and 234 (24-25) places projected. Growth figures then decrease year on year. The projected % increase between 2021-22 and 2031-32 is 80%.
- 4.12 89% of these pupils are projected to be in Tameside settings (mainstream, specialist centres, specialist schools or other) compared to 86% now.

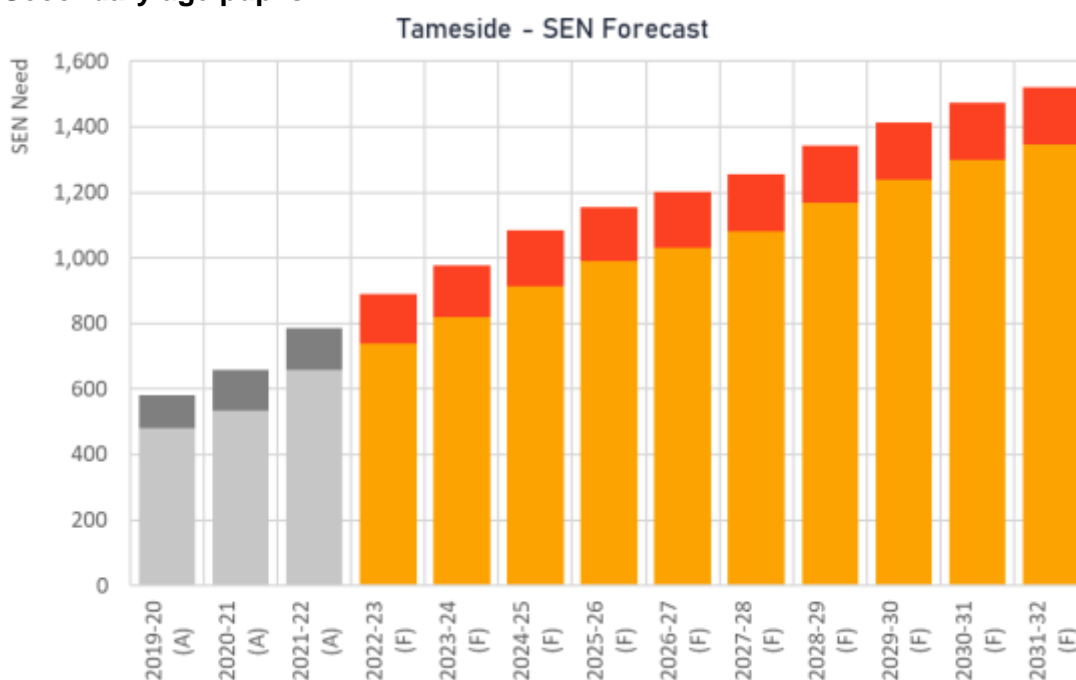
**Primary age pupils**



- 4.13 Between Reception and Year 6, Edge-ucate projects just under 400 additional pupils by 2031-32, an increase of 46% on 2021-22. The total number of pupils is projected to be 1260

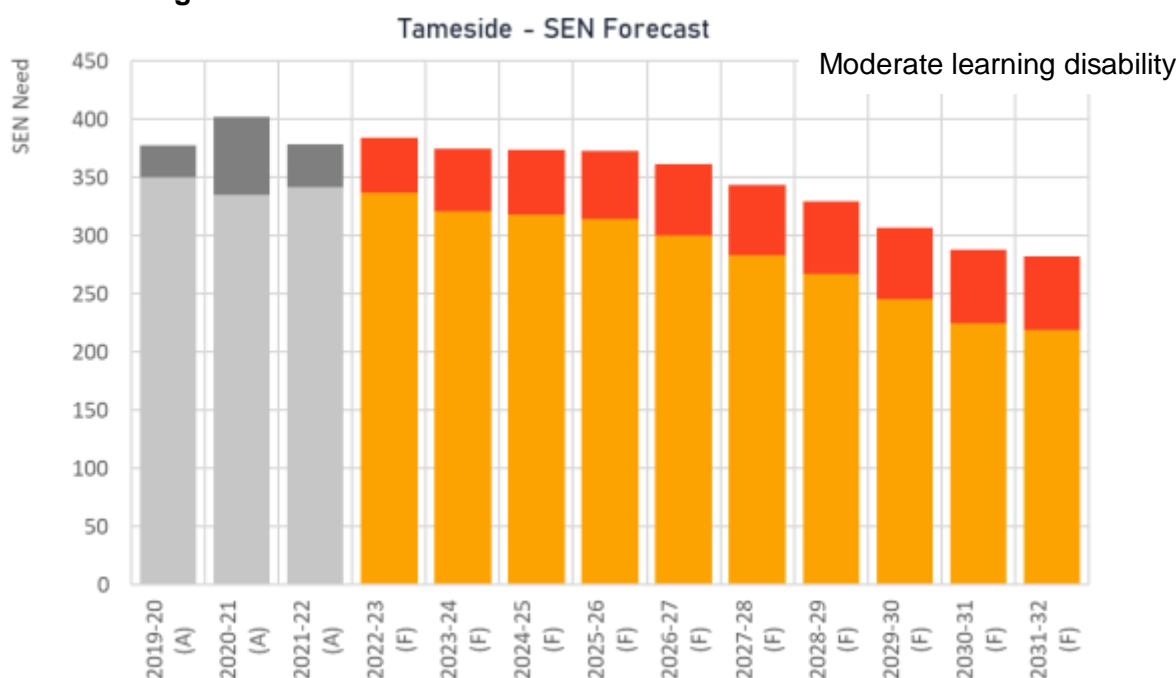
from the current figure of 865, with growth predicted to be relatively stagnant from around 2028-29 onwards. 95% of these pupils are projected to be in Tameside settings (mainstream, specialist centres, specialist schools or other) compared to 93% now.

**Secondary age pupils**



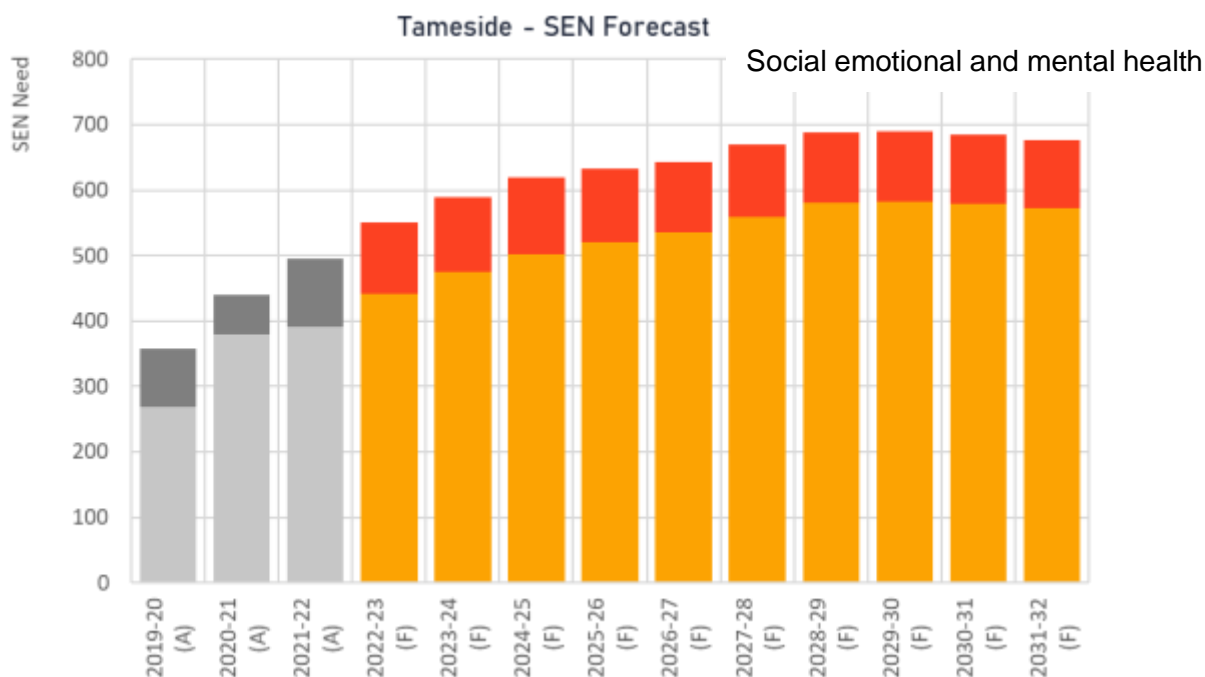
- 4.14 Between Years 7 and 11, Edge-ucate projects an additional 733 pupils by 2031-32, an increase of 93% on 2021-22. The number of pupils is projected to be 1519 from the current figure of 786, with growth predicted to decline from 2025-26 onwards. 89% of these pupils are projected to be in Tameside settings (mainstream, specialist centres, specialist schools or other) compared to 84% in 2021-22.

**Learning needs**

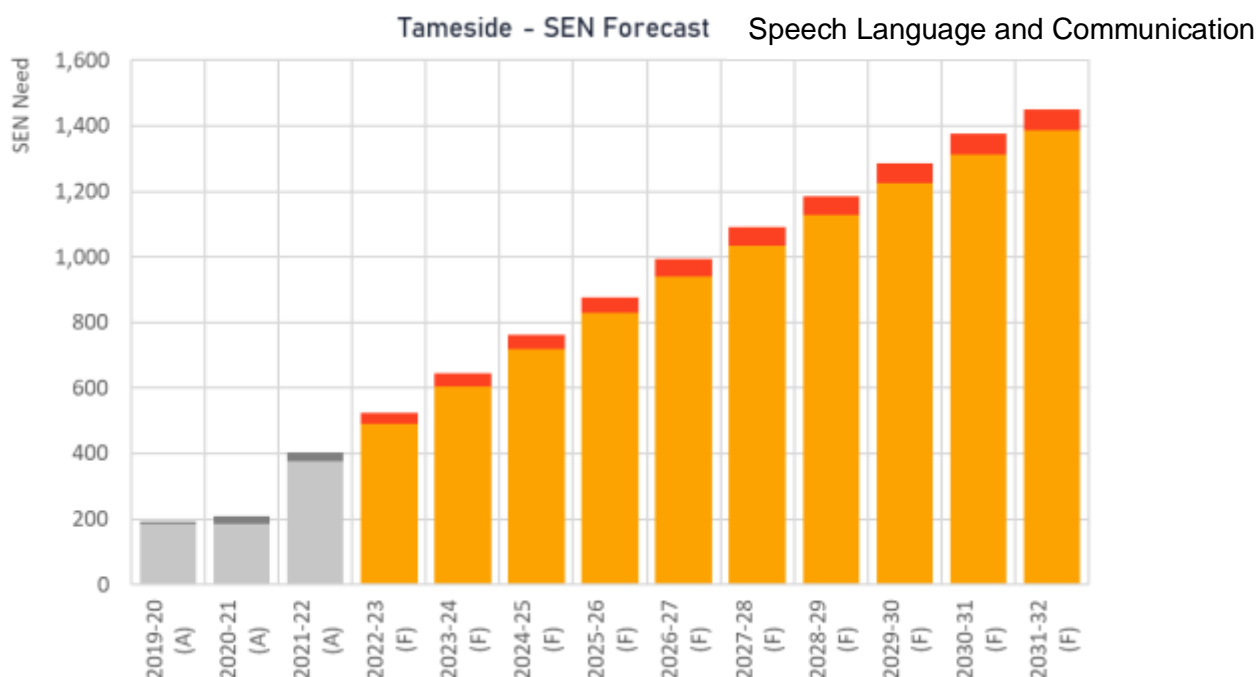


- 4.15 As shown in the graph above, the number of pupils with mild and/or moderate learning disability (MLD) as their primary need are projected to reduce by 25% between 2021-22

(379) and 2031-32 (283). These numbers are projected to decline from 2022-23 onwards. When broken down by setting type, numbers of MLD pupils are projected to decrease by 27% in mainstream schools and 26% in specialist schools and settings from 2021-22 to 2031-32.

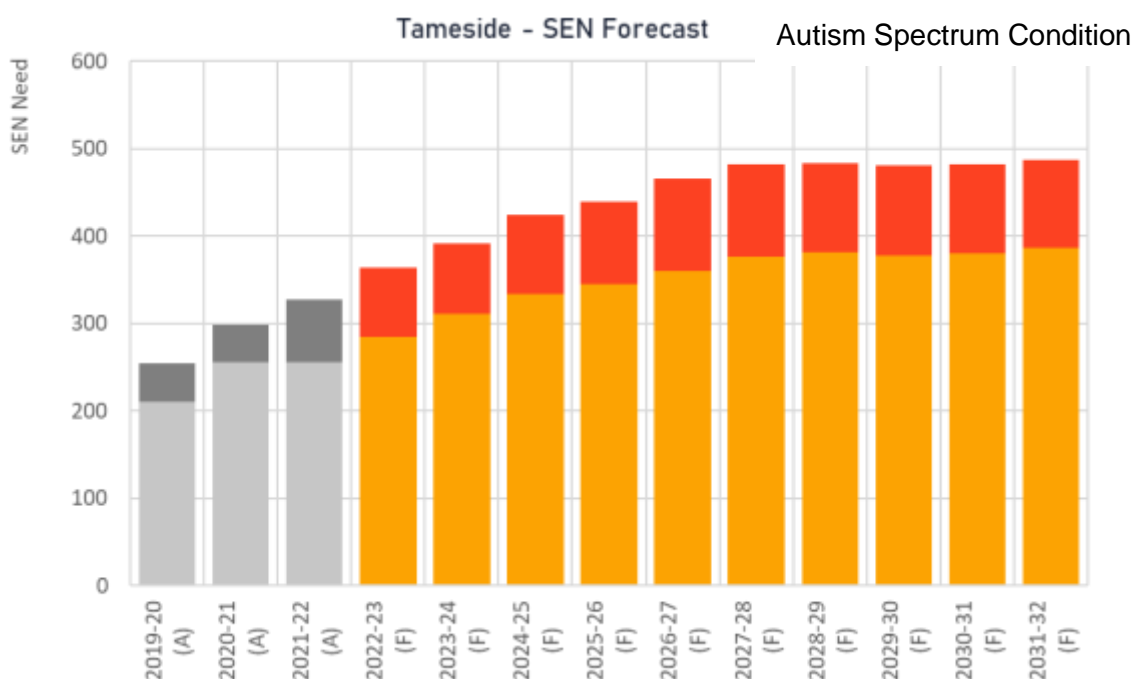


4.16 As shown in the graph above, the number of pupils with Social, emotional and / or mental health (SEMH) needs as their primary need are projected to increase by 37% between 2021-22 (495) and 2031-32 (676). These numbers are projected to start to show a small decline from 2029-30 onwards. When broken down by setting type, numbers of SEMH pupils are projected to increase by 30% in mainstream schools and 32% in specialist schools and settings from 2021-22 to 2031-32.



4.17 As shown in the graph above, the number of pupils with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) as their primary need are projected to increase by 260% between 2021-22 (403) and 2031-32 (1,451). These numbers are projected to increase

significantly between 2021-22 and 2026-27 with growth rates year on year starting at 29.9% and reducing year on year to 13.5%. The projected rate of increase reduces to below 10% in 2027-28 and continues to reduce to 2031-32 (5.5%). When broken down by setting type, numbers of SLCN pupils are projected to increase by 219% in mainstream schools and 305% in specialist schools and settings from 2021-22 to 2031-32.



- 4.18 As shown in the graph above, the number of pupils with autism spectrum condition (ASC) as their primary need are projected to increase by 49% between 2021-22 (327) and 2031-32 (488). The projected rate of increase remains relatively static between 2028-29 and 2031-32. When broken down by setting type, numbers of ASC pupils are projected to increase by 53% in mainstream schools and 47% in specialist schools and settings from 2021-22 to 2031-32.
- 4.19 The growth in EHCP numbers represents a significant financial risk to the Local Authority. Over reliance on out of area provision, is undoubtedly a contributing to current budget pressure. It is therefore vital that the Council takes a strategic approach to planning provision driven by need, and invest available capital funding towards the creation of more local places, where necessary and appropriate. Having access to this data gives a clear footing from which to plan. The SEND Sufficiency Strategy contains a range of proposals, which suggests ways that we can meet these needs and mitigate the risk of expensive out of borough placement.
- 4.20 In the last few years, there has been significant growth in the number of specialist places available in the borough to meet the needs of children and young people with an EHCP:

EHCPs in Special Schools & Resourced Units				
Special	Sep-18	Sep-22	Increase No's	Increase %
Hawthorns	106	194	88	83%
Thomas Ashton	56	92	36	64%
Cromwell	72	138	66	92%
Samuel Laycock	141	215	74	52%
Oakdale	117	148	31	26%
TPRS	18	36	18	100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>61%</b>



<b>EHCPs in Special Schools &amp; Resourced Units</b>				
<b>Resourced places</b>	<b>Sep-18</b>	<b>Sep-22</b>	<b>Increase No's</b>	<b>Increase %</b>
Corrie	0	9	9	0%
Greenside	0	16	16	0%
Hyde	1	5	4	400%
Linden Road	5	2	-3	-60%
Oakfield	9	17	8	89%
Rosehill	0	13	13	0%
Russell Scott	1	3	2	200%
St John Fisher	11	10	-1	-9%
St Thomas More	16	16	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>112%</b>

4.21 In spite of this, there is still more to do which will be overseen by the SEN Improvement Group and its SEN Sufficiency sub group. Further actions outlined in the SEN Sufficiency Strategy include:

- An escalation of the resource base development programme.
- Continue with the move to a new Hawthorns building creating a 220 place school
- Consider options, which would retain the original Hawthorns building as an additional specialist setting for primary-aged learners.
- Work with Thomas Ashton School to consider its role in supporting the increasing numbers of learners with SEMH difficulties.
- Explore options for the development of a Specialist Free School.
- Working in partnership with schools, invest and develop support to mainstream settings to promote ongoing inclusion of their SEND students.

4.22 These action will be subject to further governance reports.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

5.1 School place planning is a complex process that requires almost constant review to ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient places.

5.2 By being proactive and working in partnership with all our schools over a number of years, the Council has been able to meet the demand for places in spite of significant variations in pupil numbers.

5.3 After the sustained period of growth, data indicates the need to consider reducing levels of surplus that are predicted to increase in primary and secondary schools over the next few years.

5.4 There is a need to engage in dialogue with primary school leaders to begin to consider options to reduce projected levels of surplus capacity. Whilst levels of surplus in secondary schools are not expected to increase for a number of years, dialogue will begin to ensure that temporary places added to cope with the increase in pupils over recent year are removed first.

5.5 Whilst there are currently sufficient places to meet expected demand in mainstream provision, this is not the case for specialist places. The school place planning process must continue to be dynamic particularly in view of significant housing development and predicted increases in children and young people requiring support for their additional needs within the borough and the impact that will have on demand and travel to learn patterns.