

**Children and Young People Scrutiny
Committee**

MTFS: SEND Transport overview

20th January 2025

- CFA 2014 EHCP and Transport growth
 - Significant national trends of increase across both areas
 - Statutory requirement on council to provide transport
 - EHCP last 2 years 30% increase, transport 21% increase (2022-24);
 - Continued Increased demand in travel applications
 - Transformation programme
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- Mayor's Business Plan – Outcome 3, Priority 1
- Enable more pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to attend and thrive in Croydon schools

National SEND Transport Context

Using data from a report issued by the County Council's Network (CCN) - [Councils call for reform of SEND school transport services, as costs double for local authorities in county areas over the last five years - County Councils Network](#)

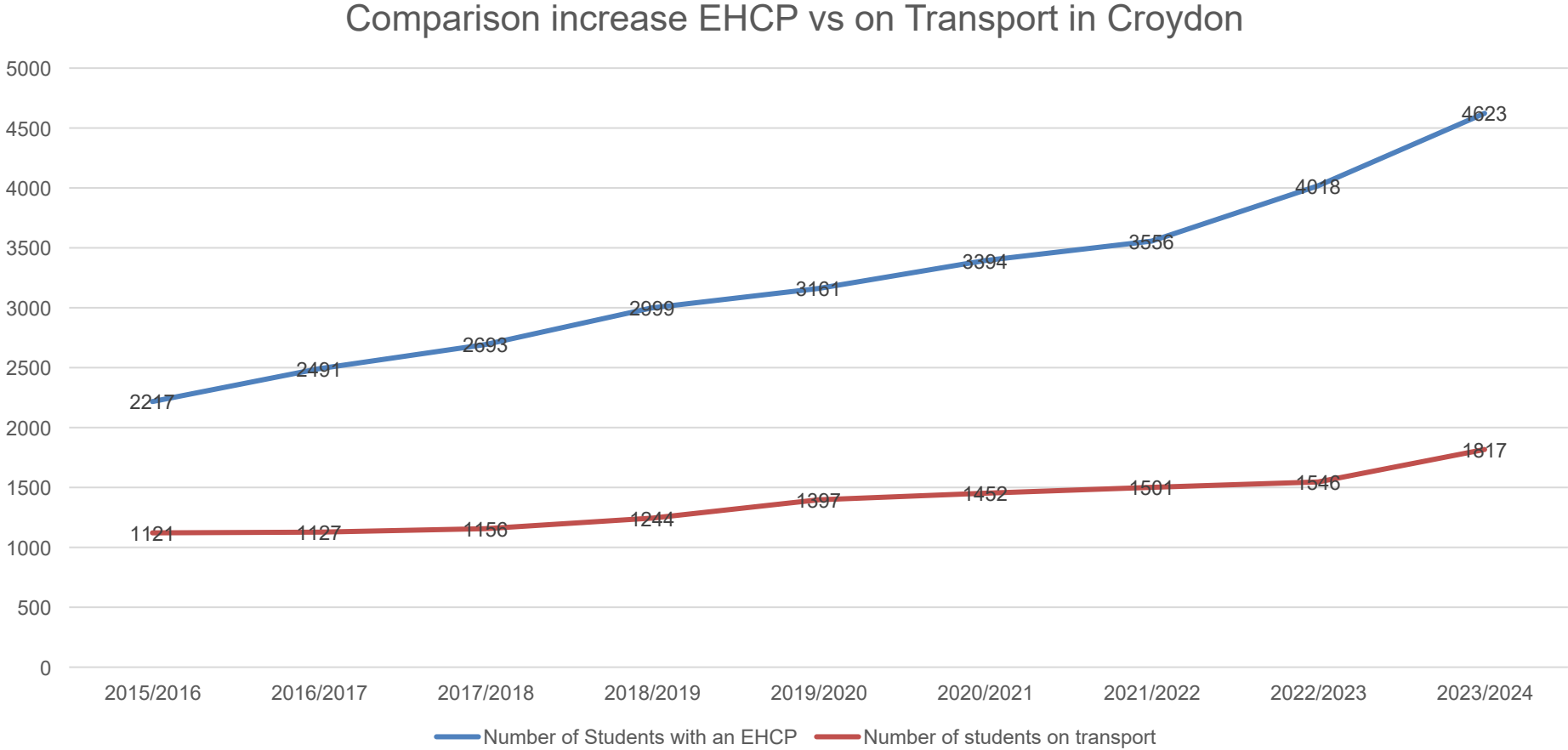
COUNCIL	2023/24 Average spend per SEND Child (CCN)	Croydon 2023/24 figure	London Councils' draft report (June 2024)
County & Rural Unitary	9,750	N/A	N/A
Non-Rural Unitary	6,016	N/A	N/A
Met Borough	7,123	N/A	N/A
London	10,310	8,954	8,882
England	8,299	N/A	N/A

London Councils – draft report

- London Councils commissioned a study in June 2024; 19/33 Boroughs responded
 - Average overspend per borough on Transport is 9%
 - Some boroughs spending 50% more than budget
 - Average rise in number of children requiring transport >18% over 3 years (Croydon 21%)
 - Average no. students/Borough on transport 926 (Croydon 1839 excluding PTB - below)
 - Average on Personal Travel Budgets 132, (Croydon 186)

23/24 SEND Travel	Average cost/student Croydon	Averages as per London Councils' draft report
Externally Provided Transport	£11,447	£11,114
Internally Provided Transport	£5,546	£5,361
Average PTB/year	£2,372	£3,855

Increases in EHCP and Students on Transport



*Transport figure given as July, EHCP figure (generally) given as Jan each year - *Feb 2024*

Future Growth and Forecasting

- Assumptions on growth 24/25, and growth for 25/26 based on historic data of EHCP growth, transport demand increase, and on travel assistance applications.
- (Not all applications are new) increase on applications was over 34%, and year-on-year increase to student numbers was 17.5%, a %increase of students agreed with finance colleagues, using 10% as an assumed growth % figure

Year (in which applications were received for forthcoming September)	No. Applications received	No. Refused	Applications granted
22/23	813	130	683
23/24	1044	122	922

Budget and growth calculations

Financial Year	SEND Childrens Travel Budget Predictions	Line Item	Comment
	£18,100,000	24/25 Forecast with no growth anticipated for Autumn/Spring 24/25	
	£13,216,000	Initial Budget 24/25	
	£219,000	Personal Travel Budget (PTB) deficit	
	£46,000	Sutton income	Unachievable income due to contract cancellation during Covid
	£12,951,000	24/25 budget balance (including virements above)	
	£5,149,000	24/25 budget deficit (no student growth)	(Difference between Budget – virements, and forecast)
	£1,206,667	10%	Growth Autumn/Spring 24/25 (2/3 pro-rata'd)
24/25	£19,306,667	£6,090,667	24/25 in-year growth required
		13%	25/26 forecast growth (10% numbers, 3% inflation)
25/26	£21,816,533	£8,600,533	25/26 forecast growth request