



BROMLEY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSON JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022

Section 3: Children and Young People with Emerging Needs

Dr Jenny Selway

For more information visit www.bromley.gov.uk/JSNA or contact
JSNA@bromley.gov.uk

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Table of Contents

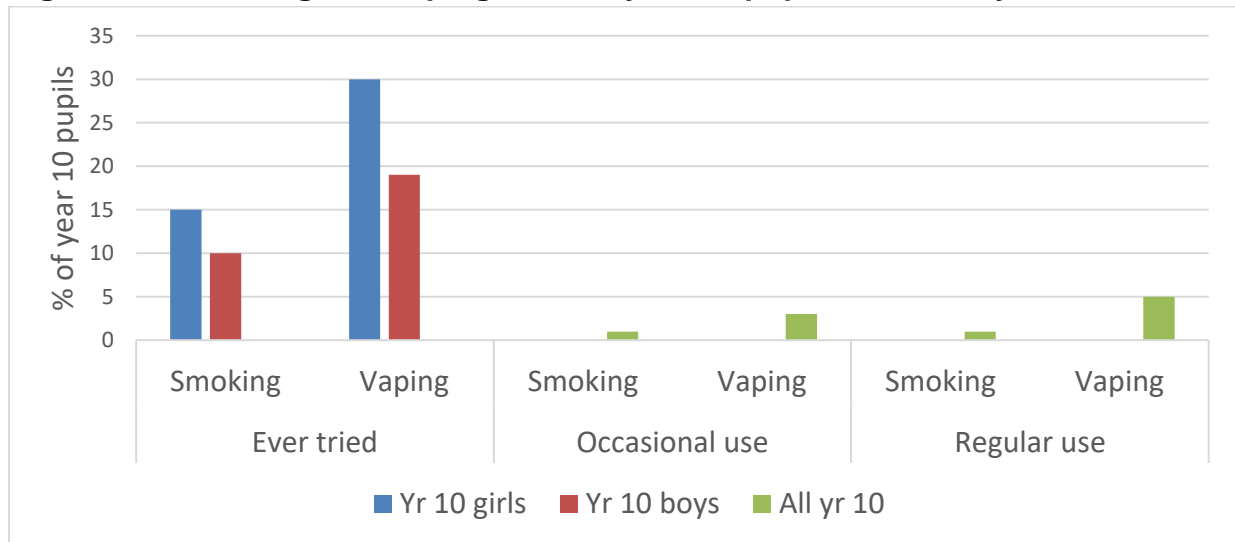
1. Emerging health and lifestyle issues	5
a) Children and young people who smoke	5
b) Children and young people who need sexual health services	6
c) Children and young people who drink alcohol and take drugs	10
d) Children and young people who are obese.....	18
e) Children and Young People with Sensory Impairment.....	19
f) Children and young people’s online activity	21
g) Accidental injuries to children and young people	24
2. Emerging emotional health needs	27
3. Emerging education issues.....	31
a) Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND).....	31
b) Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).34	
c) Children and young people who are not attending school	36
d) Children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE)	40
e) Children and young people who are bullied	42
4. Emerging social issues	45
a) Early help.....	45
b) Children in Need (CiN).....	46
c) Young Carers.....	50
d) Young People in contact with the Youth Justice Service	52
e) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) young people	53
f) Children and young people who are at risk of exploitation.....	55
g) Youth Violence.....	57
h) Women who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	61
i) Homeless young people.....	61
j) Other young people with vulnerabilities	62
Key findings from Section 3	63
Glossary	66

1. Emerging health and lifestyle issues

a) Children and young people who smoke

In a SHEU survey¹ of year 10 in the academic year 2022, 14% reported that they had ever tried smoking or smoked now (Figure 3.1). This is of concern as two thirds of smokers start smoking before the age of 18 years.

Figure 3.1: Smoking and vaping rates in year 10 pupils in Bromley, 2022



Source: SHEU survey 2022

The proportion of young people in Year 10 even trying smoking has reduced from 18% in 2019 when the same survey was conducted. Of the 1% who are regular smokers, nearly a third would like to give up smoking.

Children and young people who smoke electronic cigarettes (vaping) is now more common than smoking among young people in Bromley. More girls than boys are trying vaping (30% girls, 19% boys) and the proportion of young people vaping regularly has increased from 4% in 2019 to 5% in 2022.

The results of the 2022 SHEU survey are mirrored in a national YouGov survey in March 2022² which found that 4% of 11-15 year olds in the UK are currently vaping.

¹ School Health Education Unit. This survey was conducted in year 10 (age 13/14 years) in academic years 18/19 and 21/22 with the same questions being used in both surveys for comparison. Most of the data used in this report is from the 2022 survey. In 2019, seventeen schools took part (2122 students). In 2022, all 21 maintained schools took part apart from the special schools (2969 students).

² Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). Use of e-cigarettes (vapes) among young people in Great Britain, 2022

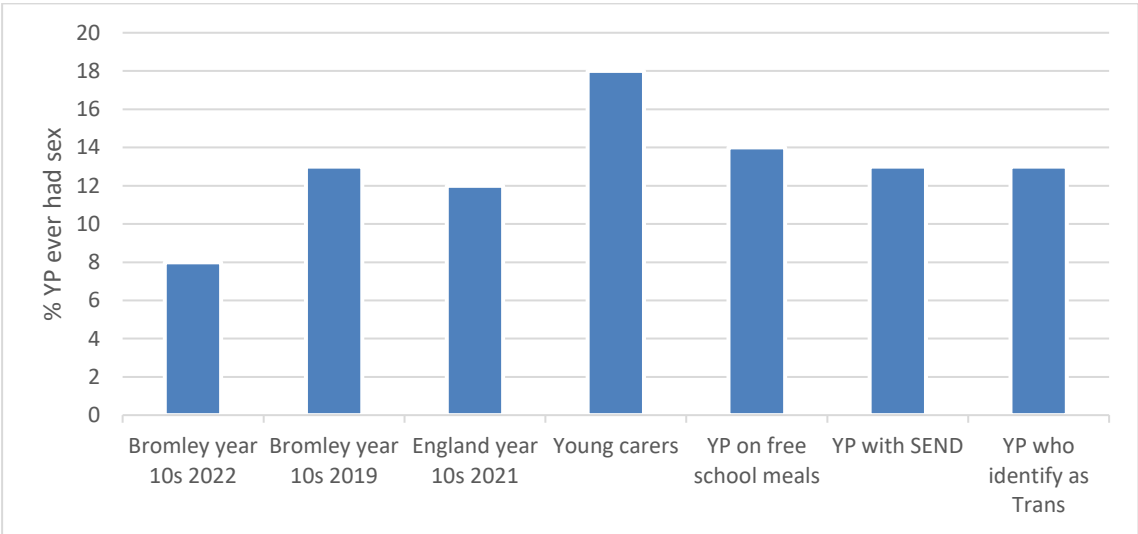
Feedback from school staff in Bromley also reported an increase in vaping in young people in Bromley.

What this means for children and young people in Bromley

- Smoking rates in young people in Bromley are falling.
- Electronic cigarettes or vaping appears to be increasing.

b) Children and young people who need sexual health services

Figure 3.2: Proportion of year 10s who are in or have been in a sexual relationship

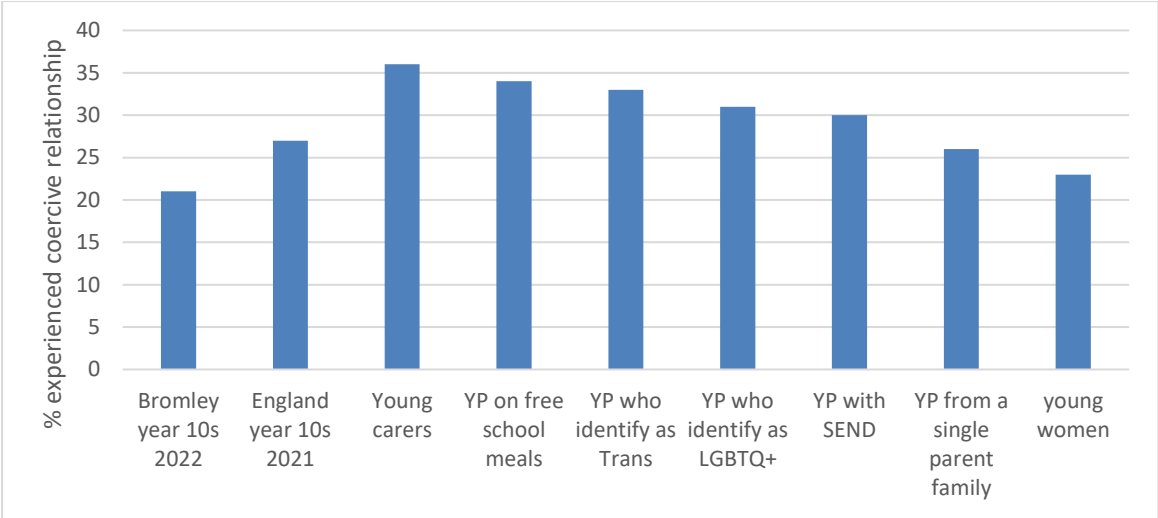


Source: SHEU survey 2022

The SHEU survey of year 10 pupils highlighted that:

- 8% of year 10 pupils are or have been in a sexual relationship. This is 5% lower than in 2019 at the time of the previous survey. However rates are higher for some young people (Figure 3.2)
- 16% of year 10s have either sent or received a “sexting” image. This is lower than the national comparator of 19%
- 9% of year 10 pupils describe themselves as victims of sexual harassment from another student. This is higher than the national comparator of 6%.
- 7% of year 10 pupils worry about being different because of their sexuality “often” or “all the time”. This has increased from 5% in Bromley in 2019.
- The proportion of year 10 pupils who know where they can get a condom free of charge has fallen from 54% in 2019 to 32% in 2022.
- 21% of year 10 pupils in 2022 describe having experienced aggressive/coercive behaviour in a relationship. This proportion is higher for some groups (Figure 3.3) but lower than the national rate.

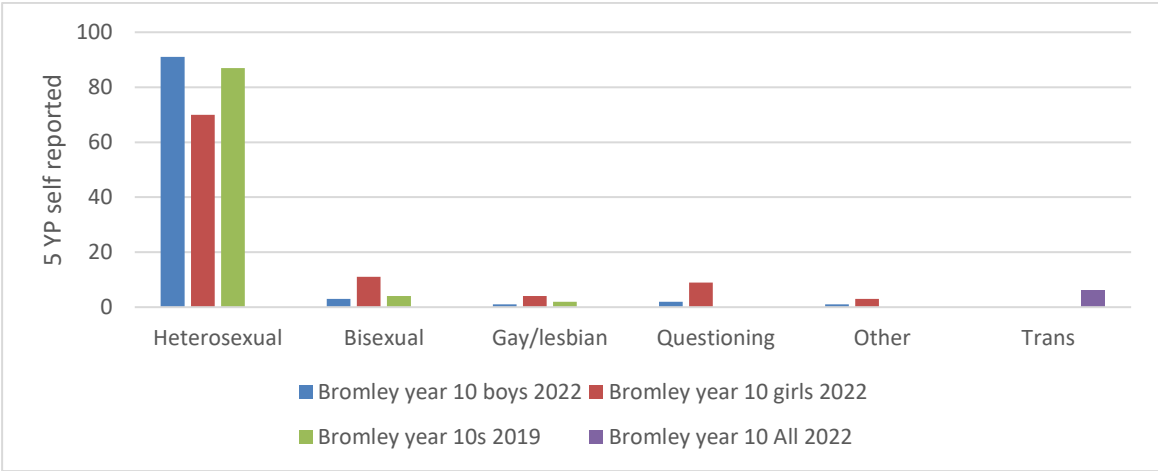
Figure 3.3: Proportion of YP experiencing aggression or coercion in a relationship



Source: SHEU survey 2022

The SHEU survey also showed some changes in pupils’ responses about their sexual and gender identity.

Figure 3.4: Self reported sexual and gender identity, year 10, 2019 and 2022



Source: SHEU survey 2022

Compared to 2019, pupils were less likely to respond that they are heterosexual and more likely to describe themselves as bisexual, gay/lesbian or Trans. The proportion of pupils who worry about being different because of their sexuality “often” or “all the time” has risen from 5% in 2019 to 7% in 2022.

Chlamydia

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides opportunistic screening to sexually active young people aged 15 to 24 years with the aim of

increasing the detection of chlamydia and reducing the prevalence of sequelae. This data is shown in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 population aged 15-24 years, 2020.

Indicator	Period	Bromley			London	England
		Recent Trend	Count	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000
Chlamydia detection rate / 100,000 aged 15 to 24	2020	↓	514	1,632	1,819	1,408
Chlamydia detection rate / 100,000 aged 15 to 24 (Male)	2020	↓	184	1,137	1,323	916
Chlamydia detection rate / 100,000 aged 15 to 24 (Female)	2020	→	330	2,156	2,311	1,889

Source: 'PHE LASER' 2022 document

Table 3.1 shows that in 2020 Bromley had a Chlamydia detection rate lower than that of London but higher than the rate for England, and this relative ranking is unchanged since 2016. The trend was downwards, mostly due to a reduction in detection rates in young men.

This detection rate for Chlamydia Infection indicates that Bromley successfully screens Bromley residents who are at the highest risk of infection.

The rate of Chlamydia detection is relatively high compared to the rate of new STIs for diseases other than chlamydia (Table 3.2).

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Sexual ill-health is not equally distributed within the population. Strong links exist between deprivation and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), teenage conceptions and abortions.

Young people experience the highest diagnosis rates of most common STIs. This is likely due to greater rate of partner change among 16 to 24 year old people³. Unconfirmed data in 2021 showed a decrease in new STI numbers compared to 2020, apart from warts which had a slight increase in numbers. The latest published data is below. Since 2021 there has been an increase in all STIs.

³ Public Health England. (2018). *Sexually transmitted infections and screening for chlamydia in England*. [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/713962/hpr2018_AA-STIs_v5.pdf [Accessed 11/07/2018].

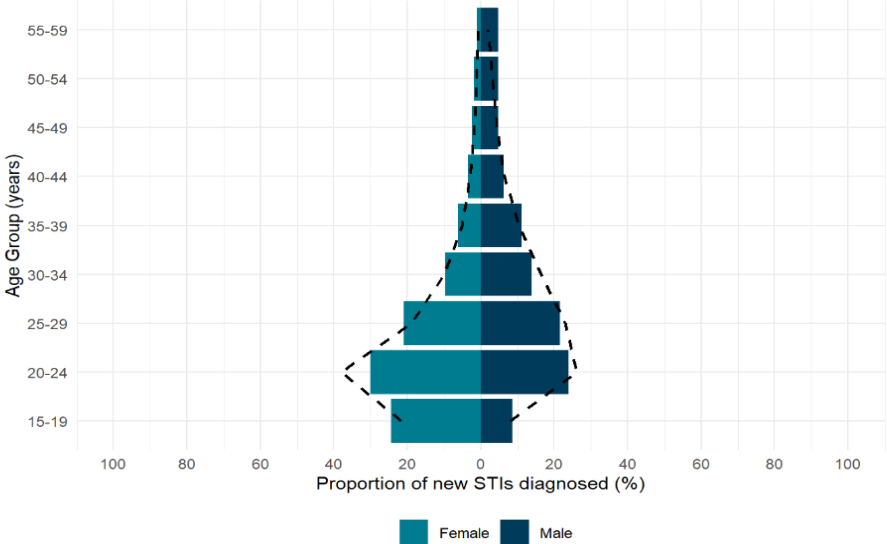
Table 3.2: Rate of new STI diagnoses (excluding chlamydia diagnoses) per 100,000 population aged 15-64 years, London: 2020

Indicator	Period	Bromley			London	England
		Recent Trend	Count	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000
New STI diagnoses (exc chlamydia aged <25) / 100,000	2020	➔	1,384	657	1,391	619

Source: OHID fingertips 2020

Higher rates of STIs are diagnosed in young women up to the age of 25, both nationally and locally (**Figure 3.5**). This is mainly because of women’s health seeking behaviour; they are more likely to be tested for STIs. STI rates are similar in men and women aged 25-30, and above the age of 30 higher rates of STIs are diagnosed in men.

Figure 3.5: Proportion of new STIs by age group & gender, Bromley, 2022



Source: Data from routine specialist and non-specialist sexual health services’ returns to the GUMCAD STI Surveillance System and routine non-specialist sexual health services’ returns to the CTAD Chlamydia Surveillance system.
 Please note that to prevent deductive disclosure the number of STI diagnoses has been rounded up to the nearest 5.
 As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, since March 2020, the Government implemented national and regional lockdowns and social and physical distancing measures. These measures affected sexual behaviour and health service provision, which is reflected in sexual and reproductive health indicator data. Interpreting data from 2020 should consider these factors, especially when comparing with data from pre-pandemic years.

Source: OHID 2022

Access to services

The SHEU survey of Year 10s in 2021/22 showed that 16% of young people aged 14/15 knew how to access sexual health services and 1% had used those services.

Sexual violence

Table 3.3 shows Metropolitan Police data on sexual offences in Bromley, London and Sutton (a statistical neighbour) between September 2021 and August 2022. There has been an increase in sexual offences in Bromley from 1.5 per 1,000 in 2016/17 to 1.9 per 1,000 in 2021/22. The rate in Sutton has remained unchanged since 2016/17 at 1.9 per 1,000. Analysis by age group is not possible with the available data.

Table 3.3: Sexual violence in Bromley and comparators, September 2021 to August 2022

	Rate of sexual violence (per 1,000 population)		
	Bromley rate (number of events)	Sutton rate (number of events)	London rate
All sexual violence	1.9 (641)	1.9 (402)	2.9
Rape offences	0.6 (217)	0.6 (119)	1.0
Other sexual offences	1.3 (424)	1.7 (283)	1.8

Source: MOPAC

What this means for young people in Bromley?

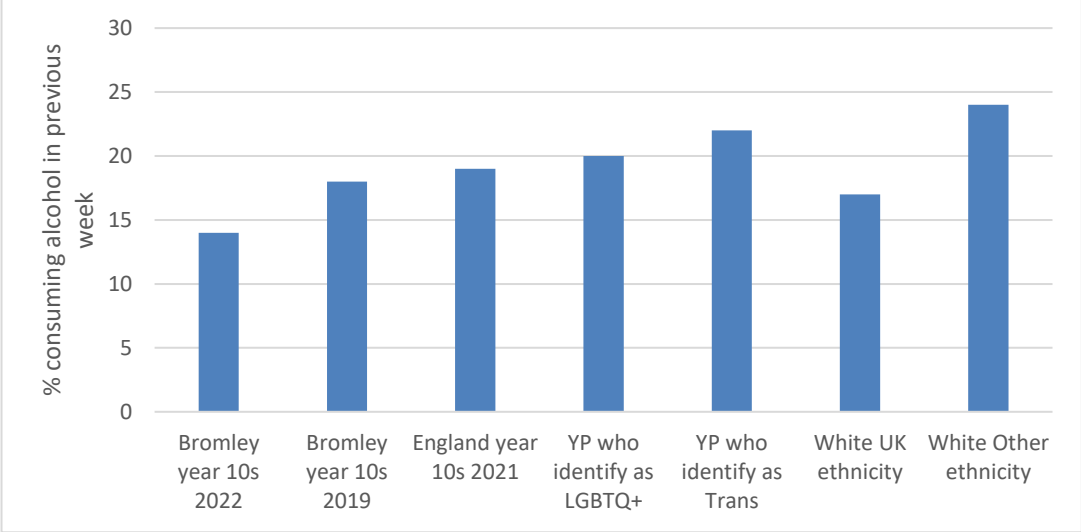
- Year 10 pupils are reporting changes in sexual identity and gender identity compared to 2019
- There is an apparent fall in the proportion of year 10s in a sexual relationship except in a few groups
- Year 10 pupils report relatively high rates of sexual harassment by another pupil compared to national rates
- There is a fall in chlamydia detection rates in young men in Bromley

c) Children and young people who drink alcohol and take drugs

While the majority of young people do not use drugs, and most of those that do are not dependent, drug and alcohol misuse have a major impact on young people’s; education, health, families and long-term chances in life.

High levels of alcohol consumption are associated with increased risk taking generally, particularly among young people, including; unsafe sex and drink driving. It is also a common feature of domestic and sexual violence.

Figure 3.6: Alcohol consumption in week before SHEU survey



Source: SHEU survey 2022

Alcohol consumption among year 10 pupils in Bromley is falling and is below the national average. In 2019, 18% of year 10s had had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the survey. In 2022 this was 14%, which was lower than the national rate in 2021 of 19%. The only groups within the year 10 population who drank significantly more than 14% average in Bromley were the young people who identified as LGBTQ+, those who identified as Trans and white pupils. The non-white population drank significantly less than 14%. The proportion of year 10s who said they never drank alcohol increased from 47% in 2019 to 59% in 2022.

Binge drinking

During the pandemic there was an increase in the consumption of alcohol, particularly amongst those who were already the heaviest drinkers. Heavy drinking is more prevalent in the highest income households, but hospital admissions are far more commonly from people living in low income households in deprived areas. Children are far more likely to drink alcohol if their parents do, especially girls.

Binge drinking for men is drinking more than 8 units of alcohol – or about three pints of strong beer. For women, it’s drinking more than 6 units of alcohol, equivalent to two large glasses of wine.

There has been a reduction in the prevalence of binge drinking across all age groups in the UK since 2005. The prevalence of binge drinking in 16 to 24 year olds in the UK has reduced in recent years from 40% in 2009 to 17% in 2019 for men, and from 28% in 2009 to 13% in 2019 for women. There are no local Bromley estimates for the level of binge drinking in young people.

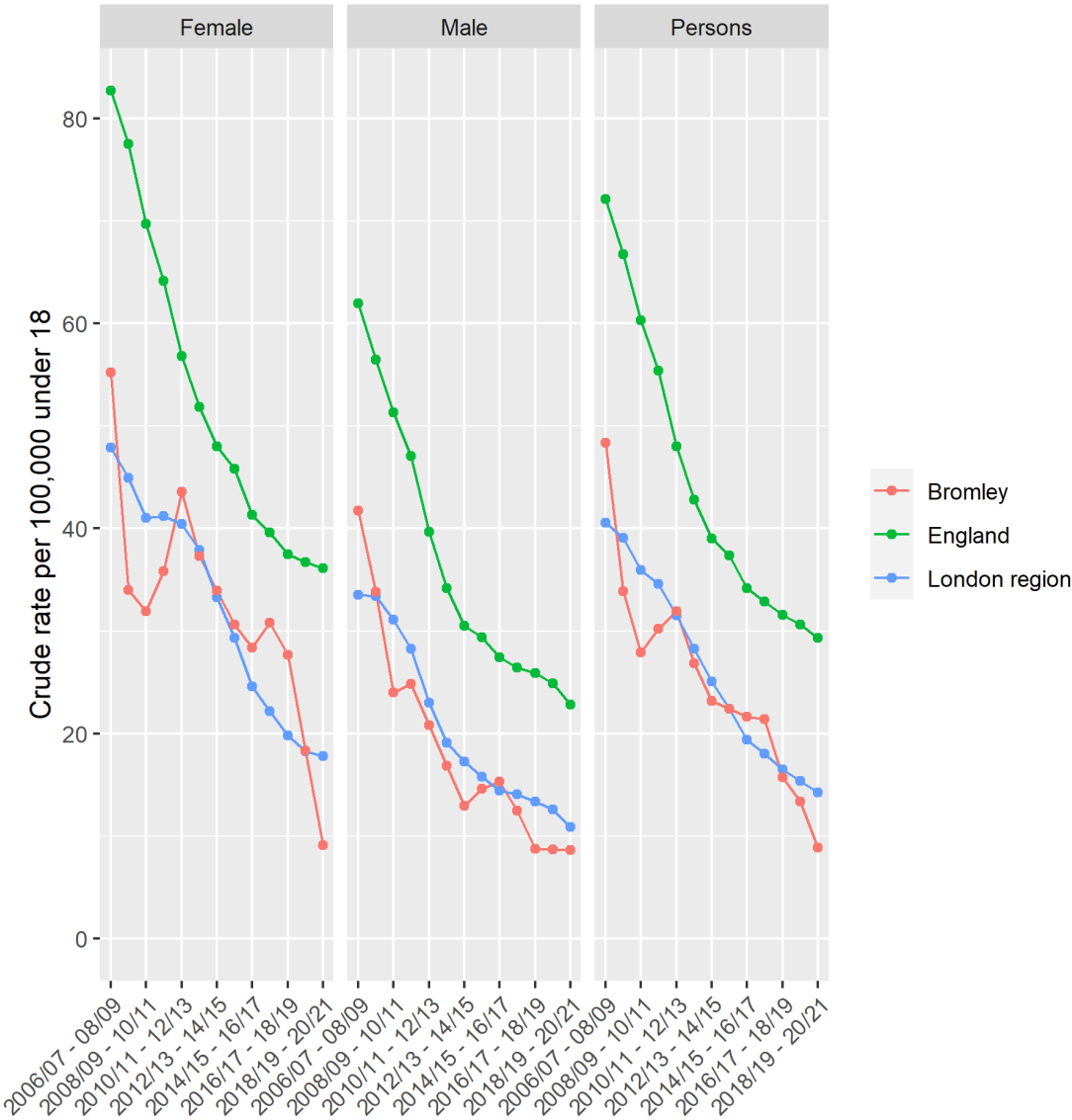
Local substance misuse services report that alcohol is the second most common reason for people presenting to their services (after cannabis). Most service users are

male and many have significant vulnerabilities, although most young people in treatment for alcohol only were female. Between April 2017 – March 2022, 72.1% (n=31/43) were female.

Hospital Admissions: burden of ill-health due to alcohol

The alcohol-specific admission rate for under 18 year olds in Bromley has been falling for some time and is comparable to the rate for London, but significantly lower than the rate for England (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7: Alcohol-related hospital admissions, Bromley and comparators, 2008/09 to 2016/17



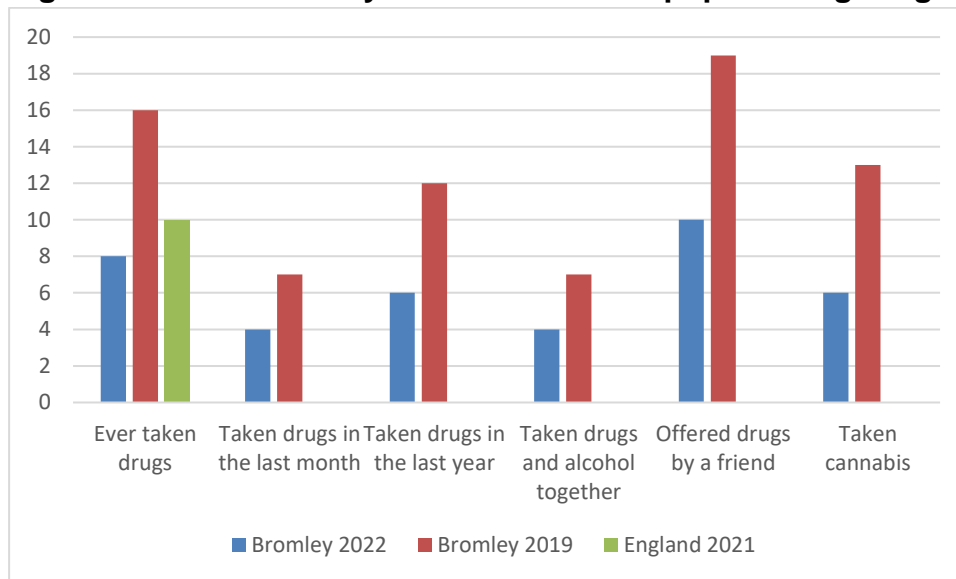
Source: PHE fingertips March 2022

Drug use in young people

Among young people, drug use is linked to increased likelihood of a range of adverse experiences and behaviour including; truancy, exclusion from school, homelessness, time in care and serious or frequent offending ⁴.

The SHEU survey of year 10 pupils in 2021/22 showed that 92% of this group had never taken drugs and this number is increasing. Drug use in year 10s in Bromley is lower than in 2019 and lower than the national rate.

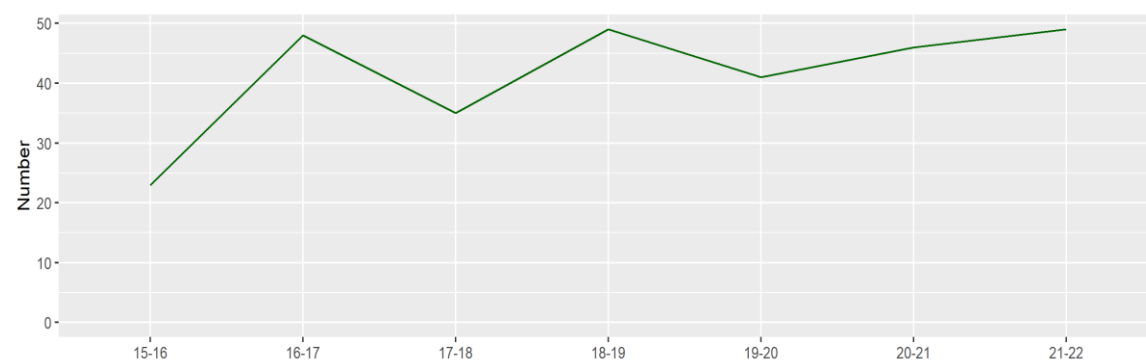
Figure 3.8: SHEU survey 2022 and 2019: % pupils using drugs



Source: SHEU survey, 2022

The number of young people presenting to the specialist substance misuse service for young people in Bromley has been increasing in the last few years.

Figure 3.9: New presentations to specialist young people substance misuse services in Bromley, 2015-2022



Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

⁴ London Borough of Bromley. (2018). *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017*. [online] Available at: http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/download/877/joint_strategic_needs_assessment_jsna_2017 [Accessed 23/10/2017].

Of these new presentations, 35% of referrals were from Youth Justice services, 31% from health and mental health services including A&E, 23% were referred from education services, 18% were referred through Children and Family Services, 14% were referred through education services and 2% were self-referrals. The pattern of referrals is markedly different to the national picture as seen in Figure 3.10.

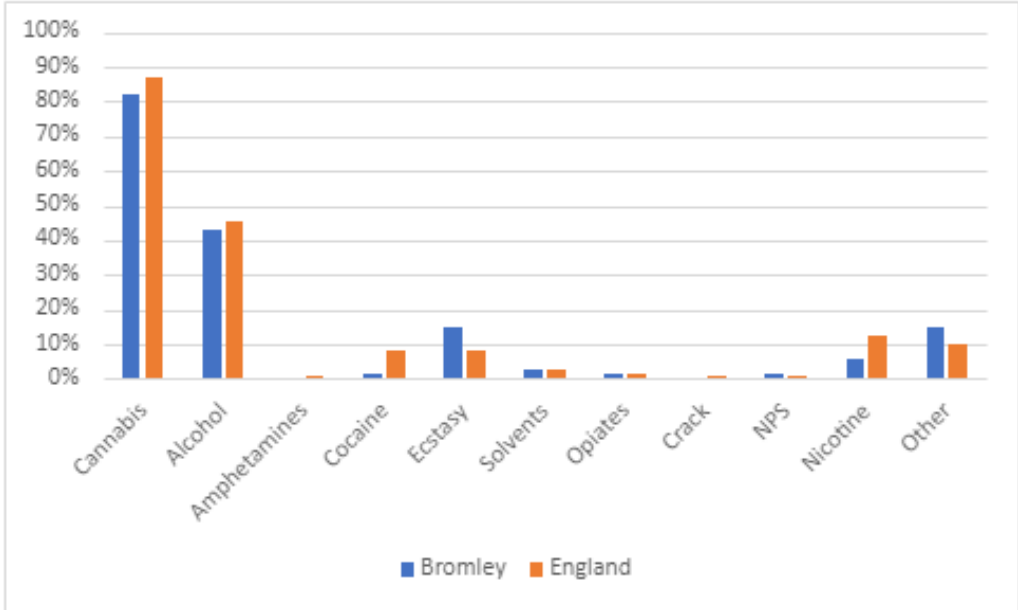
Figure 3.10: Referral source: new presentations to specialist Substance Misuse services



Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

The main substances used by those attending services are cannabis and alcohol, and this has been the picture for several years in Bromley.

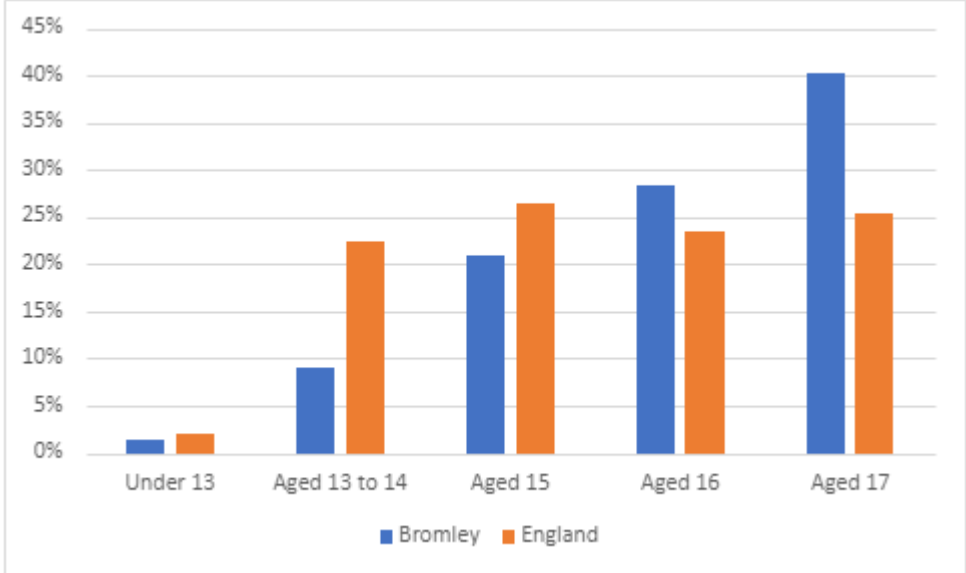
Figure 3.11: Substances used by young people attending the Substance Misuse service, 2021-22



Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

The age of young people using the substance misuse service is higher than the national average.

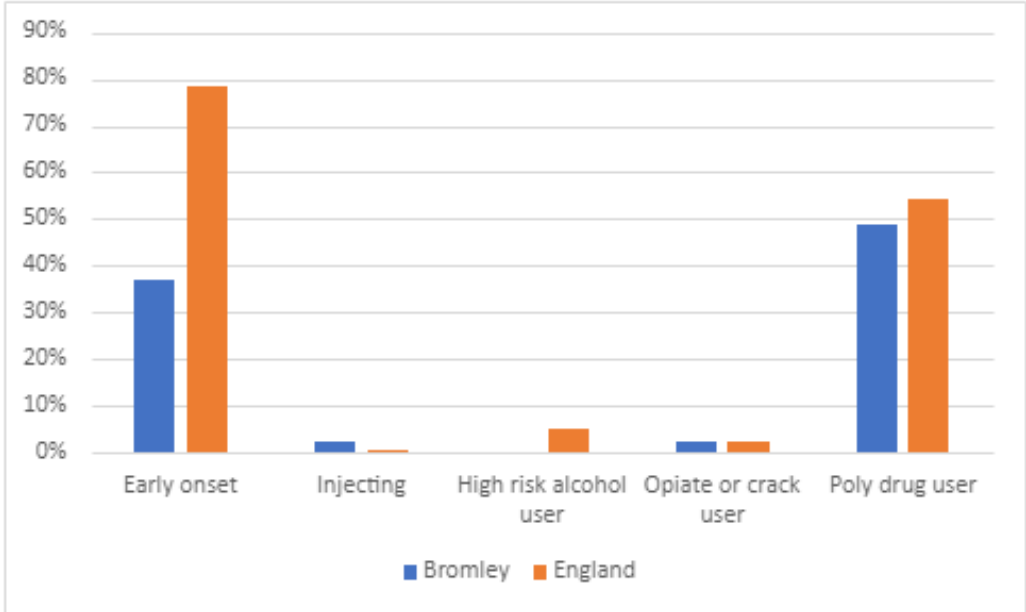
Figure 3.12: Age of young people accessing substance misuse services in Bromley, 2020-21



Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

This pattern of use is reflected in Figure 3.13 which shows much lower than the national average of young people using substances at a young age. In contrast, the number of young people using multiple substances is similar to the national average.

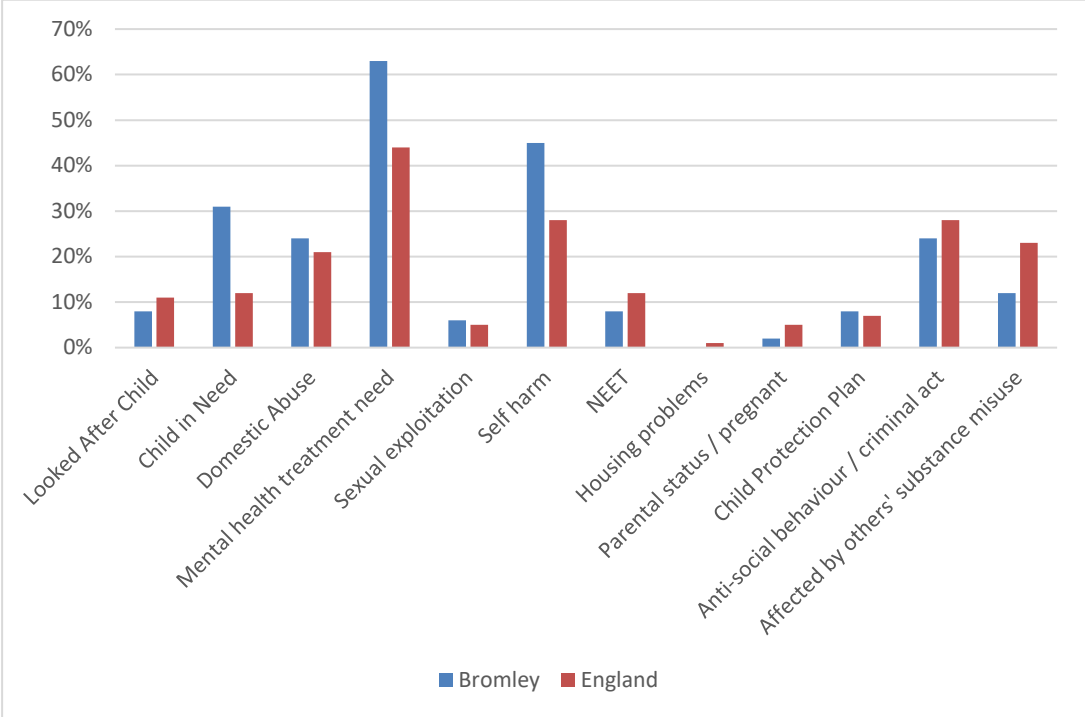
Figure 3.13: Specific substance misuse vulnerabilities of young people using the substance misuse service in Bromley, 2020-21.



Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

The substance misuse service also collect data on wider vulnerabilities of the young people accessing their service and this is shown in Figure 3.14.

Figure 3.14: Wider vulnerabilities of under 19 service users in Bromley substance misuse service, 2020-21

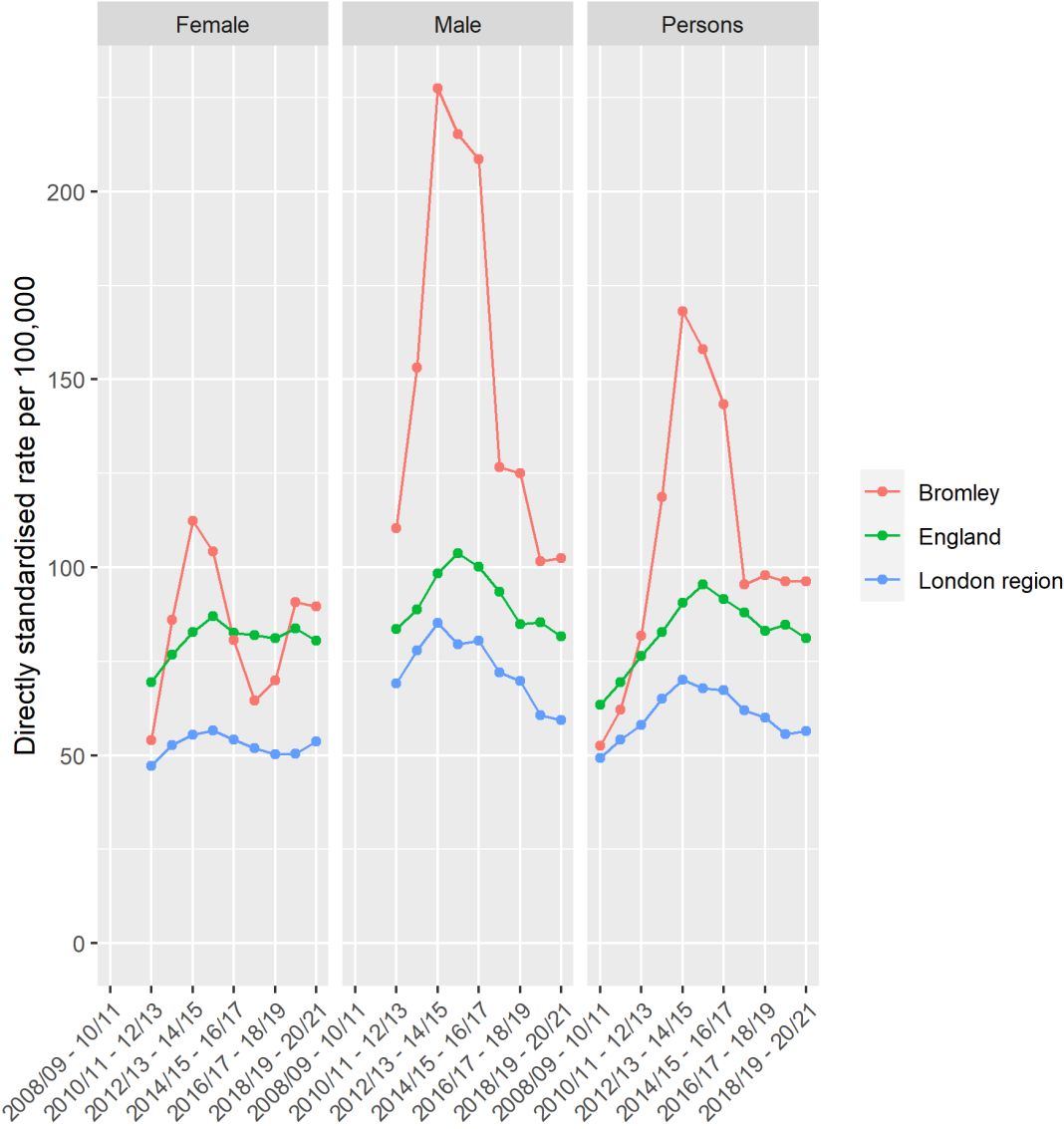


Source: NDTMS – accessed 17.09.22

Figure 3.14 shows that young people attending substance misuse services in Bromley are more likely than the national average of substance misuse services to be children in need, to have mental health needs and to be self harming.

Hospital admission data of a slightly older cohort aged 15-24 years shows that admission rates for substance misuse in young men and women in Bromley are above the rate for London. Admission rates in young men in Bromley have risen in the last few years at a faster rate than London and England, although they are now reducing, possibly reflecting lower drug use in the younger cohorts.

Figure 3.15: Admissions for substance misuse*, age 15-24 years, Bromley and comparators



*Excludes alcohol
Source: OHID fingertips

What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

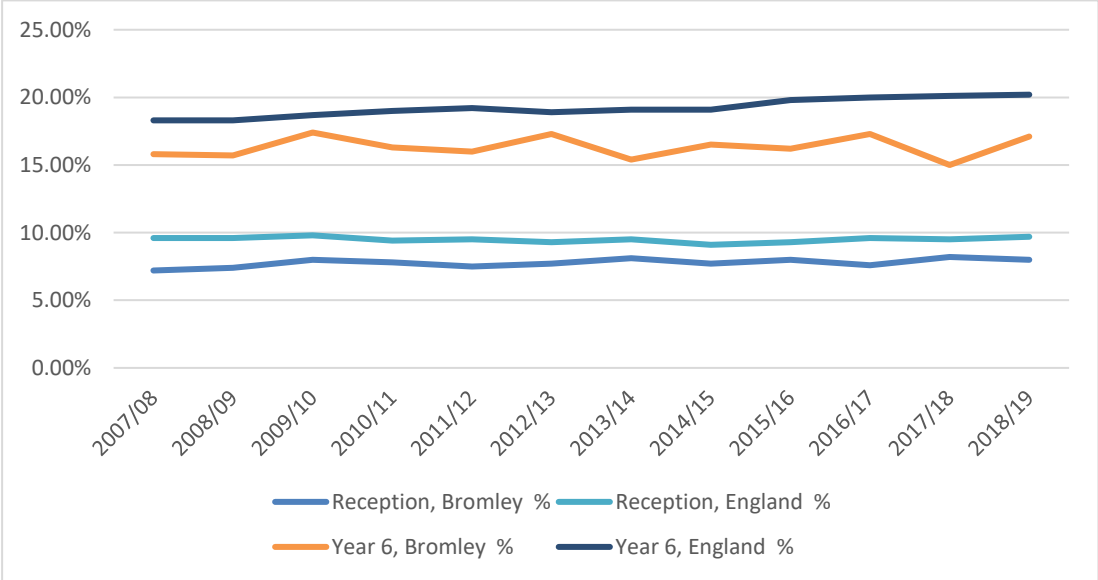
- Substance misuse is below national rate and appears to be falling
- There are increasing presentations to substance misuse services
- The main substances used are cannabis and alcohol
- Service users are more likely than national average to have mental health issues
- Hospital admissions due to alcohol are higher than the national average for young men in Bromley

d) Children and young people who are obese

Severely obese children are at risk of developing a number of serious acute and chronic health problems.⁵ These children pose a significant concern in terms of their health and well-being, and may require the provision of specialist services. Severe obesity prevalence varies significantly by geography and is highest in children living in income deprived households and those from black ethnic groups.⁶

Obese children are likely to remain obese. Severely obese Reception children are likely to remain severely obese in Year 6⁷. Only a small number of overweight and obese children return to a healthy weight in Year 6. Fewer children from Black and Asian groups and those from more deprived neighbourhoods return to a healthy weight.

Figure 3.16: Childhood obesity rates in Bromley, London and England, 2007-2020



Source: OHID fingertips 2022

⁵ Kelly, A.S., Barlow, S.E., Rao, G, et al. (2013). *Severe obesity in children and adolescents: identification, associated health risks, and treatment approaches: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association.* *Circulation*, **128**, 1689–712.

⁶ Ells, L.J., Hancock, C., Copley, V.R., Mead, E., Dinsdale, H., Kinra, S., Viner, R.M. and Rutter, H. (2015). *Prevalence of severe childhood obesity in England: 2006–2013.* *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, **100**, 631-636.

⁷ Public Health England. (2017). *Changes in the weight status of children between the first and final years of primary school: a longitudinal analysis of data from the NCMP in four local authorities in England between 2006/07 and 2014/15.*[online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609093/NCMP_tracking_report.pdf [Accessed 23/10/2017].

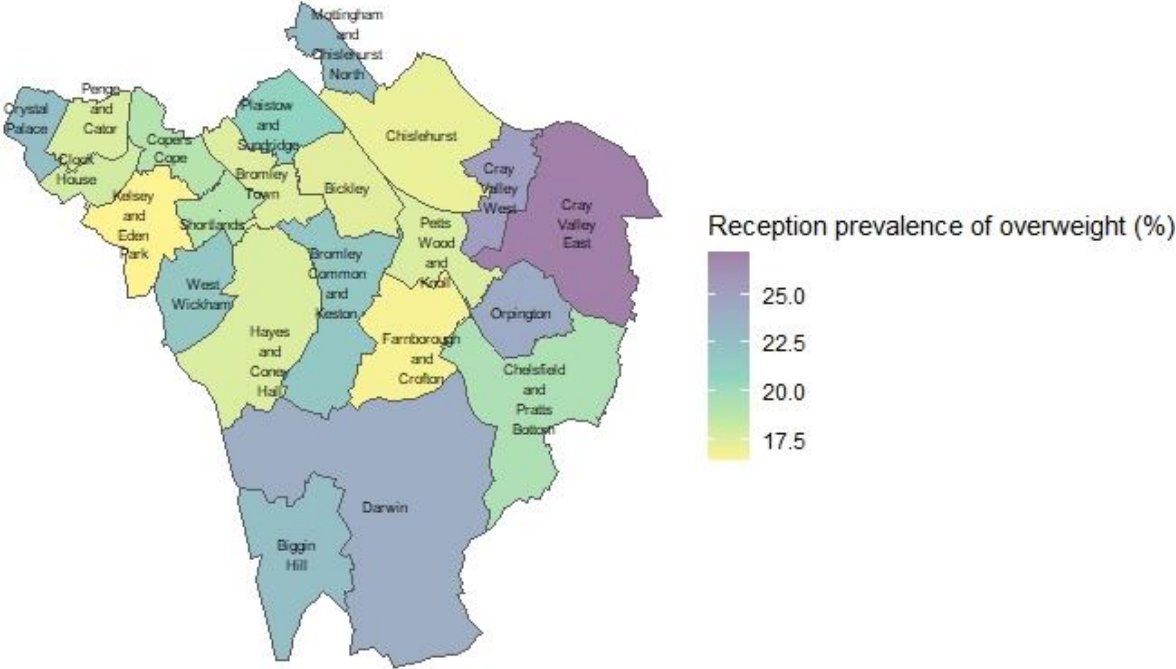
The rate of childhood obesity in Bromley is one of lowest rates in London and is also below the rates for England. The obesity rate in Bromley appears broadly stable while that in year 6 in England is increasing.

The percentage of children in Bromley schools who are obese doubles from their first year in primary school. Half of parents do not recognise that their children are overweight or obese ³.

Childhood obesity is not evenly distributed within Bromley as shown in Figures 3.17 and 3.18.

Figure 3.17

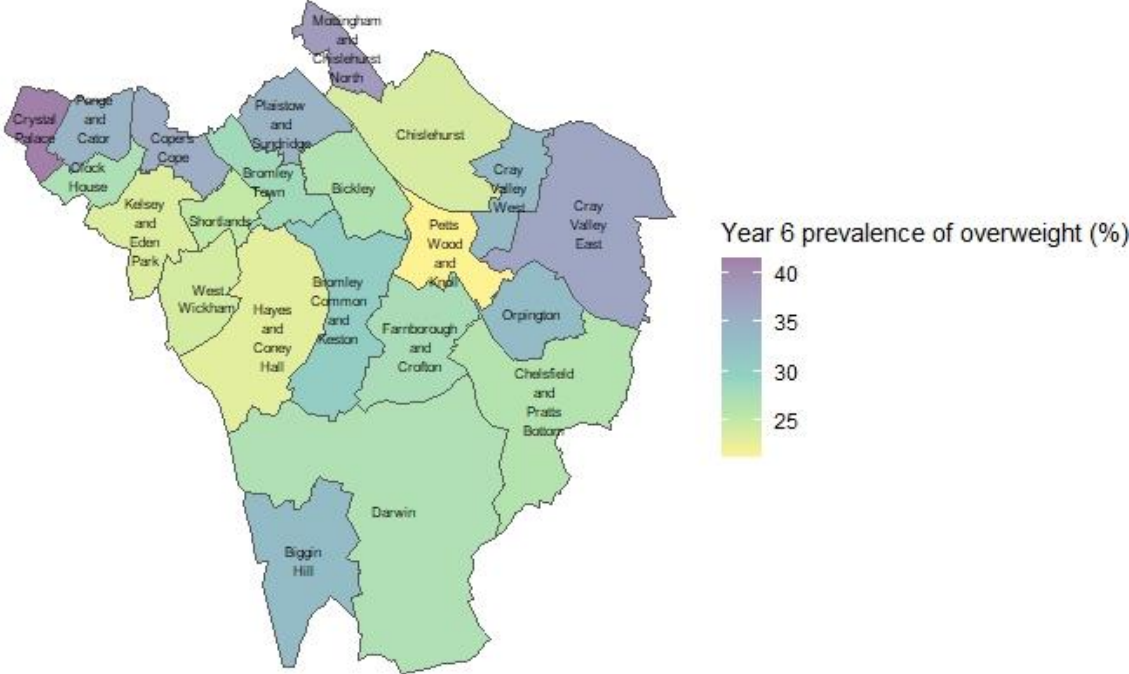
Reception prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3-years data combined (2017/18-2019/20)



Source: NCMP data

Figure 3.18

Year 6 prevalence of overweight (including obesity),
3-years data combined (2017/18-2019/20)



Source: NCMP data

What this means for children in Bromley

- Obesity rates in children in Bromley are remaining static despite national rates increasing
- Rates are highest in the Cray Valley in Year R (age 4-5) and in Crystal Palace in year 6 (age 10-11)

e) Children and Young People with Sensory Impairment

Table 3.4: SEN data from maintained primary, secondary and special schools, 2022

	Primary school	Secondary school	Special school
Hearing impairment	69	84	3
Vision impairment	45	46	3
Multi-sensory impairment	7	1	-

Source: LBB school SEND data 2022

Some children identified as vision impaired are registered blind or partially sighted.

Table 3.5: Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People year ending 31 March 2021

	Age 0-4 years	Age 5-17 years
Number of children registered blind	10	35
Number of children registered partially sighted	<5	35

Source: NHS Digital, 2022

Hearing Impairment

Half of all deaf children are born deaf, whilst half acquire deafness during childhood⁸. 2 out of 5 deaf children will have additional or complex needs⁹. National data shows that only 48% of deaf children achieved at least grade 4 in their English and Maths GCSEs compared to 71% of hearing pupils in 2019.

g) Children and young people’s online activity

Compared to a national sample of year 10s in 2021, the SHEU survey in 2022 in Bromley showed some positive results:

- 30% of Bromley pupils spent more than 3 hours online the day before the survey compared to 42% in the national sample
- 32% of Bromley pupils communicate with strangers online compared to 49% in the national sample
- 16% of the Bromley pupils sent or received “sexting” messages compared to 19% of the national sample.

41% of Bromley year 10 pupils found school lessons about keeping safe online “quite” or “very” useful. Those young people who worried about keeping safe on the internet, email and mobile phones “often” or “all the time” had reduced from 10% in 2019 to 7% in 2021/22.

⁸ Kelly, A.S., Barlow, S.E., Rao, G, et al. (2013). *Severe obesity in children and adolescents: identification, associated health risks, and treatment approaches: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association.* *Circulation*, **128**, 1689–712.

⁹ National Deaf Children’s Society Policy on Audiology 2010

Table 3.6: Online activity more than 3 hours a day

Activity	At all	For more than 3 hours	
		Boys	Girls
Watching TV, DVD or online videos	95%	26%	36%
Playing computer games	52%	30%	5%
Talking/messaging/video chat	85%	19%	22%
Using internet for something else	76%	19%	18%

Source: SHEU survey 2022

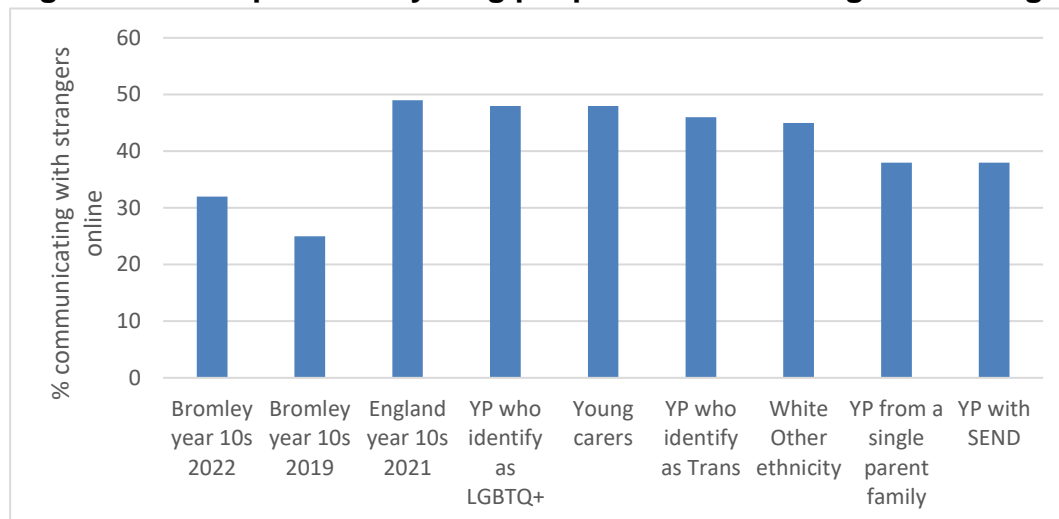
However some groups of young people were more likely to spend more than 3 hours online the day before the survey. Those more likely to spend more than 3 hours were young carers (47%), young people on free school meals (41%), young people with SEND (39%), young people living in a single parent family (35%) and young people who identified as LGBTQ+ (34%).

10% of boys placed a bet online compared to only 3% of girls.

Online communication with strangers

Nearly a third of the year 10 pupils in Bromley participated in this. This has become more common since the previous survey in 2019 when only 25% of young people communicated online with strangers.

Figure 3.19: Proportion of young people communicating with strangers online



Source: SHEU survey 2022

Some groups of young people were much more likely to communicate with strangers online as shown in Figure 3.19.

The rate in Bromley is significantly lower than the national rate of 49%.

Communicating with friends and family online

Almost all year 10 pupils in Bromley participated in communicating online with friends and family (86% of boys and 94% of girls). Boys were more likely to communicate through online games (61% vs 20% of girls). Girls were more likely to send messages to 1 or a few people (87% vs 77% of boys), use picture/video sharing/apps (58% vs 37% of boys), or post things people could see (35% vs 23% of boys).

Undesirable online experience

Overall 41% of year 10 pupils in Bromley had undesirable online experiences. This was more common (50%) for females, those from a single parent family, those with a disability or long term condition, young carers, and those on free school meals. It was much more common (66%) for young people who identified as LGBTQ+ or Trans (54%).

Table 3.7: Undesirable online experiences of year 10 pupils, Bromley, 2022

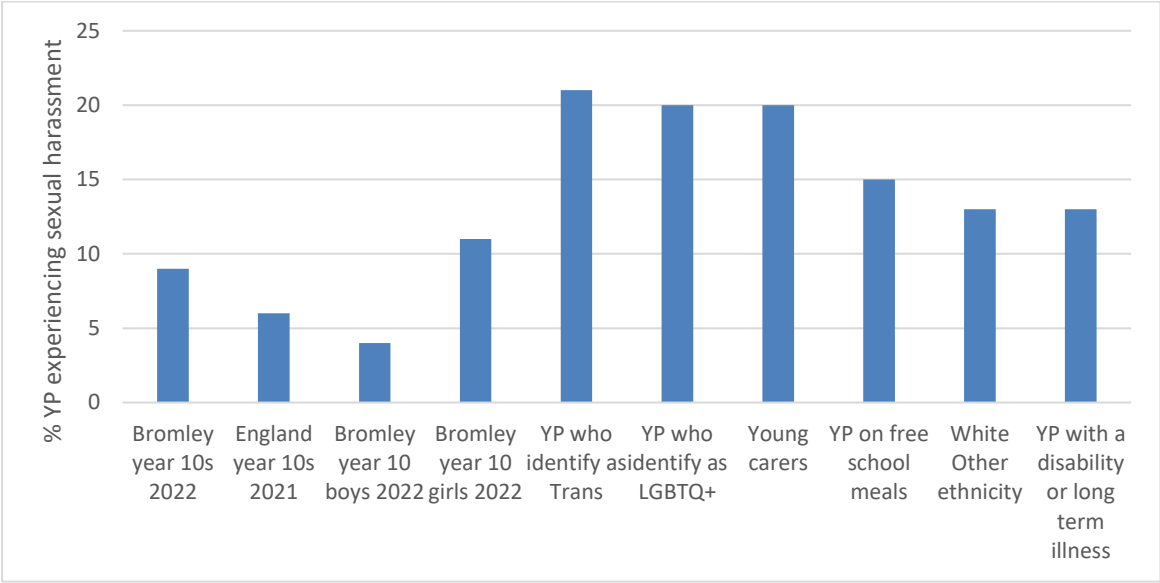
	Boys	Girls
Someone writing/showing things to upset or harm them	8	20
Sent personal information to someone and wished they hadn't	3	11
Someone asking to meet they have only met online	3	15
Being approached by an adult who wants a sexual encounter	2	17
Extremism online	4	4
Seeing sexually explicit images or videos or games	11	29
Sent undressed/sexual images of themselves	2	5
Someone who knows them sent "sexting" images of them	0	3
Received "sexting" images	6	23

Source: SHEU survey 2022

Sexual harassment by another student

11% of girls and 4% of boys described experiencing sexual harassment from another student either at school or online in the last 12 months before the survey. Most ignored it although some girls did block them online. Some groups were more likely to experience sexual harassment from another student including young people who identified as Trans or LGBTQ+, young carers and young people on free school meals.

Figure 3.20: Proportion of YP experiencing sexual harassment from another student

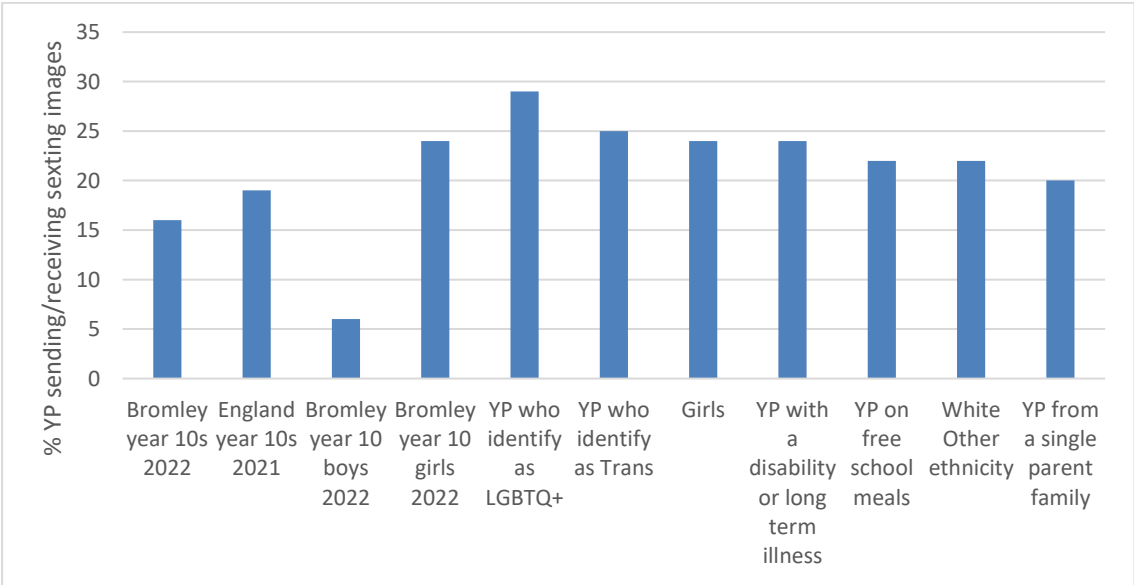


Source: SHEU survey 2022

Sending or receiving “sexting” images

23% of girls and 6% of boys received “sexting” images. Groups more likely to send or receive “sexting” images were young people who identified as LGBTQ+ or Trans, girls, young people with disabilities or a long term condition, young people on free school meals, and young people from a single parent family.

Figure 3.21: Proportion of young people sending or receiving “sexting” messages



Source: SHEU survey 2022

1% of pupils reported that they received a “sexting” image and sent it on to someone else. 6% deleted the image and 8% did nothing. 2% sent a “sexting” image back. Only 1% of girls told a responsible adult.

What this means for children in Bromley

Online safety of year 10 pupils in Bromley appears better than the national average but is still concerning

Young people are communicating with strangers online and either sending or receiving “sexting” images

Only 1% of girls and no boys told a responsible adult about sexting

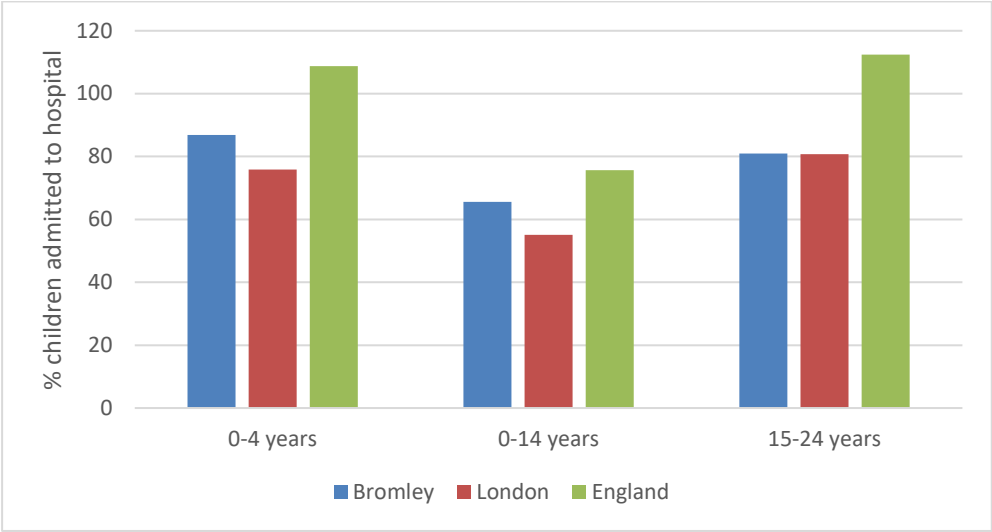
g) Accidental injuries to children and young people

The SHEU survey in 2022¹ asked year 10 pupils in Bromley about accidents in the last 12 months which have required treatment in a clinic or hospital. The rate of reported accidents in 2022, 31%, is lower than in the previous survey in 2019 when the rate was 38%. The reported accident rate is higher in boys (36%) than girls (26%) and is also higher in young people who have SEN (42%) or long term illness (45%). The reported rate of 31% is comparable to the national rate of 32%.

The most common reason for the accident was sports injury (22% boys and 9% girls).

Accidents which require admission to hospital are less common. The rate of admissions for accidents are slightly higher in Bromley than the average for London for younger children but below the rate for England as shown in Figure 3.23. Admission rates for accidents in 15-24 year olds are the same as the rate for London and lower than the rate for England.

Figure 3.22: Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injury, Bromley and comparators, 2021

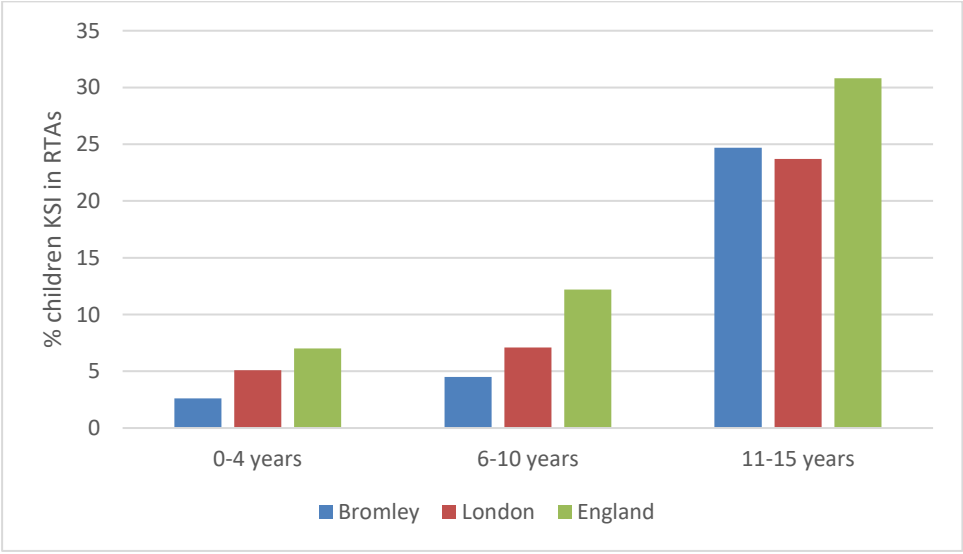


Source: OHID fingertips 2022

The higher rate of admissions for accidents of pre-school children is of concern. However published data on reasons for hospital admission in this age group such as exposure to hot substances, accidental poisoning, falls from furniture and poisoning from medicines are all much lower in Bromley than either the London or national rates.

Children and young people in Bromley are generally safer on the road than in London and England apart from the age group 11-15 years.

Figure 3.23: Children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic accidents (RTAs) in Bromley and comparators, 2018-2020



Source: OHID fingertips 2022

Detail on road accidents in 0-24 year olds is outlined in Table 3.8. Bromley is higher than London and England for accidents to car occupants.

Table 3.8: Road accidents in Bromley and comparators, 2016-2021

Descriptor	Age group (years)	Date of data	Bromley %	London %	England %
Emergency admission pedestrians	0-24	16/17–20/21	9.4	12.1	11.7
Emergency admission cyclists	0-24	16/17–20/21	7.3	8.9	13.0
Emergency admission car occupants	0-24	16/17–20/21	8.4	7.6	14.1
Fatal casualties from RTAs	0-24	2016-20	1.0	0.7	1.7
Serious casualties from RTAs	0-24	2016-20	28.8	29.2	35.7
Slight casualties from RTAs	0-24	2016-20	204	220	205
Pedestrians KSI in RTAs	0-24	2016-20	7.8	10.8	10.1
Cyclists KSI in RTAs	0-24	2016-20	2.7	3.8	4.5
Car occupants KSI in RTAs	0-24	2016-20	22.6	12.0	28.4

Source: OHID fingertips 2022

What this means for children in Bromley

Accident rates have fallen in Bromley since 2019. Sports injuries (especially for boys) are the most common accidents

Road traffic accidents are generally lower than the London or national average apart from accidents involving car occupants.

2. Emerging emotional health needs

This section will give some recent data from GPs and describe the findings of the SHEU survey. A detailed needs assessment of CAMHs service use is being written separately and will be available later in 2022.

In the year August 2021 to July 2022, GPs in Bromley recorded 2990 under 18s with mental health problems. These included 2081 children and young people with anxiety, 1296 with depression or low mood, and 360 with suicidal thoughts or self harm.

The most marked difference between the 2022 SHEU survey¹ and the previous survey in 2019 is the fall in the proportion of young people in year 10 in Bromley who are optimistic about the future. In 2019, 60% of year 10s in Bromley were optimistic about the future “often” or “all the time”. In 2022 this had fallen to 31% (38% of boys were optimistic but only 27% of girls). The survey took place during the pandemic which may have affected this response.

Overall mental well-being of the pupils had also fallen. The proportion of year 10s scoring a high score (an indication of good mental well-being) fell from 21% in 2019 to 15% in 2022. Boys were much more likely to have a high score in 2022 (24%) compared to girls (9%).

The proportion with a low mental well-being score in 2022 was very slightly higher than the national rate (11% vs 10%) but statistically significant. A lower score was more likely to be seen if the young person was female (12%), a young carer (18%) or if they identified as LGBTQ+ (23%).

The difference in mental well-being between year 10 boys and girls persisted in a number of areas. The young people were asked whether “often” or “all the time”:

- They felt useful (positive response from 38% of boys but only 27% of girls)
- They felt relaxed (positive response from 37% of boys but only 17% of girls)
- They felt they dealt with problems well (positive response from 46% of boys but only 24% of girls)
- They were thinking clearly (positive response from 46% of boys but only 21% of girls)
- They were feeling close to other people (positive response from 53% of boys and 46% of girls)
- They felt able to make their own mind up about things (positive response from 58% of boys and 43% of girls)

There were also clear differences between the year 10 boys and girls in how often they worried.

Table 3.9: Issues year 10 pupils worried about often or “all the time”, 2022

Issue worried about “often” or “all the time”	Boys	Girls
Exams/tests	43%	72%
School work problems	27%	58%
The way they look	19%	53%
Health	16%	25%
Relationships	15%	21%
Problems with friends	13%	25%
Family problems	11%	24%
Money problems	10%	18%
Being separated from friends or carers	7%	16%

Source: SHEU survey, 2022

Year 10 pupils worried “quite a lot” about Covid, more than the national rate (80% vs 65%). The boys worried less than the girls (boys 74%, girls 85%). Their worries were mainly about family and friends catching Covid, and in particular if they spread Covid to their family and friends.

Year 10 pupils were less worried about non-Covid issues (74% in Bromley vs 78% nationally). Those who worried more were female (86%), had a disability or long term illness (80%), or self identified as LGBTQ+ (86%).

Many pupils reported positive experiences during the Covid pandemic. 33% agreed that life during the pandemic had improved their relationship with their family. 42% felt generally positive and happy and felt closer to their friends, although again the boys were more positive (54%) than the girls (33%).

Some pupils reported struggles to keep friendships or relationships with family they didn't live with going during the pandemic (23%), 12% struggled to maintain relationships with family they lived with, and 11% felt less safe within their home because of family tensions.

There were also marked gender differences in how the year 10s reacted when they had a problem or felt stressed. The year 10 boys would:

- Do nothing (30%)
- Talk to someone about it (30%)
- Play video/online games (29%)
- Rest or sleep more (26%)
- Think about it on their own (24%)
- Listen to music (22%)
- Keep busy with other things (17%), or
- Eat more (7%)

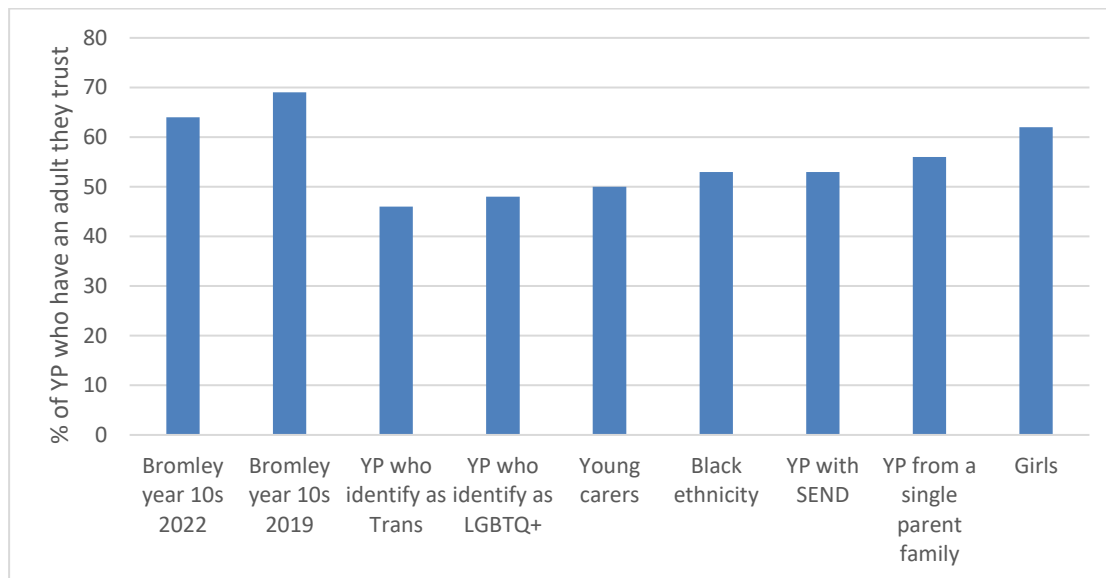
In contrast if the year 10 girls had a problem or felt stressed they would:

- Think about it on their own (48%)
- Listen to music (46%)
- Rest or sleep more (44%)
- Talk to someone about it (33%)
- Keep busy with other things (30%)
- Do nothing (29%)
- Watch TV, DVDs, videos (28%)
- Eat less (23%)
- Eat more (22%)

The proportion of year 10s in Bromley who would use self harm as a coping response is much lower (9%) than the national rate (17%). Some groups of young people in Bromley are more likely to use self harm, including girls (12%), young people from a single parent family (13%), young people with a disability or long term illness (17%), and young people who self identify as LGBTQ+ (30%).

The proportion of year 10 pupils who know an adult they trust who they can talk to if they are worried about something has fallen in Bromley from 69% in 2019 to 64% in 2022. Boys in 2022 are more likely to know someone than girls. Other groups less likely to know someone they can talk to includes young people from a single parent family, black young people or young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, young carers, and young people who identify as LGBTQ+ or Trans.

Figure 3.24: Proportion of young people with a “trusted adult” they can talk to



Source: SHEU survey 2022

Year 10 pupils in Bromley reported that they “knew how to use” support systems:

- If someone close to them died (19% boys, 12% girls)
- In school for problems or worries (32% boys, 28% girls)
- Outside school for problems or worries (26% boys, 19% girls).

27% of year 10 pupils in Bromley found school lessons about emotional health and wellbeing “quite” or “very” useful.

What this means for children and young people in Bromley

- Some concerning findings include lowered optimism about the future compared to 2019, lower well-being (especially girls) and a significant minority of young people who felt less safe at home due to family tensions during the pandemic.
- Positive findings include that rates of self harm in year 10 pupils are much lower than the national rate.
- A particular issue for many young people is the lack of an adult they trust who they can talk to if they are worried about something.

3. Emerging education issues

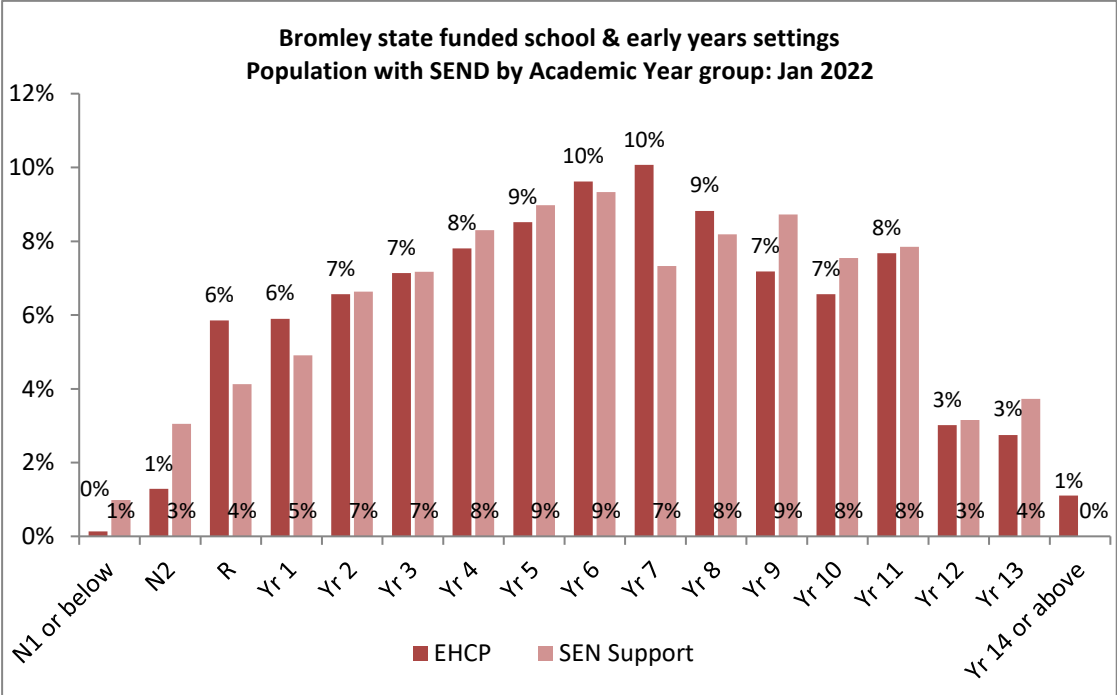
a) Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

This section focuses on children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) at the school support level. Those with SEND needs at Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCP) level are discussed in Section 4.

Children with SEND can be very vulnerable; they often do not achieve the same educational outcomes as their peers and are more likely to be excluded from school.

The number of pupils in Bromley schools with Special Educational Needs is currently at 9,937 pupils (based on the Spring 2022 school census). Of these, 6,496 pupils have SEN needs at support level, and do not have an EHC Plan.

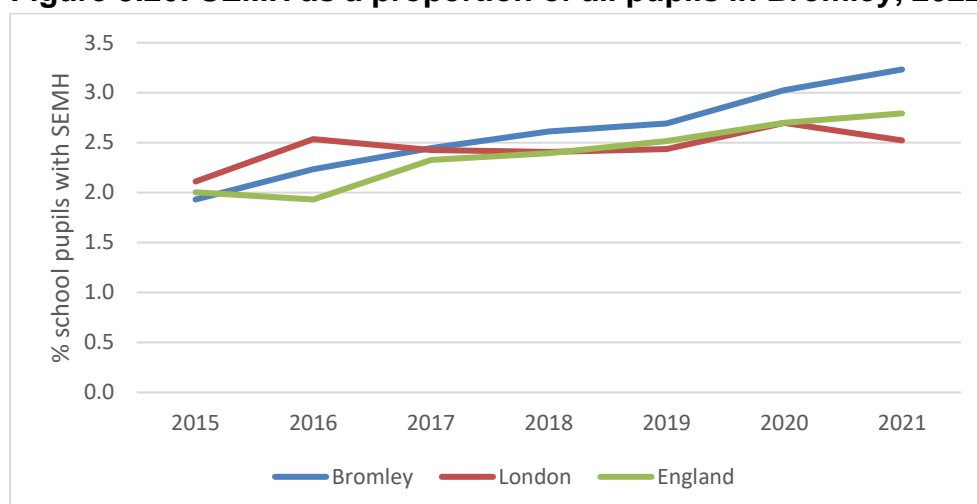
Figure 3.25:



Overall, in Bromley schools, 11% of pupils receive SEN support and 4% pupils have an EHC Plan (2022 school census data).

Pupils with SEMH are a higher proportion of pupils in Bromley (3.2%) than in London (2.5%) or England (2.8%) and this proportion is increasing (Figure 3.26).

Figure 3.26: SEMH as a proportion of all pupils in Bromley, 2022



Source: Dept for Education SEND data

What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

The proportion of all pupils with social, emotional or mental health issues in Bromley is significantly higher than the national average and rising.

The rest of the SEND analysis is in Section 4: Established needs

Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs

Speech, language and communication skills are core to overall child development. Difficulties in these areas will potentially have significant and far-reaching impacts on social, emotional, behavioural and academic development. The term 'Speech, Language and Communication needs' (SLCN) is the most commonly used term to describe children who find it hard to talk and/or understand what people say to them. Autistic Spectrum Disorder is a type of social communication disorder but is measured and reported separately.

A variety of adverse outcomes are associated with SLCN in a child. These include:

- being bullied
- mental health difficulties
- lower educational attainment
- up to 60% of young offenders have SLCN¹⁰
- 88% of long term unemployed men have SLCN¹⁰

¹⁰ Davies, S.C. (2013). *Annual report of the chief medical officer 2012 - our children deserve better: prevention pays*. [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255237/2901304_CMO_complete_low_res_accessible.pdf [Accessed 23/10/2017].

It is estimated that, nationally, 7% of children 0-5 years will have speech, language and communication needs, but this may be as high as 55% of under 5s and 35% of 5-16 year olds in areas of high deprivation¹¹.

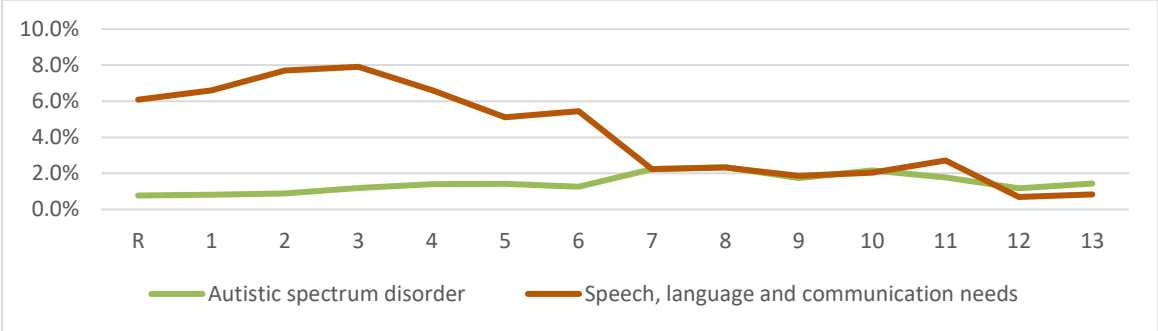
An “Ages and Stages Questionnaire” (ASQ) is used nationally as a screening tool to identify developmental delay in young children. In 2021/22 in Bromley, 2,402 children aged 24-27 months were screened using this tool as part of the routine Health Visitor developmental review. Of the children screened, 89% met the expected standard in communication but 267 children (11%) were below the expected developmental standard for this age group. In most cases parents will be given advice by the HV team and the child reassessed a few weeks later. In cases with poorer scores, or if the child does not improve after simple advice, are referred to a Speech and Language therapist.

Comparing those with SLCN needs in Bromley with England:

- The rate of identified Speech, language and communication needs (both SEN support and EHC Plan) is higher in Bromley at 4.3% than for England at 3.6%.
- The rate of identified Autistic Spectrum Disorder (both SEN support and EHC Plan) is lower in Bromley at 1.5% than for England at 2.0%.

The distribution of SLCN needs across the age range in Bromley is not uniform, with the rate of SLCN need in primary school age children at 6.5% and the rate of SLCN need in secondary school age children at 1.9% (Figure 3.27).

Figure 3.27: Proportion of pupils with SLCN and ASD by school year in Bromley



Source: Department for Education SEND data, 2022

Approximately 2280 children and young people in Bromley schools are identified as having SLCN. Of these, 1790 are primary school age and 490 are secondary school age. SLCN is described in more detail in Section 4: Children with Established Needs.

¹¹ Bercow, J.S. (2008). *Bercow report – a review of services for children and young people (0-19) with speech, language and communication needs*. [online] Available at: http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8405/7/7771-dcsf-bercow_Redacted.pdf [Accessed 23/10/2017].

What this means for children in Bromley

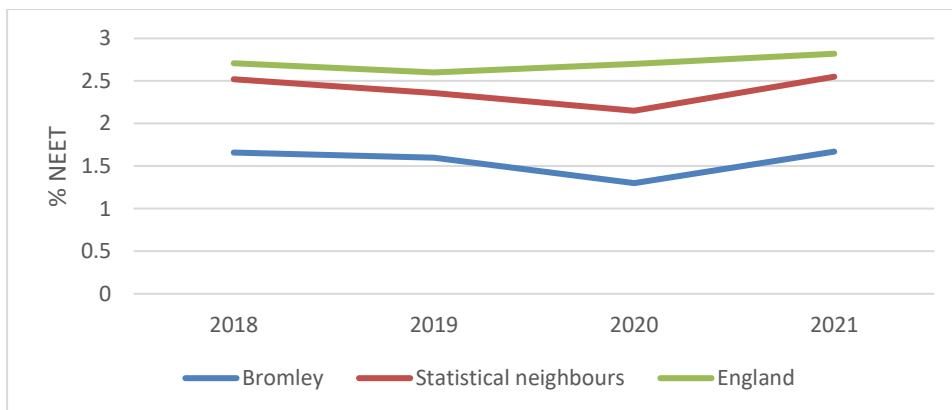
- Speech, language and communication needs of Bromley children are higher at SEN level (4.3%) than the national average (3.6%)
- Needs are higher at primary school level

b) Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Those at risk of being NEET include; young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, those who have underachieved in school, teenage parents, young people in or leaving care, and young people with learning disabilities or mental health problems.

The latest published rate of NEET in Bromley 16-17 year olds was 2% in 2020. This compares favourably to a rate of 4% in London and 5.5% nationally.

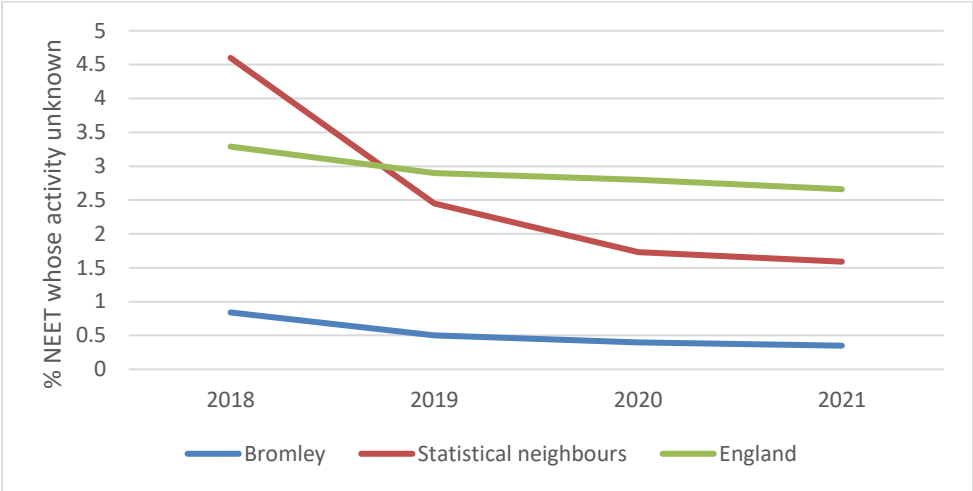
Figure 3.28: Bromley 16-17 years olds who are NEET, Bromley and comparators, 2022



Source: LAIT 2022

The following figure shows NEET 16 to 17 year olds whose activity is not known.

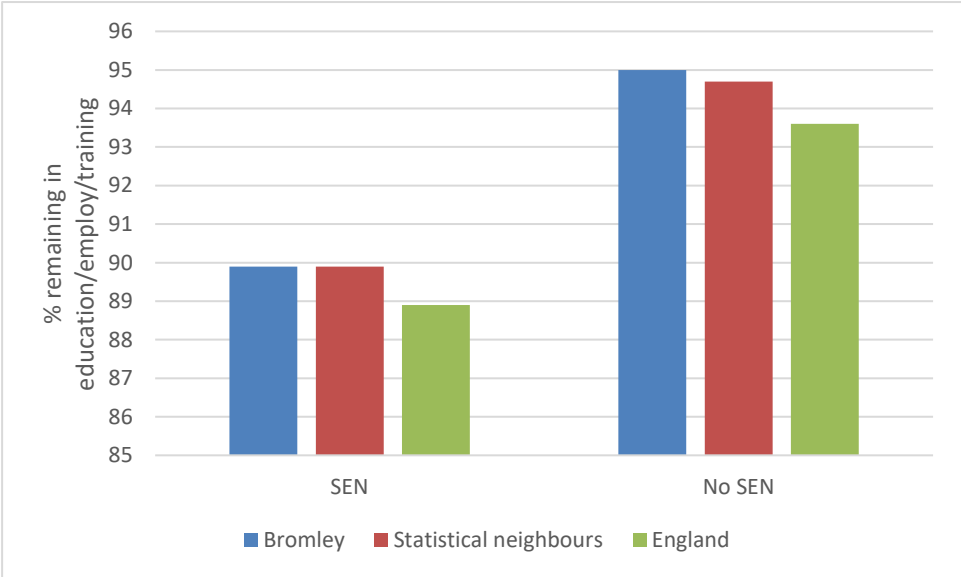
Figure 3.29: Bromley 16-17 years olds who are NEET whose activity is not known, Bromley and comparators, 2022



Source: LAIT 2022

The proportion of pupils with SEND who remain in education, employment or training after KS4 in Bromley is comparable to statistical neighbours and higher than the rate in England (Figure 3.30).

Figure 3.30. % KS4 pupils remaining in education, employment or training, SEN and no SEN, Bromley and comparators, 2020.



Source: LAIT 2022

What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

- Rates of NEET in Bromley are much lower than statistical neighbours and the national rate.
- Rates of NEET for pupils with SEND are better than the national average.

c) Children and young people who are not attending school

School is a protective factor in the life of most children and young people. When a young person does not attend school regularly they can quickly lose step with their peers, both educationally and socially. They are also less likely to be protected from harm and may not be observed by adults who recognise the signs of harm. Attendance at school also limits the extent to which young people can engage in harmful or antisocial behaviours such as self-harm, drug and alcohol use, offending and gang association. It also reduces the risk of CSE.

The SHEU survey 2022 found that 80% of pupils had attended school on 5 or more days in the week prior to the survey. There were no differences in attendance between boys and girls.

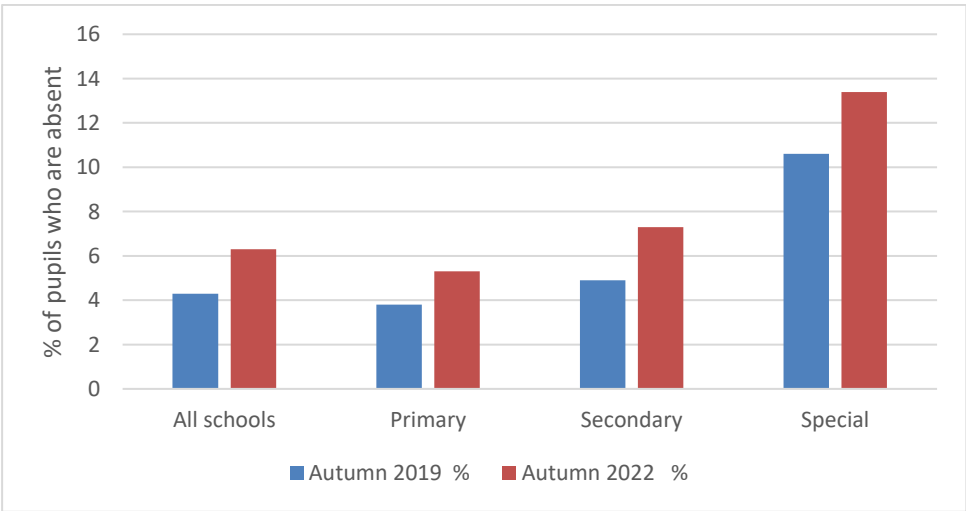
In the month before the 2022 SHEU survey (which was during the pandemic):

- 34% missed no school at all (down from 39% in 2019)
- 37% missed school due to illness or injury
- 20% missed school due to medical or dental appointments
- 15% of girls were stopped from going to school by their period
- 11% were self-isolating due to the pandemic

Worries about going to school were reported by 2% of boys and 12% of girls. 31% of year 10 girls in 2022 reported they were not happy at school, compared to 18% of boys. Almost all indicators in the SHEU survey show a more negative attitude to school among year 10 girls compared to boys.

Pupil absence rates from school are increasing both locally and nationally.

Figure 3.31: Proportion of pupils who are reported absent, Bromley, 2019 & 2021

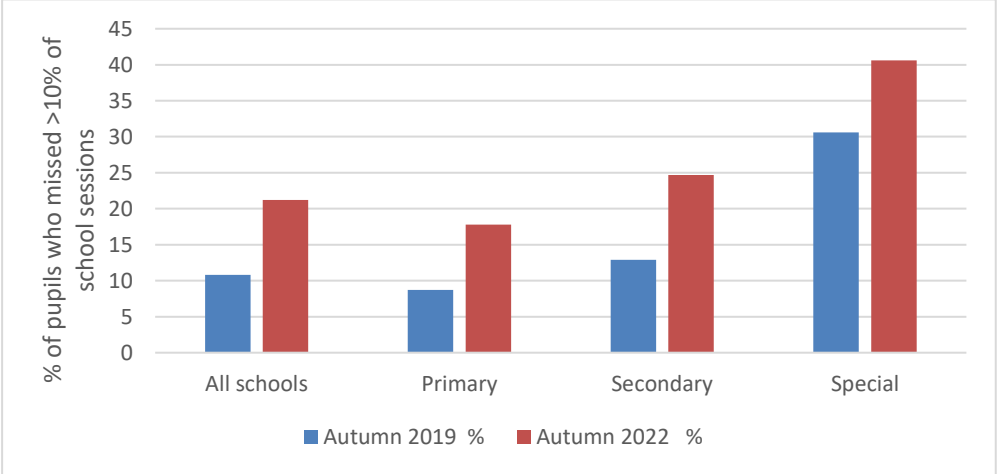


Source: Dept for Education May 2022

The rate of increase (2%) is in line with the national rates but higher than statistical neighbours.

Persistent absence is defined as an attendance record of less than 90%, measured over a single term. The increase in this rate seen in autumn 2021 is even higher at 10%. This is similar to national rates but lower than statistical neighbours.

Figure 3.32: Proportion of pupils who miss more than 10% of school sessions, Bromley, 2019 & 2021



Source: Dept for Education May 2022

Young people with SEND are more likely to be classed as persistently absent. In autumn 2021, 86% of all pupils missing more than 10% of school sessions had special educational needs.

Table 3.10 shows that persistent absence rates are higher in Bromley special schools than the national average.

Table 3.10: Persistent absence from school of children and young people with SEND, 2018/19

	Bromley %	London %	England %
EHCP	24.3	22.5	24.6
SEN support	16.9	16.3	17.9
Special school	31.6	30.1	28.8

Source: Dept for Education 2022

The SHEU survey 2022 asked year 10 pupils about reasons for missing school in previous month (Table 3.11). These results are affected by the pandemic, with self-isolation due to Covid infection one of the most common reasons for missing school.

Table 3.11: Proportion of pupils reporting school absence in previous month, year 10 pupils, 2022

Reason	Boys %	Girls %
Illness or injury	38	37
Medical/dental appointments	15	25
Having their period	-	15
Worries about school	2	12
Self-isolating due to Covid	11	12
Other	3	-

Source: SHEU survey 2022

What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

- Absence from school is a growing problem which particularly affects children with SEND
- Persistent absence rates from special schools in Bromley are above the London and national average

Children and young people excluded from school

Exclusion from school is known to impact significantly on young people's life chances and wellbeing. Over 80% of permanently excluded children are estimated to develop mental health difficulties and many will struggle with poor self-esteem. They may struggle to secure opportunities in employment or studies later in life.

Table 3.12 shows that the exclusion rate in Bromley is very low and suspension rate is low except in the special schools.

Table 3.12: Exclusion and suspension rates in Bromley and comparators, 2020/21

		2020/21			
		Permanent exclusions	Permanent exclusions (rate)	Suspension (rate)	Suspensions
England		3,928	0.05	4.25	352,454
Outer London	Outer London	297	0.03	2.59	22,293
	Bromley	17	0.03	2.73	1,437

The following table breaks down the exclusions and suspensions by type of school.

Table 3.13: Rate of Fixed Period and Permanent Exclusions in maintained Primary, Secondary and Special Schools in Bromley 2020/21

	Primary schools		Secondary schools		Special schools	
	Suspension %	Permanent exclusion %	Suspension %	Permanent exclusion %	Suspension %	Permanent exclusion %
England	1.0	0.01	8.5	0.1	7.3	0.03
Outer London	0.5	0	5.1	0.08	5.7	0.02
Bromley	0.6	0	5.0	0.07	9.5	0

Source: Department for Education

Table 3.14 gives a detailed analysis of reasons for exclusions, although due to small numbers caution should be taken in interpreting this data. Bromley has a higher rate of exclusions for verbal abuse and threatening behaviour against a pupil than other areas, but lower for physical assault against a pupil. Bromley also appears higher for bullying, persistent disruptive behaviour, and use/threat of use of an offensive weapon.

Table 3.14: Reasons for exclusions in maintained schools in Bromley and comparators, 2020/21

	Physical assault against a pupil %	Physical assault against an adult %	Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil %	Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult %	Bullying %	Racist abuse %	Sexual misconduct %	Drug and alcohol related %	Persistent disruptive behaviour %	Use or threat of use of offensive weapon %
England	17.1	11.0	5.1	11.0	0.6	0.9	1.3	7.9	29.7	10.5
Outer London	17.8	6.2	5.4	9.3	1.5	1.0	3.1	9.5	24.2	17.5
Bromley	5	5	10	10	5	0	0	5	35	20

Source: Department for Education 2022

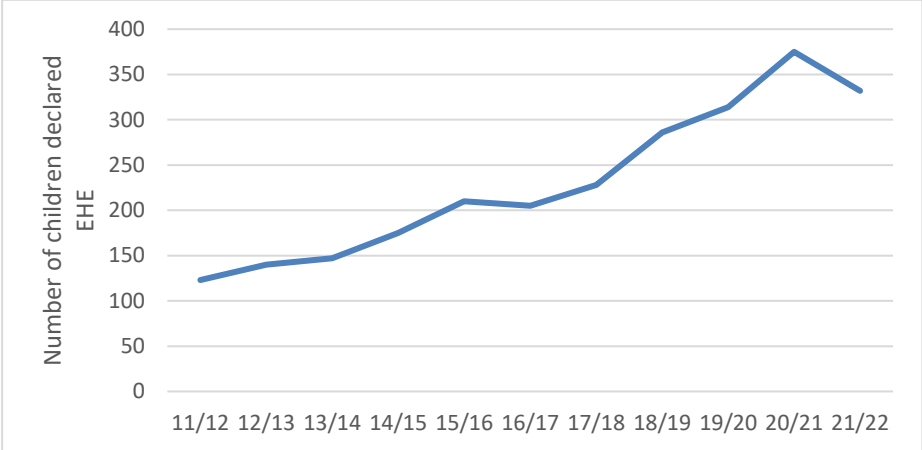
What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

- Permanent exclusions are lower in all schools in Bromley.
- Suspensions are lower in mainstream schools but higher than the national average in special schools in Bromley

d) Children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE)

Elective Home Education is a conscious decision by parents or carers to educate their children at home.

Figure 3.33: Number of EHE children in Bromley, 2011 to 2022

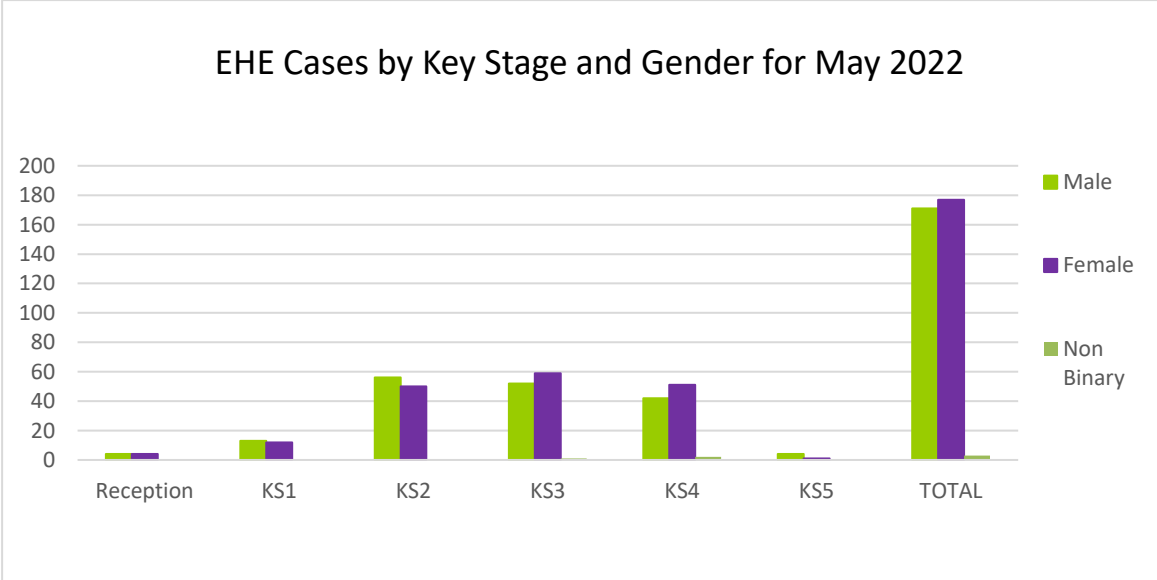


Source: ECHS data

There is an overall increase in EHE, both locally and nationally. This number is fluid with some children returning to mainstream education during the academic year.

The academic stage and gender of the EHE children in Bromley in May 2022 is shown in Figure 3.34.

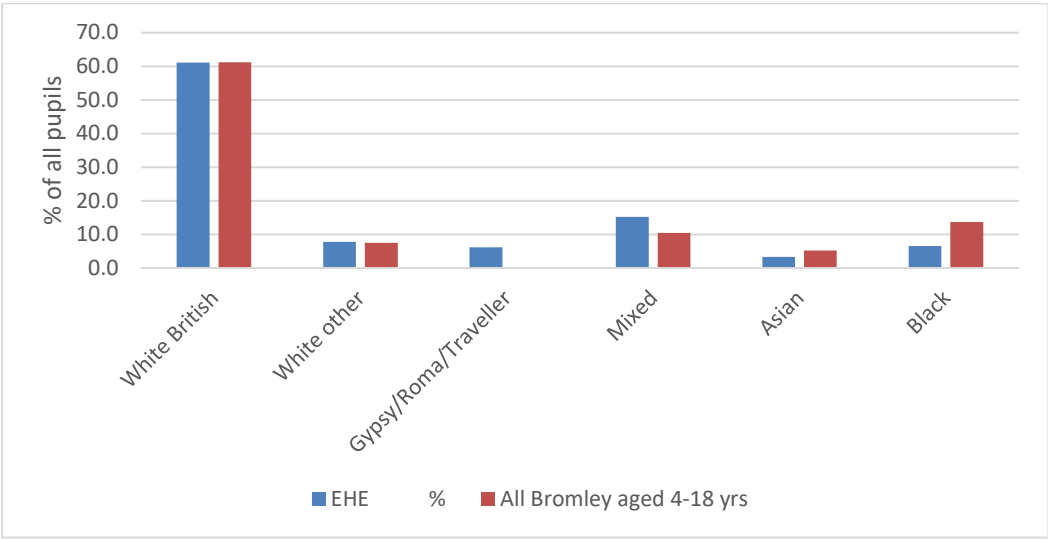
Figure 3.34:



Source: ECHS data

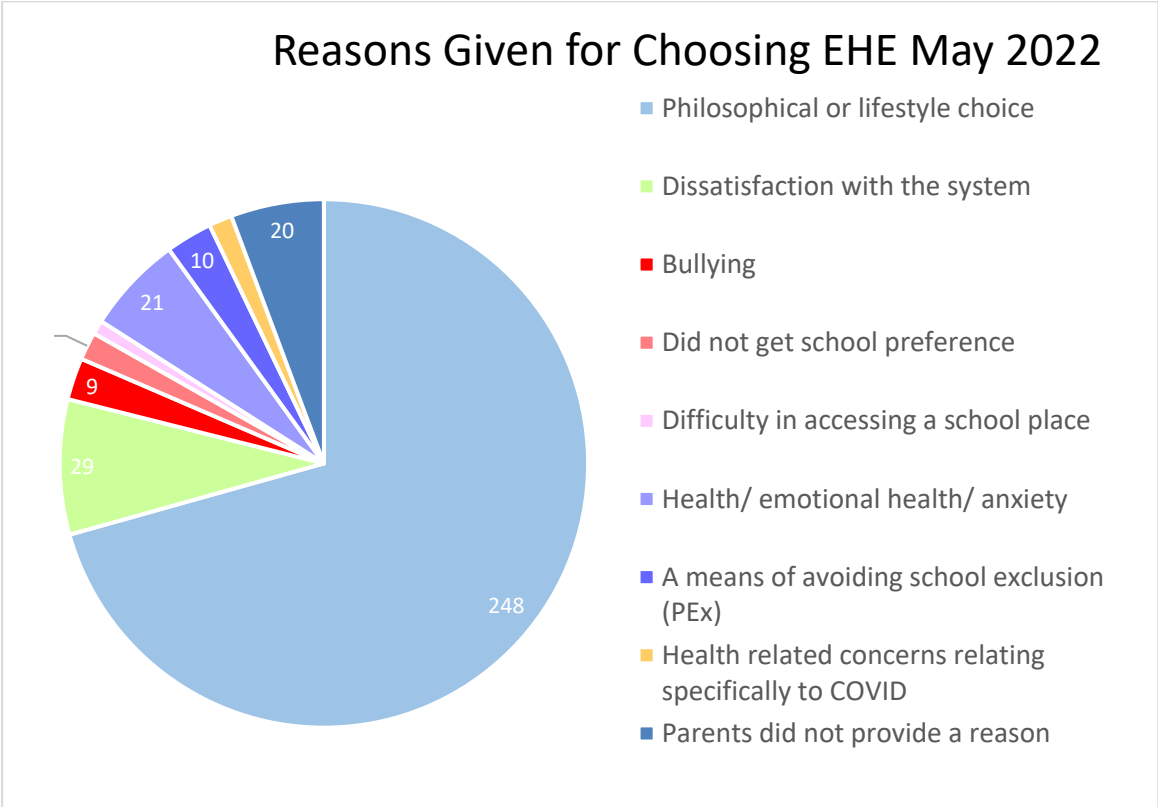
There is no clear pattern of gender difference. There are some differences in ethnicity of EHE pupils with Gypsy/Roma/Traveller children significantly over-represented in the EHE population, and to a lesser extend children of mixed ethnicity.

Figure 3.35: Ethnicity of EHE children compared to all children of school age in Bromley



The majority of children who are EHE are educated this way as a positive choice.

Figure 3.36:



Source: ECHS data

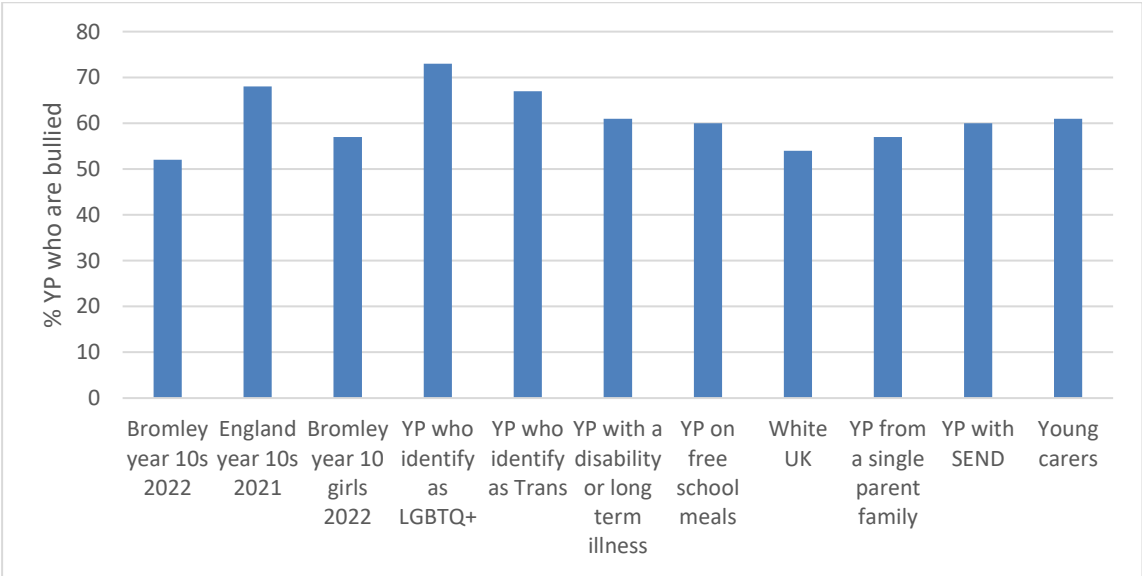
National research suggests that some parents are encouraged to remove their children from school rather than to have them excluded. In Bromley this appeared to account for 10% of EHE children in autumn 2021.

- What this means for children and young people in Bromley?**
- For the majority of children who are home educated this is a positive choice.
 - There is a significant minority of children who are EHE because of mental or physical health issues, as a means of avoiding exclusion, or because of bullying.
 - Gypsy Traveller young people are over-represented in the EHE population.

e) Children and young people who are bullied

In the month before the 2022 SHEU survey, 52% of year 10 pupils reported some form of bullying. Almost all bullying is more common for girls. Other groups experiencing higher than average rates of bullying are those from a single parent family, young people with SEND, those with a disability or long term illness, young carers, those on free school meals and those who identify as LGBTQ+ or Trans.

Figure 3.37: Proportion of year 10 pupils reporting bullying in last month



Source: SHEU survey 2022

Table 3.15: Experiences of year 10 pupils in the month before SHEU survey, 2022

Experiences	Boys	Girls
Being teased/made fun of in a way they didn't like	27%	39%
Called nasty names	20%	26%
Called "gay" as an insult or other homophobic words	20%	12%
Experienced sexual comments, jokes, gestures in a way they didn't like	-	22%
Were pushed/hit/tripped/kicked	19%	20%
Had belongings taken or broken	10%	13%
Received hurtful, unwanted or nasty online message	9%	15%
Received a hoax/prank call	10%	15%
Been threatened	10%	12%
Received hurtful, unwanted or nasty text, call or voicemail on their phone	6%	14%
Been ganged up on	5%	-

18% of bullying occurred outside school in breaktimes, and 13% of it during lesson times.

Table 3.16: Reasons for being picked on or bullied, SHEU survey 2022

Reasons	Boys	Girls
Size/weight	16%	26%
The way you look	15%	29%
Your colour, race or religion	8%	11%

What this means for children and young people in Bromley?

- Bullying is common – 52% of year 10s were bullied in the month before the SHEU survey
- Girls are bullied more than boys
- The group who experience most bullying are young people who identify as LGBTQ+ and Trans

4. Emerging social issues

This section starts with the lowest level of social care support as seen in Early Help services and CAF assessments. The next level of need is Children in Need (CiN), and the highest levels of need are seen in children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) or children who are taken into public care, Children Looked After (CLA). The needs of CPP and CLA are set out in Section 4: Children and Young People with Established Needs.

a) Early help

National evidence demonstrates a link between socio-economic status and attainment with a developmental gap, apparent as early as 22 months. This means that when children start school there is already a gap in attainment between children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and children overall. It is now widely accepted that high quality early years services and high quality teaching and learning in schools can enable all children to achieve well.

Most children grow up without needing more than the help of universal services such as health and education. However, some children at different stages of their life journey may have additional needs which require support so that they can grow up successfully in secure, healthy home environments.

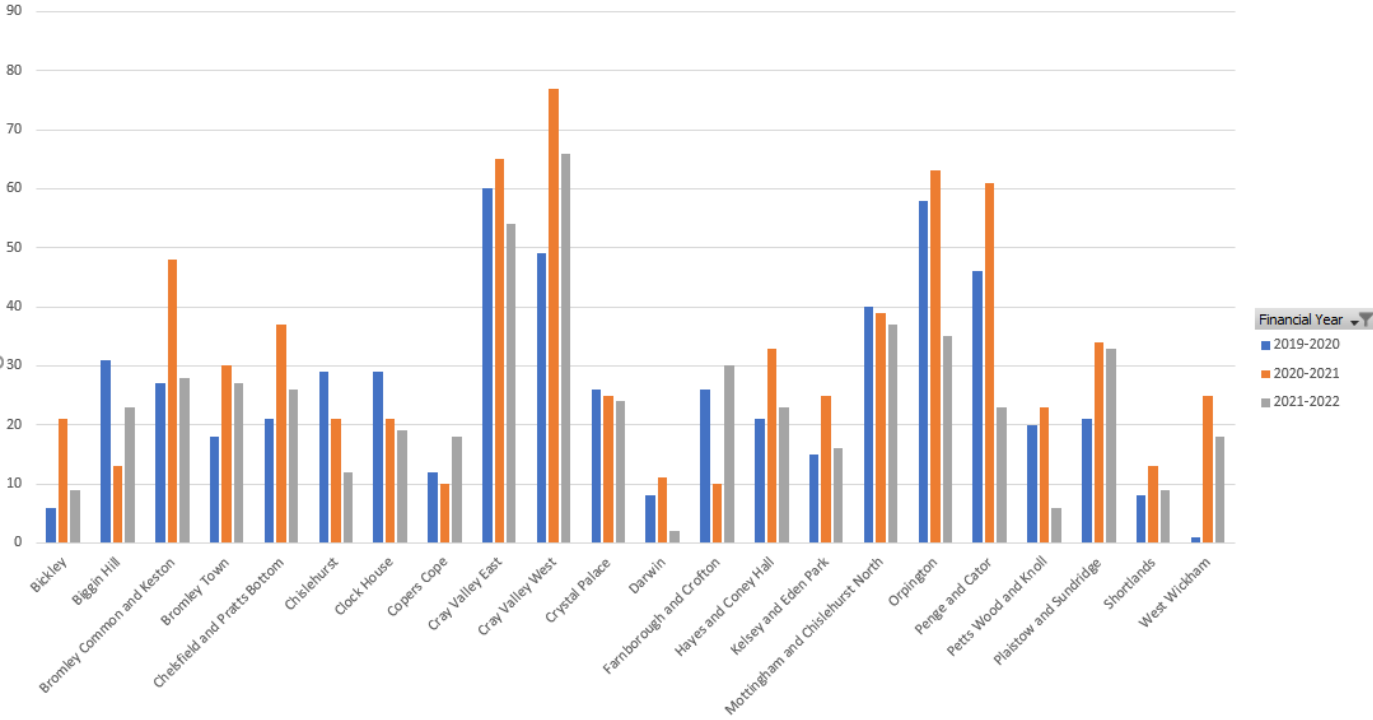
Local agencies in Bromley work together, to identify children with additional needs and provide support as soon as a problem emerges.

Some children and families with lower levels of need are supported by Bromley Children Project Early Intervention Family Support and the Children and Family Centres. The total number of children living in families where the family are receiving support from Bromley Children Project Family Support, CAF, or Children and Family Centres is set out in Figure 3.38 by ward.

Some wards have a higher number of children living in families who are receiving support, namely Cray Valley West, Cray Valley East and Orpington in 2020/21 and Cray Valley West, Cray Valley East and Mottingham and Chislehurst North in 2021/22. Support numbers were higher in 2020/21 than the previous or subsequent years.

CAF assessments open in September 2022 indicated that the most common issues identified were emotional; or mental health issues (245 children), school attendance issues (105 children) and behavioural issues (76 children).

Figure 3.38: Number of children in families receiving intensive support, by ward, 2019-22



Source: EIFS data

What this means for children in Bromley

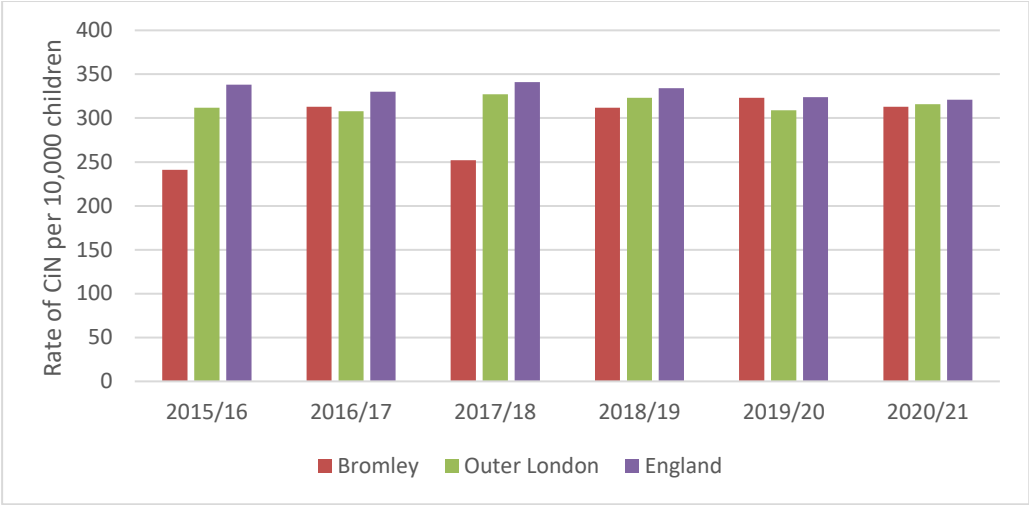
Additional support needs in children have been identified particularly in Cray Valley West, Cray Valley East, Orpington, and Penge and Cator.

b) Children in Need (CiN)

If it is judged that a particular child is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development without the provision of services, or the child is disabled, then that child is judged to be a Child in Need (CiN)¹². These children and their families may be facing complex and/or multiple needs.

¹² A child in need is defined under the Children Act 1989

Figure 3.39: Proportion of Children in Need (CiN) in Bromley and comparators, 2015-2021



Source: Department for Education

Table 3.17 compares the characteristics of CiN in Bromley with data for England.

Table 3.17: Descriptors of Children in Need in Bromley, 2020

Descriptor	Bromley %	Statistical neighbour %	England %
CiN with no SEN	41.4	48.6	51.2
CiN with SEN support needs	18.5	20.6	20.9
CiN with EHC Plan	40.1	30.9	27.9
CiN eligible for free school meals	47.4	51.5	56.8
CiN achieving expected standard at Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics	30.0	32.4	34.0
CiN achieving 9-4 pass on Key Stage 4 in English and mathematics	26.0	28.2	27.2
CiN with unauthorised absence from school (% sessions missed)	4.3	3.6	4.4
Proportion of CiN absentees who are persistent absentees	43.7	42.1	42.2
CiN who are excluded for a fixed period	7.1	9.4	9.0
CiN who are permanently excluded	*	0.8	0.5

* No data. Source: LAIT

The proportion of children on SEN support is lower in Bromley but the proportion with an EHC Plan is much higher than the national rate. Some indicators have changed markedly since the last children’s JSNA in 2018.

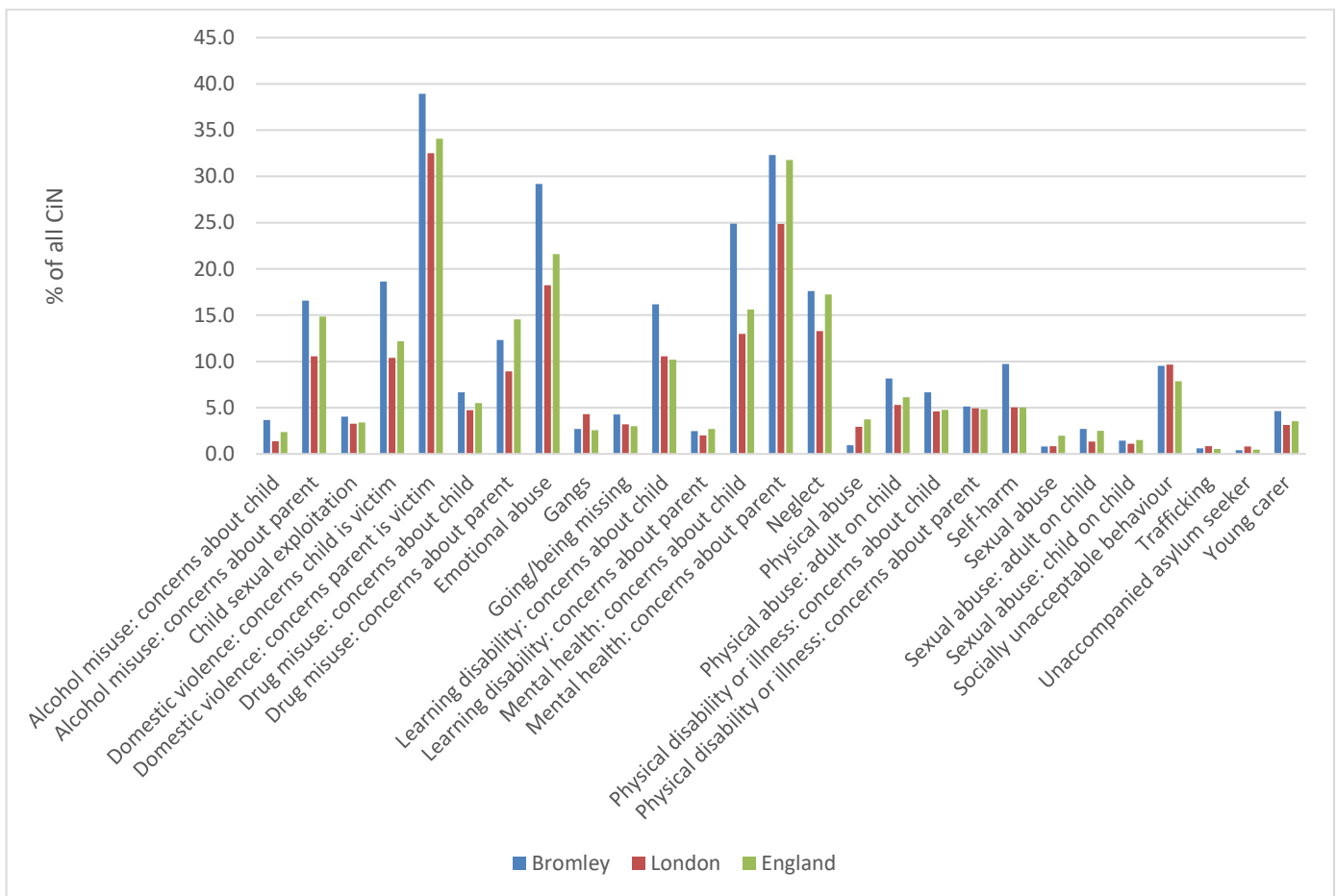
- The proportion of CiN with an EHC Plan has increased from 27.5% in 2017 to 40.1% in 2021.

- The proportion of CiN achieving a 9-4 pass at key stage 4 in English and maths has reduced from 29.5% to 26%
- The proportion of CiN who are persistent absentees has increased from 28.7% in 2017 to 43.7% in 2021.

Some of these changes may reflect the impact of the pandemic.

The following figure shows more detail of the characteristics of CiN 2018 to 2021, comparing Bromley figures with London and England.

Figure 3.40: Characteristics of Children in Need, Bromley, 2018-2021

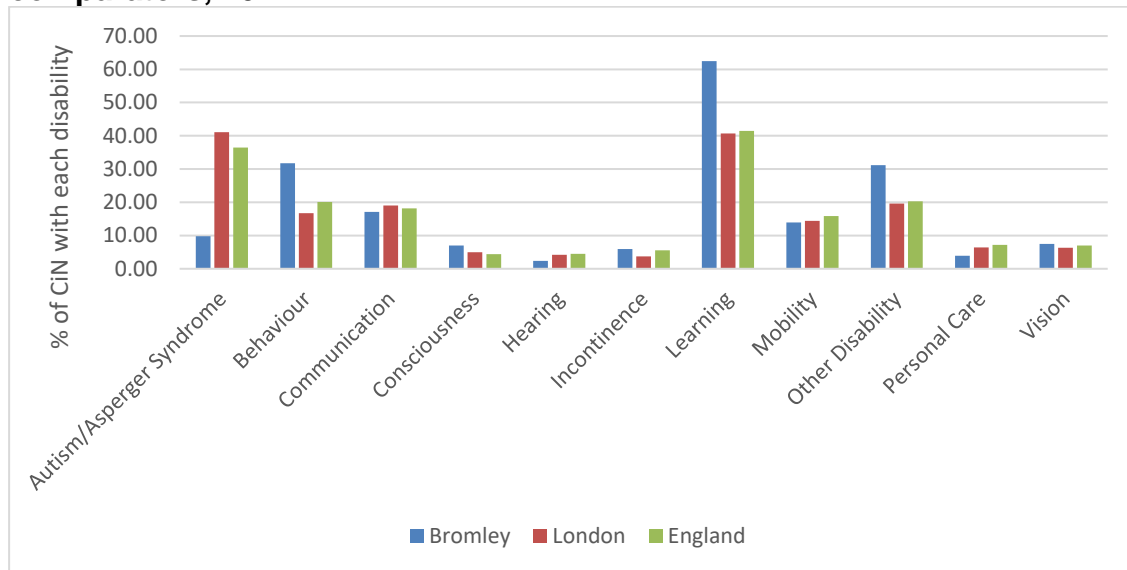


This shows that some characteristics of CiN are more common in Bromley:

- Emotional abuse
- Concerns about the mental health of the child
- Concerns that a child is a victim of domestic abuse
- CiN who self harm

Any disability of CiN in Bromley is presented in Figure 3.41. This shows higher proportion of CiN with a learning disability but lower with ASD. This may be a classification error.

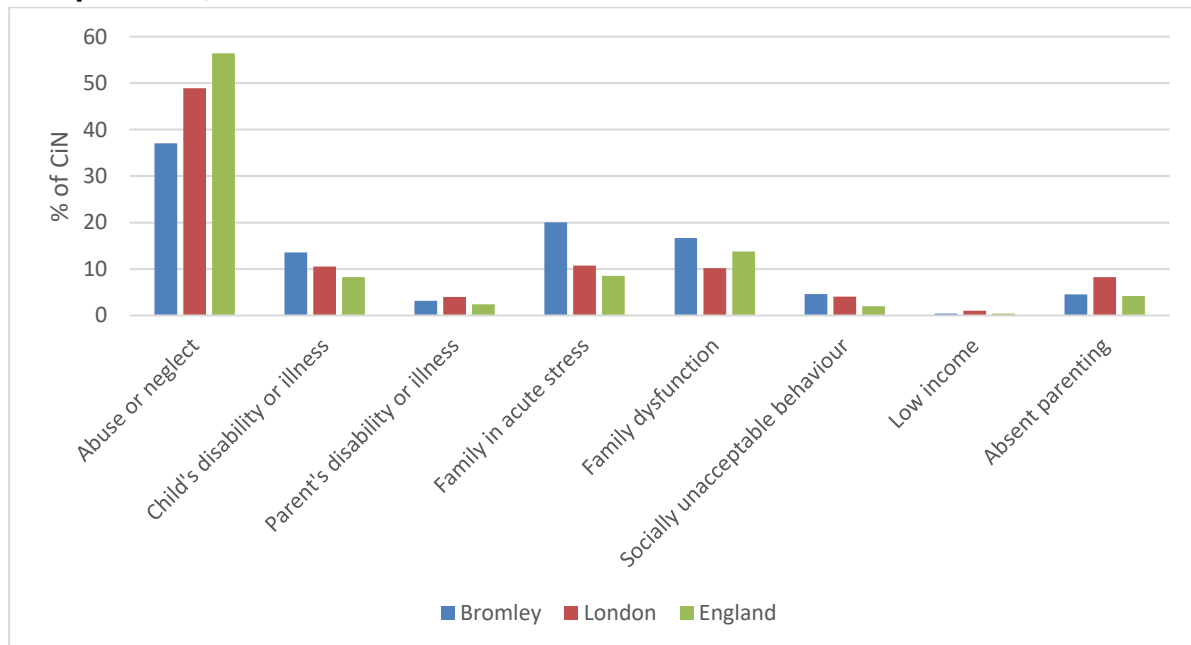
Figure 3.41: Proportion of children in need by disability, Bromley and comparators, 2021



Source: Department for Education.

Table 3.42 shows the assessment of CiN by primary need. In 2017 the proportion of CiN in “family in acute stress” in Bromley was below comparators but in 2021 the rate is higher in Bromley than comparators.

Table 3.42: Percentage of CiN in need by primary need, Bromley and comparators, 2021

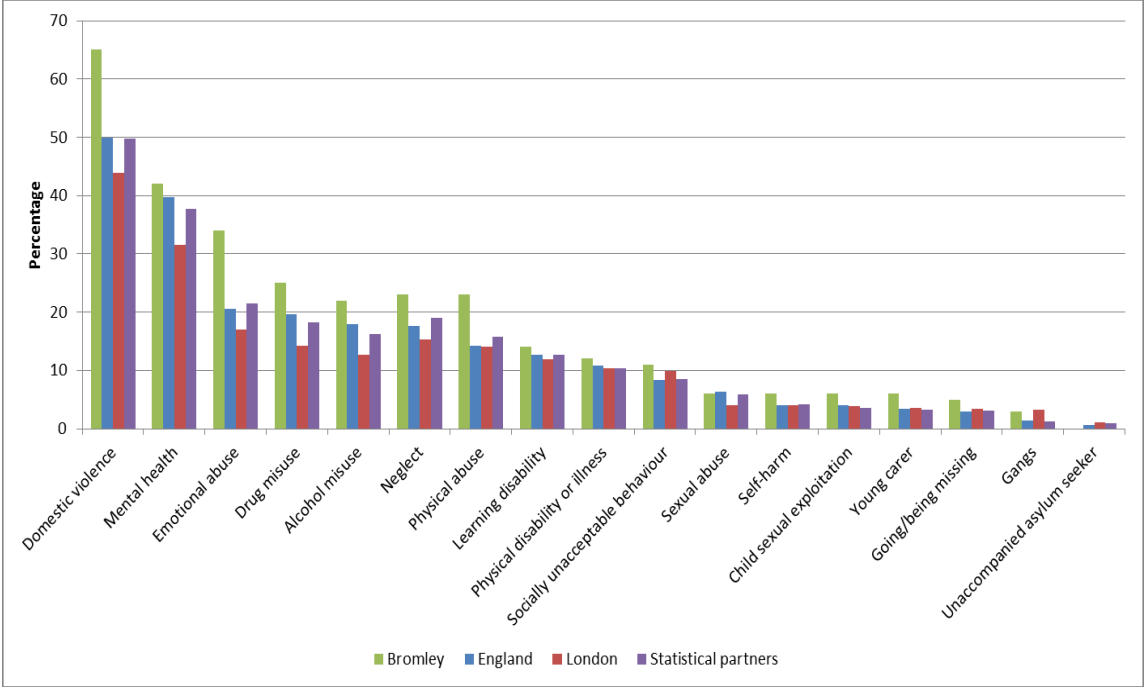


Source: Department for Education

Further analysis of factors identified at the end of assessment of CiN in Bromley identified higher rates than comparators in several factors as shown in Figure 3.43. As almost all rates are raised in Bromley in 2021 and also were in 2017 this could be a local recording issue. However the rates appear particularly high for domestic

violence, emotional abuse, physical abuse, child sexual exploitation and young carer. Many of these factors were also particularly raised in 2017. These findings support many of the other findings identified in this needs assessment.

Figure 3.43: Percentage of episodes with assessment factor information, Bromley and comparators, 2017



Source: Statistics: children in need and child protection

Children at risk of significant harm

This small group of children/young people will have needs which may meet the threshold for statutory intervention at the highest level. Children at this level may be subject to child protection enquiries, taken into the care of the local authority or need specialist mental health intervention. This is examined in more detail in Section 4: Established Needs

What this means for children in Bromley

The proportion of the population who are CiN in Bromley is no longer lower than the national proportion.

There is an increase in persistent school absence in CiN in Bromley. This is similar to increases in London and England.

The proportion of Children in Need with an EHC Plan is relatively high in Bromley.

c) Young Carers

The Children and Families Act 2014 defines a young carer as, “someone under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol”.

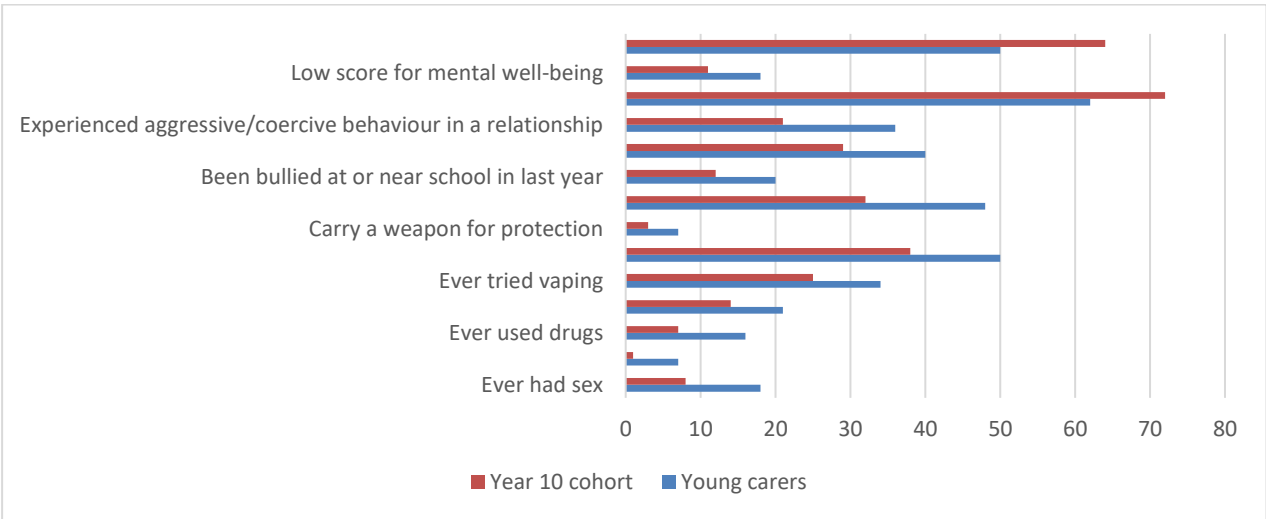
The SHEU survey of year 10 pupils in Bromley in 2022 identified 192 pupils (7% of the cohort) who had to look after family members every week. Both male and female pupils were affected equally.

Within this cohort of 192 pupils, 25 pupils reported that the amount of time they spent caring for family members affected their school work. There were more girls than boys in this cohort.

Within the cohort of 192 pupils, 60 pupils reported that the amount of time they spent caring for family members stopped them from doing the things they wanted to do.

By analysing the entire survey separately for this group of pupils the survey identified some statistically significant differences between young carers and the rest of the year 10 cohort.

Figure 3.44: Young carers compared to year 10 cohort, 2022 survey



Source: SHEU survey 2022

They participated in more risky behaviour, they or their family/friends were more likely to be threatened with a weapon and were more likely to carry a weapon for protection. They took more risks online and were more likely to have spent more than 3 hours online after school on the day before the survey.

Young carers were more likely to have been bullied and were more likely to have experienced aggressive or coercive behaviour in a relationship.

Their aspirations were affected. They were less likely to carry on in full time education after year 11 compared to the whole year 10 cohort.

Unsurprisingly, they were more likely to have a low score for mental well-being. They were also less likely to have a trusted adult they could talk to about things that worried them.

What this means for children in Bromley

Young carers are a particularly vulnerable group of young people

Almost all of their daily experiences are significantly worse than their peers

Their protective factors, such as a trusted adult they can talk to, are significantly poorer than their peers

d) Young People in contact with the Youth Justice Service

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is currently working with 54 young people. Referrals to YJS have reduced by 10% this year, including those children who commit several offences and are more persistent in their offending behaviour. The change is partially attributed to change in legislation which allows local Police to issue community resolutions for low level and first time offenders for offence types such as possession of cannabis and shoplifting. Previously a child or young person who was arrested for the possession of cannabis or shoplifting, would have been referred for a YJS intervention. Since September 2021 the police have issued an average of 17 community resolutions a month mostly for possession of cannabis and shoplifting offences. Community resolutions are often issued face to face at the time of arrest and no intervention or referral to the YJS is required.

25 of the 54 children and young people are given “out of court disposals”. These include diversion, youth caution or youth conditional caution.

29 of the 54 children and young people are being supervised for bail supervision, remanded to youth detention accommodation, or are subject to court orders.

Of the 54 children and young people:

- 8 are female (15%),
- 43 are aged 15 to 17,
- 11 are aged 11 to 14,
- 48% are Black African, Black British or Black Caribbean;
- 39% are White British, White Irish or White Other;
- 13% are described as “Other”,

The majority of main offences committed by children and young people of both genders tends to be of a violent nature with more boys being involved in drugs, robbery and other offences.

Violence against the person, and drugs make up a large proportion of all crimes for which young people received a substantive outcome in court, either a Youth Conditional caution, a community sentence or custody. Young people are more likely to be the victims of crime and not just perpetrators.

Of the 8 females, 5 are subject to out of court disposals, mainly for offences of violence and possession of cannabis. They are aged between 12 and 17 years.

Using the YJS national assessment tool, there are 7 young people currently assessed as presenting a high risk of serious harm to others, either due to offences of violence or repeated use/carrying of weapons. The majority of these young people are also known to be involved in Serious Youth Violence (SYV).

The data highlights the disproportionate number of black young people within the youth justice cohort in Bromley.

Children and young people involved in gangs

The gang profile in Bromley has changed due to the changes made to the Gangs Violence Matrix in January 2021. Bromley has 8 individuals in the community and 3 in custody. Only 1 of the 8 is a Bromley Gang. The others have been placed into the borough.

What this means for children in Bromley

- Referrals to YJS reduced by 10% this year
- The majority of referrals are young men involved in violence or drugs
- A small proportion of young women are referred for offences of violence
- There is an over-representation of black young people

e) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ+) young people

Research in 2012 showed that, 55% of LGBTQ+ pupils in secondary schools experienced homophobic bullying and over half had self-harmed. This can lead to health problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, depression, suicide and self -harm.

The SHEU survey of year 10 in 2022¹ found that 76% of pupils reported themselves to be straight or heterosexual. This was lower than in 2019 when the proportion was 87%. There was also a gender difference with 91% of boys and 70% of girls reporting themselves as straight.

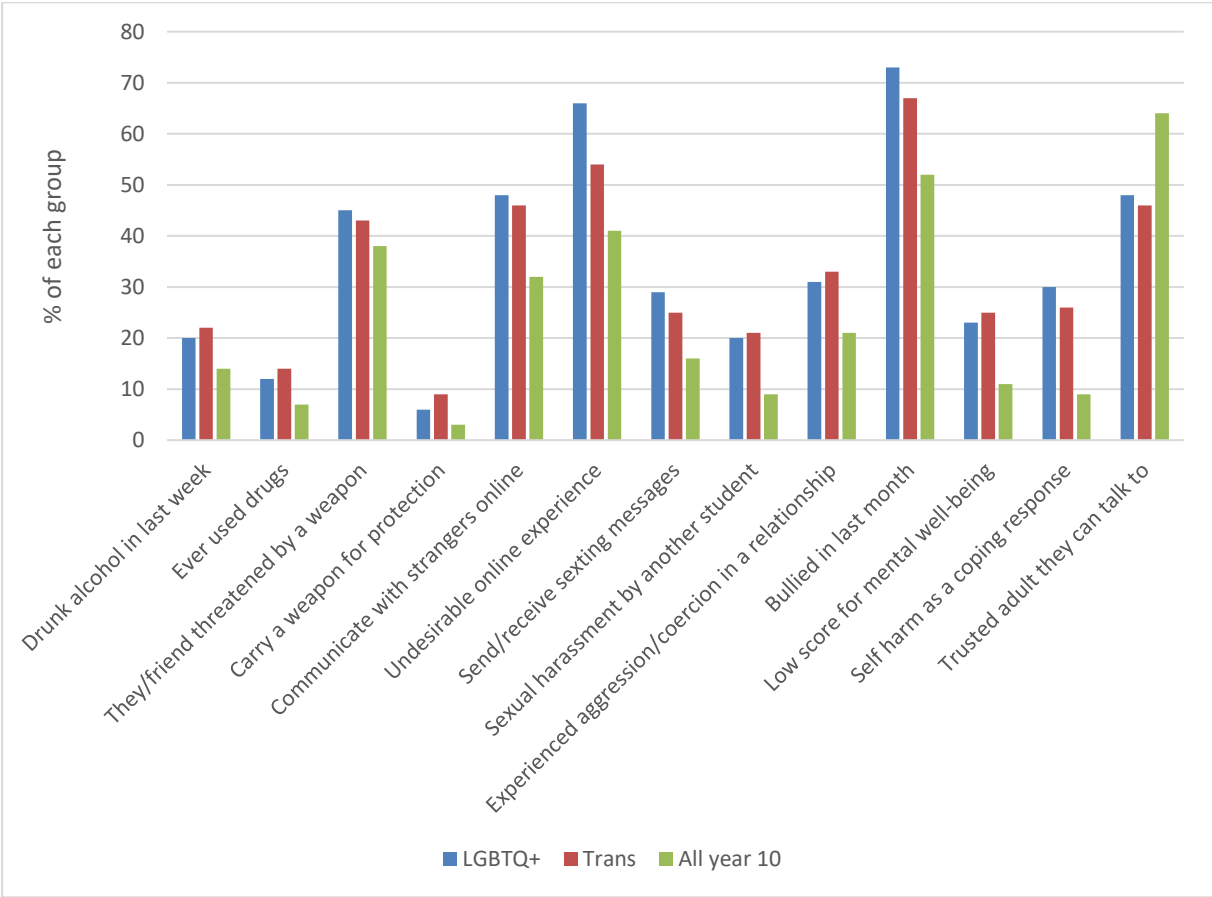
Pupils were more likely than in 2019 to describe themselves as bisexual (9% in 2022 vs 4% in 2019), gay/lesbian (4% in 2022 vs 2% in 2019) or Trans (6% in 2022).

Pupils were more likely in 2022 to worry about being different because of their sexuality “often” or “all the time” (7% in 2022 vs 5% in 2019). Girls were more likely to worry about this than boys.

14% of year 10 pupils reported that they at least “know how to use” a local LGBTQ+ youth group and 2% have used one.

By analysing the entire survey separately for this group of pupils the survey identified some statistically significant differences between young people who identify as LGBTQ+ or Trans and the rest of the year 10 cohort (Figure 3.45).

Figure 3.45: Experiences of LGBTQ+ and Trans pupils in year 10 compared to whole year, 2022



Source: 2022 SHEU survey

LGBTQ+/Trans young people participated in more risky behaviour, with a higher rate of using alcohol in the last week. National statistics show a higher proportion of LGB adults drink alcohol than heterosexual people and a higher proportion drink more than 14 units a week.

The LGBTQ+/Trans cohort in the SHEU survey were also more likely to have ever used drugs, or ever tried smoking or vaping. They or their family/friends were more

likely to be threatened with a weapon, and were more likely to carry a weapon for protection. They took more risks online, communicating with strangers online, were more likely to have had an undesirable online experience, and were more likely to have sent or received “sexting” images. .

They were more likely to have been bullied in the last month. They were also more likely to have experienced aggressive or coercive behaviour in a relationship.

Their aspirations were a protective factor. 79% of LGBTQ+ and 77% of Trans young people planned to carry on in full time education after year 11 compared to 72% in the whole cohort.

Unsurprisingly, they were more likely to have a low score on the mental well-being part of the survey and were more likely to use self harm as a coping response. They were less likely to have a trusted adult they could confide in.

What this means for children and young people Bromley?

Young people who identify as LGBTQ+ or Trans are a vulnerable group who have significantly worse experiences than their peers.

They have some protective factors such as their aspiration to stay in full-time education.

f) Children and young people who are at risk of exploitation

“Assessment of risk outside the home”, or contextual safeguarding, is a duty to consider the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people with specific reference to extra-familial harm.

In Bromley, children and young people at risk of extra familial harm includes those who go missing from home and care, those who are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, gang affiliation/association, serious youth violence, radicalisation and trafficking. A detailed list includes:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE: including county lines, gang affiliation, drug dealing)
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Modern Slavery/Child Trafficking
- Radicalisation
- Online Child Exploitation
- Peer on Peer Exploitation

- Organised begging
- Youth produced sexual imagery identified in schools.

More than one category of exploitation may be present for a young person e.g. young people may be at risk of CSE and CCE at the same time and may also be at risk of Modern Slavery/Child Trafficking.

The national and local landscape in relation to vulnerable adolescents, exploitation, extra familial harm and child protection is changing very quickly. During the pandemic, there was a significant increase in online grooming and sexual exploitation. Since then, there have been changes in county line activity and serious youth violence as well as cross border conflict between Bromley, Lewisham and Croydon young people. There may also be risks for young people who are gender fluid or trans-gender.

There appear to be changes to social norms for young people particularly in relation to how they engage with each other both in person and online. They may not see themselves at risk of harm, particularly when communicating with strangers online.

Bromley data on young people at risk of exploitation in 2021-2022

- a) Missing from home and care: In 2021/22, 162 children/young people were reported missing or had an unauthorised absence from care.
- b) Risk of Exploitation: 55 young people were considered to be at medium or high risk of exploitation. The categories of potential exploitation included:
 - 42% has at least 1 missing episode.
 - 14% were identified to be at risk of CSE. (The majority of young people identified at risk of CSE continues to be female)
 - 23% were being exploited by gangs or there were concerns around serious youth violence.
 - 17% were being criminally exploited/concerns in relation to County Lines.
 - 3% at risk of radicalisation.

12 Young people were referred to the National Referral Mechanism due to concerns in relation to Trafficking/Modern Slavery.

What does this mean for the residents of Bromley?

The local landscape has changed very rapidly both during and since the pandemic, demonstrated by a recent rise in serious youth violence and in the way young people relate to one another.

55 young people have been identified as at medium or high risk of exploitation.

g) Youth Violence

The reasons young people become victims and perpetrators of serious youth violence are many and varied. Factors such as; the influence of peer groups; the level of exposure to violence within the family; or the impact of the community have all been cited as reasons why a young person might engage in serious violence.

A dominant driver, particularly of knife crime among young people, appears to be a belief that they need to be prepared to defend themselves.

Table 3.18 shows the number of young victims of knife crime injury in Bromley and comparators during 2021/22. The number of offences in all 3 boroughs are falling. In Bromley the number of victims of knife crime aged 1-24 years has fallen from 51 in 2017 to 29 between Sept 21 and August 2022.

Table 3.18: Victims of knife crime injury aged 1-24 years in Bromley and comparators, Sept 21 to Aug 22

Offences per 1,000 population	Bromley	Sutton	Havering	London
Victims of knife crime injury aged 1-24 years	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Number of gang linked offences	1	0	0	28

Source: MOPAC

The 2022 SHEU survey of year 10s in Bromley showed that the proportion of young people who carry a weapon for protection is 3%, which is lower than the national rate in this age group of 4%. Some groups are more likely to carry a weapon, including young people who identify as Trans (9%), young carers (8%), young people who identify as LGBTQ+ (6%), young people on free school meals (6%) and young people with disabilities or long term illness (6%).

The proportion of year 10 pupils who had either themselves or a friend/family member been threatened or harmed by a weapon was 38%. Again this was higher for some groups such as young carers (50%), young people on free school meals (49%), young people who identify as LGBTQ+ (45%), young people with disabilities (45%) and young people from a single parent family (43%).

Girls were more likely to worry about weapons when going out.

Table 3.19: Worry about weapons when go out, year 10, Bromley, 2022

Worry about weapons when going out?	Boys %	Girls %
Never	33	26
Sometimes	50	55
Often	11	13
Very often	6	6

Source: SHEU survey 2022

Girls were also more likely to carry a weapon when going out “at least sometimes”.

Table 3.20: Ever carry weapon, year 10 pupils, Bromley 2022

Every carry a weapon?	Boys %	Girls %
Never	96	92
Sometimes	3	6
Often	0	1
Very often	1	1

Girls carrying weapons more than boys is the opposite of what we might expect from national research¹³ and is likely to be due to a perceived need to defend themselves. Further analysis of the SHEU survey data found that those young people who had experienced or were worried about violence, bullying or harassment were far more likely to carry a weapon at least sometimes.

Table 3.21: Situations where carry a weapon, year 10 pupils, Bromley, 2022

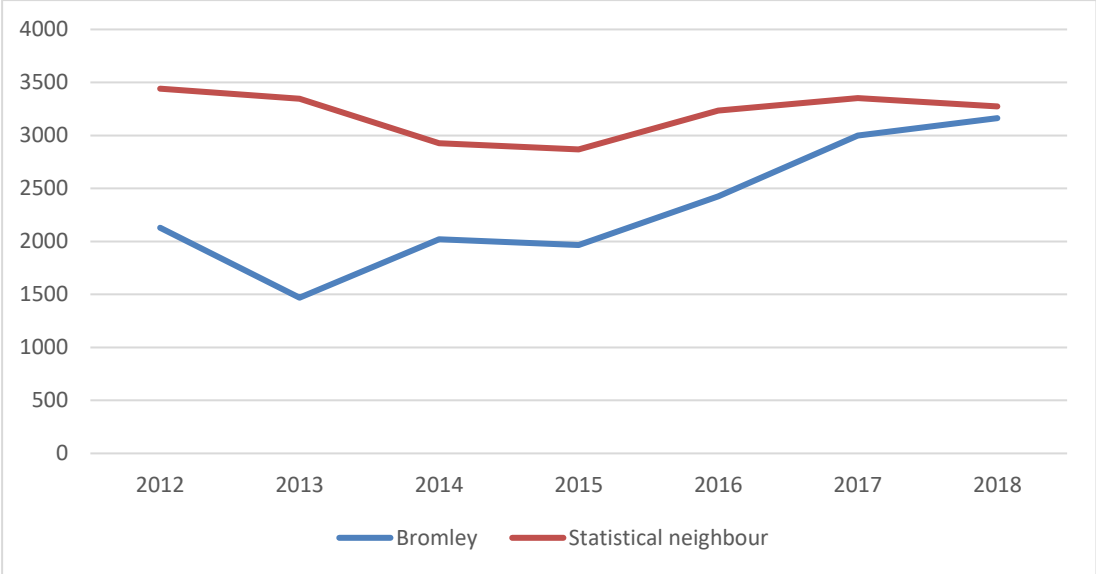
Carry weapon at least sometimes?	Boys %	Girls %
To/from school	1	3
At school	1	1
Going out at night	2	5
Going out during the day	1	3

Source: SHEU survey 2022

¹³ Villadsen, A. and Fitzsimons, E. (2021) Carrying or using a weapon at age 17: Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies.

The number of victims of serious youth violence in Bromley is slowly increasing to match its statistical neighbour but is still well below the London average of 3817 victims in 2018.

Figure 3.46. Victims of serious youth violence, Bromley and comparators, 2012-2018



Source: Mayor's office policing and crime MOPAC data

The rate of serious youth violence victims within Bromley varies. The borough average is 3.1 per 1,000 residents, but in Bromley Town it is 12 per 1,000 residents.

The SHEU survey in 2022 asked whether year 10 pupils in Bromley had been a victim of violence or aggression. 31% of boys reported they had, 5% in the last term before the survey. 29% of girls reported they had been a victim, 4% in the term before the survey. The year 10 pupils were also asked about feeling safe in different settings.

Table 3.22: Settings where year 10 pupils do not feel safe, Bromley, 2022

Young people who don't feel safe:	Boys %	Girls %
At school	12	16
Going to and from school	3	8
Being outside where they live	4	7
At home	1	2

Pupils also reported their behaviours which might have affected whether other young people felt safe

Table 3.23: Reported behaviours year 10 pupils, Bromley, 2022

	Boys		Girls	
	Ever	This term	Ever	This term
Stolen something from someone	22	3	22	3
Damaged a car	10	1	7	1
Vandalised something	10	2	310	3
Hit or kicked or thrown stones at someone	21	4	19	4
Started a fire they shouldn't have done	11	2	9	2

What does this mean for the residents of Bromley?

There is an increase in the number of victims of serious youth violence
 38% of year 10 pupils have either themselves or their family/friends been threatened by a weapon
 More than half of year 10 pupils worry about weapons when going out at least sometimes
 Girls in Bromley are more likely to carry a weapon than boys when going out

h) Women who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The daughters of women who have undergone FGM are themselves at risk of FGM. Few cases of FGM are identified in Bromley, usually by maternity services. In the year September 2021 to August 2022, 26 women with FGM were identified at the Princess Royal University Hospital in Orpington.

i) Homeless young people

Young people are one of the groups most susceptible to homelessness. Recent research by King’s College found that homeless young people are most likely to experience difficulties after being resettled into accommodation compared to other age groups but are least likely to receive support. They are also more likely than any other age group to become homeless again and to accumulate significant debt (55% of 20 to 24 year olds surveyed had debts of over £6,000 or more at 60 months of being resettled)¹⁴.

The number of young people aged 16 to 21 accepted as homeless by Bromley peaked in 2016/17 and has since fallen.

Table 3.24: Number of young people aged 16-21 accepted as homeless, Bromley, 2022

Year	Number of young people aged 16-21 accepted as homeless
2015/16	88
2016/17	125
2017/18	-
2018/19	60
2019/20	48
2020/21	57
2021/22	51

Source: Bromley housing database

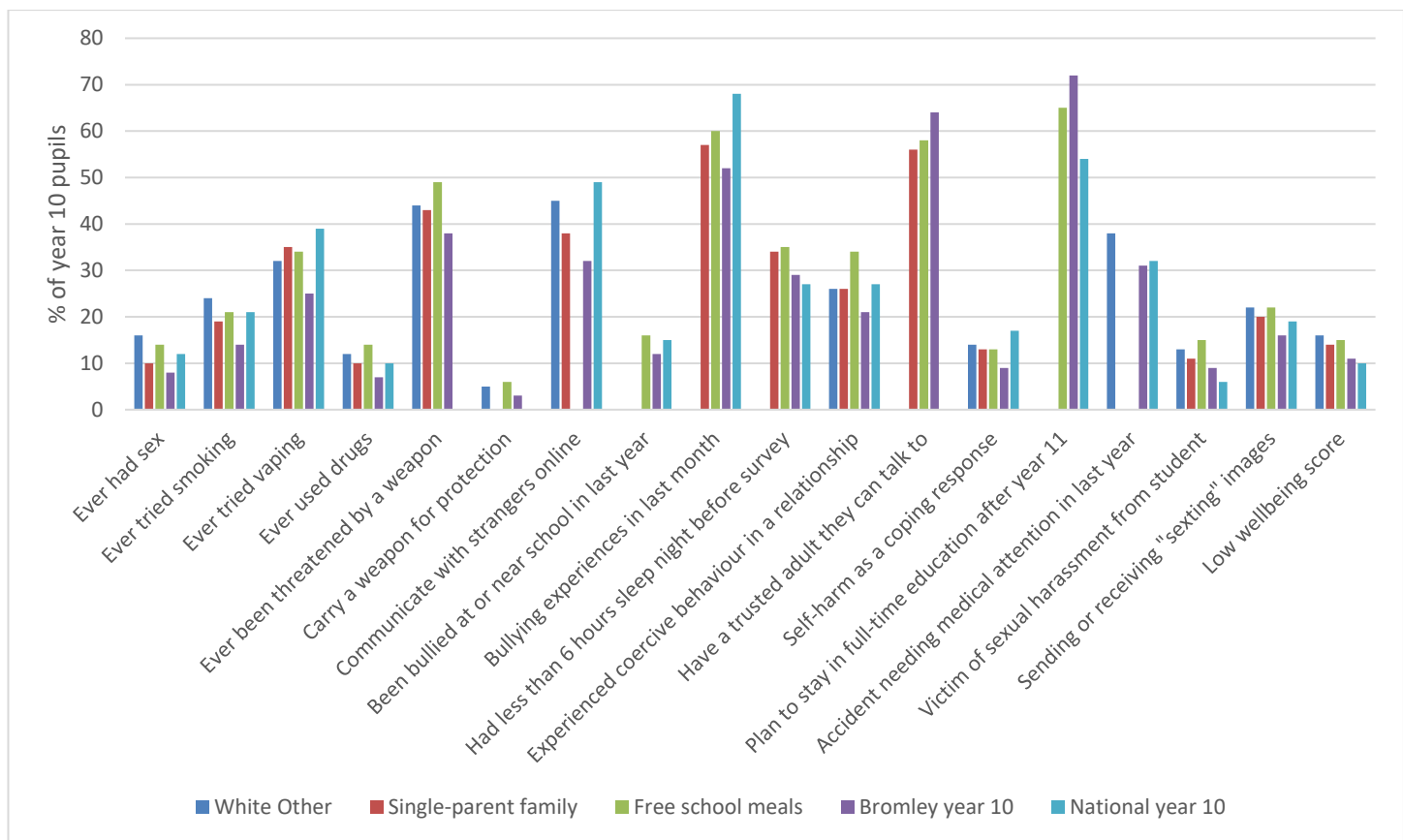
What does this mean for the residents of Bromley?
 The number of young people aged 16-21 accepted as homeless in Bromley peaked in 2016/17 and has since fallen.

¹⁴ Crane, M., Joly, L. and Manthorpe, J. (2016). *Rebuilding Lives Formerly homeless people’s experiences of independent living and their longer-term outcomes*. [online] Available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policyinstitute/publications/RebuildingLives-FULL.pdf> [Accessed 23/10/2017].

j) Other young people with vulnerabilities

The survey of year 10 pupils also identified other groups of young people with poorer risk factors and life experiences than other year 10 pupils in Bromley. This group includes young people whose ethnicity is described as White Other (this group may include young people from the Gypsy Roma Traveller community), young people living in a single-parent family, and young people eligible for free school meals. Only statistically significant differences from the whole year 10 cohort are included.

Figure 3.47: Vulnerabilities of young people who are “white Other” ethnicity, on free school meals or from a single-parent family and comparators, 2022



This data shows that, although the risk factors and experiences of these groups, particularly the “White Other” group, is poorer than the rest of their year they are not often worse than the national comparator. Exceptions include young people on free school meals experiencing aggressive or coercive behaviour in a relationship, young people who are “White Other” or on free school meals being a victim of sexual harassment from another student, and all three groups on sending or receiving sexting messages and having a low wellbeing score.

Key Findings from Section 3

Emerging health and lifestyle issues

Smoking rates in young people in Bromley are falling but use of electronic cigarettes or vaping appears to be increasing.

Year 10 pupils are reporting changes in sexual identity and gender identity compared to 2019. There is an apparent fall in the proportion of year 10s in a sexual relationship but they experience relatively high rates of sexual harassment by another pupil compared to national rates. There is a fall in chlamydia detection rates in young men in Bromley

Substance misuse is below national rate and appears to be falling but there are increasing presentations to substance misuse services. The main substances used are cannabis and alcohol. Service users are more likely than national average to have mental health issues. Hospital admissions due to alcohol are higher than the national average for young men in Bromley.

Obesity rates in children in Bromley are remaining static despite national rates increasing. Rates are highest in the Cray Valley in Year R (age 4-5) and in Crystal Palace in year 6 (age 10-11).

Online safety of year 10 pupils in Bromley appears better than the national average but is still concerning. Young people are communicating with strangers online and either sending or receiving "sexting" images. Only 1% of girls and no boys told a responsible adult about sexting

Accident rates have fallen in Bromley since 2019. Sports injuries (especially for boys) are the most common accidents. Road traffic accidents are generally lower than the London or national average apart from accidents involving car occupants.

Emerging mental health issues

Some concerning findings include lowered optimism about the future compared to 2019, lower well-being (especially girls) and a significant minority of young people who felt less safe at home due to family tensions during the pandemic.

Positive findings include that rates of self harm in year 10 pupils are much lower than the national rate.

A particular issue is the lack of an adult they trust who they can talk to if they are worried about something.

Emerging education issues

The proportion of all pupils with social, emotional or mental health issues in Bromley is significantly higher than the national average and rising.

Speech, language and communication needs of Bromley children are higher at SEN level (4.3%) than the national average (3.6%). Needs are higher at primary school level

Rates of NEET in Bromley are much lower than statistical neighbours and the national rate. Rates of NEET for pupils with SEND are better than the national average.

Absence from school is a growing problem which particularly affects children with SEND. Persistent absence rates from special schools in Bromley are above the London and national average. Permanent exclusions are lower in all schools in Bromley. Suspensions are lower in mainstream schools but higher than the national average in special schools in Bromley

For the majority of children who are home educated this is a positive choice. There is a significant minority of children who are EHE because of mental or physical health issues, as a means of avoiding exclusion, or because of bullying. Gypsy Traveller young people are over-represented in the EHE population.

Bullying is common – 52% of year 10s were bullied in the month before the SHEU survey. Girls are bullied more than boys. The group who experience most bullying are young people who identify as LGBTQ+

Emerging social issues

Additional support needs in children have been identified particularly in Cray Valley West, Cray Valley East, Orpington, and Penge and Cator.

The proportion of the population who are CiN in Bromley is no longer lower than the national proportion. There is an increase in persistent school absence in CiN in Bromley. This is similar to increases in London and England.

The proportion of Children in Need with an EHC Plan is relatively high in Bromley.

Young carers are a particularly vulnerable group of young people. Almost all of their daily experiences are significantly worse than their peers. Their protective factors, such as a trusted adult they can talk to, are significantly poorer than their peers

Young people who identify as LGBTQ+ or Trans are also a vulnerable group who have significantly worse experiences than their peers. They have some protective factors such as their aspiration to stay in full-time education.

The local landscape has changed very rapidly both during and since the pandemic, demonstrated by a recent rise in serious youth violence and in the way young people relate to one another.

55 young people have been identified as at medium or high risk of exploitation.

Referrals to the Youth Justice System (YJS) reduced by 10% this year. The majority of referrals are young men involved in violence or drugs. A small proportion of young women are referred for offences of violence. There is an over-representation of black young people in the YJS.

There is an increase in the number of victims of serious youth violence. 38% of year 10 pupils have either themselves or their family/friends been threatened by a weapon. More than half of year 10 pupils worry about weapons when going out at least sometimes. Girls in Bromley are more likely to carry a weapon than boys when going out.

The number of young people aged 16-21 accepted as homeless in Bromley peaked in 2016/17 and has since fallen.

Glossary and abbreviations

ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire (development assessment 2 year olds)
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
CAF	Common Assessment Framework (multi-agency assessm't of concerns)
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CiN	Children in Need
CLA	Child Looked After
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYP	Children and Young People
ECHS	Education, Care and Health Services
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EHE	Electively Home Educated
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GP	General Practitioner
KS2/KS4	Key Stage 2 (school years 3-6), Key Stage 4 (school years 10 & 11)
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning and others
MOPAC	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
NCMP	National Child Measurement Programme (height & weight year R & 6)
NCSP	National Chlamydia Screening Programme
NDTMS	National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
OHID	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (formerly part of PHE)
RTA	Road Traffic Accident
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health (difficulties)
SEN	Special Education Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHEU	School Health Education Unit
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
Trans	Transgender (gender identity is not the same as sex assigned at birth)