

Manchester City Council

Analysis of Education, Health and Social Care plans

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

The main focus of my data fellowship at Manchester City Council was an investigation into the changes in data on Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) within the city.

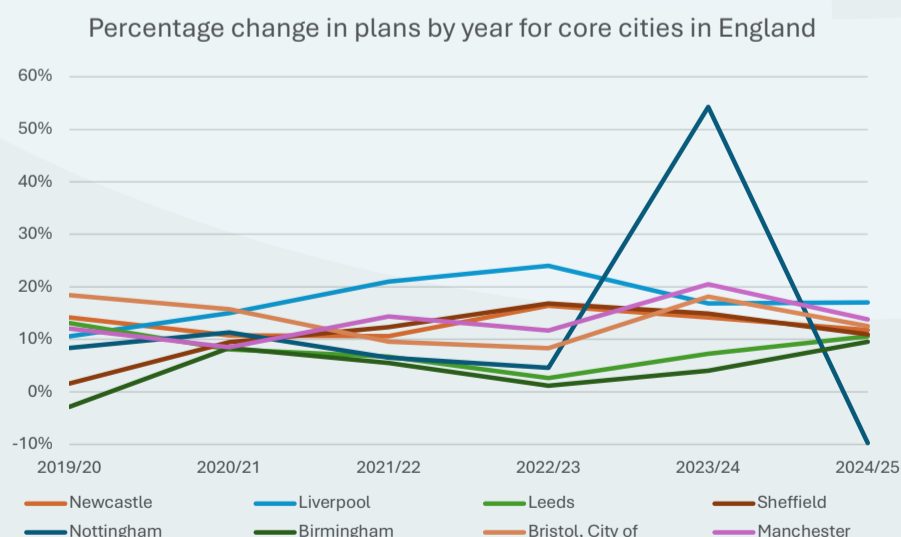
We were looking for trends in the data for example; who is getting them, where in the city are these plans going to most, how old are children when gaining plans, and when are they ceasing as well as the reason for plans ending etc. Also looking to discover what might be causing these changes by using comparable cities, countries and local authorities, to see if there are similar changes.

Data analysis

We first conducted a literature review, assessing qualitative data already published, to attempt to discover what information is out there already about predicted changes to children's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and reasons for these changes.

For qualitative analysis we predominantly used Microsoft Excel and SPSS. Collating data, cleansing it to contain only what we need using pivot tables and then creating graphs, such as radars, scatters, funnels etc, in order to visualise patterns and trends which we could then link to theories and findings from our literature review.

In order to make comparisons to Manchester's trends the other core cities in England were used, seen in the graph below.



Department of Education, UK

Additionally we were given a brief introduction to ArcMap GIS which allowed us to visualise what types of EHCPs were most prevalent across the 32 wards in Manchester.

Findings

One of the areas that we particularly focused on was deprivation in relation to the number of plans. Using the IDACI deciles to divide Manchester up on an LSOA level, finding that the most deprived deciles receive the most plans, however it is not a linear decline as LSOAs become more affluent, as the 10th decile had more plans than the 9th and 8th. Highlighting the system to apply for plans may be able to be influenced by those who are more wealthy. Notably Manchester had a much higher number of children in the most deprived decile compared to other local authorities.

Manchester saw a drastic increase in Speech Language and Communication Needs plans being requested and put in place. There was also a fall in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across all wards in Manchester. We looked into a potential correlation between these, as diagnosis time for ASD is very high in Manchester at the moment. Making sure to take into consideration that these all have a level of intersectionality that affects what causes trends in plans so did attempt to view them all together holistically.

Interestingly, post covid there has been a change in educational outcomes between girls and boys, from the 'Ages and Stages' to GCSE, looking into SEND support provided discrepancies were identified. This peaked my interest and I am planning on looking into this for my dissertation!

As all of the data I was working with is confidential, specific data sets are not presented on this poster.

Key skills learnt

Data analysis and visualisation- I became proficient at excel and all the skills i needed in order to present data in an easily comprehensible way. Also notably the short workshop on ArcMap GIS was very informative.

Teamwork- the projects i worked on were being carried out in a larger team so i became one of the moving parts developing communications and adaptability skills too, through meetings, group tasks and problem solving.

Data sensitivity and protection- having used individual pupil level data I learnt the importance of extracting only the necessary data and anonymising it when able to do so to keep confidentiality.

Additionally gained an in-depth knowledge of how Manchester City Council operates, getting the opportunity to meet with people from different sectors and learn about different roles across teams, and attending a full council meeting.

