

# Investigating changes in EHCPs- My time with Manchester City Council

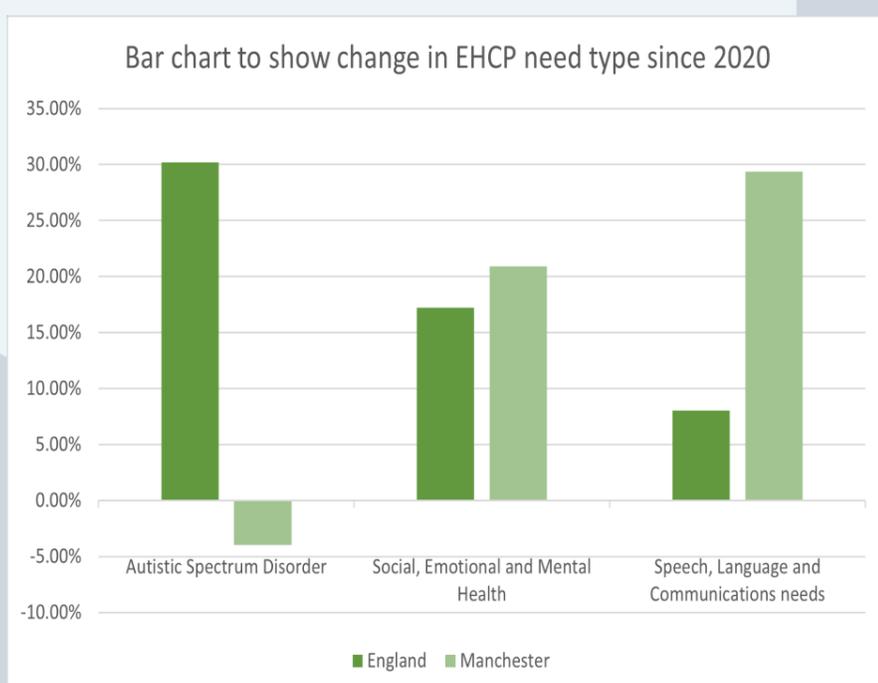
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## Overview of the Data Fellowship

After a rapid increase in the amount of Education Health and Care Plans in Manchester and stark change in the distribution of need types, Manchester City Council's Performance Research Intelligence department invited me and a peer to complete a deep dive into the reasons for these changes. Over an 8-week fellowship we produced a literature review of existing research to understand the wider context of EHCP needs and how these are changing. Undertook quantitative analysis using Council data to evidence key lines of enquiry that have come out of the modelling work and gave a final presentation of findings to colleagues and service managers.

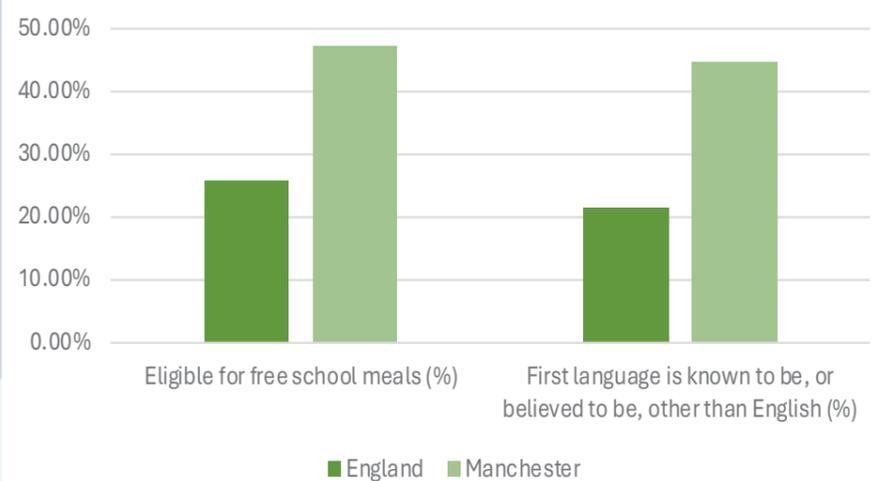
## Data Analysis

Using excel, we investigated several lines of enquiry. We used our knowledge of descriptive analysis to compare the changes in EHCPs in Manchester against Manchester's statistically similar neighbours, the UK's core cities and even against other countries in order to evaluate Manchester's EHCP experience. This analysis involved finding testable data on the topic before undertaking chi-square tests to measure the significances of the difference between Manchester's changing patterns and that of other cities and countries. Alongside this project, there was a minor side project in which we investigated the effectiveness of a new scheme on helping people improve their



workplace skills with the goal of getting back to work. This involved a paired samples t-test, where a respondent's initial and exit scores of different work-related skills were tested to investigate if they had improved with the scheme.

Percentage of students with an EHCP who are FSM eligible or First language isn't English



## Findings

Whilst much of the data used in this project is confidential, there were some key findings:

- Manchester's amount of EHCP's had grown faster than the rest of the UK
- Manchester's patterns of increased EHCP's were more extreme to that of both the core cities in the UK and Manchester's statistical neighbours. Most notably in large decreases year on year in the amount of ASD EHCPs issued and major increases in the amount of Speech Language and Communication Needs plans issued each year.
- Manchester was much more likely to have students on EHCPs that were from marginalised backgrounds, whether that be from lower income backgrounds (FSM eligible) or not having English as a first language.

## Key Skills Learnt

Over my 8 weeks at the council, I felt many of my workplace applicable skills improve, learning important communication skills between myself, colleagues, managers and stakeholders in my project. Alongside this my ability to work to strict deadlines and my time-management skills were moulded into shape.

Most notable however, I saw a measurable improvement in my confidence, not just in professional setting, where I felt I contributed to a positive, healthy and enthusiastic workplace culture. But also outside of the council, such as my improved approach to organisation and writing skills within my studies since returning to university.