

Home to School Transport (H2ST) Position March 2024

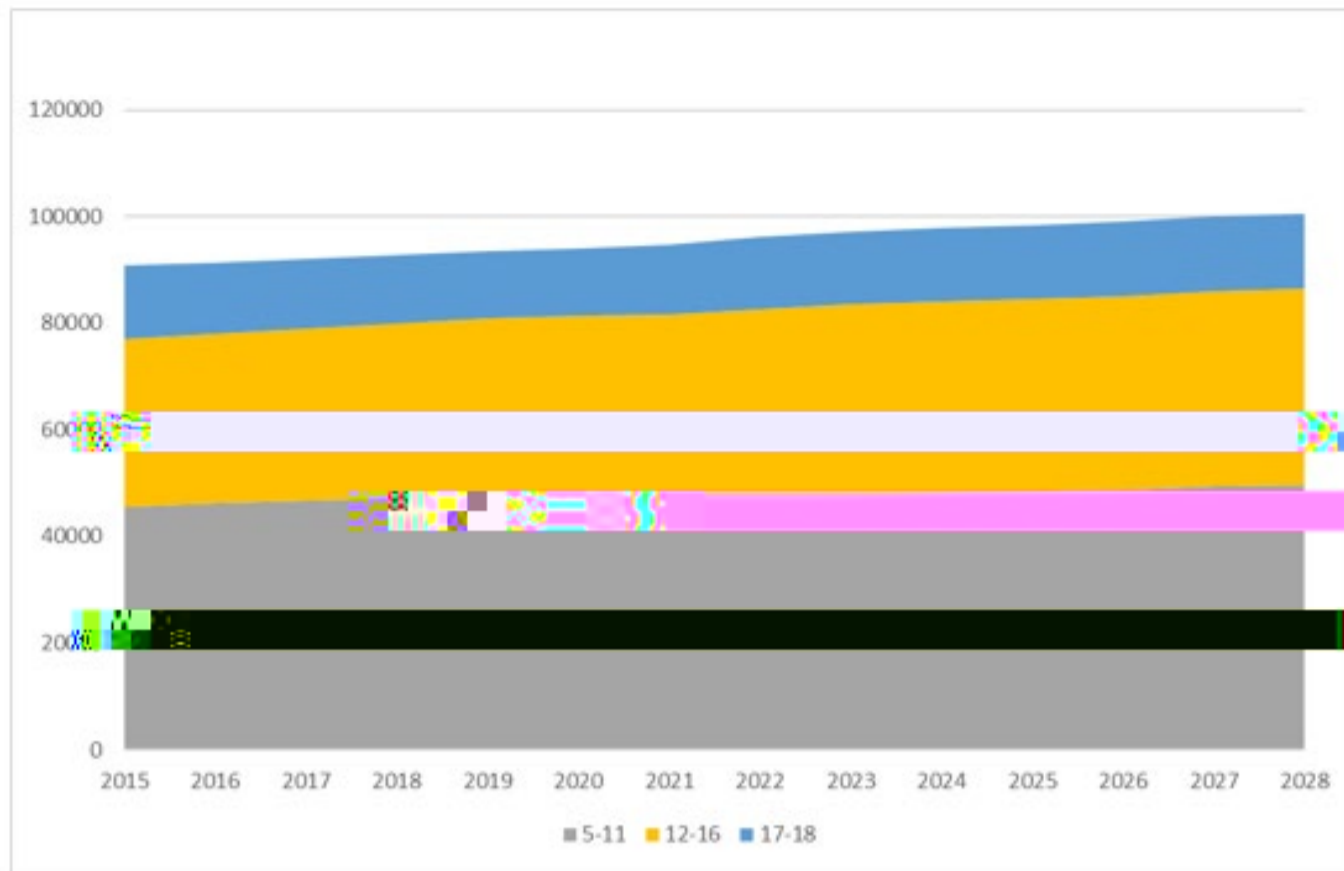
1. Introduction

Worcestershire County Council has seen a significant increase in demand (Mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and provision (fuel, mileage, places, labour, type of transport) etc). Within the current year, 2023/24, the costs are forecast to exceed the budget by circa £8m and further growth is envisaged for 2024/25 and beyond. This paper sets out the current

- Rapidly rising number of children and young people with EHCPs and SENDF

3. National Position

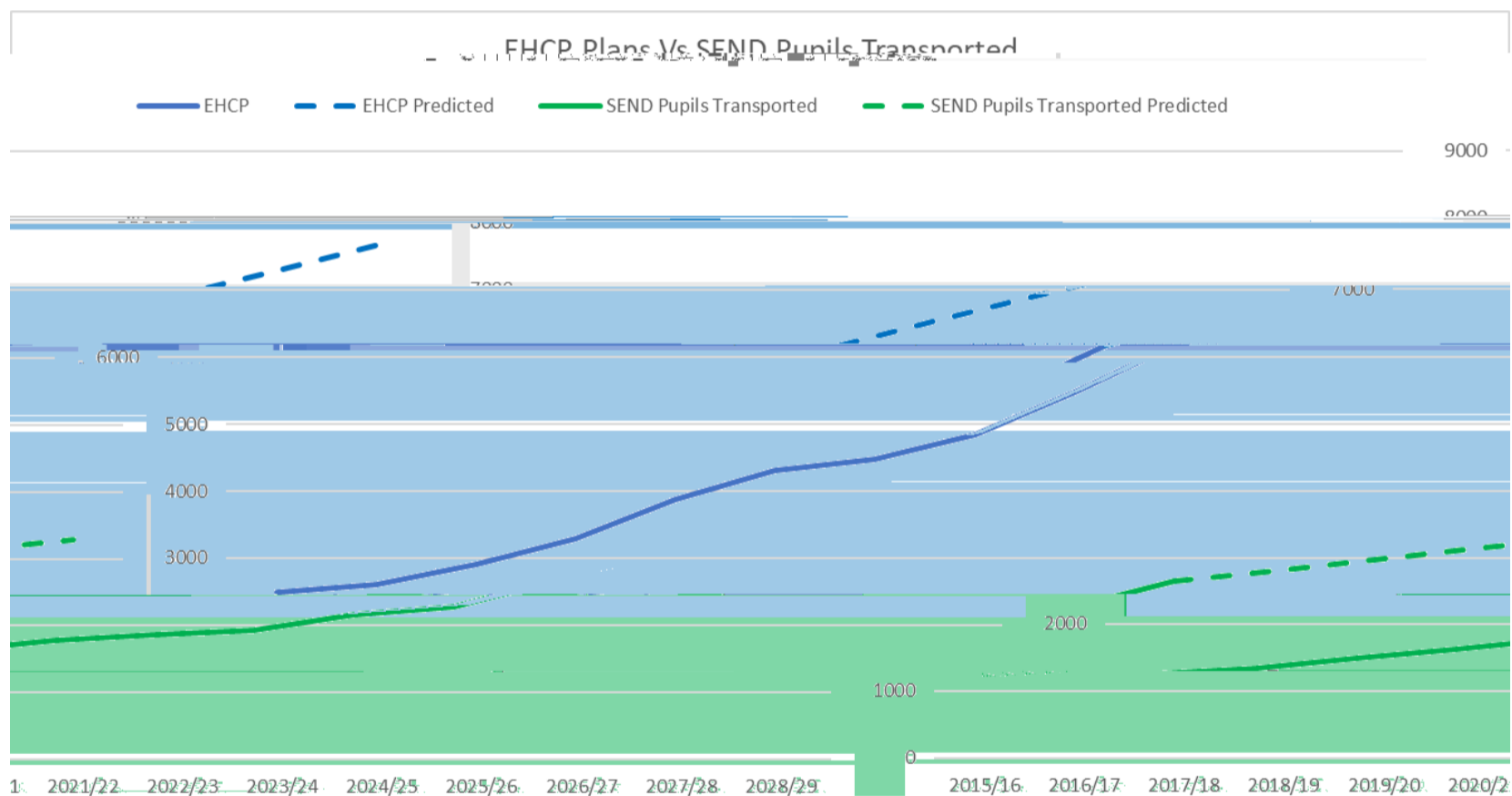
Fig. 3: Population 5-18 years



EHCP

Figure 4 below shows the numbers of pupils with EHCPs and the number of pupils with EHCPs that are transported.

Fig 4. EHCPs



There is a correlation between the growth in EHCP and Transported Pupils. Approximately 43% of the Pupils with EHCP require transport.

4.2. Cost

The cost of transport is not a linear function of demand. Inevitably with greater volume of pupils comes greater cost, however there are other factors:

- Availability of and location of school places;
- Parental preference;
- Increasing numbers of pupils with EHCP attending Independent Schools; There has been an 835% increase in contracts between 2018 (17 contracts) and 2023 (139 contracts);
- Increasing numbers of pupils with EHCP attending Out of County settings. There has been an 80% increase in contracts between 2018 (74 contracts) and 2023 (133 contracts) ;
- Increased journey lengths due to increased use of Independent and Out of County settings.

Table 1: Key Areas of Eligibility

5. Budget

The H2ST Net Budget and Outturn details for previous and current years is shown in Table 4 below.