

# Poverty amongst CYP with SEND and Young Carers

## Presenters:

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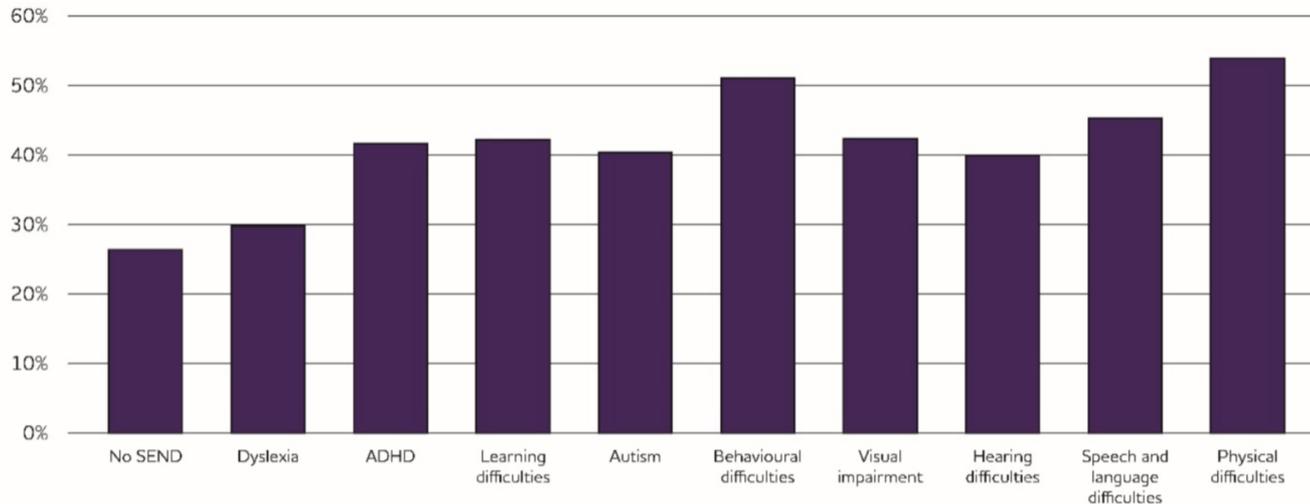
ITEM 7

**MK**  
milton keynes council

# SEND and Poverty

# SEND and Poverty (National data and issues)

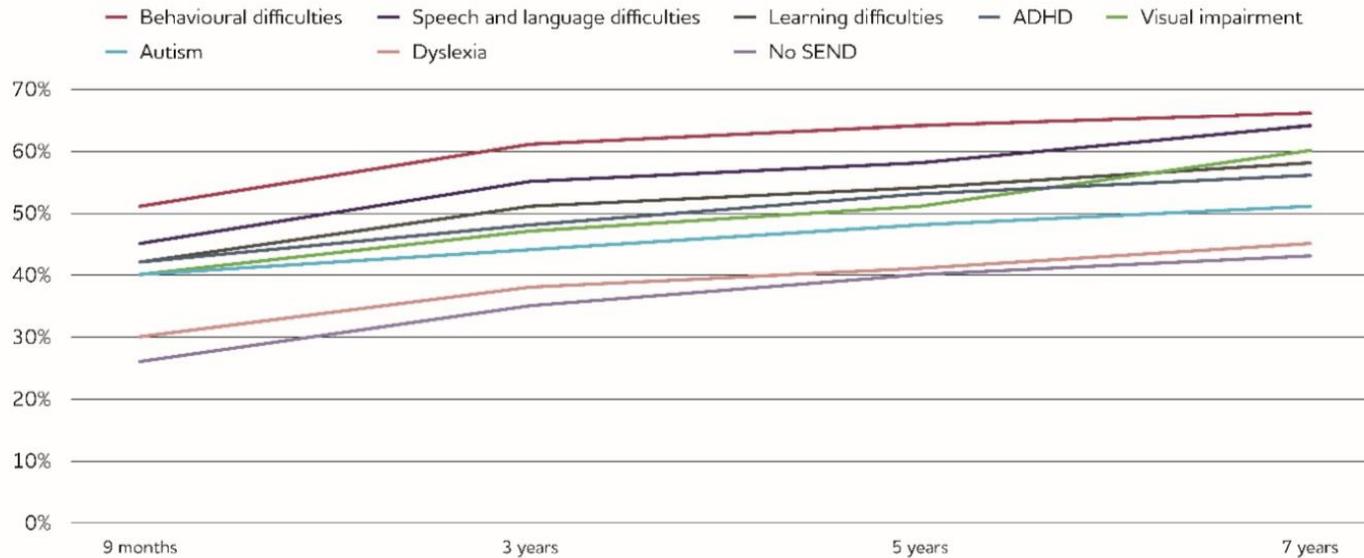
**Figure 2: Percentage of children living in income poverty at 9 months by SEND status**



Note: Income poverty is usually defined as less than 60% of median income.

Source: Parsons and Platt (2013)

**Figure 3: Percentage of children experiencing income poverty over time by SEND status**



Note: Income poverty is usually defined as less than 60% of median income.

Source: Parsons and Platt (2013)

Parents needing more time away from work to provide care

Poorer educational outcomes including academic achievement, wellbeing and exclusion rates

High costs of support services for CYP with SEND

Lower chances of finding well-paid work in adulthood

Intergenerational SEND – high prevalence of CYP with SEND living with parents who have SEND

# SEND and Poverty in MK

Examples of factors that can lead a family with a CYP who has SEND to poverty:

Sudden changes in  
circumstance

CYP's needs  
escalating

Having to shield  
during COVID-19  
due to CYP's  
vulnerabilities

# SEND and Poverty in MK

<b>Total number of pupils in MK in Spring 2021 census</b>	<b>48795</b>
Total SEN Pupils	6904 (14%)
Total Pupils with EHCP	1695
Total Pupils with SEN support	5209

# SEND and Poverty in MK

## Disability Living Allowance (DLA):

- Data from Nomis (office for National Statistics) shows that in November 2018 a total of 2,270 CYP under the age of 24 were receiving DLA in MK
- The data 5 years prior in November 2013 showed a total of 2,300

## Free School Meals in Special Schools:

- White Spire School 59 children of 146 (40.4%)
- Slated Row School 66 children of 218 (30.3%)
- Walnuts School 57 children of 178 (32%)
- The Redway School 52 children of 184 (28%)
- Total children 182 of 542 (33.6%)

## Free School Meals School Census Data:

- Of 48795 CYP, 9037 have free school meals (19%)
- Of 6904 SEN pupils, 2257 have free school meals (33%)
- Of 9037 pupils having free school meals, 2257 have SEN (25%)

# SEND and Poverty in MK

Date	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Contacts	387	447	503
Referrals	229	202	243

Contacts numbers are likely to be higher as we do not necessarily put on the contact we have with families who are not likely to meet the criteria of the team

# SEND and Poverty in MK

Children with Disability Team experience's over the past year:

- Job losses have caused extra pressure for some families
- Ordinary expenses such as garden equipment, toys, entertainment (such as days out) have been not been more difficult for some families to afford
- Possible that any new job is at a distance which puts more pressure on stay at home parent and increases care hours
- Parents needing emotional support due to ever changing situation and not getting short breaks due to family and agencies not being able to visit, particularly during the first lockdown
- Calls made to families taking more time to work through the wider range of support needed by families

# SEND and Poverty in MK

Children with Disability Team response to support families:

- Opened the duty desk all day
- Working with families to provide the right support
- Worked alongside PACA to provide toys for the garden- which was supplied through Walnuts School
- Increased care packages for families where appropriate recognising that the informal care provided by extended family members such as grandparents, aunt and uncles has been more limited through the pandemic
- Supported wider SEND Teams to deliver sensory packs to families
- Provided food vouchers to families during the school holidays
- Put families in touch with community/Parish based support such as 'helping hands'

# Young Carers and Poverty

# Young Carers and Poverty

(National data and issues)

- 800,000 young carers (aged 5-17) care for an adult of family member in the UK (The Children's Society)
- Young carers are more likely to experience poverty compared to their peers.
- Younger carers are more likely to experience poverty than older, working-aged carers (Carers Trust)
- 4 in 10 younger female carers live in poverty, compared to 1 in 4 younger male carers (Carers Trust)
- Two thirds of unpaid carers provide 50+ hours of care per week
- 54% of carers have given up, or reduced their paid working hours due to their caring responsibilities
- 56% of carers stated the need for more support so that caring does not impact them financially

## Pandemic context:

- In May and June alone Carers Trust provided small grants totalling £11,900 to 109 carers just so they could buy even the most basic food items for themselves and those they care for
- In a survey done by Carers Trust 50% of young carers said they were spending more money due to coronavirus
- 67% of young carers and 78% of young adult carers are more worried about their future since the start of the pandemic

87% of young carers  
are not properly  
supported into  
adulthood

*(The Children's Society)*

Young carers are at  
a higher risk of poor  
general health than  
other children

*(2011 Census)*

27% of young carers  
aged 11-15 miss  
school

*(The Children's Society)*

1 in 3 young carers  
have a mental  
health difficulty

*(The Children's Society)*

Experience of  
isolation, especially  
over school closures

*(Sheffield Young Carers)*

Digital poverty  
adding to isolation  
and difficulty in  
school

*(Sheffield Young Carers)*

Low educational  
qualifications and  
under-engagement  
in educational  
activities

*(Vizard, Obolenskaya, &  
Burchardt)*

Lower educational  
attainment at GCSE level  
and are more likely than  
the NA to not be in  
education, employment  
or training

*(Vizard, Obolenskaya, &  
Burchardt)*

# SEND and Young Carers in MK

- 800 young carers on the Young Carers MK database accessing varying levels of support
- Substantial decline in young carers accessing support since the start of the pandemic due to factors such as:
  - ❖ lack of access to ICT/ digital poverty
  - ❖ lack of access to transport/ monies for transport
  - ❖ increased levels of anxiety
  - ❖ not being able to leave the home due to the health conditions of the cared for person
  - ❖ general poor mental health and wellbeing

# SEND and Young Carers in MK

Education attainment and achievements significantly impacted

*Don't have same aspirations; not wanting to return to school*

Transitions are difficult

*Don't always make the right choices or have positive adult role models to break poverty cycles*

Struggle to reach potential without the right support

*Seen to be coping if they have a good attendance record although they are using school for a break from caring role; spend time at school worrying*

Impact of COVID substantial

*Caring responsibilities and hours increased; school closures took away opportunity to see other peers and adults*



# Case Study

Two young carers supporting both parents with physical disabilities. Mum is unable to work and dad works in a factory on minimum wage. The family has been with Young Carers MK service since 2018. They have experienced continual poverty which has meant the eldest young carer who had a place at college originally had to drop out due to lack of funding to support her travel to and from college (Northampton) where she was studying dance. She has struggled with poor mental health and has been seen in A&E when in crisis. The younger sibling has also had problems with eating concerns and the family has received help from children's social care. As a service Young Carers MK have sent regular food bank vouchers (pre Covid) as well as supplying food hampers, and organised clothing donations, hot food deliveries and ICT donations. Mum also struggles with poor mental health and has also been seen in A&E this year when in crisis.

# SEND and Young Carers in MK



## Cycle of poverty:

- Many families and young carers experience a constant cycle of poverty that over time is very hard to break
- Young carers can grow up in homes that face multiple aspects of disadvantage including disability, poor mental health and wellbeing and households living in areas of deprivation
- Due to the impact of caring, many young carers lack aspirations at the same level as their peers, and therefore, do not believe it is possible for them to go to college, or own their own home
- Due to the level of responsibility young carers have at a young age, many want to continue to care for their family members as they get older, becoming adult carers



## Intersectionality

- For example; if an adult carer has to reduce their paid working hours due to increased caring responsibilities, the young carer will experience increased disadvantage and levels of poverty due to lower income, increase family pressures and relationships.
- Does not discriminate, can happen to anyone.

# SEND and Young Carers in MK

Additional concerns relating to young carers and poverty that the young carers team in Milton Keynes often see are:

- Lack of access to transport – parents unable to take young carers to groups/ school/ lack of monies to pay for transport/ buses, young carers unable to meet friends
- Lack of accessible ICT / internet- significantly impacted upon during lockdown
- Overcrowded Living conditions- due to multiple aspects of disadvantage
- Families living in flats who have a cared for with mobility difficulties
- Living in deprived areas – higher crime rate, knife and gang activity resulting in the fear of letting children play out
- Single parent families
- Parents gatekeeping access to support due to their own health needs

**Our Actions...**

# Key Themes

## Isolation

*For both young people  
and parents*

## Poorer educational outcomes

## Mental health

*For both young people  
and parents*

## Transitions to adulthood

# We will...

- **Work with PACA (Parent Carer Association) to understand the impact of poverty on families of children with special educational needs and disability**
- **Work with schools, including through Children with Disabilities Team and weekly session in special schools to gain a greater understanding of need**
- **Monitor the impact of Covid through recording the number of families presenting with concerns**
- **Increase the number of children and young people identified as young carers, particularly in Schools across MK**
- **Further increase the awareness of the needs of young carers with health and social care colleagues, schools, voluntary sector across MK**