SEND in FE: Key Facts
16 to 25-year-olds and high needs provision in colleges

1. Education, Health and Care Plans
At January 2018, there were a total of 319,819 children with EHCPs or statements, an increase of 32,529 (11.3%) from 287,290 in January 2017. This is driven by large increases in the 16-19 and 20-25 age groups, which represent 26% of all EHCPs.

16-19 year olds with EHCPs
- 2017: 58,034
- 2018: 65,521

20-25 year olds with EHCPs
- 2017: 7,708
- 2018: 14,176
2. ESFA high needs place numbers

There are over 47,000 aged 16 to 25 high needs funded students - over 29,000 of these are now educated in the FE sector (colleges, SPIs and ILPs).

The number of high needs funded students in General FE colleges has risen from 15,000 in 2013 to nearly 24,394 in 2018.

However, a different data set (Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2018) reported by LAs, shows a much larger total of 42,584 in GFE and sixth form colleges.

The largest proportion of high needs funded 16 to 25-year olds are educated in GFE or 6th form colleges (51%).

The proportion educated in special schools is declining (from 37% in 2013 to 31% in 2017).

Specialist colleges educate around 4,200 young people (9% of the total EFSA HN place numbers).

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-allocated-place-numbers
3. FE sector participation data

In 2016/17, there were 563,100 students across the FE sector with a self-declared learning difficulty or disability. (17.9% of the total). Of these:

- 194,210 students were aged 16 to 19 (21.2% of total students aged 16 to 19)
- 368,890 students were aged 19+ (16.5% of total adult students)
- 88,780 were on Level 2 programmes and 126,790 were on Level 3 programmes

4. Natspec Colleges and other SPIs

- There are 107 Specialist Post 16 Institutions (SPIs) in England (DfE June 2018 https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/)
- There are 83 Natspec full member colleges (2018), providing for over 4,000 learners
- 69 Natspec members have been inspected (9 are awaiting their first inspection)
- 7 of are outstanding (Grade 1 or equivalent: Coleg Elidyr, National Star, David Lewis, Foxes, Orchard Hill, Derwen, Treloar); 51 are good; 12 require improvement
- 91% of students in Natspec colleges are in Good or Outstanding colleges
- Other SPIs: there are 28 SPIs who are not yet Natspec members who were approved by ESFA in 2017 or 2018. Only five of these have been inspected by Ofsted (2 Good, 3 Requires Improvement).

5. High needs budget and amounts per head of 2-18 population

- In the high needs budget, there is £121 of place funding per head of 2-18 population in England
- LA top up funding amounts to £217 per head of 2-18 population (for maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges), of which £15 is post school
- LA top up funding for non-maintained and independent schools and colleges is £92 per head of 2-18 population, of which £19 is post school
- Download the LA high needs benchmarking tool for further LA breakdowns and comparisons: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-strategic-planning-fund