

Questions to the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel

Monday 13th October 2025

Cllr Saskia Heijltjes

1. When was the B&NES Children's Play Policy last updated?
(<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/play-policy>)
2. Which Officer is responsible for this Policy?

The policy referred to is no longer an active council document; therefore, we are not able to name an allocated officer. We will make sure the policy is removed from the council's webpages.

However, the council is committed to supporting play and play spaces through a range of departments, including planning, public health and early years team, to make sure that play spaces and the benefits of play are actively promoted.

Councillor Joanna Wright

1. How many EHC needs assessments were received and how many were rejected/refused in 2024 and 2025?

2024 – 475 requests for assessment - 156 were declined
2025 – 383 requests so far – we don't have the numbers for declined at this stage. The system is currently being updated; we should have this at a later stage.

2. What was the average waiting time for a Tribunal in 2024 -25

The average wait time from appealing to the hearing date is approximately 1 year. For a child approaching phase transfer timescales, Tribunals can be quicker—such as 3 months—to allow the child. These timescales are often driven by the capacity for Tribunals to be listed and heard, though they can extend further depending on the type and amount of information requested or presented.

3. What were the five longest waiting times for SEND tribunals in 2024 and 2025?

Again, the Tribunal data is currently being migrated to a new system, so we are unable to present it as requested at this stage. However, I can advise that between 2024-25, the longest wait time was 16 months; we also have had two tribunals that took 14 months.