

f40 SEND survey

Autumn 2020



Data collected between October 5,
2020 – November 15, 2020

Painting a picture of the SEND crisis

In the autumn of 2020, f40 undertook a national survey to capture the extent of the SEND funding crisis in England.

We asked every local authority in the country to provide key statistics around their SEND budgets to illustrate how well councils were managing their funding in comparison to demand, and identify trends.

Of the 149 authorities responsible for education in England, 77 responded, giving us a 52% response rate.



Painting a picture of the SEND crisis

The attached slides show the year-end position of High Needs Blocks, part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), across the authorities that responded.

The High Needs Block is used to pay for the needs of all pupils whose cost is more than £10,000 per year. This is largely made up of SEND pupils and children with additional educational needs.

Changes to the SEND 0-25 Code of Practice in 2015, placed additional pressure on the funding stream, to the extent that many local authorities are finding it difficult to meet the need within the budget available.

There has been a lot of anecdotal evidence of the pressures but, through this survey, f40 hoped to gain more factual evidence to show the extent of the difficulties faced by local authorities.

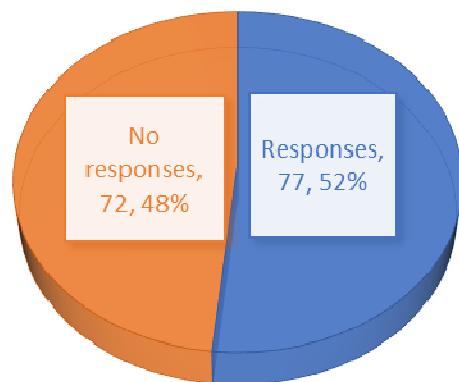


Summary of findings

- Of the 77 that responded, 69 expected SEND budgets to be in deficit for 2020/21, with only eight expecting to have a balance or to finish even.
- Most LAs say deficit budgets are rising each year, some doubling.
- Three expect their cumulative deficits to be more than they received for 2020-21.
- In 2018-19, 43 requested to move money from Schools Block (SB) to High Needs Block (HNB). 41 were permitted to do so.
- 2019-20, 52 requested to move money from SB to HNB. 43 were permitted to do so.
- 2020-21, 45 requested to move money from SB to HNB. 31 were permitted to do so.



Response Rate (All LAs)

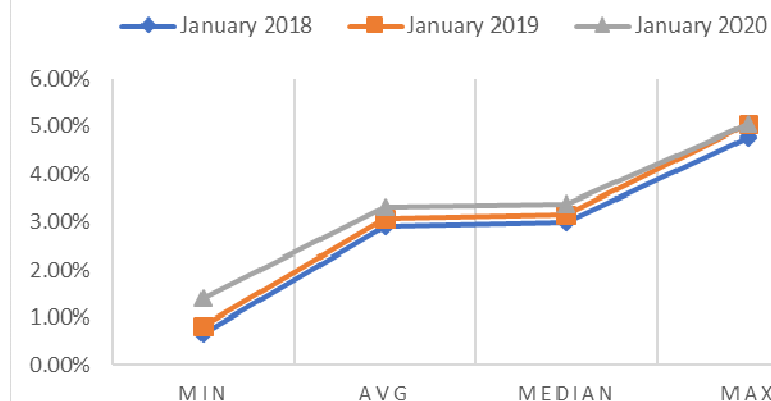


The graph to the right shows the percentage of EHCPs when compared to the total pupil population stated in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations each year.

It provides for each year, for all local authorities, the minimum percentage, maximum percentage, and the average and median across three years.

77 from 149 local authorities responded

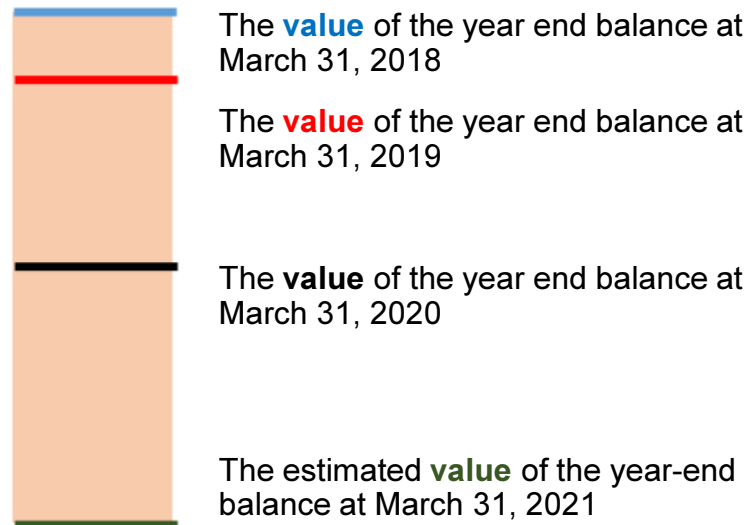
Percentage of EHCPs by year (all LAs)



Year-end balances of the High Needs Block

- Figure 1 shows the responding local authorities' year-end High Needs Block positions, including an estimate for the year ending March 31, 2021.
- Figures 2 and 3 are a closer look at Figure 1, to provide greater visibility. Figure 2 is the left side of Figure 1 and Figure 3 is the right side. West Sussex, Bristol and Warwickshire appear in both to provide context.

Each bar shows



Not all bars have the colours in this

This is because some LAs



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2017-18 to 2020-21 (estimate), year end balance (with interim high or low as appropriate)

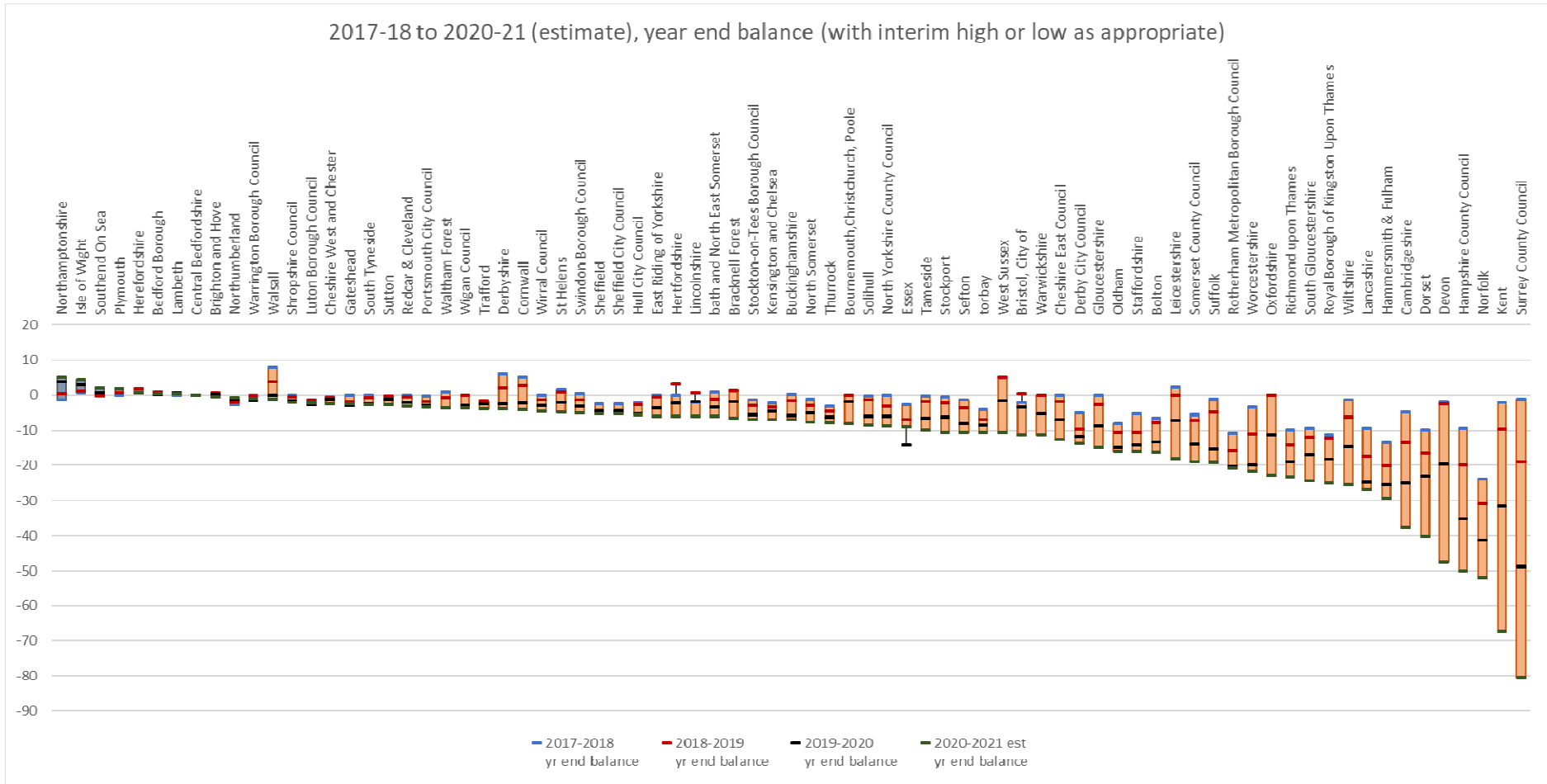


Figure 1

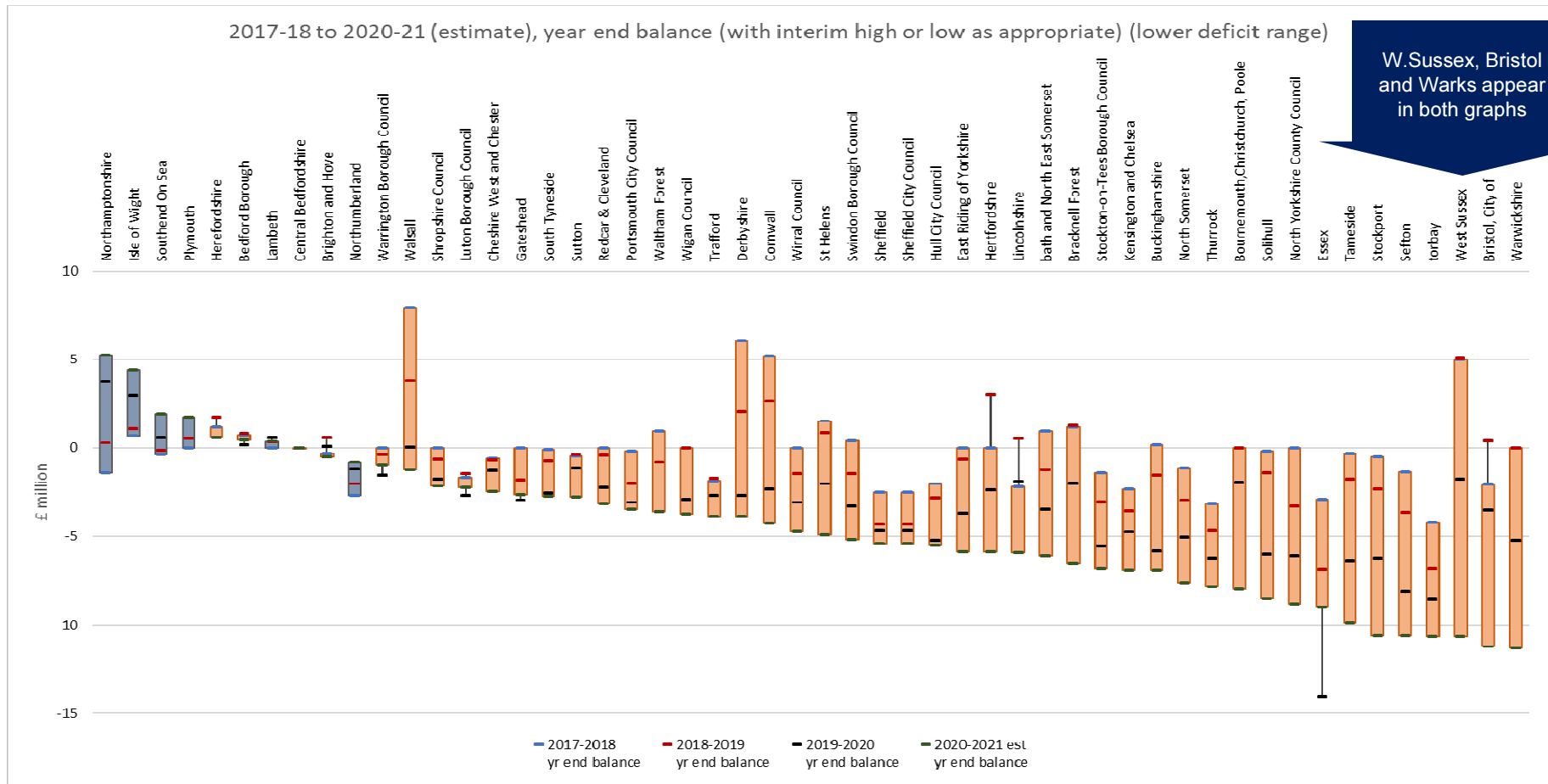


Figure 2

2017-18 to 2020-21 (estimate), year end balance (with interim high or low as appropriate)
(higher deficit range)

W. Sussex, Bristol
and Warks appear
in both graphs

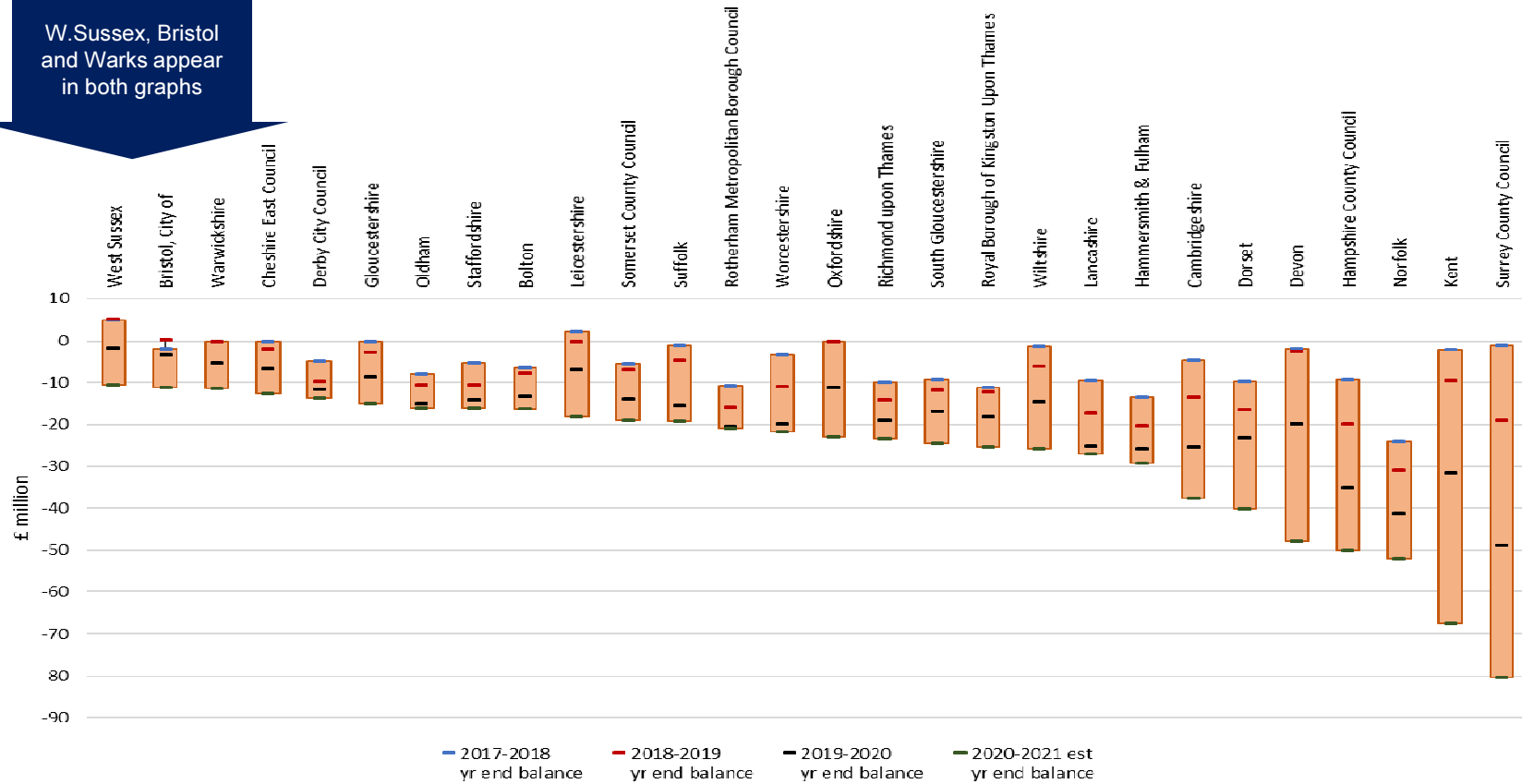


Figure 3

Estimated High Needs Block

Figure 4 shows the estimated cumulative High Needs Block at the end of March 2021, on a per pupil basis.

Figure 5 shows the High Needs Block balance, showing the overspend as a proportion of the 2020-21 High Needs Block received. In this, it can be seen that for three local authorities the cumulative deficit is more than they received for 2020-21.

The pupil population used for these calculations comes from the sum of Schools Block pupils and High Needs Block pupils (in special schools and special academies), as is used for the DSG allocations.



Estimated Cumulative HNB per pupil at end of 2020-2021

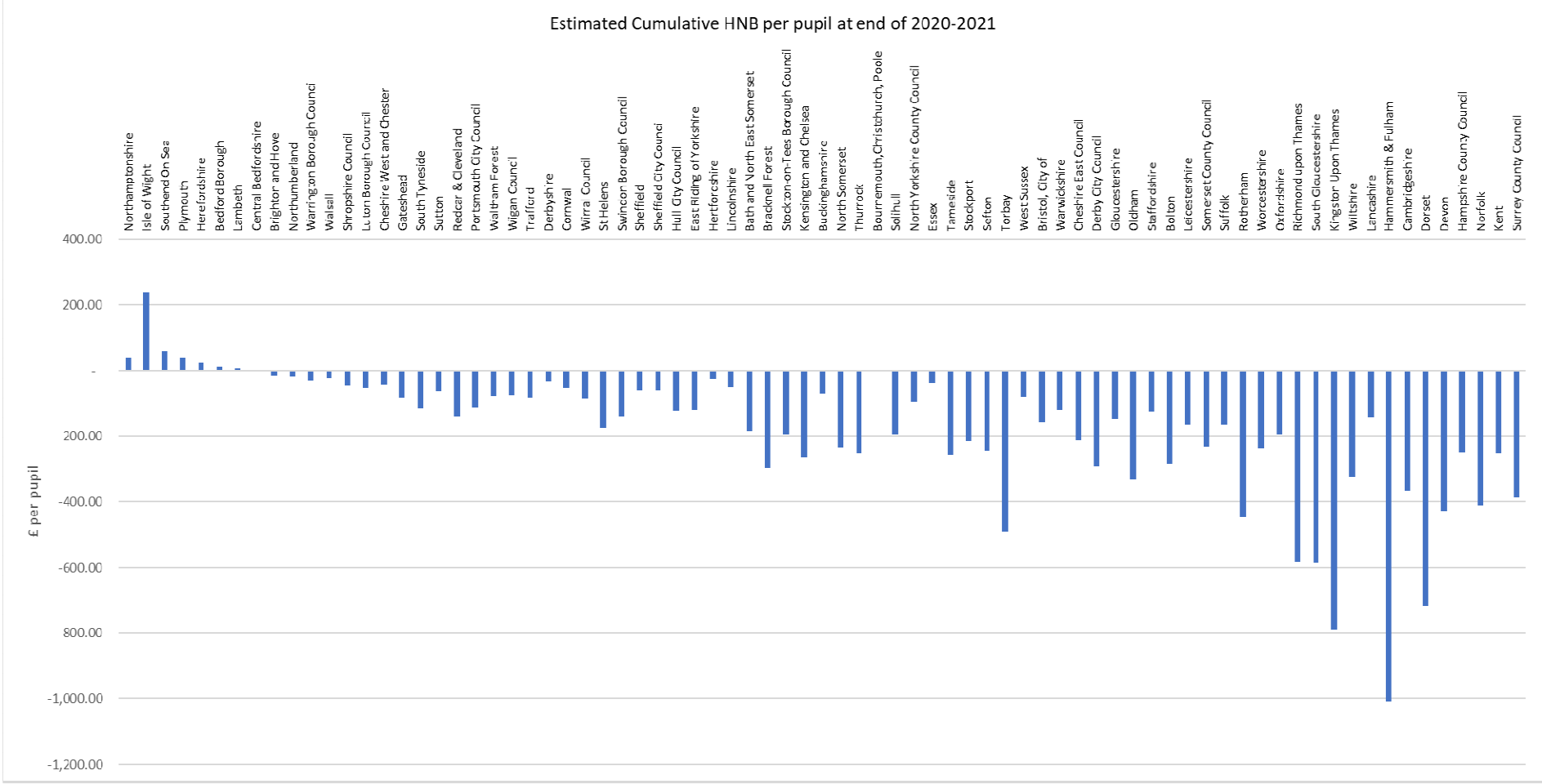
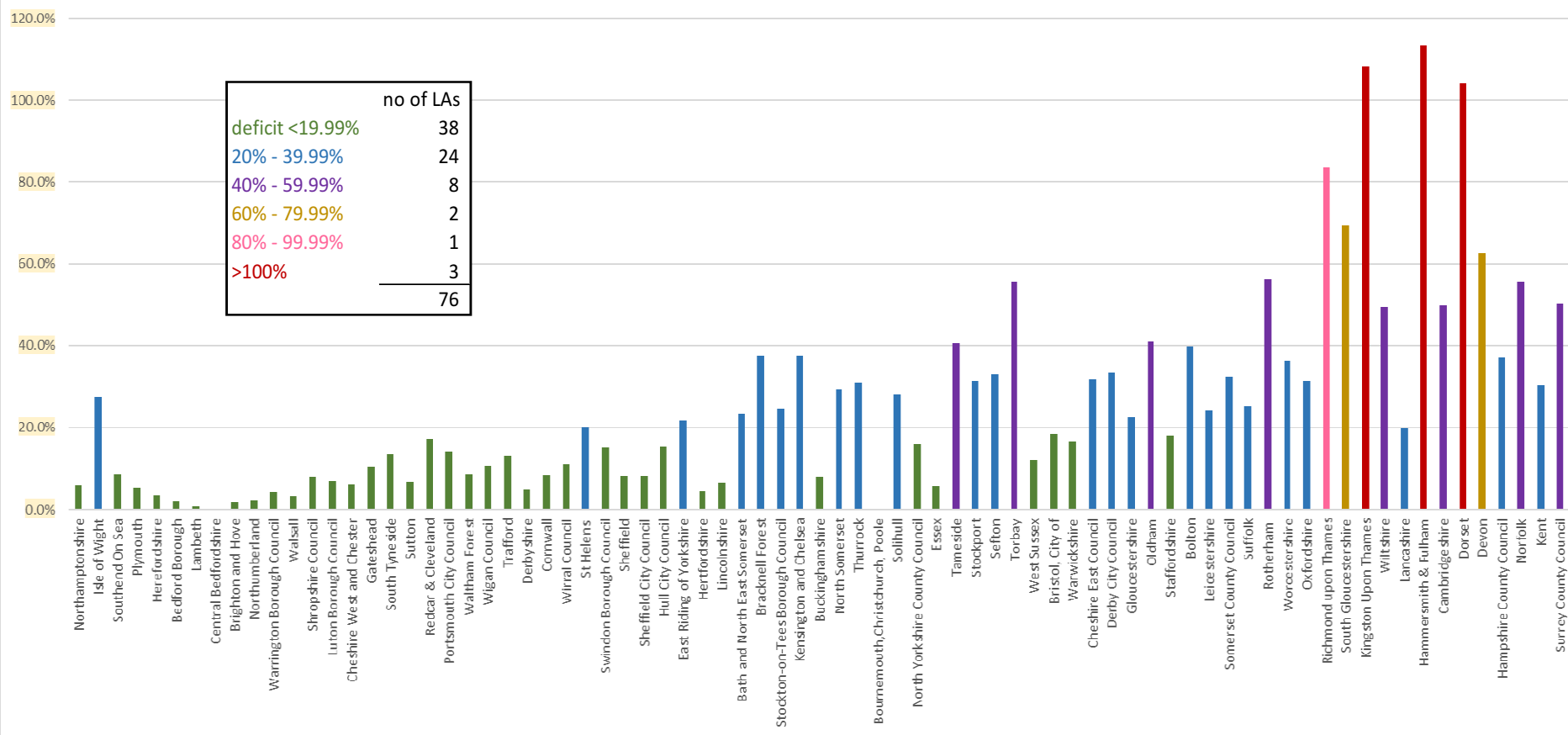


Figure 4

2020-21 estimated deficit as a proportion of HNB funding.



Local authorities are in the same order as the previous graph

Figure 5

Moving money between the blocks

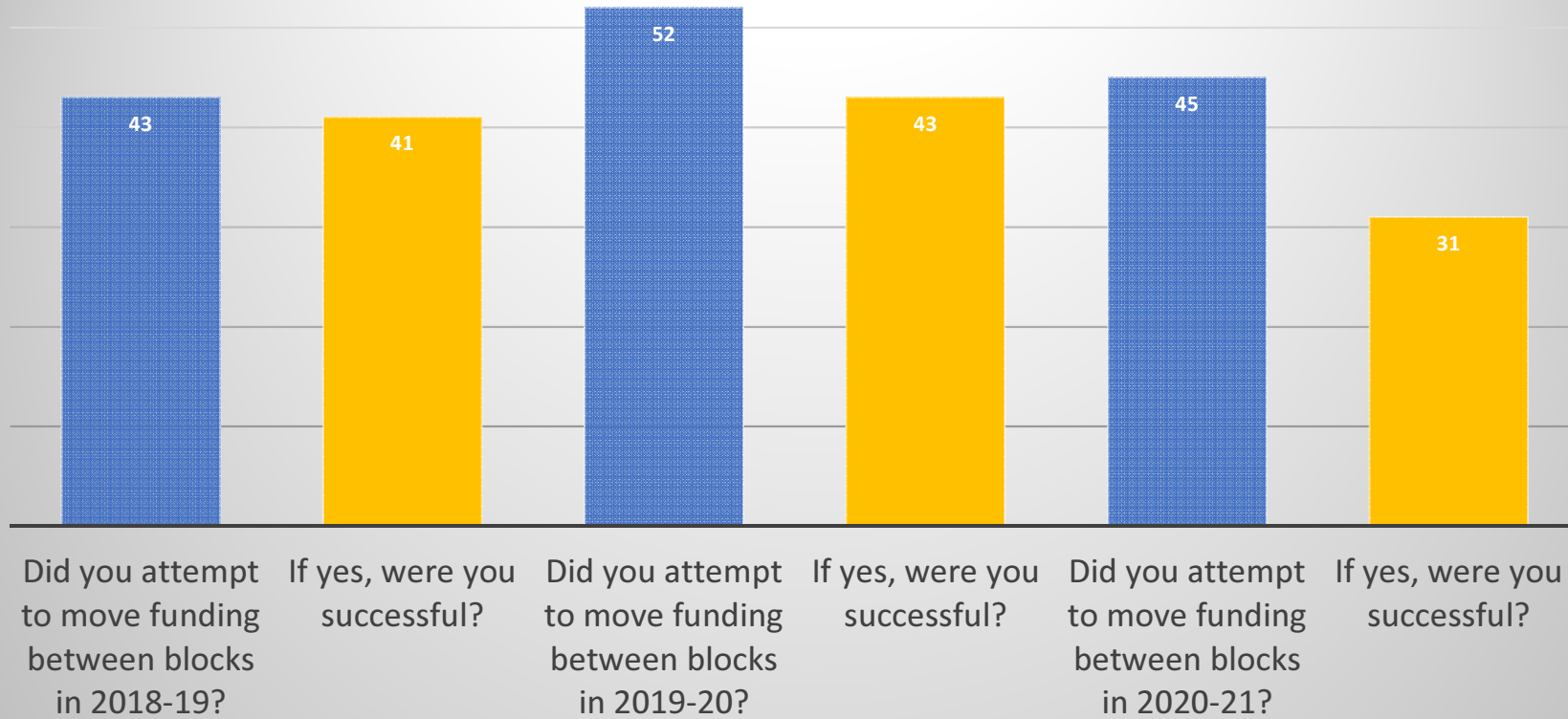
This table and the following graph show the number of local authorities that successfully moved money between the blocks in each year.

Figure 6

	Did you attempt to move funding between blocks in 2018-19?	If yes, were you successful?	Did you attempt to move funding between blocks in 2019-20?	If yes, were you successful?	Did you attempt to move funding between blocks in 2020-21?	If yes, were you successful?
Yes, Schools to High Needs	43	41	52	43	45	31
Yes, Schools to Early Years	1	1	0	0	1	1
Yes, something else	6	6	6	6	13	10
No	25		19		18	
	75	48	77	49	77	42



Yes, Schools Block to High Needs Block



Further work to be done

The survey results were discussed by members of the f40 Executive Committee. Questions were raised as to whether the true extent of the High Needs crisis was being masked by the transfer of funds from Schools Block to High Needs Block.

As a result, further work is being undertaken to try to ascertain if this is true and, if so, to what extent.

This is subjective and so is not being published with this data.



Thank you

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