# This session will start at 10:00am

# Nexus Update – Recent & Upcoming Developments

Paul Caladine, Technical Support Director
Edd Shackleton, Development Director

# Webinar: 27th November 2024

Some screen shots and clips included in this webinar presentation may become outdated over time and may not match the current version of the system

# Other upcoming webinars

4th December – 2025 optional collections in Nexus

11th December – Virtual School session – KS4 Summer CLA collection & Using current CLA cohort functionality

12th February – Nexus functionality you may not know about

26th March – Preparing for primary assessment 2025

All 10:00 to 11:00

Booking Links

# Agenda:

## Section 1 – Recently delivered developments

## Section 2 – Today’s release

## Section 3 – Coming soon…

# 1 - Recently delivered Nexus developments

## (since May's Annual Members Meeting)

# October 2024

Link to Release notes

## Statutory & minor updates

- Nexus roll over – updating the system for 24/25 Academic Year
- Ethnicity codes update – reflecting new DfE codes
- SEN2 and UKPRN

## Significant updates

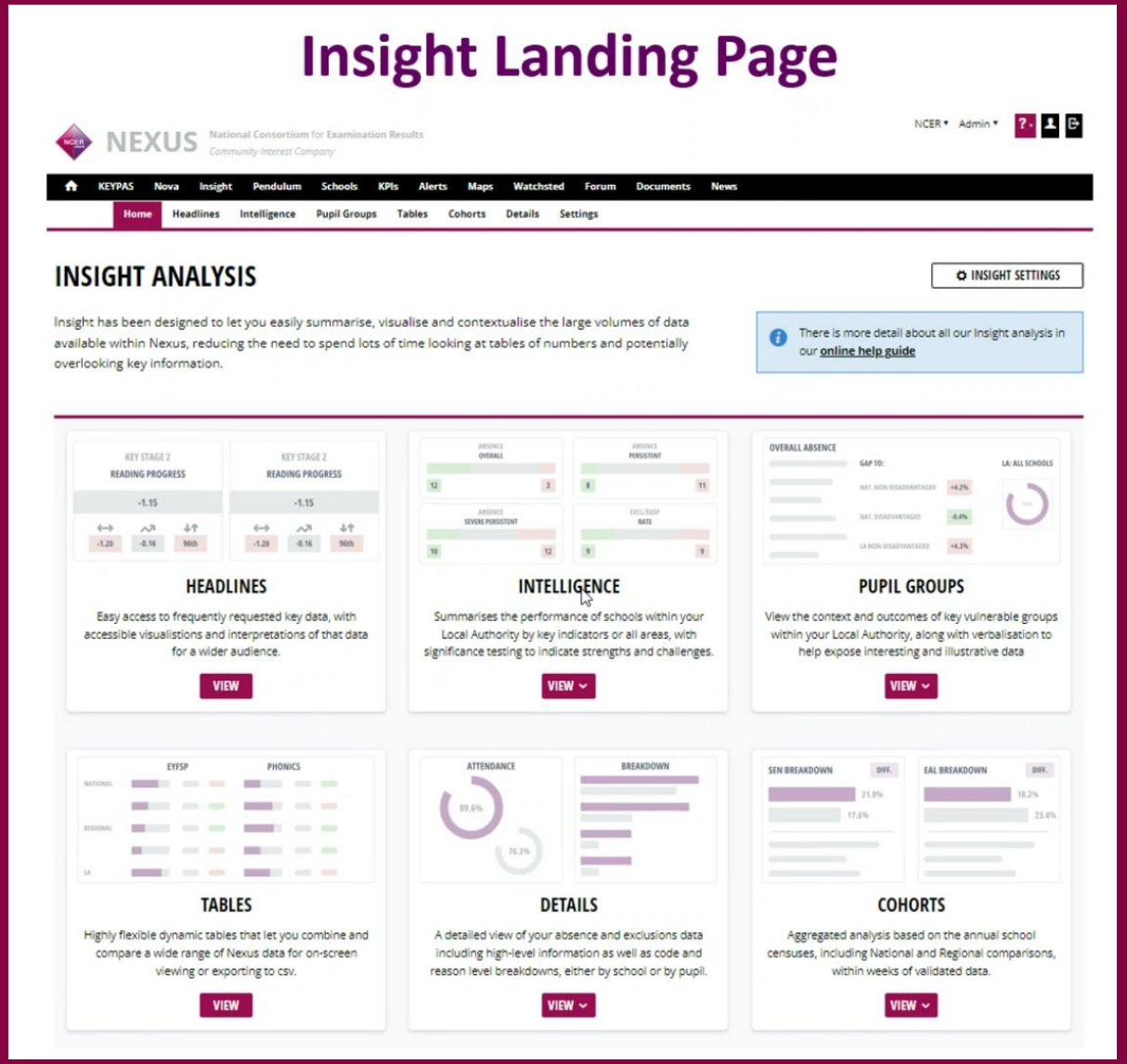
- Insight landing page
- Absence code changes – switching to the two-character DfE codes

# October 2024

[Link to Release notes]

[Insight Landing Page]

## Insight Landing Page



# October 2024

## Link to Release notes

## Absence code changes

- System needs to account for new codes but – for prior years – also retain the old codes

# August 2024

Link to release notes

## Statutory & minor updates

- KS4 new headline indicators – Entries for Triple Science & to Languages added to system

## Significant updates

- Two factor authentication changes to protect child level data
- KS4 results day collection (pupil level) 2024
- KS4 LA results day collection (aggregated) 2024

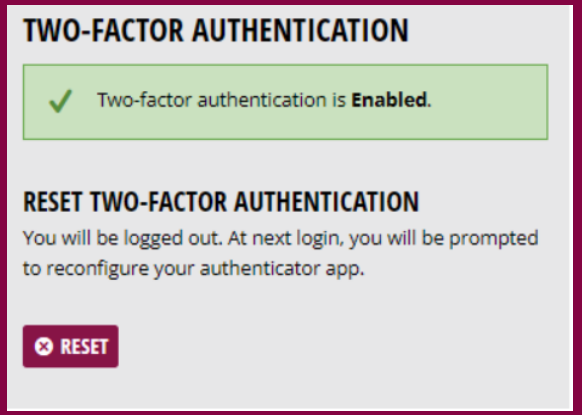
# August 2024

[Link to release notes]

## Two factor authentication

**Any user with pupil level permissions anywhere in the system now required to have 2FA in place to access Nexus**

**Ability to reset users 2FA also included for Nexus Admin**



# August 2024

Link to release notes

KS4 results day collection (pupil level)

Revised and simpler functionality added to allow participation in 2024 Key Stage 4 pupil level results day collections

Included EDI files/CSV from schools and for individually loaded virtual school pupils

# August 2024

Link to release notes

KS4 results day collection (aggregate level)

The aggregate results day collection brought into Nexus with results loaded through Keypas

Separate to the pupil level collection

# June 2024

Link to release notes

## Statutory & minor updates

- New indicators for GPS – EXS+ in GPS / Higher in GPS
- New indicators for MTC – Av. attainment score and % scoring full marks
- Changes to Chinese ethnicity – Now a minor ethnicity under ‘Asian’
- Other small updates

## Significant updates

- User export to include privileges
- School list update – additional changes

# June 2024

Link to release notes

Small updates

Special characters now allowed in Imports

Export button added to Insight Headlines

Keypas batch reporting retirement

’Hiding’ Progress measures for KS2 in 2024 and 2025 (due to Covid)

# June 2024

Link to release notes

## User export includes privileges

**When exporting users lists from Nexus, user administrators can also now export their privileges**

**Will assist in reviewing user privileges and ensuring they are appropriate**

# June 2024

Link to release notes

School list changes

Update to the school list in Nexus in February 2024 introduced ‘School Type’ and ‘Phase Type’ filters

This created some difficulties for users

The June 2024 release remapped GIAS categories to help filters work better for users

# April 2024

Link to release notes

## Statutory & minor updates

- New MTC codes for 2024 – Added DfE codes to ensure compliant

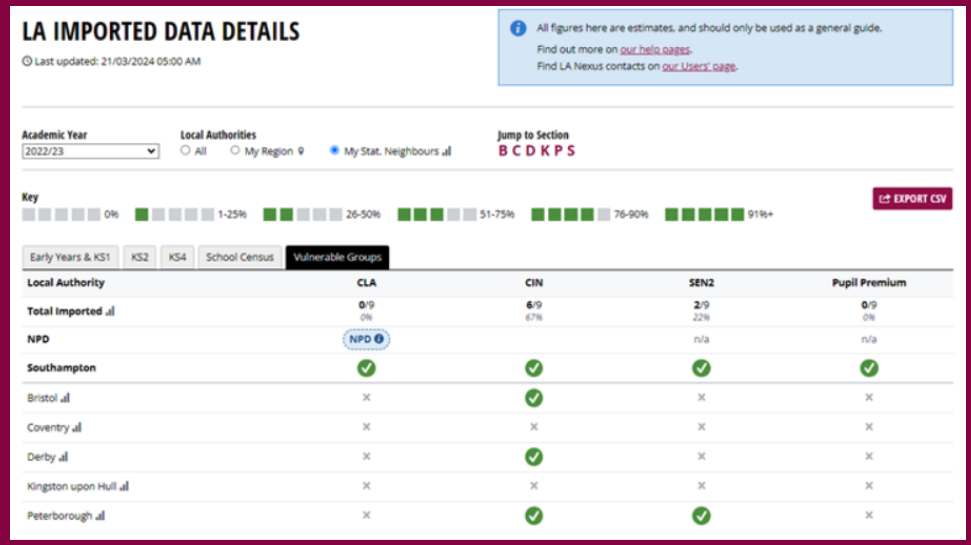
## Significant updates

- New LA imported data details page
- New Statistical Neighbour analysis
- Insight Headlines navigation changes
- Keypas Data Cleaning enhancements

# April 2024

[Link to release notes]

## LA imported data details




Users now can look not just at numbers of pupils and LA who imported data, but which LA

Useful for establishing accuracy of regional and stat neighbour results, but also for Virtual Schools who may have children in education in those LA

# April 2024

Link to release notes

Statistical Neighbour analysis

Added throughout Nova and Insight

Calculated at the pupil level so larger LA influence the SN results more than small LA (unlike LAIT which uses average of averages)

Methodology is linked here

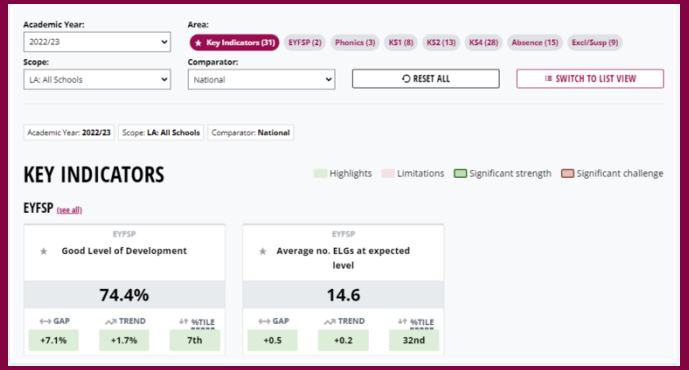
# April 2024

[Link to release notes]

## Insight headlines navigation changes

Improvements to Insight Headlines page in terms of navigating the page.

Removes the old ‘ribbon’ in favour of a simpler option selection and pop-up of key indicators that can be drilled into



# April 2024

Link to release notes

Keypas data cleaning enhancements

Many of you will have used the new reports for the first time in 2024

Streamlined the number of separate reports doing similar jobs so you could have one review of each pupil and one conversation with primary phase schools (where needed)

# Development pipeline

## See THIS page – all planned release dates are subject to change

| Item | Notes | Planned release |
|---|---|---|
| SEN2 updates | Various updates for SEN2 analysis including changes to filters and charts | November 2024 |
| Ofsted Updates | Phase 1 of the updates to ensure the system can reflect the interim Ofsted judgements (as well as retaining the ability to report on the previous framework) | November 2024 |
| Pupil groups update | To reflect changes to school census groups | November 2024 |
| Keypas Batch Reports retirement | Removing legacy functionality for Keypas Batch reports (does not affect Nova batch reports) | TBC |
| DfE Attendance reporting import | DfE attendance data collection (published to LA every 2 weeks) will be able to be imported into Nexus. Associated with this, a new Insight page will be created for this | TBC |
| Movement of NCER Forum to another platform | The forums will move to another platform (TBD) | Late 2024 / Early 2025 |

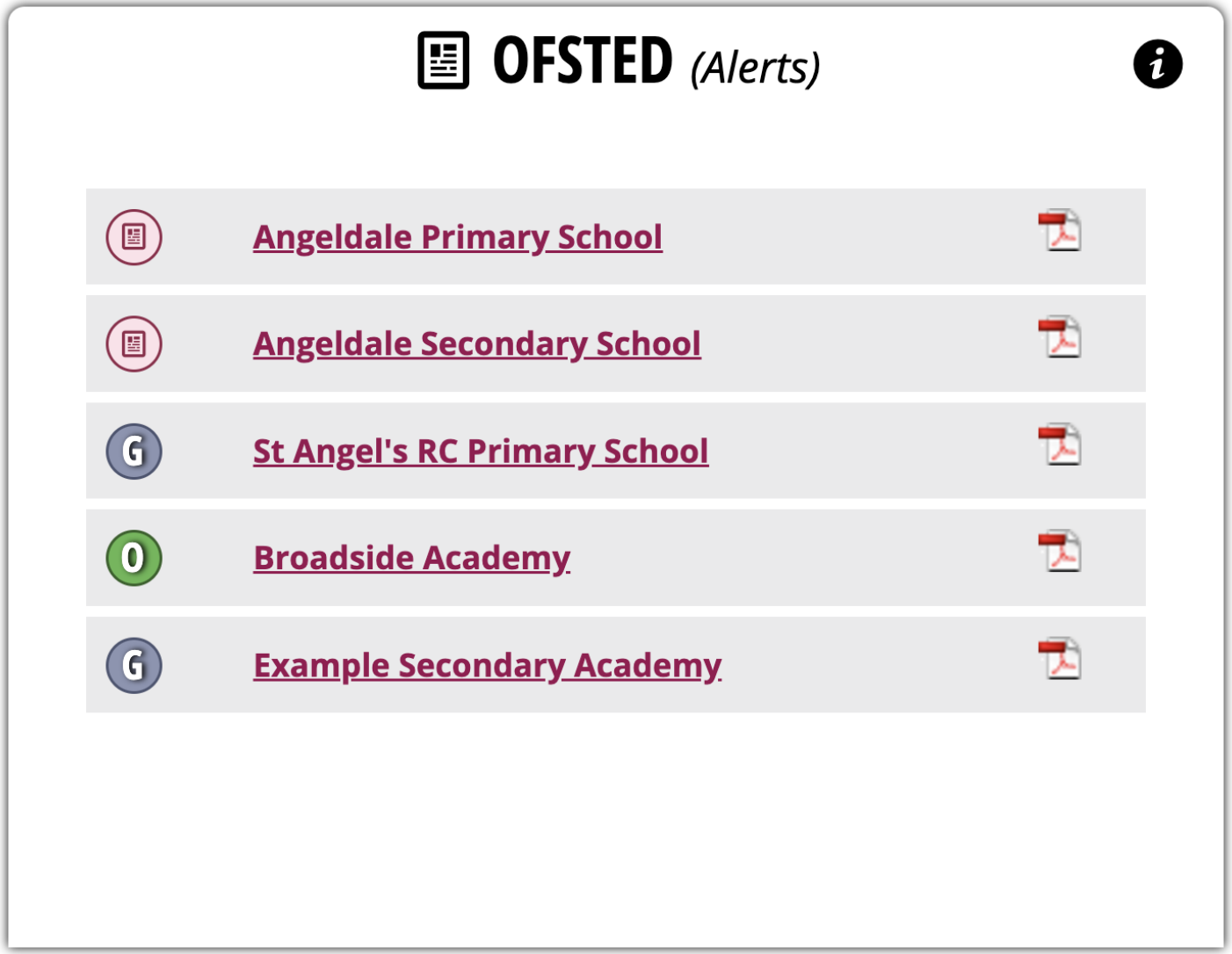
# Section 2 – Today's release 27th November

# Ofsted Update – No Overall Grade (Phase 1)

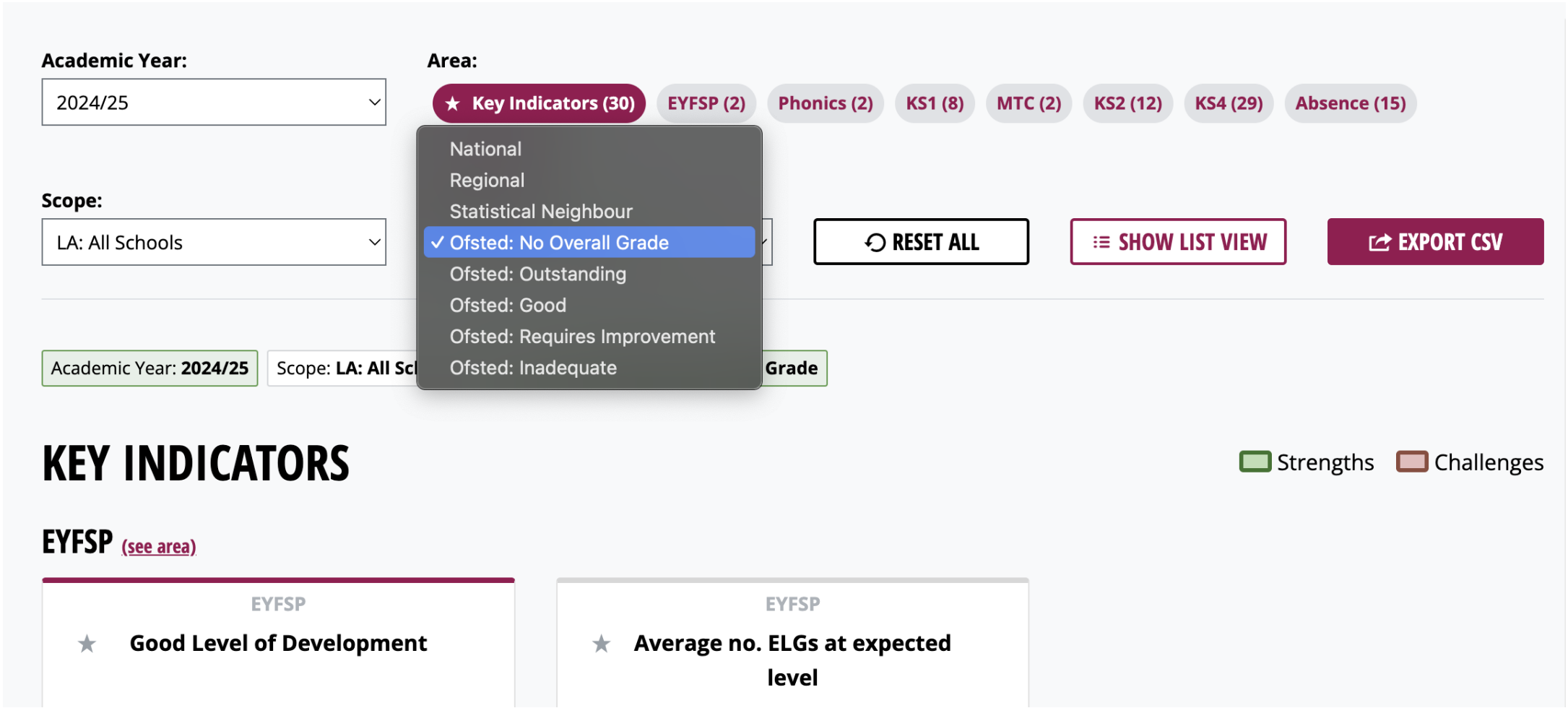
| Nexus Main Menu | Page / Area | No Overall Grade |
|---|---|---|
| Watchsted | Latest Inspection Map | Yes |
| | Tables | Yes |
| | Analysis | Paused (with note added) |
| | Inspector Search | Yes |
| | Inspector Details | Yes |
| | Inspections for an Inspector | Yes |
| | Inspectors Map of Inspections | Yes |
| | Search | Yes |
| | Cloud | Removed |
| Maps | Ofsted Grades | Yes |
| Schools | School List Oftsed | Yes |
| Alerts | Alert Cards | Yes |
| Home Page Widgets | Ofsted Alerts | Yes |
| | Ofsted Table | Yes |
| Nova CLA Reports | 38 Reports to Update | Yes |
| Insight | Headlines Filter | Yes |
| | Tables Options | Removed |
| | School Cohort Page Ofsted Visual | Yes |
| | CLA Cohort Page Ofsted Visual | Yes |
| | SEN2 Cohort Page Ofsted Visual | Yes |

**In 2023/24, 29% of Primary and 38% of Secondary Schools had a Full Inspection.**

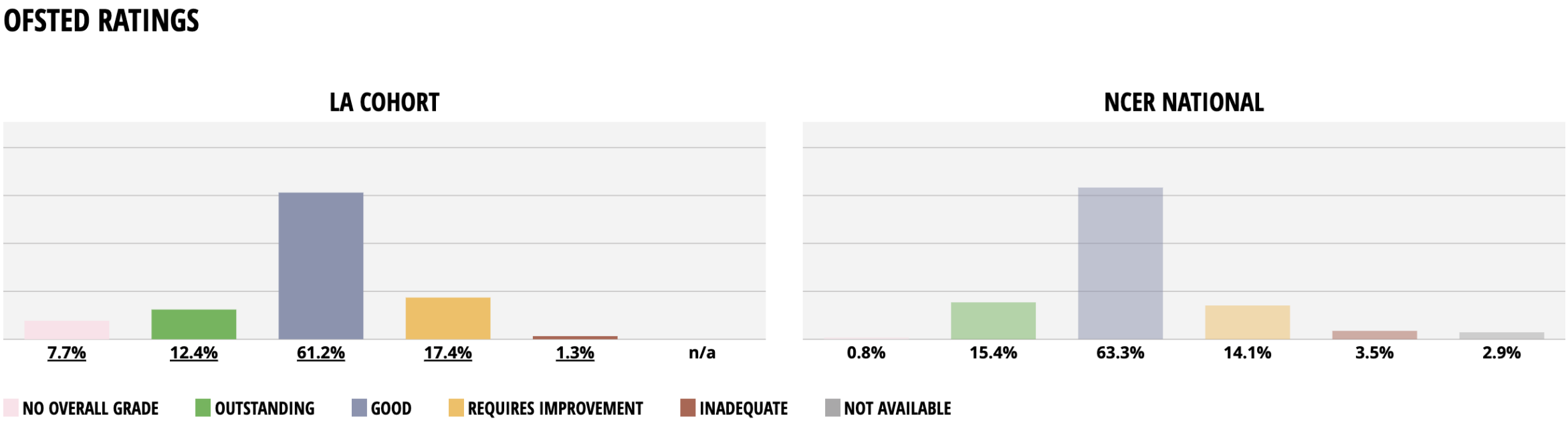
# Ofsted Update – No Overall Grade (Phase 1)



# Ofsted Update – No Overall Grade (Phase 1)



# Ofsted Update – No Overall Grade (Phase 1)



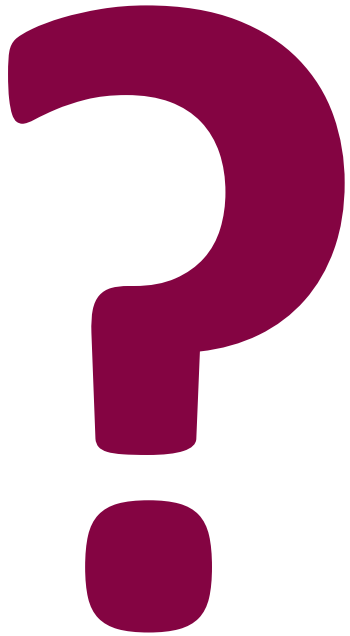
# Ofsted Update – No Overall Grade (Phase 1)

Choose **Establishment type**: PRIMARY SCHOOLS ▾

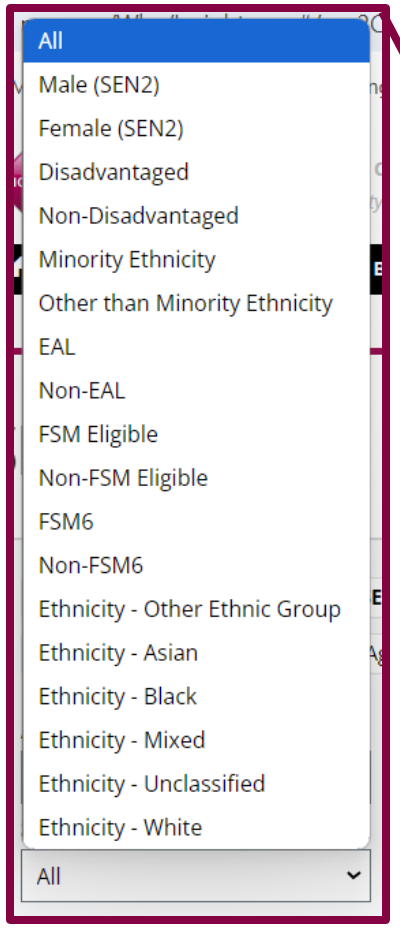
No Overall Grade  Outstanding  Good  Requires Improvement  Inadequate

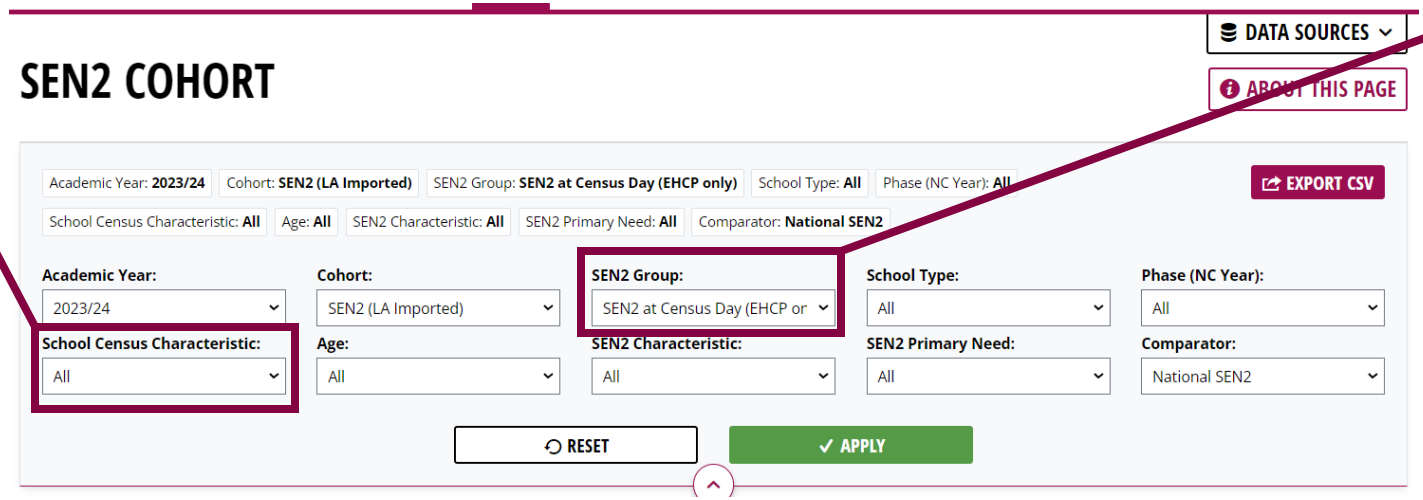
*Last updated on **24/11/2024***

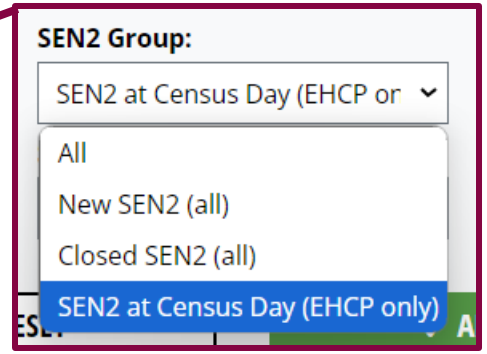
# Ofsted Update – Phase 2



# SEN2 Updates




Following requests by the NCER membership, we have reviewed and updated two of the page filters on the SEN2 Cohort page. The filters and new options are below:

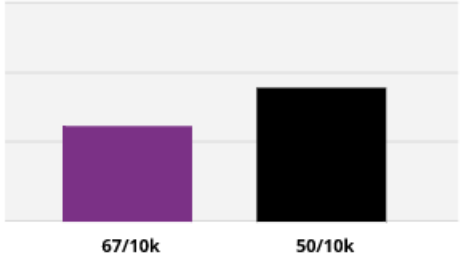
- School Census Characteristic drop-down new items:
  - EHCP
  - non-EHCP (this would highlight any pupils who are on the SEN2 return but not recorded on school census as having EHCP)
  - SEN Support
- SEN2 Groups drop-down new items:
  - New SEN2 (EHCP only)
  - Closed SEN2 (EHCP only)

# SEN2 – New Characteristics Section Charts

## EHC PLANS

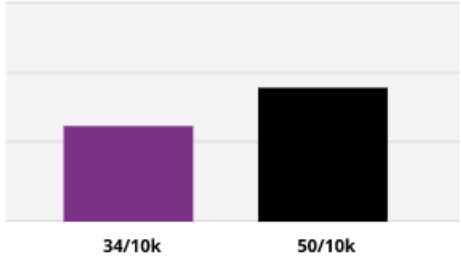
### ALL PLANS

67/10k



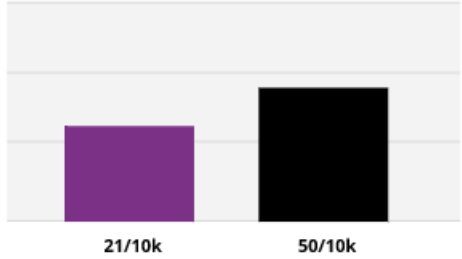

### PLANS STARTED IN THE YEAR

34/10k



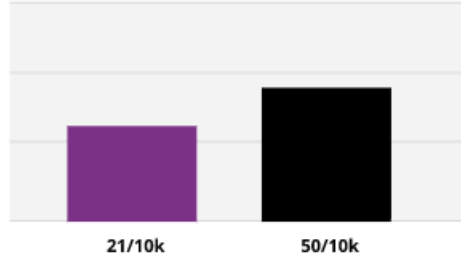

### PLANS CEASED DURING THE YEAR

21/10k



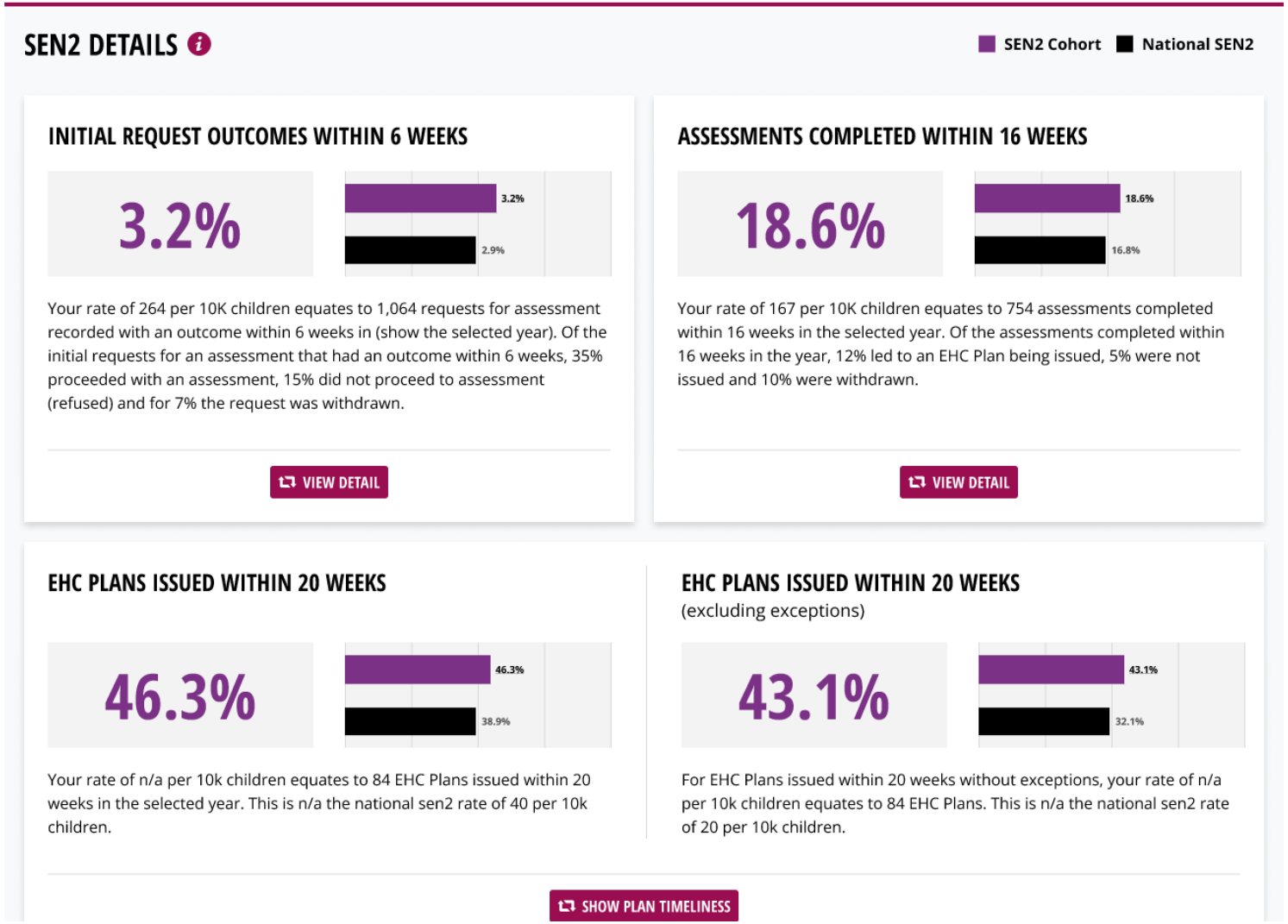

### PLANS OPEN FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

21/10k




Your LA recorded 52 mediations for assessment requests, 79 for assessments and 15 for other reasons; other cases include mediation with respect to the content of the plan (click on 'i' next to the 'SEN2 Details' title for more information). Your SEN2 cohort has recorded 27 greater (lower) mediation meetings than the national rate for requests, 32 greater (lower) than the national rate for assessments and 17 greater (lower) than the national rate for other reasons.

# SEN2 – Update to SEN2 Details Charts



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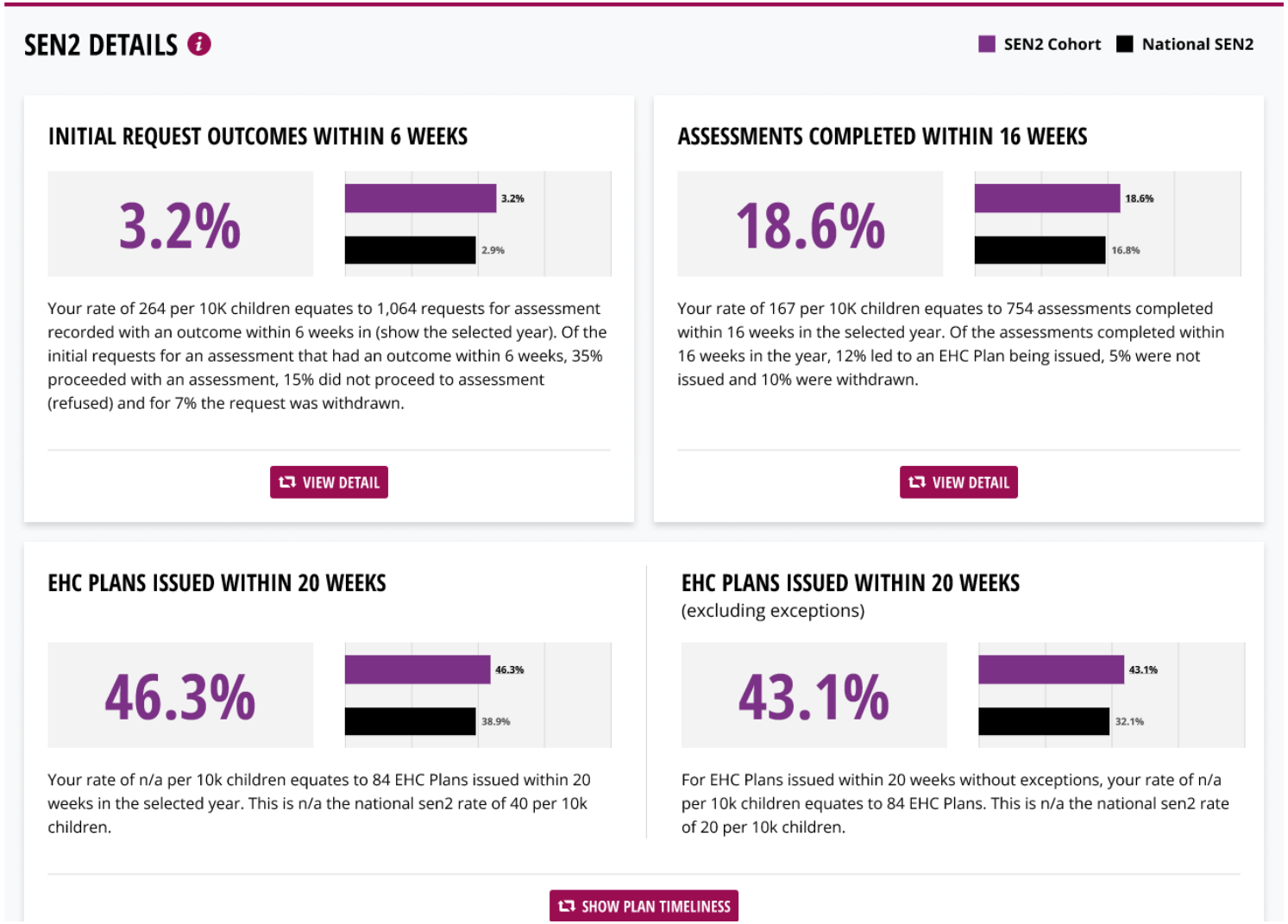

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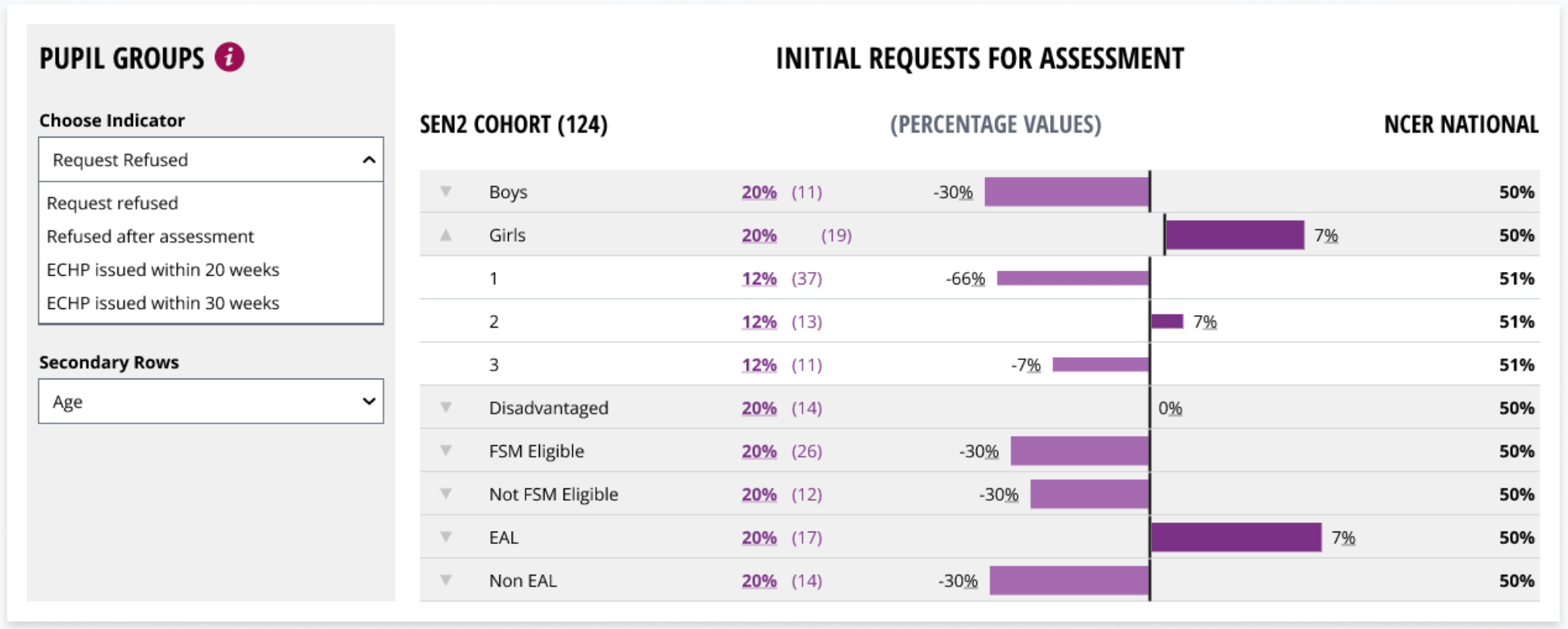
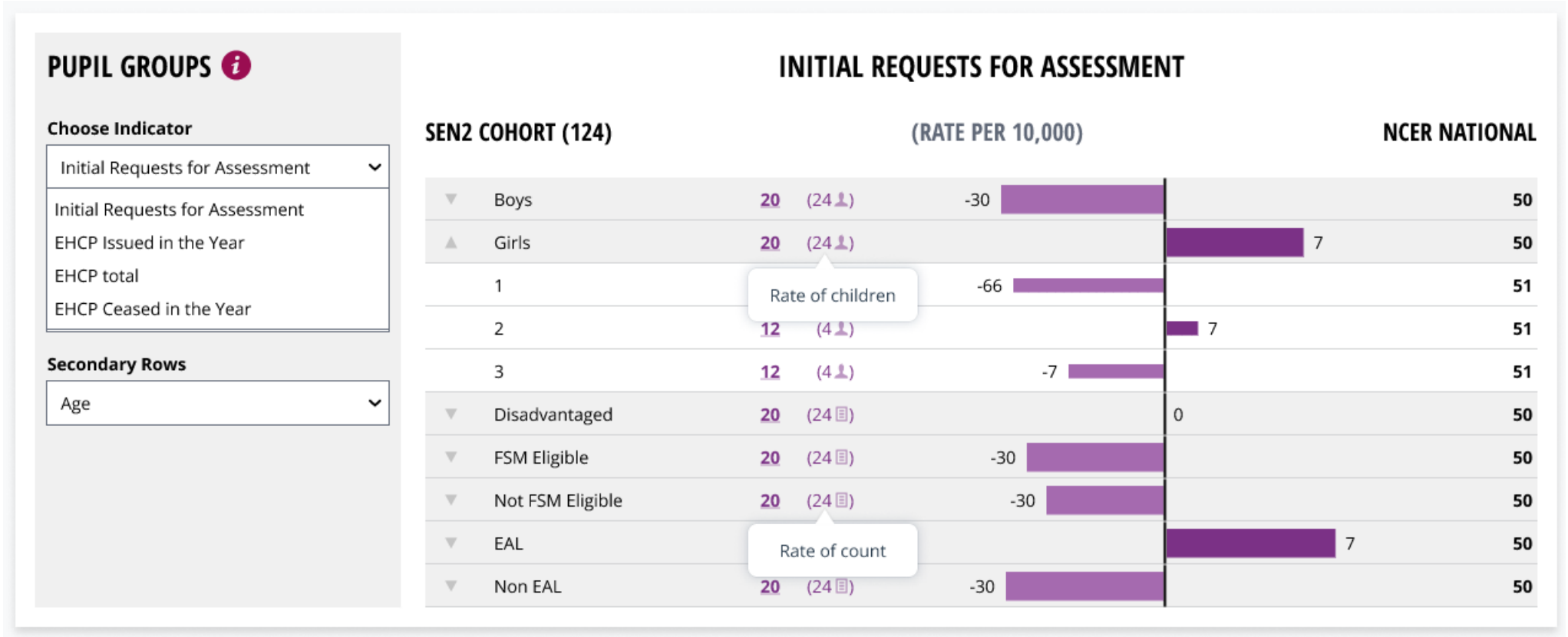


# SEN2 – Update to SEN2 Details Charts



# SEN2 – Update to SEN2 Details Charts

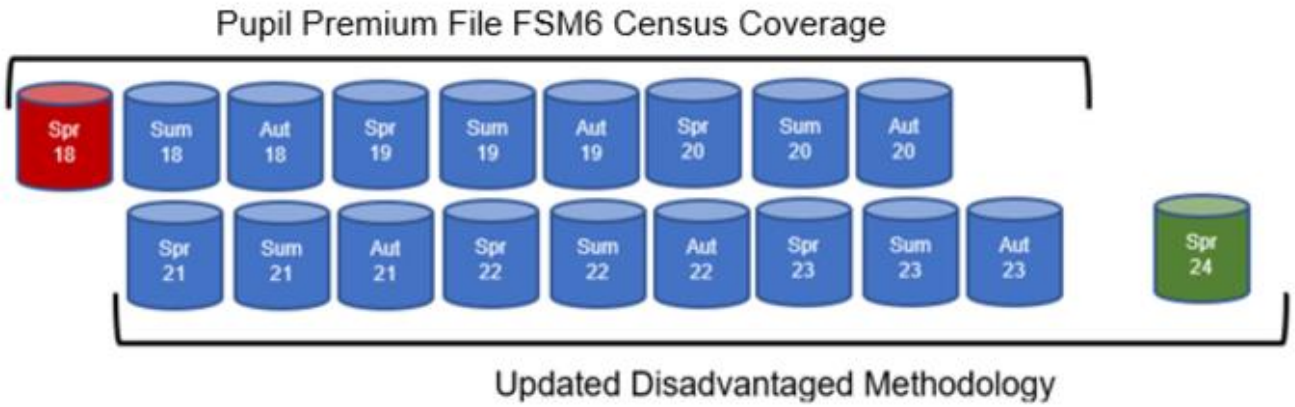
A review of the SEN2 analysis has led to the update to analysis across the page where previously historical events were included in the analysis. The following data items will now only report on incidences within the reporting calendar year:

- Requests including outcomes and timeliness
- Assessments including counts, outcomes, refused and timeliness
- EHC plans including counts and timeliness for both with and without exceptions

All analysis for these data areas on the SEN2 Cohort page is now expected to reflect the same as the DfE analysis. If you find any edge cases in your local authority, please let Nexus Support know on nexussupport@angelsolutions.co.uk with as much detail as possible so that we can investigate and resolve as quickly as possible.

# Pupil Premium Update

- The Pupil Premium file will be appended with Spring Census data including:
  - FSM
  - PLAA (Previously adopted)
  - Service Premium
- Disadvantaged data will be updated by the Spring Census FSM and PLAA only.
- Service Premium data (e.g. Nova reports) will be updated by the Spring Census.
- The update is not year dependent but will only update if new January Census files are imported.



# Pupil Premium Update

## DISADVANTAGED

81,692 of your LA's 186,848 pupils, that are considered for Pupil Premium, are classified as disadvantaged, this is 43.7% of your cohort.

This is 18.4% higher than the national average of 25.3%.

43.9% (39,969) of your female pupils are disadvantaged, 18.8% higher than the national of 25.1%. 43.6% (41,723) of your male pupils are disadvantaged, 18.1% higher than the national of 25.5%.

Disadvantaged pupils contribute £98,905,465 to the budget of your LA in disadvantaged funding.

This equates to an average of £241,232.84 per school in your LA.

*You can find more information on disadvantaged (Pupil Premium) funding here*

***Please note:*** *Finance figures are based on the Pupil Premium file import, and as such do not include any spring census updates.*

### DISADVANTAGED: NC YEAR BREAKDOWNS

| NC Year | Female | Male | Total (PP & Census) | Finance | Total (PP only) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | 2,086 | 2,219 | 4,305 | £5,979,193 | 3,276 |
| 1 | 2,809 | 2,847 | 5,656 | £7,837,618 | 4,284 |
| 2 | 3,098 | 3,168 | 6,266 | £8,703,288 | 6,273 |
| 3 | 3,300 | 3,439 | 6,739 | £9,335,628 | 4,982 |
| 4 | 3,547 | 3,767 | 7,314 | £10,129,328 | 2,354 |
| 5 | 3,709 | 3,932 | 7,641 | £10,555,835 | 8,451 |
| 6 | 3,850 | 3,938 | 7,788 | £10,787,640 | 5,312 |
| 7 | 3,295 | 3,532 | 6,827 | £6,698,403 | 7,427 |
| 8 | 3,491 | 3,529 | 7,020 | £6,915,185 | 5,412 |
| 9 | 3,299 | 3,598 | 6,897 | £6,771,678 | 7,234 |
| 10 | 3,299 | 3,530 | 6,829 | £6,695,395 | 3,323 |
| 11 | 3,544 | 3,521 | 7,065 | £6,917,200 | 6,443 |
| Unknown | 642 | 703 | 1,345 | £1,636,678 | 6,543 |
| **Total** | **39,969** | **41,723** | **81,692** | **£98,963,065** | **98,369** |

# Section 3 – Coming Soon....

# 2025 Statutory Data Collections, Imports & Analysis

- EYFSP
- Phonics Year 1
- Phonics Year 2
- Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments & Tests
- Key Stage 4
- Key Stage 5
- School Census
- Absence
- Suspensions / Exclusions
- CLA SSDA903
- CIN Census
- SEN2

# 2025 Optional Data Collections

- Key Stage 1
- Multiplication Tables Check
- Key Stage 4 LA Summary Results Day
- Key Stage 4 Results Day

# Technical Debt

- February Release
- Rackspace Migration
- Nexus Modernisation

# Technical Debt

Our current hosting environment at Rackspace has reached a point where both the infrastructure and service quality no longer meet the standards required for Nexus's continued growth and reliability. The hardware underpinning our platform is ageing, with servers running on extended-life Windows support, and our database servers are struggling with increased load, leading to performance bottlenecks. This creates risks to security, stability and performance, making transitioning to a modern, robust infrastructure imperative.

In addition to the technical challenges, Rackspace's customer service has declined significantly. Following their acquisition by a private equity firm several years ago, lead times for essential maintenance have grown, and mistakes during these processes have become more frequent. Furthermore, our dedicated account manager and technical lead at Rackspace have left and have not been replaced. This leaves us dependent on standard overseas support, which has reduced the speed and personalization of issue resolution.

Recognizing these challenges, we have chosen to migrate to a new provider that aligns with our strategic goals for 2025 and beyond. The migration will focus on ensuring a smooth transition to a modern, reliable infrastructure, but this process will temporarily shift some resources from our usual development and release cycles.

# Technical Debt

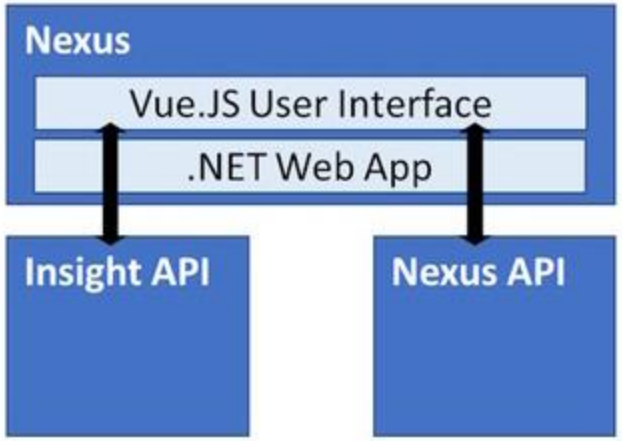
While the migration is underway, our project budget and release schedule will be impacted. To maintain the quality of the migration, we will reduce the number of releases during this period. However, the development team will continue working on new features and improvements. Once the new infrastructure is fully operational and stable, these updates will be thoroughly tested and queued for release later in the year.

Our new provider will offer:
- Industry-recognized certifications like ISO 27001, Cyber Essentials, and G-Cloud compliance
- UK-based hosting with dedicated UK support teams for faster, more responsive service
- Robust service-level agreements (SLAs)
- Comprehensive disaster recovery

This migration ensures that Nexus will operate on a modern, scalable infrastructure, enabling greater stability and unlocking opportunities for innovation. By prioritizing the quality of this transition, we are setting a solid foundation for growth and ensuring that our future releases are delivered on a platform built to last.

# Technical Debt

Nexus runs on .NET 4.8, a reliable platform with several years left in its support lifecycle. However, Microsoft has not provided a direct migration path to newer frameworks, and .NET 4.8's support timeline is tied to the end-of-life of its underlying operating system, which—while still several years out—remains inevitable. To future-proof our application, we plan to modernise incrementally. Our strategy begins with updating the user interface by transitioning to Vue.js, a flexible and efficient front-end framework. Vue.js will communicate with APIs, allowing us to streamline the application into a "thinner" web-based client. This phased approach makes the application lighter and more modular, setting the foundation for future migrations and technology upgrades without a complete overhaul. By updating the UI and APIs now, we position Nexus for easier transitions as new technologies and platforms emerge, ensuring stability, responsiveness, and scalability for our users.



# 2025/26 Potential Developments

- No KS4 Progress
- Improved Perspective Lite Administration within Nexus
- School Type and Phase
- School Auto Closure
- ‘Add School’ Button
- DfE Attendance Data Analysis – All Pupils & CLA
- New Forum
- **Expert Reference Group - TBC**
- ……

# Feedback to NCER

- Use Feedback@ncer.org to send feedback to NCER
- Use relevant Forum for development requests – each request a separate topic
- Contact NCER Training and Support Director paul.caladine@kirklees.gov.uk with any queries around support with NCER Nexus
- Use Helpdesk Form in Nexus for technical support or email nexussupport@angelsolutions.co.uk
- NCER Communications and Marketing Director donna.ross@eastsussex.gov.uk

NCER