

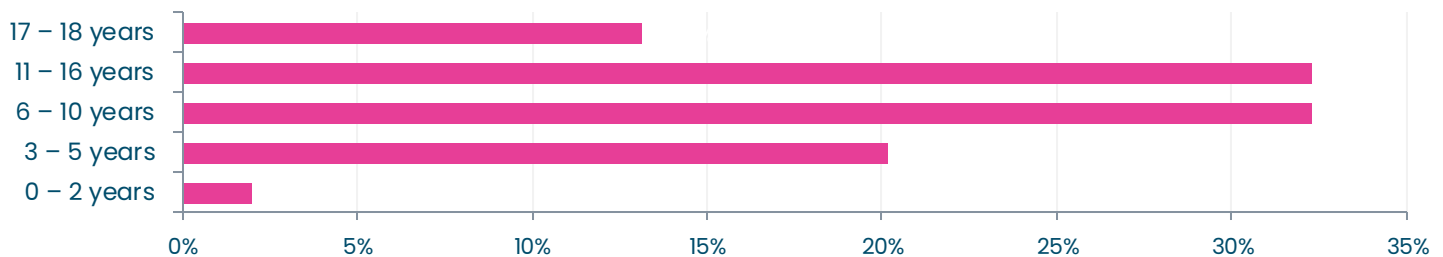
Poll Results: NHS Support for Children's Learning Needs in Sussex

In November 2025, Healthwatch in Sussex wanted to better understand experiences of NHS support for children's learning needs in Sussex to support, compliment and enable amplification of the views and experiences highlighted by community partners.

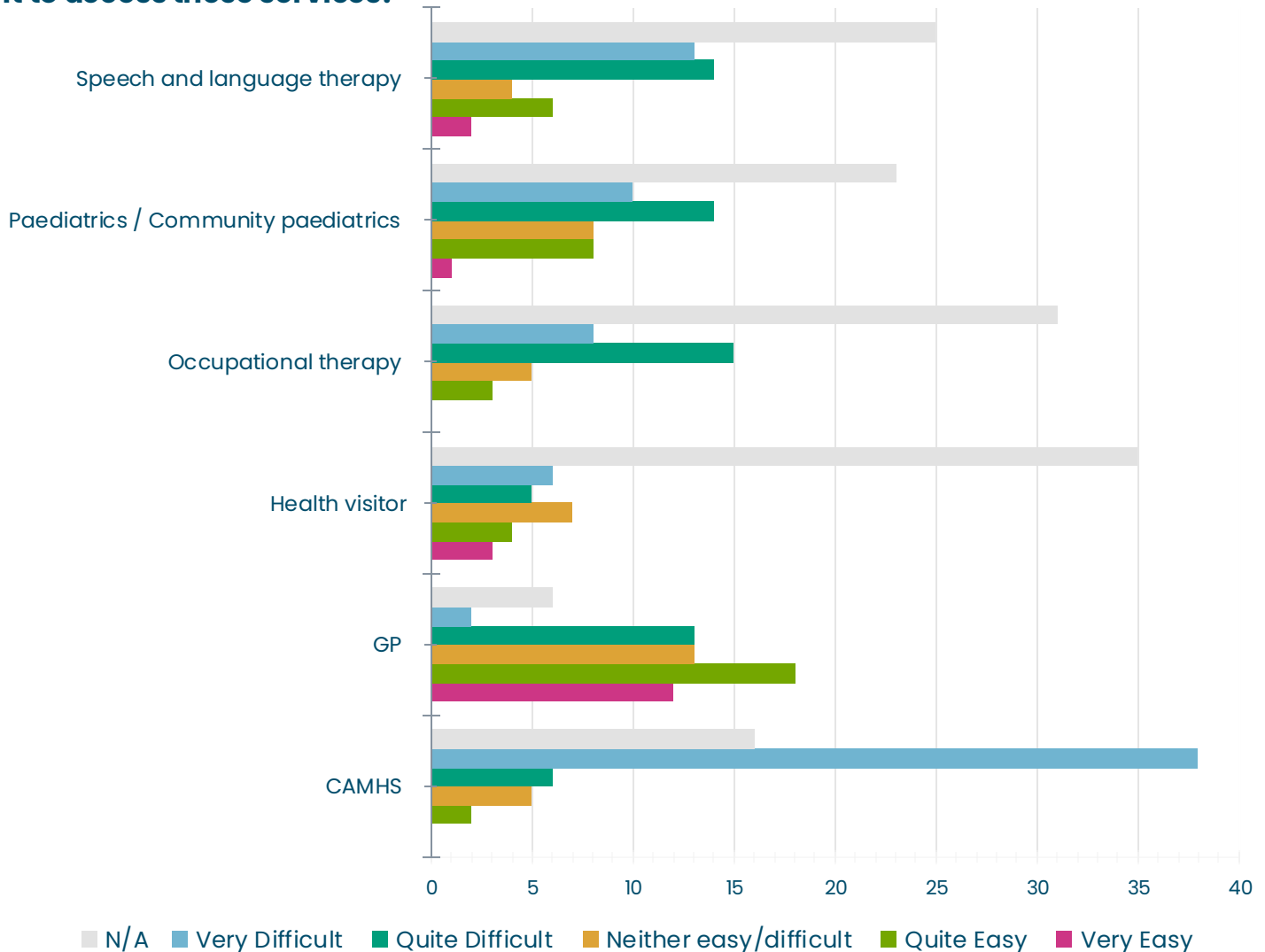
104 people from across Sussex shared their views with us. We heard:

- 71 (71.1%) have accessed NHS services in Sussex for child(ren)'s learning needs.
- 75 (100%) have experienced barriers and challenges.
- 29 (29.6%) are not confident that NHS services in Sussex can support children's learning needs.

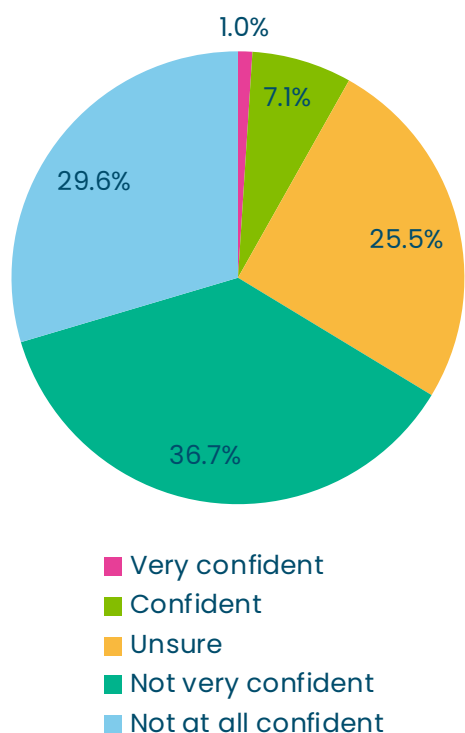
Child(ren)'s age who has accessed NHS support for learning needs



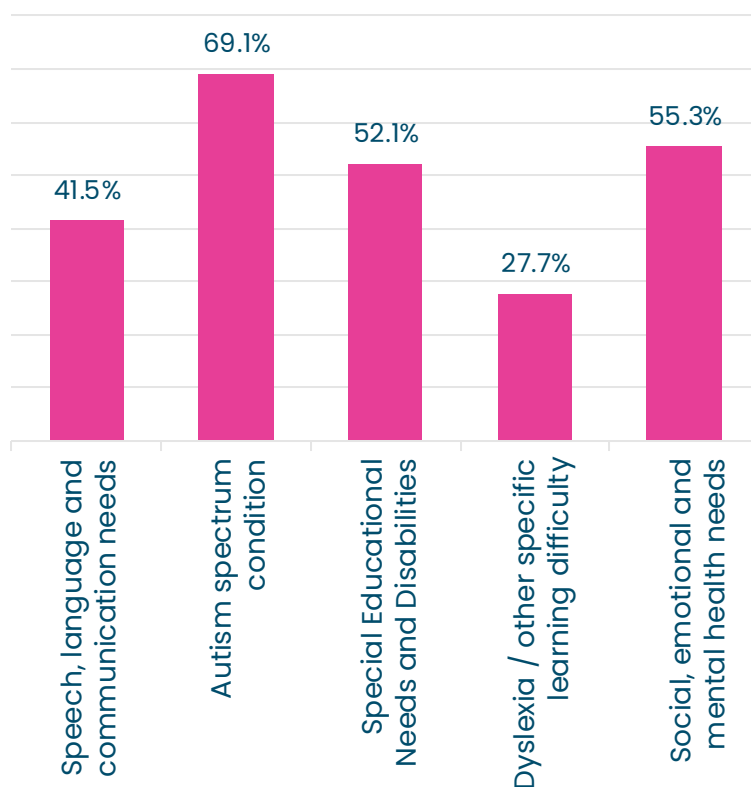
Which NHS services have you accessed for your child (ren) and how easy was it to access these services?



How confident are you that NHS services in Sussex can support children's learning needs?



What type(s) of learning needs does the child(ren) have?



Respondents to our poll told us:

What experienced barriers and challenges you have faced?

"It's been a constant battle to be heard. I've lost count of the number of times I've had to explain my son's situation."

"Barriers getting anyone to listen properly and to get the support required."

"Huge waiting lists; huge gap for young adults; inconsistency; told not bad enough even after first suicide attempt; told too bad for other services. The system is BROKEN."

"Extremely long waiting list to see Pediatrician to get a diagnosis. (2+ years)"

"Lack of support once diagnosis was made."

What improvements would you like to see in NHS services for children's learning needs in Sussex?

"More proactive support, not just when a child has reached crisis point."

Quicker assessment times/shorter waits for assessments and increased knowledge of staff around additional needs."

"More mental health support, more support for students who need assessments or diagnoses, more toolkits to teach us to support them in a way that will work, and get engagement from them."

Tell us your experience

We always want to hear more about people's experiences of health and care services. Share your story with your local Healthwatch:

Healthwatch Brighton & Hove: info@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk or 01273 234 040

Healthwatch East Sussex enquiries@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk or 0333 101 4007

Healthwatch West Sussex helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk or 0300 012 0122