

Special needs – some facts and figures:

- The Warnock report, estimated 20% of pupils would have a special educational need sometime during their school life, approximately almost **2 million** children; ^{1,2}
- Between 7% and 20% of children and adolescents suffer mental health problems;
- An estimated 300,000 – 400,000 children are defined as being ‘in need’; ³
- The OPCS’ study of disabilities showed 3% of Britain’s children < 16 years have disabilities, equivalent to 327,000 children of which 110,000 are severely disabled;^{4 5}
- Approx 250,000 students in England - have a “statement” of special educational needs;
- Approx one in seven children has asthma at some time, one in 20 requiring medical supervision;
- 11% of all aged 16-24 year olds have a long term disability or health problem⁶
- Approximately one child in 90 has an autistic spectrum disorder – a total of 120,000 children. ⁷
- Approx 60,000 children are looked after in statutory care at any time (excluding those in respite care);⁸
- Around one in 130 children in the UK has epilepsy (of which some 80% attend mainstream schools);
- 31/10,000 children are on the Child Protection Register; ⁹
- One in 400 babies born in the UK has cerebral palsy; ¹⁰
- One in 700 school age children has diabetes. ¹¹

¹ However this figure dates back to an estimate of the number of pupils that could be accommodated in education i.e. supply led rather than being based on ‘need’ per se

² DoH (March 2003) National Service Framework

³ Every child matters TSO (2003) p 15

⁴ Children with Disabilities (1993) Disability Information Trust, Oxford.

⁵ DoH (March 2003) National Service Framework

⁶ DRC (undated) Challenging Disability Discrimination: A guide to services

⁷ NAS (May 2001) Fact sheet & Disability Now (June 2002) p 3

⁸ Every Child Matters (2003) p 15, up from 53,000 in the early 1990s DoH (2000) Framework for the assessment of children in need and their families, TSO pp 2

⁹ Browne K, Chapter 3 “Defining, understanding and intervening” in Wilson and James pp 44-45; although the number on the CPR has fallen since the early 1990s to 25,700 in March 2002.

¹⁰ Scope (2001/2)

¹¹ DfES Guidance on supporting pupils with medical needs.