

Managing cost risk in Children's Services

Alex Khaldi

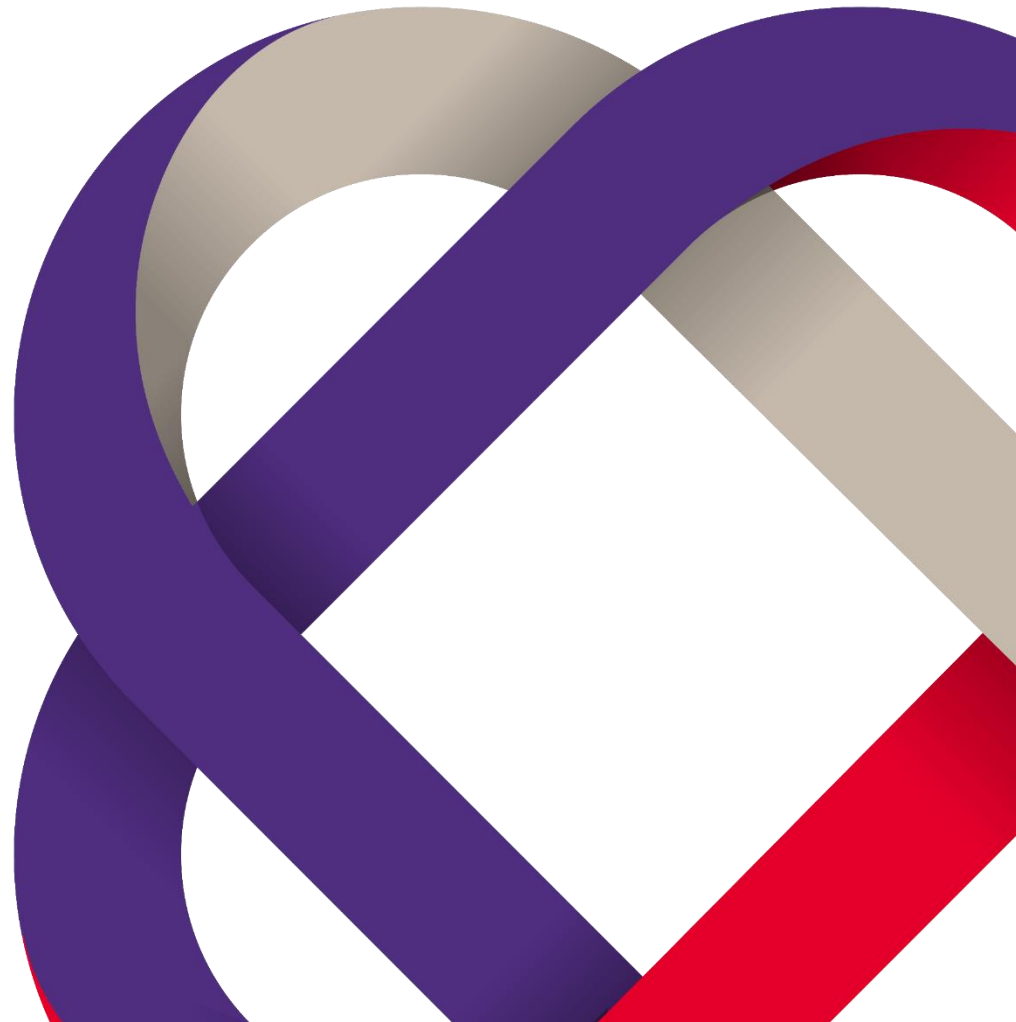
Partner, Head of Social Care, Grant Thornton

Barbara Peacock

Experienced DCS and DASS

Claire Hampson

Manager, Grant Thornton



Agenda

Challenges for FDs (Alex)

Data insights (Claire)

Comments and questions

Children's services

Rise in children taken into care pushes 88% of councils over budget

Local authorities overspent on children's services by an estimated £807m in 2017-18

The Guardian

'Treated like CATTLE!': Vulnerable children are being auctioned online by councils inviting private firms to bid for up to £7,000-a-week for their care

MailOnline

Children's funding slashed by a third per child, leaving thousands at risk of falling into crisis

Manchester Evening News

Councils warn of £3bn child services black hole as thousands more children require protection

INDEPENDENT

Child protection services near crisis as demand rises

BBC

Vulnerable children are on the new frontline of a crisis in social care

Constraints on councils mean they are cutting preventative measures, thereby increasing pressures on services

The Observer

Children's services 'at breaking point'

PublicFinance

Charities warn government that cuts to children's services 'leave thousands at risk'

sky news

Figures in a new study compiled by a group of charities show that available funding per child has fallen by a third since 2010.

Children in crisis as social care struggles

THE TIMES

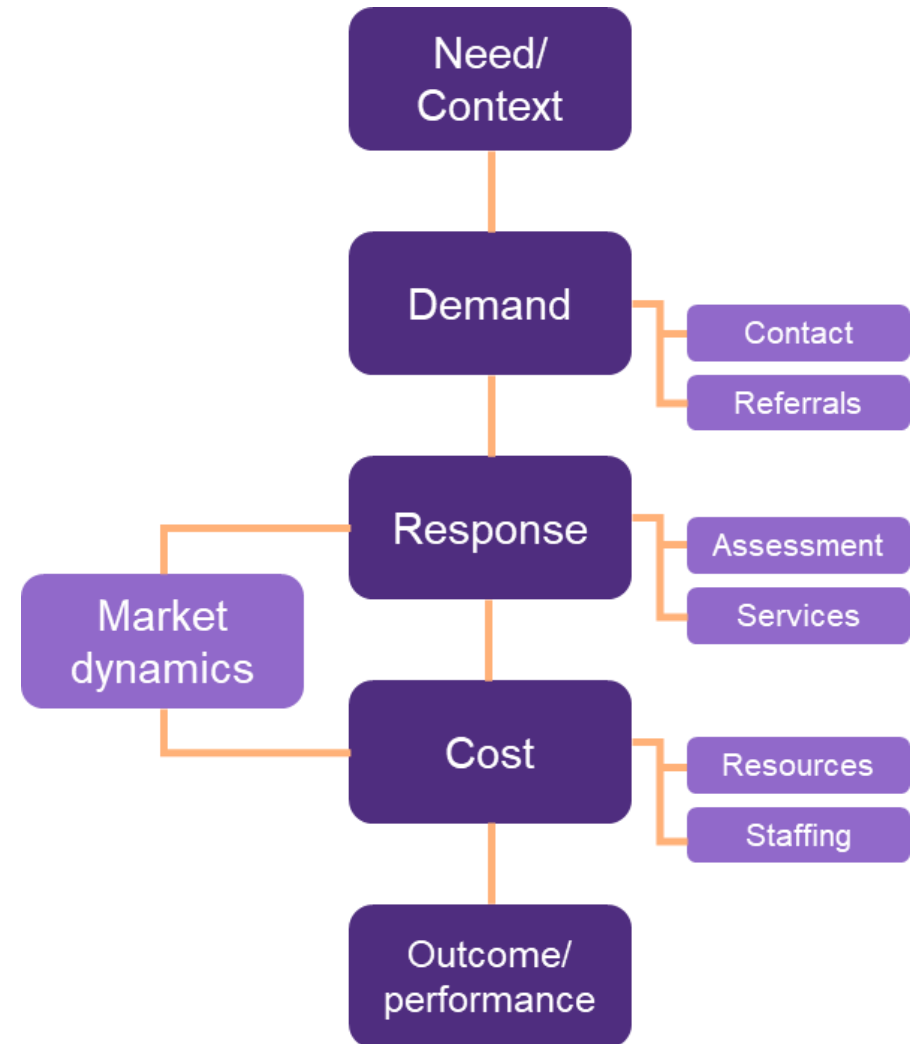
Overspending on helping at-risk youngsters nears £1bn

The Guardian

Cambridge Evening News

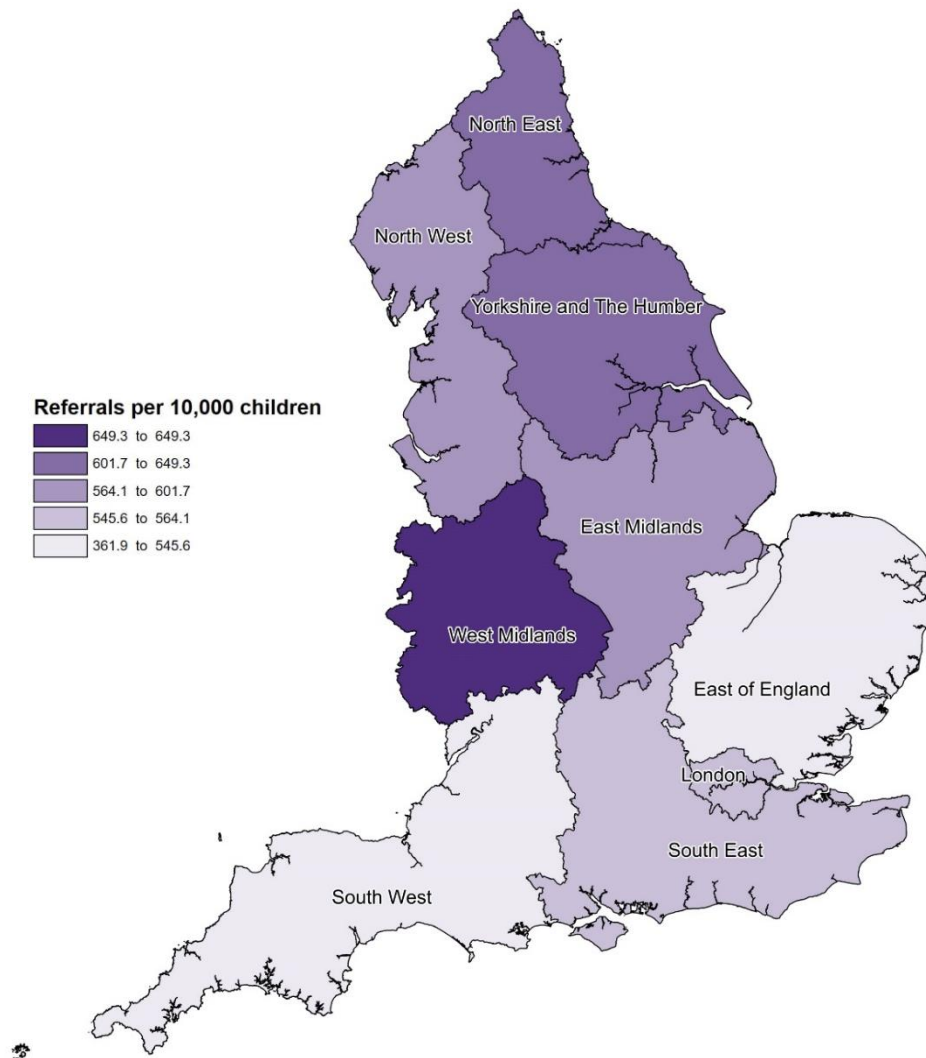
Five key messages

1. The Childrens social care system is under considerable pressure in a way that is not perfectly understood
2. But focus on the whole system is needed (see right)
3. The supply side (providers and workforce) needs more attention
4. FDs can engage with Childrens on a medium/long term plan
5. Investment will likely be needed to create cost sustainability



Demand: Referrals

Total referrals per 10,000 children (2017/18)



Change in referrals (%) (2012/13 – 2017/18)



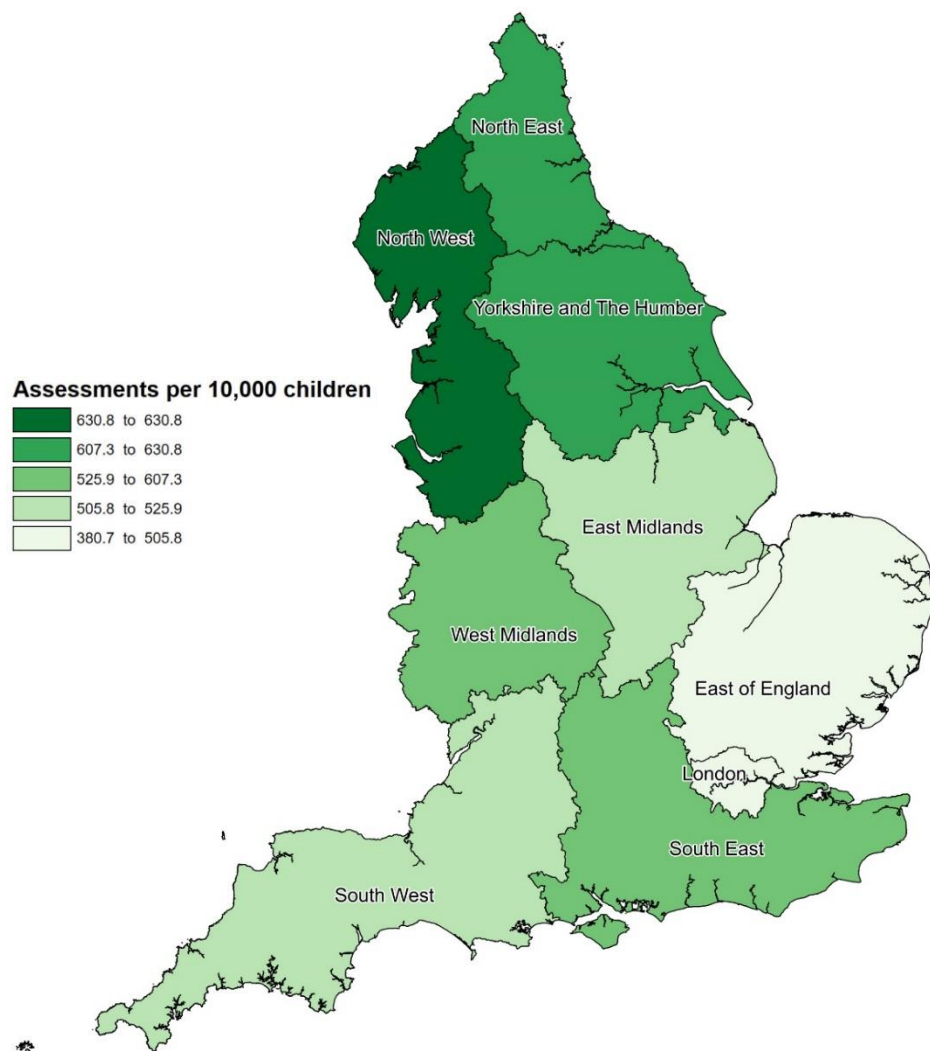
- In 2017/18, the East of England has 44% less referrals per 10,000 children than West Midlands
- Nationally there has been an increase of 6% since 2012/13
- West Midlands referral rate has increased by 24.6% since 2012/13

Demand: Referrals

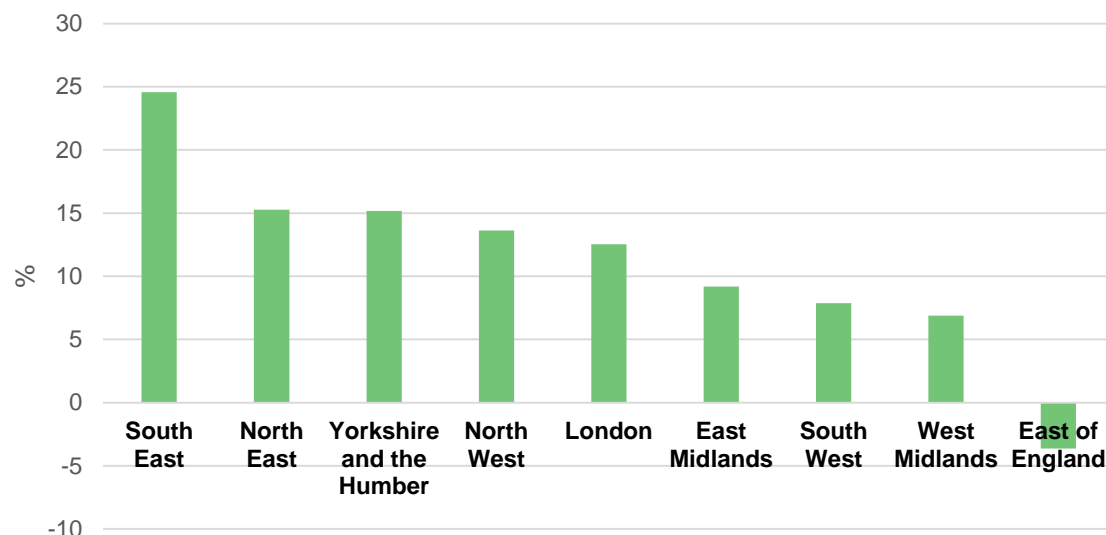


Demand: Assessments

Total assessments per 10,000 children (2017/18)

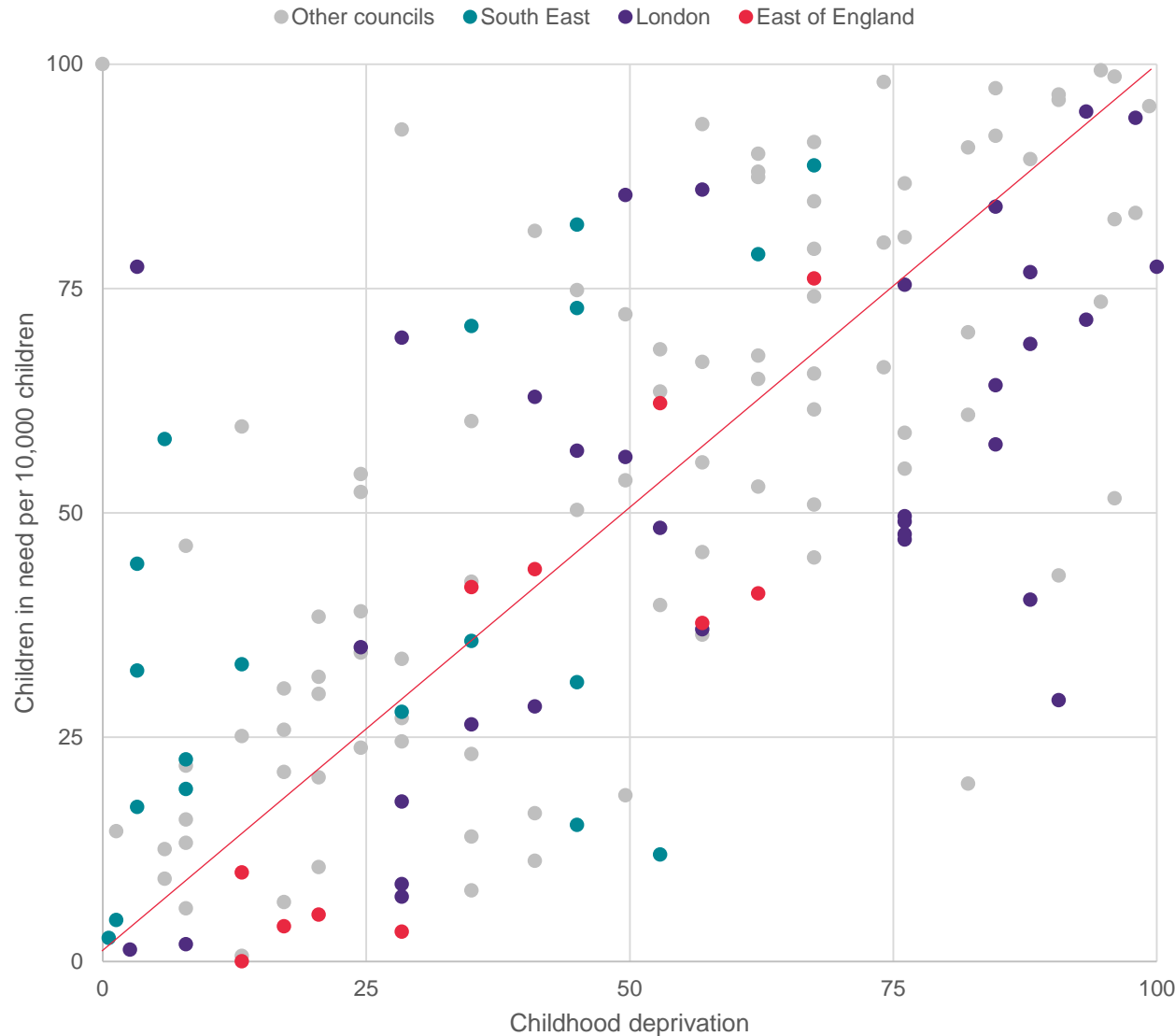


Change in assessments (%) (2014/15 – 2017/18)



- In 2017/18, the East of England has 40% less assessments per 10,00 children than North West
- Nationally there has been an increase in assessments of 11.6% since 2014/15
- South East assessment rate has increased by 24.56% since 2014/15

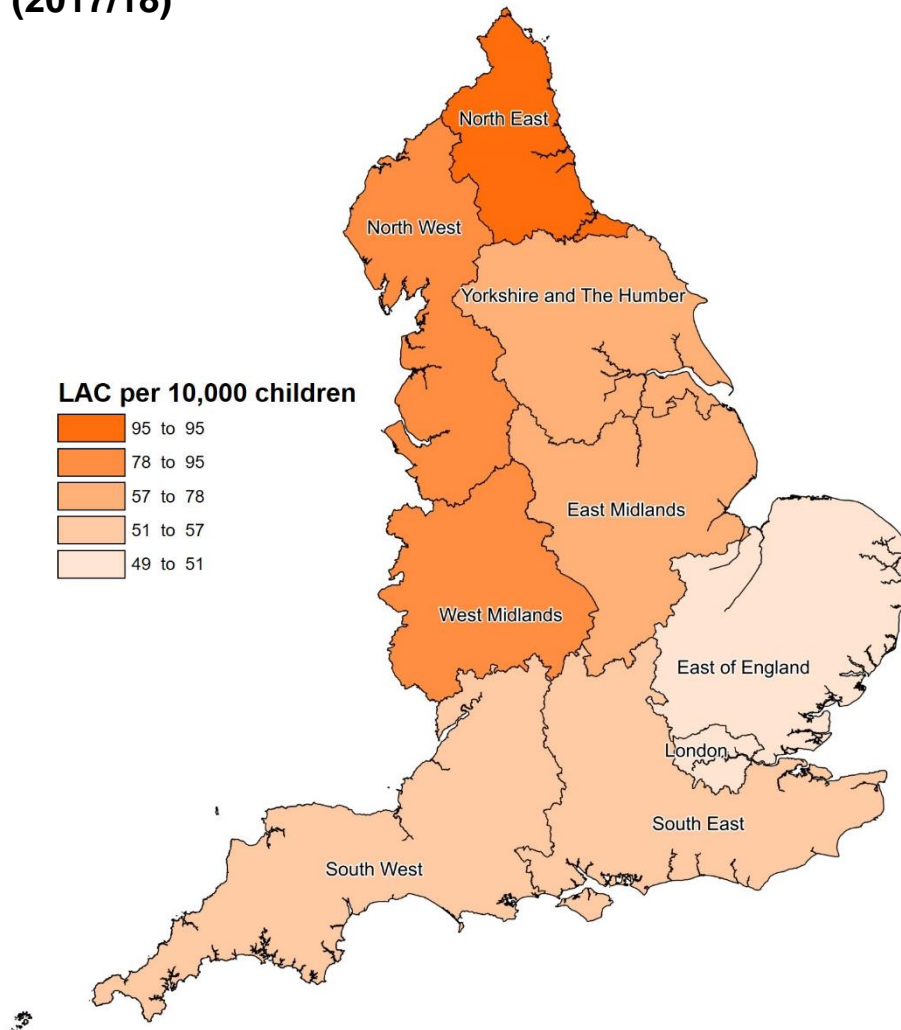
Children in need vs deprivation



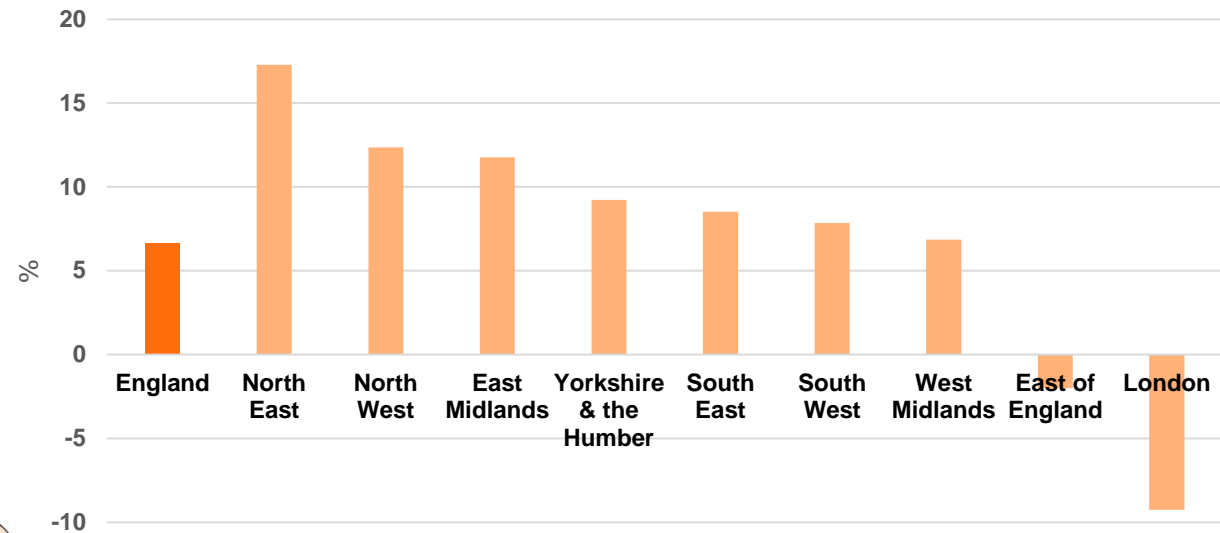
- Positive correlation between child deprivation and the rate of children in need
- Authorities to the right of the trend line have a low rate of children in need for the level of deprivation in their area

Looked after children

Total looked after children per 10,000 children (2017/18)

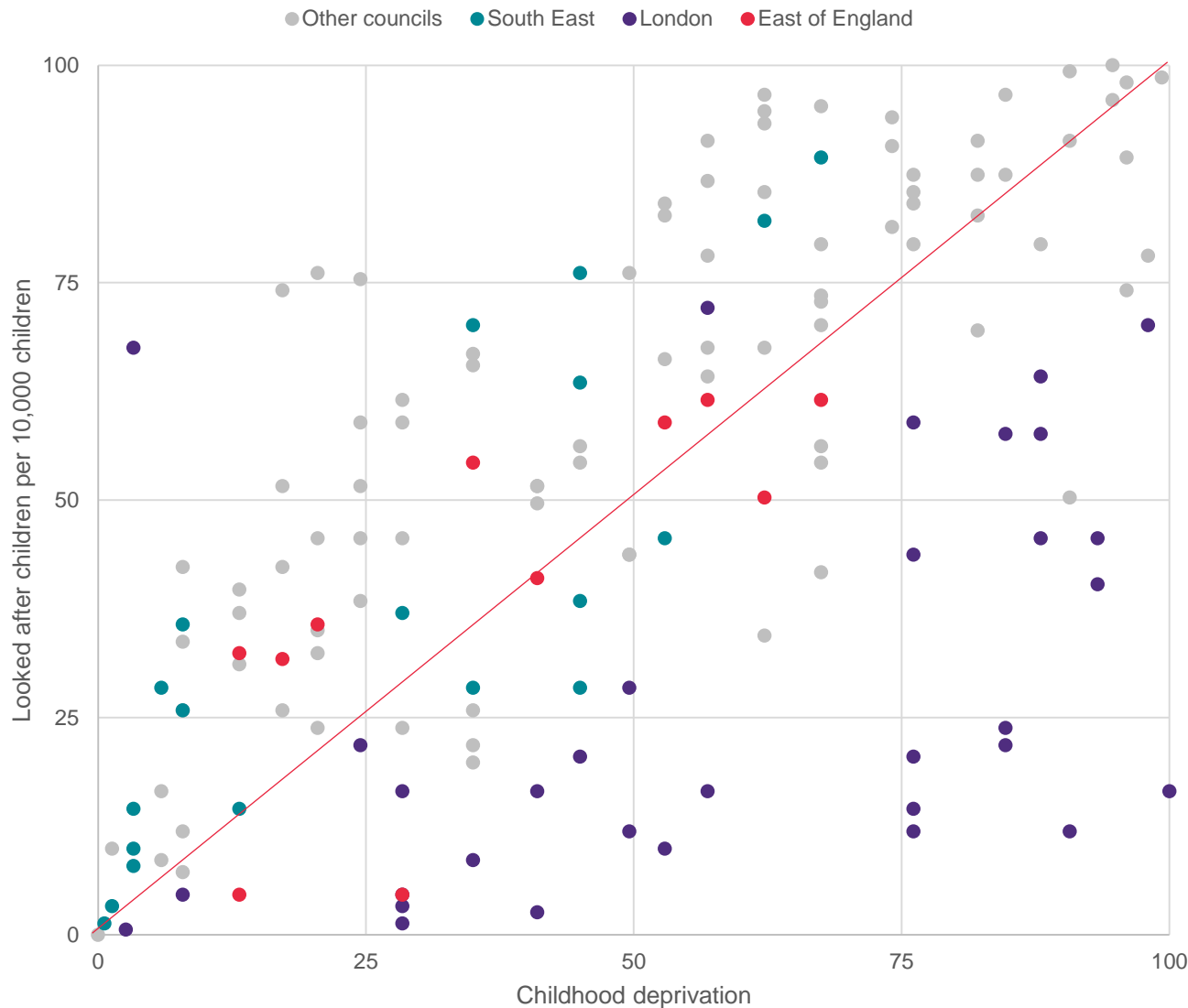


Change in looked after children (%) (2014/15 – 2017/18)



- In 2017/18 there was a national average of 64 looked after children per 10,000 children
- The rate of looked after children in the North East is 48% higher than the national average, and has increased by 17% since 2014/15
- In contrast, London's rate of looked after children has decreased by 9% since 2014/15

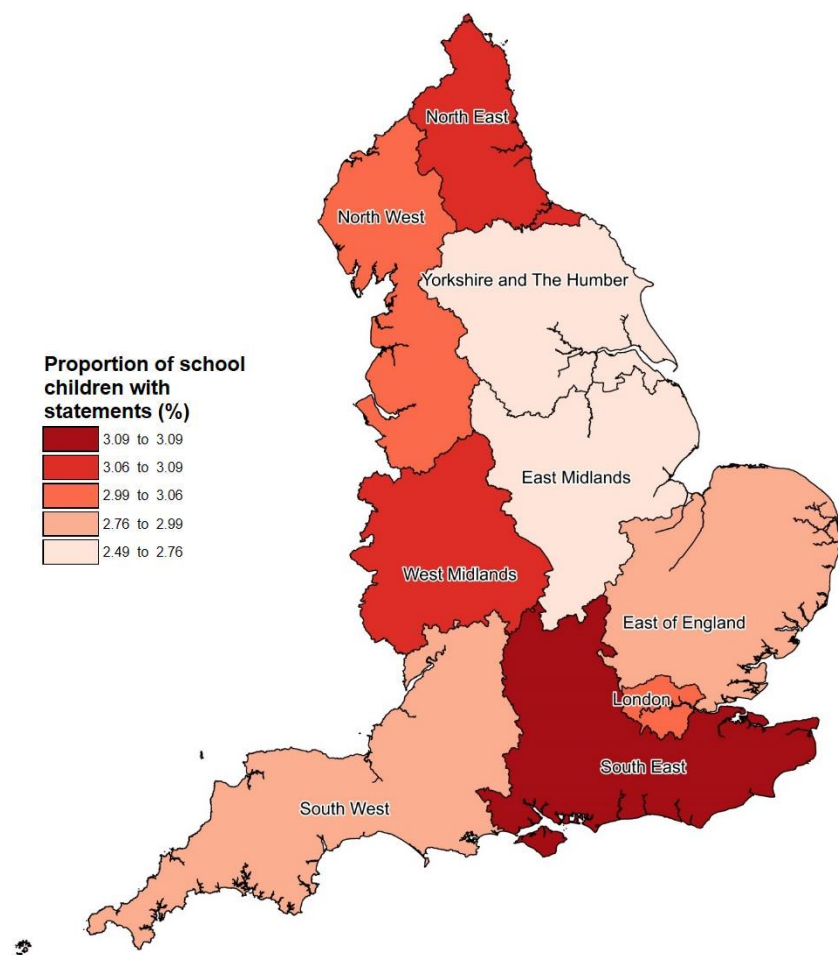
Looked after children vs deprivation



- Positive correlation between child deprivation and the rate of looked after children
- Authorities to the right of the trend line have a low rate of looked after children for the level of deprivation in their area

Children with statements or EHC plans

Proportion of school children with statements or EHC plans (2017/18)

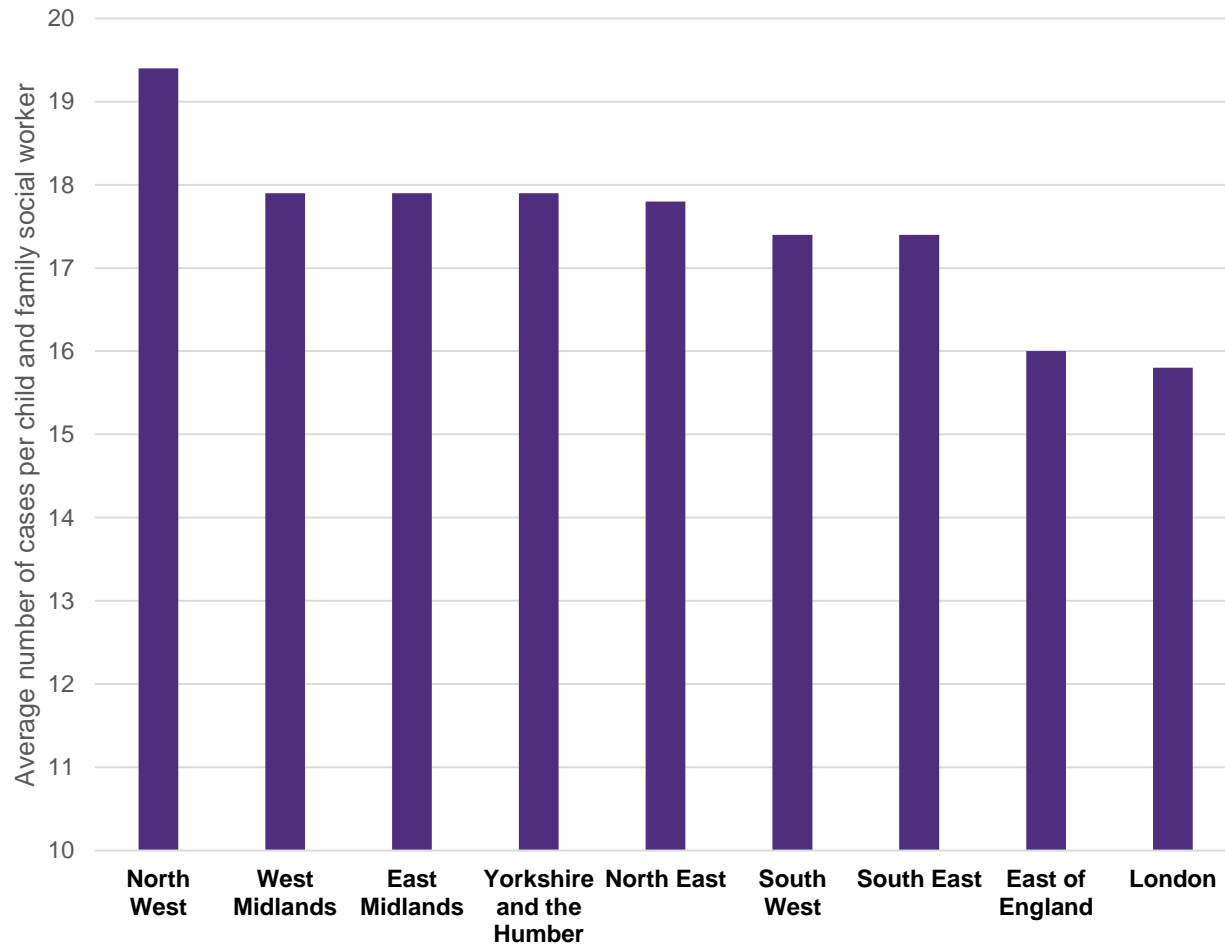


Change in the proportion of schools children with statements or EHC plans (%) (2014/15 – 2017/18)



- In 2018, nationally 2.9% of school children had statements or EHC plans
- The regions with the greatest proportion of school children with EHC plans or statements in 2018 were the South East (3.09%) and North East (3.07%)
- London has seen the most significant growth in the proportion of school children with EHC plans or statements at 9.56%

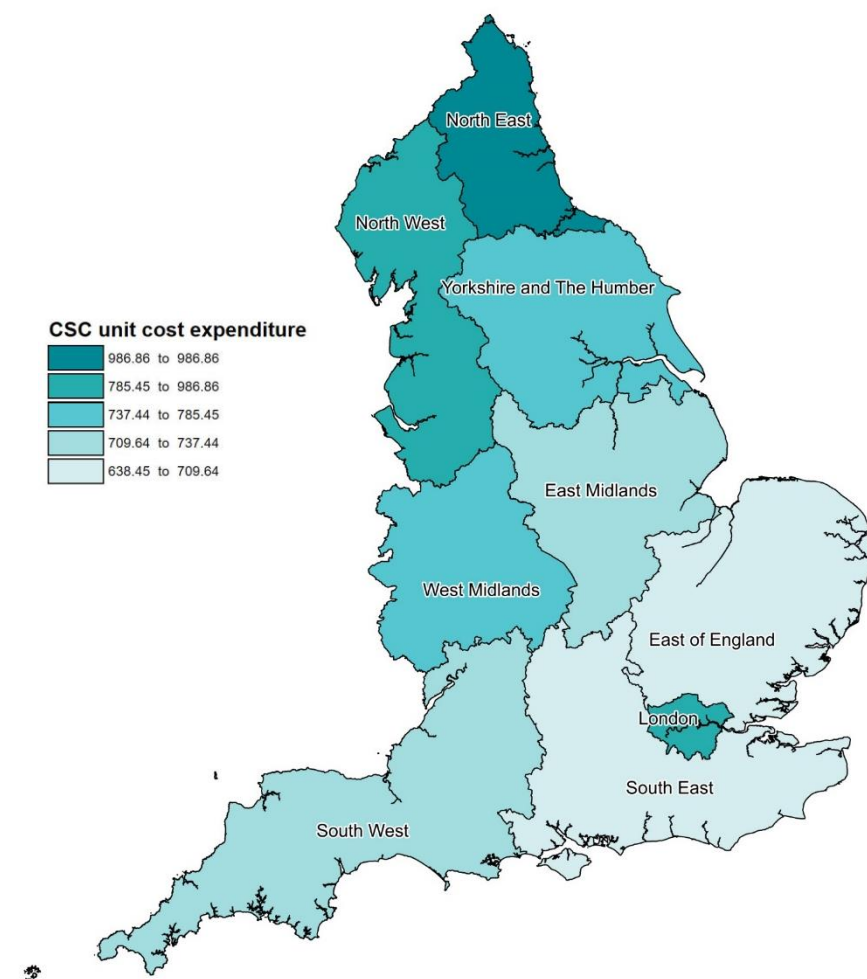
Social worker average caseloads



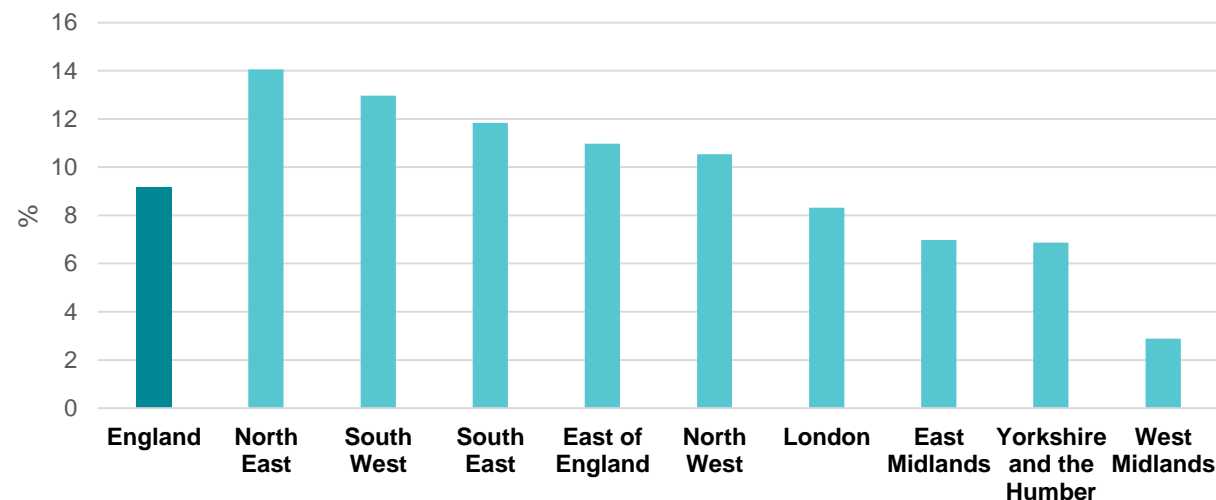
- In 2017/18, case loads were greatest in the North West at 19.4 cases per social worker
- In contrast, London had average caseloads of 15.8
- The maximum caseload in England is 27 and the minimum is 12

Children's social care expenditure

Unit cost children's social care expenditure (2017/18)

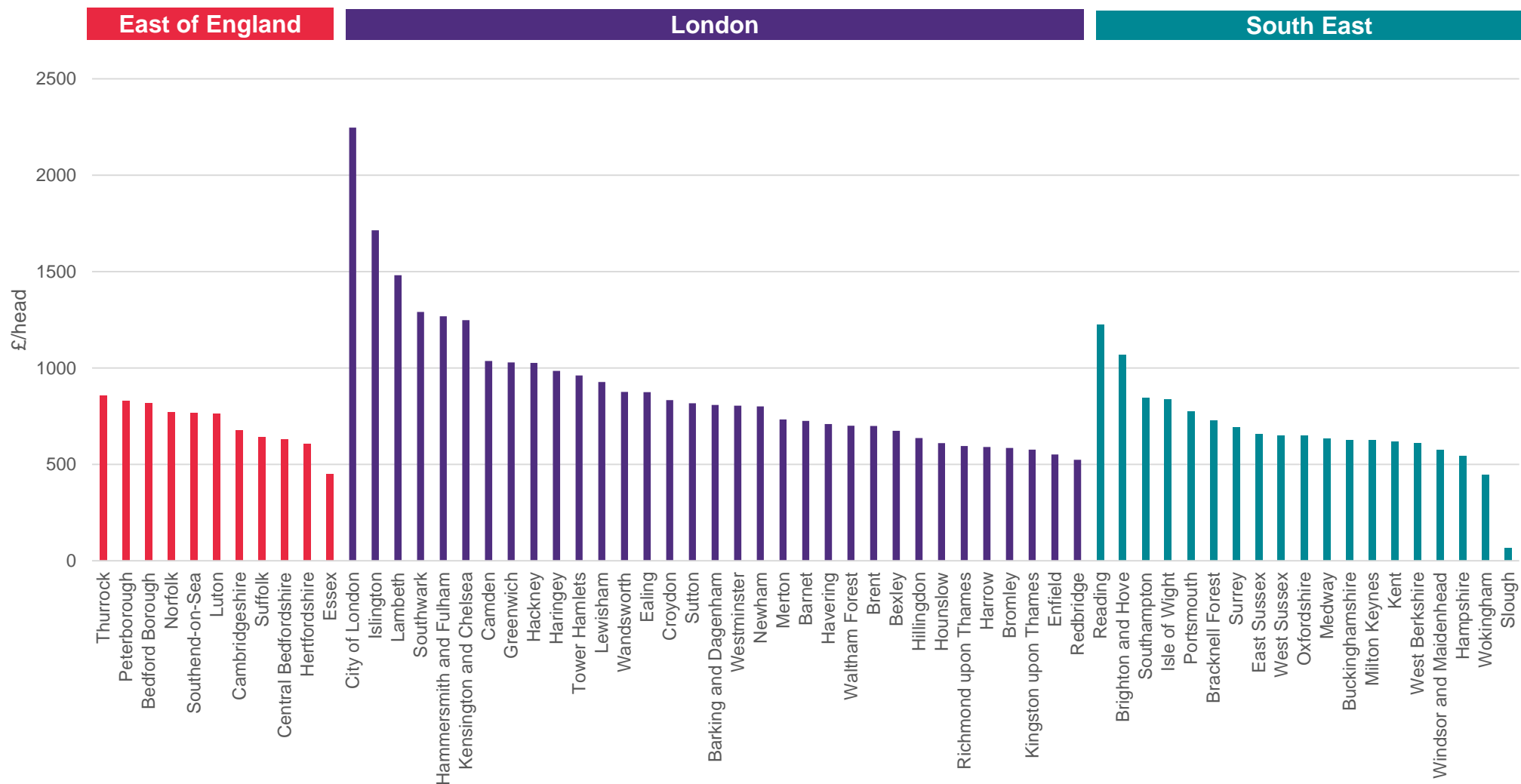


Change in children's social care expenditure (%) (2014/15 – 2017/18)

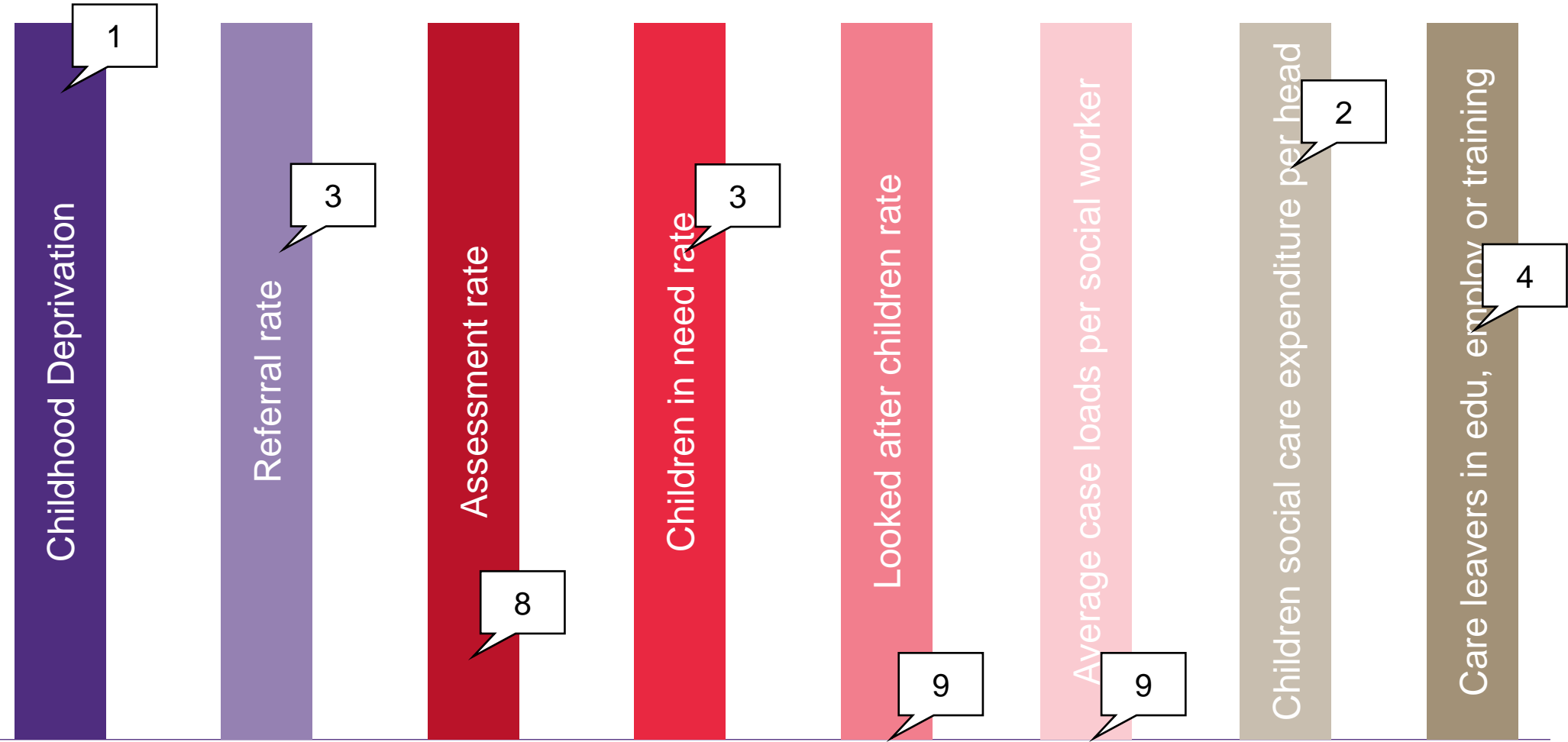


- In 2017/18, the national average unit cost expenditure was £774 per head
- In 2017/18, unit cost expenditure in the North East was 32% higher than the national average
- The North East has also seen the most significant growth in costs between 2014/15 and 2017/18

Children's social care expenditure

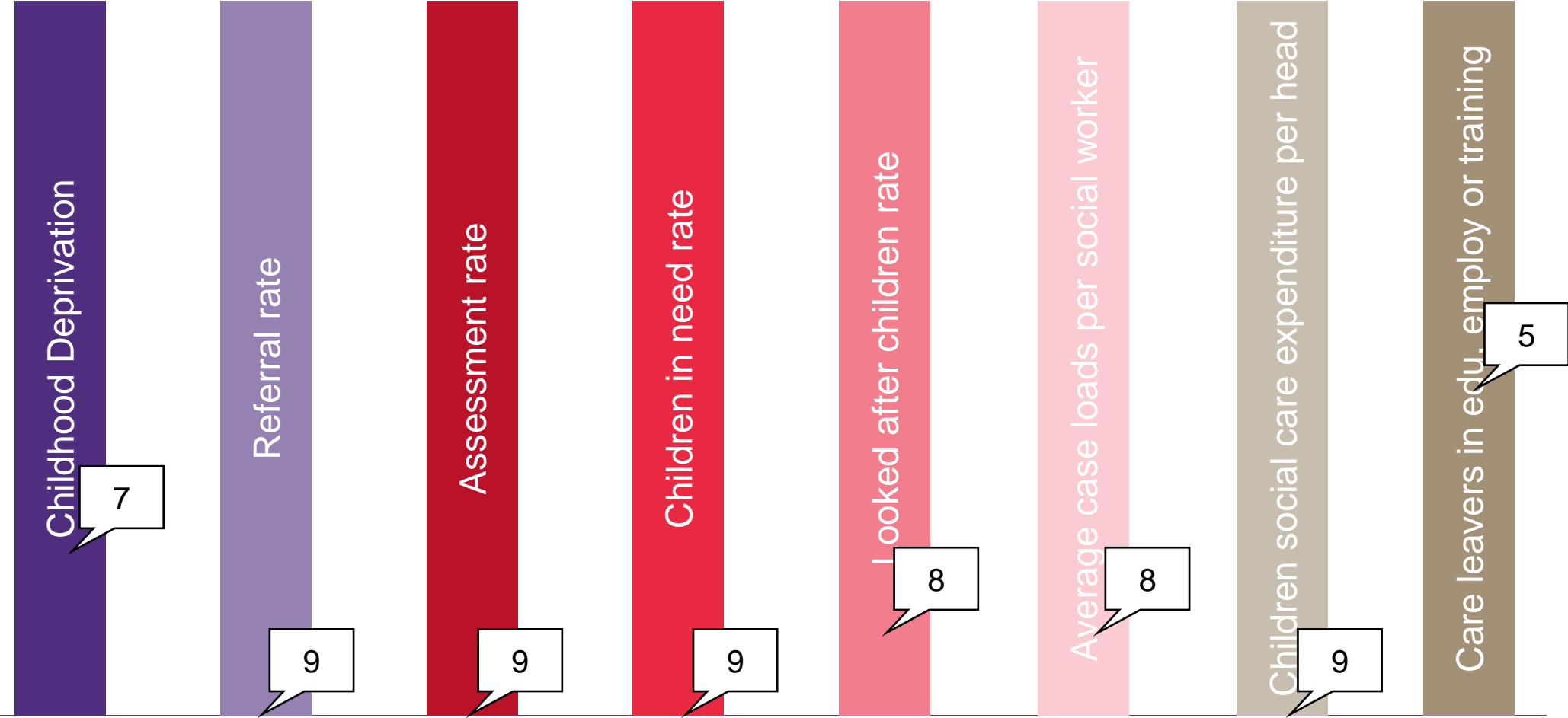


London



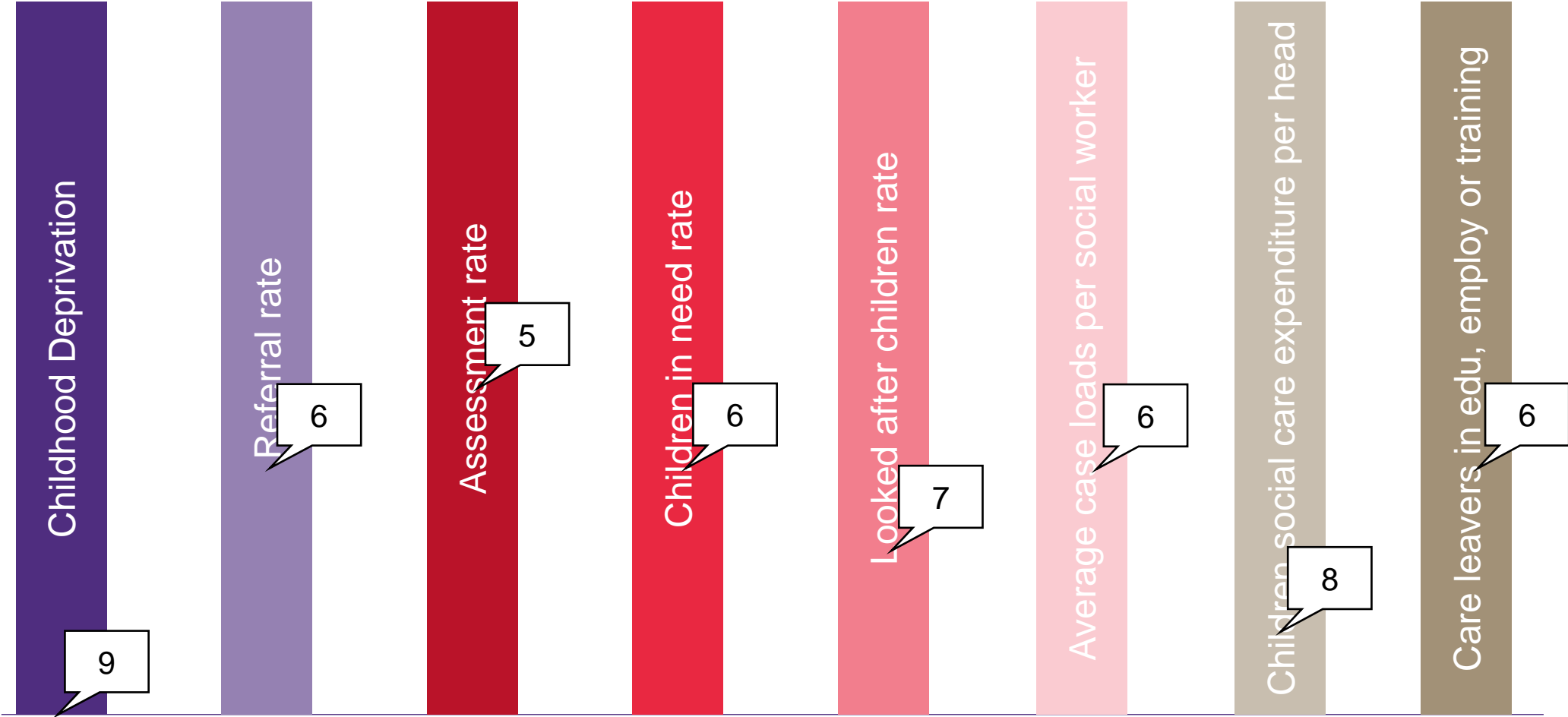
Rank out of 9 regions

East of England



Rank out of 9 regions

South East



Rank out of 9 regions

Childrens - financial resilience strategies

High risk care
cohorts 1

