



# ‘Identifying the Children’s Nursing Workforce Required in Special Needs Schools – a pilot project’

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# Introduction & background

- ▶ Review of Special Schools Nursing Services in Bradford
  - ▶ Discussions with NICE, Department of Health & local commissioners
- ▶ Concerns raised across the country, often related to incidents and near misses e.g. Kent Head Teachers
- ▶ Trudy Ward's work on a tool to assess nursing needs: Assessing nursing needs in school tool: Commissioning and workforce planning tool
- ▶ RCN updating guidance for Community Children's Nursing Teams
- ▶ Roundtable hosted by RCN and Bradford District Achievement Partnership



# Roundtable



Involved Head Teachers,  
Commissioners & LA lead  
from 5 areas:

Bradford  
Kent  
Sheffield  
South Wales  
West Sussex



Discussion regarding the way forward resulted in an agreement to undertake a study to assess the nursing needs of all children in special schools within the areas using Trudy Ward's nursing needs assessment tool

## Methodology



One individual undertakes training of the teams to ensure consistency in application of the tool



Children's Nurses with experience of looking after children with special needs to collect the data in the autumn term of 2018



Data to be collected on all children in identified schools within each area



Data collated & anonymised and sent to Project Lead



## Categories of need



**Complex and fluctuating health needs likely during the school day**

*Indicates children's nursing priority input required & shows the need for nursing assessment during the school day*



**Complex long term health conditions**

*Indicates children's nursing advice and interventions regarding LTC management during the school day*



**Everyday complex healthcare needs**

*Indicates that a children's nurse is required to train a member of school staff in specific skills under delegated duties*



**Medicine Safety**

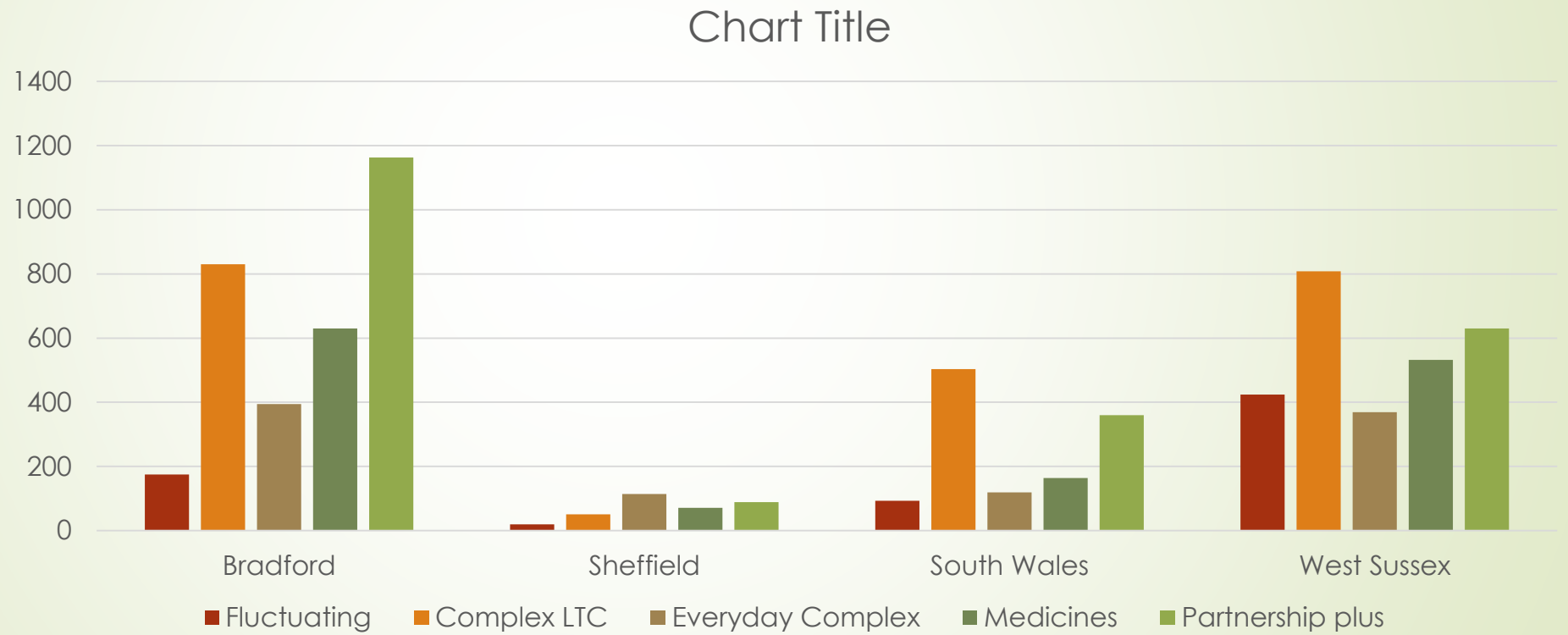


**Partnership plus: Safeguarding, Looked After Children, Transitions and Education Health care Plan.**

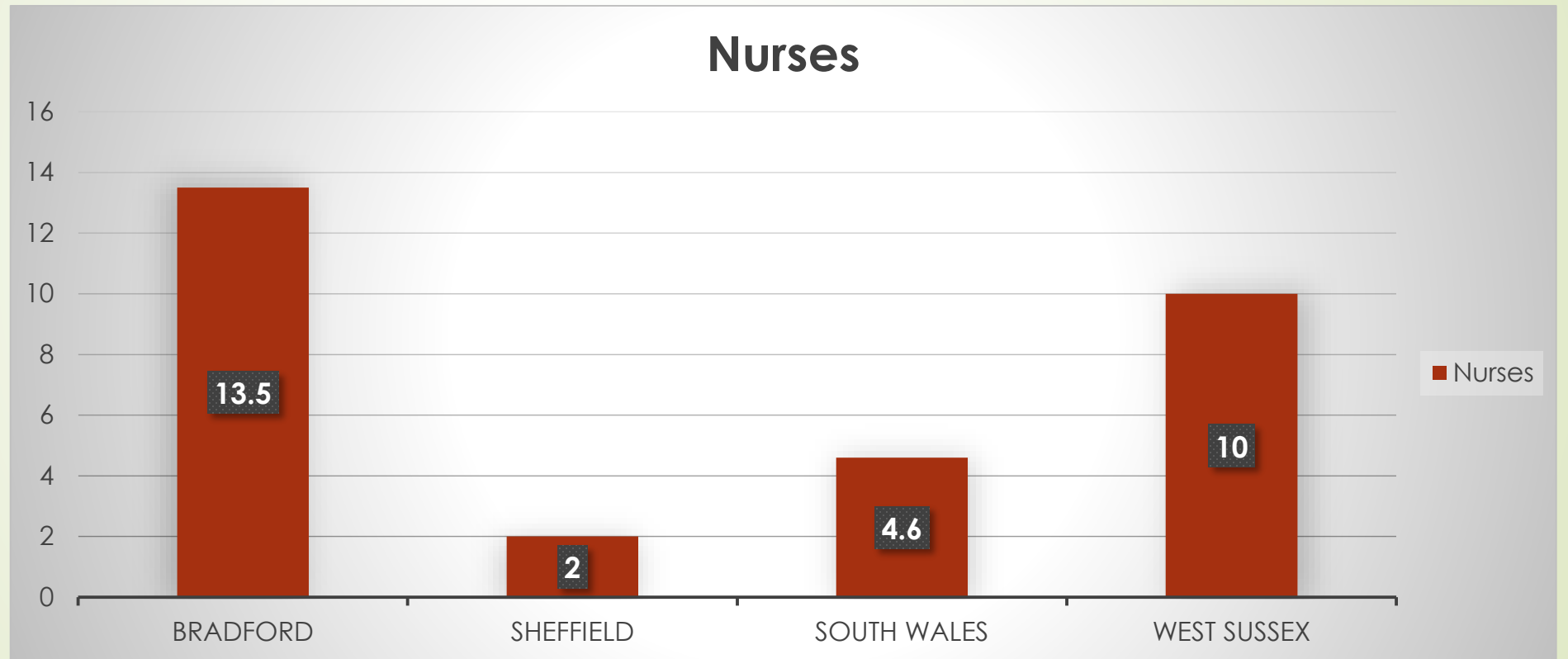
# Data overview: Total number of children and schools



# Need categories



# Number of Nurses



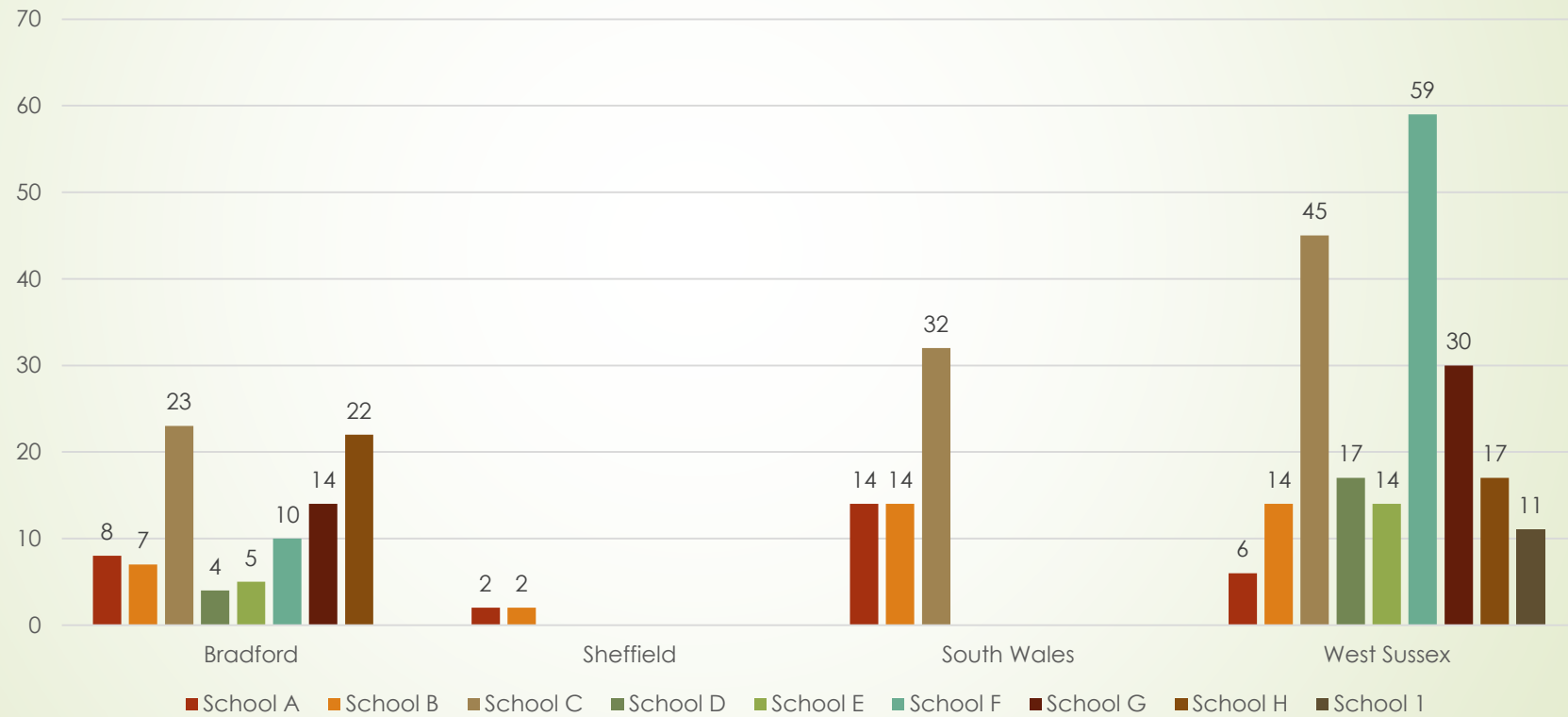


# Complex & fluctuating health needs

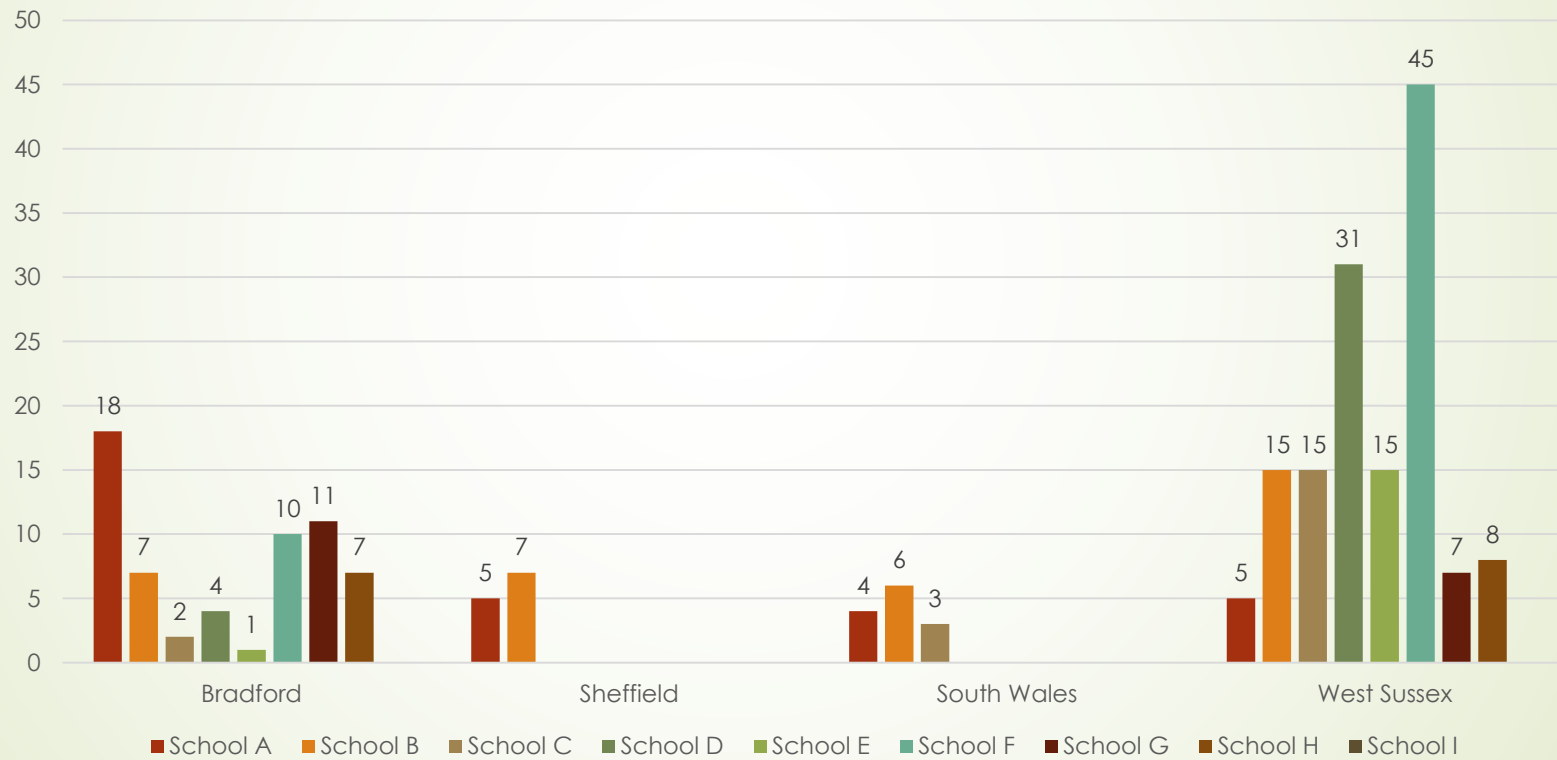
**Table 2: Children with complex and fluctuation health needs during the school day**

|                    | <b>Continuing Care Support</b> | <b>Life limiting condition</b> | <b>Unstable health</b> | <b>Nursing needs</b> | <b>Other</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Bradford</b>    | 22                             | 93                             | 60                     | 0                    | 0            |
| <b>Sheffield</b>   | 3                              | 4                              | 12                     | 0                    | 0            |
| <b>South Wales</b> | 12                             | 60                             | 13                     | 4                    | 2            |
| <b>West Sussex</b> | 59                             | 213                            | 147                    | 5                    | 0            |

# Life limiting conditions

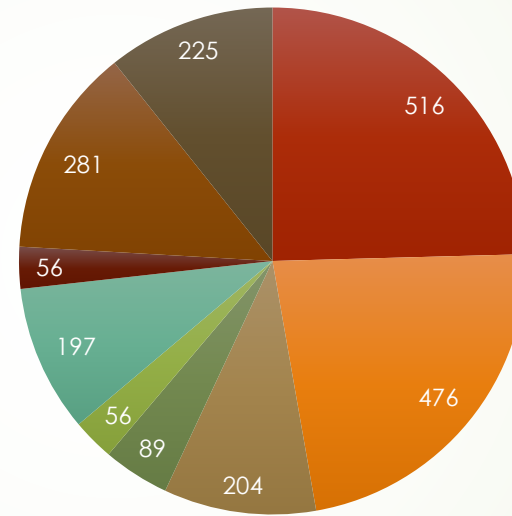


# Unpredictable or unstable health



# Complex long term health needs

Number of children with complex long term conditions by health needs

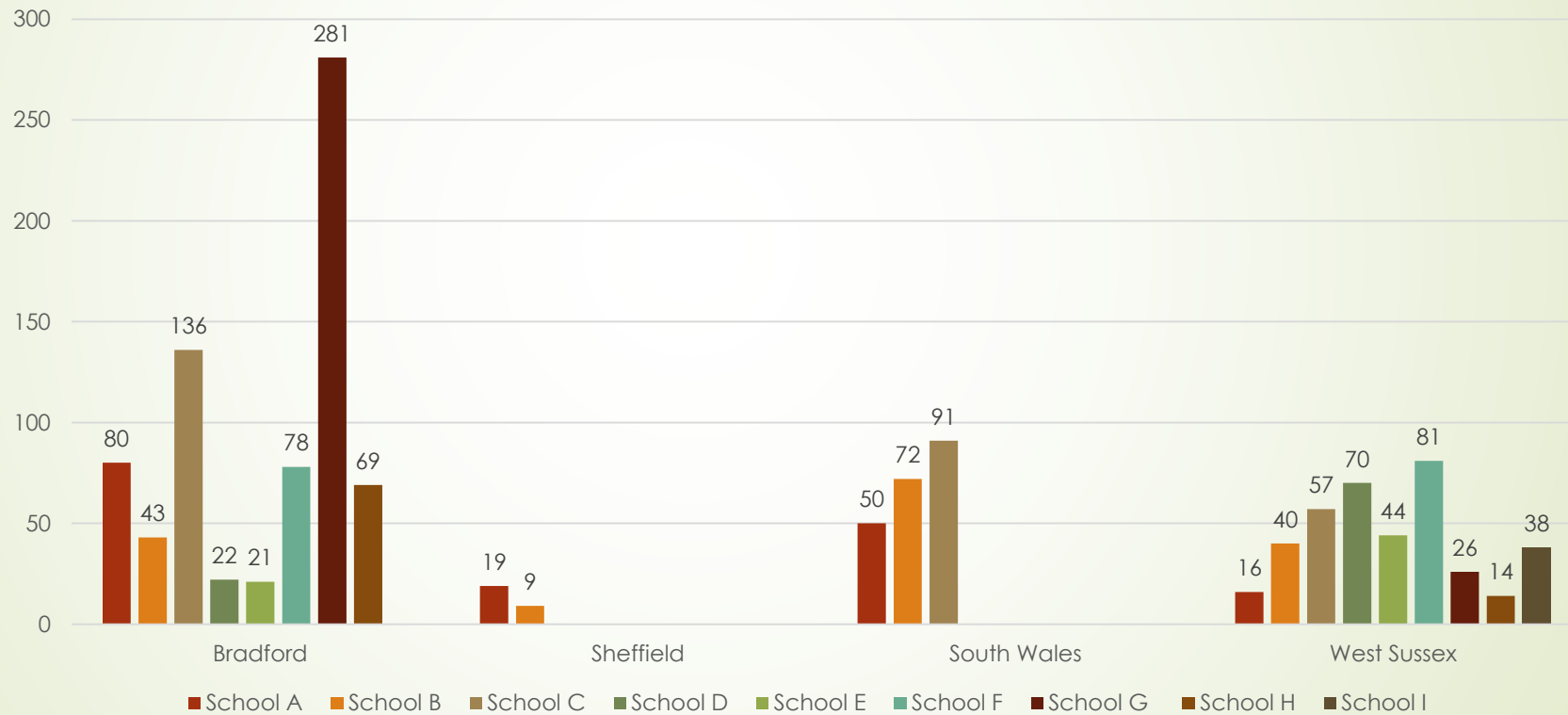


- Complex neurodisability
- Epilepsy
- Respiratory management
- Pain profile
- Post operative needs after complex surgery
- Tissue viability
- Continenence need
- Enteral feeding
- Other (includes 132 children with ASD/ADHD)

# Complex long term needs by area

|                  | Complex neuro | Epilepsy | Respiratory | Pain profile | Post-op | Tissue viability | Continence | Enteral feed |
|------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------------|------------|--------------|
| Bradford Schools | 37            | 21       | 5           | 1            | 1       | 2                | 0          | 22           |
| Sheffield        | 6             | 24       | 4           | 0            | 0       | 0                | 0          | 11           |
| South Wales      | 55            | 41       | 21          | 1            | 1       | 1                | 0          | 40           |
| West Sussex      | 6             | 8        | 4           | 2            | 2       | 0                | 0          | 8            |

# Complex neurodisability, epilepsy and enteral feeding



# Children with complex everyday health needs

| Total children with complex everyday healthcare needs |                 |                   |              |               |              |                |                      |              |               |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
|   | Enteral feeding | Resp: ventilation | Resp: airway | Resp: suction | Resp: oxygen | Resp: humidity | Epilepsy rescue meds | Central line | Blood glucose |
| <b>Bradford</b>                                       | 159             | 2                 | 3            | 50            | 19           | 16             | 118                  | 1            | 4             |
| <b>Sheffield</b>                                      | 36              | 2                 | 2            | 4             | 2            | 0              | 58                   | 1            | 2             |
| <b>South Wales</b>                                    | 47              | 0                 | 2            | 6             | 5            | 3              | 51                   | 0            | 5             |
| <b>West Sussex</b>                                    | 78              | 4                 | 7            | 60            | 26           | 19             | 109                  | 3            | 13            |

# Medicines safety

|             | Every day | Occasionally | Boarding |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Bradford    | 97        | 527          | 6        |
| Sheffield   | 48        | 23           | 0        |
| South Wales | 44        | 120          | 0        |
| West Sussex | 212       | 292          | 28       |



# Partnership Plus

|                | CIN/LAC | CP Plan | MH needs | Transition | EHCP |
|----------------|---------|---------|----------|------------|------|
| Bradford       | 206     | 10      | 122      | 166        | 659  |
| Sheffield      | 9       | 3       | 30       | 47         | 0    |
| South<br>Wales | 138     | 10      | 47       | 37         | 162  |
| West<br>Sussex | 145     | 25      | 81       | 75         | 256  |




# Nursing



- ▶ Role of nurse varies widely between areas
- ▶ Calculation of numbers of staff to be trained varies from all staff to multipliers/child
- ▶ Most nurses employed term time only
- ▶ Provision for continuing care packages in school varies e.g. carer attends school with child, school staff or school nurses provide care
- ▶ EHCPs form the vast majority of the work in partnership plus in some areas
- ▶ Nursing numbers are not based on number of children
  - ▶ Ratio in Bradford 90 children: 1 nurse (last year 70:1)
  - ▶ Variation 1:135 to 1:88



# Components of nursing role

- ▶ Providing public health, 'children with disability' & children's community nursing functions
  - ▶ Educator
  - ▶ Coordinator
  - ▶ Governance including risk management
  - ▶ Multidisciplinary working e.g. safeguarding, clinics
- 



# Recommendations

- ▶ Need a minimum of one nurse in school when school is open
  - ▶ Difficult to stipulate ratios from this data but looking at formula based on level of complexity
- ▶ Clear commissioning agreement including funding streams
- ▶ Need clear combined governance framework for all agencies involved
- ▶ All special needs schools should use the assessment of needs tool
  - ▶ Where used teams have managed to get an increase in staffing based on evidence



# Ongoing work

- ▶ Bradford undertaking further work with the Centre for Applied Research in Education (CARE) & Born in Bradford
- ▶ Use evidence to work on governance frameworks in schools – RCN CCN revised guidance
  - ▶ Job descriptions
  - ▶ Training and competence assessment
  - ▶ Incident management including medications
  - ▶ Continuing care packages



# Questions?

Provide further information when pilot study is complete