



## October Summary 2022

### SEND Accountability Board and SEND Programme Board

All agendas, minutes and paperwork for these meetings are supplied by Suffolk County Council and can now be found on their Infolink page: [SEND Governance](#). During the September meeting, we raised the following issues:

**Transport** – SPCF would like assurances that the 1 day training for drivers and passenger assistants will be undertaken by all. SPCF also raised the need for additional support for those children involved in the car accident.

**Life Skills** – SPCF were very saddened to read about the Life Skills centre closing abruptly and wanted to ensure that the students were receiving support around new placements. This was in hand and placements had already been found for a number of young people.

**Waveney SaLT** – SPCF raised that the Speech and Language Therapy intervention services have a 2 year wait in Waveney which means early intervention support is not in place for many children. SPCF would like to know what can be done to support these children.

**Communications** – During a recent conference SPCF found out that there a new outreach service had been commissioned for 120 pupils by Olive Academy but yet it was not known by SENDIASS/SPCF. The outreach service which should cover Bury and Lowestoft, would have been good to know especially as SPCF are regularly raising our concerns about permanent exclusion rates being high. We also raised that the Delivering Better Value Outcomes scheme run by the DfE included Suffolk yet the PCF were not informed. Action: SCC to provide a list of all workstreams so that SPCF are aware and can be involved.

**Minutes & Paperwork** – SPCF have asked that the minutes and paperwork for the SEND Programme Board and Accountability Board be updated in full and in a timely manner so that parent carers have access.

### Coproduction

SPCF raised concerns with our Strategic Partners as it is felt that the issues with communication have meant that true coproduction cannot take place. The lived experience of parent carers is essential to every piece of work and it should be the golden thread that runs through it. It was agreed that an additional monthly meeting would be added to the calendar to ensure that there was more time for communication and, as mentioned above, there would be a comprehensive list of all the workstreams/projects that are currently taking place so that SPCF can either coproduce, consult or share the information.

### Waveney Parent Carers

We have been invited to a monthly meeting with the Norfolk & Waveney Health services and Family Voice Norfolk. During this meeting we will have the opportunity to feed back the experiences that parent carers have shared with us. We have raised the Speech and Language Therapy delays, information sharing with families, support services and the wait times. If there is anything else that you would like us to raise, please do let us know through the usual channels.



### SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

Further to last month's update regarding the proposal to the CYP Leadership team to investigate the change of the Local Offer platform, it was agreed by all those in attendance. Work will now commence on this workstream. The Priority 1 meetings are bimonthly so the next meeting update will be November.

### SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

Unfortunately, the meeting was cancelled due to an emergency crisis situation occurring that required attendance from the leads.

The ARFID working group we discussed last month took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October. 6 parent carers attended to share their lived experiences to shaping the business case for the ARFID pathway. We received feedback from the professionals and parent carers post meeting to say how beneficial it was and that they would like to continue the working group moving forward. One of the concerns raised during the meeting was that there was a lack of accessible information about ARFID so we asked for any resources to be shared with SPCF so we could form a page on our website. This page is now available on the website: [ARFID Resources](#)

### SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

This meeting looked at person-centred planning as an approach to transition planning for children and young people with SEND. Workforce development have provided some videos/documents that have a person-centred planning focus. Leads will now look at reviewing the training opportunities available to education and health to see how this can be embedded further. There has also been a review of the Transitions Guide as a new one is being created. One of the 'I' statements that were chosen by young people was wanting to learn how to drive. Do you happen to know a driving instructor in Suffolk that is SEND trained? If so, please let us know so we can share with our Young People's Network.

### Developing Better Value Outcomes (DBVO)

As mentioned briefly above, we attended a training session during October on the Department for Education intervention, DBVO and were made aware that Suffolk have been enrolled on the first tranche. We had yet to hear about it from Suffolk County Council so we reached out for further detail and involvement. We have been informed that the initial phase is to meet with the project accountants to look over the finances and that SPCF would be involved in the second phase. This meeting is to be booked for November. Please follow this link to find out more about the DfE plans: [DfE Interventions](#)



### NDD Pathway

During the month of September, we received some contact from parents highlighting that there seemed to be a lack of pathway for those children and young people who did not fit in the ASD/ADHD pathways. We challenged the head of the pathway as we were assured that this would be a pathway for all those who had a NDD concern. During October, we were informed that there were in fact some gaps identified for certain conditions. We asked for communications to be sent to parent carers as soon as possible as it was not what the path had been described as. We have chased this repeatedly and are receiving no response from the pathway lead so will now be taking it further. We will update once we have a response.

### Valuing SEND – VSEND

IMPOWER, who were brought in as a strategic partner following the Lincolnshire Review, developed VSEND in 2019. Its ambition is to improve children's long-term outcomes/inclusion and improve the experience of families and professionals across the system. In January they piloted the programme with 9 Suffolk schools:

- Fairfield Infant and Colneis Junior
- Ipswich Academy (Secondary)
- Chalk Hill (Alternative Provision)
- Priors Aspire (Alternative Provision)
- Northgate High (Secondary)
- Westbourne Academy (Secondary)
- Pakefield Primary
- Woods Loke Primary
- Grange Community Primary

Initial feedback from the service user parent carers has been reported as positive. SPCF were not aware that the pilot was taking place or asked to request parent carer feedback. We have had a meeting with IMPOWER and have ensured that we will be included in any further feedback requests. If you have a child at any of the above schools and have been involved in the VSEND Programme, please could you send us some feedback. VSEND is due to be rolled out in other schools later in the year and we will be receiving communications to share with parent carers soon.

### Parent Reps

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent representatives who do attend meetings on behalf of SPCF. We do have reps that have additional needs and/or disabilities themselves and would encourage any parent carers who are interested in becoming a rep to contact us as we are able to support with removing any barriers to access. Parent carers are remunerated for their time attending strategic meetings and expenses covered. Reps would be subject to the signing of the parent representative agreements/policies.



### EHCP Portal

Parent carers have fed back their experiences and issues in regards to ECH needs assessments, plans and annual reviews. This feedback has been used to make improvements to the system that is currently in place by creating an online portal-based system. More information can be found on this interactive poster:

<https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/lehcpspcf>

The team would also like to invite a few volunteers from SPCF to Endeavour house, Ipswich to review the new EHCP online portal functionality and provide some feedback. The session is on Friday 18th November from 9:30am to 11:00am and will also be held virtually via Teams for online attendees. If you would like to attend the session, please email us on [info@suffolkpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkpcf.co.uk).

### Future meetings

As well as the usual meetings (SEND Priority Meetings, Priority Leads, SEND Accountability & Programme Board, the steering/oversight meetings for CYP Mental Health, Speech Language & Communication Needs, Key Worker, Learning Disabilities & Autism and the NDD pathway) we will be attending an Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum training events, Children & Young People Crisis workshops, and a meeting with the Transport Team so please do keep sending us your transport related feedback.