



## January Summary 2023

### 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 January meetings:**

- SENDIASS provided their Annual Report. They also shared that they have had an increase in contact around EHC Needs Assessments. This is concurrent with the data which has shown an increase in applications.
- 2000 families have had their annual reviews and some EHCPs have been ceased (we were assured the ceases had been done according to statutory process).

#### **We were able to raise the following:**

- SPCF Annual Survey – We would like to share the results of the annual survey with the board once they have been published to ensure that the lived experience is heard.
- Exclusions – We asked the number of CYP now going through ECHNA process who have now been PEX and the number of ECHNAs starting after PEX. We also asked how many of those excluded had received an early/urgent review, or had school followed the statutory guidance on excluding and can they LA start collecting that data (it was acknowledged SPCF had asked this before).
- SPCF asked if parents could request support from the Education Access Team if their child is being threatened with exclusion, we were told no, only schools can but that relies on the schools seeking that support. We highlighted that there are some schools that will exclude without seeking any support.
- Annual Reviews – After feedback from parent carers we asked how many CYP have not had their annual reviews because they have been focussing on phase transfer reviews. We asked how many are late because schools have not organised them, how many the LA have not responded to and how many delayed for other reasons.
- We asked for an update or information on the work the Olive Academy and Education Access Team have been doing to reduce exclusions. As the exclusion rates have not come down and they have been in place since Sept 22.
- We asked for the Waveney data to be included in the reporting tiles.

#### **We continue to challenge on:**

- The timeliness of EHCPs being issued and annual reviews.
- SES advice/support suggested is not being implemented in schools
- Lack of parent carer engagement when they are the ones that know our children best.



### SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

The time to listen appointments are now available for both parent carers and children/young people. We have been assured that they will be as accessible as possible and those that need support will have it. If you would like to book a session, you can find out more: [Time to Listen | Suffolk Local Offer](#)

The Activities Unlimited Short Break awards will be going out over the next 4 weeks. Please keep an eye out for it as we have been informed that some emails are going into spam folders.

### SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

The meeting took an overview of what the group felt was working well and what our concerns/worried were. Initial feedback has showed that education settings are making better use of the graduated response. It is hoped that this, along with the inclusion toolkit and VSEND will better support our young people in their settings. We did feed back that there are still some settings which are not as inclusive and it is hoped that the expansion of the SES service will see more engage. Concerns have been raised around the lack of communication around the health offers in each area. Staff also seem unaware so there will be a webinar created to communicate the universal health offers to staff so they are better placed to support families.

### SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

With regards to the Capital Programme – Phase 1 is near completion. There have been delays at the Oulton Broad site due to some land purchase for car park extension however this is due for completion by Summer 23. Woodbridge Road is planned to open in Autumn 23. Phase 2 is currently on schedule, with Castle East to have 120 places and there is an application for 3 new units. There is currently no time frame in place for these however the final opening time is to be in 2024. Phase 3 is still in development. And they are currently gathering data on placements and locations.

In December it was highlighted issues within the NDD Pathway and a 'deep dive' into key areas from the reports and figures has been requested. The time frame for a response for this is by 31<sup>st</sup> March 23. Areas highlighted with issues are:

- Referral Forms not asking for or lacking appropriate information. (SPCF will be working on redesigning the forms with appropriate departments).
- Triage Process to be reviewed in line with the lack of information on referral forms.
- Voluntary support services and Clinical elements.

We have also raised concerns around the historic cases on the old pathway, there seems to still be issues with those progressing on the diagnostic pathway.

Speech, Language and Communication Needs is still seeing a high level of need and it seems to be increasing. There has been issues with a lack of trained staff nationally which has meant difficulties with recruitment locally.



### SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

Inclusion week brought up concerns around post 16 provision and as a result a meeting has been booked with stakeholders to try to address the issues raised. The result of which will be fed back to the P4 meeting. We have been looking at the milestone: **Extend the local learning offer for 16–25 year olds to address the gaps identified in SEND Sufficiency, with a focus on quality, options and progression.** The outcomes which have been identified as:

- Young people are able to access a greater number and range of opportunities that meet their aspirations, interests and needs.
- Provision enables a young people to lead a fulfilling life.
- Young people, parents and practitioners report our sixth form, colleges and providers are inclusive.

The group will now be looking at ways to do this such as working with provisions, developing necessary training and looking to developing a 3-year action plan around supported internships.

### LiquidLogic EHCP Platform

The LiquidLogic team will be joining us for our Waveney Open Forum Event on 28<sup>th</sup> February so if you would like to test out the new platform and provide feedback, please do come along.

### Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) Steering Group

Over the past 3 months, the teams have recruited 14 new members of staff, majority of these are for the new team that started this month. East and West teams have made contact with their additional primary schools to extend into, and the secondary schools have been chosen for the central wave 4 team. The secondary placement schools will be Stoke and East Bergholt High School. The MHSTs have a lot of demand currently and in some teams, there is up to a 1 year waiting list to see a Mental Health Practitioner. SPCF queried how the team are going to work with these waiting times. We were advised that the team are going to be looking at trying to adapt a cultural shift around more group-based work. The teams have found that when there are more groups being held, the waiting lists reduce in these schools and some young people who take part in a group don't always then require 1-1 support afterwards. With the group work the teams need lots of engagement from the schools and colleges, space to facilitate these groups and an agreement from school for the young people to be let out of lessons. The teams have learnt from their previous years and will be ensuring when introducing the service to outline that it is likely the teams will offer a Whole School Approach service as a first offer a lot of the time.

### Norfolk & Waveney Parent Carer and Young People Touchpoint

We are now a standing member of this bi-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 so if there is anything that you would like us to raise, please do let us know through the usual channels.



### Delivering Better Value Outcomes (DBV) Programme

SPCF have been involved in a number of meetings around the Delivering Better Value Outcomes Programme and the opportunity to apply for a £1 million grant. The data shows that both Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Social, Emotional & Mental Health are the primary needs for those accessing higher needs funding. SPCF have asked that consideration be given to this cohort in supporting them especially as it reflects the feedback we receive about the lived experience. We have expressed that education settings are vital in the outcomes of our CYP and ensuring that they have the most inclusive of practices will be how we see improvements. The 'Ordinarily Available Provision' & 'SEND in a Nutshell' models that have been adopted by other Counties have come highly recommended and would be of great benefit to Suffolk.

### Family Services Contact Information/Update

In case you missed it in last month's issue, we have received a copy of the updated Family Services contact details; they can be found on the local offer page: [Suffolk InfoLink | \\*SEND Family Services](#). We hope that this will help parent carers as we do receive a number of enquiries around their contact details. We have been advised that the vacancies have now been filled within the team so parent carers should see an improvement in communication.

### Myth Busting - Update

We have been working through all of the myths and getting factual responses for all of them. We are still awaiting some clarification but hope that the document will be available to share soon. Watch this space!

### NDD Pathway Focus Groups

The Integrated Care Board (ICB), who commission the NDD Pathway have just started a review of the East and West Suffolk Neurodevelopmental Pathway (those who have accessed/been referred since April 2022) and they would like to get views and recommendations from parents and carers who have recently experienced support from the pathway. They are looking to hold some virtual focus group sessions to help gather feedback and inform them of what needs to be improved on or done differently in the future. They are particularly keen to hear families' experiences of the following:

- Making a referral to the pathway
- The triage panel process
- Both the voluntary support services and clinical elements of the pathway

After the virtual focus group sessions have taken place ICB would then like to update parents and carers at the end of the review about the key outcomes and plans moving forward. If you are interested in attending one of the virtual focus group sessions (which will be hosted via Microsoft Teams), please email us at [info@suffolkpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkpcf.co.uk) or message us via the page and we will contact you with further information.

Thank you.