



## March 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 March meetings:**

The recent protest arranged by Failed by Suffolk was acknowledged. Some of the local authority staff who went out to speak to families feel they listened and had had conversations with families at the time. It was acknowledged that these issues are only scratching the surface and a large number of families are unhappy.

Maria Hough and Jason Moores attended from the Education Access Team and spoke about their work around permanent exclusions. This is a service schools have to invite in at present and not something families can access themselves. They also recoup money from schools after a permanent exclusion to pay for the Child's alternative education. From September to March, they received 195 calls seeking support. SPCF did not feel enough time was spent with this team so will be meeting with them again – Booked for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

It was concerning to see the wait for a final EHCP is 33 weeks and 1 day which is far too long. The local authority are trying to source outside educational psychologists but there is a national shortage. There was also a rise in complaints in this area. SPCF confirmed that a significant amount of feedback from families is around EHCPs.

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

SPCF shared the Annual survey results, if you haven't seen them yet, they can be found here:

The report can be found here: [Survey Report](#)

The data can be found here: [Survey Results](#)

We shared that the lived experience for our children, young people and parent carers is yet to improve as a whole. There have been some areas of improvement such as the increase of 11% of children and young people being involved in producing their EHCP. It is a big focus in Priority 2 that all parts of the SEND Journey be as person centred as is possible. As a result the percentage of parent carers being happy with the EHCP also increased by 13%, although it is worth mentioning that 10% of those that were happy, had to go through an escalation such as a tribunal.

We also raised the findings of the National Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health 2023 Report showed that those under the age of 18 who take their own life by suicide are in education, more often diagnosed with an anxiety disorder or autism and have been ill for less than 12 months. This further shows the need for prompt action.



### SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

Work on the new LO pages is continuing with weekly meetings booked in to discuss each page. Each meeting has the area lead invited so they can ensure all elements of their service are covered.

The soft launch for 'The Source' website will be launched at the end of the month so keep an eye out. They have been working particularly hard on improving the additional needs section.

Young people have mentioned that they would like to have more information on employment therefore the LO team have joined with the Young Persons Network and have been working with 'I Can Be A' to improve this. They have currently been sharing some important information which will be available on the new Source website. This should also be promoted to those in Secondary Schools for all pupils to access to help them with improving their CV and employment prospects.

### SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

The SEND level 1 mandatory training for Suffolk County Council and children and young people's staff is going to be updated from May. The training will be available to those registered on Suffolk CPD. SPCF are keen to be involved in this update. Staff are also required to complete the first part of the Oliver McGowen training.

There have been reports of parents being told their child has to complete the graduated response process before applying for an EHC needs assessment. This has been challenged again and Suffolk County Council were keen to point out that this is not true and this message is not coming from them.

### SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

Phase 2 – Sybil Andrews has been agreed for the new school unit in the West and East Bergholt High School for the South which is in partnership with SENDAT. DFE grant has been agreed for 1 new free school in the East Suffolk area between Lowestoft and Ipswich, with a majority of the pupils coming from the North.

The deep dive into the NDD pathway is to be completed for meeting on with ICB quality committee on 13<sup>th</sup> May. The triage process is to be reviewed as it isn't currently working, so they are looking at how to improve this. Also looking at simplifying the referral form and to speed up triage. There are some ideas on how this can be done but they will be tested fully before being implemented.

Discussions ongoing with the possibility of extending the suicide prevention training to primary schools.



### SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

It was raised that the Department for Work and Pensions are not allowed to actively promote the Access to Work scheme. The group have agreed to hold events for young people and parents in the college and we need to explore options for promoting access to work wider.

The Information Advice and Guidance Network is now established and had received positive feedback. The next meeting is in June there will be a careers conference on July 6. Feedback has shown a need to develop a plan so that those in alternative provision/home educated/without placements still get careers, advice and possible work experience.

Grant funding has been received to grow the number of Supported Internships in Suffolk. Provisions have been invited to contribute ideas to formulate a county plan.

### SEND Priority Meeting

After the release of the results for our Annual Survey, we have come together with SEND Leads to break down elements of the report to ensure that there are works currently in place to improve the lived experience. For areas which are not currently covered, actions will be formed. We are currently looking at ways to improve our parent carer representation for 17-25 year olds. Do you have any suggestions on how we could better reach this cohort?

### NDD Pathway Service Review

Thank you to the parents that joined the focus group to give feedback on the service they have experienced. The lived experience voice is always the most informative and impactful. If you were unable to attend the focus group but would still like to have your say on improvements to the East and West Suffolk Neuro-developmental Disorder (NDD) Pathway, the Integrated Care Board, who commission services to support children and young people with neuro-developmental disorders, like ASD and ADHD, are still reviewing their Neuro-developmental disorders referral pathway and continue to want feedback from parents, carers and young people who have been referred to the NDD pathway. You can give feedback in the following ways:

\* Contacting the Integrated Care Board directly, email: [Suffolk.ICB.CYP@sneenhs.uk](mailto:Suffolk.ICB.CYP@sneenhs.uk) & answer the following questions:

- a) What's working well with the NDD Pathway?
- b) What have you found challenging with the NDD Pathway?
- c) What could we do differently to improve the NDD Pathway?

\* Or complete a short survey: [Survey](#)

**The deadline for feedback is by Friday 7th April 2023**



### VSEND Training Update

We were given an update from IMPOWER regarding the rollout of their training programme. They have received positive feedback from parents but we have yet to hear directly from parents regarding their experiences. Has your school had the VSEND training? If so, would you mind sharing your experiences with us? We would especially like to know how you felt about the home confidence section and how schools adapted their approaches.

## **VSEND Training Update**

---

- Training is underway and 160+ schools have attended to date
- Training will continue to be delivered for SENDCOs until May
- Training for Early Years and post 16 settings will begin from September delivered by SES. Briefings for EY's have begun
- VSEND Huddles have supported SENDCOs to embed VSEND and share experiences and good practice
- Resources will be available online to support SENCOS training needs
- SENDCO's will be supported by VSEND Champions and trainers
- Opportunity to become a SENDCO VSEND Champion is raised in each training session and huddle



### Essential SENCO Toolkit

SPCF attended the 2-day Essential SENCO Tool Kit training by Judith Carter, hosted by Suffolk County Council. We were invited to attend to ensure that the voice of lived experience ran through. This is an encouraging strength-based framework for learners with SEND and was attended by many Suffolk SENCOs.

The training looked at the 7 C's- cognition, coordination, communication, creativity, control, compassion and curriculum. It featured positive ways to track barriers and progress with a learning portfolio of action and talked about targeted outcomes.

The effective use of teaching assistants to support young people was explored. The language used throughout was positive and supportive. Each school was given a comprehensive guide to the approach. It was well received by the SENCOs and we hope to see it implemented in our schools.

### LiquidLogic Update

We had a number of questions after sharing the recent LiquidLogic poster which we received replies to and shared on our Facebook page. Can put request to LiquidLogic to get it changed. May not be until after go live.

The go live date is set for 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This means that all new ECHNA requests received from 3<sup>rd</sup> April will be completed through the LiquidLogic platform. There will be a dedicated team for the first 6 weeks for all EHCNA requests going forward. Those who have a request open will be manually transferred over slowly, they will receive contact when that happens. There will remain an option for those who are unable to use the system. There will be a phone number to access a paper copy or offer the opportunity to have a supported completion.

The next stage, set for September 23, will be for schools to use LL for Annual Reviews.

### SPCF Easter Opening Hours

The SPCF team will be closing over the Easter holidays. We will be closing at 3:30pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and reopening on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 9:30am. On our return we will respond to all emails, phone calls/voicemails and social media messages so please bear with us if there is a delay in getting a response.

We hope that you all manage to have a nice break, from the SPCF team.

Thank you.