



May 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 May meetings:

There was a discussion around the Self Evaluation Form. There has been a shortened version created to make it more accessible. SPCF and SENDIASS both raised that they do not feel that there is enough acknowledgement that the lived experience isn't improving for a lot of families. It was also raised that language such as 'lacks trust' is not accurate as this the reality of people's experiences.

SENDIASS provided an update on their service. Their survey results are being finalised and will be shared soon. They have been working with family hubs around advise sessions as they have received high numbers of requests from families. The March waiting list has now been cleared. The main reason for contact has most recently been around exclusions.

Data tiles were shared with the group with 0% of EHCPs being issued on time currently. The lack of Education Psychologist was attributed to the figure as well as receiving 91 requests in a week which is creating a backlog. SPCF raised that delayed plans will result in a need to issue. With approx. 1000 waiting currently, what would the impact be of an additional potential 1000 plans yearly? This is currently unknown.

We were able to raise the following:

- Permanent exclusions and what lessons are being learned by schools? The Education Access Team are getting them rescinded and overturned but SPCF would like them to still be shared in reports.
- Suspensions and the lack of work being sent home and support when a child is suspended.
- Feedback we had received in regards to the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment portal.
- Concerns around the lack of schools supporting both the ECHNAs and SES recommendations.
- Limited information about the outreach work that has been commissioned.
- Encrypted emails have started to cause issues again, after we had been informed it was resolved.
- We also shared information on our Define Fine Workshops, including the feedback from the first session.



SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

Priority 1 meeting was cancelled.

Website re-platforming is continuing and further meetings are to be held to update the website information ensuring appropriate content and accuracy. Two new part time staff have started in post to help support current projects and AU social media.

SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

SPCF raised confidence issues around staff training. Not only do staff need to be appropriately trained in SEND but also phased transfers, forms of communication and how to engage with someone. There will be additional training produced to follow up the Level 1 mandatory training to ensure these elements are covered.

Work is being focused on the 'What's Ordinarily Available' model of the Suffolk Mainstream Inclusion Framework with a soft launch planned for the summer term and final in the Autumn term. We will share the details with parent carers when they are launched.

The Specialist Education Service will be attending the SPCF Open Forum Event in Moreton Hall to discuss the work they are doing with schools. If you would like to attend, you can find out more details on our [flyer](#).

SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

Priority 3 meeting was cancelled.

There was an update sent regarding the SEND Capital Programme:

Phase 1

The final places for Phase 1 will open in September 2023:

- Oulton Broad Primary School
- Woodbridge Road Academy
- Horizon's new Primary building (The School will now refer to Primary as lower school and Secondary as upper school.)



Phase 2

Commissioning for phase 2 was undertaken in the Autumn term 2022. For this round we went out to the market to find providers for:

- 1x Unit Key Stage 2 Cognition and Learning in the North
- 1x Unit Key Stage 3 & 4 Cognition and Learning in West
- 1x Unit Key Stage 3 & 4 Cognition and Learning South

There was limited interested from schools. However, we do have two schools that have put themselves forward for the North of the County where it has previously been challenging to create places. The feasibility work has been undertaken by Concertus.

The Unit in the West will be run by Sybil Andrews Unity Schools Partnership in Bury St Edmunds.

In the South, East Bergholt High South Suffolk Learning Trust have been awarded the provision.

Design and site survey information is being produced by Concertus. The programme indicates completion in Summer term 2024 ready for opening in September 2024.

SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

This meeting went through the milestone document for attendees to provide updates on their areas.

- Contacts have been made within the FE Committee to try to develop plans to better support post 16 settings in ensuring inclusivity.
- A SEND Employment Forum is being developed with a date due to be set for June.
- The Transition Guide is due for release in June with content being updated and refreshed.
- In a view to strengthen links with the DWP Disability Employment Team, SPCF have invited them to our Open Forum Event in June. If you would like to attend, you can find out more details on our [flyer](#).
- Work is underway in creating a calendar of transition events which can be promoted across the county.
- The group feels there could be gaps in service across Advocacy provision. Investigations will take place to ensure that this is not the case.

Define Fine Workshop

After the very successful first workshop – 'Have you tried a sticker chart?' We wanted to share that we still have spaces in the 'Meeting and Working Effectively with Professionals' Workshop.

If you would like to book a place or find out more, please see the poster: [Define Fine Workshop](#)



SEND Priority Leads Meeting

Updates were provided by each of the Priority areas as well as the APP review. It is felt that the meeting went well and there was an emphasis that even though there had been actions taken, they had not yet been felt on the ground.

Discussion then went on to the SEND Strategy. It was co-produced in 2019 and released in 2020 with it due to finish in 2023. SPCF raised that it is felt that although the vision is one we share, the strategy was far too vast to be able to make a difference within the term. It is important to prioritise the elements impacting our families the most and take steps to improve them with realistic and achievable steps.

Accelerated Progress Plan Review

SPCF were invited to attend the DfE APP Review meeting to feedback the lived experience of families. We shared a presentation which compared the figures from the interim survey we conducted in July 23 specifically for the Review and the 2023 Annual Survey responses collected over January and February of this year. Suffolk County Council recognised the survey results as well as the amount of work that needs to be done to improve experiences. SPCF voiced the need for early intervention, early support and a needs led approach.

If you would like to see the report, it can be found here: [Report](#)

NDD Pathway Service Review

We are awaiting communications around the report findings but we have been told that the SPCF recommendation of adopting the Essex 'Supporting your Neurodiverse Child' pack was successful.

Written by Essex Family Forum, SEND the Right Message Support Services and MyOTAS (My Own Time And Space) with parent carers for parent carers, this pack is full of information for families with a neurodiverse child. This will now be developed with Suffolk information and then shared with Families.

Open Forum Event

We have booked our Open Forum Event for the West in Morton Hall, Bury St Edmunds for Tuesday 20th June from 10am to 1pm. We would love to see you there! If you would like to see who's already confirmed attendance, check out the poster: [Bury SE Open Forum](#)



All Age Autism Strategy

Consultants 3ITen have been commissioned to create an All-Age Autism Strategy for Suffolk. SPCF have been in attendance for the 3 weekly meetings which include not only services but those with lived experience. Several key points have been raised such as, jargon free language and the use of acronyms, gaps in support for Autistic girls/women, better employment support for young people and adults and many others. 3ITen have formulated a survey that they have asked SPCF to share this message:

3ITen have been asked by Suffolk County Council and their partners to coproduce an All-Age Autism Strategy with autistic people, their families, and people who provide services.

What this means?

This means that we will be asking autistic people and their families, the people responsible for services and lots of other people to help design the strategy based on their experiences.

We have been working on this for a little while, and now want to speak to more people so that we can properly understand what is important for every person.

People who want to be involved can get in touch with us using this form and let us know how we can arrange things so that they can help coproduce the strategy.

Who are we?

We are Joseph Dunton and Ben Palmer, and we work for the organisation 3ITen, who have been asked to carry out this work. We are very excited to be involved!

We have experience in working with local government, which is the people responsible for education, health and social care services, as well as people working in the voluntary sector.

Ben has also got lived experience of Special Educational Needs and Disability, having recently gone through a diagnosis for Autism and ADHD, and is also a Parent Carer of two boys with Neurodivergence.

How you can get involved?

You can get involved by responding to this survey and letting us know if you are happy to be contacted by us in the future so we can let you know what different things are happening.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email either Joseph at Joseph.Dunton@3ITenConsulting.co.uk, or Ben at Ben.Palmer@3ITenConsulting.co.uk

We would really appreciate your answers to these questions to help us understand what is important, why it matters and how we can make it happen. Thank you 😊

You can find a link to the survey here: [3ITen Survey](#)