



July 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 July meeting:

The Young People's Network gave a presentation on their results from the Young People's Survey – The views of those who are or have been Not In Education Employment or Training (NEET). They also shared a video of a film made by young people from the **SEND Young Person's Network** about their employability skills <https://youtu.be/FITjgr1zAM>

Data tiles – To be shared with minutes.

We were able to raise the following:

- Open Forum Event was well attended and the feedback received from attendees was very positive.
- Inclusion Roadshows – As the focus of the sessions were Mental Health. Sue Willgoss was asked to attend to speak about her experiences in her Suicide Prevention role.
- Concerns around the wording used in the Self Evaluation Form. Whereas we are hopeful the new processes and additional resource will improve lived experience in time once it is embedded, it is important to recognise that currently, in some cases, the lived experience has worsened.
- SPCF had written a response to the DfE attendance letter and unfortunately, we are still awaiting a reply. We were disappointed to see this pushed out to families when we have already highlighted the struggles faced by them. This is especially poignant when we have had 2 workshops over the last few months supporting families and settings to maintain a good relationship in order to achieve the best outcomes for the child.
- We also raised our upset with regards to comments made within the Schools Forum Meeting – 29th June 23. The recording of which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIP5JYSnPYk>. We have reached out to arrange a meeting and are currently discussing availability. We urged the Board members to watch the recording themselves. We had a number of families approach us with regards to its content and the language used within in not only in Suffolk but nationally. This information was also shared with Anthony Douglas, who has been brought in to strengthen improvements being made within SEND in Suffolk. The Board said that they would follow up.
- Exclusion Data with Waveney having the highest numbers. The Inclusion Roadshow in Waveney was also the worst attended by settings. It is not a coincidence. There is a lack of engagement which needs to change.



SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

There have been some discrepancies in the website visiting data that is not understood so it is being investigated. The creation of the new platform is going well and with checks being made before going live.

A new family services contact sheet has been uploaded to reflect some changes. SENCo central has been moved to the top of the page following an increase in queries on Annual reviews. The Transition guide will be going live this month along with an open letter from Ros Somerville too.

Webchat has been launched. It is responded to by a person not an automated reply. Currently it is for professionals but there is a view for it to become family facing in the future.

The last Inclusion Roadshow will be happening this month in Kesgrave.

SPCF raised the continued issues with Activities Unlimited. The team are still processing all the applications and appeals. New colleagues have joined the team which should help with the issues.

SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

Key updates were shared along with the Mental Health map that was being created. Currently going well and ensuring accessibility is at the forefront. Area specific support is also being included in the map along with Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) in Schools.

It has been noted that those that are being referred to the Specialist Education Services (SES) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs do not appear to have involvement from any Mental Health (MH) services. SPCF raised that due to long delays in receiving MH support, it could be that the young people are on a number of waiting lists which would not show yet as accessing services. Also, with a large amount of referrals declined, this could also be the reason.

The SEND Level 1 eLearning has now been complete and will be assigned to all staff within Suffolk County Council so that they are able to access. This should give a least a basic understanding to those who work with families. SPCF have raised the need for higher level training as it is clear that the lack of knowledge impacts on the experiences our children and young people are having.

The LiquidLogic Portal will be trialling an Annual Review pilot with selected schools. SPCF have received a presentation to share with families around the plan: [Presentation](#)



SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

Discussions were focussed on the NDD Pathway Review and the recommendations within it. If you haven't read the communications around the report, you can do so here: [NDD Update](#)

Referral forms have been changed to ensure that they capture as much information as possible with an additional form being created for those children and young people who are accessing education in an alternative provision, are currently out of education or those that are Home Educated. Guidance documents have also been created to support each of these forms. There will be a soft launch initially of these new forms to ensure that any issues are captured and resolved before they are formally launched.

SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

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

- The careers event took place on 6th July. It went well and attendance was good. There is a SEND Employers Forum booked for the 10th August 23 in Endeavour House.
- The Skills Team are hoping to recruit a supported internship post by the end of September 23.
- The Transitions Guide is now live and can be found here: [Transitions Guide](#)
- Evaluation work will be taking place on the SEND Strategy from now until September 23 with consultations due from Sept to October 23.
- The drive on Annual Health Checks has been a successful one, there has been a 75% uptake by those with a Learning Disability on their health records. If you would like to know more about the Annual Health checks, SPCF have a dedicated page with information and resources: <https://suffolkpcf.co.uk/information-policies/annual-health-checks/>
- Travel Training – There have been some discussions with the Travel Training team around having a parent carer workshop to aid with the current delays in service. This would give the parents the skills and knowledge so that they could conduct the travel training with their own children.

Define Fine Workshop

We would like to thank all those that attended our Define Fine Workshop on 6th July. The feedback we have received from parent carers is that they found it really helpful.

If you would like to see any particular workshops in the future, please do not hesitate to let us know.



VSEND

Apologies in the delay in sharing a VSEND update, we are still awaiting figures from the IMPOWER Team. SPCF would like to know how many schools attended the VSEND training, how many schools then went on to complete a 'setting readiness' and subsequently how many children's profiles have been undertaken – especially those with the 'home confidence' element which is completed by parents. As mentioned in previous communications, SPCF are concerned that VSEND will not be used in settings, much like other offers, so these figures would ease our concerns.

Suffolk CYP Committee Meeting

Updates from areas are as follows:

- Mental Health is receiving great feedback from the voluntary sector organisations that have been commissioned such as Kooth, Green Light Trust and Noise Solution.
 - Jot the Robot has been well received by Primary settings. If you would like to watch the videos – you can here: [All about Jot](#)
- A parent support group for those who's children have a diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is currently being set up as there was a gap identified.
- The ARFID Pathway business case has been formulated with parent carers in the SPCF formed focus group. It will be going forward in August. Thank you to all those whom have participated.
- There is a 19% vacancy rate with Band 6 roles being particularly difficult to recruit to. This is impacting on waiting times and referrals escalating.
- Caseload management is being reviewed to ensure the best use of the time as it seems that the balance between clinical and administration work is not as it expected.

Children & Young People's Digital Services for Mental Health Review – Norfolk and Waveney

We met with Daniela Othieno who will be heading the review on behalf of Norfolk and Waveney. She has put together a document which will explain the review and the information that would be beneficial for the evaluation. You can find out more by clicking here: [Review](#)

If you would like to know anything further, please contact Daniela directly on: daniela@kcl-digital.com



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 and 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](#)