



## June 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 June meeting:**

There was a presentation on NEET Prevention and Support. There has been an increase in figures over the past 3 years so there has been a Prevention Plan put in place. School has a statutory responsibility to provide careers information, advice and guidance for all Yr11 pupils. There are Young Person's Workers in the Early Help Teams and are linked to all secondary schools in the 13 localities. They will be creating partnership agreements, termly consultation meetings, information, advice & guidance support and supporting the differentiated offer. It was raised that there are issues with rural locations as well as county borders – The team are finding it difficult to get the coverage they need especially with transport being difficult to access. Concerns were shared around the 'Unknown' figures and the board asked the cost implications if the team were to engage with Yr10 students instead of Yr11 – costs were not known.

Data tiles – To be shared with minutes.

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

- The SCC public accounts showed that Anthony Douglas was getting £1,000 per hour for his consultancy role. The board was assured this was not the case and it was subsequently confirmed at £1,000 per day. SPCF voiced that the funds could be better spent supporting children, however we were informed that this was not coming from CYP budgets.
- Permanent exclusions – contact continues to raise as also indicated by SENDIASS – There have been cases of whistleblowing which have been dealt with individually but the Education Access Team will be ensuring better training for families to empower them.
- 111 Option 2 – Families have shared that when calling 111 Option 2 in a Mental Health crisis, the operator is stating that if a child has a neurodiverse condition, that the mental health issues they are experiencing is down to the condition. Both Jessica Fleming and James Reeder will be taking this forward under their health roles and were shocked to hear this was still happening.
- Unexpected school closures – After hearing of another school closure SPCF wanted assurances that there is a plan in place to support these families. The board reported that there will be a focus on ensuring appropriate places are found with all options being considered.



### SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

Webchat is being launched for SENCOs and professionals, has been a bit of a slow start but the team will be sharing it in the SENCo bulletin and Roadshows.

The team have also been creating a map of mental health support teams at schools, and will be implemented with colour coordinated pins on the map. Co-ordinated services will also be integrated on the map, such as Barnado's and clinic based mental health services.

Website views and social media figures are down from last month, however, last month there was an unusual high number of visits.

SPCF raised the continued issues with Activities Unlimited. The team are still processing all the applications and appeals. We requested regular communications so that families are kept up to date on the situation and how it is progressing.

### SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

Due to numerous absences, the official P2 meeting could not be carried out however this time was used to discuss content and layout for the proposed MHST website.

Many points were raised during the discussion with regards the best way information is to be displayed. It is important that the website is parent friendly, with the map at the top of the page. It should be easy to look at and navigate however as there is no search function, a drop down list of schools will be available. There will also be drop down sections for local areas which will make it easier for users to find out what services are in their local area.

Initial discussion was given with regards to the proposed map containing other services available, this will be fed back for further discussions.

Problems with Portal/Liquid Logic were discussed with several problems encountered by users that have been raised with SPCF. This included: accessibility and system too difficult to use, no spellchecker and difficult for users who are dyslexic, long forms to complete and help is needed, uploaded documents are being lost within the system, schools having difficulty uploading documents with no progress tracking including no access to EHCP progress.

This feedback is to be shared with the appropriate department and responses relating to school issues will be updated in SENCO bulletin.



### SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision

Priority 3 meeting was cancelled.

SPCF have raised concerns about attendance/commitment to the meetings as it is the second month in a row that it has been cancelled.

### SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood

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

- The attendees received an update around careers event which will be taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> July
- The Skills Team are looking at facilitating an online work experience programme to ensure that all young people can access work experience.
- There has been continued support within the team to ensure that there is inclusion with careers.
- There has been work within the careers programme to coproduce with Young People so that it includes what they want from the careers programme. There will be a survey twice yearly.
- Focus on making sure that those who are under the Alternative Tuition Service and are Electively Home Educated are not left out when careers opportunities are shared.
- The Transitions Guide has not yet been published however: it is due shortly.

### SEND Priority Leads Meeting

Updates were provided by each of the Priority areas. This meeting is later in the month so there was some additional information shared

#### Priority 1 –

- Webchat is live on the website – Only education facing pages at the moment.
- Social media picking up as now have more capacity.
- 2/3 of the roadshows have been completed. \*All 3 have
- Local offer line received 1300 calls in May including an overflow from the family services team.
  - SPCF have received an increase in contact with regards to Family Services– It would be helpful to have some communications released around any delays or issues. We would like to have data around the appointments booked/attended, to make sure that the appointments are still happening.



### Priority 2 –

- Leads recognised that there is a lot of work happening across the system.
- As Priority 2 encompasses everything within the system, it can be difficult to get representation at meetings from all those required. It is causing some issues as to how it can be taken forward so are considering breaking up into mini teams.
- It is felt by the group that the outcomes need to be reviewed as they are too all encompassing which makes it difficult to move them forward. The current strategy comes to an end in 23 so can be reworded.

### Priority 3 –

Was cancelled so no update.

### Priority 4 –

Lead wasn't in attendance so no update.

SPCF raised the lack of attendance being an issue. SPCF ensure that there is always a representative at the meetings because of the importance and it needs to be reflected by all partners.

### NDD Pathway Service Review

We have now received the official communications with regards to the Deep Dive report and the recommendations that have come from the review. SPCF are encouraged to see that consideration has been given to the lived experiences that were shared within our focus groups and as a Forum. There is clarity around the plan going forward with immediate actions being taken. We are saddened that the pathway has encountered issues so soon into the launch but are hopeful that with the recommendations, it can get on track. You can find a link to the communications here: [NDD Update](#)

### Open Forum Event

We would like to thank all those that attended our Open Forum Event for the West in Morton Hall, Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. It was our most successful event to date and the contact we have received from parent carers is that they found it really helpful. If you would like to see some photo, you can on this link: [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](mailto:Joseph.Dunton@3ITenConsulting.co.uk), or Ben at [Ben.Palmer@3ITenConsulting.co.uk](mailto: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](#)