



November 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](#).

We were disappointed to be advised that the November meeting was cancelled at short notice. SPCF raised that the team had worked hard to ensure the meeting would be attended and all information prepared for presentation during a time where demand was high with the Inspection and the impact on our caring commitments.

SEND Priority 1 – The Local Offer

Cancelled due to the meeting falling within the SEND Area Inspection.

SEND Priority 2 – The SEND Journey

Due to some staff absence, the original agenda for the meeting needed to be changed. Discussions were centred around the SEND Strategy.

SPCF raised concerns that the current strategy priorities and outcomes have not been achieved and then now new ones will be developed. It was felt that the current strategy outcomes were too large and not achievable so needed to be broken down into smaller, more achievable outcomes.

Language within the strategy was raised with the young person's representative saying that it is inaccessible in parts for young people. Therefore, it is very important to keep the 'I' Statements that were produced by the young people at the forefront of what outcomes are chosen.

Communications were also raised, there is little to no comms with families around how the strategy has been progressing and the issues that have arisen along the way. For families to feel that they are part of the strategy and to share feedback, communications need to be improved. It can be confusing when parent carers are asked for feedback as to what it is being used for. The new Local Offer website can help with clarifying this and also be used as a method for updating.



SEND Priority 3 – Services & Provision, SEND Priority 4 – Transitions to Adulthood and SEND Priority Leads

Cancelled due to the meeting falling within the SEND Area Inspection.

SEND Area Inspection for Suffolk

On Monday 30th October 23, Suffolk received the call to notify them that there would be a SEND Area Inspection conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. This was to commence immediately and take place until Friday 17th November 23. SPCF emailed members, posted on social media and contacted local groups with the Inspection survey on Monday 30th as soon as we were advised and then further shared with schools and support groups (as listed on the Local Offer directory).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parent carers, children and young people that completed the survey which was conducted by Ofsted/CQC. We were advised that there was a good response and it showed a clear picture of what the lived experience is for families in Suffolk.

SPCF attended many meetings and ensured the voices of families were shared with the inspectors. We feel confident that those voices were listened to and played an important part of the inspection. We would also like to thank the groups who met with inspectors and shared their feedback, we were advised that they highlighted the same areas that SPCF had reported. Once we are able to share further information with families we will do so with no delay.

VSEND

Unfortunately, the VSEND data that SPCF have been provided with has done little to allay the concerns around the benefit of VSEND for families. The home confidence section that would ensure a better communication of strategies and continuation between the home and school is the least completed section within the VSEND model. Schools have reported that the parents are given a choice as to whether they would like to complete the home confidence but they are not currently taking this up. The majority of schools have been provided with the training so we would expect that parent carers should be aware and/or received communications from their school. Have you been offered this by your school? If so, please could you advise SPCF by either emailing info@suffolkpcf.co.uk or completing a [feedback form](#).



Travel Training

SPCF have been receiving feedback around Travel Training from parent carers as well as children and young people. This was raised in the Priority 4 meeting and a separate meeting was arranged to discuss in further detail. We were lucky enough to have the Travel Training team join our Open Forum Event at the end of September to receive feedback in person.

During the November meeting, there were discussions around a survey being shared with families for feedback. SPCF raised that there would need to be an option for families to provide feedback in another way should they not be able to access the survey. It was also raised that comments should be enabled on posts to allow feedback in an alternative form. Parent carers had raised the need for transport partners to undergo epilepsy and medical training to ensure that the children traveling with them have adequate training. A meeting has been booked for January to follow up.

Suffolk CYP Committee

Mental Health update: CAMHS/YAMHS age ranges being changed. Lots of pathway work to ensure that CYP are getting support at the right time/space. Working with YP Network as referral process have changed. Recruitment is ongoing with additional capacity being put in place to support. A deep dive to analyse caseload is booked for December. Referral forms are also being rewritten to assist with clarity of services. SPCF raised concerns around the monitoring for deterioration and the delays not only for the assessment but then the service that it is transferred too also. The system wide response will be shared during the next meeting.

NDD Pathway update: The new referral form is being used and initial feedback is positive. Guidance documentation was developed alongside the referral form to ensure that referrals are completed to the best standard possible. This seems to have improved the quality coming in. The NDD Resource pack for families is currently being finalised and will be communicated with families as soon as it is ready. The NDD Pathway Local Offer pages have been updated to ensure the information around the pathway, referral forms/process, triage etc is clear so that parent carers know how it works and can manage expectations. The team is working on the backlog and revising a plan to escalate triages that have been waiting for over a year. This is to be added as a future agenda item as it is important for the Committee have a better overview.



ADHD Medication Shortage

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ADHD MEDICATION & TREATMENT

You may have heard about a national shortage of some of the medicines used to treat ADHD. These supply problems are expected to resolve at various dates up to April 2024.

How does this affect me/my child?

Not all ADHD medicines are affected by this shortage. the ICB will contact you directly should their records indicate that you/your child is currently being prescribed one or more of the medicines that are likely to be in short supply, or possibly unavailable.

What do I need to do?

The NHS is working hard to manage this shortage, but there are a few things that you can do to help us minimise the effect on you/your child:

Patients currently taking Xaggitin XL® tablets, Concerta XL® tablets, or Xenidate XL® tablets –

Please only order your prescription when you have 10–14 days of your medicine left. It is important not to stockpile medicines. Your doctor will not be able to issue your prescription any earlier.

Be prepared for your medicine to look a little different to normal:

- You may be asked to take different strengths of your medicine to make up the full dose.
- If your usual medicine is not available, your GP should be able to give you a prescription for a different medicine that works in the same way and is still available – you should not experience any new side effects or changes in your ADHD symptoms.

Please do not ring your GP practice to request an alternative medicine, your pharmacist will arrange this for you.

- Any change to your medicine will be short-term, and only until the supply problems are resolved.

Once supplies are readily available, you will be given the option to switch back to your original medicine or stay on the brand that you have been switched to.

Patients currently taking Equasym XL® caps, Elvanse® caps, Elvanse Adult® caps, or Intuniv® tabs –

Please only order your prescription when you have 10–14 days of your medicine left. It is important not to stockpile medicines. Your doctor will not be able to issue your prescription any earlier.

Your GP cannot prescribe you an alternative medicine. If you have transport, you may wish to take your prescription to another pharmacy if your medicine is not available from your usual one. It is possible that another pharmacy will still have some of your medicine in stock, but this is unlikely. While waiting for supplies of your medicine to become available again, you may need to change to a different treatment or management plan. Your specialist will discuss the options available to you and agree on the best way to manage your ADHD until your usual medicine is available again.