

Essex Family Forum's response to Self-Evaluation Framework dated 25th June 2024

Section 1c

SEND Improvement Page tiger document:

1. *EFF unaware of this publication – has not been shared at SEND Partnership Board?*
2. *Lacks overview of health*
3. *'Guide for Parents re: Top-Up Funding' –This is the original ISOS version **not** the adapted version that was created by EFF and shared with families*
4. *Links for Advice Writer Templates are broken*
5. *We understand that there are separate Autism and SEMH panels for change of placements – these are not included in the Scheme of Delegation. They have also not been discussed in the Quality of Plans COG or Annual Review COG. Where is the information on these published?*

Section 1d – Areas of Strength

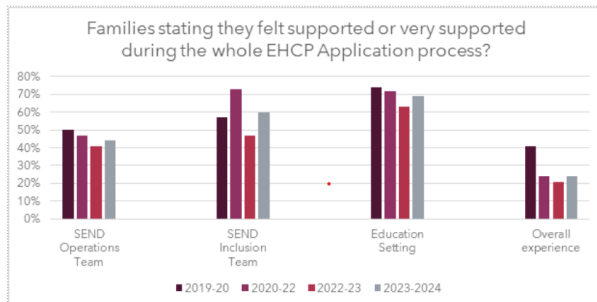
Information Sharing with Parent/carers:

1. *Outdated language - CCGs no longer exist*
2. *There needs to be more clarity in this section about the local ND pathways. None of the voluntary organisations deliver support across **all** pathways in Essex, which is what could be inferred by the current wording. SNAP receive funding to deliver support to families on the ND pathway in one specific area on ND pathway in MSE – not the entire ICB footprint. Whilst Families in Focus has a general countywide offer, the funding they receive to support under the ND pathway is only for families in NEE. And obviously, MAZE is only NEE. PACT received no funding from the ICB to support families on the ND pathway – it is misleading for them to be named as part of the pathway support.*

Quality of new Education Health and Care Plans is much improved:

1. “Essex EHCNA and Planning processes are consistent, efficient and effective” – *this statement is not reflective of the current status given significant delays in carrying out EHCP Needs assessments.*
2. “Families who have experienced the new EHCNA and planning process speak positively of their experience.”

When only 28% of families state they felt supported/very supported during the process it hard to say this statement is accurate.



SEND Provision in both mainstream and special schools is high quality

1. More thought should be given to this statement in light of OFSTED’s Big Listen publication. And the increasing numbers of EHCNAs requests would suggest that OFSTED’s review of SEND provision in mainstream schools is not robust enough to accurately reflect the quality of non-statutory SEND provision for many children and young people. It will not ring true for many families of children/young people in mainstream settings

New Essex Local Offer site

1. ‘...over 22,000 visits to the site last month’ – *needs to be more date specific as we know this has increased since this version of the SEF.*
2. ‘...38% increase Over 450...’ – again need to be more date specific
3. Last paragraph, suggest “....amount of work into **continuously** improving the content”

Accurate forecasting method is in place....

Assume this will be updated as currently states Latest (2023) forecast shows

1e. Areas of development

A single shared SEND dataset....

“We interrogate and understand our data very well at a service level...”

Is this true across all partners? Conversations in meetings would suggest otherwise (especially in health).....

Quality of longer standing plans

Need to date stamp the Number of EHCPs, unless it's to be kept updated

Timescales for assessments are still too long

- “we have streamlined the process....”
This needs to be kept under review; for quality of plan issued and for parent/carer satisfaction
- “we are back-dating funding”
how are you monitoring the impact this has on the support that children/young people receive whilst waiting? This has not fallen under the remit of Quality of Plans COG

Sufficiency of specialist provision

“... recently launched a Sufficiency Plan for Engagement...”

- *This is no longer recent and there has been no follow-up communication about the result of the engagement.*

1f SEND Governance Structure

Assume all this will need updating as is currently under review. Any updated version should include the Learning Disabilities / Health Equalities team & programme of work governance