



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 15/11/2024

You said:	We did:
<p>We are hearing that parent/carers are unable to visit special schools, unless they are named in the EHCP. Also, SENCOs are not always available to speak with in Mainstream settings</p>	<p><i>We have had discussions around this at various workstreams. One of the SEND Quadrant managers has taken an action to speak with ESSET (Essex special schools education trust) To get some clear guidance on what is expected and how we can access schools to make informed decisions on the best setting for our young people.</i></p>
<p>South Essex - Child on parent abuse/physical aggression – chatting with parents, carers and support groups has highlighted how difficult families are finding it to access help and support.</p> <p>The information is not easily accessible on the Local Offer, nor do education settings seem to be signposting parents to support.</p> <p>A clear pathway to support is needed, along with easily available information for those needing to access it.</p>	<p><i>Contacted Child Wellbeing Team and Local Offer team for links and further information. PEGS is the charity that the Child Wellbeing Team asks parents to self-refer into. Their website is Child to parent abuse Parental Education Growth Support (PEGS) and this visual shows the referral process PEGS Referrals</i></p> <p><i>You can contact Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service on 0300 247 0013, which is the South Essex hub, to discuss your situation, find out more about PEGS and whether you would be eligible for NVR, (non-violent resistance). NVR supports families to consider how they could strengthen their relationship, deescalate, and consider how their support network can help. Currently Parents 4 Parents are running these sessions in Basildon.</i></p> <p><i>There are family hubs located across Essex. If you are not based in the South, you can find the contact details for your local hub here www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk You can also talk to your school who can help and advise you on how to access support.</i></p> <p><i>Search criteria/how to access the information on the Local Offer site will be shared when received.</i></p>



	<p><i>It has been made clear when communicating with teams that the parents who are experiencing this are telling us it is as a result of EBSA/attendance issues, late/long waits for diagnosis and because of unmet need/lack of support from services.</i></p>
<p>North East Essex – Feedback from parents/carers at the recent SEND roadshow was received regarding lack of communication on waiting times for results following assessments.</p>	<p><i>This was fed back at the North East Essex NDD oversight group meeting this week.</i></p>
<p>South Essex - Local Offer Website – we have had feedback on the Graffiti Wall for the past couple of weeks but have also heard from parents directly that the Local Offer website is difficult to navigate.</p>	<p><i>I have forwarded the feedback on the local offer with the team who are currently doing discovery work on the 16+ local offer that is being developed. This information has also been passed to Julia, our Education Lead, who is in regular contact with the Local Offer team.</i></p>
<p>South Essex - Some parents feel that the Local Offer roadshow offers nothing to those parents who have been on the SEND journey for a while and would like to see some sort of training/workshop element offered for those who are not new to the system. Workshops were previously offered by the local authority, and some parents miss this opportunity to enhance and update their knowledge to support their child or young person. A suggestion was made for parents to be able to meet with the heads of SEND within an event for a feedback style session and provided a link to a similar event</p>	<p><i>I have contacted the SEND Navigator to see what could be offered to parents and whether they have plans to reinstate the workshops that were previously held.</i></p> <p><i>I asked if there is any way to advertise what parents can speak to each of the services about who do attend the Roadshows. The SEND Navigator has come back to say that there is a central information table at every event where parents and carers can find information on who is there and what they can help with. The Roadshow team are also available to chat to and will advise on who it would be best to talk to for the help and advice you need.</i></p> <p><i>There was a link sent for a suggested event, and I have shared this with the SEND Navigator and members of our Management Team for discussion.</i></p>
<p>South Essex - Digital Poverty – It has been mentioned a few times now about parents and carers being unable to access the documents being sent to them digitally by organisations and being unable to access the digital guides being produced by</p>	<p><i>I've looked at Databanks and how Digital Inclusion Hubs might benefit those families that need them. The Databanks are like a digital foodbank where you can access free data. Digital Inclusion hubs are where you</i></p>



<p>organisations with 'hard copies' being no longer available.</p> <p>Often parents are accessing large documents on their phones, which is their only device, and are unable to download due to data/contract costs and do not have access to Wi-Fi or printers at home.</p> <p>This is also something that MYOTAS gave us more feedback on last week after bringing it up a couple of months ago.</p> <p>The Lighthouse Centre have also raised this issue at various times over the last few months, especially around the new MyCareBridge referral pathway.</p>	<p>can access support, the internet and print should you need to.</p> <p><i>I have contacted the National Digital Inclusion Network directly to find out about charges for printing and families who cannot afford the fees. These centres can also provide training opportunities. You can visit Join the National Digital Inclusion Network Members Area Login Good Things Foundation to find out more.</i></p> <p><i>For those Charities, Family Champions and members who are supporting families without access to digital services, I have produced a reference document, which I will share with you once I know the information is fully correct. It includes the places I've found in South Essex that provide free data via the Databank and also the places that offer Digital Inclusion Hubs where families can access services. You can find the same information here Find Local Digital Inclusion Support Good Things Foundation</i></p> <p><i>I completely understand that travel costs, etc to these places, might still make it difficult to access digital documents and that this information won't fix the problem for everyone. Please keep me informed via the Graffiti Wall should you be finding that families are still unable to access content Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</i></p>
<p>Mid Essex – Feedback from the recent SEND Roadshow and from a few other parents has highlighted that there is no pathway for Tourette's Syndrome diagnosis or support in Mid Essex, and parents are having to look for diagnosis and support privately.</p>	<p>This has been raised with a Director at the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Mid & South Essex to see what is in place or what could be provided for families affected.</p>



In other news.....

- Attended PINS parent meeting at St Mary's CofE primary school in South Woodham Ferrers.
- Attended PINS second parent meeting at Gosbecks Primary School in Colchester.
- Arranged the first PINS parent meeting at Queen Boudica Primary school in Colchester.
- Some of us attended the Transforming Care Information Event at the County Hotel in Chelmsford on Tuesday 12th November. It was very well attended and was lovely to meet so many new faces and hear your views on the information presented.

- **Let's Talk We Miss You Parent Guide**

Kate, Claire and Julia looked over the newly added FAQ section which was request by us and there will be a final check of information next month before the guide is published. This document was written by CAMHS and Essex LA. We know as parents and carers that we need this type of support and advice the most when things don't happen as they should, which is why the addition of a FAQ section and being able to ensure that it is useful to parents is important.

- **South - Community Events**

Monday 25th November – 12.30 - 4pm, We will be at the Healthier Habits Hub event at St Nicholas Church, Long Road, Canvey Island. This event isn't SEND specific and is different from the Local Offer Roadshows. The hub event is about staying healthy and keeping well, physically and mentally, which is important for Parents and Carers. Visit [Healthier Habits Hub - Canvey Primary Care Network](#) for more information.

Thursday 28th November from 4 - 6.30pm, I have a place confirmed on the Community Connect vehicle at Rayleigh Lights event. More information on where the vehicle will be located will be made available nearer to the event date and we will share this on our Facebook page [Essex Family Forum | Facebook](#)

- **South – PINS Project Update**



Margaretting CofE School - Their second meeting is **Wednesday 20th November, 2.15-3.15pm**. We really hope to see some parents at this meeting and begin the Parent Carer element of the PINS process for this school. Sadly, no-one attended the last parent carer meeting.

St Katherine's CofE School - Their second meeting is being held on **Friday 22nd November 2-3pm**. I look forward to seeing those who attended last time and hope to see some new faces also.

Stambridge Primary School - Their second meeting is being held on **Monday 25th November, meeting from 8.30 in the hall for a 9am start**. I really hope to see more parents there and welcome back those parents who attended last time.