



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 13th December'24

You said:	We did:
Transport Issues	<i>Following on from our communication with Travel Essex. They have issued a response to questions we raised. Please see our website for details. Transport Essex Family Forum</i>
UPDATE Families have reported different levels of SEND support depending on the pre-school provider – some were very supportive, others discouraged the family from enrolling their child	<p><i>This was raised at the December Mid Essex Startwell meeting. Any problems with pre school settings, particularly if families are discouraged from enrolling, or needs aren't being met – please email early.years@essex.gov.uk.</i></p> <p><i>This can be investigated and the setting can be given additional support and advice. If families are finding it difficult to find a suitable pre school setting for their SEND child, Vickie Thomas can help with finding an appropriate setting: victoria.thomas@essex.gov.uk (The above applies to all Essex families, not just those in Mid Essex).</i></p>
Update Problems getting a Blue Badge through the Hidden Disabilities route	<i>This was raised at the December Mid Essex SEND Joint Working Group. There is a group working on similar problems for adults with dementia obtaining a blue badge so we will be linking in with them to see if we can work together and raise the issues on a wider level.</i>
A common theme identified in NEE being raised by families is the use of part-time timetables.	<i>Queries regarding this have mainly been regarding students in primary school and where families are not in support of the part-time timetable being suggested/implemented and families seeking advice/support regarding their options regarding this. We will seek</i>



further information regarding this to share with families.

In other news.....

- Claire and Stacey attended a meeting with Essex Local offer, who are in the process of providing an information platform for young people to access advice and support on education, training and jobs. They have created a survey for young people with SEND aged 10 – 25 to gather feedback on what young people would like this to look like. See link for survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2Z3TAB/>. As a thank you for taking part, they can enter a prize draw to win a £100 shopping voucher. Parents and carers can give feedback on planning for the future by emailing STUX@essex.gov.uk
- Tori visited the University of Essex on Monday to be a guest speaker to second year Clinical Psychology Students. These students are already working in placements. The focus of discussions was on understanding the parent carer journey and what the students could proactively do in their practice to better support families with SEND, especially when accessing Mental Health services.
- Stacey attended PACT's coffee and connect session in Epping on Thursday.
- Kate attended the MSE & DWP employment event aimed at young people aged 16+ who are neurodivergent or have mental health conditions. The event was looking to promote the support, resources and options available in finding inclusive employment. She met some lovely people and has forwarded their feedback to our Graffiti Wall and contacted others with further information and support as promised. There will be another event in the Spring term, where they will have employers attending the event.
- Kate was invited to join Families in Focus to discuss the recent resilience course they ran in Basildon. She gave some ideas on what they might think about including in future sessions, based on feedback and information gained at events and coffee mornings, to increase knowledge and skills to better support parents in caring and advocating for their child.
- Katrina and Julia attended the Feedback COG which has been agreed as the escalation route for systemic issues, recurring themes and where we have no





responses to issues raised by families. These will be recorded by us in the Weekly Snapshot Action Log. This should result in more timely responses to families and enable them to see direct action taken as a result of their feedback.

- Katrina and Julia also met with Councillor Tony Ball this week on a range of SEND issues including the EHCP Assessment process, Annual Reviews, communication with SEND Operations, new specialist provision, SEND Transport and exclusions. If you have any comments on these, then please do raise on our Graffiti Wall.
- Kiri presented an update on the PINS project alongside HCRG to the National Community of Practice. There were lots of positives on what we have been able to achieve so far. She also presented to some of the schools taking part in PINS to embed what is happening with the parent carer side of the project in schools and encourage schools to continue to collaborate with families in this way once the pilot ends. To find out more about the PINS pilot project click here.
[Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) project | Essex Family Forum](#)
- Kate and Claire met with the team writing the parent's guide for Let's Talk We Miss You, for a final review of the changes and additions they requested at the last meeting. Some final additions were made to some sections, and we now look forward to the published version of this much need guide being available online to parents in January. We hope that by requesting the addition of an information section to the guide, it will provide some support and guidance for those parents and carers who have conversations with their schools that don't go as they should. The let's talk, we miss you team will be at the next round of Local Offer Roadshows in the Spring where parents will be able to speak with them about the guidance. The team have also confirmed that the school governors guide will be available in January, and there will be some information sessions aimed at governors happening. You can find more information here
[Essex Let's Talk resources | Essex Schools Infolink](#)