



Weekly snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 20/12/2024

You said:	We did:
Mid Essex – At a recent Home Start session, parents reported receiving a copy of the Family Resource Pack, ‘Supporting your Neurodivergent Child’, when their child was diagnosed at Colchester hospital, but parents receiving diagnoses at locations within Mid Essex did not.	Claire has made contact with the Divisional Operational Lead for Provide in Mid Essex and has arranged to provide supplies of the Pack, along with postcards to request the Pack to all Paediatric clinics in Mid Essex. So anyone visiting the clinics either for a consultation or diagnosis, will have access to the Pack
NEE Essex – A common theme being raised by families and support groups in NEE is around One Planning, specifically in Secondary schools. We have been hearing reports of schools either not reviewing One Plans with parents/carers or not supporting the continuation of the One Plan into Secondary School despite it still being required. One parent reported they were told that as they did not have an EHCP they could not have a One Plan.	We will be gathering more feedback from support services in NEE to get a deeper level of understanding around this issue. We will then raise this with the SEND Quadrant Manager for Education to get some formal guidance around One Planning in Secondary Schools and advice on what parents/carers need to do if they are facing similar difficulties getting the support they require.
Mid & South Essex – MyCareBridge ND Portal, Questions and feedback were received on the graffiti wall, and at coffee mornings and events around the support and information shared with SENCOs and GPs. Parents have also asked about the wait times once schools	Kate and Claire have been providing feedback over the last month or so when we receive it to the team managing MyCareBridge. We are due to meet in the new year to discuss where we are with suggested changes to overcome some of the issues we’ve been hearing. We have worked with the team on Parent Carer comms for Essex and there should be more information being shared in the new year.



<p>have uploaded their information/request.</p> <p>Some parents have also asked for more information on the portal and how referrals work.</p>	<p>The preferred route for referrals is for them to be made by your child's school. If this is not possible, due to relationship breakdown or that you electively home educate, your GP can complete the referral for you and additional information can be added at a later stage. If anyone is experiencing issues with MyCareBridge, for example accessing the portal, or the information you're seeing is not what you're expecting or you're having issues with submitting your form, please see the contact details below for each service:</p> <p>NELFT (Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock): childrensautismADHDassessment@nelft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Provide Community (Chelmsford, Braintree and Maldon): provide.cccpaediatrics@nhs.net</p> <p>EPUT (Castle Point & Rochford and Southend): epunft.Lighthouse.ASD@nhs.net or epunft.Lighthouse.ADHD@nhs.net</p> <p>We would also ask that you continue share your experiences with us on the Graffiti Wall, where we can raise it as we see it with the portal team Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
<p>Update – Digital Poverty (South Essex)</p>	<p>Further to the last update, it has been agreed that a printed poster needs to be produced, that can be shared in as many public places as possible that families might access. Ideas on where to place posters were discussed and libraries, doctors surgeries, hospitals, clinics, food banks, charity buildings, the Local Offer, and schools were discussed.</p> <p>There would be a QR code on the poster, which feels like a contradiction for making digital information accessible, but this would ensure that for those families who can access free WiFi in some of the above settings, i.e. Lighthouse Centre, can take information away to share with anyone they know or are supporting that has issues with accessing digital information.</p>



	<p>We also discussed the idea of having a list of either printed resources that can be requested or resources that can be printed and where you can access printing services. There will be more information to follow as this topic is discussed more. There is support from both the LA and health services around this issue and the need for information to be accessible.</p> <p>There are various elements to the original feedback that was received, including ensuring the information was presented in an accessible way for parents and carers, and we will cover those as we continue working on this issue. There is some information to be shared in the next Local Offer newsletter around the various organisations who can help families. This information will be shared across Essex, although there seems to be more feedback around this issue in the south of the county. If anyone would like to share the details of a space or an organisation where they feel families would benefit from this information, once the poster is produced, please let us know on the Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
--	---

In other news.....

- Stacey attended STOMP STAMP oversight group on Wednesday. Discussing strategies to help individuals with learning disabilities get the best care and ensuring that they are not on medication unnecessarily.
- Stacey attended PINS parent meeting at Matching Green primary school on Friday.
- Sarah attended the Maze Coffee Morning in Colchester on Monday. The coffee morning is for parents and carers and is supported by other support groups from NEE including Maze, Families in Focus and Autism Central amongst others.