



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 31/1/2025

You said:	We did:
<p>*Update* Mid – Non-attendance fines.</p> <p>At a parent support group in Braintree, Claire heard about two families of children at secondary school who have been fined or close to being fined because their child cannot attend school due to anxiety. Both children have diagnosed SEND and one was refused a letter by the doctor.</p>	<p>A parent version of the “Let’s Talk We Miss You” document has just been released – this has been co-produced with EFF and provides guidance to families when their child has difficulty attending school. To view this document please see the “Let’s Talk We Miss You” link on the main ‘Weekly Snapshot’ page.</p>
<p>WEST Essex – Feedback on ‘Good Beginnings’ course</p> <p>We have heard very positive feedback regarding ‘Good beginnings’ course for Autism, however this is for under 5’s only. A similar course for 5-12 year olds would be useful.</p>	<p>We had a meeting with Engagement facilitators who run the Good beginning courses. They will be looking at what support we can offer for the 5-12 age group.</p>
<p>South – New SEND Ops Contact Centre</p> <p>Feedback indicates that parents are having issues with the new telephone number. Issues include length of wait to get through, being cut off after being put on hold with no one calling back to continue the call or being placed on hold for long periods of time, with no check in.</p>	<p>We have asked on social media for more feedback on this so that we can raise these issues at a higher level.</p> <p>Please continue to share your experience with us either on the post on our Facebook page or via the Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
<p>South – 1:1 Provision in EHCPs</p> <p>Parents are upset that 1:1 support, as stated in the EHCP, isn't provided because SENCOs have said that funding from the LA doesn't cover the costs. SENCOs are advising parents that schools have to be creative with support, often redefining 1:1 as general adult support. Parents are frustrated that this change wasn't communicated earlier, and the LA hasn't informed them about it.</p>	<p>If schools feel that the funding attached to an EHCP is not enough to provide the provision in section F then they need to take this up with the LA, they are required to provide all provision in section F. For further advice if you feel your child is not getting all the provision in their plan contact SENDIASS Essex SEND - Information, Advice and Support Service</p> <p>If you have professional evidence that 1:1 is needed, and the wording is changed in the EHC then you would need to appeal. Again, please contact SENDIASS for advice.</p>



<p>South – Post 16 Support</p> <p>We received feedback around the confusion around the post 16 support that is available either with or without an EHCP.</p>	<p>EFF are involved in a wider piece of work with the SEND careers advice service, which will focus on post 16 support. We will keep you updated throughout this work</p>
<p>Update: South – ADHD Prescribing Issues</p>	<p>We are now able to share communication from MSE about the prescribing issues. Please visit this link for further information ADHD prescribing - Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System</p> <p>Please continue to share your experiences with us on the Graffiti Wall Have your say Essex Family Forum</p>
<p>Update – Mid & South – MycareBridge</p>	<p>App Fix - Parents should have received an email asking them to update their App, as issues are now fixed which were causing problems for those using the portal on their mobile devices.</p> <p>If you have any issues with My Care Bridge, please ensure that you contact the relevant service provider to report it. 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 continue to liaise with the portal team on a weekly basis, so please share your experiences with us on the Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
<p>NEE – Preparing for adulthood support</p> <p>We heard from a number of parents and carers who attended the SEND Forward event that there is a general lack of</p>	<p>We are gathering the other feedback received from the SEND Forward event and will share this with the relevant teams focusing on Post 16/Post 18 and preparing for Adulthood support. We will</p>



information and support around the post 18 transition for young people and families who are not already supported by other services. Parents and carers feedback their concern about not knowing where to seek out support where “low levels” are support are required.

highlight feedback received via the Weekly Snapshot and provide an update on where this information is shared and any outcomes in due course.

In other news.....

- Claire & Kate presented to Commissioners and Paediatricians from the Mid & South East Integrated Care Board (ICB) on Monday at Brentwood Community hospital. The presentation used quotes from families about their experiences of waiting for an autism/ADHD diagnosis, and after diagnosis, and what families want from this service. The Mid & South East ICB want to ensure that every family gets the same experience throughout Mid & South Essex – currently it is inconsistent depending on where you live. This will include improving support pre and post diagnosis for families.
- Katrina and Jo attended the Essex Joint Commissioning Group. This included presenting a proposal for the Resource Pack “Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child” for post 2025. Also discussed were gaps in Mental Health provision for CYP with SEND and therapy provision. Stocktakes are ongoing on both these areas so please do continue to provide feedback.
- Sarah, Claire and Jo attended the SEND Forward event in Marks Tey. The event was an information event aimed at students and families of students transitioning to further education, employment, supported living or social care provisions.

PINS Update

- Kate attended the last parent carer meeting for St Joseph’s on Canvey Island this week. The school is now looking at how they can continue to work with families moving forwards.
- Stambridge Primary are having their final meeting with Kate on 10th February at 2pm. All SEND parents at the school are welcome, and you can speak to Mrs Loveless for more information.
- Stacey had a meeting with the engagement facilitators. We had discussions around parent/carers courses on autism. They are working on a pilot project in schools for children with diagnosis of autism or awaiting assessment in years 5 – 8. Offering bespoke support primarily around transition from primary to secondary. This has had very positive feedback so far. Discussions around the Ordinarily available and encouraging schools to inform parent/carers of what it includes.