



Weekly snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 7th February'25

You said:	We did:
<p>We hear that SENCO's are not always available to speak with when looking at mainstream schools. In some instances, families are told that they can only contact SENCO once that school has been named</p>	<p>This issue was raised in WEST Quadrant SEND meeting. It is best practice that at least someone from the SEND team should be available to speak with. Please feedback to us through the Graffiti wall if you are aware of schools where this is not happening. Please name the school, so the Local authority can look at individual cases.</p>
<p>Update South – Short Breaks - Butterflies</p>	<p>As a result of issues with the previous booking system used by the Short Breaks team Butterflies have now implemented a new system. They have been in touch to provide us with their new centralised email address and to let us know that they now have procedures in place to ensure that there are no more communication issues.</p> <p>The new email address is: bookings@butterfliesclub.co.uk</p> <p>If you are a parent or carer who has met with Butterflies and hasn't heard back from them, they encourage you to get in touch with them. If you are unsure as to what Butterflies can offer you, please see their Facebook page for further information. You can search for them as 'Butterflies Clubs Essex'.</p> <p>You can also visit them at the upcoming Local Offer Roadshow. You can find more information on the Roadshow here</p>



	<p><u>Essex Local Offer Roadshows Essex Local Offer</u></p> <p>Again, please continue to share your feedback and experiences via our Graffiti Wall <u>Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</u></p>
<p>In NEE we have heard via one of the providers of sports activities for SEND children and young people that families have reported that there is a lack of available sports activities in the Clacton area. Families have feedback that they would have to travel to Colchester to access activities and this isn't always possible.</p>	<p>If you have any comments regarding this or would like to share any feedback please share this via our graffiti wall and we can raise this with the relevant groups.</p>

In other news.....

- Ange, Julia, Katrina and Kate attended the National Network of Parent Carer Forums' (NNPCF) annual conference in Northampton this week on behalf of Essex Family Forum. The conference was organised by [Contact](#) and [NNPCF](#) – of which Jo Harrison from EFF is a Co-Chair. There were speakers addressing SEND reforms, SEND area inspections and other national developments for SEND. This also provided a massive networking opportunity for everyone involved.
- Stacey attended West Essex Quadrant meeting on Monday. Raised the issue of mental health, what support is there. We need a clear 'roadmap' of what services are out there and how to access them. We got this item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting in March and will be inviting related organisations to hopefully make things clearer. Also raised on-going issues with wait times for Needs assessment. Expressed that families need clear & frequent communication as to the delays and what is being done to improve this.
- With more people Home educating, we have requested for this to be put on as a future agenda item. What are the procedures and support. Some information is available here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/home-education>
- Stacey also attended 3 PINS parent meetings in schools this week
- Claire attended a 2nd PINS meeting with parents/carers at Priory Primary school



- Claire attended the SET Therapies Mid Essex Operational Group on Monday and heard updates on the Therapies pilot that is being rolled out now in 6 Mid Essex Primary schools.
- Claire & Kate attended Learning Disability Annual Health Check Forum (LD AHC). The quality and uptake of Annual Health Checks was discussed, as well as looking at enhanced health checks and ways to overcome the barriers to various medical appointments that people with LD face. We will be looking to add the issue of raising awareness for both parents, carers and young adults, and will be requesting this for discussion at the next forum. The Health Checks are available to those aged 14+ with either LD and/or Autism (ND) and are on the Learning Disability Register. You can find more information here [Annual health checks | Contact](#)
- Sarah attended the Maze Coffee morning in Mistley on Monday ([click here](#) for details of all of the Maze Coffee Mornings) and the 'Healthier Habits Hub' which took place at Firstsite in Colchester on Thursday ([click here](#) further dates across Essex).