



Weekly snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 28/2/2025

You said:	We did:
Update - Tourette's Syndrome diagnosis and support - Mid Essex Feedback from the recent SEND Roadshow and individual 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.	A Director at the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Mid & South Essex has confirmed that this is an area that has been identified as needing further attention and commissioning decisions to be made. Planning for 2025/26 is taking place now and there will be a strong focus on mental health, and it is hoped that this will include provision for Tourette's Syndrome. EFF will be checking later in the year to see any progress.
Update - New SEND Ops Contact Centre issues.	We have been gathering feedback on our social media, but we are also now asking parents to complete a more in-depth survey around their wait for education health care needs assessment (EHCNA) and how they are finding communication with SEND Operations during this time. We will be using the data collected from both our social media posts and this survey in our discussions with the Local Authority. If you would like to share your ECHNA experience, please find the survey here https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18gz7AuSS6/

In other news.....

- The Essex Family Forum Parent/Carer event is next week on the 6th March in Chelmsford! We are sorry to all those that could not get a ticket, could we please ask that if you booked a ticket and are now not able to come that you cancel your place as we do have a waiting list.
- Katrina attended the Essex Joint Commissioning Group where the future funding of the information packs "Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child" after 2025. Also presented was a stocktake of Mental Health services. There will be further work on this to compare provision with feedback from families to identify gaps



and ensure consistency of delivery across Essex. Please do continue to feedback your experience on the Graffiti Wall.

- Stacey has been busy with PINS meetings this week. See website for more details on the project <https://essexfamilyforum.org/portfolio/pins>
- Stacey attended a meeting about Balanced Therapy system coming into place soon. It is designed to utilise existing resources and improve communication between services/organisations. We are working on getting communication out to families, so will be able to give you more information soon!
- Claire attended an Inclusion Event at Priory Primary school in Bicknacre. Families were able to talk to SENDIASS, SNAP, Autism Central, amongst others and the children could try out some sensory toys and resources.
- Claire attended a 3rd PINS meeting at Gosbecks Primary school in Colchester this week.
- Sarah attended the 3rd PINS meeting at Hazelmere Infants School in Colchester this week.