



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending – 21st March 2025

You said:	We did:
Mid Essex – ADHD Medication A parent has reported that her son's ADHD medication keeps being changed due to shortages and now he has no medication at all. Other parents have reported medication constantly being changed and difficulty in getting through to the Paediatrician to arrange medication reviews	This has been raised with senior leaders in the Mid & South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
Mid Essex – Courses for Parents/Carers At a PINS Parent/carer coffee morning recently, parents asked if there was something like the Good Beginnings course but for families of children over 5? It would be amazing for those diagnosed later than 5.	We understand that there are plans to roll out a Beyond Good Beginnings course – we are awaiting further details on this.
Mid Essex - D-Bit team from social care. Appointments too infrequent to have effect and often cancelled. Struggling to find respite at crisis point.	This will be raised with Social Care leaders
Update – Moving house (Education) What happens with a child's education when a family is moved between social housing, and they are moved a long way from the child's school? How do they travel to and from the school? What if the nearest schools are full?	<p>The social housing team at the relevant council will initially assess the family and should take into account the children's schooling needs and any additional educational needs. It may be possible to apply for school transport to take the child to school. The School Transport policy is below:</p> <p>https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-transport/who-qualifies-for-home-to-school-transport</p> <p>If a parent thinks that their children may be eligible for transport assistance, they can</p>



	<p>apply online for transport assistance using the link below:-</p> <p>https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-transport/apply-for-school-transport</p> <p>Once the transport application has been submitted, the Education Awards team within Essex County Council will then assess whether their children are entitled to transport assistance.</p> <p>Please note that they would require a copy of refusal letters from any closer schools. They would then look into whether the current school is the nearest available school to the home address.</p>
<p>WEST Essex – Appointments CDC Centre</p> <p>We have been hearing that appointments with CDC centre cannot be booked due to a system outage</p>	<p>Had response from the Assistant Director of Commissioning for Children & Young People to say that the issue has now been resolved. It was a national issue for HCRG. They advised there was notices on the front of the Essex child and family wellbeing service website, and on social media.</p>
<p>NEE – POST 16 support</p> <p>Parents and Carers attending the Essex SEND Forward event and the NEE SEND roadshow raised concerns around the lack of support and advice for SEND children and young people post 16.</p>	<p>We will raise this feedback at the next Joint SEND Quadrant meeting for discussion and also within the Preparing for Adulthood group. Please continue to share your feedback on this via our Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p> <p>The 'SEND Forward' event is currently and annual in person event that is aimed at Post 16/Preparing for Adulthood support. This years event has already taken place (January 2025) but there is discussion amongst the organisers around holding a second event in the year. They have a facebook page which you can follow for further updates (https://www.facebook.com/groups/579916373665317/)</p> <p>You can also find some information relating to Post 16/Preparing for Adulthood topics on the Local Offer Website (Essex County Council:</p>



	<p><u>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Essex Local Offer</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Employability and Skills Team Essex Local Offer</u> • <u>As your child approaches adulthood Essex Local Offer</u> <p>Other useful websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACL Supported Learning (www.aclessex.com/supportedlearning) • Get Set For Work – Free Essex based support services for adults with a learning disability and/or neurodiverse needs www.getsetuk.co.uk/getsetforwork • ecl – Inclusive Employment Programme www.ecl.org • Supported Internships and Accessible Internships – ECC • Essex Youth Service – Employability and Skills Advisers www.youth.essex.gov.uk <p>Please note some information/support/services will only be relevant/available to those with an EHCP.</p>
<p>NEE – ND Referral Pathway Process.</p> <p>We have heard from families themselves and also via The MAZE Group, that families have been receiving conflicting information regarding whether school's or GP's can make referrals for Neurodevelopment disorders (Autism and ADHD) in NEE.</p>	<p>The MAZE Group have shared the following clarification around the referral pathway process in NEE:</p> <p>“...both school and GP CAN make the referral, along with any of these lead professionals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO) • Tutors or Teachers at schools or colleges • Educational psycho Specialist Education Services (if accessing) • Alternative Tuition Service (if accessing) • Elective Home Education Team



- Private Tutor
- School Nurse
- GP
- Health Visitor
- Paediatrician
- Psychiatrist
- Nurses
- Clinical, counselling, or forensic psychologists
- Occupational therapists
- Speech and language therapists
- Primary mental health worker
- Mental health professionals
- Social worker
- Early help practitioner
- Family support worker

If you are experiencing these difficulties and being bounced between school and GP, all of the up-to-date, accurate information is on the ESNEFT website here:

<https://www.esneft.nhs.uk/.../community-child-health.../>

In other news...

- Claire attended the final PINS meeting at King's Ford Primary school in Colchester this week. She also attended a PINS meeting at Hazlemere Juniors school in Colchester.
- Claire attended the Mid & South Essex BCYP Growing Well Board this week and listened to speakers updating on the ADHD medication (Shared Care Agreements) situation and watched a presentation about a new virtual reality programme to help children and young people who have a fear of needles and hospitals/surgeries.
- Stacey attended a SEND coffee morning at SFG secondary school in Harlow. It had been organised by year 10 students on the ASDAN programme. They had to plan the whole event. They had a budget, designed and sent invites. Welcomed parent/carers and organised the refreshments. Julie Hutchings was invited along for a Q&A session.
- Stacey had her final PINS meeting at Ingatestone primary school on Friday. 5 parents attended. They have felt the PINS project is very positive and will be continuing to have



parent coffee mornings with school. School are very open to hearing ideas from parent/carers and willing to try new ways of doing things.

- Kate joined USP Seevic SEND Support staff on their CPD day to talk about Essex Family Forum and our work. They were keen to hear feedback on challenges faced by young people and their families to better understand their students. It was a productive session with lots of great questions and shared insights.
- Kate attended the All Age Domestic Abuse Professional Networking Event, which covered the launch of the Domestic Abuse Strategy on 1st April and its impact on families, particularly those with SEND. It was an insightful and informative session.
- Sarah attended the North East Essex SEND Roadshow this week. It was a busy day and a great opportunity to speak to parents and carers, signpost them to relevant support and get feedback about what life is like for SEND families.
- Sarah attended the MAZE coffee morning in Harwich and spoke to families about support available, gathered feedback and shared copies of the resource pack
- Sarah also attended her third PINS coffee morning at Highfields Primary School in Manningtree. The coffee mornings have provided some really good engagement opportunities between the parents and carers and the school and the school have been very proactive at implementing strategies to address some of the parents carers feedback and are committed to continuing the parent carer engagement.