



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 4/4/25

You said:	We did:
<p>South – EHCP Provision</p> <p>We have had feedback from parents who feel that their child/young person is not receiving the provision in their child/young person's EHCP (Education Health Care Plan)</p>	<p>If you feel your child's EHCP provision is not being met, you can contact SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice, and Support Service) for support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: Essex SENDIASS • Helpline: Available Monday to Thursday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm. Lines can be busy, so it may take around 10 days to respond to messages. Call 01245 204 338. • Self-Referral: Complete the online Self-Referral form <p>For further guidance on addressing issues with EHCP provision, visit the IPSEA website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking Action When Things Go Wrong with an EHC Plan.
<p>South – Post 16 Transport</p> <p>Some parents say they are concerned that transport provision seems to stop when their child reaches 16, despite many needing to access education settings until they are 19.</p>	<p>Transport provision for Post-16 is governed by statutory guidance, meaning Essex County Council (ECC) has not made this decision independently. However, you can still apply for travel support and request Travel Training.</p> <p>For more details - Visit the Essex Local Offer website for Post-16 and Post-19 transport eligibility: Eligibility Essex Local Offer . Visit Essex County Council's website for information on Post-16 transport and links to the 16-19 Student Bursary Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School transport: Post-16 transport Essex County Council • 16 to 19 Bursary Fund: Overview - GOV.UK <p>For more information on Travel Training in Essex and how to apply, visit: Travel Training.</p>



<p>Mid Essex – Shortbreaks</p> <p>Shortbreaks registration process and SEND Sensation information about holiday/weekend clubs is not user friendly, quite daunting to access and not much available for under 8s in Chelmsford. Holiday clubs are difficult to access for working parents due to hours.</p>	<p>This will be fed back to the Shortbreaks and SEND Sensation teams and an update will follow shortly.</p>
<p>North East Essex – ADHD Medication</p> <p>Parents and carers have raised concerns/confusion regarding changes to GP's prescribing ADHD medication.</p>	<p>During the North East Essex Neurodevelopment Oversight Group meeting this was discussed. We are currently waiting updated communications from ESNEFT regarding this and will share this when these are released.</p> <p>Please see the current information available via the following link: http://www.esneft.nhs.uk/service/childrens-services-communitiy-paediatrics/managing-adhd-medication/</p> <p>Please also continue to share any feedback you have via our Graffiti Wall</p>
<p>Essex Wide – Accessing a Blue Badge</p> <p>We received feedback that accessing a Blue Badge through the LA for hidden disabilities was a difficult process.</p>	<p>Essex Local Authority shared the following:</p> <p>The Department for Transport guidelines state “<i>Aside from cases where an applicant is unable to walk; i.e. that they cannot walk during the course of a journey, it should be remembered that “very considerable difficulty whilst walking” and “serious harm” during the course of a journey are high thresholds that should be applied to all applicants equally, whether their disability is visible or non-visible (‘hidden’)”</i> Therefore, Applications submitted under the non-visible (hidden) disabilities criteria must be supported by a supplementary hidden disability evidence form, completed by a professional, fulfilling the role of an expert assessor, involved in the diagnosis, treatment, or provision of on-going therapeutic services. A covering letter from the professional is also required, confirming they have provided the supporting evidence, and their involvement with the applicant. Examples of professionals who can complete the form include, but are not limited to, a clinical</p>



psychologist, educational psychologist, neurologist, occupational therapist, psychiatrist, rheumatologist, social worker, SENCO, or mental health nurse. The Council's website offers guidance in relation to this point: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/blue-badge/supporting-documents/proof-non-visible-hidden-disability>

In other news.....

- Claire attended the SEND4All Parents & Carers SEND Support Group coffee mornings in Burnham on Monday and in South Woodham Ferrers on Thursday and listened to parents talking about a range of SEND issues including secondary school SEND support.
- Claire attended the SENDIASS Steering Group meeting on Tuesday – it was interesting to hear how busy SENDIASS are with supporting families and their tribunal work.
- Tori attended the University of Essex on Tuesday to be an 'Expert by Experience' interview panellist, which included panellists from the NHS and teaching staff at the University. These interviews were for professionals hoping to study for a doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and would be part of the Mental Health teams covering the whole of Essex, including services that support individuals with SEND. There were some really strong candidates who went through the rigorous selection process, who were able to demonstrate their appreciation for the service user journey, the challenges that may bring, and also what they may be able to address in their practice to ensure that barriers to successful outcomes are overcome, individuals feel supported, and the service meets needs. It was a very informative day and really positive to meet so many dedicated and committed professionals, who were keen to ensure they were able to deliver the best for their service users.
- Stacey has been to the Final PINS meetings at 3 schools this week. The most common positive effect from the project is the community it has created amongst parents, they feel more supported by one another and grateful for schools getting involved and improving their level of understanding of Neurodiversity.
- Sarah attended the North East Essex Neurodevelopment Oversight Group meeting. We use this meeting to share relevant parent/carer feedback from NEE on this topic. Please continue to share your feedback via the Graffiti Wall, including pre diagnosis (support, referral process, waiting times) assessment and post assessment (even where a diagnosis is not given) etc.



- Sarah attended the MAZE coffee morning in Clacton this week. Details of the upcoming MAZE coffee mornings can be found via the MAZE Website ([Coffee Mornings | SEND Parents Support - The MAZE Group](#))

Essex Family Forum receives many comments through our online Graffiti Wall, at events and through our Family Champions. Although we are not able to address all of these through this snapshot, please be assured that all feedback is raised with services and issues that are shared repeatedly are being highlighted.

Recent ongoing issues that have been raised, include;

- difficulties with SEND support in school,
- trouble accessing school nurses
- and issues with mental health support.

Please note: The Graffiti Wall and Snapshot is designed to give anonymised feedback and cannot be used to answer individual queries.