



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 9/5/25

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.

You said:	We did:
<p><u>Referrals - Children's Learning Disability Service</u></p> <p>We have had queries about referrals to the Children's Learning Disability Service. We are hearing there are a lot of Autistic children requiring health assessment BUT they are not accepting referrals for at least 6 months.</p>	<p>We have made enquiries about timescales and will update you when we have more information. See link below how to make a referral.</p> <p>Children's Learning Disability Service - Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust</p>
<p><u>Lack of Support - Year 7</u></p> <p>We are hearing from many parents of children in Year 7 especially, undiagnosed but on a pathway, who are not receiving any support or understanding in school. Initial reasonable adjustments seem to be made for the first term of Year 7 but don't continue from then on. Children receiving detentions and constantly getting into trouble for minor things.</p>	<p>There are some pilot projects running which are designed to tackle these issues. We have asked for an update on these. We will provide an update as soon as we get a response.</p>
<p><u>Education Access</u></p> <p>We're hearing that the Education Access Team is requesting Annex forms, but many families don't have access to a professional to complete them, and GPs are refusing to sign. As a result, some children are being left without access to education.</p>	<p>We have contacted the Education Access Team to discuss how families struggling to access a professional for Annex forms can be better supported.</p> <p>If this issue has affected you, please share your experience on our Graffiti Wall</p> <p>Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
<p><u>Accessing physiotherapy through an EHCP</u></p> <p>Some families have reported difficulties in accessing physiotherapy through an EHCP</p>	<p>We have reached out to ask whether there is a known issue or if a transfer procedure exists that parents may not be aware of.</p>



when their young person transitions to college or further education.	If you have any relevant experiences, please share them via our Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum
<p><u>Transition Support without an EHCP</u></p> <p>There are concerns about the limited support available for young people without an EHCP, particularly when transitioning to further education. In some cases, young people are left unsure of how to progress in their chosen careers due to a lack of available support and guidance.</p> <p>Families have expressed frustration over the refusal of GCSE re-marks, particularly when students miss the required grade by a narrow margin.</p> <p>Some students are required to enrol in courses that don't align with their interests or career goals simply to access GCSE resits, with few alternatives like dedicated re-sit classes at adult education centres.</p> <p>Families have reported difficulties in securing apprenticeships, with some worried about exploitation during trial periods, as their young person is vulnerable.</p>	<p>We met with the Preparing for Adulthood Team (PFA) and discussed the importance of ensuring services remain accessible to young people without EHCPs, Social Care Plans, or diagnoses, recognising the need for these schemes. It was noted that requiring such information could place additional pressure on health, social care, and local authorities, which must also be considered. The next meeting we have with PFA is in June, where further discussions will take place on these and other related issues.</p> <p>If you would like to share your experiences and feedback on this issue, please visit our Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p> <p>Please find the latest newsletter from the Targeted Employment Team TE Newsletter with links - 1</p> <p>Their upcoming events providing information on post-education opportunities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Works – 14 May 2025, Remembrance Square, County Hall (10:00am–2:00pm) • Moving On – 20 May 2025, Remembrance Square, County Hall (10:00am–1:00pm)
<p><u>School Nurse Assessments</u></p> <p>Concerns have been shared about delays in school nurse assessments, with some families struggling to access support despite multiple requests. It has been suggested that clearer processes and improved communication between services could help ensure timely assessments.</p>	<p>To gain a broader understanding of families' experiences with school nurses and how the service is used, we're inviting anyone who has accessed or attempted to access it to share their feedback on what was and wasn't helpful. You can do this via our Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum</p>
<u>Post 16 Transport</u>	Although we continue to raise these issues with the local authority and transport



<p>Queries have been raised regarding the signing of waivers and post-16 transport, with families seeking clarity on their rights and available options.</p>	<p>providers, we encourage families to seek independent advice from SENTAS.</p> <p>You can find more information at https://sentas.co.uk/</p>
<p><u>Update - Dental Services</u></p> <p>As shared previously we continue to receive feedback regarding the difficulties SEND families have with accessing appropriate dental appointments and treatment for children and young people with SEND. This has been raised as an issue across Essex and has been particularly highlighted as an issue families within BAME groups are feeding back.</p>	<p>We have raised this at the SEND Quadrant meetings and will continue to feed this back. We have also recently fed this back to the dentistry team in the Suffolk and North East Essex ICB and asked for further information regarding support available.</p>

In other news.....

- Claire attended the Healthier Habits Hub in Halstead – she talked to families and linked in with other services such as Healthwatch Essex, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Community Agents and the Mid Essex Recovery College.
- Claire went to a Home Start session in Chelmsford this week and spoke to families of pre-school age children just starting on their SEND journey. She was able to signpost them to relevant services and gave them copies of Supporting your Neurodivergent Child.
- Stacey attended the SEND meeting for WEST quadrant. Members are getting ready for the Ofsted inspection that will be happening soon. Some work is being done around the Correlation between SEND and Mental Health, with focus on neurodiverse children. To see report where we have gathered data on this [click here](#).
- Kate had a great catch-up with Clare from Restless Minds, one of our fantastic Family Champion Volunteers. They shared useful information, and Clare provided valuable feedback on the experiences of the families she supports.
- Claire and Kate were due to attend the MyCareBridge Feedback Forum this week, but it’s now been rescheduled for 22nd May. In the meantime, if you’ve got any thoughts on the portal you’d like us to feedback to the Team, do share them on our Graffiti Wall—we’d really appreciate hearing from you [Feedback Wall | Essex Family Forum](#)



- Sarah attended the MAZE coffee morning in Clacton this week and spoke with parents and carers about support available in NEE and also gained feedback from them about what is working well and what isn't working well for their families.
- Sarah met with the Designated Clinical Officer in SNEE for C&YP with SEND to discuss communication around Right to Choose and to share feedback on dentistry issues and and the ASD/ADHD diagnostic pathway along with other themes from NEE.

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

All EFF staff are part time and work on a flexible basis. If there are weeks when a quadrant does not appear represented in this snapshot, we are still working hard. Please bear this in mind.