



## Weekly Snapshot from EFF

### **Week ending- 6/6/25**

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.

<b>You said:</b>	<b>We did:</b>
<p><b>Early Years – Training and Support</b></p> <p>Feedback received questioned why nurseries are having to pay for training to support SEND children when budgets are already stretched, and the government has confirmed further funding challenges. There were suggestions that free training and support should be available from the local authority when new guidance is introduced.</p>	<p>Early years support is a key national focus, and we're addressing this at a local level too.</p>
<p><b>Pre – assessment/diagnosis Support</b></p> <p>Parents/carers in NEE have highlighted a lack of awareness of support available whilst awaiting ASD/ADHD assessments and diagnosis. One parent fed back that they had waited 4 years for an ADHD diagnosis and in that time, they weren't made aware that support was available before diagnosis.</p>	<p>Through the relevant working groups, including the NDD Oversight Group and the Joint SEND Working Group, we continue to highlight the need for better communication around the support/information and services that are available to families whilst they are awaiting assessments/diagnosis.</p> <p>You can find out what support is available to you in NEE via the Neurodevelopmental Pathway Coordinators who provide telephone support to children and young people with a neurodevelopmental condition and their family (<a href="#">NHS - Neurodevelopmental pathway – North East Essex   Essex Local Offer</a>)</p> <p><b>How it can help</b> - They support children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions, such as Autism, ADHD and Dyspraxia. They provide information, resources and support at any time, including pre and post diagnosis.</p>



	<p>The coordinators are available Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm (excluding public holidays). Referrals can be from professionals, families, children and young people who can self-refer.</p> <p>Contact the Neurodevelopmental Coordinators Team on 0300 247 0015 – or via email <a href="mailto:vcl.essexne-neurocoord@nhs.net">vcl.essexne-neurocoord@nhs.net</a></p>
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## In other news.....

- Kate and Ange recently met with the PFA team to share feedback from the Graffiti Wall and coffee mornings, highlighting the struggles faced by young people who left school undiagnosed, unsupported, and without English and Maths GCSEs. Many face barriers to exam resits, appropriate support, and employment, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, substance misuse, homelessness, and benefit sanctions. We look forward to working with the PFA team to ensure there are clear, accessible next steps for young people leaving education, particularly those with SEND, and to make sure families are informed about available support, including the Job Centre, so no young person is left without guidance or opportunity.
- Stacey & Kevin attended West Therapies oversight group this week. Link therapists are now working in schools delivering SLT. Feedback has been positive, although still in the early stages. Will be doing some evaluations over the summer to compare if this new way of working is better.
- Stacey and Katrina have been working on the re-design of the Family impact survey this week. We are reducing the number of questions to make the annual survey more efficient and timelier. We want to get more of a general overview of all services. Then based on the outcomes, other feedback from the graffiti wall, and any known changes to services, we will be doing additional snapshot surveys through the year.
- Stacey attended PACT's Cuppa and connect coffee morning in Harlow this week. SENDIASS also attended and shared some parent workshops they will be running in the summer (Details to follow). The theme this month was on 'changes' Any changes that will impact you, and the family, about thinking ahead and being prepared! This really is a lovely safe space for parent/carers to discuss any challenges they are having. The ladies from PACT are very friendly, and have a wealth of knowledge and experience to help support and signpost parent/carers.
- Claire attended the Levelling Up Essex Partner Celebration in Chelmsford on Tuesday. The Levelling Up project aims to create opportunities for everyone to enable them to



succeed in life. Over the past two years they have introduced new projects aimed at supporting communities earmarked with the highest level of need. Children and adults with SEND and/or learning disabilities are classed as a priority cohort. Claire made links with services that provide direct or indirect support to families of children and young people with SEND and also talked to Councillor Louise McKinlay about further projects to help Small and Medium Enterprises to employ young adults with SEND.

- Sarah was invited to speak the MAZE Parenting Programme currently running at Whitehall School in Clacton. Information and booking details regarding the Autumn terms groups can be found on the MAZE website or by [clicking here](#).
- This week Sarah represented EFF at the North East Essex Adult Autism/ADHD Stakeholder Engagement Meeting and the North East Essex Neurodevelopment Oversight Group meeting.
- Sarah met with the Designated Clinical Officer in SNEE for C&YP with SEND to further discuss the dentistry issues raised in NEE, the planned update for the 'Weekly Snapshot' has been delayed slightly while we confirm the information to share with parents/carers.

***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.***