



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 13/6/25

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.

You said:	We did:
UPDATE We heard concerns about the children's learning disability service, in that they were not accepting any referrals for health assessments for 6 months.	<p>We contacted this service and they informed us that Referrals to the CLDS are closed until 31st August, due to high demand, reduced staffing, and feedback about long wait times.</p> <p>They hope this time will give the team the opportunity to work through existing waiting lists and review how they deliver services more efficiently.</p> <p>They also noted, CLDS is a specialist service for children with a diagnosed moderate to severe learning disability who display difficult to manage behaviour within the home. They do not offer health assessments for children with autism, or interventions where autism is their only diagnosis</p> <p>They would like to reassure that they remain available for consultation and signposting during this period, where advice and support can be offered.</p>

In other news.....

Local Area SEND inspection deferral.

EFF were recently informed that the local area SEND inspection carried out by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted has been deferred. The local area partnership has addressed the reasons why in a letter to parent carers. EFF is extremely disappointed by this and have written a response (see below for details on where you can read our response).



It is also concerning that the CQC and Ofsted have agreed to this deferral and EFF have contacted them regarding this.

You can find all the information/documents on this link [News | Essex Family Forum](#)

PINS

On Monday the EFF PINS team met, along with some of the Family Champion PINS reps. It was great to meet in person and talk about the pilot, what we've learnt, and how we would like to move forward. Some planning was done for the 2nd year of the pilot in which we hope to have more details soon. Tori our HR lead facilitated a session on resilience and managing some of the trickier conversations had during the project.

Information on the PINS project can be found here [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) project | Essex Family Forum](#)

- Claire and Kate attended the monthly MyCareBridge Forum meeting, where they received updates on improvements to the portal and apps, ensuring services continue to evolve based on family feedback from Mid and South Essex. While direct feedback is temporarily paused, initial input is being used as a benchmark, with the portal set to reopen in a few months for new user experiences. Families can still report issues via our GW, which we will raise as needed.
- Claire met with Essex Transport this week to talk about the issues families face when sending their children to school on SEND Home to School Transport. Essex Transport have set up a project team to look at the mobilisation of Home to School Transport for the next academic year, in order to make much needed improvements to the service. If you have any feedback (good or bad) on SEND Transport, please contact claire@essexfamilyforum.org.
- Claire attended the monthly Mid Essex SEND Joint Working Group this week. We received an update on the Shared Care Agreements for Mid & South Essex, and information on a Summer Activities toolkit that will be released shortly to map out various summer activities in Mid Essex for families to access.
- Stacey attended the Neurodevelopmental steering group meeting for West Essex this week. HCRG are working on improving the referral process and are in the final stages of this now. They are aware they need to be better at checking in with people on waiting lists for assessments, so are looking at ways they can do this. They always welcome feedback on how they can improve their services, so please use our graffiti wall and let us know!



- Sarah attended the 'Community Health and Wellbeing Fair' in Great Bentley this week. It was a busy event with a lot of SEND parents/carers and grandparents requesting copies of the "Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child" resource pack. It also a really good opportunity to meet with other professional and share information about EFF and what we do along with details about our resource pack for them to share with the families they are connected with.
- Sarah attended the Suffolk and North East Essex Learning Disabilities & Autism Health Inequalities Steering Group and shared the feedback EFF gathered from the recent questionnaire regarding Annual Health Checks for young people with LD
- Sarah attended the African Families in the UK 10 year anniversary celebration this week as a guest of Dream the Change. The celebrations were inspiring to say the least and it was a great opportunity to not only share information about EFF and what we do with families but also to see some really good examples of organisation working together to understand and support communities and diversity.

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.