



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 05/10/25

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:
Mental Health Support for Children and Young People. EFF receive regular feedback on the struggle to get timely correct support for your child's mental health, this includes those who are neurodivergent (ND).	We raise this regularly and following a meeting with both the Mental Health in schools Team (MHST) and Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). We have the following update to share via clicking the link HERE
Special School Visits. We know that families have found it difficult to access viewing special schools before places are allocated via an EHCP.	We have been asking for clear communication on the process for this and are working with the LA to share something with families soon.

In other news.....

- **Meeting with Harlow MP Chris Vince.** Kevin and Stacey met with Chris, he was interested in hearing what families experience is of SEND provision in Harlow. We had good discussions around everything that is broken in the system. Chris comes from an education background and was involved with Action for family carers, so he sees things from various angles and had genuine empathy for the struggles of families today. He has assured us he will be getting our views across to the relevant people and the hope is for every child/young person to be receiving better support than they are currently.
- Claire attended the Children and Young Peoples Transforming Care Steering Group on Tuesday and heard updates from the Health Equalities team on the Dynamic Support Register, the Autism in Schools pilot and the All Age Autism Outreach service. These are all ongoing projects and any significant changes relevant to families will be confirmed on social media.
- Claire and Ange attended a Summit held by the Mid & South Essex Integrated Care Board on Wednesday. We worked with Health, Education and social care representatives to brainstorm how a needs led approach for Children & Young People could look in Essex. We heard from the Kent & Midway Local Authority representatives



on how it is working for them. This is a new working group – the MSE ICB recognise that change needs to be made in the diagnostic and support process for Children & Young People, and this group has been set up to look at different ways this could happen.

- **PINS year 2** - We are delighted to be continuing work in Essex on the PINS pilot project which we began last year. This is a chance for families and schools to work better on inclusion and communication within the school. To find out more and see if your school is taking part this year, check our website here [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) project | Essex Family Forum](#)

Our Growing Team!

Following our recent recruitment processes we are delighted to announce that we have been able to appoint to all vacancies within Essex Family Forum.

Our very own Kate Taft-Ringer was appointed to the Strategic Development Coordinator vacancy after an extremely competitive selection and interview process. She joins Jo Harrison and Claire McConnell in the Strategic Development Coordinator roles.

Kate's internal move to Strategic Development Coordinator then left the South Essex Quadrant Lead role vacant, as well as the Mid Essex Quadrant Lead vacancy. The Quadrant Lead vacancy was another extremely competitive selection and interview process, and we had the pleasure of interviewing some exceptional candidates.

We are thrilled to welcome Carly Gray as our New South Essex Quadrant Lead, and Ruth Hassey as our new Mid Essex Quadrant Lead. Ruth and Carly started their new roles this Wednesday, 1st October. Kate and Claire will be handing over their respective quadrant areas that they have so expertly nurtured over the past few years. They are being very ably supported day-to-day by our other experienced Quadrant Leads; Sarah (Northeast Essex) and Stacey (West Essex). We will be updating our website and social media so that you can be introduced to Ruth and Carly shortly.

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.