



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 19/10/25

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:
Support Post Diagnosis A parent shared that after receiving their child's diagnosis, they felt unsupported and overwhelmed. Although they were signposted to online resources, they struggled to identify what was relevant to their child's specific needs. The parent expressed a desire for clearer, more immediate information about organisations that could offer support following diagnosis.	On the same day the feedback was received, we signposted the parent to a range of organisations that provide support to families following diagnosis. We are working with NHS teams to clarify what support is available to families at the point of diagnosis, how this is communicated and how it could be improved.
Transport Feedback regarding issues with school transport for children and young people continues to be being raised.	We continue to feed this back to the relevant groups and meetings.
Post 19 Education without EHCP We received feedback regarding concerns around access to supported education or training without an EHCP	We will seek further information regarding this and share in due course.

In other news.....

- Kate and Carly were invited to attend an Early Years event at Basildon Library on Saturday. It was well attended, and they had the pleasure of meeting several SEND families, listening to their views and signposting them to organisations who may be able to support them on their journeys. Issues were raised regarding the use of part-time timetables and whether some schools are applying Ordinarily Available (OA). We will be discussing this with education teams at upcoming meetings.
- Claire & Ruth attended the SEND4All Parent support group in Burnham on Monday. We listened to parents talking on subjects including lack of support in school, children



unable to attend school, difficulties in getting the right information on a one plan and an interesting conversation with a SENCo, hearing her point of view.

- On Tuesday, Claire attended the Essex All Age Autism Strategy Facilitation Group which is working on the refresh of the Essex All Age Autism Strategy (AAAS) over the coming year. This is a working group to bring expertise, and challenge to the refresh process, and ultimately ensuring that those with lived experience are integral to the development of the next AAAS from the outset.
- On Wednesday Claire & Ruth attended the first of a series of Mid Essex Startwell roadshows to link parents of children under 5 with professionals and support services. The first roadshow was in Maldon Library and we met with a steady stream of parents of young children close to starting school. On Friday Claire & Ruth attended a parents coffee morning at Thriftwood school.
- Kate and Carly attended the South Joint SEND Working Group this month. Updates included information on the South SEND Roadshow at SNAP (3 Nov) and the launch of SPACE, a new peer led offer replacing Autism Central. SPACE is open to all families with children and young people who have any type of special educational need or disability. The website is expected in early November. There are sessions already running for parents and carers, and details are available on the Local Offer. The group reflected on wider system conversations around needs led support, with agreement that diagnosis must remain available to protect family choice and possible ADHD medication options. A new Under 5s Sensory Toolkit is available on Essex Schools InfoLink and is officially launching on 6 Nov, with plans to extend sensory focused training across age ranges.

You can find both the Under 5s and Over 5s toolkits here; [SEND advice and guidance: Support sensory needs | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

- Stacey attended the first of the SEND roadshows on Monday and was supported by her Family champion volunteer Chloe who was fantastic! The event was busy with about 40 people attending. A lot were saying about lack of support groups and services in the Loughton area. This is something we are looking to improve. We heard lots of positive feedback about the ND Pack.

Click here to order your free copy: <https://essexfamilyforum.org/resources/nd-pack>

- Sarah and Jo attended the NEE Joint SEND Working Group meeting this week. Sarah also attended the MAZE coffee morning in Clacton on Sea this week.
- Tori, EFF's HR Lead, has completed the Mental Health First Aider Course with Mental Health First Aid England. This was a really informative course, consisting of four half-day sessions, with some great discussions and a very engaged cohort of attendees from many backgrounds. There was also opportunity to discuss how we may adapt our



approach to mental health first aid conversations to meet the needs and better support our neurodivergent community. Feedback has been shared with Mental Health First Aid England, with an offer to support development of the course in this regard.



News from the region.....

- **Childhood vaccines and the winter Flu vaccine rollout** – We have been asked to share the following information. “Public Health Commissioning in East of England NHS has been requesting the support of the ERPCF to widen the uptake of Vaccinations (both childhood vaccines and the winter Flu vaccine rollout). Public Health have developed a very quick (7 minute) survey for Parent carers to complete to give Public Health a better insight into why some SEND children & Young people do not get vaccinated. Once they know the wider issues - they can start to address them. The link to the survey is: <https://forms.office.com/e/aQLaGPXpfe>”

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.