



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 26/10/25

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:
Post 16 – Unexpected Ceasing of EHCP Families have told us they were unaware their young person’s EHCP had been ceased until they contacted the college or setting about an Annual Review. In some cases, settings have approached families to say their young person is being removed from a course because there is no EHCP in place, even after the course has already started. This is understandably distressing. This issue was raised before the summer holidays and discussed with SEND Ops, who assured us that processes were in place to prevent this from happening.	We’ve contacted SEND Ops again to ask for more detail about the post-16 transition annual review process, including how and when families are informed if a plan is being ceased, and what safeguards exist to prevent accidental cessation (such as a box being ticked in error). We’ve also asked who holds responsibility for making sure families are clearly informed and that have responded to information about cessation of the plan. We’re continuing to gather case studies to support these conversations and help ensure this situation doesn’t continue. If you’ve experienced something similar, please share your feedback via the Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum If you’re happy for your experience to be used as a case study, you can mention this in your Graffiti Wall post or contact us directly at hello@essexfamilyforum.org
MyCareBridge – SENCo training We received feedback from a Primary School SENCo last week that she had received no training to use MyCareBridge and that she had taught herself to use it.	We have contacted the MyCareBridge team to see what training was offered to schools on the use of the portal and where schools can go for support in using it.
Support whilst waiting for a diagnosis – impact on families We regularly hear from families that some schools tell them they need to wait for their child’s ASD/ADHD diagnosis before support can be put into place. Parents report having to collect their child from school due to	There is a recognition with Health and Education services that a needs led approach to childrens’ education should be practiced and work is being done to move that forward, especially in Mid & South Essex, however in the meantime SENDIASS have some useful information on their website,



certain behaviours and becoming dysregulated at all times of the day. Some parents are reporting having to give up work or reduce their working hours as calls to pick up their child can happen throughout the day from schools.	particularly about on exclusions and picking children up early. Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions - Essex Special Educational Needs & Disability The Local Offer has information on when to request an EHCP Needs Assessment and what that will involve. How to request an EHC needs assessment Essex Local Offer If you have been affected by any of this, we would really appreciate your anonymous feedback via the Graffiti Wall Feedback Wall Essex Family Forum
ADHD Medication in school We've received feedback regarding secondary-aged children who take medication for ADHD and require a lunchtime dose. Schools are not consistently prompting these students to take their medication, which often leads to missed doses. As a result, behavioural challenges tend to emerge later in the school day, negatively impacting their ability to access learning.	We are raising this within our Quadrant meeting and feeding back to senior Inclusion partner.

In other news.....

- Kate and Carly met with Sam from MyOTAS at our regular Family Champion Catch-Up at the Human Kind Café in Billericay. It was a great opportunity to reconnect, hear feedback from the families MyOTAS supports, and share updates from our side too. These informal sessions help us stay connected and responsive to what families are telling us. If you'd like to join us as a Family Champion, or just find out what it's all about, you can learn more on our website [Family Champion | Essex Family Forum](#)
- This week, Kate and Carly joined a workshop hosted by the Partnership Delivery Team for South Essex, focused on supporting young people with SEND as they prepare for adulthood. Attendees explored how best to present a simple, accessible map that can be used by parents, carers, young people and professionals alike. The map has already been shaped and is now in its first draft. It's designed as a quick-look guide to what needs to happen, and when, across the journey into adult life. It isn't tied to any specific service or area, covers all SEND, and could be used across Essex. It was an informative and practical session, and we look forward to sharing the final version once ready.



- Sarah attended the MAZE coffee morning in Colchester this week and gathered feedback from parents/carers about what is working/not working for their families. Common themes that were around homeschooling, support for families moving into Essex and access to mental health support for young people. MAZE hold a number of coffee mornings across North East Essex every month during term time please see their website for further information ([Coffee Mornings | SEND Parents Support - The MAZE Group](#))
- Stacey attended a parent coffee afternoon at Coopersale and Theydon Garnon primary school. It is a small school and they struggle with lack of funding but do all they can to support the children.
- Claire & Ruth attended the Mid Essex SEND Roadshow in Burnham-on-Crouch on Wednesday. It was a really busy event and we spoke to lots of families including grandparents who are taking on the lion's share of caring for their granddaughter with SEND, allowing their daughter, a single parent, to work. Ruth helped them to see that they aren't "just grandparents" and that they are carers, who have a very important role in their granddaughter's, and their daughter's, life.
- Claire & Ruth attended the Mildmay Primary School Parent "Coffee and Conversation" session on Thursday. We talked to parents about EFF and what we do, and we heard some interesting feedback about waiting for a diagnosis and the struggles for attendance at school. All of this will be fed back to the appropriate channels.
- We have recently shared on our facebook page and on our website Mental Health in Schools – Survey. The purpose of this survey is to help identify gaps of mental health support offered in educational settings. Please complete this short 5 minute survey if your child/young person needs, or has needed support with their mental.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey or visit the current surveys page on the EFF website ([Current Surveys | Essex Family Forum](#))

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.