



Weekly Snapshot from EFF

Week ending- 23/11/25

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:
Medication reminders at school - A common theme has been challenges with schools prompting students to take top up medication for ADHD in secondary school provisions during the pupil's day.	This was raised at our Mid quadrant meeting where advice was that all schools will have a health care plan in place for children on medications. The use The DfE guidance on <i>Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions in Schools</i> should be followed. It is advised to check that all labelling is correct on medication stating times that they should be taken to keep in line with health care plans as directions need to be followed by settings.
Schools not using One Plans - We have heard from several families have shared how schools are telling them they are not using one-plans currently.	We raised this with the South SEND support team, and it was confirmed that this was not acceptable. SEND leads will be following this up and ensuring that schools are continuing to use and follow one-plans.

In other news.....

- Ruth and Claire had a meeting with Families in Focus this week to receive updates on their current offer for families and hear about future plans. We look forward to continuing our signposting for the service.
- Ruth and Claire attended the Neighbourhood Bi-monthly forum this week. Topic “Loneliness and social isolation”. It was a well-attended event and gave a great opportunity to hear more about Kinder Essex and what is offered along with some great Networking opportunities for local services.
- Stacey attended PACT’s cuppa & Connect session at Harlow Playhouse this week. PACT shared some seasonal changes tips, that help our young people not get too



overwhelmed with all the festivities that happen this time of year. It is a safe space where everyone felt comfortable to share their own experiences around challenges or good tips for the festive period. PACT are a charity in West Essex supporting neurodivergent individuals of all ages and their families. You do not need a diagnosis to get support. You can find more information about PACT via their website, <https://www.pactforautism.org.uk>

- Carly and Stacey attended the Parent support group, organised by the SEND Navigation team. We had a representative from the Preparing for Adulthood team at Essex County council share about their role and the vision for Targeted Employment. They are currently working on an informative document that will have information relating to readiness for employment, they are hoping for this to be ready for January, so watch this space! The Essex local offer took on board requests to have roadshows available for working parents and will be trialling weekend roadshows in the spring term.
- Ange and Carly attended the South Joint SEND Working Group. This meeting brought together education/health professionals and parent/carer representatives to address ongoing challenges related to SEND support in schools, particularly around attendance, emotional wellbeing, and practical support for families. We discussed the launch and successes of new initiatives like the SPACE peer support service and recent SEND roadshows, while also sharing concerns about school planning practices and the impact on families. We heard from Deb Garfield (SEMH Strategic Delivery Lead) who talked us through the “Let’s talk we miss you” initiative. We continue to share your experiences and inform conversations surrounding collaboration between schools, families, and support services in addressing attendance issues. Here is a link to the family version of the document on our website, to support those struggling with school attendance: <https://essexfamilyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Final-Lets-Talk-We-Miss-You-Family-Edition.pdf>
- Sarah attended the ‘Carers Rights Day’ event held at Colchester General Hospital this week. The event saw a number of organisations and services available to carers come together and share information with visitors and staff at the hospital. It was a busy well attended event where we gave away a number of copies of the ‘Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child’ resource pack, signposted families to relevant support and services and gained feedback from families.
- Sarah and Jo attended the NEE Joint SEND Working group meeting. The focus of this month meeting was Preparing for Adulthood, further details on resources/information shared during this meeting will be share in due course. We shared feedback and themes from the recent NEE SEND Roadshow and also took the opportunity to share details of the current EFF Family Impact Survey (which you can complete by [clicking here](#)).



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.