

SEND Joint Commissioning Group Bulletin for Families, June 2021



Group Membership

Richard Watson, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Strategy and Transformation Ipswich and East Suffolk, West Suffolk and North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups– Chair

Chris Martin, Commissioning Director, Children, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Essex County Council

Jane Kinniburgh, Director of Nursing & Quality, Hertfordshire & West Essex ICS

Tricia D'Orsi, NHS Alliance Director Castle Point & Rochford and Southend CCGs

Katrina Farrall, Treasurer/Vice Chair Essex Family Forum

Ralph Holloway, Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation, Essex County Council

Sarah Garner, Programme Director Joint Commissioning SEND (Essex)

Shivaun Aveston, Transformation Lead, Essex Alliance

The Joint Commissioning Group was established in September 2020 setting out a programme of work to achieve the outcomes set out in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA), following the Special Education Needs Disability (SEND) Inspection findings in 2019. As a result of the findings it was determined that a joint WSoA was required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice.

Main areas for improvement include:

1. The joint commissioning arrangements between partners
2. Long waiting lists and variation in waiting times for assessment
3. Over-identification of children with moderate learning difficulties
4. Information included and needed within Education Health Care Plans

Southend & Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Groups are also our partners and are associated with unitary authorities within one of our STP areas, therefore responsible for their own WSoA.

What is SEND

A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support, we shorten this to SEND.



- ❑ Children, young people and their families should experience equitable access to a consistent, high quality range of educational support, health services and specialist provision, appropriate to their needs and circumstances.
- ❑ Commissioners will share a common, accurate view of need across the county and use this to jointly commission consistently high quality services, which are accessible across the county.



The Local Offer: We are beginning work on a new Local Offer for Essex. The new site will have many more capabilities than our current site, which will allow young people and their families to find the information they need more easily. However, this is always reliant on teams and services making sure that their information on the Local Offer is correct and up-to-date. Information about support services and local opportunities for children and young people with SEND – find what you need all in one place. <http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/>

We will be able to share with you soon a date when we hope to be able to move the content of the current Local Offer across to the new site. We expect this to be sometime towards the end of July. A useful step now would be to review your team's information on the Local Offer to make sure that you are happy with the information and that the details are correct.



If any changes are needed, the Local Offer team are continuing to make changes to the current site in preparation for the move to the new site. We would remind everyone that content for the Local Offer must meet web content accessibility guidelines. The Local Offer team can be contacted on: Essex.LocalOffer@essex.gov.uk

Therapies: The Essex Therapies project web page is now live and contains all the information, surveys and webinar dates for the project – the page contains information for parents, schools and professionals, and will be the central point for all engagement and information sharing for the duration of the project.

Can you please share across your teams and networks and encourage them to get involved.

The web page can be accessed here:

<https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/commissioners/essex-project/>



Essex County Council and the Essex Family Forum are planning the work to begin in June on how SEND information, advice and support services for parents and families of children and young people with SEND will be delivered in Essex in the future.

Further information on the workstream and how to be involved or share your views will be shared via the Local Offer, the Essex Family Forum website and social media.



Qb Test and ADHD: We are working with University College London Partners on a pan Essex basis to explore how Qb Test can support the work of clinicians in Southend, Essex and Thurrock. Qb is a computer based test, instantly analysed and presented in a report that compares a patient's results with a group of people of the same age and gender who do not have ADHD. An event was held in May aimed at clinical leads, community providers and those involved in delivering ADHD diagnosis and to share experiences using Qb Test in their pathways of care.

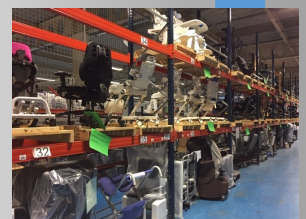
The SEND Joint Commissioning Group have published their Framework which provides an overarching agreed model for how best to deploy the local area resources available and to ensure the right funding is in the right place at the right time. It sets out the vision for the next 2 years and has an action plan. An easy read version of the document will also be available very soon and we will let you know where you can access it.

Equipment: Essex Family Forum along with its Family Champions, have worked with representatives from Health, Education, and Social Care to develop a survey to hear from families about their experiences in regards to accessing specialist equipment.

The information will be hugely valuable to progress this workstream and will be used to shape and influence both process and services going forward. We have a really good response so far (nearly 200) but the majority have come via education settings and very little via therapists/health professionals.

The survey will close on the **7th June 2021**.

Here's the link to share your views : <https://essexfamilyforum.org/parent-surveys-and-feedback/current-open-surveys/>





Leads: Katrina Farrall, Paula Farrow (Essex Family Forum)

The Essex Family Forum is the designated Parent Carer Forum for Essex, which was launched in 2018. We are part of the East Region and National Network of Parent Carer Forums. We are solely represented by parent/carers of SEND children and young people up to the age of 25 and aim to bring that voice in a co-productive way in order to get the best outcomes for families across Essex.

The JC Group has commissioned Essex Family Forum, to produce Neurodevelopment Family Resource Packs across Essex along with two local charities - SEND the Right Message and Takiwatanga.

This will fulfill a requirement of the Written Statement of Action as an Essex wide project and will be part of the work being undertaken on Joint Commissioning of ASD/ADHD pathways across Essex.

The information packs will include:

- ◇ **Information about all neurodiverse conditions, along with co-morbid conditions**
- ◇ **Family friendly language – written by parents for parents**
- ◇ **Lots of personal experiences, quotes and tips from families and young people**
- ◇ **Signposting to local services through the Local Offer and National Charities**
- ◇ **Age-appropriate information**
- ◇ **Myth busting**

Sections will cover:

- ◇ **Neurodiverse conditions**
- ◇ **Diagnosis**
- ◇ **Education**
- ◇ **Health and Wellbeing – including: Speech and Communication; Sensory Processing Disorder and therapy; tips on exercise and diet; toileting**
- ◇ **Growing up**
- ◇ **Financial Help – e.g. how to apply for DLA**
- ◇ **Information for family and friends**
- ◇ **Useful reading list**

Phase 1

Draft packs are being produced by Essex Family Forum, Send The Right Message and Takiwatanga and their teams. The drafts are being sent out for feedback from a wider audience of parent/carers and professionals across Health, Education and Social Care across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Phase 2

Finalised sections are being sent to the Graphic Designer to produce a fully accessible and engaging document. We are aiming to have an electronic version of the full Information Packs by the end of the Summer, ready for printing and distribution via clinics, schools, local support groups, Parent Carer Forums and other methods as appropriate.

Please continue to share your feedback via www.essexfamilyforum.org