

SEND Joint Commissioning Group Bulletin For Families: May 2021



Who is the SEND Joint Commissioning Group?

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, Alliance Director, South East Essex

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



Why do we have a Joint Commissioning Group ?

The Joint Commissioning Group was established in September 2020 as a result of the SEND Local Area Inspection findings in 2019, conducted by Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC)

As a result of the inspection the local area was required to set out its plan for improvement in a Written Statement of Action (WSOA). The Joint Commissioning Group oversees work in the following key areas:

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

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 consistent, high quality range of educational support, health services.
- Commissioners are the people responsible for the commissioning of SEND Services and Provision. They 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.

If you have any feedback please contact Essex Family Forum

yourvoice@essexfamilyforum.org

Or share your experience via their Graffiti Wall

<https://essexfamilyforum.org/parent-surveys-and-feedback/virtual-graffiti-wall/>



What you have told us

- ◇ We have listened to the feedback that parents and carers have provided through Essex Family Forums Graffiti Wall.
- ◇ We have listened to what the Inspectors had to say in their report in 2019 following the SEND Local Area Inspection, on the improvements we need to make and to the parents and carers that contributed feedback during this process.
- ◇ We listened to what parents told Essex Family Forum in their 2020 Annual Survey and are using this feedback to shape our on-going work.

Key highlights of what we have been working on so far

- ◇ **Specialised SEND Equipment** -We have asked families to tell us about their experience when they need equipment. You can have you say through May here: <https://essexfamilyforum.org/parent-surveys-and-feedback/current-open-surveys/>
- ◇ **Therapy Provision** -We are holding engagement sessions in May and June to ,make sure the views of families and carers of children and young people with therapy needs are at the center of this project. To find out more about this project or to book on event, please visit: <https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/commissioners/essex-project/>
- ◇ **Local Offer** -We are working together to improve and update the Local Offer.
- ◇ **SEND Information Advice Support Service (SENDIASS)** -We are working together to improve the SENDIASS service for families.
- ◇ **ASD/ADHD** -Put in place plans to try and reduce the backlog in waiting lists and waiting times for assessment due to the Covid pandemic. Commissioned Essex Family Forum, to produce a Family Resource Pack which will be available from July 2021.Reviewing all ASD and ADHD pathways across Essex so they look similar. From April 2021 started to put in place the Care Pathway roles and early support for families in North East Essex.
- ◇ **Mental Health** -Worked with Essex Family Forum in the SEND development of the new children's mental health service which is currently going through procurement (bidding for new contract) and will be in place by April 2022.