

Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board: January 2025 partner update.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Improvement Board has been established to oversee SEND improvement activity across the whole system in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on the priorities and areas for improvements identified in the [Ofsted and CQC inspection report](#). The Board meets every six weeks and is chaired independently by Dame Christine Lenehan, Strategic Advisor for SEND for the Department for Education.

The aim of the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Board is to robustly track, monitor and oversee the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Programme so that the aims are achieved at pace and provide challenge and support to increase the likelihood of the aims being achieved.

The purpose of these partner briefings is to update you on progress of the SEND Improvement Programme so you can share the work that is taking place via your networks. You can see previous [briefings](#) from Improvement Board meetings from June 2023 onwards.

The most recent Board meeting took place on 25 January which focused on reporting of progress and the impact of that progress and the annual engagement meeting with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the SEND Delivery Plan.

[Alderman White School, Chilwell](#)

The Board meeting began with a tour of Alderman White School in Chilwell, where 16% of the students have SEND support.

A group of SEND students hosted the tour and spoke to Board members about the ways the school has supported them to cope with issues including anxiety and Tourette's Syndrome. The students also showed them areas of the school they can visit when they need a calm space, including The Haven.

[Update on progress](#)

The Board were updated on the work of the SEND improvement programme.

Eight of the Area for Priority Action still need to be fully embedded, but work is ongoing to progress these.

One of the key areas of progress is the development of the SEND journey map which will set out all the services and support available to children and young people at different ages. The Board is planning to do a focused piece of communications with parents and carers when the SEND journey map is ready to launch.

There has also been progress involving schools in the improvement programme and local area meetings have been set up where school, health and care representatives can address local challenges.

There was a discussion about how to transition from the current style of progress reporting for the improvement programme to business as usual. This will need to ensure that improvements are sustained and clear focus given to measuring the impact of those improvements.

The Board praised the work of the System Analytics Intelligence Unit, who have captured data that wasn't previously available into a live data dashboard. This is enabling professionals to understand more about the demographics of children and young people with SEND and spot trends in urgent care admissions and co-morbidities such as asthma and epilepsy. The dashboard also shows educational data including absence rate, exclusion rate and progress scores in reading, writing and maths. This data will enable professionals to measure the impact of the improvement board and the approach is being recognised at a national level.

Case studies

The Board were presented with two case studies.

- Tom was supported by the Healthy Family Team to find out more about his ADHD and autism diagnosis. This has helped him focus on what he can do well, as well as helping him to manage his anger and anxiety. His communication skills have improved and he is now attending the mainstream part of his school.
- Callum took part in the supported employment programme at Brooke Farm and as a result of the skills and confidence he gained, he has now gone on to paid employment as a kitchen assistant at Ashfield Day Service.

Annual engagement meeting with Ofsted and the CQC

The Board were updated about a meeting in November with Ofsted and the CQC where the improvement programme reported on progress so far and work still to do.

Progress included:

- Improved communication with parents and carers.
- Building relationships and developing integrated teams across the partnership.

- Work has been done to capture parents' views and experiences of SEND provision.
- A data dashboard has been developed to capture live data from health, education and social care.
- Development of a joint commissioning strategy, co-produced with parents and with children and young people with SEND
- £3m investment and work to better identify and meet needs, against a backdrop of increased requests for EHC needs assessments. This includes nine additional trainee educational psychologists.
- Review of the graduated response and how parents are made aware of the range of local services available to them, for example through the interactive SEND journey map.
- The development of one pathway for speech and language therapy and the work to resolve the backlog of cases and resolve new cases.

Areas for further work included:

- Some families are continuing to experience long wait times, including for neurodevelopmental assessment, education, health and care (EHC) needs assessment and speech and language assessment.
- A significant increase in referrals for neurodevelopmental assessment, both pre and post-diagnosis, which constitutes the equivalent of a 50% increase each month in comparison with the year before. There has been significant investment in capacity and support for parents while they are waiting for assessment. Waiting times are still higher than the partnership would like but the average wait has reduced from 68 weeks a year ago to 54 weeks.

Dame Christine Lenehan

Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board