

West Northamptonshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternate Provision Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPIB) Summary

25 June 2026

Item 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies

- Apologies were received from Ashley Leduc, Melanie Barnett, Jane Murray, Clair Mills, Ann McGale, Amy Nash, Paula Nicholson and Louisa Russell.

Item 2: Minutes and Action Log

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Action log was reviewed and updated.
- Feedback from 48U surveys and wider co-production activities will continue to inform development of the refreshed SEND Strategy.
- The co-production workshop remains scheduled for 8 July.

Item 3: Update on Current Themes and Parental Feedback via Padlet / Parent School Toolkit

- Families continue to report difficulties navigating services and experiencing joined-up support across education, health, and social care.
- Concerns were raised regarding inconsistent messages around adult social care services, eligibility, and funding arrangements.
- Recurring themes included communication between services, accountability, and difficulties accessing appropriate support.
- Mainstream education concerns continue to focus on delivery of EHCP provision, differentiation, and access to the curriculum.
- Board members recognised that improvements in partnership working at leadership level are not always reflected in families' experiences.

- Actions agreed: Use family case studies to inform SEND Strategy development; strengthen partnership working and accountability at operational level.
- Parent School Toolkit is nearing completion with feedback requested by 30 June and pilot implementation planned for September.

Item 4: Data dashboard

- Work continues to improve SEND performance reporting and visibility of key measures.
- New annual review data reporting is being developed and tested before inclusion in future dashboards.

Item 5: Review of workstreams

Partnership and Leadership Workstream

- SEND Support Maps on the local offer continue to attract increased traffic West Northamptonshire.
- December: ASD/ADHD 915 visits, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health 516 visits, Speech and Language 428 visits.
- Additional communications activities will take place before the summer holidays and again in September.
- The AI chatbot on the Local Offer continues to be developed and promoted.

Right Support, Right Place, Right Time Workstream

- Further analysis of waiting list data has been completed.
- A risk-based approach is being developed to identify children and young people requiring earlier intervention and support.
- Transfer of ADHD and Autism assessment services to NHFT is progressing.
- Speech and Language Therapy waiting times remain a significant challenge but improvement work continues. We are anticipating improvements in waiting times over the coming months.

Timeliness & Quality of Assessment and EHCPs

- 54.1% of EHCPs were issued within the statutory 20-week timeframe.
- Average completion time currently stands at 22.3 weeks.

- Educational Psychology capacity remains the most significant pressure impacting timeliness.
- Around 50% of annual review decisions are completed within four weeks and 40% finalised within twelve weeks.

Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream

- Engagement with colleges, post-16 providers and alternative provision continues.
- Focus remains on supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET.
- Plans include a dedicated Preparation for Adulthood lead through SEND Reform arrangements.

Item 6: Standing Items

- SEND Strategy engagement activity continues, and drafting will begin during the summer.
- A draft strategy will be presented to the Board in September.
- Waiting list analysis will support prioritisation, commissioning decisions and early intervention activity.
- Inspection preparation activity has restarted and priority position statements are being updated.

Item 7: Key Messages and Meeting Reflections

- Partnership working at leadership level continues to strengthen, but improvements must be experienced more consistently by families.
- Communication, accountability, and system navigation remain key challenges.
- The refreshed SEND Strategy and SEND Reform programme provide significant opportunities to improve outcomes.