

## **West Northamptonshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternate Provision Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPIB) Summary 27 November 2025**

### **Item 1: Minutes and Action Log**

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with no changes. The action log was updated.

### **Item 2: 48U Youth Group Engagement**

From January 2026, Board meetings will be 30 minutes longer so the 48U can share their views at the start. A support plan is in development. This will include topic previews and guidance for presentations.

### **Item 3: Update from West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP)**

Parents shared concerns on Padlet about:

- Transport concerns: Ongoing issues with passenger assistants struggling to communicate with young people. WNVP are working with the transport team.
- Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans: Quality is improving, but challenges have shifted.
- Schools struggle to deliver the provisions in EHC Plans. This is due to capacity and staffing shortages.
- Long waiting times of autism/ADHD assessments continue to concern families.
- Positive feedback about individual staff and services for their efforts.
- Parent Communication Toolkit will help schools manage conversations with families. A pilot is planned for early 2026.

- A young person's journey was shared during the meeting. It reinforced the importance of early multiagency and partnership working. It illustrated how coordinated support can significantly improve outcomes.

## **Item 4: Review of Workstreams**

### **Partnership and Leadership Workstream**

- A proposal for the resetting of the workstream was approved. It will reflect progress and future priorities.
- The workstream will focus on five areas (with communication as a key focus):
  - **Strategic Governance:** Clear accountability.
  - **Joint Commissioning:** Move from strategy to action.
  - **Data Sharing:** Use data to measure success.
  - **Co-production:** Include family and young people's voices.
  - **Partnership Working:** Strengthen collaboration.
- Communication with families and partners is being developed. It will avoid duplication and align with wider system reforms.
- Data Sharing Work is progressing. Data integration (to identify children on many waiting lists) will improve service coordination.
- Fair payment offer policy for young people is drafted and pending approval.

### **Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream**

- There are gaps in communication and coordination between services during key transition stages.
- Mapping of services has been completed. Gaps were found in Continuing Healthcare for young people turning 18.
- Metrics are needed to measure success. A metrics dashboard will be presented next time.

### **'Right Support, Right Place, Right Time' Workstream**

- Speech and language therapy (SALT): Part F is at 50% capacity. Recruitment is ongoing. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC ) provides SALT if health partner capacity is insufficient.
- Initial waiting numbers are improving, but waiting times are not yet declining.

- There was an update from Children and young people's mental health services (CAMHS). Several measures have been implemented to improve efficiency.
- Initial waiting times are improving, but secondary waiting times remain high.
- Autism/ADHD Pathway: A single provider model is expected early next year. Short-term initiatives include the Emotion Coaching Pathway, Helios, and Hotline.
- Challenges remain with high waiting lists and shifting complaints.

### **Item 5: Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF)**

- SEF will show current strengths and weaknesses in the system.
- It will help identify gaps and set future priorities.
- SEF includes five position statements, each linked to major improvement areas.
- Position statements will be completed by January-February 2026.

### **Item 6: Intervention Support Fund (ISF)**

The grant is extra funding to speed up improvement projects:

- SEND and AP Inclusion Dashboard (to track progress) – February 2026.
- Parent Engagement Toolkit – to help schools communicate better with families.
- 48U (Youth Shadow Board) – a group of young people giving feedback.
- Extra EHC Plan Assessment Capacity – to reduce backlog and support training.