

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

28 May 2026

Item 1: Transitions Survey Outcome from 48U (Youth Engagement Group)

- 48U shared survey results about how students feel moving from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Many students feel worried, scared, and unsupported. They said teachers don't always understand their needs, they rely on parents to explain things, and schools feel too big, noisy, and confusing. There were also worries about bullying and mental health support not being good enough

What needs to improve

- Students should get help earlier before transitioning
- More school visits and clearer information
- Teachers should know more about each student
- Every student should feel included, not singled out

Actions agreed

- Share survey results with schools
- Use this information to improve safeguarding and SEND Strategy

Item 2: Minutes and Action Log

- Minutes from the last meeting were approved with no changes. Action log updated.

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

- Families are struggling mainly because services do not communicate clearly or work together well, and this is causing real harm to young people over time.
- Problems when moving into adult services and issue with colleges were raised.
- Available services are not communicated to parents and families well enough.
- The board acknowledged all comments and agreed to update on progress in June.

Item 4: Data dashboard

- Data dashboard will soon be available for all partners across organisations to access in June. A demonstration will also be presented in board meeting in June.

Item 5: Review of workstreams

Partnership and Leadership Workstream

- **Communication:** The board discussed how to track the impact of support services publicised on the local offer and a broader system to assess impact was agreed to be reported to board termly.
- **Joint Commissioning:** Joint Commissioning Plan and approach need updating to reflect recent developments. New plans will be shared in September.

Right Support, Right Place, Right Time Workstream

- **Waiting lists and data:** Waiting list data requires review and revision. All partners committed to contribute to this. Data is currently inaccurate and needs fixing. Work is on the way with all partners to correct and improve data.
- **Community services:** A major area of focus for the board and partnership. A recovery plan is being developed and will be presented in July.
- **Speech and Language Therapy (SALT):** Waiting times are still very long (43 weeks vs 18-week target) but it is getting better.

- **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS):** Positive improvement noted with 7-week wait compared to 18-week target. 'Right Support, Right Place, Right Time' Workstream.

Timeliness & Quality of Assessment and EHCPs

- Educational Psychologists shortage is still an issue but a management plan is in place. . This had had some impact on planned performance but this is still showing significant improvement over the year.
- Data for reporting will improve from June onwards.

Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream

- Inclusive Provision Toolkit (IPT), A new tool for schools, has been launched to improve support for all students on 21st May.

Item 6: Other Updates

- **SEND Strategy refresh update:** Around 200 responses received. People want major system changes.
- **48U update:** MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with 48U has been signed off already.

Item 7: SEND Reform Plan and trajectories

- SEND Reform Plan, a new way of organising SEND services is being developed and submitted to Department of Education on 19th June. The goal is to make services closer to where families live and easier to access.
- The details of services will be coproduced over the coming months so the system is designed based on real experiences from young people, families, and schools.

Item 8: Key Messages and Reflection

- There are three main problems across the whole system which are:
 - communication between services and with families
 - data issues (information is inaccurate or incomplete)
 - not enough staff capacity to meet demand
- It was agreed that:

- Services need to work better together (not in isolation)
- Support should be inclusive for all children
- More co-production is needed (working with families and young people).