West Northamptonshire Council

West Northamptonshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternate Provision Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPIB) Summary
29 January 2026

Item 1: "What is it like to attend school with SEND?" by 48U

- **48U** shared results from their survey about school experiences of children and young people with SEND in West Northamptonshire mainly about staff do not always understand SEND, young people fear being judged, and safeguarding concerns are not always taken seriously.
- What young people want: 1) Adults to listen, not judge. 2) Better staff training on SEND and autism. 3) Schools to teach inclusion to pupils, not just display anti-bullying posters.
- Board confirmed its commitment to: 1) Listening to lived experience. 2) Co-production with children and families. 3) Making changes now.
- Agreed actions for 48U to be involved in designing smaller class sizes, planning alternative education provision, developing SEND units and resource bases, and creating safeguarding training.

Item 2: Minutes and Action Log

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

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

Parents shared concerns on Padlet about:

- Legal duties not being met (especially **Section F** and **Section 19**).
- Communication between parents/families and **Education, Health, and Care (EHC) team**.

- **Transport** safety and training issues.
- Delays in **Subject Access Requests**.
- Inconsistent **Educational Psychology** support.

Positive feedback included some staff going above and beyond, and **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** support and community sessions.

Item 4: Review of Workstreams

Partnership and Leadership Workstream

- January showed clear improvement.
- **Shared SEND data** is seen as a major strength as will help target communication, track performance, and improve decision-making.
- **SEND Data Dashboard** goes live in February.
- **Local Offer** will be the main communication channel.

Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream

- Measures were compared against national standards.
- Gaps found in community participation and post-18 outcomes.
- Peer case reviews showed good learning and challenge.
- Strong links with the University of Northampton.

'Right Support, Right Place, Right Time' Workstream

- **Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)** staff are now fully recruited.
- **CAMHS initial assessments** now take around 6 weeks. Further CAMHS pathways still have long waits but are improving.
- A single provider for the **Neuro-Developmental Disorder (NDD) Pathway** will start on 1 April 2026.

Timeliness & Quality of Assessment and EHCPs Workstream

- Average **Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)** completion time reduced to 26.2 weeks. Over a quarter are now completed within 20 weeks.
- Quality has improved, especially needs descriptions, and health advice.
- Temporary **Educational Psychology** backlog identified.
- IT system issues are affecting timescales but they are being managed.

Item 5: Self Evaluation Framework (SEF)

- Board approved and will be reviewed every term.
- A new SEND strategy is needed and will be developed with co-production.

Item 6: Priority Action Plan (PAP)

- Progress reviewed across all workstreams. Most actions are complete.
- Remaining work will continue through normal governance.
- Board approved the progress report.

Item 7: Children and Young People's (CYP) Transformation Board

- Concerns raised about overlap between this and the **SEND and Alternate Provision Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPIB)**, which will be clarified by relevant people.

Item 8: Maturity Matrix

- **Maturity Matrix** confirmed as mandatory (due May 2026).

Item 9: Intervention Support Fund (ISF)

- **ISF Grant** spend currently low but expected to increase. Summary of spending will be presented at the board.

Item 10: Key Messages and Reflection

- Strong progress over the last year.
- Data sharing seen as transformational.
- Young people's voices were the most powerful part of the meeting.
- Challenges remain, but improvement is clear.