



West Northamptonshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternate Provision Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPiB) Summary 26 March 2026

Item 1: Minutes and Action Log

- Minutes from the last meeting were approved with no changes. Action log updated.
- 48U (Youth engagement group) is still being worked with on how often they will be involved with the board. This discussion will stay on the agenda until fully resolved.

Item 2: Update from West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP)

- Parents raised several concerns, including children being out of education for a long time, communication from the SEND team, delays in Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) support, long waiting times for health services, discharged children from services with no follow-up, and mixed experiences with Disabled Facilities Grants.
- There was also some positive feedback about improved information of Local Offer.

Item 3: Data Dashboard and Waiting List Analysis

- Data Dashboard – is now easier to use with automatically updated information every month. New data has been added from different services. The board agreed the focus should now be on using the data to take further action and improve the services.

- Waiting Lists – most children are on one waiting list, but some are on two or three. The biggest waiting lists are for autism assessments and community paediatric services.
- The board discussed ways of making sure that those children most at risk (e.g., excluded from school or in care) receive the support they need most urgently.

Item 4: Review of Workstreams

Partnership and Leadership Workstream

- Communication – online engagement (Facebook and Local Offer) has increased. More work will be done to compare engagement before and after campaigns.
- Workforce Plan – the board had asked for a workforce strategy to make sure that system plans understood the workforce that is required and worked together to meet needs. This needs to be linked to the broader workforce plans across the partnership.

Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream

- Good progress has been made on Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) toolkit as young people and families have helped shape this work.
- PfA elements will be included in the new SEND Strategy.
- Further improvements will be made before schools use it in summer.

'Right Support, Right Place, Right Time' Workstream

- Staffing in health services is now more stable, so improvements are expected during April to June this year.
- There are concerns about young people moving to adult services for ASD/ADHD, especially if they were not seen before turning 18 which are being looked at.

Timeliness & Quality of Assessment and EHCPs Workstream

- EHCP assessments are being completed faster overall. Improvement on quality assurance. Some backlog still exists but is expected to clear by September 2026.
- More EHCP requests are coming in after national government announcements on SEND Reforms but the board heard that clear communication is going out

to reassure schools and families that the current law is not changing until 2028 at the earliest.”

Item 5: Other Updates

- Parent engagement toolkit is progressing well.
- SEND Strategy is being refreshed and linked to national reforms.
- SEND inspection preparation and SEND Reform planning are now combined. The final submission to the Department for Education of SEND Reform planning is on 19th June.

Item 6: Key Messages and Reflection

- The board is now focusing more on real risks and children’s experiences. Existing data in the system is strong enough to drive real system change.
- Optimism noted despite significant workload.