

West Northamptonshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Partnership Improvement Board (SAPPIB) Meeting Summary - 24 September 2026

Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- Mrunal Sisodia welcomed members to the meeting and reflected on the recent SEND stock take event, noting that the findings would help shape future improvement activity.

Item 2: Minutes and Action Log

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved, subject to a minor correction in the apologies section.
- The action log was reviewed and updated.
- WNVP raised concerns on behalf of parent carers regarding communications relating to changes to Right to Choose ASD/ADHD pathways.
- The Board agreed that a fuller discussion will be held at a future meeting to explore impacts on families and opportunities to strengthen communication and co-production, and that members of the board would meet to agree a way forward.

Item 3: West Northants Voices in Partnership (WNVP) Feedback

- Parent carers continue to highlight communication, understanding of needs and consistency of support as key concerns across services and educational settings.
- Significant concerns were reported regarding post-16 transitions.
- Positive examples of schools and services responding effectively to family feedback were acknowledged.
- The Parent Carer Engagement Toolkit is due to be launched by 30 September.
- Concerns were also raised regarding Free School Meals for eligibility and communication for EOTAS/EOTIS families.

Item 4: Data Dashboard

- Members were advised that the SEND data dashboard had recently been updated.
- Further development will align reporting with the new workstream structure.

Item 5: Revised Board Terms of Reference and Work Plan

- Revised Terms of Reference were approved.
- Board oversight now includes the SEND & Inclusion Strategy, SEND Reform activity and improvement plan actions.
- Membership rationalized identify independent, accountable and responsible members.
- The Board will continue to oversee four delivery workstreams from the new SEND strategy.

Item 6: SEND and Inclusion Strategy

- The draft SEND and Inclusion Strategy (2027-2030) was presented.
- The strategy is structured around six strategic priorities, eight shared outcomes and four delivery workstreams.
- Development included extensive engagement with families, partners, and stakeholders.
- The strategy aligns with wider programmes including Family Help, Children with Disabilities Transformation, and SEND Sufficiency.
- Members discussed the importance of a continuum of provision across mainstream and specialist settings.

Item 7: Partnership and Leadership Workstream

- Local Offer engagement continues to increase across digital channels, newsletters, and social media platforms.

Item 8: Right Support, Right Place, Right Time Workstream

- A new Support Whilst Waiting impact review has been conducted to provide a comprehensive overview of support available to children and young people awaiting assessment and intervention.
- The review captures activity delivered across multiple services and support programmes.
- ASD/ADHD waiting lists remain high, and Speech and Language Therapy waiting times are showing an improving trajectory.
- Integration of services into a single provider model is proceeding to plan.

Item 9: Timeliness and Quality of Assessment and EHCPs Workstream

- Performance within the statutory 20-week EHCP timescale has reduced to 45.21%, largely due to Educational Psychology capacity pressures.
- Recruitment and procurement activity is underway to increase Educational Psychology capacity.
- Members discussed the importance of high-quality assessments informed by schools, families, and professionals.
- Schools reported improved communication and responsiveness from SEND Caseworkers.
- Updated annual review guidance and support materials have been distributed to schools.

Item 10: Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Workstream

- No formal update was provided.
- The previous workstream has been closed and will be incorporated into the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy arrangements.

Item 11: Standing Items

- The Board reviewed the SEND risk register and agreed to a consolidated risk framework aligned to the new governance arrangements.
- Key risks remain in ASD/ADHD pathway waiting times, workforce recruitment and retention, organisational change, reporting and performance trajectories, and managing the expanded scope of the Board.
- The October meeting will be operated as a transitional Board ahead of full implementation in November to oversee the SEND Strategy and SEND Reform Plan.

Item 12: Key Messages and Meeting Reflections

- Members endorsed the overall direction of travel and agreed that the coming weeks would be a period of transition as the new governance arrangements are embedded.
- Focus will remain on delivering existing SEND Reform and Priority Action Plan commitments.
- The Board noted that confirmation of the SEND Reform Plan submitted to DfE was expected shortly and could influence future priorities.
- The meeting closed with agreement on the next phase of implementation for the SEND & Inclusion Strategy and associated workstreams.

Next Meeting: Thursday 22 October 2026, 10:00–12:00, Althorp Room, County Ha

