

Highlights:

1. The Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP) was presented with updates on key process ahead of the final submission (29/01/26). The group emphasised the importance of ensuring the LAIP remains aligned with the Local SEND Reform Plan ('golden thread') and agreed that this will be an iterative process, supported by quarterly updates.
2. An update on the Children's Outcome Framework project was presented. The group welcomed the strong representation of children and young people's voices and noted how effectively the framework aligns with the LAIP building blocks. They also emphasised the importance of embedding the framework into everyday practice and regularly assessing the Local Area Partnership's performance against it.
3. An update was provided on the development of the SEND Data Scorecard, emphasising the importance of fostering data curiosity and strengthening our shift from data to meaningful intelligence. During the discussion, it was agreed that national averages and statistical neighbour data will be used as key comparators.
4. An overview of progress within the Preparing for Adulthood programme was shared. During the discussion, the group agreed to introduce a fourth workstream focused specifically on social care transitions.
5. An update was provided on the preparations for the ASEND Inspection, including the quality assurance of evidence, collation of case studies and delivery of staff briefing sessions.

Challenges:

Partners are highly committed to cross-system collaboration, and there is opportunity to strengthen this further through prioritisation and creating flexible, capacity-sensitive ways of working for teams to participate meaningfully and consistently.

Partners are also strongly committed to joint working and there is an opportunity to strengthen how decisions, risks and information flows across boards, subgroups and partner agencies – including health, education, social care and Suffolk Parent Carer Forum.

Actions/Priorities:

1. Provide coordinated input, oversight and development of the Local Area Inclusion Plan to ensure completion by 29/01/26. By the same date, finalise the LAP risk register, bringing together LA and ICB risk approaches and agreeing a consistent route for risk escalation.
2. Initiate the governance strengthening project (funded via Intervention Support Fund) to establish clear decision-making flows, learning loops and escalation routes, supported by regular reporting cycles that interconnect SEND Improvement Board, SEND Operational Group and all subgroup activity.
3. Continue preparations ahead of ASEND Monitoring inspection, including further development of the Self-Evaluation Framework and circulating to all partners for final comment.
4. Initiate coproduction of Local SEND Reform Plan, through completing the Maturity Assessment, drawing on existing evidence and assuring alignment with Local Area Inclusion Plan.

Risk/Escalations:

None.