

Local Area Inclusion Plan Refresh

SIB Progress Update and Next Steps

20th October 2026

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk Integrated Care Board

Suffolk County Council

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice & Support Service sendiass in Suffolk

Young Person's Network

The Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP)

The Suffolk SEND Local Area Inclusion Plan will drive improvements to services that support our children, young people and their families.



A shared vision with coproduced aspirations will ensure that sustained improvements will be felt across the SEND system in Suffolk.

Purpose of this update:

- ✓To provide an update on progress made in refreshing the Local Area Inclusion Plan.
- ✓To outline the implications of the new DfE Improvement Notice.
- ✓To agree the approach to finalising the revised LAIP for presentation to the December SEND Improvement Board.



6 Building Blocks

140 Individual Actions

Why We Are Returning the LAIP in December

Significant progress has been made in refreshing the LAIP

- ✓ Review completed across all existing LAIP actions.
- ✓ Partnership feedback gathered through the September refresh process.
- ✓ Action ownership, progress and delivery timescales reviewed.
- ✓ Areas of duplication, completion and future priority identified.



New strategic context

Following receipt of the DfE Improvement Notice, the Local Area Partnership has agreed that:

- ✓ SEND Reform expectations should be fully integrated into the refreshed LAIP.
- ✓ The revised plan should align clearly with Improvement Notice priorities.
- ✓ Success measures should focus more strongly on impact and outcomes.
- ✓ The final refreshed LAIP should return to the December Board for formal endorsement.

Board Action

Board members are asked to note progress and support the revised timeline.

Refresh Activity Completed to Date

September Refresh Process

- ✅ Strategic review undertaken across all building blocks
- ✅ Progress reviewed against all current actions
- ✅ RAG ratings reviewed and updated
- ✅ Action ownership validated
- ✅ Completed actions identified
- ✅ Partnership workshop completed
- ✅ Emerging priorities identified

The refresh process highlighted that while significant progress has been made, the revised LAIP should now:

- ✓ Reflect the requirements of the new Improvement Notice.
- ✓ Incorporate SEND Reform priorities.
- ✓ Strengthen accountability and governance arrangements.
- ✓ Include clearer outcome measures.
- ✓ Better demonstrate impact for children and young people.



September 2026 Actions RAG

RAG	Description	Totals out of 140 actions						↙ = Worsened
		Mar-26		Jun-26		Sep-26		↗ = Improved
R	**High risk** – action not started yet but expected it to have commenced. Escalation required	0	0%	0	0%	**3**	**2%**	↙
A	**Significant risk** – plan in place, action started but further work required to ensure improvement	3	2%	19	14%	**14**	**10%**	↗
P	**On track** – running to plan and within timescale, performance has improved against the plan	95	68%	78	56%	**54**	**39%**	↗
G	**Actioned** – implemented and embedded	14	10%	17	12%	**29**	**21%**	↗
C	**Completed** – can be removed from the plan	0	0%	11	8%	**37**	**26%**	↗
NS	**Not started**	28	20%	15	11%	**3**	**2%**	↗
		140	100%	140	100%	**140**	**100%**	

Examples of Progress Across the Partnership

Improving Practice

- ✓ Strengthened performance monitoring and governance.
- ✓ Greater focus on the voice of children, young people and families.
- ✓ Improved multi-agency working across key SEND services.

Improving Services

- ✓ Completed delivery of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme and exploring legacy options.
- ✓ Development of Families First arrangements.
- ✓ Ongoing improvements to Local Offer content and accessibility.
- ✓ Progress in addressing neurodevelopmental demand pressures.

Strategic Development

- ✓ SEND Sufficiency Strategy implementation.
- ✓ Inclusion and Belonging Strategy development.
- ✓ Preparing for Adulthood improvements.
- ✓ Increased focus on transition pathways and employment outcomes.



Key Areas for Further Development

Priorities Emerging From the Refresh

Health Pathways

- ✓ Consistency of neurodevelopmental pathways.
- ✓ Therapy access and outcomes.
- ✓ Mental health support arrangements.

Inclusion and Coproduction

- ✓ Strengthening engagement with children, young people and families.
- ✓ Continued development of co-production.
- ✓ Consistent partnership ownership across all actions.

Sufficiency and Transition

- ✓ Early Years inclusion.
- ✓ Workforce capacity and capability.
- ✓ Preparing for Adulthood and transition outcomes.

Improvement Notice Alignment

These areas will form part of the review of priorities as the revised LAIP is developed.



Areas of Risk (Red or Amber rated)

Pathways

- Assessment of cyp that 'mask' with guidance for schools (4.5)
  Mitigation – Bob Harrison to work with Becky Salmon as SRO to undertake review and understand scale of the issue.
- Working protocol between Mental Health teams and other services with the LAP (4.7)
  Mitigation – this is delayed. Bob Harrison will work with ICB colleagues/Becky Salmon/Claire Darwin to move this forward.
- Whole school and early intervention approach for therapies (4.11)
  Mitigation –Bob Harrison will work with ICB and LA colleagues to move this forward in line with SEND Reforms and Experts at Hand.
- Unified performance and outcomes framework for therapies (4.13)
  Mitigation –Bob Harrison will work with ICB and LA colleagues to move this forward and review against EAH and ICB review of community services.
- Annual reviews for those Electively Home Educated and with an EHCP (4.22)
  Mitigation – this is being moved forward, currently behind schedule but will be captured within the AR improvement processes.
- Implementation of 'way forward' meetings has been delayed (4.32)
  Mitigation – scoping will be completed before December 2026.
- Processes for those moving in and out of the area (with an EHCP) (4.38)
  Mitigation – the work has commenced to improve this work. Other priorities have delayed progress but it will be complete before end of February 2027

Areas of Risk (Red or Amber rated)

Coproduction. Communication and Voice

- Requirement to recruit to vacant posts (Coproduction lead and Senior Comms Manager) (2.2 and 2.3 and 2.16)
  Mitigation – recruitment needs to be confirmed once restructures have been completed within CYP Directorate
- Effective use of Education Reps on the SEND Improvement Board (2.6 and 3.6)
  Mitigation – Bob Harrison to work with Zoe Lattimer to collaborate with Education Reps and agree way forward
- Development of Statutory SEND Service practice Standards (2.13)
  Mitigation – this has started and will be complete by end of December 2026
- Co-production of SPCF Annual Survey (2.19)
  Mitigation – this will be reviewed by Chris Lee and Bob Harrison alongside developments to enhance current feedback loops for all service users and in line with 'Umbrella' approach to working with parental representative groups.

Areas of Risk (Red or Amber rated)

Resource and Sufficiency

- Review training offer for all SCC Children's Services staff (6.5)
  Mitigation – review has been undertaken. Implementation plan to be proposed before end of December 2026
- Explore use of Artificial Intelligence (6.11)
  Mitigation – delayed due to leadership capacity/focus. This will be addressed before end of January 2027

Preparing for Adulthood and Transitions

- Extension to deadline for producing Early Years Guidance due to developments in Best Start in Life and SEND Reforms (5.9)
  Mitigation – Bob Harrison to work with Christina Lewis to move this forward and in line with action 4.26 and Best Start in Life.

Next Steps Towards December Approval

October-November

- ✓ Review requirements arising from the DfE Improvement Notice.
- ✓ Embed SEND Reform priorities throughout the revised LAIP.
- ✓ Align the LAIP with:
  - ✓ Improvement Notice priorities
  - ✓ Self Evaluation Framework
  - ✓ JSNA findings
  - ✓ Inclusion and Belonging Strategy
  - ✓ Preparing for Adulthood Strategy
- ✓ Strengthen outcome measures and accountability arrangements.
- ✓ Continue delivery of existing improvement activity.



December SEND Improvement Board

Present final refreshed LAIP for endorsement

Including:

- ✓ Updated priorities.
- ✓ SEND Reform integration.
- ✓ Revised action framework.
- ✓ Clear success measures.
- ✓ Strengthened governance and accountability.

Board Decision Today

Note progress made to date and support presentation of the revised LAIP to the December SEND Improvement Board.