SEND Improvement Board – Front Sheet

Suffolk Local Area Partnership Meeting: SEND Improvement Board (SIB) **Title of Item:** Statutory SEND Service: Phase-Based POD Implementation Update **Item Author:** Jen Beaton and Lucy Doherty **Item Date:** 20th October 26	Current RAG Status Previous RAG Status – N/A

Purpose and description of item:

To provide the SEND Improvement Board with an update on the implementation of phase-based PODs within the Statutory SEND Service, including progress with staffing, induction, workforce development, caseload reassignment and partnership working.

The phase-based POD model has been introduced across the area review teams to develop greater Early Years and Primary, Secondary and Post-16 specialism. The model is intended to strengthen caseload management and oversight, improve transitions, build specialist expertise and provide greater consistency and responsiveness for children, young people, families and education settings.

This item is linked to the following strategic priority(s) (Delete as appropriate):

- Local Area Inclusion Plan
- SEND Strategy 2024-2029
- SEND Reform agreement and SEND improvement notice

What impact will this make to the lives of children and young people?	**What metrics will be used to evidence impact on children and young people? How is this impact being measured (use quantifiable data):**
The phase-based POD model is intended to provide children and young people with more consistent and responsive statutory SEND support from staff who have stronger knowledge of their education phase. It should strengthen oversight at key transition points, improve continuity between services and settings, and support more effective management of individual cases and emerging issues. The model also creates clearer links between POD leads and services including Early Years, health, social care, Virtual School, youth justice, educational psychology and teams supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET.	• Timeliness of statutory processes, including EHC needs assessments, annual reviews and phase transfers. • Caseload size and caseload distribution by POD, phase and locality. • Workforce capacity, including vacancies, absence, induction completion and POD staffing levels. • Quality assurance findings and evidence of consistent good practice standards. • Complaints, escalations and feedback from children, young people, families and education settings. • Outcomes at key transition points, including Post-16 participation and young people at risk of becoming NEET.

	• Staff confidence and capability measures following induction, training and coaching.
How and when will this item be reviewed? (if applicable): Quality Assurance and Performance Subgroup	**What do you want the board to do? (Delete as appropriate)** **SEND Improvement Board:** • For information and oversight