

## Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board: March 2025 partner update

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Improvement Board has been established to oversee SEND improvement activity across the whole system in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on the priorities and areas for improvements identified in the [Ofsted and CQC inspection report](#). The Board meets every six weeks and is chaired independently by Dame Christine Lenehan, Strategic Adviser for SEND for the Department for Education.

The aim of the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Board is to robustly track, monitor and oversee the Nottinghamshire SEND Improvement Programme so that the aims are achieved at pace and provide challenge and support to increase the likelihood of the aims being achieved.

The purpose of these partner briefings is to update you on progress of the SEND Improvement Programme so that you can share the work that is taking place with your networks.

You can see previous [briefings](#) from Improvement Board meetings from June 2023 onwards. The most recent Board meeting took place on Thursday, 6 March, and focused on reporting of progress and the impact of that progress and the SEND Delivery Plan.

### Tour of St Giles School, Retford

The Board meeting began with a tour of St Giles School, a special school in Retford, for young people aged between 3 and 18 who have education, health and care plans. Board members received a tour of the school which is recognised by Ofsted as being “a positive place to learn” and where learners “appreciate the opportunity to have ‘dreams’ and work with great resilience to achieve them.”

### Update on progress

The Board was updated on the work of the SEND improvement programme.

Good progress has been made and work continues. A review of the council’s Integrated Children’s Disability Service (ICDS) structure is well under way and the aim is implementation from April 2025. Staff are engaged, they want change and to be able to do their jobs well.

The Board discussed how it will update governance arrangements to ensure that improvement continues in the future beyond the improvement programme period. This ongoing development work will link to the strategic plan and incorporate any remaining actions from the priority action plan that was developed following the inspection. There was a discussion about the regulators' need to see that the priority action plan shows the items which are completed and any that are not completed have clear risk and mitigation identified. Partners confirmed this will be available for the next meeting.

There was an update that the partnership now has a single risk register for SEND and an update will be presented at a future board meeting.

### Update on the data dashboard

The dashboard development work is at a stage where the partnership is confident that most aspects are now incorporated into the data dashboard. The team is about to sign off the Nottingham City data sharing agreement so that big picture data will be available across the city and county.

Annual review and Education and Healthcare Plans (EHCP) metrics have been incorporated and are about to go live. Data trends will then be provided once a second month's worth of data is added in.

More work is in the pipeline for the EHCP data, including the possibility of anonymised child-level data and split by different elements so that monthly reports can help partners to understand what the data is demonstrating across the system, what it means and why.

### Case studies

The Board was presented with one case study.

Jak was supported by the ICDS team to ensure he could stay living safely and independently at home. The worker supported Jak and his family to apply for a disabled facilities grant to build an accessible bedroom and wet room at the family home. The family is delighted with the work and with the support they received.

The Board heard that there are a number of case studies in the pipeline but that there is an ongoing need for these to be fed through.

The Board was informed that a new preparing for adulthood guide is being launched on Monday 10 March and communication is planned for staff, partners and parents.

The fortnightly updates for professionals were welcomed and recognised as useful information for sharing.

### Stocktake feedback

The stocktake is to test the decision-making and oversight of the improvement programme. The Department for Education (DfE) was pleased with the openness from the Partnership as part of the stocktake process. The feedback from the most recent stocktake in January 2025 shows that there was demonstrated progress in implementing the priority action plan.

Some strengths included that more children and young people received EHCPs within timescales compared to the same period of 2023, co-production is improving and the partnership data sharing is allowing deeper understanding, providing assurance and strengthening reporting.

Some areas for improvement include embedding feedback from families, further development of the annual reviews system and process and to support ongoing transformation with the local area partnership delivery plan.

A discussion was had about the partnership's readiness for re-inspection and to move to the next phase of the journey. It was recognised that through stocktakes, the deep dives and board meetings that the improvement journey is underway and that action has been taking place. It was acknowledged that a monitoring inspection is the next step and there is a readiness among partners for that to take place.

There was some discussion about the current inspection framework development and that potential delays are a concern. It was agreed that elected members will send a letter to ministers for an update and convey concerns about ongoing delays. The Board will seek clarity before the next board meeting.

### The SEND journey map

As a key area of progress, the Board was given a brief demonstration of the SEND journey map setting out all of the Nottinghamshire services and support available to children and young people at different ages.

It is available on the Nottinghamshire local offer in a variety of formats and has been co-produced with initial development from partners, followed by input from parents, carers and young people and a consultation phase gathering further feedback for ongoing improvements.

A discussion took place about the importance of ensuring that parents and carers are aware of the journey map and communication will be developed to share across all available channels to raise awareness. [Nottshelpyourself | A guide to local support for children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire \(Consultation phase\)](#)

In ensuring the voice of parents and carers continues to be supported, the local area partnership has agreed to match fund the Parent Carer Forum's Department for Education funding for 2025 to 2026.

### Nott Alone live events

The Board was given an overview of the events held during children's Mental Health Awareness week. Two events ran, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. It included workshops, and activities to get young people talking openly about mental health.

[See what happened at NottAlone Live 2025!](#)

Dame Christine Lenehan

Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board