

## Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board: September 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.

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 you can share the work that is taking place via your networks. You can see previous [briefings](#) from Improvement Board meetings from June 2023 onwards.

The most recent Board meeting took place on 12 September which focused on the SEND communications evaluation, Ofsted new inspection framework and SEND data report.

### Partnership progress updates

The Board received an update on changes being made to the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB has now been clustered with Derby and Derbyshire and Lincolnshire ICB and the Chair for the cluster has been appointed – Dr Kathy McLean. No announcement has been made yet about the cluster Chief Executive. It has been confirmed that SEND will be part of the executive team portfolio.

The Board discussed Local Government Reorganisation. Work has been done to raise awareness with head teachers and senior school leaders. The County Council has agreed its preferred option of Nottingham City, Broxtowe and Gedling making up one authority, with the rest of Nottinghamshire as a separate authority. Other local authorities will need to submit their preferred option ahead of the government making a decision. Scoping work is already being carried out to consider how SEND will fit into the different possible options for the future.

Following a government reshuffled, Georgia Gould has been appointed as the new Minister of State in the Department for Education with responsibility for SEND.

NHS England provided an update on plans to merge NHSE with the Department for Health and Social Care. NHSE published the [model region blueprint](#) this week to set out the planning roles and responsibilities.

### Data update

The data team are working with Nottingham City Council to include City data into the dashboard, which will support with getting comparative data with Nottinghamshire. This information will also support the planning work for local government reorganisation.

### Key findings:

- There has been an increase in requests for Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan assessments but the rate of completion is fairly static.
- More EHC Plans are being completed within timescale.
- Neurodevelopmental assessment waiting times have increased.
- Satisfaction with waiting times for services is low.
- There is an increase in waits for therapy services e.g. speech, language and communication needs.

### Communications update

The Board received an update on communications work, including activity to inform parents, carers, staff and stakeholders about the monitoring inspection results and a [case study about Sam](#), who has been supported by family hubs to be school ready.

### SEND monitoring inspection report and lessons learned

The [Ofsted and CQC inspection](#) took place in July and involved input from professionals working in SEND, the Parent Carer Forum and families of children and young people who receive SEND services.

The inspectors agreed that ‘effective action’ was being taken in all the priority areas. Inspectors found that the partnership’s redesigned governance and strategic approach, effective use of data and performance information, and new models of working have” helped to increase the proportion of education, health and care (EHC) plans completed within the 20 week statutory timescale”.

The report outlined how “a new multi-agency quality assurance process provides useful learning to help improve the quality of EHC plans” noting “newer EHC plans are typically of a better quality.”

The report also identified newly established provisions, including an offer of support for children and young people waiting for their neurodevelopmental assessment, with access to a range of online resources, workshops and face-to-face support sessions in district family hubs, and a pilot project consisting of an advice line and drop-in service to support children and young people who are waiting for a speech and language assessment.

However, the report also noted that action must continue to make further improvements. Inspectors identified concerns including the need to continue to reduce the time taken to issue EHC plans and waiting times for assessment for speech and language services, and increase communication, guidance and clarity for parents, carers and professionals to refer to and access support.

The partnership has recognised that continued improvements are still required and remain fully committed to continuing to make positive progress.

The next inspection is anticipated after January 2027.

**The SEND Board recognised the dedication and commitment from professionals working in SEND to make these improvements.**

Dame Christine Lenehan

Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Improvement Board