



Children & Young People's Therapies Review Programme Update November 2021

Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council and the six Clinical Commissioning Groups in Essex and Southend are working together to develop an outcomes-based, whole system approach to the delivery of therapy provision and services (speech and language, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy) for our children and young people. The aim is to create an equitable offer designed using a model framework based on evidenced best practice, incorporating work carried out in schools as well as the support and services delivered by specialist health led therapy teams.

The ambitious programme for change has interdependencies and linked outcomes with other programmes of work within the SEND Joint Commissioning arena, such as the development of a new Local Offer and the work to improve neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathways. [The Balanced System® framework](#) sets out the five key outcomes that programme aims to achieve for the families of Essex:

- 1. Children and Young People & their Parents and Carers ...**
Are supported with appropriate information and skills to enable them to be proactive in making choices and supporting speech, language and communication skills.
- 2. Environments...**
In which children and young people spend time for learning and leisure are communication friendly have appropriate adaptations and enhancements to support universal level OT and Physio Needs.
- 3. Workforce...**
Using specialist knowledge and expertise to build skills in the wider workforce in order to ensure speech, language and communication, and OT and Physio skills are appropriately supported across universal, targeted and specialist tiers
- 4. Early Identification...**
Is efficient and accessible. Systems enable early identification of therapy needs, including training of others to identify and provide pre-referral advice within community settings.
- 5. Intervention...**
Is appropriate and timely, which may include direct or indirect work with individuals and groups of individuals delivered in the most functionally appropriate context relative to specific need.

So far, the Programme has undertaken an extensive review of the way therapy services are commissioned and delivered across Essex and Southend. This has involved the gathering of

a wealth of information from families, health professionals and schools, to understand the lived experience of working in and receiving services from across Essex and Southend, and to help us to better understand the complexities of our local systems.

The programme team are now working with commissioners and health professionals to delve into more detail to begin to understand how we could remodel our services in line with The Balanced System® framework. Individual data feedback meetings are being held in November and December with each Essex and Southend Health Provider and their Commissioner, to understand fully the picture in their local area.

Once complete we will build upon this groundwork by further engaging with schools, families, and stakeholders during co-production events at the start of the new year.

Information about the Therapies Programme is available on our website, <https://www.thebalancedsystem.org/commissioners/essex-project/>, where you'll also find links to surveys and details of engagement events as they are released.