



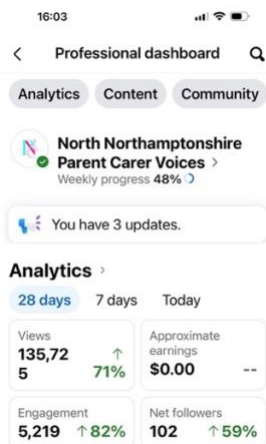
SAIB report – March 2026

Parent Carer Forum – Key Updates

FEBRUARY 26 - DATA

1132 Registered members - up by 18 from January (also completed a data purge to remove duplicate and over age families)

1847 Facebook followers - up by 133 from January



Engagement activity

Our engagement team continue to actively attend a wide range of parent group meetings hosted by other organisations. We have hosted several training sessions that were well received along with our regular engagement sessions. A list of these is below with attendee numbers

Training :-

Autistic not Weird – 61 attendees

Executive functioning – 43 attendees

Anxiety management – 19 attendees

Dyslexia – 8 attendees

Miniature pony cuddles – 55 attendees

Walk & Talk – 8 attendees

Sensory Processing x 2 – 56 attendees

Spa day – 12 attendees

Who cares for you - 15

This month our team have engaged directly with **438 parent carers** (including our training / workshops) We continue to engage with families in a wide variety of ways including via social media and on other digital platforms to ensure we capture as wide a perspective as possible, ensuring we facilitate as wide a demographic as possible.

We are already collating data and reviewing impact etc. for end of year reporting to Contact (for PCF work) and for CIC requirements. A copy will be provided to partners to fulfil our SLA requirement.

FUN DAY 1ST AUGUST - Tickets will be released next month but and we have received strong support from voluntary sector organisations but we are still looking for confirmation from statutory teams who are an essential part of the information hall. We will once again have tea / coffee and food served from the hall which should maximise footfall so if you could please complete the



booking form we'd be very grateful. We are also looking at solutions for parking and relay transport for stall holders.

Please ensure you use the booking form for the information hall as we are counting this as one of our SEND meet the teams events.

[SEND Family Fun Day Marketplace Booking Form – Fill in form](#)

Local Area Partnership Governance

Stakeholder Board, Feedback Loop and Co-production Framework

The Parent Carer Forum is pleased to report continued progress against several actions recorded within the Local Area Partnership Action Log relating to strengthening co-production and stakeholder engagement.

Over recent months, work has focused on developing three interconnected elements designed to improve how the lived experience of children, young people and families informs the SEND improvement journey:

- the **Co-production Framework**, which sets clear expectations for strategic and operational co-production across the partnership;
- the **structured feedback loop** (“**You Said, We Did**”), which ensures that feedback from families and stakeholders is captured, considered and visibly responded to; and
- the refreshed **Stakeholder Board Terms of Reference**, positioning the Board as a single conduit for all stakeholder insight, scrutiny and constructive challenge.

Together, these developments strengthen governance, improve transparency, and ensure that stakeholder voice contributes meaningfully to service design, delivery and evaluation and support the Dfe ? NHS Local partnership maturity assessment requirements.

This work represents clear progress towards a number of outstanding actions within the improvement programme, particularly those relating to embedding co-production and strengthening evidence of impact from stakeholder engagement.

Subject to final alignment of membership and reporting arrangements, we anticipate being in a position to **re-launch the Stakeholder Board in April, following the Easter period**, enabling the Board to resume its role as a structured forum for stakeholder insight, assurance and collaborative improvement across the SEND partnership.

UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING SAIB ACTION LOG

- **SENIF +** 1st raised in July 2025. There should have been a proper handover from the outgoing Assistant Director of Education to the incoming postholder but unfortunately, this did not happen effectively. We attended a meeting intended to plan an agreed mid-January engagement event as a clear step towards co-production in response to concerns raised by parent carers, but the incomplete handover meant the meeting was not productive. However we were given assurance by Annita Gray that commitment remained to deliver the event. We heard no more. An alternative meeting was later offered by the Interim ADE,



Annita Gray to discuss early years experiences, however, we declined as the agreed action we are seeking to progress relates specifically to **SENIF funding**, following our July report on this issue. To date, there has been no further progress. While we remain committed to constructive engagement, we are disappointed that a clear co-production opportunity was provided and not taken forward. Parent carer voices should not be sidelined in this way, and we are increasingly frustrated that this issue continues to stall without meaningful action.

Report available here:-

https://northantspcv-my.sharepoint.com/personal/enquiries_npcv_co_uk/Documents/SENIF%20Plus%20Funding%20report.docx?web=1

ACTIONS SOUGHT FROM REPORT:-

1. **Urgent Review of the Hours-Based Formula:** Implement a safeguard that minimum funding is provided where reduced attendance is disability-related.
 2. **Reassess the Salary Cap:** Introduce flexibility to accommodate higher-cost staff where required to meet complex needs.
 3. **Enhance Co-Production:** Convene a working group of parent carers, providers, and SEND professionals to directly co-design future funding policies
 4. **Introduce an Exception Process:** Where the hours model disadvantages a child due to their SEND needs, allow discretionary adjustments.
 5. **Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA):** Evaluate whether current funding mechanisms are compatible with the council's legal duties and strategic SEND aims.
- IASS steering group (initially raised in July) – We have seen a social media post about a SEND IASS Advisory Board which is a good step forward. (did this meeting go ahead as we had a parent contact us to say they arrived at Thrapston and there was no one there?) However, membership under **Standard 1.7 says** Governance arrangements must include a strategic manager within the IASS, a steering group or advisory body with representatives from service user groups and key stakeholders from education, health and social care. Can we have confirmation that the wider partnership will be involved?
 - AP provider list still not available (requested Dec 25)

SEND WORKSHOP & MEET THE TEAMS :-

- Work on the **co-production framework** with assessment criteria and suggested operational tools is moving forward. We continue to work on plans for a **Co-production conference** with external experts speaking in the morning and then a facilitated workshop after lunch. We'll bring further details when things are more finalised.
- **NEXT WORKSHOPS.**
 - **15th April 2026** – 9am to 12.30 pm Corby Cube, Council Chambers.
 - **17th April 2026** – 9am to 1pm Kettering Council Chambers
 - **22nd April 2026** – 18:00 to 21:00 Wellingborough, Swanspool Chambers
 - **28th April 2026** – 9am to 1pm Thrapston Council Chambers

The next round of workshops will take all place in April and we already have an offer from Impower who are leading a transport review to facilitate a session. We propose to separate out the meet



the teams part of the workshops on this occasion and are investigating potentially running stand alone sessions.

We have a proposal to hold a SEND reform / white paper summit session at the April workshops to help stakeholders to understand the implications from differing perspectives but we remain open to LAP priorities and ideas.

Proposal:

Create a shared understanding of national reforms, local pressures, and lived experience so the local system can **co-produce realistic solutions before changes are imposed.**

Key anticipated outcomes:

- Shared understanding of **national policy direction**
 - Honest discussion of **system pressures**
 - Identification of **local risks and opportunities**
 - Agreement on **practical next steps**
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Family Help Strategy 2026-2029

While North Northamptonshire Parent Carer Forum (NPCV) welcomes the ambition of the Family Help Strategy 2026–2029 and its focus on early intervention and whole-family support, we note that the strategy was developed without co-production with the Parent Carer Forum despite the local co-production charter and national expectations set out by the Department for Education and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. As a result, the document currently evidences engagement rather than genuine co-production and does not clearly articulate how family voice has shaped the strategy or how the Parent Carer Forum contributes to governance and decision-making. The strategy would also benefit from clearer reference to statutory SEND duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, greater transparency about how family feedback informs commissioning and system design, and clearer explanation for families about rights, access to support and the relationship between Family Help services and statutory SEND provision. NPCV has offered to work with partners to strengthen the strategy and its governance through co-production as the accompanying action plan is developed.