

Memorandum of Understanding for Essex Commissioned Outreach Services

Agreement for Providers and Receiving Schools

Information about the Outreach Service Offer

What is Outreach?

The Outreach Offer is a joint offer from Essex County Council and the school or registered Alternative Provision (AP) providers across Essex.

Its purpose is to strengthen support for mainstream schools in meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, by developing staff expertise and confidence and ensuring high-quality provision is in place.

'Outreach is supporting inclusion in a partnership for our SEND learners'

Who can request outreach?

Outreach can be requested by schools who need support to adapt provision and enable flexible learning within a mainstream environment.

Schools Autism Outreach

This service is available to young people who have a diagnosis of autism or who are awaiting an autism assessment through the neurodevelopmental pathway. It is also available to those with a co-occurring condition for example, ADHD, anxiety or OCD. Support will also be offered to those who have a learning need, but only when barriers to their learning is because of their autistic needs.

[Autism outreach support for schools | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

ESSET Cognition and Learning Outreach

This service offer is appropriate if a young person (YP) is working at cognitive levels significantly below the majority of their school cohort. The YP would typically be accessing a substantially adapted curriculum offer. These YP may also have neurodevelopmental differences, but their main area of need must be around their learning levels and the support necessary to meet these needs.

[Outreach Program - Esset](#)

SEMH Partnership Provisions Outreach for Primary and Secondary Aged Children

This support offer is appropriate where a young person (YP) presents with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs as their primary area of need. The SEMH SEND category applies when:

- The presenting needs (or behaviours) are not caused by or linked to unmet needs associated with another category of need.
- Adverse Childhood Experience(s) are evident.



While the YP may also have evidence of co-occurring needs, such as learning difficulties or communication and interaction needs, the SEMH need must be the predominant area for the request for support.

[SEMH partnership provisions: SEMH partnership provisions | Essex Schools Infolink](#)

Alternative Provision Outreach for Secondary Age Children

This service offer supports pupils in mainstream secondary schools who face barriers to engaging in learning and are at risk of suspension or exclusion. Through early, bespoke intervention, experienced practitioners work with the school to re-engage students and help them succeed in school. The goal is to re-engage students, strengthen their connection to learning and help them to thrive in their own school environment.

Mid and NE: [Secondary Outreach | kcat](#)

South: [Outreach Services](#)

If a school is unsure who is most appropriate team to request support from, they can seek advice from their Inclusion Partner (IP) or alternatively send a request to **one** of the providers. This provider will then allocate to the most appropriate outreach provider.

A Resourced Provision (RP) funded by Essex automatically receives an allocated level of support from Outreach providers and therefore does not need to submit a request for support.

Types of Support Provided by Outreach

Individual Provision Support – Support offered directly for an individual child or a small group, focusing on developing planning and provision to improve outcomes for learners. Parental consent is required for this type of support.

Coaching on Specific Strategies and Interventions – Targeted support designed to develop staff knowledge and skills for a particular individual or cohort. Parental consent may not be required where the support does not focus on an individual child.

For more in depth/specific training, school staff will also be signposted to relevant Essex training opportunities, available through IP's and/or Educational Psychologists (EPs), and bookable via [Education Essex online](#). Where needed, Outreach can provide additional follow up support tailored to the specific cohort once training has been completed.

Outreach providers have the ability to support LA resource provisions as and when required and in collaboration with SEND Strategy Leads.

What Outreach is Not

The Outreach Service is an early intervention service; it is about supporting schools to maintain a placement – it is **not**:

1. Working with a child or young person without a staff member actively involved.
2. Working within a class or school without active involvement of the requesting school.

3. A 'crisis' management service i.e. requesting support when all else fails.
4. A box to tick before moving the child or young person onto another provision.
5. A service to carry out assessments or comment on suitability for the possibility of future placements.
6. Involvement in ongoing individual school support such as Team around the Family (TAF), social care and health meetings.
7. Supporting pupils who are not currently attending school e.g., due to EBSA.

Commitment from Outreach Providers to Receiving Schools

- Act as a critical friend to the referring school and offer advice around developing and implementing high quality provision for children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools.
- Signpost receiving schools to appropriate services and resources to support children and young people and their families
- Liaise with school via telephone or email within 5 working days. Discuss needs with schools and plan an initial visit within one calendar month. In situations where capacity or school holidays means that this will be longer, a teams call will be offered.
- Document all visits and communication on a record of involvement to be shared with the receiving school and share anonymised actions with the school link Inclusion Partner.
- Agree outcomes the schools are hoping to achieve, and plan actions, provision and support needed to meet these outcomes. Outcomes to be reviewed and a plan for completion of the piece of work created before outreach support is ended.

Signed by the outreach provider

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Commitment from Receiving Schools to Providers

This must be shared with the receiving school by the commissioned outreach provider before commencing outreach support.

By receiving the Outreach Offer we agree to:

- Work collaboratively with the provider and make every reasonable effort to maintain the Child or Young Person's placement, with a view to working towards full time education within the named setting where this is not currently happening.
- Facilitate meetings between school staff and the provider within the school building and make reasonable efforts to accommodate meetings within the scope of the availability of the parent/carers if needed.
- Respond to communication from the provider within a timely manner and within not more than three of your own working days, except for when there is absence due to sickness or other unforeseen circumstance.
- Communicate with the provider when there has been a change of circumstances around the provision or placement of the young person being supported through the outreach as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so.
- Value the expertise of the Outreach provider and implement agreed actions, provision and support in a timely manner and review these with provider on an agreed date.
- Complete a post evaluation immediately after Outreach closure and engage in a 3 months post involvement evaluation conversation via telephone or Teams call with a member of the Outreach Team.
- Inform the link Inclusion Partner about the involvement out the outreach service.
- To share records of involvement relating to outreach with the parent/carers of the child/young person

Signed by the school in receiving outreach

Name:

Signature:

Date: