



# Regional SEND Support Offer

*for the Eastern Region*

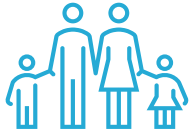


**Improvement East**  
Eastern Region Sector Led Improvement

# What is the Regional SEND Support Offer?

- Improvement East has launched a new **Regional SEND Support Offer** for 2025/26. It aims to leverage regional expertise, peer-to-peer collaboration, and DfE funding to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The approach focuses on tailored support for Local Authorities to address their specific priorities and challenges
- The **Regional SEND Support Offer** sits alongside several initiatives to assist Local Authorities in the region, as part of the 2025/26 RIIA Grant. The support offer complements these activities and focuses on what can be done within individual local authorities on a topic of their choosing
- Packages of support are available, led by a team of experienced consultants with the aim of providing support to LAs seeking to make swift improvement in an area of their choice. Packages are fully funded and could be arranged as a one-off whole day workshop through to a longer piece of up to 4-5 days.

# SEND Support Packages are available in the following categories



Children, Families  
& Young People



Data, Innovation  
& Digital Solutions

SEND Inspection  
Preparation



Workforce, Capacity Building  
& Coaching

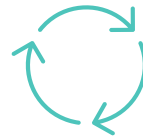


Post-Inspection  
Support



SEND Quality Assurance

EHCP Service  
Transformation



STAR Chamber



Strategic Leadership



Sufficiency &  
Commissioning Reviews

Can't see what you need among the categories? We can design the package you require! Just tell us what you want and what you hope to achieve.  
*You may wish to follow up on an area explored through your Courageous Conversation or something you have identified through your SEF*

# Example Support Packages

## 1 Day

- Rapid diagnostic on EHCP timeliness or quality
- Annex A “health check” ahead of inspection.
- Governance review “temperature check” for SEND/AP Board
- Star Chamber training session

## 2 – 3 Days

- Mini service review of the EHCP process (with quick-win recommendations)
- Inclusion and Belonging Review across a cluster of schools.
- Co-production workshop with leaders and Parent Carer Forum to co-design feedback mechanisms
- Data and impact stocktake exercise with recommendations

## 4 – 5 Days

- Full structural diagnostic of SEND/AP teams (roles, interdependencies, JD alignment)
- Mock inspection exercise with case tracking and feedback report
- Development of a recovery or sustainability plan for High Needs Block
- Governance and partnership review across SEND, AP, health and social care with action plan

## *What is expected of LAs receiving packages of support?*



LAs are expected to identify a **Senior Responsible Officer** to oversee the design and implementation of the support package and ensure access to information, governance groups and individuals is made available as required to the Regional SEND Support Offer Team.



The SRO is also asked to share outcomes, insights and experiences of the support package with **network groups within the Eastern Region**



LAs are asked to agree to **outcomes** of the Regional SEND Support Packages being shared with DfE, and case-studies being shared as learning tools within the Eastern Region (subject to GDPR and other considerations).



LAs are expected to undertake and **report on a review of the impact** of the support package after a period of embedding. The Regional SEND Support Offer Team will offer support in evaluating the support package and preparing a report.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand pointing at a table. The table is covered with various documents, including a color calibration chart, a circular diagram with numbers, and several colorful sticky notes (yellow, pink, green). The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing a desk with a white mug and some office supplies.

# How to Access the Regional SEND Support Offer

SEND support is available to all LAs in the Eastern Region

Access can be initiated through:

- Regional diagnostic programmes (e.g. self-assessment, peer challenge, Courageous Conversations)
  - Referrals from DfE and LGA SEND Improvement Advisers
- Direct requests from LA colleagues via regional networks and forums

If you are interested in receiving a package of support for your local area, please complete this [expression of interest form](#). EOIs will be reviewed and follow up calls will be scheduled to kick off the process to fully scope and schedule support packages. All packages of support will be delivered by end March 2026

The deadline for the first tranche of EOIs is **30 September 2025**

The deadline for the second tranche of EOIs is **30 November 2025**

The deadline for all remaining EOIs is **5 December 2025** – this is the last opportunity to secure a SEND Support packages for delivery in 2025/26



# Courageous Conversations

The Courageous Conversation approach is a strengths-based model for understanding an area of interest to local partners in how they are collectively improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

A small team of practitioners and a parent-carer forum representative spends a day in the authority, speaking to a diverse range of practitioners, parent/carers and other stakeholders, exploring the theme selected and agreed by the local partnership.

The area of enquiry at the centre of the courageous conversation is decided by the local authority and its partners, usually through the SEND partnership. Attendees at the workshops are also selected by the local authority and partners.

A brief report is provided to the local authority after the fieldwork day. This remains the property of the authority, but the expectation is that it is shared with partners through the local SEND partnership.

Funding for Courageous Conversations is available until April 2026.





# Courageous Conversations and the Regional SEND Support Offer

Where a Courageous Conversation has yet to take place, one of the outcomes may be a suggestion of funded targeted support around a particular issue that emerges from the conversation, accessed through the Regional SEND Support Offer.

Where a local area is receiving a package of support in order to enable improved outcomes, it may be that a Courageous Conversation takes place once that support has come to an end. The purpose of the conversation under these circumstances would be to help to assess the impact of that support, and to identify any areas that local partners may want to consider in order to facilitate further embedding of good practice. This approach would be open to authorities that have already had a Courageous Conversation, subject to overall funding availability and capacity.





## ***Get in touch!***

*Complete this [Expression of Interest Form](#) or for more information on the Regional SEND Support Offer, please email [EasternRegionCIB@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:EasternRegionCIB@norfolk.gov.uk)*



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