

Improvement East Diagnostic & Targeted Support Offer

Strengthening Children's Services Through Partnership, Peer Challenge and Continuous Improvement

Improvement East provides a range of sector-led support designed to help Local Area Partnerships strengthen CSC & SEND services, improve outcomes for children and young people, and build sustainable capacity across the system.

Children's Social Care & SEND Peer Reviews

Supportive challenge. Shared learning. Better outcomes.

The Eastern Region Peer Review Framework provides a collaborative approach to improvement across Children's Services and SEND.

Peer Reviews help local authorities and partners to:

- ❖ Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of current practice
- ❖ Gain an independent external perspective
- ❖ Identify strengths and areas for development
- ❖ Receive practical recommendations to support improvement
- ❖ Learn from peers across the region

Key Principles

- ❖ Sector-led and improvement-focused
- ❖ Strength-based and collaborative
- ❖ Not an inspection
- ❖ Confidential and supportive
- ❖ Shared learning for both host authorities and reviewers

They are conducted by multi-LA team made up of 4-5 experienced colleagues from different LAs across the region over 3 days onsite.

Every authority commits to hosting a themed Peer Review within a two-year cycle and contributes expertise to support reviews across the region.

SEND Reform Support Offer

Working alongside local areas, we provide practical, expert-led support aligned to the national SEND Reform Programme and the seven reform pillars.

Support can include:

- ❖ Governance and leadership reviews
- ❖ SEND self-evaluation and improvement planning
- ❖ EHCP timeliness and quality reviews
- ❖ Inclusion and SEND Support audits
- ❖ Workforce and organisational development
- ❖ Co-production and family experience reviews
- ❖ Data, performance and impact analysis
- ❖ Sufficiency, commissioning and financial sustainability support
- ❖ Post-inspection improvement planning

Flexible support options range from rapid 1-day diagnostics through to longer-term transformation programmes with around 5 full days from specialist consultants.

SEND Courageous Conversations

Peer support to reflect on the issues that matter most.

SEND Courageous Conversations provide a safe, non-judgemental opportunity for local partnerships to explore a specific SEND priority or area of concern with the support of experienced regional peers.

Typical themes include:

- ❖ SEND Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF)
- ❖ Post-16 transitions
- ❖ EHC needs assessments and annual reviews
- ❖ SEND Support
- ❖ Co-production
- ❖ Joint commissioning
- ❖ Ordinarily Available Provision
- ❖ Outcomes for children and young people
- ❖ Sufficiency planning
- ❖ SEND reform plan progress

How it works

- ❖ Half-day preparation and evidence review
- ❖ One-day facilitated conversation with peers
- ❖ Brief summary report and feedback within two weeks
- ❖ Confidential to the host local area

Benefits include:

- ❖ Guided honest and constructive self-reflection process
- ❖ Support from regional peers led by an experienced senior consultant
- ❖ Encouragement to consider fresh perspectives and practical solutions
- ❖ Preparation for inspections or annual engagement meetings
- ❖ Signposting to regional good practice

How to Find Out More

For information on accessing SEND Reform Support, Peer Reviews or Courageous Conversations, contact Improvement East – EasternRegionCIB@norfolk.gov.uk