

Ms Pat Smith
request-79382-5cd544c9@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: ECC-012878-11
Date: 26 July 2011

Dear Ms xxxxxxxxxx

Your Freedom of Information Request:

I am pleased to enclose the following information in response to your recent Freedom of Information request. Your request:

1. What policies, discussions, strategies or plans are ongoing re children with autism in Essex (all types of autism, all education-related autism issues)?

There is a Head of Service SEN Commissioner within SEN Commissioning team is the role that now leads SEN forward. Our current [Essex SEN policy 2010-12 v2](#) was reviewed in April and can be found on the Essex Schools Infolink. This document was approved by parents and Councillors before going to print.

2. Are there any new discussions or new / policies / strategies / plans regarding Essex children with autism (including Aspergers, HF autism) in the pipeline?

There has been no change since the previous exchange on FO12927 ([request-75043-630dbbb4@whatdotheyknow.com](#)) as to the services the Local Authority can provide.

3. What national autism strategies / legislation / guidelines / or reports are being taken into account concerning these?

Local Government can only action what is legally appropriate and led by Central Government.

4. What are the constraints upon these plans or ambitions either from within Essex County Council or from Central Government?

Reduction of major budgets, redundancies within local government and reduction of services set by Central Government decisions.

5. How can parents / carers / adults with autism in Essex contribute to the discussions?

Parents were involved with the review of the SEN Policy as mentioned in question 1.

Contd/....



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Please contact me if you would like further advice or assistance about your request or your right to access information held by Essex County Council.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, please let me know. If I am unable to resolve the issue immediately, I will explain our complaints procedure. If, after following our complaints procedure, you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision. You can contact him at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545700.

Yours sincerely

Lauri Almond

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