

## Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 11 December 2025, vote taken on Motion 3 as amended.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Reid and seconded by Councillor Bobby Bennett.

Motion Text: ‘The government’s SEND strategy focuses on providing the best possible support for children in mainstream schools. The shortage of speech and language therapists, the varying attitudes of schools across Suffolk, the reduction in early years provision, and the delays faced by parents in getting help for their children, all lead to variable outcomes for children in Suffolk.

The council also registers its frustration at the government’s delay to the SEND White Paper and failure to address the issue of increasing Dedicated Schools Grant deficits.

Therefore, this Council agrees to:

- 1) Continue its deliberative process within the Local Area Partnership involving schools, children, parents, therapists, medical practitioners and CYP officers to identify failings and blockages in the provision of the best possible early interventions corroborating its work through the SEND Improvement Board.
- 2) Continue with its plan to support parents, children and schools at the earliest possible stage, minimising the impact of Special Needs on children and their families.’

<b>Total results</b>	
For	34
Against	2
Abstain	9

### Conservative Group

Councillor’s Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back	For		
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett	For		
Stuart Bird	For		
Elaine Bryce			
Stephen Burroughes			
Nadia Cenci	For		
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers	For		
Judy Cloke			
Andy Drummond	For		

James Finch	For		
Jessica Fleming	For		
Mick Fraser	For		
David Goldsmith			
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant			
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks			
Rachel Hood	For		
Beccy Hopfensperger	For		
Michael Ladd	For		
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd			
Joe Mason	For		
Debbie McCallum			
Patti Mulcahy			
Alexander Nicoll	For		
Colin Noble	For		
Kay Oakes			
James Reeder			
Andrew Reid	For		
Debbie Richards	For		
David Roach	For		
Keith Robinson	For		
Richard Rout	For		
Richard Smith MVO	For		
Karen Soons			
Joanna Spicer			
Lance Stanbury	For		
Jamie Starling			
Paul West	For		
Steve Wiles	For		
Nathan Wilson	For		

#### **Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group**

<b>Councillor's Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Seamus Bennett			Abstain
Jessie Carter			Abstain
Annette Dunning			Abstain
Simon Harley	For		
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach			Abstain
Ash Lever			
Robert Lindsay			Abstain
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Andy Mellen		Against	

Penny Otton			
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer			Abstain
Caroline Topping	For		
Keith Welham	For		

### Labour Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Rob Bridgeman			Abstain
Peter Byatt		Against	
Adele Cook			Abstain
Elizabeth Farrow			
Sandy Martin			Abstain
Lucy Smith			

### Reform UK Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Philip Faircloth-Mutton	For		
Christopher Hudson	For		
Martin Robinson	For		
Heike Sowa			

### Ungrouped Independent Councillors

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Sam Murray			
David Nettleton			
Peter Thompson			