

ESSET AND ECC OUTREACH SERVICE

SPRING TERM 2026 UPDATE



ESSEX SPECIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION TRUST

The Spring Term 2026 marks the end of the originally planned five-term secondment for the four ESSET Quadrant Outreach Leads. We are pleased that the service has now been extended, enabling us to continue supporting schools, learners, and their families.

This term has brought many successes and highlights, both with schools that have engaged with our service since the beginning and with new schools that have recently started their journey with us.

With the recent publication of the new Ofsted Framework and White Paper, we are encouraged to see that the growing need for our unique service—and the support we provide—continues to be recognised and valued by schools and their stakeholders.

We would like to take this opportunity to:

- **Celebrate** our success
- **Validate** the impact of our service
- **Highlight** what we will continue

Celebrate - Key Strengths

ESSET have successfully delivered bespoke modelling and coaching sessions to groups, whole school teams and Trusts.

Here are some of the topics covered:

Modelling	Coaching
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Attention and focus sessions▶ Sensory stories▶ Musical touch▶ Sensory diets▶ Sensory PE▶ Soundboard▶ Story massage▶ Dance massage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Adaptive teaching and structured teaching systems▶ Inclusive Practice and Ordinary Available▶ Therapeutic approaches to behaviour▶ Communication and interaction - the importance of using visuals▶ Raising awareness of sensory issues around food for learners with SEND▶ Personalising SMART targets for SEND learners

What schools have to say about recent coaching sessions:

Inclusive Practice:

"The staff meeting went really well – it's always a good sign when people don't rush right out!"

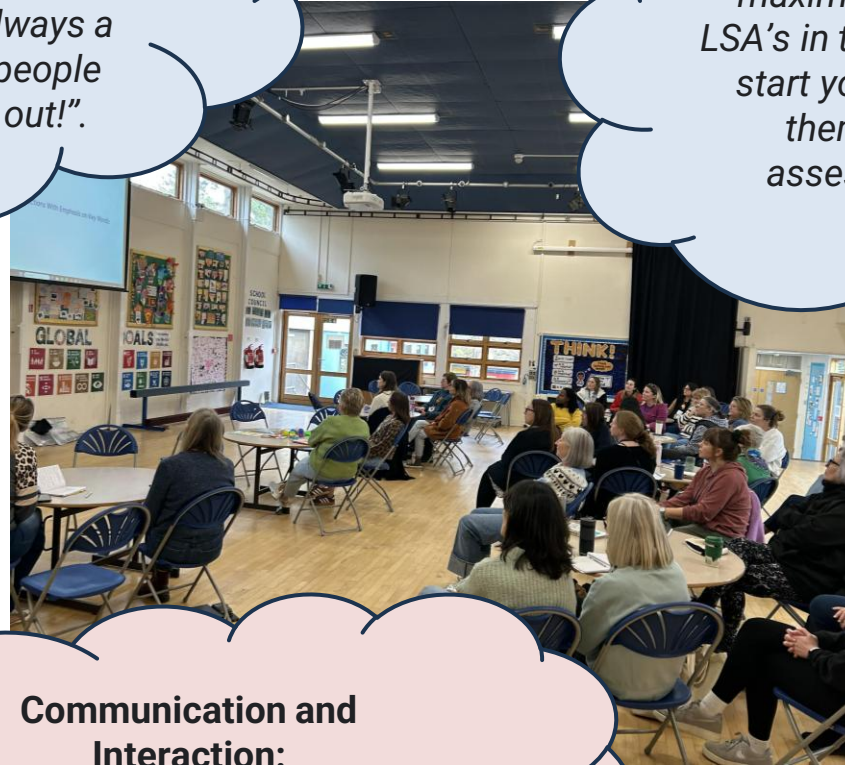


Adaptive Teaching and structured teaching systems:

"Really useful and very timely as we have children who need workstations set up."

Communication and Interaction:

"Thanks so much for the fantastic training. People are buzzing!"

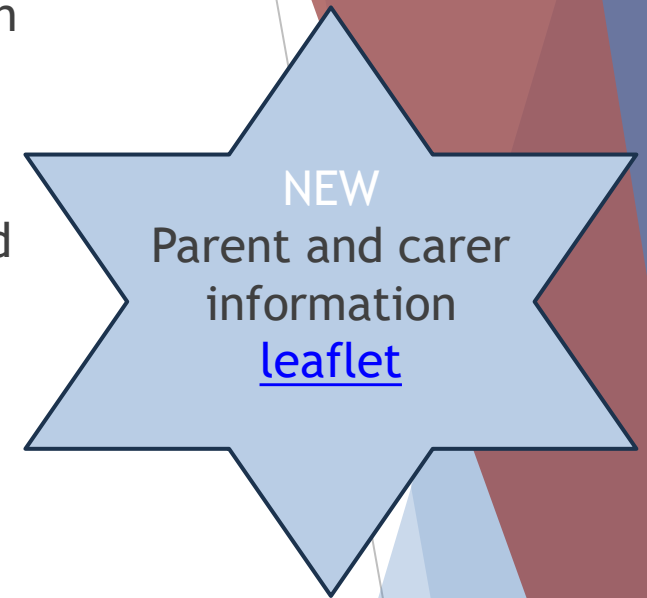


Effective use of support staff:

"Thank you for the session on maximising our use of the LSA's in the room. I'm going to start your ideas on getting them involved in the assessment first thing tomorrow!!"

ESSET Outreach continues to develop and share:

- **ESSET guides** and information. Including - OFSTED, toileting, concentration aids
- **Resources** for schools and parents
- **Planning and/or Assessment trackers** - linked to Development Matters and The Cherry Garden curriculum
- Behaviour analysis
- Social Stories - **bespoke** for individuals and settings



In special circumstances we have:

- Attended parent and carer coffee mornings or afternoons
- Completed home visits
- Delivered assemblies
- Completed Learning walks to support inclusive practices
- Provided SENCo supervision and coaching
- Attended Annual Review/One Planning meetings
- Attended TAF meetings
- Delivered at SENCo Cluster meetings

Wider Contribution - Impact

As well as supporting schools through the ESSET Outreach service the QOLs have also been..

- Delivering ECT Year 1 and 2 training for Best Practice Network- 40 new teachers (Outstanding Provider and Teach First)
- Delivering new NPQ SENCo course for Best Practice Network (35 new Senior Leaders)
- Delivering SEND training to trainee teachers to CTTC (9 new teachers)

Feedback from NPQ SENCo

- *“Well done and excellent day”*
- *“This was very helpful, particularly to understand the legal responsibilities”*
- *“Thought-provoking and well delivered! Thank you”*

Validate - Successes and Evaluation

Referrals and Data

- Four ESSET Quadrant Outreach Leads have supported schools for five terms.
- **494** referrals across Essex since September 2024

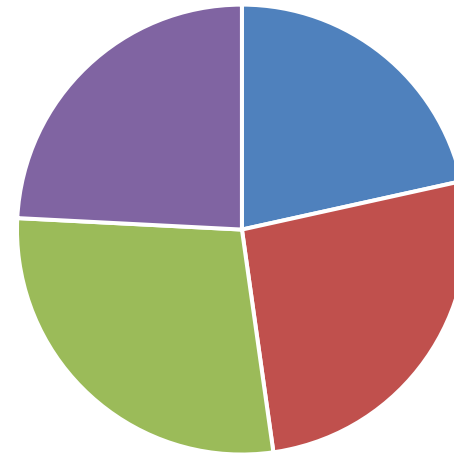
- Referrals by Quadrant

- **NORTH-EAST- Total 107***

- **MID- Total 129**

- **WEST AND BRENTWOOD - Total 138**


- **SOUTH- Total 120**



■ North-East ■ Mid ■ West and Brentwood ■ South

* Additional support that has been provided to SEND Operations

Data - Visits



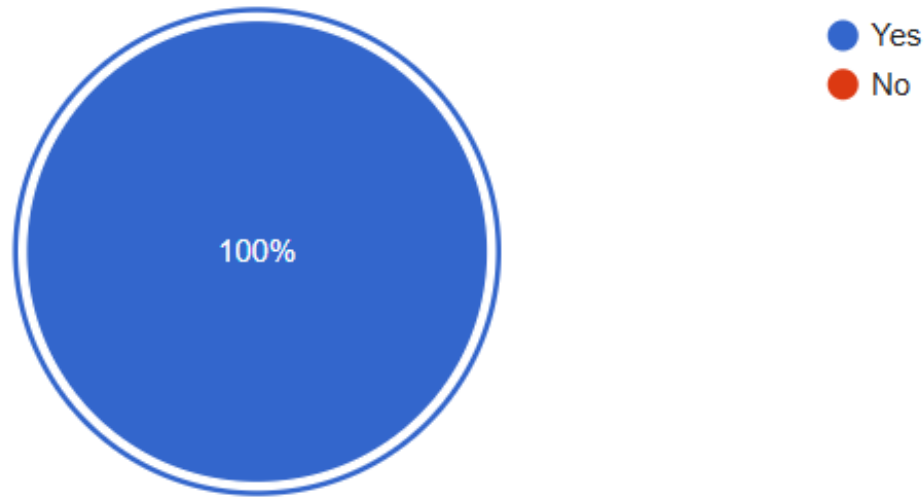
ESSET Outreach have
completed:
223 school visits this
term

The data shows the school visits completed during the 11 weeks of the Spring term. This does not include virtual meetings or telephone calls with schools.

The visits continue to demonstrate an equal level of need for our support across the county.

The North East quadrant has benefited from an additional staff member, which has enabled a higher number of visits to be carried out, including support for the Special Schools Panel (SSP). This highlights the potential benefit of expanding capacity across the other quadrants and increasing our overall Outreach provision.

Do schools still feel that they would benefit from on going outreach support?



Where schools have seen the most Impact so far:

- Improving staff confidence
- Improving learner experiences
- Creating an inclusive environment

How does ESSET communicate with the ECC?

To ensure that the ESSET Outreach offer complements the wider local offer and existing services across Essex, we have developed a **Consistency Plan**. This plan is designed to promote a **streamlined approach**, maintain clear and consistent communication, and help prevent duplication of support across services.

The table below outlines how and when we communicate with professionals across Essex. The full Consistency Plan can be accessed [here](#).

ESSET Outreach Offer	Link with Essex	When/how often
Referral from school	QOL emails school IP with opportunity to share information.	After triage
School visit	QOL emails IP with key points and next steps.	After school visit
Joint visits	QOL and SIP/IP arrange a joint visit to a school. Also available to SLCL.	When school needs help in multiple areas
On going communication with ECC professionals	QOL informs IP of any updates and meets to discuss support offered.	When needed
	QOL meets with SIP and ASD Outreach Lead to share recent support and prevent duplication.	Offered Monthly
	Meeting with Strategic Lead for Cognition and Learning .	
Working Party Group	Representative QOL attends virtual meeting to continue good communication and share updates.	Termly
Updates	QOL produce termly updates and share with Essex SEND team. Shorter newsletter for schools/IPs.	Termly
IP Meetings	QOL are always willing to attend IP meetings .	Upon invite
Support	Specialist Support Assistant depending on their projects and link with QOL-meetings, linking with schools and coaching.	When needed

* QOL are always open to speaking with other professionals involved and have also collaborated with SaLT, OT, PT and EPs.

Highlight - Priorities for Improvement

What's next from the ESSET Outreach team?

From our time spent in schools and through reviewing recent guidance, we are continually identifying ways to support mainstream schools. Many schools are developing—or have already developed—**Inclusion Bases** (Support or Specialist Bases).

To support schools with this, ESSET has created a **Curriculum Handbook Guide** to help schools develop a clear overview of what an Inclusion Base looks like in their context. *(Please contact your QOL for further information)*

Schools can access the Handbook Guide as part of the outreach service. To ensure it is effective and impactful, we are working with one school from each quadrant to gather feedback and evaluate its impact. The table below outlines each stage of this evaluation process.

Stage 1
Begin to share and update from feedback

Stage 2
Pilot schools to use the handbook to write a draft

Stage 3
QOL's to evaluate and feedback to Pilot schools

Stage 4
Finalise the handbook and share model examples

What's next?

- Confirmation of the continuation of the ESSET Outreach support shared to schools
- Expand the team with the intention to increase and embed our support in schools
- Update our feedback forms to continue evaluating the impact - ongoing support in schools
- Develop a feedback system for coaching sessions
- Analyse trends from feedback and deliver CPD to address these
- Support schools to translate the new *White Paper*, and continue to develop inclusive practice linked to the *OFTSED framework*
- Develop relationships between the specialist settings and mainstream schools in our areas - SENCO visits/staff coaching/cluster groups

Ongoing:

- Develop the way that QOLs support SEND Operations, ensuring consistency across the quadrants
- Develop bespoke coaching packages for schools

Reminder of referral process:

▶ TWO POSSIBLE ROUTES TO ACCESS OUTREACH:

- (1) SEND Operations can recommend that a school refer during a panel
- (2) Schools can make the decision to refer themselves

REFERRAL FORMS CAN BE FOUND HERE:

[South Quadrant](#) (Katrina covering Basildon, Rochford and Castlepoint)

[Mid Quadrant](#) (Tracy cover Maldon, Braintree and Chelmsford)

[North-East Quadrant](#) (Marie covering Colchester and Tendring)

[West Quadrant and Brentwood](#) (Keily covering Uttlesford, Harlow, Epping Forest and Brentwood)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT.