

Motion to Council pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12 submitted by Councillor Carrie Doyle calling on Essex County Council to direct that the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism for all staff across schools in the District of Tendring be implemented urgently

“That Tendring District Council –

- (1) Believes that too many children with Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) are still misunderstood or unsupported at school, and too many families must fight to get the right help;
- (2) Reiterates that this is not a criticism of school staff but about making sure they have the training and confidence to support every child properly;
- (3) Notes that Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training is the Government’s preferred and recommended training for learning disability and autism in health and social care, as set out in the most recent Code of Practice published in September 2025 and which is nationally recognised and co-produced with people with lived experience;
- (4) Believes in inclusive education, and that understanding should not be optional or dependent on which school a child attends and that every child deserves to be understood, to feel safe at school, and to have the chance to achieve their full potential;
- (5) Feels strongly that mandatory training for school staff would bring consistency, earlier understanding, better communication with families, and better outcomes for children across Tendring and that better informed staff can reduce anxiety, improve attendance and create a stronger learning environment for everyone;
- (6) Therefore, calls on Essex County Council and relevant Academies to direct that the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism for all staff across schools in the District of Tendring be implemented urgently as a simple matter of fairness, inclusion and responsibility.”