



**DURHAM**

[www.mctdurham.co.uk](http://www.mctdurham.co.uk)

c/o Durham SENDIASS

0191 5873541

# **Making Changes Together XXVII**

## **Conference Report**

Ramside Hall Hotel & Golf Club,

Carville, Durham

12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# Contents

## Page

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Welcome and introductions.....                            | 3  |
| Short Break.....  | 10 |
| SENDIASS.....   | 12 |
| Durham Autism Hub.....                                    | 20 |
| Daisy Chain (daytime only).....                           | 29 |
| SEND Casework Team overview.....                          | 37 |
| Team Training update.....                                 | 42 |
| Durham HELP.....  | 46 |
| Investing in Children’s Xtreme Group (daytime only) ..... | 50 |
| SEND Update and developments.....                         | 55 |
| SEND Green Paper proposals and CCGs Update.....           | 65 |
| Neurodevelopmental Pathway (daytime only) .....           | 69 |
| Raffle and Closing comments.....                          | 74 |
| Daytime conference evaluations.....                       | 75 |
| Evening conference evaluations.....                       | 77 |

## Welcome and introductions

Today's conference resumed the pre-covid format of a daytime conference followed by a shorter evening event containing a condensed version of the daytime agenda. Therefore, presentations by Daisy Chain, the Xtreme group and the Neurodevelopmental pathway team are included in this conference report, but due to a shorter period allocated to the evening conference, the face to face presentations were only able to be delivered at the daytime event.

Parent carer forum member Amy opened the conference by welcoming delegates and delivering all the usual housekeeping information. The presentation below describes the work of the parent carer forum and information about how you might become more involved;



## WHO ARE MCT?



We are Durham's official parent carer forum and a group of parent carers who work with professionals to influence and improve services to children and young people (0 -25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities in County Durham.

**SINCE 2020 DUE TO  
THE GLOBAL COVID 19  
PANDEMIC WE HAVE  
HAD TO WORK  
DIFFERENTLY...**



**EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NOW  
RETURNED TO SOME SORT OF  
NORMALITY WE HAVE CONTINUED  
TO DO SOME OF OUR MCT  
MEETINGS, LOCAL AUTHORITY  
MEETINGS  
AND OTHER WORK  
ONLINE FROM HOME..**



**....SO WE ARE GLAD TO BE HERE WITH  
YOU ALL FACE TO FACE TO PRESENT  
THIS PARENT CARER CONFERENCE.**



## WHAT WE HAVE DONE SINCE OUR LAST CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 2021.....

Worked with Durham County Carer Support, Rollercoaster and CAMHS on joint workshops.

Gave out 120 carers wellbeing bags and 80 child / young persons mental health gift bags in exchange for feedback and involvement with surveys etc.

Kay joined as a new MCT steering group member.

Returned to doing our MCT steering groups face to face.

Arranged 2 soft play information events.

Still doing some online zoom & teams meetings with the local authority and NHS.

Attended the Autism awareness day at County Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

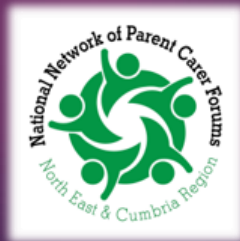
Attended the Durham SENCO network meetings and events

WE HAVE ATTENDED DOZENS OF HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS. OFTEN 2/3 MEETINGS A DAY. THESE INCLUDED :

- \* MCT STEERING GROUP MEETINGS- NOW FACE TO FACE. 😊
- \* SEND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROUP
- \* SEND LEADERSHIP GROUP
- \* SHORT BREAKS
- \* REGIONAL PCF
- \* AUTISM STEERING GROUP
- \* PREPARING FOR ADULthood ( PfA)
- \* SENDIASS STEERING GROUP

PLUS MORE....

**WE CONTINUED TO WORK WITH THE OTHER NORTH EAST PARENT CARER FORUMS BY ATTENDING MONTHLY ONLINE CATCH UP MEETINGS ( AND EVEN HAD ONE FACE TO FACE CATCH UP).....**



**..WE ALSO CONTINUED TO WORK WITH OTHER NATIONAL PARENT CARER FORUMS VIA DISCUSSIONS ON THE NNPCF FACEBOOK GROUP, EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE & VARIOUS COURSES AND WORKSHOPS.**



**WE CONTINUED TO WORK WITH ROLLERCOASTER, DURHAM COUNTY CARERS SUPPORT AND CAMHS TO OFFER JOINT PARENT CARER TRAINING.**

**DARLINGTON PARENT CARER FORUM HAVE ALSO JOINED TO OFFER SOME JOINT WORKSHOPS TOO.**

**WE HAVE ALL DONE DOZENS OF WORKSHOPS SINCE OUR LAST CONFERENCE.**

**WE LISTENED TO CARERS & HAVE ALSO DONE SEVERAL WORKSHOPS ON AN EVENING.**



## **WHAT WE HAVE COMING UP...**

**We plan to put on some more soft play and activity sessions in the next few months.**

**We have dozens of parent carer workshops on a range of topics both during the day & on an evening.**

**We plan to offer Parent / carer wellbeing bags and children / young people's wellbeing bags.**

**We plan to do more coffee mornings and coffee evenings either online or face to face.**

**We plan to do a Carers week event. Carers week is 6-12<sup>th</sup> June 2022.  
More details coming soon.**



WE UPDATE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS  
REGULAR SO PLEASE LIKE , SUBSCRIBE OR FOLLOW US...

 @MakingChangesTogetherDURHAM

 @MCTDurham

 @makingchangestogetherdurham

 MCT DURHAM PCF

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION  
ABOUT WHAT MCT DO , HOW TO JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST OR HOW TO JOIN THE  
STEERING GROUP PLEASE EMAIL :  
[info@mctdurham.co.uk](mailto:info@mctdurham.co.uk) .





## Short Breaks Update – Lyndsey Dunn and Ruth Pope

Lyndsey pointed out that whilst she hadn't prepared a power point presentation, there was a lot of information on the short breaks table in the Marketplace for parents to take home;

Lyndsey described briefly how Short Breaks were delivered throughout the period of the pandemic and how, post-pandemic, people still feel stressed and in need of a short break. She talked about the current short break offer;

Every child and young person should be able to take part in physical activities such as football or other sports, and activities such as catching up with friends. Sometimes, children with disabilities can't access these things in the same way.

Ruth has been gathering information from parents/carers to understand their child's needs and to identify where and what activities are required across the county. It is important that the Local Offer ensures that all children can access something suitable for them, wherever they live in the county.

Lyndsey described the additional support available to families of children who can't access the local offer arrangements as described above.

For children who can't take place in group activities the service now offers a 'buddy' scheme. All of the levels of need or short breaks are accessible by contacting Ruth and discussing individual needs.

The Specialist offer is for children and families who have a social care assessment and require a specialist level of support.

Lyndsey used a prop, which was a toolbox to represent the tools that the service needs to work with children and young people across the board, to ensure full inclusion.

Ruth's new role is as Enabling and Inclusive Communities Officer, she is now responsible for broadening the offer and enabling all children to be involved.

Lyndsey talked about a new grant from the LA to provide support to enable children and young people to access activities at the same cost as a child who doesn't require a 1:1 support by providing a financial subsidy to access activities.

The need and cost of short breaks at the high end is rising massively, but not only are the costs spiralling but there is a shortage of staff generally available to enable appropriate short breaks can occur. Lyndsey explained that so far, they have responded to everything parent/carers and CYP's have asked them to do.


Contact details and other information can be seen in the flyer below.

### Short Break Offer

For families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Life has been very different over the last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We know that some people have found this time very difficult. You may have felt alone, been worried or stressed, and may feel less able to look after your emotional and physical health.

As restrictions are easing, we want to help you get the most out of the services that are available to you and support you through another time of change.




### Short Break Offer


For families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

#### Parent/carer online support

Durham County Carers Support are hosting a variety of online support, training and activity sessions for carers. For more information please contact 0300 005 1213 or visit [www.dccarers.org](http://www.dccarers.org)

Making Changes Together Parents Forum (MCT) are running Zoom coffee events. For more information please contact [info@mctdurham.co.uk](mailto:info@mctdurham.co.uk) or visit [www.mctdurham.co.uk](http://www.mctdurham.co.uk)





#### The Local Offer


Visit the Local Offer for information on groups that provide activities for children and young people with SEND. The Local Offer also has information on groups that provide direct support to parents. You will need to contact the groups to find what they have on offer at the moment.

[www.countydurhamfamilies.info/localoffer](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/localoffer)

### Short Breaks Solutions

If you are struggling to find suitable activities for your children to give you a short break from your caring role, our Short Breaks Solutions service will work with you to find options that suit your family's needs. Short Breaks Solutions can refer you to some tailored opportunities for children and young people with SEND that will benefit them and their families outside of their education.

To access any of the activities please contact Short Breaks Solutions:  
 Email: [shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk)  
 Telephone: 03000 260 270




#### Fun & Food

Do you find the school holidays a struggle? Finding fun things for your kids to do that don't cost the earth and paying for all that extra food or childcare.

Fun and Food provides FREE holiday activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people. Activities are provided by schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services and our family centres.



You can find out what is available in your area at [www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood](http://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood)




#### Online activities and support

We understand that some families are still unsure about attending face to face activities. There are still lots of activities that can be accessed online visit: [www.durham.gov.uk/article/23129/Online-activities](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/23129/Online-activities) for ideas of things to do at home or [www.countydurhamsport.com/young-people/active-30](http://www.countydurhamsport.com/young-people/active-30) for lots of fun physical activities.

Parents and carers can get advice and support on how to look after their physical and mental health from the [Wellbeing for Life Service](#). You can [Register online](#) or use the My Wellness app to help you stay healthy and active. It offers daily workouts with step by step instructions on how to complete the moves at home, as well as monthly challenges.



## SENDIASS Update



Lisa introduced her team; Heidi, Catherine and Angela and Ann. As well as Ruth who sits within the service.

SENDIASS carried over about 300 families from the last academic year, and this current year they have additionally received 504 referrals so far. They are currently working with over 100 families each, and the majority of referrals come directly from parents.

The service has very few young people refer directly and the other main source of referrals is from schools, on behalf of parent/carers.

A detailed breakdown of referral information and other SENDIASS information, as well as information about the new Green Paper is laid out in the presentation slides below.



 Service Update for the  
MCT Conference XXVII 

---



Review of  
SENDIASS  
Data so  
far in  
2022

---



How many enquires have we taken from January to April 2022?

467 new referrals

---

Each have a caseload of over a 100 families



## Source of the referral

---

417 parents or carers

4 family members of the parents' behalf

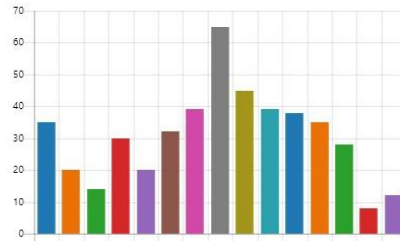
1 young person

19 schools

5 SEND Casework Team

17 Early Help & One Point

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Nursery   | 35 |
| Reception | 20 |
| Year 1    | 14 |
| Year 2    | 30 |
| Year 3    | 20 |
| Year 4    | 32 |
| Year 5    | 39 |
| Year 6    | 65 |
| Year 7    | 45 |
| Year 8    | 39 |
| Year 9    | 38 |
| Year 10   | 35 |
| Year 11   | 28 |
| Year 12   | 8  |
| Year 13   | 12 |



## Referrals by Year Group

### 13. Primary Area of SEND

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Cognition & Learning             | 53  |
| Social, Emotional & Mental He... | 142 |
| Communication & Interaction      | 232 |
| Physical & Sensory               | 27  |



### 14. Secondary Area/s of SEND

[More Details](#)

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Cognition & Learning             | 46 |
| Social, Emotional & Mental He... | 86 |
| Communication & Interaction      | 32 |
| Physical & Sensory               | 28 |



## Area of SEND Needs

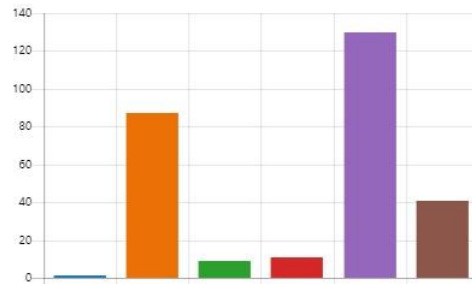


# SEND Intervention Level

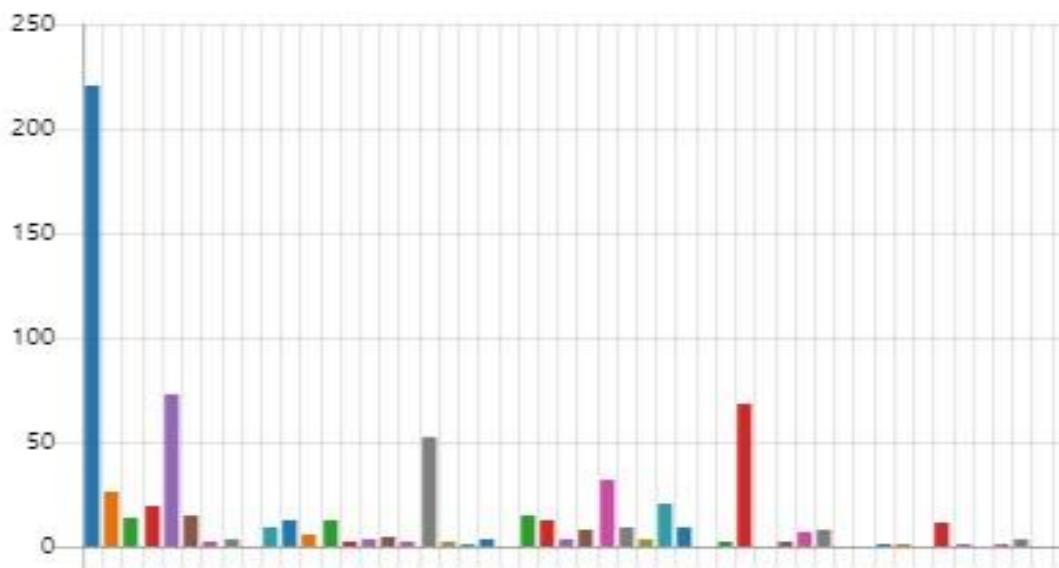
## 17. SEND Intervention Level

[More Details](#)

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Short note                  | 1   |
| SEN Support Plan            | 87  |
| SEN Plan and Top up Funding | 9   |
| Under Assessment request    | 11  |
| Draft/Final EHC Plan        | 130 |
| Other                       | 41  |



Reasons: Confidence in SEND Support ,Parental request for assessment, Section I Appeals, Change of placement, School Avoidance/Attendance.

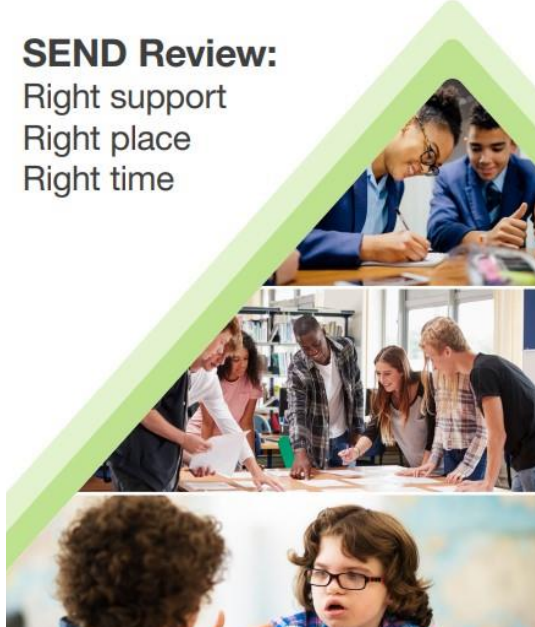




The government have been looking at the services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and in alternative provision to look at how to improve them

HM Government

**SEND Review:**  
Right support  
Right place  
Right time



## What the review found?

1. It's hard for children, young people, their families, and schools to get the support they need when they need it.

2. Children and young people with SEND don't always get the support they need to do as well as they could.

3. Too many children do not have a good experience of alternative provision.

4. The money used to support children and young people with SEND or who are in alternative provision is not always used in the best way.

# What was causing the problems?



SEND and alternative provision services are different depending on where you live. The service that you get depends on where you live, not on what you need.



People do not always know what their job is to help children and young people with SEND which means they do not always do it properly.



Children and young people's needs aren't identified quickly enough.



Too many children and young people get support too late.



Some children and young people who need an EHCP have to wait a long time to get one.

Too many children do not get the support they need in mainstream school and have to go to special or alternative provision when that may not be the best option for them.



We want every area in the country to use the same way of working so children and young people get the support they need no matter where they live.



Every area of the country would use the same way of working to:

- decide what children and young people with SEND need.



- support children and young people with SEND.



- involve children, young people and their families in decisions about support.

## Ideas for change...

a single SEND and alternative provision system



- There will be more money for mainstream schools to improve support so that more children and young people with SEND can go to their local school.



- We want to give staff in nurseries and schools better training through a new qualification to support children and young people with SEND.



- We want to collect information to better understand the support that children and young people with SEND need from health services.



- There will be more support for children, young people and families outside of school and to help young people to get a job when they are adults.



- There will be more money for new special schools for children and young people that need them. We want schools to work together to give children and young people the right support.

# Ideas for change...

Better support for children and young people with SEND



We want to know what you think about these ideas.



We need to know what you think by Friday, 22 July 2022.



Please contact us and tell us what you think by:  
Email:  
[sendreview.consultation@education.gov.uk](mailto:sendreview.consultation@education.gov.uk)



Post:  
SEND and AP green paper consultation  
Department for Education  
1st Floor, St Paul's Place  
Sheffield  
S1 2JP



Phone: 0370 000 2288

17

Let the review know what you think

## Our Contact Details

Telephone: 0191 5873541 or 03000 267004  
including 24 hours answer machine (please leave  
a message if they can't get through first time).

Email: [sendiass@durham.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@durham.gov.uk)

Website: <https://durhamsendiass.info/>

Facebook Messenger

### **Durham Autism Hub**

Heidi described her role and the development of the Durham Autism Hub across the last year. The scope of what the service has developed is laid out in the power point presentation below.

Heidi also described the further changes that are about to happen when SENDIASS starts to work with County Durham CCG, when the Autism Hub will be re-branded as Durham Neurodevelopmental Family Support Hub.

Durham Autism Hub

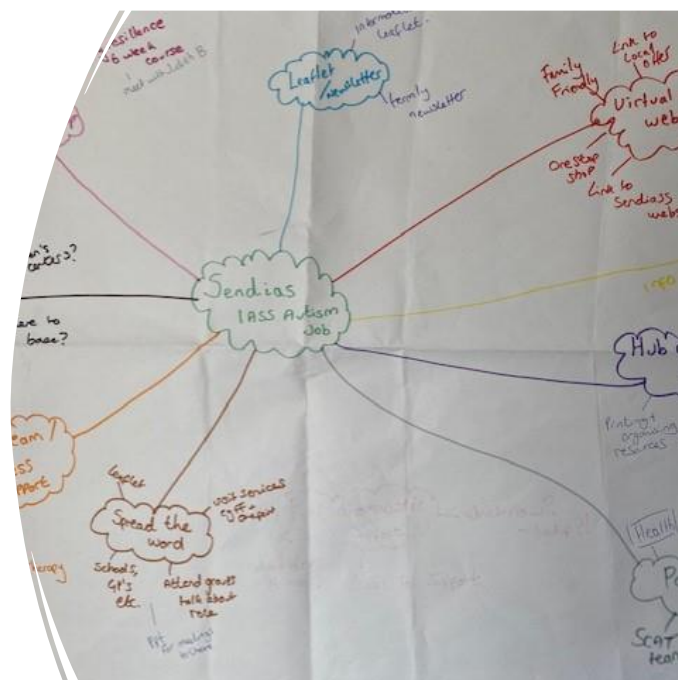


SENDIASS – Autism and Social Communication difficulties officer

1 year on....

Heidi Donkin

It all started with an interview, an appointment and a spider diagram.....(and COVID-19)



## The vision of support – the beginning

An Autism Information Hub based within the SENDIASS Service at Lee House, Easington

A Virtual Autism Information Hub. This will be embedded within the SENDIASS website and Local Offer as a 'one stop shop' to gain information, advice, support, across County Durham.

Develop an offer of 'pop up' hubs based in the family centres across County Durham.

Parent/Carer drop in sessions at the Information Hub as well as virtual sessions where parent/carers can have a 1:1 appointment to discuss the needs of their individual family including their worries, concerns, and specific issues.

Multi-agency drop-in sessions at the information hub and virtual sessions, where a range of professionals/services will be in attendance, providing a 'one stop shop' for families.

Peer support drop in sessions such as meet and play sessions or group activities.

In response to parent/carer feedback a peer support group for Dads to provide a safe space for dads to meet together and provide opportunities for peer support, enabling dads to support each other, share experiences and ideas.

Parent learning opportunities. Topics will vary depending on need and family led feedback about future learning opportunities. These will be ran both virtually and in person.

A County Durham Autism Family Support Facebook group

## Timeline of key developments

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 –Support Autism workshop review to develop parent carer training programme

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Autism Champion Proposal to One Point

15<sup>th</sup> June 2021– MCT steering group meeting to share ideas and network

1<sup>st</sup> July 2021– First in school coffee morning held

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 –Development of the Autism Hub commenced in Lee House

18<sup>th</sup> August 2021– Work alongside IiC Anxious with Autism project commenced

30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Need's led pathway proposals commenced

29<sup>th</sup> October 2021– Autism Hub Launch Event

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021– One Point Champions trained

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021– First live webinar streamed

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022– Stay and play parent support sessions launched at Dragonflies soft play

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022– Delivered training alongside NAS for newly qualified social workers

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022– Commenced work alongside IiC to produce an information pack for newly diagnosed young people

28<sup>th</sup> February 2022– Durham Autism Hub Facebook group launched

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022– Girls Autism Youth Art Project Launched

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022– SENDIASS and One Point Toddler group launched

Week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March– Autism Awareness and Acceptance week with daily lunch and Learn training sessions for professionals

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 –Commenced review of Autism Awareness E-learning course for CYPs online portal

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 –Durham Autism Awareness Event at County Hall

18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 –First Fun and Food funded SENDIASS event with Nikki Noo Noo Forest Schools

# Some of the highlights

So far.....

## Autism Champions

- 20 One Point workers from across the county attended a half day training course to be come Autism Champions for their teams.
- Champions now have access to regular update emails and meetings
- A Teams group page was set up to share information.
- Mailing list created for useful training and events.







## Autism Hub Launch Event

- The opening event was supported by locally based agencies and groups who are committed to working together to support Autistic people and their families in County Durham. Members of the public were invited along to visit the hub and attend a carousel of information stalls on the day.



## Durham Autism Hub Facebook Group







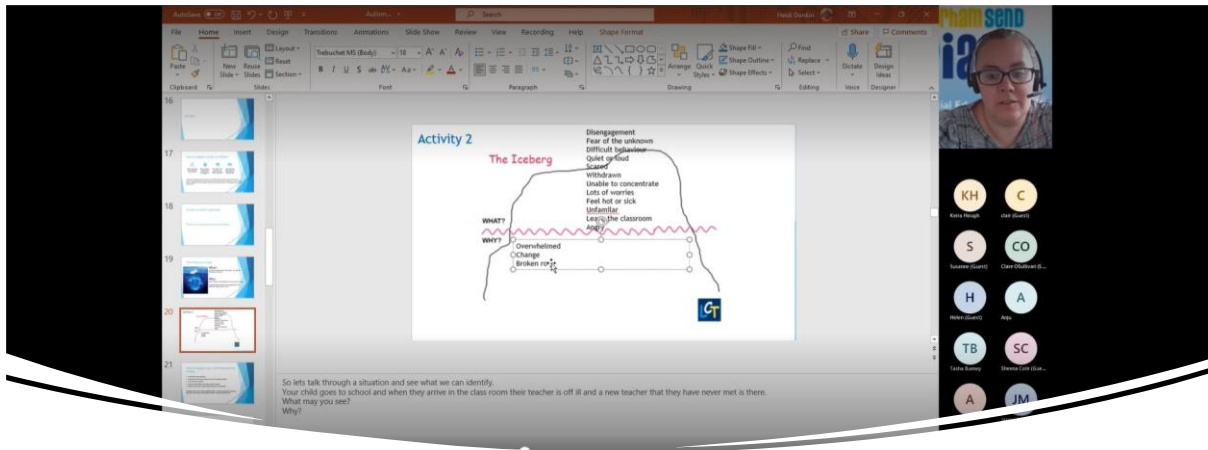
## Girls Autism Youth Art Group

---



## One Point and SENDIASS Toddler Group

---




## Virtual Webinars


- Autism and Anxiety
- Autism, Puberty and Gender
- Autism and Girls
- More to come!

## Lunch and learn sessions for professionals





New ideas  
and coming  
soon...

- Further work on a virtual website offer
  - Sibling support
  - Dads and male carers support re -launch
  - Teens and young people support
  - Pop up sessions in family centre hubs
- 



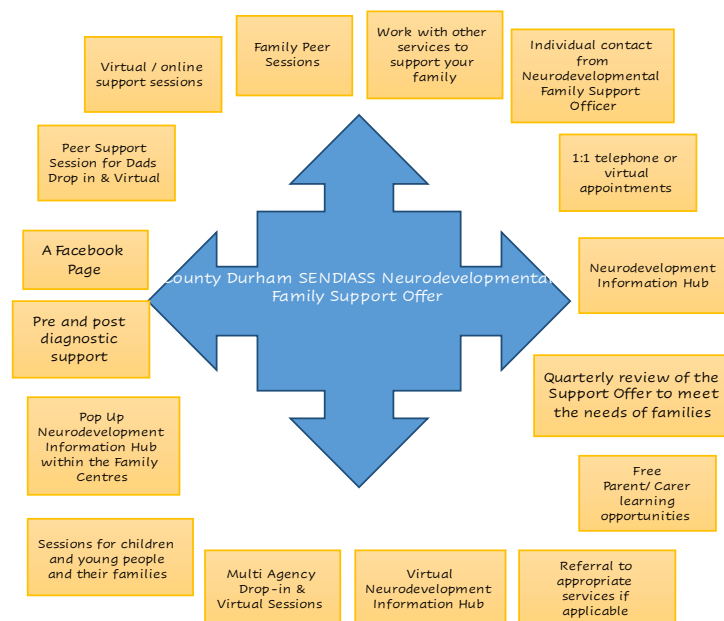
And.....

## Re-branding of the Autism Hub!!

Neurodevelopmental family Support Hub



## Support offer



## Daisy Chain – Toni and Laura

Daisy Chain staff described the new Complex Needs Key Worker Project. The organisation has been commissioned by the NHS to provide a Key Working function to families with complex needs, and will offer support to families of

disabled children and young people. A diagnosis of autism or a learning disability is required to access the key working team.

Staff described what will be offered to families, the service specification, aims and objectives, access criteria and team structure is described in the presentation below;





## INTRODUCTION

The Key Working Function has been developed as a response to the NHS England & NHS Improvement Long Term Plan (LTP) commitment that by 2023/24, children and young people with a learning disability, autism, or both, with the most complex needs will have a designated Keyworker.

A Keyworker will be allocated to children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both, who are inpatients, or at risk of being admitted to hospital. Those children at risk of school exclusion or family breakdown will also be allocated a Complex Needs Key Worker under the project.



## Outcomes

The Complex Needs Key Working Team will deliver a timely and coordinated package of support, ensuring:

- Access routes to support are clear
- Support is personalised and appropriate to the Child/young person and families needs
- Continuity
- Services and assessments are integrated across the various sectors
- Reasonable adjustments are made where necessary
- The Families and Children/young people feel involved in planning their care and support



The Key Worker Project is made up of 2 elements:

1. Positive Behaviour workshops.
2. 1:1 support from an allocated Key Worker

For both elements of support a diagnosis of Autism and/or Learning Disability must be in place and the Child must be aged 4-12 years.



## Positive Behaviour Support

This course is run over 3 consecutive weeks for 2.5 hours per session. We allow 30 mins for Q & A's. It is co-delivered by ParentCarer Forums.

Parents can self-refer, or a professional can refer on their behalf. Leaflets are readily available and can be shared electronically.

The parents will come away with a handbook and a bespoke plan for their child.

Keyworkers will identify through the sessions if a family requires additional support.





## 1:1 Keyworker Support

**The 1:1 support from a Key Worker is for those children/young people who:**

- Have a diagnosed Learning Disability and/or Autism diagnosis.
- Are aged 4-12 years
- May be at risk of Tier 4 inpatient admittance or are currently in an inpatient setting.
- Face placement breakdown, or are at risk of out of area educational placement
- Are on the Dynamic Support Register.

\*Please note If the Child/young person is at the 'red' level on the DSR support can be offered up to the age of 18 years\*



## Where do we work?

The Complex Needs Key Working Team cover the following areas:

- Durham
- Darlington
- Hartlepool
- Stockton
- Middlesbrough
- Redcar and Cleveland



## Structure of the Team

The team consists of the following:

- Strategic Lead – Laura Leaf
- One Senior Complex Needs Key Worker – Toni Fleming
- Complex Needs Key Workers –  
Nicola Nicholson, Rebecca Addison



## Referrals

The Complex Needs Key Working Team can accept referrals for 1:1 support from:

- The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- MAAT following diagnosis
- Paediatricians
- SALT
- LD CAMHS
- Local Authority Education Department.



## What is the Dynamic Support Register?

It is important that local NHS services understand the needs of people with a learning disability, autism or both in their area, so that they can make sure people receive the right support.

There is a requirement for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities to develop and maintain registers to identify people with a learning disability, autism or both who display behaviour that challenges or mental health conditions who were most likely to be at risk of admission.

A representative from The Complex Needs Key Worker Team attend the monthly DSR meetings to ensure those children and young people meeting the criteria are referred as soon as possible.

(Information sourced from NHS Website)



## Service Aims and Objectives

- Ensure the child, young person and their family are at the centre of any planning and discussions.
- Ensure effective communication is in place.
- Advocate, support, challenge and influence problem solving to pull a strong coordinated personalised package of care together.
- Facilitate the provision and implementation of a tailored holistic package of support to help the child or young person and their family.



## Continued ....

- Deliver training to parent carers in relation to empowering to increase confidence and resilience.
- To maintain individuals in their own home and prevent escalation of need, wherever possible
- To reduce admissions to inpatient care through preventing crisis and placement breakdown
- Identify, guide and refer to other services where needed e.g. carer support services, Child Adolescent Mental Health Services, short breaks provision etc.



## Any Questions?

Contact us

Tel: 01642 531248

Email: [keyworking@daisychainproject.co.uk](mailto:keyworking@daisychainproject.co.uk)



## **SEND Casework Team Overview – Clive Horton**

Clive introduced himself and highlighted the team manager email addresses to enable parent/carers to make contact should they need to. He explained that the SEND teams carry out EHC assessments and the outcomes of assessment, including producing EHC plans and securing provision. The post 16 team has responsibilities for all issues relating to Young People with EHC plans moving into adulthood and further education. Clive described the growth of the SEND Casework teams to cope with the increased volume of applications for EHC assessments.

The team coordinates all annual reviews, following the review meeting in school and liaison with educational settings and parent/carers, chasing up those meeting that have not been held. The team also offers guidance and support to schools/colleges relating to all issues relating to EHC assessment and plans.

The presentation power point slides below, describe the main functions of the service and its structure as well as charts showing the numbers of requests for assessment, the number refused and comparisons across the last few years.

Delegates asked questions about commissioning of school places and whether there would be changes to the EHC plans as it was currently hard to read.

Clive explained how SEND provision works and also highlighted that through the new Green Paper, the government were proposing standardising the EHCP in the future.

## Durham SEND Casework Team

Theme 1 – New Assessments – Nursery to Yr10

Clive Horton [clive.Horton@durham.gov.uk](mailto:clive.Horton@durham.gov.uk)

Theme 2 – Annual Reviews – Nursery to Yr10

Teri Corsan-Bland [teri.cbland@durham.gov.uk](mailto:teri.cbland@durham.gov.uk)

Theme 3 – Post-16 Yr11 plus Assessments and Reviews

Sam Black [samantha.Black@durham.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.Black@durham.gov.uk)

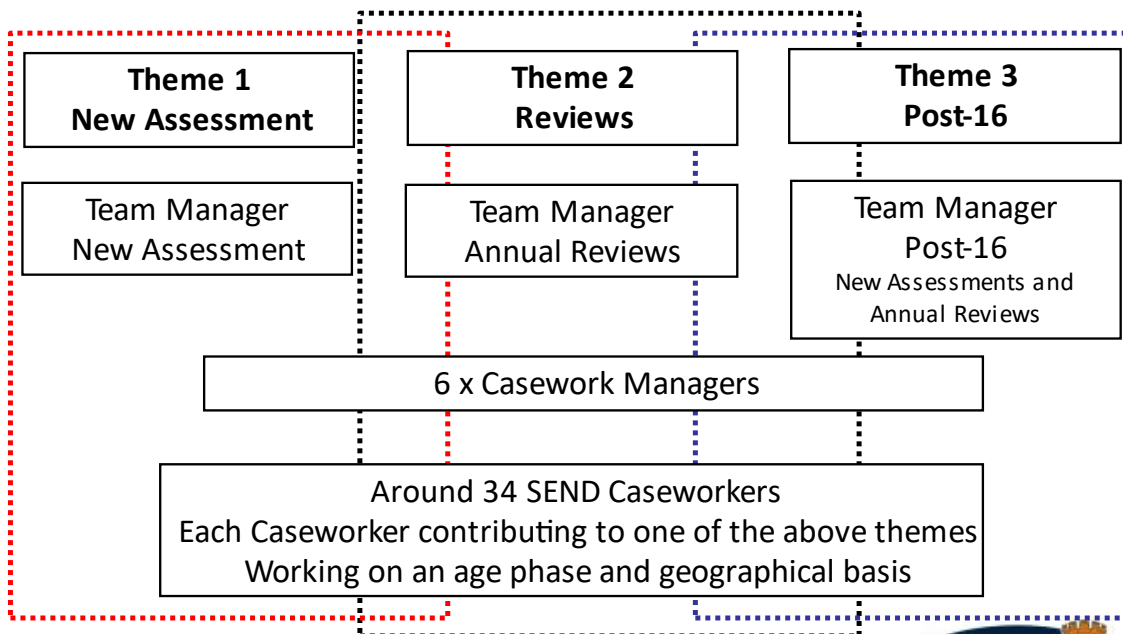


### **Main Function of the SEND Casework Team**

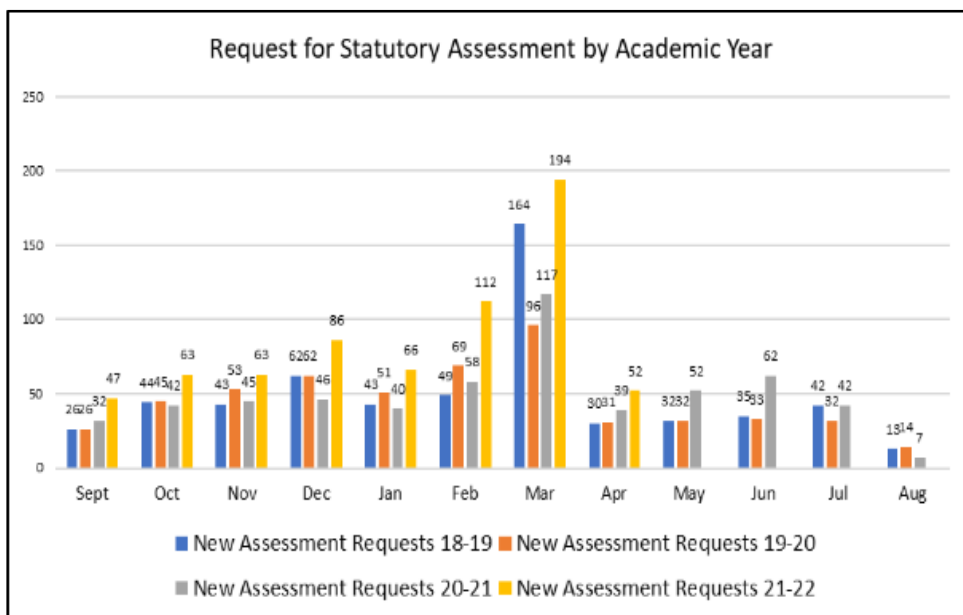
- Facilitate the assessment of a child/young person special educational needs
- Determine if a child/young person requires the support of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Commission appropriate education provision for a child/young person with an EHCP
- Process annual reviews of a child's/young person's EHCP and commission ongoing provision where required
- Support transition planning for young adults moving from education provision to ongoing social care support



## SEND Casework Team



[SENCasework@durham.gov.uk](mailto:SENCasework@durham.gov.uk) 03000 265878

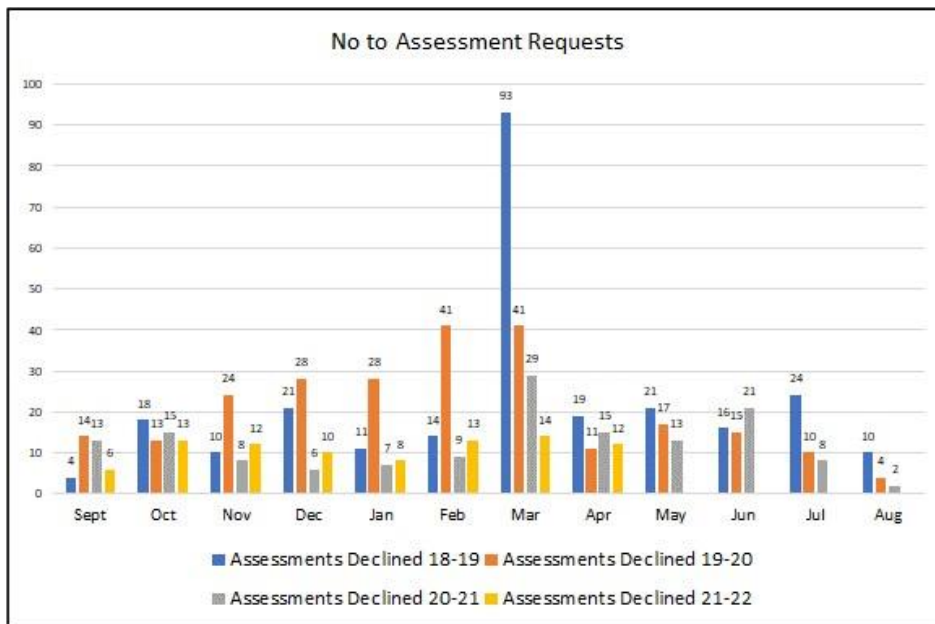


#### Total Requests Received

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 18/19 | 583                   |
| 19/20 | 544                   |
| 20/21 | 582                   |
| 21/22 | 683 (To end of April) |

There is an increasing level of requests for new assessments  
Presently 500 plus active assessments

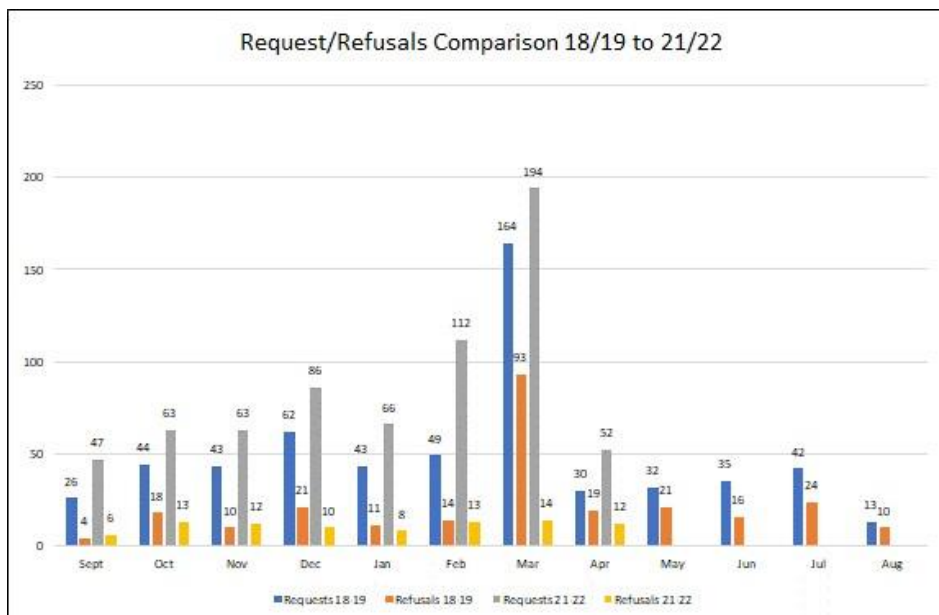




**Total Refusals**

|       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| 18/19 | 261                  |
| 19/20 | 246                  |
| 20/21 | 146                  |
| 21/22 | 88 (To end of April) |

Around 1.5%-2% of assessments end with an EHCP NOT BEING PROVIDED





### Annual Reviews

- Schools/Providers are responsible for facilitating the annual review of their children/young people
- Schools/Providers forward reviewed EHCPs to SEND Casework
- Durham SEND Casework Team finalise updated EHCP and forward to parents/carers and schools /providers

### 2021 -2022:

#### Nursery to Year10

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Total Number of EHCPs               | 2227 |
| Received to Date                    | 1283 |
| Processed and Issued/Ready to Issue | 1136 |

#### Yr11 to Post -16 Plus

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Total Number of EHCPs | 1679 |
| Received              | 612  |
| Completed             | 489  |



Any Questions

Comments

Reflections



## Team Training - Victoria Robertson (MCT)

Victoria described the joint working between MCT, CAMHS, Durham County Carers, TEWV, Rollercoaster and the newly joined Darlington parent/carer forum in the development and delivery of a range of training for parents and carers.

She described the range of sessions offered since last November and the further range of workshops offered during May and June this year. There was information on the MCT stall in the marketplace, as well as on their website.

The presentation power point below contains information on all the past and future sessions and some contact details. Victoria asked delegates to complete a pro-forma to inform what further sessions they might want.





## We have a new Team Member!

Darlington Parent Carer Forum have joined Team Training to offer some Joint Workshops.



## Sessions offered since Nov 2021:

- Emotional Wellbeing
- Supporting Anxious Children  
Autism and Girls
- Sleep Workshop
- Making Sense of Caring
- GamCare
- Support for Siblings
- Adjusting to the Diagnosis
- Access to the Creative Education Online Resources





What parents said :

*It was so helpful!*

*I found it interesting, it made me think about things I hadn't before.*

*Thank you, you covered a lot of information.*

*This has been massively helpful, thank you!*

*I've felt very knowledgeable and happy to have listened to this talk.*

*Better informed.*

*Supported.*

*Better informed to support my children.*

*Listened to.*



## Sessions coming up in May & June 2022:

- Continued access to the Creative Education Online Resources
- Navigating the Neurodevelopmental Pathway
- SEND Support in Early Years
- SEND Support – The Graduated Approach
- Supporting Children who are Anxious
- Emotional Well Being



So, look out for Team Training Publicity on our social media platforms. It will look like this....



**Supporting Children Who Are Anxious**  
 Tuesday 24th May 2022 @ 9.30-11.15am or  
 Wednesday 6th July 2022 @ 9.30am - 11.15am (both sessions will be the same)

The session will help you to understand what anxiety is and why we experience it. Enable you to recognise the signs that your child is becoming anxious, and develop understanding of how to respond to your child's anxiety. You will also learn strategies to help your child manage their anxiety.

**Emotional Wellbeing**  
 Wednesday 22nd June 2022 @ 9.30-11.15am

This session will focus on emotional wellbeing, what it is and how we can improve it for ourselves and our children.

The sessions are aimed at parents of school aged children but parents of younger/older children are very welcome. The sessions will be led by a CAMHS trainer and will run on Microsoft TEAMS

To book places please email [familycarersupport@nhs.net](mailto:familycarersupport@nhs.net)  
 Please state which session/s you would like to attend and give your name, email address and contact number.

NHS  
 Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys  
 NHS Foundation Trust



Please let us know if you have any ideas for future sessions. You can contact any of the organisations through our social media platforms or website.

**Making Changes Together**  
 DURHAM  
[www.mctdurham.co.uk](http://www.mctdurham.co.uk)  
 c/o Durham SENDIASS  
 0191 5873 541

**Durham County carers support**  
[www.dccarers.org](http://www.dccarers.org)  
 Tel: 0300 0051213

**ROLLER COASTER FAMILY SUPPORT**  
[support@rollercoasterfs.co.uk](mailto:support@rollercoasterfs.co.uk)  
 Tel: 07377213952

**Durham HELP - Jenna Holliday and Amanda Harrison (daytime)**

**Jamie Hamilton and Mark Callaghan (evening)**

Mandy described the new service which is a joint venture between DCC and NHS England, working with Durham Works, Employability Durham and Durham Enable and all referrals must go through one of those three services. The service and the evidence-based interventions are listed within the presentation below, and intervention typically lasts 12 weeks;



The image shows a presentation slide for Durham HELP. The slide has a light grey background with a blue L-shaped graphic element on the left and bottom. The text is centered and includes the Durham HELP logo, a tagline, the title of the service, and the names of the practitioners. There are decorative dotted patterns in the top right and middle left corners.

**Durham HELP**  
Healthy minds, Empowering, Learning & Progressing

Mental Health Employment  
Practitioner (MHEP)

Jamie Hamilton  
Mandy Harrison  
Jenna Holliday

# Mental health and unemployment

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| One in four adults will experience mental health problems at any one time<br>(JSNA, Durham Insight). | National data suggests that for those who are not working, 50% claiming Employment Support Allowance, suffer mental ill health and for under 24 year olds, this increases to 70%.  | For those who are in work, 1 in 8 employees report having a mental health condition<br>(DWP, 2016)  |
| It is clear that as a result of COVID, levels of both mental ill health and unemployment are rising. | It is estimated that there will be a 33% increase in demand in new presentations and recurrences of mental ill health across England as a direct or indirect result of the pandemic.<br>(strategyunitwm.nhs.uk, Nov 2020). | In October 2020, unemployment levels in County Durham stood at 5.4% and it is estimated that the number of people unemployed could rise to as much as 10%,<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-work-infographics">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-work-infographics</a> |

## Durham County Council

Durham County Council have recognised the need to support the residents of County Durham with their mental ill health and unemployment, and have developed the role of the Mental Health Employment Practitioner to support the 3 main employability programmes operating across DCC:

**DurhamWorks (age 14-24)** DurhamWorks provides targeted support to unemployed 16 -24 year olds. The programme provides individualised support, using a range of innovative and flexible activities that promote emotional resilience and develop employment skills.

**Employability Durham** provide support for unemployed adults aged 25 and over with getting into paid employment through a range of support that can include, advice on CV's and interviews techniques, intervention planning, work experience, training and volunteering opportunities and access to funding to improve job prospects.

**DurhamEnable** provide support to those with multiple and complex barriers, prioritising those with disabilities, to obtain and sustain a paid employment or voluntary work. They support all age groups with complex needs which include SEND, LTC MH, LD and Autism.

# Our role

The Mental Health Employment Practitioner role has been developed in County Durham Council to assist the 3 supported employment teams in working with people aged 16+ who may have mental health difficulties and are seeking paid employment, training, and/or volunteering opportunities.

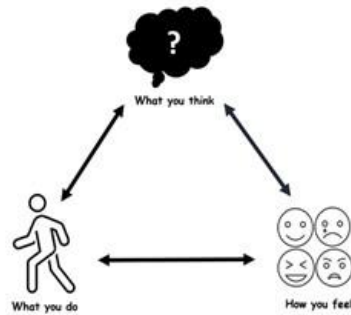
As a Mental Health Practitioner, we assess the needs of the client, support them in overcoming their mental health difficulty, build their resilience and signpost them to appropriate services

We offer advice, support, and training to staff and act as a link between employers and clients to identify any barriers, create reasonable workplace adjustments and promote positive change.

# Evidence based interventions

We deliver Evidence-based Psychological interventions that support clients with understanding and managing their mental health.

When we struggle with our mental health, it's like we get stuck in a vicious cycle of negative thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. Our interventions aim to break this vicious cycle and make it into a more positive one.





## We can offer support for clients struggling with symptoms of:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Depression                          | Suicidal ideation and Deliberate self-harm |
| Social Anxiety                      | Stress management                          |
| Separation Anxiety                  | Exam support                               |
| Worry (Generalised Anxiety)         | Self-esteem difficulties                   |
| Specific Phobia                     | Anger difficulties                         |
| Panic                               | Emotional Resilience                       |
| Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) | Sleep support                              |

## Mental Health Employment Practitioner

Each Mental Health Employment Practitioner will hold a case load of around 60 clients per year, over a 2 year period. This will result in 860 clients engaged and supported.

Clients must be registered with either DurhamWorks, Employability Durham or Durham Enable.

This new proposed scheme will help address the mental health support need for those seeking employment.

Ensuring faster and more streamlined Mental Health support for clients will improve their mental health, resilience and ability to seek work. This in turn will reduce the pressures across the NHS and increase employment rates.



# Any questions?

## **Extreme group and liC – Louise Frost, Emma and Jade**

Jade described her role as a volunteer with Investing in Children (liC) and told the conference that she has attended the extreme group since she was 10. Louise told the conference how liC is aiming for charity status currently, so they can raise money to provide further activities and support to C&YP in County Durham.

Follow a Participation model, which means enabling C&YP to use their voice to influence policy and practice relating to young people. Jade explained that they help make things better for others by providing input into all sorts of forums, challenging discrimination wherever they can.

The extreme group is a consultation group, utilised by organisations including DCC to ensure that C&YP with disabilities are fully engaged in decision making. For example, they were involved in looking at the accessibility of ENC plans,

and were able to get the message across that the current plans are hard to read.

Emma described her involvement with the group and which initiatives she was directly involved with during the Covid lockdowns. Emma came up with the idea of 'well-being' boxes, to send out to people to alleviate stress. She was also involved with a similar box containing cooking ingredients for C&YP and families to enjoy cooking together during lockdown,

The extreme group have been involved in delivering two information events for children and young people. They are currently involved in developing a website for children and young people with autism. The presentation below describes the work of Investing in Children;



Protecting the Rights of Children and Young People



## Investing in Children

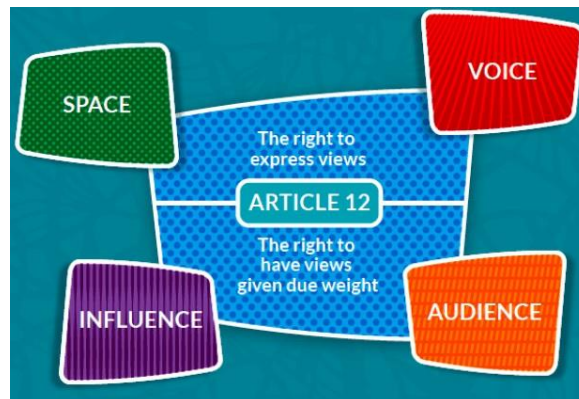
**Michelle Naughton**  
Project Worker

## What is liC?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax05yI0Hz90>

## Participation Model



## History of Investing in Children

- 1995 Created by a partnership between Durham County Council and the NHS.
- 2004 Investing in Children Development Agency was created in to allow iC to work with other public services across the UK
- 2013 Investing in Children became an independent Community Interest Company.

*Local, National and International work*

## Our Vision

- Children and young people possess the same rights as the rest of humanity.
- Therefore our vision is that young people experience a better quality of life in society in general terms. Furthermore, the services they access recognise and respect their human rights.

# Discrimination??



Investing in Children

## extreme Group

### What the group do

- We listen to the ideas of young people in County Durham with SEND.
- We help young people speak out to make services better for young people with SEND. These services include schools and colleges, health services like Doctors surgeries and hospitals, leisure services and transport.
- We go to events and organise events for young people.
- We support the work of Durham County Council and the Health Commissioners (CCG) in County Durham.

Investing in Children

## extreme Group

### Why get involved

- You can have a voice and speak up to make things better for young people in County Durham with SEND.
- You are respected.
- It's good experience and will help when applying for a job.
- You get paid to contribute your ideas and there are snacks.
- You can speak your mind without being judged.
- You can meet new people.

### Where and when are the meetings

- Monthly meetings take place at the Spivoli Centre, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5BZ. Please contact us for the upcoming dates - see contact details below.

### Contact info & how to get involved

Contact: The Project Team  
 Phone: 0191 3077030  
 Email: [info@investinginchildren.net](mailto:info@investinginchildren.net)

@iRights [investing@it4m](mailto:investing@it4m)  
 ICYP Investing in Children

Durham County Council  
 Durham, Gateshead and Sunderland Health and Care Partnership  
 Durham, Gateshead and Sunderland Health and Care Partnership Clinical Commissioning Group

Thank you  
Any questions??



## **SEND Update and Developments – Paul Shadforth**

Paul explained his role and the services he manages including the SEND service. He has attended every MCT conference since they began. He talked today about 3 topics;

The SEND Strategy; the focus groups going on and the progress being made. The whole of Durham County Council has signed up to the Strategic Vision within the strategy, and this is the first time that the whole of DCC has signed up to such a document.

The Green Paper; is a proposal by Government, following a review to gather parent/carer and stakeholder views on what they propose. The green paper will be followed by a White Paper prior to legal changes to the way SEND is

managed across the country. Paul described the contents of the green paper as 'ambitious'. The breadth of the proposals are set out in Paul's slides. The key issues have been put onto a feedback form so that parents/carers can feedback on the 5 issues that most concern them, so that they can be collated and fed back to the DfE as a collective Durham response

Changes in Top Up funding to schools;

Managers have looked at how they can distribute top up funding more usefully across schools and settings. They are looking at what each individual child needs via a 'banding system' where they have SEND. This has been developed with schools to identify what schools are doing with the funding assigned to each child. It's a fairer and more appropriate system of providing top up funding into schools, from September 2022

Paul answered questions from the floor about top up funding and how it is spent and also explained the term 'alternative provision' which is mentioned throughout the green paper.

The whole of Paul's presentations can be seen in the power point slides below;



## SEND Update and Developments

Making Changes Together Conference, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Paul Shadforth, Strategic Manager SEND and Inclusion Strategy and Assessment



## SEND Strategy 2022-2024

- Developed and co-produced with key stakeholders
- Was presented at the last MCT conference in November 21
- Has been agreed by full council and other key partnerships e.g. County Durham Care Partnership and Health and Well-being Board



## Strategic Vision

Our Vision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as it is for all children and young people in County Durham: That they are safe and part of their community, have the best start in life, have good physical and mental health, and gain the education, skills and experiences to prepare them for adulthood

This strategy should be built on a foundation of strong relationships and clear and positive communication between children and young people with SEND and those who support them.



## Strategic Aims

- Where possible, for all children and young people to attend their local school and education setting which understands them and is able to meet their needs
- To work closely with families to develop resilience and feel confident that needs are understood and met, and will continue to be met through all transitions
- To listen to what children and young people are telling us when supporting them and to support positive inclusion and develop their resilience and independence
- To identify needs in a timely way and have the right support available to meet needs at the right time
- For all education settings and their workforce to be confident in identifying and meeting needs, and to promote good health and wellbeing and inclusion
- To have a joined up offer of support available, which is appropriate to assessed needs.



## Developing County Durham's Response to the DfE Consultation on the Green Paper





## What is a Green Paper

---

- Produced by central government departments (DfE)
- Proposing legislation, policy and policy changes
- Offering to receive feedback through consultation from those inside and outside of parliament
- This green paper follows the National SEND Review which commenced in 2019



## National SEND Review Findings Summarised

---

- SEND and Alternative Provision now linked – AP seen currently as supporting the SEND system
- Increased demand for specialist and costly places and EHCPs
- Increasing costs and poor value for money
- Variable value for cyp
- Dissatisfaction across the system: Parents/carers, schools, Local Area
- Too much inconsistency across the system

An ambitious response required

## Green Paper Proposals- A single national SEND and Alternative Provision system

- establish a new national SEND and alternative provision system setting nationally consistent standards
- create new local SEND partnerships support parents and carers to express
- an informed preference for a suitable
- placement by providing a tailored list of Settings
- Introduce a standardised and digitised EHCP process and template
- Streamline the redress process

## Green Paper Proposals- Excellent provision from early years to adulthood

- increase the total investment in the schools' budget
- improve mainstream provision
- build expertise and leadership, by consulting on a new SENCo National Professional Qualification (NPQ) for school SENCos
- invest £2.6 billion, over the next three years, to deliver new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with SEND
- set out a clear timeline that, by 2030, all children and young people will benefit from being taught in a family of schools
- commission analysis to better understand the support that children and young people with SEND need from the health workforce
- fund more than 10,000 additional respite placements and invest £82 million in a network of family hubs
- invest £18 million, over the next three years to build capacity in the Supported Internships Programme

## Green Paper Proposals- A reformed and integrated role for alternative provision

- make alternative provision an integral part of local SEND systems
- give alternative provision schools the funding stability needed
- develop a bespoke performance framework for alternative provision
- deliver greater oversight and transparency
- launch a call for evidence, before the summer

## Green Paper Proposals- System roles, accountabilities and funding reform

- deliver clarity on roles and responsibilities for all partners
- equip the Department for Education's new Regions Group to take responsibility
- introduce a new inclusion dashboard for 0 - 25
- work with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- deliver funding reform through the introduction of a new national framework of banding and price tariffs for funding



**Locally-** Over the past three years we have worked with partners, children and their families to change the way we work in County Durham. A number of areas highlighted in the green paper are already being addressed through this work, including:

- employing more staff
- introducing online systems
- fair and consistent funding
- helping children better become part of their community
- improving the way children at risk of exclusion are supported
- improving standards
- reviewing the provision
- streamlined process for providing aids, adaptation and
- improving access to assessment, treatment and review
- continuing to review

## Responding to the Green Paper

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/27407/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-SEND-Review-Right-support-right-place-right-time>

You can either send us your comments or feedback to the Government directly.



- [online SEND green paper feedback form](#)
- [book a place at our question and answer event on Wednesday 18 May 2022](#) from 10.00am to 11.30am in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham
- [book a place at our question and answer event on Wednesday 25 May 2022](#) from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Beveridge Arcade, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4EH
- [book a place at our question and answer event on Thursday 26 May 2022](#) book a place at our question and answer event on Thursday 26 May 2022 from 1.00pm to 2.30pm in Stanley Civic Hall, Front Street, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0NA
- [reply about the SEND Review directly to the Government](#)

The deadline for comments to us is 5.00pm on Monday 30 May 2022.

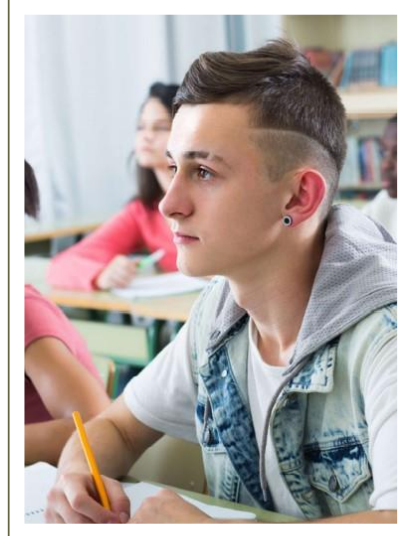
The deadline for comments directly to the government is Thursday 22 July 2022.



## Top-up Funding (TuF)

What is Top-up Funding?

Schools can apply for additional funding to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. This can only be applied for after schools have demonstrated they have used up their resources within their core budget that has been allocated specifically for supporting Children with SEND. This is called Topup Funding.



## Why are we changing the system?

---

- In 2019, we carried out a public consultation to propose changes to the way we deliver our services to ensure we were spending money on the right things, at the right place and right time.

Here's what you said....

- You want us to give clearer advice to schools so they know what they can get extra money for, how much and how it can be used.
- This extra money can be used to buy things in schools for children with lots of needs.
- You would like us to involve parents and carers in the decision-making process.



## How have we done it?

- We did lots of research and looked at good examples of how other councils manage their Top-up Funding system
- We worked with schools to write descriptions and examples to show how they can support children and young people with SEND using their own resources before they need to apply for additional financial support.
- We spent lots of time talking to key users of the system and produced a model that we tested out with schools and staff from within the SEND service.



## What will it look like?

- More streamlined
- A fairer system
- Based on the child's needs
- Allows for impact to be measured
- Support is consistent and fair
- System is easy to navigate and access
- Sufficient, good quality, clear advice and guidance is provided on the funding and support available
- Improved communications between schools, parents and other professionals about TuF support





# When will it launch?

We aim to launch the new system in September 2022



## Summary

- The SEND Strategy has been approved and an action plan is being developed
- The Governments Green Paper for SEND has been published and you are encouraged to have your say
- A new system for Top -up Funding has been developed and will be launched in September 2022.




## **SEND Green Paper proposals and Clinical Commissioning groups (CCGs) update – Dr Laura Coulthard, DCO**

Laura outlined her role, as set out within her slides. She also described what a CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) is, and that the NHS is again restructuring the way it operates soon. CCG's are disbanding in favour of an 'integrated

care system' across the North East and North Cumbria region, split into 3 'Integrated Care Partnerships' or ICPs.

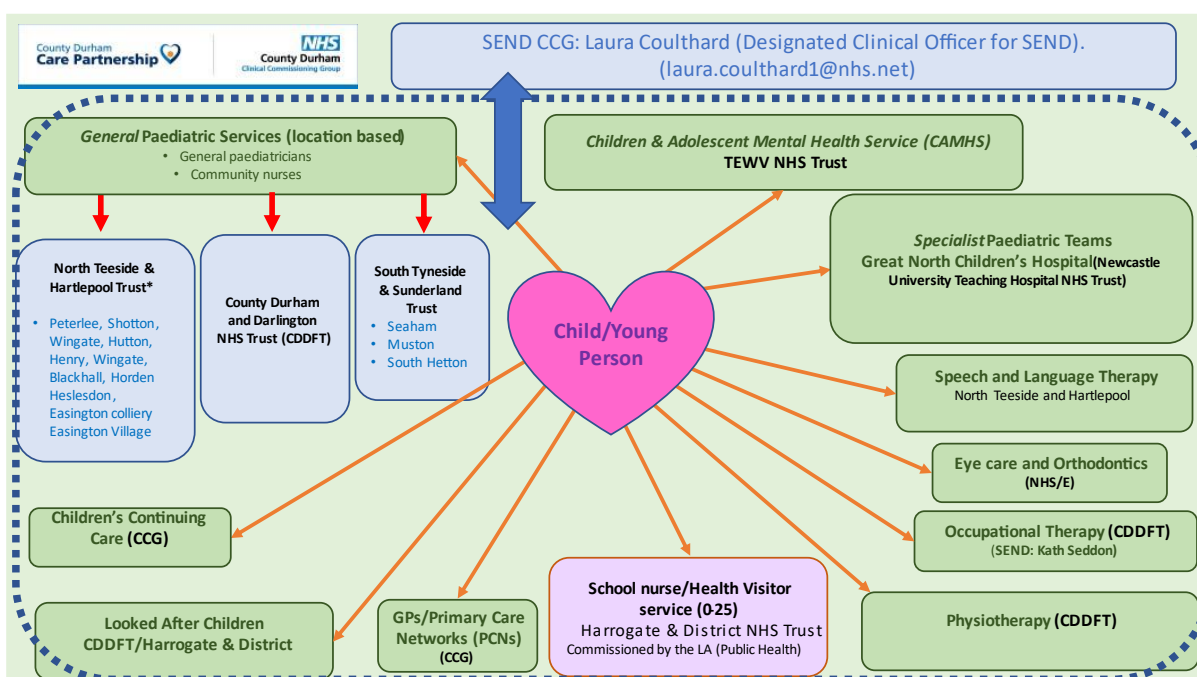
Laura talked about combining resources with the aim of improving care. She described the new health system having SEND considered at every level of all the health services she described. Laura's power point presentation below contains all the information she talked about;





## Dr. Laura Coulthard

### Designated Clinical Officer County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)



**NHS update  
July 2022**

The diagram shows a circular flow of information and governance:

- Integrated Care System (ICS)** at the top.
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)** on the right.
- Regional Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) (Central)** at the bottom.
- Delivered locally at place - County Durham Care Partnership** on the bottom left.
- Governed by the County Durham Integrated Care Partnership ICP** on the left.

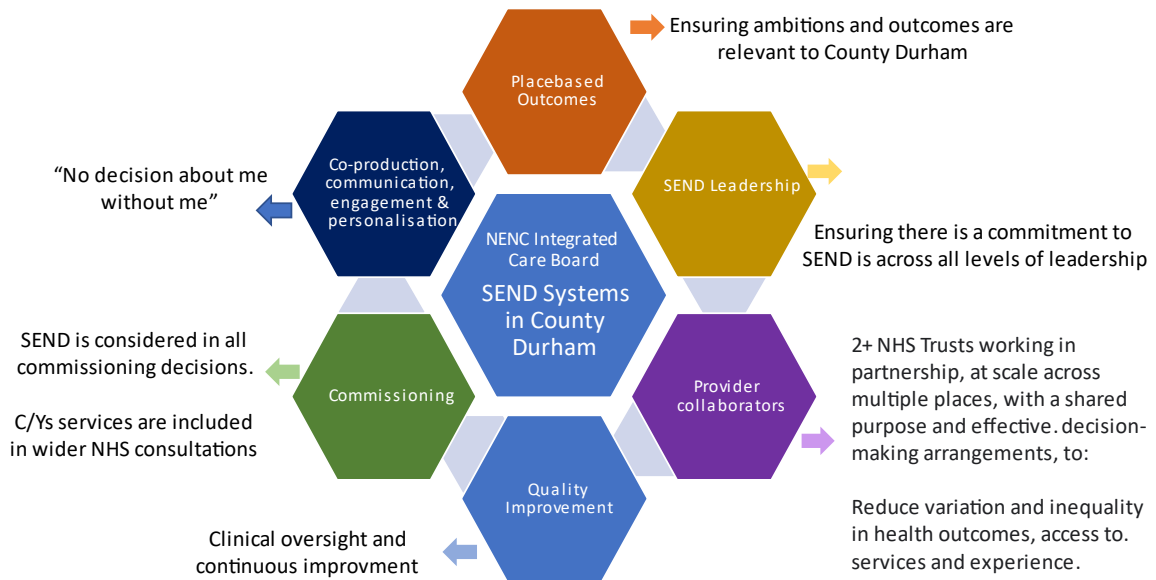
ICs were proposed in the NHS Long Term Plan (2019)

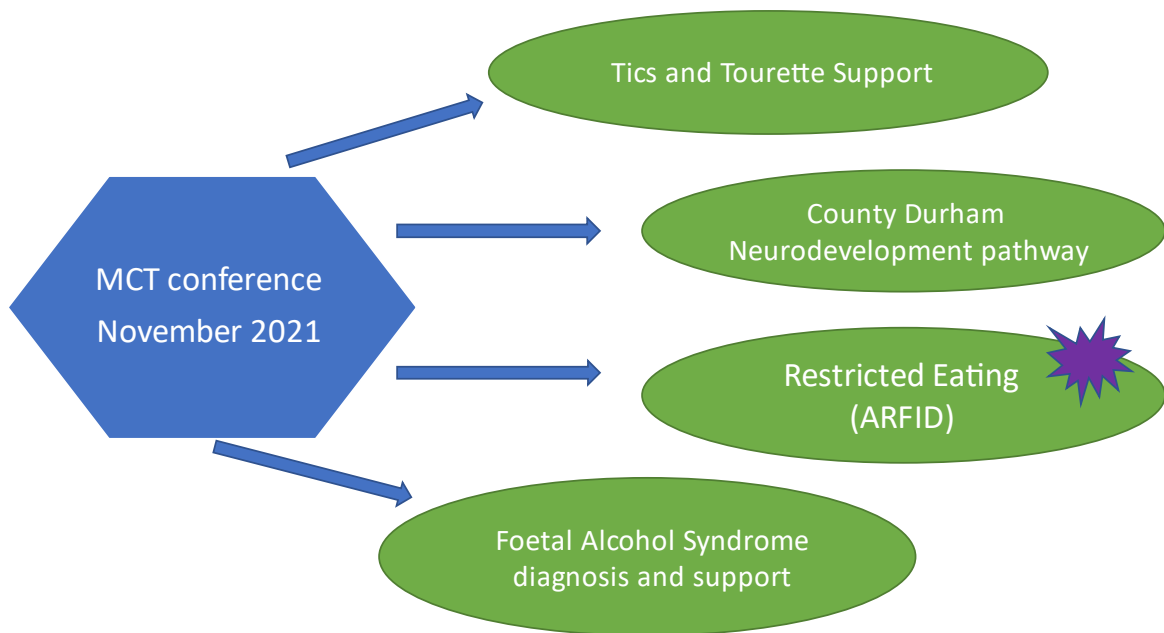
Integrated care systems (ICSs) are geographically based partnerships that bring together NHS providers, commissioners, the local authorities and other local partners to plan, co-ordinate and commission health and care services.

**Goals:**

- Move away from competition and towards collaboration
- Move away from disjointed care (Social care VS Health)
- Equal access across NE&NC
- Shared regional priorities
- County Durham are already doing this.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/whats-integrated-care/>





## The SEND Review 2022

### Three key challenges

1. Outcomes for children and young people with SEND or in alternative provision on average are poor.
2. Navigation of SEND systems and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people and families.
3. Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money. For children, young people and families.

## **Neurodevelopmental pathway – Mita Saha and Rachael Allen**

Rachael introduced herself and line manager Mita. She updated the conference about how the new pathway is progressing. It is a needs led offer with various routes of support for families of children and young people with autism and ADHD.

Mita explained how referrals used to go into CAMHS but they now go into their service, and the referral will be completed by a professional who knows the child and family best. The referrals go to a panel of professionals who share the information and decided how the child's needs can best be met.

Once a child is on the Pathway; a specialist assessment within TEWV is undertaken. The service can get as many as 100 referrals in one area in one week, so waiting times are understandably creeping up. The service went live in October 2021, aiming to improve access and advice. Referral form was felt necessary to enable the panel to see what help was needed. They are now considering a joint assessment for autism and ADHD as they occur so frequently together.

Mita was asked questions relating to what happens if a child or young person has begun their assessment within CAMHS, do they switch to the new pathway. Mita confirmed that all children will eventually be 'migrated' across to the new assessment pathway. They also talked about waiting lists and the difficulty of recruiting psychologists. The money is available but there are so few psychologists available across the general workforce.

For further information, see presentation below;

## County Durham and Darlington Needs Led Neurodevelopmental Pathway

Mita Saha, Service Manager Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS FT  
Rachael Allen, Team Manager Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS FT

### Why “Needs Led”?

- Parents highlighted the importance of needs being met, regardless of diagnosis
- Confusion over what services were available without diagnosis
- Importance of a culture change across the system away from diagnosis

## What do we mean by “Neurodevelopmental”?

- Lifelong
- Difficulties including:  
Cognition, language, motor development, attention, emotional regulation, social communication
- Evidence that neurodevelopmental conditions co-occur
- Two of the most common Neurodevelopmental conditions are ADHD and Autism

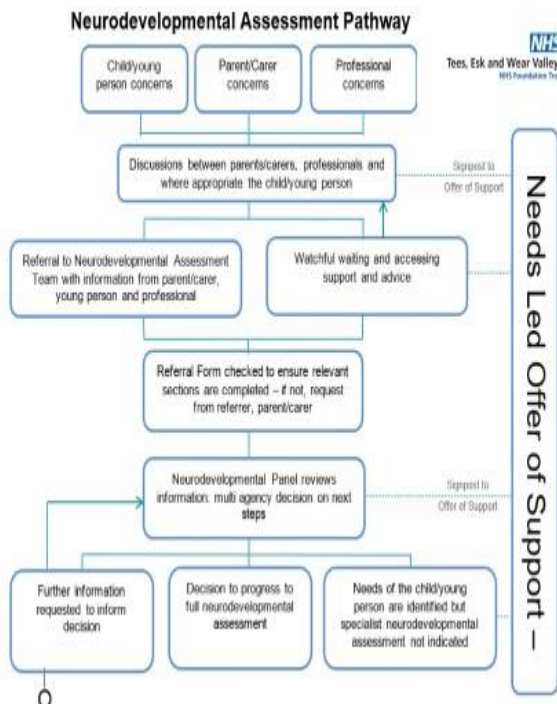


## Needs Led ‘Offer’

- Information brought together for the local area
- Some additional funding available to minimise ‘gaps’ identified
- Emphasis on support and advice being available regardless of diagnosis

[County Durham's Families Information Service | Search results](https://countydurhamfamilies.info)  
([countydurhamfamilies.info](https://countydurhamfamilies.info))





## County Durham Needs Led Pathway

## Neurodevelopmental Assessment Team

- TEWV service
- Brings together previous Autism and ADHD assessment pathways

### Separate pathways



### One pathway



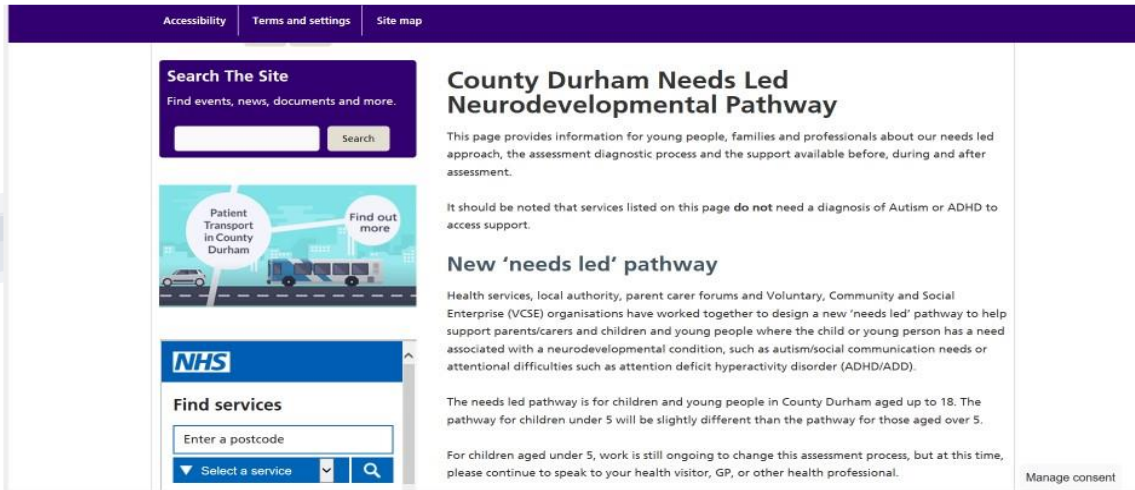
- CCG investment to increase capacity to meet increased demand/reduce waiting lists



## CCG Hosted Webpages

<https://countydurhamccg.nhs.uk/our-work/needs-led-neurodevelopmental-pathway/>

<https://teesvalleyccg.nhs.uk/our-work/darlington-needs-led-neurodevelopmental-pathway/>



Accessibility | Terms and settings | Site map

**Search The Site**  
Find events, news, documents and more.

Search

Patient Transport in County Durham Find out more

**NHS**  
Find services  
Enter a postcode  
Select a service

### County Durham Needs Led Neurodevelopmental Pathway

This page provides information for young people, families and professionals about our needs led approach, the assessment diagnostic process and the support available before, during and after assessment.

It should be noted that services listed on this page **do not** need a diagnosis of Autism or ADHD to access support.

#### New 'needs led' pathway

Health services, local authority, parent carer forums and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations have worked together to design a new 'needs led' pathway to help support parents/carers and children and young people where the child or young person has a need associated with a neurodevelopmental condition, such as autism/social communication needs or attentional difficulties such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD/ADD).

The needs led pathway is for children and young people in County Durham aged up to 18. The pathway for children under 5 will be slightly different than the pathway for those aged over 5.

For children aged under 5, work is still ongoing to change this assessment process, but at this time, please continue to speak to your health visitor, GP, or other health professional.

Manage consent

## Changes that Families/Carers will see

- Go Live dates: Darlington April 2021 Co Durham October 2021
- Availability of local website
- Improved access to advice and information on what support is available, regardless of diagnosis
- Introduction of Referral Form
- Early feedback on whether this will progress to further clinical assessment – replacing previous time within a CAMHS mental health team
- Single assessment process for Autism and ADHD
- Improved communication – TEWV are working with service user and carer groups to improve this and are contacting families regularly with suggestions of support that is available

Further information / queries?

[Mita.saha@nhs.net](mailto:Mita.saha@nhs.net)  
[Rachael.allen13@nhs.net](mailto:Rachael.allen13@nhs.net)

### **Raffle and closing comments**

The raffle took place and 10 prizes were handed out at the day conference with a further 4 distributed in the evening. Amy reminded delegates to complete and leave their evaluations to be collated, thanked everyone for attending and closed the conference.

## Daytime Evaluations

### Something I've learnt from today

- Information about Integrating Children
- SEND information
- Green Paper
- Neurodevelopmental Pathway
- Many parents are struggling with support regarding children and young people's behaviours especially when becoming challenging
- Beneficial an update on Green Paper
- Learning about the needs led pathway
- Green Paper
- That lots of work is taking place to improve services and help more children
- About Short Breaks
- Learnt about family Roller Coaster
- EHCP update plans
- About Daisy Chain and support available
- More information about EHCP process and outcomes as well as reviews
- The Autistic community voices being listened to within Investing in Children and being helpful to reach the wider community
- The process to gain an EHCP
- There is a lot of new information/organisations out there
- That there is help out there and people are willing to help
- How there are changes with regards to the Green Paper in education
- The restructuring of the SEND Casework Team, this has not been communicated to parents of children with an EHCP
- More about the Neurodevelopmental Pathway
- Green Paper
- It's possible to ask questions and speak to DCC reps.

### Something I've felt/ experienced today

- We are not alone, there are movement forward in services
- Nice to have food made for me, makes us parents feel appreciated
- Comradery
- Really great support from professionals and parents

- I've felt many parents are feeling let down by waiting times for diagnosis, support available prior to diagnosis and lack of understanding and support to meet the needs of individual children in educational settings
- Food was very nice
- Chatting with other parents/carers and learning
- Happiness to see so many people together again
- Nice to hear committed professionals who recognise change is needed
- Is how young people want to get their voices heard more
- How young people want the EHCPs to be easier and simpler to understand
- Range of services available in statutory and voluntary settings
- Listened to and understood
- Overwhelmed by the volume of the microphone
- Welcomed due to being given a lovely pack of goodies from someone
- Positivity towards helping my son progress
- Very friendly and helpful
- Chatting to other parents and carers
- Friendly attendees, both parents and professionals

### **Something I'll take away from today**

- A toothbrush for my daughters!
- Everything Emma has put in her bags
- Many support providers/charities and contact points where I can refer families to or support / advice
- What is happening with the SENDIASS Hub
- Pens
- Useful information / contacts about Y6 reviews, transition to secondary
- The services that I didn't know were available that I now do and that when other professionals say there isn't a service for this and that, I can now tell them there is
- A bit of hope for child's educational future
- Important information about the services available
- That we are moving forward with inclusivity, but we also have a long time to go yet
- New services to join
- Ideas going forward
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
- What services are available for Freya and the family
- Look at SEND Review

### **Something that was not so good about today**

- Nothing it was great
- Hard to hear some speakers, I wear hearing aid
- A full list of email addresses for all the main speakers would be useful in the pack for follow up questions
- CAMHS been involved with a few things a I have found them useless in the time I have used them
- Slides too small and print outs too condensed to read from back of the room
- No one from CAMHS to talk to
- Too much packed in, not enough time for general questions
- The facilities, toilets, signposts, catering and set up for catering (not appetising, undercooked food and dirty plates
- Information overload in part
- Training sessions would be welcome, short sessions
- The cold coffee at the beginning of the morning
- Problems with lunch, not enough food
- Could there be a system to seeing DCC reps/other professionals, time allocated so it's a bit less stressful for everyone.

### **Evening Evaluations**

#### **Something I've learnt from today**

- Game Care
- About Durham Help
- Creative Education online
- Post 16 provision
- Employability
- Information about Caseworkers and EHCPs
- The services available in my local area
- I have difficulties in accessing the right help for my daughter, professionals are involved but no real help is given
- More about the SEND Green Paper and how to feed back to DCC
- How Top Up Funding works and how many different teams there are
- Waiting lists and times
- Green Paper.

#### **Something I've felt/ experienced today**

- Hope, things seem to be improving and the structures are changing to enable change and improvement

- Reassurance that things will be ok and that there is lots of help out there
- Support and being listened to
- Excited to hear that ARFID is recognised in County Durham
- Overwhelmed and a bit lost about where my son can get the help and support he needs. He's on the Neurodevelopmental Pathway but he will be discharged once he gets a diagnosis. He is doing ok academically but hates school, been rejected for EHCP as can get support from school. We seem to have to wait for things to go wrong before he can get support even though we and primary school know transition will be really difficult
- Understood and acknowledged
- Stalls
- Listened to.

### **Something I'll take away from today**

- Sign up for training
- The coordinated approach seems to be a great step forward
- Useful information and website information
- The need to come again
- Lots of freebies my daughter will love
- There is hope and support for the future for children with ARFID
- Lots of leaflets and a bit of hope
- The knowing my son will be okay next year
- Lots of information.

### **Something that was not so good about today**

- Hold conference at another venue, Ramside have took the mick
- The tea
- More information about where to go to voice your opinion about groups in the area but overall, a great session
- Nothing, maybe some biscuits as I was so hungry straight from work
- The refreshments
- Need more support with ARFID, SPD, ASD meltdowns, ASD in girls
- Not all presentations in pack, CCG, SEND update and developments would have been useful
- Cold tea and coffee
- Cold coffee
- Dirty toilets.

