



AUTISM

a North Yorkshire Strategy

Draft version for key decision to approve public consultation (3 November 2023)

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This document contains direct quotes from Autistic people and carers which we heard through our engagement. These are identified in this type of gold box throughout the strategy.

What is autism?

“Autism is individual... If you have met one autistic person, you’ve met one autistic person.”



Autism is a lifelong **neuro-development condition** that affects how people perceive the world, communicate and interact. Being **autistic** means your brain works differently to how other people’s brains work.



Whether people find out they are autistic as a child, young person or adult, being autistic is often an important part of a person’s identity for the whole of their lives. We have heard examples of children and young people being diagnosed with autism and then parent carers later also being diagnosed or self – identifying as autistic.

We understand that autistic people have different ways of describing themselves and that they may identify with a wider group of people who are “**neurodivergent**” or “**neuro diverse**”. We recognise that the Equality Act (2010) considers autism as a disability, but we also know that not all autistic people see themselves as disabled.



Autism is often called a **spectrum condition** because it can impact on people in many different ways. They may need to access different levels of support across their lives in areas such as education, employment, housing, health and care or within their communities. Many different organisations across North Yorkshire have a part to play, working together with autistic people of all ages and their families (see next page).

Our partnership in North Yorkshire

Working together to enable autistic people and their families to enjoy full, happy, and healthy lives.

Autistic children, young people, adults and their carers and families

Health services

Integrated Care Boards (Humber North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire): fund and quality-assure health services for autistic people

Primary Care (GPs and Pharmacies)

Autism Diagnosis Services (provider is dependent on age / location)

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT
Harrogate and District NHS FT
The Retreat

ABL Care Services

Airedale NHS Trust

Bradford District Care Trust

Bradford/Airedale Neurodevelopmental Service

South West Yorkshire FT

General hospitals

Mental Health Community Services and Hospitals

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT
Bradford District Care Trust

Council services

Children and Young People's Services: Early help and targeted support to keep children and young people safe. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). Life-long learning and education.

Health and Adult Services

Adult Social Care Assessments and Support. Living Well support to improve adults' health, wellbeing and independence. Public Health: health protection, promotion and prevention

Housing

To meet the needs of our communities and make NY a great place to live

Libraries, Culture and Leisure Services within our communities

Stronger Communities

Locality working at the heart of what we do

Economic Development

enabling people and places to prosper

Key partners

Providers of care, support and activities for autistic people and their families

Schools, colleges and other education and childcare providers

Wider community and voluntary sector

Local employers

Job Centre

Criminal and Youth Justice:
Probation, Police, Youth Justice Service

Businesses and service operators in communities

Note that some named providers and organisations may change over time

Data limitations

There are wide variations between the data sources on autism. This makes it difficult to accurately estimate the size and characteristics of the population within the community that have autism. However, a common factor across most data sources is increasing prevalence over time. This reflects improved recognition and diagnosis, particularly among children and younger people.

Long waiting times for assessments are thought to contribute to continued underdiagnosis, including for those in younger age groups. This means that levels of autism may still be underreported. Together with low levels of historic diagnosis, particularly for females and minority groups, this suggests that the actual number of people living with autism is likely to be far higher than is reflected in the data.

Approximately 1% of the UK population is autistic, which means around 6,155 autistic people live in North Yorkshire based on the 2021 Census. Nationally 1.8% of males are autistic and 0.2% of females. Research also shows that autistic people are more likely to have multiple conditions such as **ADHD** or **dyspraxia** or a **learning disability**. There is potential for a larger number of under diagnosis or self identification in autistic females.

Working together to develop this strategy

“A lot of people think my son is ‘naughty’ as they don’t understand autism.”



Our strategy is led by the **North Yorkshire Autism Group** of partners - from carers and advocates to voluntary sector organisations, as well as agencies responsible for health, care, education and criminal justice. We are grateful to the **wider Autism network** of autistic people, carers, staff, partners and wider community services who have contributed to this strategy. Their experiences, views and ideas have been shared through events, workshops, surveys and conversations over the past six months:

April - May 2023

- Autistic people and carers (72 attended)
- eight events (local and virtual, 104 participants)
- 170 survey responses

July 2023

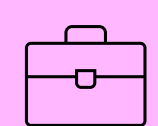
- Practitioners from across partner organisations
- seven events, 104 people
- two partnership meetings, 40 people

Sept 2023

- Autistic people, carers, practitioners and partners together
- seven action-planning sessions with 77 people participating



We have also looked at what local and national data and research tells us. We reviewed the progress made under our previous strategy, **‘Changing the landscape of Autism’** and have included some case studies in this document. We know that there is still a lot of work to do: our new strategy addresses the areas which are most important to people as well as being a local response to the [national strategy](#).




What we want to achieve through our joint all age Autism Strategy

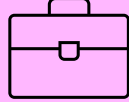
Autistic children, young people and adults and their families enjoy full, happy and healthy lives.

To achieve this ambition, we will work together on the following key priorities...

Our priorities



Education and Preparing for Adulthood




Employment



Housing




Carers



Assessment, Diagnosis and Support



Health and Care



Adult and youth justice



Inclusive Communities

To help us to deliver our strategy, we will also focus on:

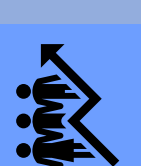
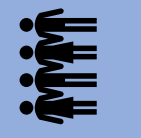
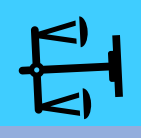
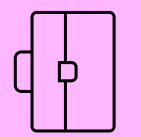
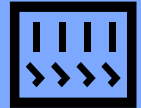
Delivering our strategy

Working together

Workforce

Data and research

Making best use of our resources



Education and preparing for adulthood

Vision: Autistic children and young people thriving at school and into adulthood

"Gaining and reviewing EHCP has been a battle and extremely stressful for both parents and autistic son. Adjustments made by schools have all been done where possible"



Why does it matter?

Providing the right support to children and young people in education settings is vital to enable them to reach their full potential and to prepare them well for adulthood.

Education, Health and Care Plans have doubled in both primary and secondary schools between January 2019 and January 2023. **SEN support** has increased by 0.5% in primary and 0.6% in secondary in the same period.

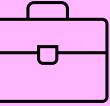
What is happening in North Yorkshire?



We know that the highest proportion of children with an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** is for a primary need of **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**. At the start of 2023 this equated to 0.8% of all school-aged children in North Yorkshire. In addition 1.1% of primary and 1.48% of secondary students were receiving Special Educational Needs (SEN) support for Autism.



The SEND Hub provides intervention and support for children and young people aged 0-25, to allow them to access educational provision. This includes using evidence – based interventions and providing coaching and training for professionals. The hub team use The Autism Education Trust guides to support children’s transitions from early years settings to primary school, primary to secondary school and secondary school to post-16 provision. Our programme of training, Unlocking Autism, is designed to support parents and practitioners and has been updated to ensure it is neuro-divergent affirming and accessible to all (see case study).



Education and preparing for adulthood

Vision: Autistic children and young people thriving at school and into adulthood

“He needs good relationship with teacher, to feel understood and cared for, not just to feel like a number.”

What have people told us?



There has been a significant mix of experiences around schools supporting autistic children and young people. People shared good examples of how knowledgeable and experienced staff in education settings support autistic children and young people. Other people shared negative experiences and told us that what matters to them is ensuring that all staff in both mainstream and specialist provision have good quality training to help them with earlier identification of autistic traits and support autistic children and young people well at the point of identification rather than diagnosis.



Having access to appropriate education provision and suitable placements as close to the local community as possible is important to people. There are currently challenges with knowledge, understanding and interaction between the different services which support autistic children and young people. Quality assurance of these services across North Yorkshire was also identified as an area to improve.

Preparing for adulthood was a key theme throughout the engagement feedback. In particular parents and carers were keen that autistic children and young people had aspirational targets and were encouraged to think about their future in terms of leaving school and going on to further education or employment.

Education and preparing for adulthood

Vision: Autistic children and young people thriving at school and into adulthood

What are we proposing to do? (2024 -2027)

- continue to support autistic children and young people with one-to-one sessions around developing self-identity and understanding their diagnosis
- work with **SENCOs** to improve earlier identification of needs to improve children and young people's outcomes
- more courses for parents, carers and families – continue rolling out and enhancing the Unlocking Autism and Unlocking Autism Plus programmes (see case study)
- training for social care teams, schools and education settings to support autistic people well (including pre-diagnosis support and reasonable adjustments)
- strengthen the range of education provision for autistic children in North Yorkshire, including local provision for autistic children and young people who are formal learners and more placements in Targeted Mainstream Provision
- establish a framework for children that have been identified as unable to access education in a school or setting
- implement changes to the preparing for adulthood pathway and joint working with partners to support autistic children from 14 years old including:
 - review short break offers for families
 - develop needs analysis for education, care and accommodation provision to expand the market
 - training for employers to support autistic people well

Education and preparing for adulthood

Case Study: Unlocking Autism Training



Unlocking Autism

Two day (or five weekly sessions) training programme for parents, education practitioners and social care colleagues

Unlocking Autism Plus

Stand alone sessions that build on Unlocking Autism for parents/ practitioners on specific areas of communication and interaction

Autism strengths, differences and how to support
Communication expressing, understanding and interacting
Sensory preferences and impact and how to get ready to learn
Resilience self-reflection and responding to difficult situations
Behaviour understanding the purpose of behaviour and knowing how and when to respond

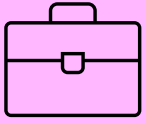
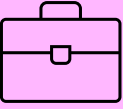
Girls and Autism
Identity
Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)
Selective Mutism

All share the same message, same strategies for all adults around the child/young person

Open Access – no diagnosis required

Courses face to face, online and downloadable

Practical Support – not just theory!



Employment

Vision: Autistic people thriving at work

“I have learnt a script for explaining my needs that minimises disruption and makes it clear how businesses can fulfil their obligations.”

Why does it matter?



In 2021, only 21.7% of autistic people were in employment, the lowest rate of any disabled group (Office for National Statistics, 2021). Research also shows that autistic people are underpaid, underemployed and poorly supported in the workplace, with many autistic people unable to disclose their autism. For Personal Independence Payments (PIP) claimants with autism, those aged 16-24 made up 62% of all claimants, whilst those aged 45-64 made up a further 32% in April 2023, reflecting the increase in diagnosis among younger age groups and the likely underdiagnosis among older working age adults.

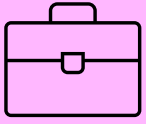
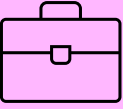
What is happening in North Yorkshire?



We believe that autistic people should have the same job opportunities as other North Yorkshire residents. The new draft Economic Growth Strategy for North Yorkshire includes a commitment to inclusion, health and employability for our residents, supporting people to overcome barriers that hold them back from moving into employment or progressing in work.



North Yorkshire Council’s Supported Employment Service work with adults who have an assessed eligible social care need to develop a personalised action plan which builds on the person's strengths and aspirations for employment. Intensive support is provided to enable people to develop additional skills and work experiences and to find the 'right' role. This includes support through application and interview stages and to put in place reasonable adjustments or other support for the employer in order to gain or maintain employment. This service holds the Advanced Award of Autism Accreditation (see slide 29).



Employment

Vision: Autistic people thriving at work

“My employers are very understanding.”

What is happening in North Yorkshire?



For adults who would benefit from help to find or maintain work but are not eligible for social care, North Yorkshire Council's Living Well Team can support people to develop their skills and confidence in this area. The service is free for up to 12 weeks and holds Autism Accreditation.

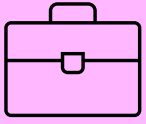
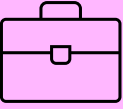


The Humber North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and TEWV NHS Trust both offer opportunities for paid work to experts by experience as part of their involvement in projects. North Yorkshire Council is working on our Involvement Framework which will set out how Health and Adult Services will involve people and communities in our work.



Jobcentres are Disability Confident and have programmes to provide advice and guidance to customers. This includes a new Employability support programme (in place by December 2023) which supports neurodiverse people and those with learning difficulties to gain meaningful and sustainable employment. Reasonable adjustments are available for people attending appointments, including private rooms and quiet time. Work coaches have received autism training, and a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) is available in each job centre to support work coaches. Subject to eligibility; funding may be available to remove barriers to work for example, interview clothes, laptops, mobile phones, push bikes.

RISE is a 1-1 support programme for adults in NY who are out of work and have barriers to engaging with employment or training. It is delivered through a partnership of community organisations. People can receive advice, mentoring and employability support.



Employment

Vision: Autistic people thriving at work

"There is little to no support available for those with autism who are transitioning through big life events. Schools and workplaces are unequipped to support people and are unaware of the severe trauma and difficulties these events can cause."



What have people told us?

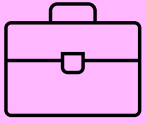
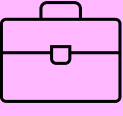
Some people told us about good quality support that they had accessed in the community to gain employment. However, many more people told us that they were not aware of existing support or that it was insufficient. Autistic people said they would like support to prevent them feeling overwhelmed from job application and interview processes. They would also like support with managing anxiety, expectations and burnout within the workplace.



In the workplace autistic people have experienced stigma, a lack of support and assumptions being made based on autistic stereotypes. They would like more support around the disclosure of autism, how to deal with bullying at work and how to promote awareness of autism amongst colleagues. Employers told us that they are not always aware of the reasonable adjustments they can make to support autistic people, and that they sometimes lack confidence to provide these.



Autistic young people, their parents and practitioners from different agencies told us that there is not enough information and support for young people leaving school and entering the workplace. When organisations do not communicate well with each other, this leads to negative experiences which can affect confidence.



Employment

Vision: Autistic people thriving at work

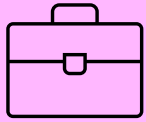
What are we proposing to do? (2024 -2027)



- work together with autistic people to develop a programme of training, information and guidance for employers around workplace wellbeing. This will include information about reasonable adjustments, autism inclusive recruitment practices and a person-centred approach which enables autistic employees to gain employment and thrive at work
- work with existing networks and services who offer support around employment to increase partnership working; improving knowledge and access for autistic people to existing support and opportunities. Review referral pathways into North Yorkshire Council Supported Employment service in response to NAS recommendations around improving access to timely support
- to increase post 16 support and information for schools, young people and families around employment. This should include information and access to supported employment, supported internships, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities. Explore ways to enable young people with an EHCP to use support information in their plan to inform employers about how to accommodate their needs

Employment

Case Study: A's story



“A” was a new job-seeker at the time of referral to the North Yorkshire Council Supported Employment Service. He is a young autistic man with an interest in IT.



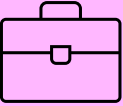
“A” had begun a part-time degree level course in Computing and Mathematics which was online but had no work experience. He was keen to find paid work, rather than voluntary work. Jo from North Yorkshire Council supported “A” with CV building, writing covering letters and job applications, identifying potential work placements, interview preparation and support at interview. Jo arranged an information session with a colleague from the Council’s IT Security team, which developed “A”’s interest in cyber security.



“A” applied for a Cyber Security apprenticeship, but was overqualified and therefore was not eligible for the programme. “A” applied for a IT Services position. He interviewed well and met the benchmark but at the time there were not enough positions available to offer him a job. Two months later, the same job came up again. He was offered a full-time position which he accepted.

“A” is enjoying his new role. He mainly works from home but once a fortnight he drives into the office to work alongside colleagues in his team.

Through gaining employment, “A” is now more communicative, assertive and positive. He is thinking about the future and has a spring in his step. He is enjoying the role, enjoying learning on the job and coping well.



Housing

Vision: to support autistic young people and adults with appropriate housing

“I want to be able to live away and go to university.”



Why does it matter?

Everyone needs a safe place to call ‘home’. Supporting someone’s housing needs can provide stability and a foundation to building a fulfilling life. Autistic people should be able to access suitable and appropriate housing.

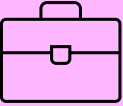
In the summer of 2023 the government published the new Supported Housing Bill, which when it becomes operational in 2024 will place the following duties on the council: Licensing of supported housing, The enforcement of National Supported Housing Standards, Obligations to develop five-year strategic supported housing plans.



What is happening in North Yorkshire?

In April 2023, the county council and seven district and borough councils in North Yorkshire became one council, making North Yorkshire Council the largest council in the region. The new unitary council is now responsible for a full range of housing services across the county. North Yorkshire Council are undertaking a housing strategy consultation. A key priority is ‘Our People’ around supporting people who require supported housing provision, older people, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Show communities, refugees, asylum seekers, and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

North Yorkshire Council commissions the delivery of around 800 units of supported living across more than 200 properties. There is significant variation across size and type of accommodation.



Housing

Vision: to support autistic young people and adults with appropriate housing

“We are in our 70's and would like our granddaughter to be independent.”

North Yorkshire Council provides Occupational Therapy services for both children and adults. The services provide assessment and intervention to children, young people and adults with a variety of disabilities and illnesses including autism, learning disability, cognitive and physical disabilities. Core services include: major (bathroom adaptations, stair lifts, secure gardens funded through Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) and minor adaptations (grab rails, banisters, half steps), moving and handling assessments to support people with reduced mobility, assistive technology (tele care/ technology enabled care) to increase safety, wellbeing and independence (epilepsy sensors, GPS sensors), rehousing support and specialist equipment.

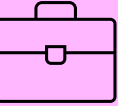


What have people told us?

Throughout discussions with autistic people, carers and practitioners who support autistic people, housing has been a key theme. There have been some positive examples regarding good support from a former borough council. However, North Yorkshire has several different pathways and application process for housing which has led to some challenges.

Other areas that have not worked as well have been around the high risk of homelessness where provision has broken down and suitable alternatives have not been available. Feedback also included the inappropriateness of some accommodation (specifically emergency accommodation) and the lack of suitable social housing for autistic people, and the limited appropriate provision for under 55's.

Finally people reported challenges with waiting for accommodation to become available; long waits for repairs or faults with no support in the interim; costs and permissions for safety adjustments; and a lack of knowledge and understanding of autism amongst those who work in the housing sector.



Housing

Vision: to support autistic young people and adults with appropriate housing



What are we proposing to do in response? (2024 -2027)

Understanding local needs

North Yorkshire Council and the Integrated Care Boards are undertaking a housing needs analysis for autistic people and/or people with a learning disability. This analysis will commence in the Autumn of 2023 through to the Spring of 2024 and the outcomes will inform the delivery of local supported housing and supported living for Autistic people over the next five years and beyond.

Training and support:

- **For autistic people and carers**

Create clearer, simpler and more accessible housing pathways and processes with tailored information and guidance to support autistic people and carers with understanding the type, appropriateness and availability of different accommodation options (including general needs, independent living with 24/7 care, extra care and supported living). Support with the development and/or improvement of independent skills (for example, completing paperwork, budgeting, cooking cleaning and accessing health care).

- **For housing and care providers**

Develop understanding and awareness training and techniques to support housing and care providers who support autistic people with making reasonable adjustments around housing and care issues; such as changes with tenancies, issues with the environment and access to technology, equipment and adaptations where appropriate. We will encourage all providers (including non-specialist autism providers) to be autistic inclusive, this will be reflected within the specifications for commissioned services. Review and understand accommodation needs for all North Yorkshire's autistic residents (living in and out of county), from general needs housing up to complex or crisis support, in order to reduce the number of people living out of county and develop accommodation and models of support to enable people to stay at home longer.

Carers

Vision: Parents, carers and families of autistic people are supported to thrive

“I have been left to cope alone with zero support.”

Why does it matter?

Carers can often see themselves as lifelong partners, sons, daughters, siblings, neighbours and friends, rather than carers. They play a vital role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of those who need help. We know that most carers are happy to support the person they care for and want to be able to continue offering that support, but the caring role can often affect their own health and wellbeing.

What is happening in North Yorkshire?

In 2021, the census showed that across North Yorkshire the age standardised proportions for usual residents providing unpaid care hours per week were: 4.7% providing 19 hours of less, 1.6% providing between 20 and 49 hours and 2.4% providing 50 or more hours.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, training for parents and carers of autistic children and young people has been refreshed to enable support to be provided prior to diagnosis. This training is now available in person, online and on demand to better support parent carers at a more suitable time.

Carers has been identified as one of 7 Adult Social Care Improvement Priorities by North Yorkshire Council, with the overall Aim to support people to remain in their own homes for longer. We are aiming to develop an innovative and improved offer across North Yorkshire to improve the wellbeing and resilience of carers, supporting them in having a life outside caring.

Carers

Vision: Parents, carers and families of autistic people are supported to thrive

What have people told us?

There are areas of good practice and areas of improvement in terms of what is working well for carers. There have been some positive examples of access to carers assessments and self-referrals for support. Challenges include the waiting process for assessments and the availability of support outside of standard office hours or if practitioners are on annual leave.

Carers shared the emotional and mental strain of 'living in a neurotypical world' as a 'neurodivergent person'. Older carers are often worried about future planning for their loved one, especially around housing provision and support for autistic child or young person to remain independent. Concerns were also raised around the financial implications for carers who cannot work due to their caring responsibilities, and older carers around pensions.

Carers

Vision: Parents, carers and families of autistic people are supported to thrive

What are we proposing to do in response? (2024 -2027)

In partnership, North Yorkshire Council is refreshing its Carers Strategy. Individuals, carers and partners will work together to develop and implement a strategy which considers what priorities are needed to support autistic carers and carers/ family members of autistic children, young people and adults.

Strengthen and deliver training programmes including:

- for carers and families to better understand autism and different techniques and approaches which can support an autistic person, their carers and the wider family
- for practitioners to understand the impacts of autism for carers and families, including through people's experiences

Supporting Carers is a key priority for North Yorkshire Council and we will develop an integrated model to direct carers to a full range of support including prevention offer, online resources, direct payments and commissioned services.

Review carers assessment process: to increase number of carers assessments, improve and ensure timely access by reducing waiting times for assessment, developing an online assessment and review process for carers. North Yorkshire Council is also undertaking a programme of work called Waiting Well, aiming to bring about improvements for people who are waiting for services, wherever they may be in their social care journey. This includes autistic adults and carers.

Review support interventions including professional support and access to carers direct payments.²²

Assessment, diagnosis and support



Vision: Everyone can access the support they need when they need it. Access to assessment and diagnosis happens as early as possible in a person's life, with priority for those with the greatest need

“My 12-year-old daughter has recently received a formal diagnosis for Autism, mostly positive experiences but hoping for more understanding from school with the difficulties she has.”

Why does it matter?

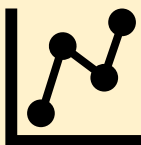


For autistic people to have the right support when they need it, it is important to identify need early, reduce the time that people are waiting for an assessment and improve how people access assessment and diagnosis services. We recognise that autism is often under-diagnosed in women and girls. School-based data, shows that the ratio of boys to girls with a diagnosis is around 3:1 while the POPPI and PANSI models use a ratio of 9:1 male to females.

What is happening in North Yorkshire?



There are a number of different pathways for autism support, assessment and diagnosis in North Yorkshire. Which system people access depends on their age and where they live. Under the previous strategy we worked together to improve these pathways. However we recognise the challenges in providing timely, equitable and consistent assessment and diagnosis due to finite resources, workforce pressures and increasing demand. We aim to provide appropriate and timely support based on the need of the individual, and we do not want diagnosis to be a barrier to this.



Our data shows us that demand has increased significantly across Children, Young People and Adult assessment which means that waiting lists will be much higher than we would like. In most services across North Yorkshire, more than 80% of people who are assessed receive a diagnosis of autism. This means that our triage processes are effective and that people should be accessing appropriate support while they are waiting for a diagnosis.

Assessment, diagnosis and support



Vision: Everyone can access the support they need when they need it. Access to assessment and diagnosis happens as early as possible in a person's life, with priority for those with the greatest need

“It's too long to wait for an assessment, with very little support”



What have people told us?

Through our engagement, people have told us that waiting times for autism assessment and diagnosis are too long. Children, young people and parents highlighted the lack of support prior to, during and after the assessment and diagnosis process, along with the impact this had on the social, emotional and mental health of the individual child as well as their parents, siblings and wider family dynamics.

Assessments from private providers are not always recognised by the NHS and not everyone knows about the “right to choose” an appropriate provider. People who are autistic often face other health challenges (for example with mental health) which can get worse while they are waiting for an assessment because at present an autism diagnosis is needed to access some types of support or reasonable adjustments.



Being able to access support when autistic children, young people and adults and their families feel they need it would make a difference. Many people told us that their diagnosis of autism is **an important part of their identity**.

Assessment, diagnosis and support



Vision: Everyone can access the support they need when they need it. Access to assessment and diagnosis happens as early as possible in a person's life, with priority for those with the greatest need

What are proposing to do in response? (2024 – 2027)



- improve the pre and post diagnostic support offered to children, young people and adults (especially to under represented populations – such as women and girls), as well as their carers and/or families based on a needs-led approach, including
 - exploring options to use the roles of community connectors, social prescribers, care navigators, autism champions and peer support subject to available resources.
 - working across the wider system to enable access to support and reasonable adjustments while waiting for an assessment
- explore use of resources to reduce waiting times for assessment focussed on those with the greatest need.
- work towards improving the equity of access and consistency of assessment across North Yorkshire where possible, including:
 - clarifying, simplifying and (where possible) aligning pathways and referral routes
 - communicating pathways to people, carers and practitioners/services
 - working with private providers of autism assessments to develop and implement quality assurance criteria in order to prevent duplication of assessments
 - transparency and awareness of the “right to choose” in respect of autism assessments.

Assessment, diagnosis and support

Case Study: 5-Year-Old with Mixed Presentation and Social Challenges



During the assessment of a 5-year-old child, the Harrogate District Foundation Trust's Autism Team encountered a complex situation with mixed evidence and features suggesting possible ADHD, along with challenging social circumstances. The team faced difficulties in clearly distinguishing between different presentations due to varying behaviours observed at home, school, and during clinic visits.

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive understanding of the child's situation, the team employed multiple assessment methods. They conducted a school observation to gather additional information. However, even with this observation, the picture remained unclear. Consequently, the assessment resulted in a diagnosis of "No diagnosis" at the time, acknowledging the complexity of the child's presentation.

To address the challenges encountered, the team developed a plan for ongoing review in 18 months. This extended timeline would allow for the child's development and maturation, hoping to gain more clarity as they grow. In the interim period, the family was recommended to undertake Solihull training and Understanding Autism training. These training programs aimed to enhance their understanding of the child's needs and facilitate attachment-building strategies.

The provision of attachment-building resources to the family further emphasized the team's commitment to addressing the child's social challenges. By equipping the family with valuable tools, the team sought to promote healthy attachment and strengthen the child's overall development.

This case demonstrates the Harrogate District Foundation Trust's Autism Team's dedication to thorough assessment and ongoing support. Despite the complexities and uncertainties surrounding the child's diagnosis, the team took proactive steps to involve the family in training programs and provide valuable resources. This approach exemplifies their commitment to continuously evaluating the child's progress, adapting interventions as needed, and striving for a clearer understanding of the child's needs as they mature.

Assessment, diagnosis and support

Case Study: Social prescribing Wharfedale, Airedale and Craven Alliance



S was referred via the Adult Social Prescriber (SP) for Wharfedale, Airedale and Craven Alliance (WACA) PCN who was supporting mum. She had started secondary school and had been assaulted by her peers. This had understandably resulted in disengagement from school and heightened anxiety.

A home visit was carried out, and S was reluctant to engage with the SP, however they did manage to discuss schooling options. S wasn't keen to engage in a move to another school or to return to her current school. S had been allocated a CAMHS worker who was leaving and a new worker hadn't been allocated.

The SP initiated a meeting between mum and school to see if there was any support school could offer. The meeting went well, with school accepting S's reason for non attendance. It was agreed that the SP would help mum to apply for an EHCP assessment., which would then allow additional support to be provided to S. School also suggested some good education resources for S to access at home.

Mum and the SP met up and completed the request for the EHCP, which we are awaiting the outcome of. The school have provided a home tutor three times a week which S is engaging well with.

S is on the waiting list for an Autism Assessment, and the hope is that the EHCP and enhanced support from school, initiated by the social prescriber, will help support S during this time.

Health and care

Vision: Autistic people of all ages live healthier and longer lives, supported by autism-friendly health and care services

“Longer appointment rarely available and not having a diagnosis I often get refused adjustments”

Why does it matter?

Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people. They are created by the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. We all have some influence over our own health through the lifestyle choices that we make, but the conditions we live in and whether we have fair access to services will have a much greater impact. These factors are often referred to as the **wider determinants of health**.

National research and data (further detailed in the accompanying data pack) shows that:

Autistic adults report barriers in accessing primary care including identifying predictability, sensory processing and communication. Only a minority of GPs feel confident when treating autistic patients.

18.1% of pupils with a diagnosis of autism also have learning difficulties

Almost 80% of autistic people without a learning disability experience mental health difficulties

Autistic people are three times as likely as the whole population to be admitted to hospital as an inpatient.

Links between autism and poor health outcomes are well known with up to 30 years shorter life expectancy for autistic people.

Autistic people of all ages may be at a higher risk of dying by suicide than those who are not autistic

Health and care



Vision: Autistic people of all ages live healthier and longer lives, supported by autism-friendly health and care services

“My experience of health professionals has been positive.”

What is happening in North Yorkshire?



Under our previous local strategy, we have expanded autism training and support for health and care staff (see case study). North Yorkshire Council Adult Social Care Services achieved and have since maintained accreditation with the National Autistic Society, receiving advanced accreditation in some services (see case study). However, we know that it is still hard for some autistic people to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. In recognition of this, autistic people are identified as a priority group in the draft North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy with the ambition of 'adding years to life and life to years'.

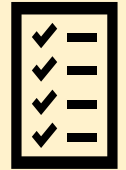
What have people told us?



We heard examples of people receiving excellent support from the health and care system as well as less positive experiences, such as a lack of reasonable adjustments or communication between services. Physical environments which have not been designed with autistic people in mind can lead to sensory overload but where consideration is given, this improves accessibility. The Covid-19 pandemic has also affected accessibility. Sometimes standard appointment lengths may be too short for autistic people. People's experiences of the health and care system are significantly influenced by the staff they encounter. Good training is essential to build a knowledgeable and understanding workforce.

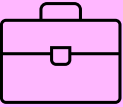
Health and care

Vision: Autistic people of all ages live healthier and longer lives, supported by autism-friendly health and care services



What are we proposing to do in response? (2024 -2027)

- design and deliver guidance, resources and training programmes including:
 - for autistic people and carers to identify barriers to accessing services, support and guidance to work together with staff to plan reasonable adjustments
 - for health and care staff to improve understanding of autism and support autism-friendly service delivery in terms of communication, reasonable adjustments, practice and culture
 - for regulated service providers across health and social care – continuing to roll out and refresh [Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training](#)
- work to improve physical environments in the health and care system so that they are accessible for autistic people
- increase access to regular health checks for autistic people, building on the national pilot/roll-out
- consider the needs of autistic people in suicide prevention activity and local system response (including education and the wider community) to the national suicide prevention strategy for autistic children, young people and adults
- developing the care and support market to enable providers to support autistic people through different models of intensive support such as distress behavioural intervention or positive behavioural support
- respond to national developments around quality of care and workforce development in services for autistic people
- implement and share learning from recommendations for North Yorkshire Council Care Provider Services NAS Re-Accreditation (2023)



Health and care

Case Study – North Yorkshire Council Autism Accreditation

North Yorkshire Council Adult Social Care (ASC) have undertaken the [Autism Accreditation programme run by the National Autistic Society \(NAS\)](#) which is internationally recognised.

North Yorkshire Council is the largest cohort of staff to undertake the programme. North Yorkshire Council first accredited its services in 2016 as part of the three year rolling programme. Since then, further accreditation reviews have taken place in 2019/20 and 2023/24.

Following accreditation, dates are then confirmed for an Autism Accreditation Review which is undertaken by NAS staff and an external moderator. Timetables are completed, surveys are sent to parents/carers and autistic people and an assessment introduction form is also completed.

After a three day review, the autism accreditation lead will provide feedback and their final report is sent to a panel who can award autism accreditation status.

North Yorkshire Council has 16 services within the accreditation process with 14 reaccredited in 2023 and two to be reviewed in 2024. The Supported Employment Service was awarded Advanced Autism Accreditation in 2023.

Accreditation Standards which are scored, highlighting areas of strengths and areas of development

Commitment and consultation

Social communication, interactions and relationships

Function skills and self reliance

Sensory experiences

Emotional Wellbeing

Personalised standards to reflect individual service

Health and care

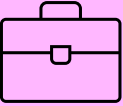
Case Study – Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust: Trust wide Autism Service

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust now have a permanently established and growing Trust-wide Autism Service which provides clinical support and training to all services across the organisation. Examples of the services' work and impact include:

- delivering “Understanding Autism” training which is mapped against Health Education England’s Core Capabilities Framework to meet the requirements of Autism legislation and CQC baselines. Developing and implementing bespoke autism training in response to Trust needs.
- working to provide care pathways that can be adjusted to meet the needs of autistic people within both inpatient and community services.
- provide access to clinical supervision and consultation when services and teams are working with autistic children, young people, and adults for staff across all specialities (over 300 sessions delivered to date in 2023 across the Trust, which operates in North Yorkshire and beyond)
- provide support and consultation to corporate services in relation to patient safety, complaints and human resources to meet the requirements of autism legislation and CQC baselines.

The team are currently working to make Adult Mental Health wards more autism inclusive with a focus on:

- service user and carer involvement
- reasonably adjusted communication
- Autism inclusive environment and ward processes
- Autism training and specialist supervision
- Autism inclusive care planning and risk assessment



Health and care

Case Study – West Yorkshire ICB (Social Care and CAMHS – Dynamic Support Register

Young autistic person (YP) has recent experience of being arrested, leading to a significant deterioration in mental health of YP and a suicide attempt. YP was at risk of admission into a **Tier 4 (T4) Children and adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)** inpatient bed.

YP's psychiatrist was very proactive in ensuring YP was part of **Dynamic Support Register (DSR)** process and family/school have been very supportive.

A **Care (Education) and Treatment Review (C(E)TR)** was undertaken with regular reviews to support the multiagency response required to support this YP. Outcomes achieved include professional support from a network including forensic mental health services, Intensive home treatment support, support for Barnardo's key worker service and the youth justice team resulting in a joined up approach supporting this YP.

Key outcome for the YP was an increase in specialist education provision and avoiding a high probable hospital admission. YP is now doing well.

Adult and youth justice

Vision: Autistic children, young people and adults are well supported when accessing the criminal and youth justice systems

“The criminal justice system should focus generally on rehabilitation. It would not be appropriate to punish people for their autism. I find talking to police scary and uncomfortable.”

Why does it matter?

People may come into contact with the adult and youth justice systems as victims, witnesses or defendants. Nationally available evidence suggests that autistic people may have more contact with the justice systems than the UK population as a whole. It is important that autistic people can access the care and support they need in these situations.

What is happening in North Yorkshire?

Across North Yorkshire there is increasing awareness of Neurodiversity generally within the Criminal Justice System, though there is scope for improvement in recording data in this area so a more accurate picture can be gained. In the Probation Service, a new Neurodiversity service has been developed to provide support and information to Probation Officers and people on probation. This is provided by the National Autistic Society.

Within local prisons, all prisoners are screened for neurodiverse conditions. This then leads on to individual support plans if required.

Autistic people are supported in North Yorkshire through a number of services provided by police, courts, probation and prison service where appropriate. There are also a number of community based services such as the Resettlement and Community Support (RACS) which support autistic and wider populations.

Adult and youth justice

Vision: Autistic children, young people and adults are well supported when accessing the criminal and youth justice systems

What is happening in North Yorkshire?



- the Youth Justice Service is now located within Children and Families Service as part of the broader Early Help offer, as a specialist element of our support for all children and families. This supports a single, coordinated pathway for children presenting risky or challenging behaviour
- this places the Youth Justice Service within a network of consistent, collaborative practice which strives to offer one, seamless model of support to families. The operational service includes managers, caseworkers and specialists (for example, substance misuse and victim liaison workers), with seconded representation from police, health, education, social work, and probation
- key principles of the National Youth Justice practice model have been blended with the advanced, child-centred and strength-based approach practice model used by Children's Services, achieving consistency and transferability of our assessments, plans and interventions
- Youth Justice Service is involved in a number of projects and developments which secure additional resources or services for North Yorkshire's communities. We have recently entered year two of our Test and Learn Pilot Programme of work as part of the Regional Health and Youth Justice Vanguard
- our North Yorkshire practice model is fully engaged with the Child First values. We take all possible steps to divert children from formal criminalisation, and where that is unavoidable, we foster trusting and influential relationships to support them through positive, strengths-based change

Adult and youth justice

Vision: Autistic children, young people and adults are well supported when accessing the criminal and youth justice systems

What is happening in North Yorkshire?

North Yorkshire Police have done a number of key actions to support neurodiversity within the police force including :

- the launch of a Neurodiversity Network in 2016, offering direct advise on neurodiverse issues. This network expanded the “all things Autism” awareness to cover all Neurodiversity
- the training and support of staff; all new recruits (officers and PCSOs) having direct training on neurodiversity and all trainers having specialist training from Creased Puddle (Consultancy run by an ex NY Police Officer who jointly started the Neurodiversity Network in 2016). North Yorkshire Police also has 130 + Positive Action champions which have received direct awareness training from Autism Plus. All Equality Impact Assessments are passed through staff networks and therefore all new process and policies are assessed for any Neurodiversity Issues
- strategic membership of the North Yorkshire Council All Age Autism Strategy Groups and Member of the North Yorkshire Autism Community of Practice
- refit our custody suites with Autism inclusive environment
- community/Neighbourhood Policing and our Partnership Hub engage with local groups and also sit as part of the North Yorkshire Inclusive Communities Working Group – covering vulnerable groups and hate Crime Strategy across the County

Adult and youth justice

Vision: Autistic children, young people and adults are well supported when accessing the criminal and youth justice systems



What have people told us?

We know that access to information, sharing of information and good communication across various systems and services is a challenge. This can lead to a lack of joint working and an experience of services which is impersonal. The way in which criminal justice services are organised and funded can build in exclusions and make it hard for people to engage with adult and youth services.

Autistic people and carers have fed back that support is not usually available where a diagnosis is not disclosed, and that individual needs may not be recognised and supported. Concerns about active consent and power dynamics between individuals and staff have also been highlighted. There have also been issues with the use of independent advocates within the criminal justice system.

Adult and youth justice

Vision: Autistic children, young people and adults are well supported when accessing the criminal and youth justice systems

What are we proposing to do in response? (2024 -2027)

- implement recommendations from the [Ministry of Justice report on neurodiversity](#) across police, judges, courts, prisons and probation. This includes:
 - the development of a universal screening tool
 - work to improve physical environments for neurodiverse people
 - improving data collection and recording
 - improve information sharing and joint working between agencies and other services.
 - staff training

These are national recommendations which are already being implemented and reviewed regularly

In addition, locally we will aim to;

- explore the opportunity to develop a liaison and diversion service for autistic people which is similar to the model for mental health
- increase the use of the Neurodiversity Service available to Probation staff
- Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) now has a public Confidence and Inclusivity Directorate and is in the process of recruiting a Inclusivity and Public Confidence Manager who will work directly with North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Enable North Yorkshire to realise the Commissioners priority to Enhance positive Culture, Integrity and Public Trust. This role will be key in ensuring we understand our people's specific needs, and how in turn our services take those needs into account to operate effectively

Inclusive communities

Vision: North Yorkshire is an inclusive place to live, work and visit

“Most people have little understanding of autism/neurodiversity or have a very rigid/stereotypical approach.”



Why does it matter?

We all want to feel understood and accepted in our communities. Autistic people will often experience inequality, stigma and challenges in the places where they live, work and visit which can lead to loneliness, isolation and fewer opportunities.

National Research shows that:

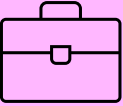
Transgender and gender diverse adults are three to six times more likely as cisgender adults (individuals whose gender identity corresponds with their sex assigned at birth) to be diagnosed as autistic. (Cambridge University)

Autistic individuals are more likely to be LGBTQIA+. In addition, the study found that autistic adults and adolescents are approximately eight times more likely to identify as asexual and ‘other’ sexuality than their non-autistic peers. And there were sex differences in sexual orientation: autistic males are 3.5 times more likely to identify as bisexual than non-autistic males, whereas autistic females are three times more likely to identify as homosexual than non-autistic females.

that black and Chinese pupils were 26% and 38% more likely to be autistic respectively.

The prevalence was found to be highest amongst pupils of black ethnicity (2.1%) and lowest in Roma/Irish Travellers (0.85%).

By increasing public understanding of autism, we can help communities to become more accepting and inclusive of autistic children, young people and adults. Changing how autistic people are viewed and treated will enable everyone to feel more welcomed in their local community and support a good quality of life.



Inclusive communities

Vision: North Yorkshire is an inclusive place to live, work and visit

“I can take my son to the barbers, and they will be so patient with him and give him the extra time he needs.”

What is happening in North Yorkshire?

Since launching the previous local Autism Strategy in 2015, we have delivered activities and events across North Yorkshire. We have made improvements to online information about support and activities for autistic children, young people and adults through [North Yorkshire Connect](#) and the [SEND Local Offer](#), although further expanding this information remains a key priority for us. Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic, we also began a programme to make North Yorkshire libraries Autism Inclusive and have delivered a number of improvements and new resources to support this (see case study). Staff at Skipton Town Hall Cultural Hub have all undertaken autism awareness training and have introduced a number of autism and neurodiverse inclusive events, activities and opportunities.

What have people told us?

We know that there are some areas of good practice but also some areas to improve. During our recent working together sessions people have highlighted that stigma is still a huge challenge for autistic people. They experience a range of barriers including the use of language and negative attitudes, stemming from a lack of understanding of autism. This is across the general public and local businesses but also across all other sectors including health and social care, police, teaching staff, transport and leisure facilities staff. Increasing understanding and awareness of autism is key to reducing stigma and creating inclusive communities.

People also told us about positive experiences through the use of national schemes (sunflower). Where individuals have personal or professional experiences of autism, this increases their understanding of supporting autistic people in their communities. When people offer reasonable adjustments, changes to environments where practical or other support, this helps autistic people to feel more comfortable accessing local communities and services like everyone else.

Inclusive communities

Vision: North Yorkshire is an inclusive place to live, work and visit

What are we proposing to do in response? (2024 – 2027)

- co-produce a social initiative/movement to make North Yorkshire communities, businesses and services Autism Inclusive
- develop a comprehensive communication and engagement programme for awareness-raising events and access to information, promotion of services, activities and offer throughout the year
- build on opportunities to work more broadly across North Yorkshire Council services following local government re-organisation to raise awareness, training and improve support and access for Autistic people, linking into services including housing, leisure, culture (museums, galleries, performance venues and outreach support), tourism, businesses, town centres, transport, locality community partnerships
- work with communities and organisations to access appropriate training that improves understanding of autism, supports with communication, culture and reasonable adjustments to support autism friendly communities
- work to improve physical environments and provide reasonable adjustments to support individuals to access services and facilities within their communities
- work with organisations to understand diversity across services and consider how to improve access and inclusion across all strategy themes
- working with Community Sport organisations on autism awareness raising, education programmes and promotion of the benefits of sports for autistic people
- learning from training undertaken by the Skipton Town Hall Cultural Hub will be shared across the new North Yorkshire Council's cultural Hub to support neurodiverse people

Inclusive communities

Case Study: Inclusive Libraries

The North Yorkshire Council's library service (42 libraries) have been working to become Autism-inclusive:

- **Availability of autism resources**
 - 27 books about autism has been added to the collection, including novels and memoirs focusing on autistic characters which aim to raise awareness. The books are available in 12 libraries across the county and can be reserved through any North Yorkshire branch
 - six Stim kits are now available to be booked for individuals and groups across the county. These provide sensory resources which can be used in a relaxing environment to support autistic people of all ages
- **Autism-inclusive libraries**
 - Skipton became the first library to achieve autism inclusive status in April 2018. They produced a site plan and social story to explain what happens when someone visits the library, helping to reduce the uncertainty Autistic people may feel about visiting. Site plans have now been produced for the majority of libraries and a social story has also been written for Ripon library. Whilst this work was paused due to Covid-19, it is still a key ambition for libraries and is under review
 - consultation was carried out with autism groups to inform the new design of Scarborough library
 - regular activities and groups are hosted at a number of libraries, for example, Selby neurodiversity group
- **Training for staff and volunteers**
 - library staff have received training to help them support autistic people. Autism Awareness training is mandatory as part of staff induction, and sessions have also been held with local organisations and the Adult Learning and Skills Service

Delivering our strategy: cross-cutting themes

From our discussions with partners and our engagement work, we have also identified some themes which are important to consider as we deliver actions across all our priorities. These key areas of focus are:

Working together – everyone has a part to play in the delivery of this strategy. In particular we will continue to ensure that partner organisations work together with autistic children, young people, adults and their families and carers as we refine, deliver and evaluate the actions in this strategy.

Workforce – training and support in relation to autism is important for all parts of North Yorkshire’s workforce. This includes autistic people themselves; their employers and colleagues; those providing individual services in the health, care and education sectors; and those who work in North Yorkshire’s wider public services and communities.

Data and research – We recognise that in some areas of our work, we need to understand more about the current position in North Yorkshire as well as evidence-based practice in order to ensure that we make the biggest impact through the strategy and can demonstrate the difference we have made. We also need to understand more about autism in some groups of people such as the military community as well as more widely about the various needs of our **neurodiverse** population.

Making best use of our resources – We will work together across organisations to make best use of our collective resources (our people, our finance, our buildings). Efficient use of these resources will avoid duplication, maximise impact at a community level and enable delivery at scale where appropriate.⁴³

Delivering our strategy

In developing this strategy, we have built strong working relationships through by the **North Yorkshire Autism Group**. This partnership will lead the delivery of a public consultation on the draft strategy, the completion of a final strategy in response, the development of more detailed annual delivery plans to take the commitments forward, the monitoring of progress and the measurement of the impact we have had.

We will continue to work with and grow the **wider Autism network** of autistic people, carers, staff, partners and community services who have already contributed to this strategy. The feedback that people give us about their experiences and how involved they are in making the changes will be vital to the delivery of our strategy as well as an important measure of success.

We will also use other strategic partnership groups such as the North Yorkshire Place Board to provide leadership and accountability on key issues. We also recognise the importance of local ownership and delivery in our diverse communities across North Yorkshire, and will use the emerging local community partnership structures to support this.

ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a condition where an individual finds it hard to concentrate, may be over-active and can struggle to manage their behaviour.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

A condition that someone is born with that affects their ability to communicate and interact with the world around them. It is also called autism and covers a wide range of symptoms.

Autistic

Many people who have been diagnosed with autism prefer using the term 'autistic' to describe themselves. They consider autism to be part of their identity, not a condition to be treated.

CAMHS

Children and Adolescence Mental Health Team in patient services.

C(E)TR and CETR

Care (Education) and Treatment Review (Children) and Care and Treatment Review (adults) to support people admitted to mental health hospital or at risk of admission. Undertaken by commissioners to ensure people are only admitted to hospital where necessary and for the minimum amount of time.

DSR

Dynamic Support Register enable systems to identify adults, children and young people with increasing and/or complex health and care needs who may require extra support, care and treatment in the community as a safe and effective alternative to admission to a mental health hospital.

Dyspraxia

Dyspraxia, also known as developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD), is a common disorder that affects movement and co-ordination.

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

A legal document for a child or young person up to the age of 25 if they have a disability or special educational needs. It describes the child or young person's particular educational, health and social needs, and sets out the support and extra help they should have to meet those needs.

Health inequalities

Differences in how healthy different groups of people are, and how easily they are able to get the health care they need. These differences may be affected by things like poverty, housing and education.

Learning disability

A term that is used to describe a brain impairment that may make it difficult for someone to communicate, to understand new or complex information, or to learn new skills. Learning disability starts in childhood and has a lasting effect on a person's development. It can affect people mildly or severely.

Neuro-development condition

Neurodevelopmental condition is an umbrella term for conditions and diagnoses such as autism, ADHD, learning disability, dyslexia, dyscalculia and motor disorders.

Neurodivergent

Neurodivergent is a nonmedical term that describes people whose brains develop or work differently for some reason. This means the person has different strengths and struggles from people whose brains develop or work more typically.



Neurodiverse

Variations between individual people in the way their brains and minds work.



Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is responsible for overseeing how crime and community safety are tackled, and for providing services for victims of crime.




Spectrum condition

Any of a group of disorders each having symptoms that occur on a continuum and certain features that are shared along its spectrum but that manifest in markedly different forms and degrees



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Special educational needs (SEN or SEND) is a term used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for a child to learn compared to children of the same age.



SEN support

Support provided by a nursery, school or college, such as extra help from a teaching assistant or working in a smaller group.



SENCOs

Special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) lead and co-ordinate a school's provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Wider determinants of health

Wider determinants of health are the social, economic and environmental factors that affect our health and well-being

Acknowledgements

With thanks to everyone who has contributed their experiences, views and ideas to the development of this strategy, and in particular to the members of the North Yorkshire Autism Group for their leadership of this work:

- Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (North Yorkshire Place)
- West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Bradford District and Craven Place)
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust
- North Yorkshire Council
- His Majesty's Prisons and Probation service
- Community First Yorkshire
- Healthwatch North Yorkshire
- Inclusion North
- Autism diagnostic providers - ABL Health, Harrogate District Foundation Trust, The Retreat
- Parent/carer representative, Hazel Griffiths.



AUTISM

a North Yorkshire Strategy

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD

Please call [0300 131 2131](tel:03001312131) if you want to request a paper strategy or you need the information in a different format or language.