

# Children, Young People and Families Neurodiversity Transformation

**Update for Bristol  
HOSC**



# Our Journey

## Discovering the problem

### Problem

Through Social Media and other news platforms there has been an increased awareness of Neurodivergent conditions and traits.

### Problem

Demand for assessments rapidly outstripping capacity.

### Problem

Children and young people waiting years without needs being met or identified.

### Impact

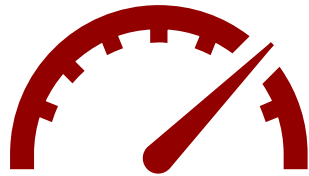
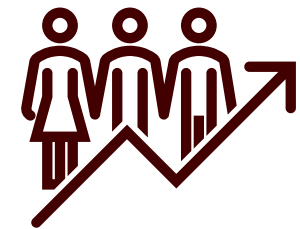
Average 252 referrals per month. At our current capacity it would take approximately 10 years to clear the current backlog.

### Impact

Waiting lists are growing by approximately seven children per day for autism assessment, and two per day for ADHD. Waiting times between 2-4 years.

### Impact

The increase started in 2019 350% increase from 2020 - 2022



## Co-designing a solution

### Action

Accelerated system wide workshops with parent carers and partners, to co-produce a support offer for children already on the waiting list.

### Action

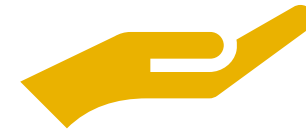
Design conference with 85+ attendees across system partners and parent carers to co-design what a new model should be.

### Solution

Early identification of needs through a profiling tool, targeted signposting of support, support team in place for education professionals and a Charter.

### Solution

New approach to supporting children and families that focusses on a needs-based approach that emphasises identification inclusion and recognising individual's strengths



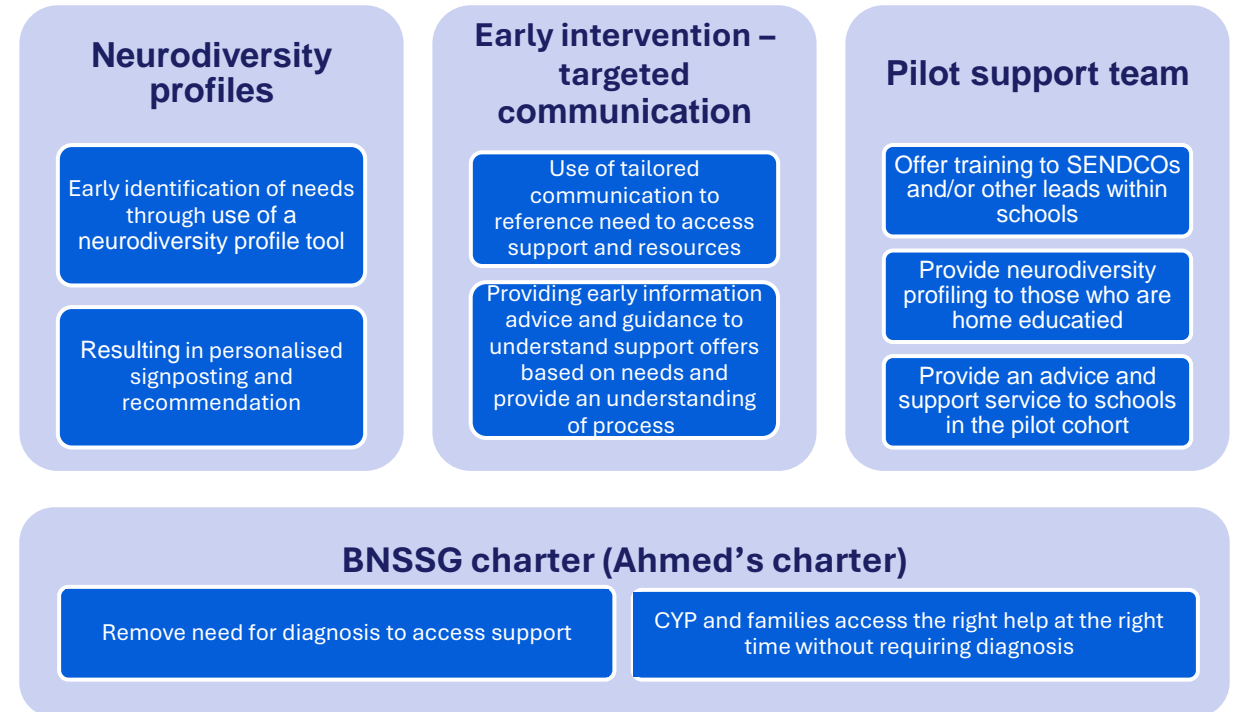
# Testing – current pilot

A six-month neurodiversity profiling pilot has been developed by health and education services and local parent carer forums, working with charities, schools and other partners in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area.

The pilot is being delivered alongside the existing autism and ADHD assessment service but is designed to provide earlier identification and understanding of children’s needs so that staff can work with families to develop support strategies while they wait for a formal assessment.

It draws on best practice from other parts of the country and is running in over 40 local primary and secondary schools across Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire between October 2024 and March 2025, and we are aiming for around 200 children and their families to take part.

Detailed evaluation will be carried out later in the year to understand the impact and potential benefits of the pilot. However some initial snapshot data – as at December 2024 - is shown on the next slide



# Participating schools in Bristol

<b>Air Balloon Primary</b>	<b>Bristol</b>
<b>Blaise High School</b>	Bristol
<b>Blaise Primary and Nursery School</b>	Bristol
<b>Bristol Brunel Academy</b>	Bristol
<b>Bristol Free School</b>	Bristol
<b>Broomhill Junior School</b>	Bristol
<b>Elmlea</b>	Bristol (PINS)
<b>Fair Furlong Primary School</b>	Bristol
<b>Fairfield High School</b>	Bristol
<b>Fishponds Church of England Academy</b>	Bristol
<b>Glenfrome Primary School</b>	Bristol
<b>Holymead Primary School</b>	Bristol
<b>Knowle Park Primary School</b>	Bristol
<b>Merchants Academy</b>	Bristol
<b>Minerva Primary School</b>	Bristol
<b>Oasis Academy Brightstowe</b>	Bristol
<b>Oasis Academy Brislington</b>	Bristol
<b>St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School</b>	Bristol
<b>Southmead Children's Centre (pre-school)</b>	Bristol
<b>Snapdragons Nursery Shirehampton (pre-school)</b>	Bristol

# Snapshot immediately following the completion of neurodiversity profiling - as of December 2024

73% of clinicians felt that the young person they profiled would benefit from the profiling

8 out of 11 of the parents/carers that responded, felt that profiling was 'very likely' or 'likely' to have helped them to understand their child/young person's needs

8 out of 11 of the parents/carers that responded, felt that profiling was 'very likely' or 'likely' to have helped them to meet their child/young person's needs

# Further pilot – which we hope to test during 25/26

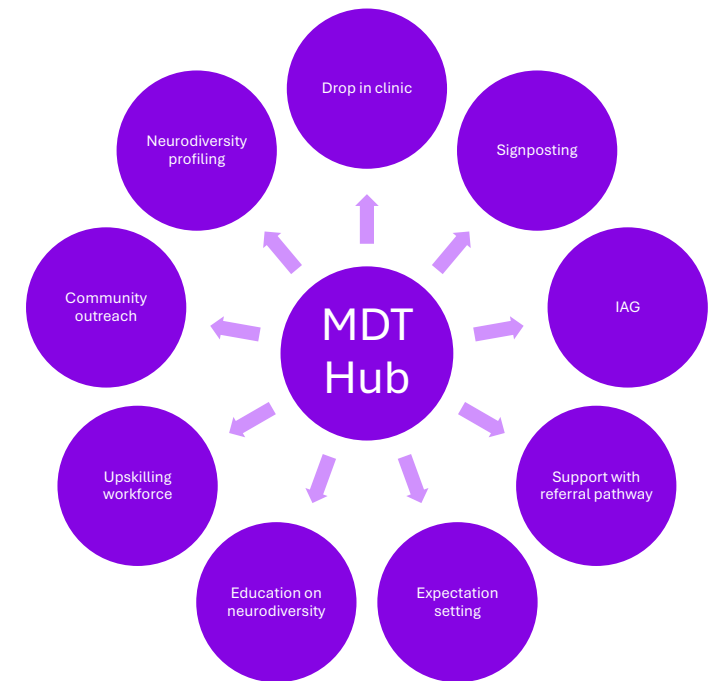
## Neurodiversity Hub

Bringing together professionals one day a month to a community setting (different locations each time across BNSSG) they will be able to review specific cases collectively and agree how best to support the CYP and their family, cases can be referred in via multiple routes such as General Practice, Education community groups, AWP, Social Care and other Health organisations. This will see upskilling of professionals across sectors and build a deeper awareness of neurodivergent conditions. The families will receive a better experience where they will only have to tell their story once.

Families will also be able to receive a deeper understanding of neurodivergent conditions and how best to support the child, in addition they will be signposted to appropriate support and services and more importantly an improved experience that supports their child across all needs.

The Hub will also be accessed by professionals to improve their understanding of how to support and identify neurodivergent needs and building a greater awareness of neurodiversity. From this the Hub will be able to form a future training programme as part of a longer-term model.

The Hub will also be able to run a drop-in clinic for parents and carers to discuss and raise any concerns they are experiencing, by rotating the location of the Hub across BNSSG, we will be able to actively target areas of high deprivation and seldom heard populations





# Thank you