

## **Health Response to Derbyshire Parent and Carer Voice – Areas for Concern Parent Survey**

We would like to thank parents for taking the time to provide responses to this important Parent and Carer Voice survey. We work closely with Derbyshire Parent and Carer Voice so it is really useful to hear the experiences and views directly from parents and to be given the opportunity to provide responses to the concerns raised.

Concerns about long waits for Mental Health services are shared and recognised. There has been lots of investment in early intervention services such as Build Sound Minds and Changing Lives – Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. There has also been lots of work with schools about the whole school approach to emotional health and wellbeing. Alongside this Kooth, online emotional wellbeing support [Home - Kooth](#) is universally available where children and young people can access therapeutic online chat sessions and a wide variety of information, advice, and peer support. There is also the 24/7 Derbyshire Mental Health Helpline and support service (0800 028 0077) which is available for children and young people and their parents or carers. The friendly call handlers are trained to provide immediate support, advice and sign posting and when indicated they can refer on for a clinical assessment

Referrals to CAMHS have reduced a little in 22/23 (maybe partly due to earlier services and help being available and meeting needs for some CYP) therefore hopefully numbers of CYP waiting will start to stabilise / reduce, although still not as we want.

We are working to build a more comprehensive graduated emotional and mental health offer which is inclusive and meets the needs of more children with SEMH/SEND.

The gaps in provision for children, young people, parents and carers within the Neurodivergent (ND) network have also been recognised. We have worked with a broad range of stakeholders from across system, including experts by experience to develop a business case that secured significant investment, over the next 3 years, to transform the assessment pathway and reduce the waiting times for assessments relating to Autism and ADHD. The additional investment will increase the capacity of the existing clinical assessment teams and provide opportunities for children, young people and their families to access advice, information and support at the earliest opportunity and before being assessed or receiving a diagnosis.

Starting in May 2023 Children, young people and their parents or carers will be able to access 1 of the 4 new ND Community Hubs that will be located across Derby and Derbyshire. These will provide the opportunity for people to easily access advice, information, and support before being assessed or receiving a diagnosis. There will also be an online version of the ND Hubs which will be part of the Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing Website [Derby & Derbyshire - Emotional Health & Wellbeing \(derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk\)](https://derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk)

In addition to this, a research project was commissioned to help us to gain a greater understanding of the ND pathway across Derby and Derbyshire. The researched highlighted priority areas for the ICB to address with partners from across the system including Social



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Care, Education and Voluntary, Community and Small Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and provide help & support earlier to families & in school in addition as well as ways to improve the assessment service

We are currently also working alongside the Local Authority by funding a joint project called "Autism in schools". This innovative project is available in several primary and secondary schools across Derby and Derbyshire and will be rolled out in more schools across the next academic year. The aim is to provide more support for Autistic Children who are transitioning between classes, year groups and schools.

We will continue to work in partnership with Derbyshire Parent and Carer Voice to keep families informed of the developments and changes taking place to improve services. If you would like to help shape these changes get in contact via Parent and Carer Voice.