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| 1. A joint statement from the ICB and SCC in line with NHS England guidance, confirming its commitment to timely access to an assessment for ADHD and/or Autism for those children or young people who require it.
 | It has been recognised both nationally and locally that children and young people are facing lengthy wait times for ND diagnostic assessments. In Autumn 2023, CYP in Surrey were waiting up to 40 weeks at the initial triage stage and then 2½ - 3 years for their diagnosis which was agreed to be an unacceptable position and one that required immediate improvement. In listening to families, Children and Young People (CYP) and school colleagues a joint approach was initiated by the ICB and SCC, who confirmed their commitment in working together in a shared ambition to improve outcomes for children with neurodiverse needs, building an approach that supports need early. By adopting a needs-led approach it was recognised that we would be better placed to be able to intervene early and put the right support in place at the right time. This has resulted in an increase in direct support for families, support for schools and digital processes to improve the identification of strategies. NHS Surrey Heartlands commission a number of providers to deliver neurodevelopmental diagnostic services to children and young people. * Children under six are seen by the Developmental Paediatrician Service, which is provided by Children and Family Health Surrey. Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust also support these pathways.
* Mindworks Surrey, an emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children, young people, parents and carers, and professionals across Surrey supports children aged six and over who are referred for assessment for possible autism spectrum disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ASD/ADHD).

For CYP accessing Mindworks, a change to the assessment pathway was adopted in September 2023 with the aim to better understand children’s needs earlier and help them to move through to assessment (if required) in a more timely way. At that current time, an audit of this pathway demonstrated that one third of children referred for neurodiverse support were not on the right pathway to support their needs. Therefore, the pathway could have contributed to a delay in help for these children and could in addition have delayed the provision of neurodiverse support. This was also alongside intelligence through engagement activities with families, CYP and schools that there were a significant number of families reporting what they really wanted was to have their needs met early and supported with in their local schools / communities / homes. The intention is to ensure that children with more complex needs are being seen in the timeliest way bearing in mind the potential impact this could have on their/their family’s health and wellbeing. With this in mind, the changes were made to enable schools to have direct access to consultation space for the children for whom they have highest concern, such as those where there is a school stability risk. Details on access is available here [Mindworks website](https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/professionals/request-support-additional-information). Work has started to ensure families are also aware of their rights to access to autism and ADHD diagnosis through Right to Choose, with promotional materials being developed for families and primary care. Alongside this Surrey Heartlands ICB are completing an audit of existing arrangements and ensuring providers are linked in to local private provider safeguarding networks to inform any future plans. To support CYP early and in a timely way to develop the strategies and interventions to thrive in life, access to the following is available: * Parents can support from the ND Helpline, seven days per week, 17:00-23:00 on 0300 222 5755 and we are working towards helping families recognise this is a support line and can be used in that way, as opposed to using it for crisis only. [Out of hours advice line :: Mindworks Surrey (mindworks-surrey.org)](https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/our-services/neurodevelopmental-services/out-hours-advice-line)
* Information on support and resources available for social communication differences, attention, activity, and other behaviours are provided through the Mindworks website: [Mindworks Neurodevelopmental needs](https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/advice-information-and-resources/neurodevelopmental-needs/navigating-maze-online-workshop).
* For details on the support available to CYP and families from Mindworks partners visit: <https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/our-services/neurodevelopmental-services>
* The Learners' Single Point of Access (L-SPA) offers help and support if you have a concern about the development and/or learning needs of a Surrey child. Both parents and practitioners working with children in Surrey are welcome to call the L-SPA. It is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, all year round (except Bank Holidays) on 0300 200 1015 - https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/lspa
* A child or young person has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability that means they need extra support at school. You can read more information on P13 of this guide: [Additional needs and/or disabilities parent and carer guide | Surrey Local Offer](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surreylocaloffer.org.uk%2Fparents-and-carers%2Fhelp-and-support%2Fand-guide&data=05%7C02%7Ckerry.clarke11%40nhs.net%7C8cb12f8f71304e62257f08dc75d68a63%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638514812460458273%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gzV%2BgDVYrdlcYyc%2BnkfIL1g0fShhcyCHwCoUNNnW6yo%3D&reserved=0) and also via this link: [A guide for parents and carers of children with additional needs and/ or disabilities (surreylocaloffer.org.uk)](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surreylocaloffer.org.uk%2F__data%2Fassets%2Fpdf_file%2F0010%2F348670%2FParent-carers-brochure.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Ckerry.clarke11%40nhs.net%7C8cb12f8f71304e62257f08dc75d68a63%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638514812460470757%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eTb7KR0pU9xXImmgmRMfZ646mnHMAxsZjreOgRKniJk%3D&reserved=0)

There are support offers to school in place and being developed, which are promoted on the local offer page, but to highlight * The Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINs) pilot [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) | Surrey Local Offer](https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/practitioners/pins)
* School ND advisors have been recruited to support school staff to meet the needs of neurodiverse children at the earliest opportunity and in a way which enables them to participate and feel they belong in their school. The ND Advisers are available to schools: rfs@surreycc.gov.uk

Mindworks partners, ICB and SCC are also in the initial stages of developing continuum of support promotional materials, to enable families and all system partners to explain and build a consistent understanding to the needs based approach. Update will be provided in the next system wide comms being planned for after autumn half term break.   |
| 1. Clear and specific guidance on children and young people who mask, and access arrangements to the pathway for these CYP who present differently at school than they do at home.

  | It is recognised that as a system we need to have a collective and specific response to support children and young people (CYP) who are masking. Two co-produced events (Behind The Mask) have been delivered to mainstream settings, during 23/24, to raise awareness and understanding of masking and highlight the importance of the voice of CYP and parent carers. This plays an essential role in understanding need which may not be experienced by education practitioners. During school academic year 24/25 plans have started to develop a whole school approach that responds to the needs of CYP including masking, now increased awareness has been raised. This work continues to be developed as part of PINS, All Age Autism Strategy, Inclusion and Innovation, Autism Outreach, Neurodiversity padlet, School Autism Friendly Reviews, ND Advisors and review of the Ordinarily Available Provision etc. The aim of which is to develop a whole school approach where flexibility and understanding is offered. By developing a safe and welcoming environment children and young people will have a sense of belonging and feel more able to share their whole self. This approach will include the supporting CYP and families who present differently at home and to at school. We are anticipating response by spring term 2024/5.In year 4&5 of the All-Age Autism Strategy (2024-2026) a coproduced project focusing on pre & post diagnostic information will be developed for parent carers. This will include advice and guidance and signposting. This will be available on the Autism in Surrey website and Local Offer, and specifically include a response attached to masking.  |
| 1. Clear and specific guidance in accessing the diagnostic pathway, for those children and young people unable to attend school. Whether on school roll or off-roll due to EBSNA or Alternative Provision.
 | As identified above, as a system Surrey is working to build support early taking a needs based approach, and details on what is available for CYP, families and schools to support with EBSNA is available on the local offer here: [Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) | Surrey Local Offer](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surreylocaloffer.org.uk%2Fparents-and-carers%2Feducation-and-training%2Febsna&data=05%7C02%7Ckerry.clarke11%40nhs.net%7Cca4c8f4b28174756f50408dd03081af6%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638670055551772662%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6Q9FCTGTS%2B81xWXM%2BWm%2FoHInZM2xjWrM7md2G%2Bspmf8%3D&reserved=0)**For all children on a school register,** including Emotion Based School Non Attendance, access to early support described above is available and the school can put forward a CYP on register to Mindworks following the response outlined in Q1 above. **For homeschooled children that are not on school roll** a 30–45-minute consultation can be booked by parents/carers by calling the Neurodevelopmental Service on 0300 222 5856, 9am-12:30pm Mon-Fri. (<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/talking-points/update-neurodevelopmental-support-children-and-young-people>)Please note that a diagnostic assessment requires information on how the child/young person functions in at least 2 different environments and therefore to move forward with the assessment it would be important to involve another professional involved in the young person’s care (e.g. clinician, home tutor, early help) to help complete the same paperwork that is requested from schools. An Assessment of needs (to be completed by parent and additional setting if possible), Client Demographic, YP view and Safety Plan. Followed by a Social Communication Questionnaire from parents and Conners from parents and an additional setting if possible.If you are looking for support for your child or for someone you care for or support, please know that you are not on your own. We hope this webpage will provide you with the information you need. |
| 1. In the development of a new pathway, evidence of plans and measures to ensure comprehensive and accessible (digital) tracking facilities for families and professionals for CYP on wait lists.
 | Plans are in discussion with Mindworks partners to include details of waiting times on their website. This will be a position statement as a snapshot in time with an agreed updating schedule published. So, it would enable an indication as opposed to an exact position. An update on this is anticipated in the communication scheduled for after autumn half term and will be on the Mindworks webpage. Further digital transformation is a priority in the present Mindworks Transformation Plans to ensure streamlined access, the ability to share the right information with the right partners to ensure joined up case management support and reporting, both to national platforms and locally. Mindworks and commissioners are working in collaboration to drive this element of transformation forward. |
| 1. Provision of data to identify how many CYP that have been excluded are currently on a wait list for the ND Pathway or are awaiting assessment to be added.
 | Data sharing agreements supported by families and implemented across Third sector providers, health and local authority is not in place at present to enable this level of information to be shared, enabling the tracking across data sets to be in place. However, creating inclusive environments is a key priority of the SEND Improvement Plan with one of the impact measure being a reduction in exclusions across Surrey. Details of the workstream are: **Inclusion in Education and the Community:** The Inclusion in Education and the Community pillar of the Additional Needs and Disabilities (AND) Transformation programme aims to ensure equitable access to education and community resources for all children and young people with additional needs and disabilities (AND) in Surrey. The program focuses on early identification and timely support, fostering resilience and independence, and enhancing community integration. This will address critical areas that were identified during the Local Area SEND Inspection. The project has specific workstreams that will contribute to the meeting the pillars strategic priorities:**Strategic Priority 1:** Children and Young People participate, thrive and achieve.**Strategic Priority 2:** Children and Young people have a sense of belonging and are included in their settingOne of the measures behind the workstream will be the impact on temporary and permanent exclusion, breaking this down further to identify neurodivergent CYP is being explored.  |
| 1. Provision of data to identify the impact of the current restricted access to the ND diagnostic pathway, has had on CYP experiencing suicide ideation, suicide attempts and suicide.
 | As above, data sharing agreements supported by families and implemented across Third sector providers, health and local authority is not in place at present to enable this level of information to be shared, enabling the tracking across data sets to be in place. What is available as part of the Suicide Prevention Strategy in Surrey, from a suicide prevention learnings group, where partners across A & E, the police, the third sector, and insights from education and safeguarding, review the data that is available to them which includes whether a young person is neurodiverse / has a diagnosis, to develop learnings for sharing to improve a prevention approach to support CYPAlongside this is the implementation of the key working service which has a commitment to provide a designated keyworker for every child or young person with learning disability, autism, or both, with the most complex needs. Learning and data intelligence will be available to review impact of any changes to services from CYP perspective. [Keyworking service | Surrey Local Offer](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surreylocaloffer.org.uk%2Fsupport%2Fkeyworking&data=05%7C02%7Ckerry.clarke11%40nhs.net%7Cca4c8f4b28174756f50408dd03081af6%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638670055551793896%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gq%2BJ%2BFfCy%2F7SElHLdUZVd3nV0HSTbghGwodPINHj%2BvM%3D&reserved=0) |
| 1. Provision of a joint ICB and SCC policy for integrated communications and parent carer engagement, in the development of Mindworks services and the ND Pathway.

This is in line with measures determined within the SCC Local Area Improvement Plan, specifically but not limited to Improvement 2: *Relational Working and Communication* | There is a joint working group across Surrey Heartlands ICB, Surrey CC and Mindworks partners further developing a comms and engagement plan. This is in line with measures determined within the SCC Local Area Improvement Plan, specifically but not limited to Improvement 2: *Relational Working and Communication*There is a strong engagement approach with CYP through a series of CYP Participation groups such as ATLAS and Mindworks engagement groups, plus a series of reference groups that run half termly with schools and safeguarding leads across the Surrey System. Family Voice and Health Watch are influential in a variety of governance structures to bring parent voice into the development of services and pathways under the needs-based approach to improving outcomes for neurodivergent CYP. Alongside, single engagement activities with groups of families / staff such as the Family Voice family event and the school’s event for ND Improvement. To strengthen this further* Planning has commenced to establish a reference group facilitated by Surrey Heartlands and Surrey County Council with a small group of parents on a half termly basis aiming to start second half of autumn term 24/25.
* Youth Focus have been commissioned to lead three Community of Practice events, aimed to improve outcomes and experiences for neurodiverse CYP aimed at the workforce, but informed by the voice of families and CYP
* Central to the PINS offer is parental involvement in school improvement plans when developing whole school approach to improve outcomes for neurodiverse CYP in school.
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| 1. Clear guidance for families seeking an ADHD and/or Autism assessment and diagnosis for their child or young person through Right to Choose, or for private assessments, with consistent and integrated guidance, relevant to CYPF, GP’s and schools.
 | **Access to Right to Choose to meet Children and Young Peoples ND diagnostic needs.** Ensuring families and primary care colleagues have correct information on ADHD and/or Autism assessment and diagnosis for their child or young person through Right to Choose, is an ICB priority. To enable the communication to be effective, an audit of Right to Choose providers is being completed and the implications from this audit will be reviewed by November 24, to inform next steps planning and promotion. Alongside this, the ICB are developing an up to date webpage keeping CYP, families, primary care and wider partners up to date with any new information that comes available. Here’s the link to our updated mental health web page which includes the public facing Right to Choose content and FAQs - [Mental Health - ICS](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surreyheartlands.org%2Fmental-health&data=05%7C02%7Ckerry.clarke11%40nhs.net%7C62586f50ffd5427c1f3908dd07d32823%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638675325672068942%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=T3Bqj9oPSCVu4TOgPlRI8Qr3JdcIXq0Vt21XjTWZExw%3D&reserved=0)Also, as part of the “discovery phase” in East Surrey ND Community of Practice the following resource has been created and will be distributed locally. [Parent\_Carer Support in Surrey – Autism and ADHD .pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CSuFreeman%5CDownloads%5CParent_Carer%20Support%20in%20Surrey%20%E2%80%93%20Autism%20and%20ADHD%20%20.pdf) Family Voice have also published this guidance for families: [Right-to-choose-FAQs.pdf (familyvoicesurrey.org)](https://familyvoicesurrey.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Right-to-choose-FAQs.pdf) |