



This is an easy read document.



About Children's ADHD services



ADHD means Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder



Children with ADHD can find it hard to focus.



And can find it hard to sit still.



They may not think before they do things.



1. About the neurodiversity programme, autism and how it fits with children's ADHD.

- 1 ND
- 2 Autism
- 3 ADHD

ADHD is part of a group of conditions known as neurodevelopmental disorders, which also includes Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



ADHD often appears alongside other conditions like autism.



It's important to address it as part of a larger plan to help children with neurodevelopmental challenges.



The Greater Manchester Neurodiversity Programme is a project aimed at improving how we care for children with conditions like ADHD and autism.



This programme looks at giving each child the support they need.



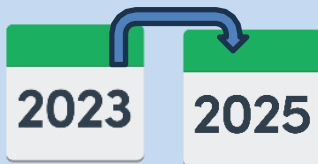
ADHD is an important part of this work.



2. What this means for patients, families and carers



Long wait times



Children with ADHD often have to wait a long time—sometimes up to two years—to find out they have ADHD and get treatment.



Waiting can make some children get worse and cause a lot of stress for families.



Differences in services



The help available to children with ADHD can be different depending on where they live.



Some areas offer a lot of support and some areas offer not much support.



Lack of support



When they are told that a child has ADHD, lots of families say they don't get enough support.



Without proper help, looking after a child with ADHD can be hard.



This can affect a child's future.



Too much focus on medication



Some people are only offered medication to help the child with ADHD,



And are not offered enough other types of support, like therapy and social activity.



Medication can sometimes have side effects.



Shared care



Sometimes a child has to see lots of different doctors.



Sometime this can cause gaps in care and different treatment happens.



Private diagnosis



Some families go to private doctors to get their child seen faster.



This means people with enough money can get seen more quickly.



This isn't fair.



3. What we have in place so far



Testing New Hubs



In some areas like Bury and Heywood, we've started new centres, or "hubs."



These hubs bring together different types of experts to make sure children with ADHD get the right care.



Current way to get treatment



CAMHS means Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services



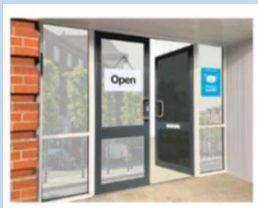
Right now, children with ADHD are usually referred to CAMHS for assessment and diagnosis.



This can be slow, and support after diagnosis is different depending on where you live.



4. What we are thinking about doing



Have more hubs



We're thinking about setting up more hubs across Greater Manchester.



These hubs may be online or in person



They would help reduce waiting times.



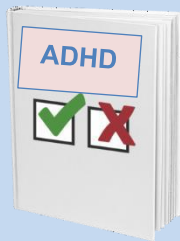
Help all children with ADHD get good care, no matter where they live.



Stopping difference in Care



We want to make sure that every child with ADHD gets good care, no matter where they live.



This means making standard guidelines that all areas would follow.



Providing help earlier



We believe that giving families support as early as possible can prevent ADHD symptoms from getting worse.



This early help might reduce the need for more treatment later on.



Changing referral rules



We're thinking about changing the rules about how children are referred for ADHD assessment.



Children who need help the most will be seen first.



Focusing on Children who need help most



Children with the worst symptoms or who are at the highest risk get help quickly.



Assessments



We want to make it easier to offer good care for children with ADHD.



We will make sure that every borough in Greater Manchester has multi-disciplinary teams (MDT), including CAMHS teams who can carry out the ADHD assessment and diagnosis.



The model and early help



The new model being developed will look at providing early help and support for children before they get an ADHD diagnosis.



Assess Needs Early: Find out what each child needs as soon as possible.



Offer person centred Support: Provide support that fits the needs of each child and family.



Coordinate Care: Make sure all services involved with a child work together, so families don't have to manage services on their own.



What have we already done?



Since this programme started in early 2024 we have:



Meetings and Workshops: Professionals from health, education, and social care and families have got together to share ideas.



Voice of Children and Young People: Young people with ADHD and their families have talked about their experiences to help services meet their needs.



Involvement of Parents and Carers: Parents and carers have talked about the difficulties and emotional toll of caring for a child with ADHD.



We think by all working together we can have a more responsive, supportive, and accessible service for all children with ADHD in Greater Manchester.



Next steps



We want to hear from you.



If you have used ADHD services or are waiting to be seen or are a family member, professional or carer.



It is important that we know what is working and what needs to change.



There are lots of ways to be involved including:



Completing a survey. Go to our website
gmintegratedcare.org.uk/have-your-say/



Being part of our lived experience group



Talking to us over the phone or whatsapping us:
07786 673762



Emailing us: gmhscp.engagement@nhs.net



Thank you!