



**North West**  
Learning Disability and Autism  
Operational Delivery Network

# Autism Workstream

*Refresh September 2022*

# Key autism drivers from The Long Term Plan



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## Improving access and quality of autism diagnosis, including pre and post assessment support

### Funding

#### LTP commitment

- Children and young people with suspected autism wait too long before being provided with a diagnostic assessment.
- Children, young people and their families require access to evidence based needs-led support through the diagnostic process.

Recurrent funding only identified for CYP pathway

Up to TCPs/ ICBs to allocate any recurrent Pathway funding

#### Objectives

- Reduction in diagnostic waiting times, assessment quality improved
- Improve quality and scope of pre and post diagnostic support
- Improve transition processes between services
- Improve commissioning processes and levers

Likely to be disparity across NW in adult community offer

## Reducing Health Inequalities

## Funding

### LTP commitment

- Action will be taken to tackle the cause of morbidity and preventable deaths in people with a learning disability and autistic people, including piloting specific health checks

Transformational (non-recurrent) funding identified

Up to TCPs/ ICBs to allocate any recurrent Pathway funding

Likely to be disparity across NW

### Objectives

- Primary care initiatives
- Community mental health care
- R&D on health inequalities
- LeDeR

**Improving the quality of mental health treatment and support for autistic people**

- 1. Reducing avoidable admissions into mental health settings**
- 2. Improving the quality of mental health treatment and support in inpatient settings**

**Funding**

**LTP commitment**

- Mental health services and professional should understand autism and offer timely, reasonably adjusted, high quality community and inpatient support. Understanding and developing community and inpatient pathways for autistic people across mental health

Transformational (non-recurrent) funding for environmental adaptations (small grants, not capital)

Oliver McGowan training offer delivered nationally

**Objectives**

- Improving the sensory and social environments of hospital settings
- Improving clinical leadership and fostering a culture of improvement
- Embedding listening to people with lived experience
- Improving workforce training and professional development

Likely to be disparity across NW in providers approach and people's experience

# Discussion with National Autistic Society reps, Sept 2022

From discussion, suggested areas to focus on with a view to creating a **framework** for commissioning guidance:

1. Explore what good **early intervention** pathways look like – with a focus on access to pre-diagnostic support and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector offers. Overall aim to focus on autistic people experiencing anxiety/ stress with a view to early intervention to prevent crisis.
2. Explore what good **post-diagnostic support** looks like – in the CYP pathway and the adult pathway
  - Utilise findings around post diagnostic support in psycho-education
  - Identify how pathways can be adapted to support improved mental health, particular focus on people whose anxiety may escalate

# Next steps



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September 2022	October/ November 2022	December 2022	January – September 2023	September – December 2023
NW ODN Conference discussion	Further testing of ideas with autistic people and TCP stakeholders across NW	Firm up and submit workstream proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Areas of interest</li><li>• KLOEs for each area</li><li>• Clarity on output (eg creation of commissioning good practice framework/ guide)</li></ul>	Phase 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focused work on KLOEs</li><li>• Explore through stakeholder workshops</li><li>• Identify good practice examples</li><li>• Phase 1 report</li></ul>	Phase 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Task and Finish group</li><li>• Draft output as agreed in workstream proposal</li><li>• Phase 2 report</li></ul>



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**Thank you**

**Any Questions?**