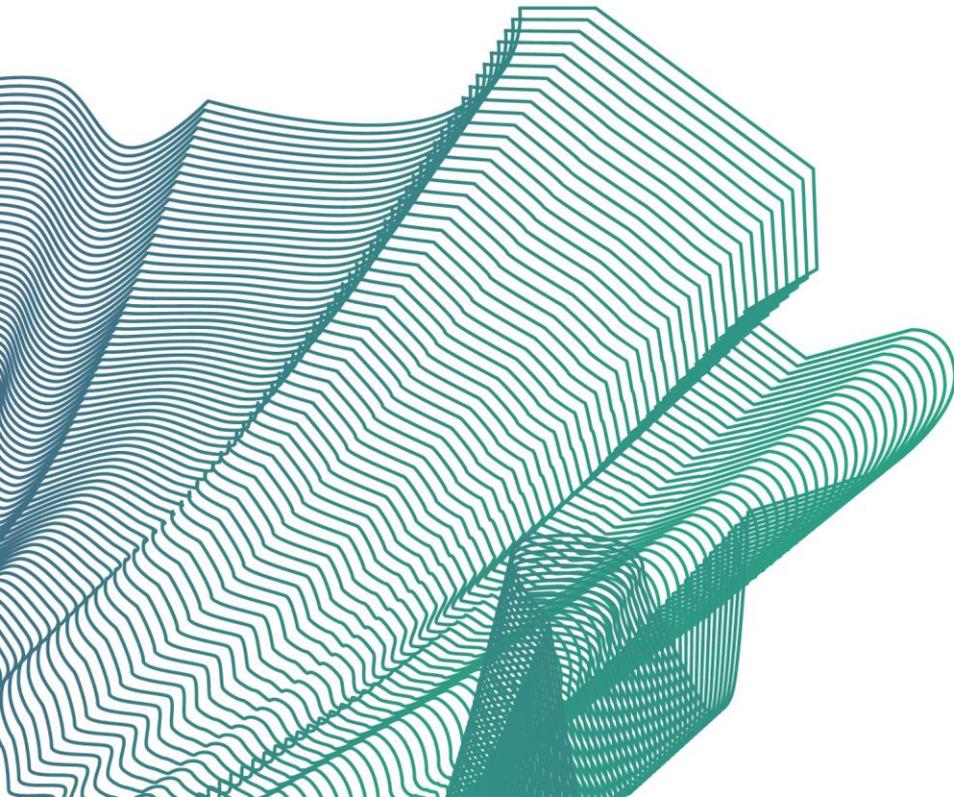


# ROTHERHAM

INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP | HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

# Autism Strategy and Pathway: Update to Health Select Commission

*March 2021*



**Rotherham**

Clinical Commissioning Group

**Rotherham, Doncaster  
and South Humber**

NHS Foundation Trust

**The Rotherham**

NHS Foundation Trust



## This update will:

- Cover progress on implementation of strategy
- The results of the on-line diagnosis pilot with Healios to be reported back.
- Highlight action being taken to address long waiting times for assessment/diagnosis and provision of post-diagnostic support
- Assurance that focus is on all ages



# Vision

- Rotherham's All Age Autism Strategy and Implementation Plan set out a vision for all autistic people living and working in Rotherham, to have the same opportunities as anyone else to live rewarding and fulfilling lives, whatever their age.
- This vision is shared by all public, voluntary and independent organisations that have worked together to develop the strategy.

# Objective 1: All Rotherham's autistic children and young people are healthy and safe from harm:

Autism pathway document was created (September 2020) and this will ensure that children, Young people and their families understand options.

New sensory support offer for children and young people Rotherham is in place

Ongoing:

- 95% of All schools, colleges and GP's / primary care staff to have autism awareness training (to be completed by December 2022)

# Outcome 2: Rotherham's autistic children and young people start school ready to learn for life.

**Assure ourselves that the most vulnerable children are being seen and supported elsewhere in the system.**

Data Sharing Agreements are in place between the Council and Health partners to ensure that needs are being flagged.

## **Ongoing:**

Ensure that healthy Lifestyles for children and young people with autism are promoted - this will be completed by June 2022

# Outcome 3: Rotherham's autistic children and young people are provided with the same opportunities to thrive going into adulthood

## Update:

- Rotherham's Preparing for Adulthood board is working to ensure that the needs of autistic young people are recognised and included.
- Work has started looking at the opportunities assistive technology can bring to autistic young people in being independent.
- TRFT and RDASH have reviewed their transition pathways
- advanced planning and coordination of care occurs for autistic young people moving into adult social care is in place

## Ongoing:

**A clear pathway is developed and is advertised through Rotherham's Local Offer (to be completed by December 2021)**

# Outcome 4: Autistic Adults living in Rotherham will get the right support when needed

- Review Of current adult diagnostic service, to include local and national indicators of volume and waiting lists – completed
- New adult diagnostic pathway developed that demonstrates improvement to accessing specialist assessments with an investment of £300k . This will ensure specialist assessments are available closer to home - this service has started (see [Rotherham Adult Autism Diagnostic Service \(RAADS\) – RDaSH NHS Foundation Trust](#))
- Autism Alert Card is available across the South Yorkshire Police Force (see [Autism Alert or Learning Disability Alert card - SYP \(southyorks.police.uk\)](#))

# Outcome 5: Autistic Adults living in Rotherham will be better supported as they grow old.

- The needs of autistic adults are being considered in mental health forums for older people
- Contact has been made with Rotherham Age UK

## Ongoing:

Work on JSNA has been halted due to COVID-19. This will help services to understand needs of autistic older people living in Rotherham.

# Pathway Re-design - CYP Element

The new pathway has been designed to achieve the vision that the needs of children who present with neuro-developmental difference are met, regardless of whether they have a diagnosis of autism

Elements of the new pathway are:

- Whole system training based on the licensed Autism Education Trust model (further exploration underway with ADHD Foundation)
- A structured and consistent resource pack to support SENCOs in schools
- A rolling programme of evidence-based training modules that parents can access to support for challenging issues (regardless of whether their child has a diagnosis)
- Peer support
- A multi-disciplinary team to consider all referrals

## Supporting Neurodiversity

**SEND**  
ROTHERHAM

In Rotherham we want to make sure that children with neurodevelopmental differences learn and thrive. We want to promote acceptance and understanding and ensure they get the right support at the right time, regardless of whether they have a diagnosis such as autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.



### FREE TRAINING FOR STAFF

We are offering training to all staff within our settings through the Licensed Autism Education Trust (AET) model. The AET aim to promote the understanding of social communication and interaction differences. This tiered training allows you to not only ensure that understanding is embedded within the staff team but also within your systems and development plans. In addition, this is supported by a Train the Trainers package so that staff training can be extended.



### INTERACTIVE AND PRACTICAL RESOURCE KIT

We know that it is important to get the right support in place for children and young people. This high quality, interactive guide offers information and practical ideas to help teachers and SENDCos, as well as signposting further support. It complements the Graduated Response Document on the Local Offer and aims to help staff implement strategies based on the individual child or young person, rather than a diagnosis.

This online resource kit will be piloted from 14 December 2020 and will be a live document that evolves over time.



### SUPPORT, ADVICE AND INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

A range of information and advice sessions are available for parents and carers through a variety of avenues. Workshops and modules are all evidence-based and aim to develop understanding, increase confidence and empower parents and carers. Partners include Early Help, the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, the Children's Disability Team and Health Practitioners.



### MULTI-AGENCY PATHWAY

Our new pathway includes a multi-agency team of Clinical and Educational Psychologists as well as practitioners from our Children's Disability Team, Learning Support Service and Speech and Language Therapy Service to consider referrals and support that can be offered. This will help to ensure we offer a holistic approach which is more efficient and effective and feels joined up to families.

As the team evolves there will be a drive to offer a source of support for schools and families whilst children and young people are waiting for an assessment.

In addition, we will continue to offer online assessments to provide choice and flexibility to assessments and reduce waiting times.



## Neurodiversity Support and Information for Families

**SEND**  
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To support the families of children who have neuro-developmental differences we offer a range of information, support and advice sessions through a variety of providers.



### ROTHERHAM PARENT CARERS FORUM

As well as offering peer support, a welcoming community and an understanding ear the RPCF offer many activities which parents, carers, children, young people and siblings can all engage in. Many parents have shared that they have felt less isolated and more empowered to access support following these. RPCF offer a range of workshops including Advocating For Your Young Person, Managing Anxiety, Working in Partnership with Services and Emotional Regulation.

**E-mail:** [admin@rpcf.co.uk](mailto:admin@rpcf.co.uk)  
**Telephone:** 01709 296262  
**www.rpcf.co.uk**

### EARLY HELP

Our Early Help team offers evidence-based courses exploring approaches to parenting. In addition there are also sessions focusing on specific areas such as sleep.

**E-mail:** [mash-referrals@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:mash-referrals@rotherham.gov.uk)  
**Telephone:** 01709 334905

### CHILDREN'S DISABILITY FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

The Children's Disability Family Support Team deliver Stepping Stones for parents and carers of children and young people (aged 0-12 years). This is based on positive parenting strategies and aims to support you in encouraging more of the behaviours you want to see, managing stress and teaching your child new skills.

**Telephone:** 01709 555967



### AUTISM INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE

For families with children and young people on the neurodevelopmental waiting list, or those with a diagnosis of autism our Autism Information and Advice Service offers sessions including Understanding Autism, Considering Behaviour and Teen Life.

**E-mail:** [autismadvice@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:autismadvice@rotherham.gov.uk)  
**Telephone:** 01709 336404

### SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS

The school or setting your child or young person attends is an excellent resource. They know how your child or young person presents in their setting and they can signpost you to support that is available across the borough. Each setting has a designated teacher who oversees the needs and support for children and young people with additional needs, often known as a Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo). A conversation with the class teacher or SENDCo may help you to consider what would be of benefit.

The Rotherham Special Educational Needs and Disability Local Offer website contains a wide range of information and can be accessed at [www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk)



# Digitally enabled pathway (CYP)

- The CCG initiated a pilot to add capacity for clinical diagnosis delivered by Healios
- Healios have worked with 120 families and this option has been well received by families
- The new pathway will continue to include the choice of accessing a digitally enabled pathway via Healios.

# Adult pathway components

- A clear referral process created. This has been communicated with stakeholders.
- Screening assessment – 90 minutes
- ADOS (Adult Diagnostic Observation Schedule) 2
- Multi disciplinary process has been put in place.
- Service is currently receiving 7 referrals a week
- Rotherham Parents Carers Service will commence in November 2020.

# Adult Pathway Components:

**NHS**  
Rotherham Doncaster  
and South Humber  
NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Adult Autism Diagnostic Service (RAADS) -  
What To Expect During My Autism Assessment  
Information for service users and carers



**RDASH** leading the way with care

**RDASHWAY**

**NHS**  
Rotherham Doncaster  
and South Humber  
NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome to Rotherham Adult Autism  
Diagnostic Service (RAADS)  
Service overview



**RDASH** leading the way with care

**RDASHWAY**

# Rotherham Adult Neurodiversity Support Service:



## RANSS Virtual Drop-ins

Starting Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Every Friday at 1:00pm – 2:30pm  
&  
Every Monday at 6:30pm – 8:00pm  
(Excluding Bank Holidays)







Open to all neurodiverse adults – autistic and/or ADHD (diagnosed, awaiting assessment, or self-identifying) who have a Rotherham GP.

- Targeted support available from our Peer Support Workers
- An opportunity to meet other neurodiverse adults who may share similar experiences
- A place for your voice as a neurodiverse adult to be heard and shared with services
- An opportunity to meet with representatives from relevant services and organisations who can provide support and opportunities with learning, accommodation, well-being, employment etc.

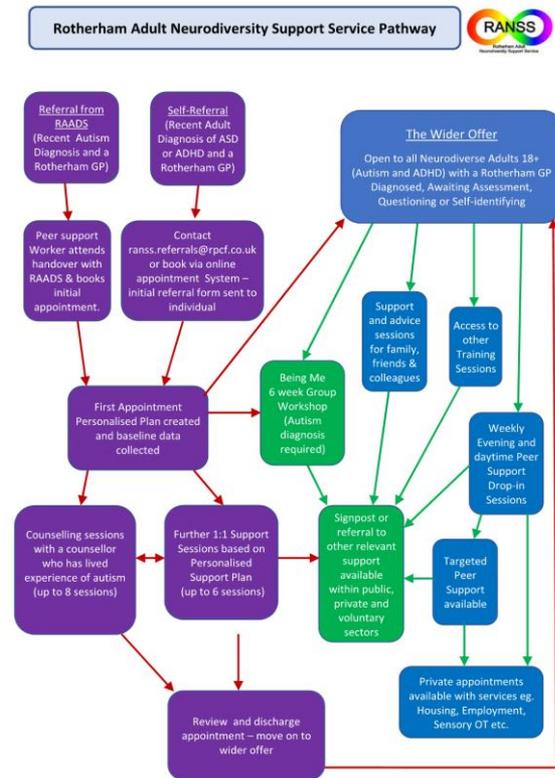
To join us, download Zoom to your phone, tablet or laptop and use the codes below;

Meeting ID: 942 5190 6748  
Password: 375154

You don't have to turn your camera on if you prefer not to and can type in the chat box if you prefer that to speaking.

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 Tel – 01709 296262



# Adult Waiting List

- There are 14 referrals being received a week. This is higher than expected.
- NICE complainant
- Additional capacity has been sought to increase choice – Helios and Sheffield