

CYP ND Programme Update

July 2026

This month's newsletter provides an update on the continued progress of the Children and Young People's Neurodevelopmental (ND) Programme across Cheshire and Merseyside. Below is a detailed update on key developments, ongoing projects and upcoming priorities.

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Knowing Me Profiling Tool Rollout Update



Tool Rollout Plans & Progress

New website content and resources

We continue to expand the resources available on the ICB website to support CYP, families and professionals. We have now added all training videos from the [Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) programme](#), a pilot programme designed to support neurodivergent children in mainstream primary schools at the whole-school level. It is needs-led, rather than diagnosis-led, recognising the neurodiverse nature of classrooms and supporting the needs of all children within a school setting.

We are also preparing to publish family-friendly guidance on the ND triage (formerly stratification) tool and a set of frequently asked questions on Right to Choose referrals to help parents and carers better understand these processes. These will be live on the ICB [ND Pathway website](#) from mid-July. We will continue to add to the FAQs, so please share any unanswered questions you commonly receive from families with louise.sinclair@alderhey.nhs.uk.

You can find more resources at [Cheshire and Merseyside Neurodevelopment Pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#).

Strategic mapping event

On 27th July 2026, strategic leaders from across Cheshire and Merseyside will be coming together to look at priorities for a multi-year ND programme plan for 2026/27 and beyond. If you want to be involved in the longer-term planning for transformation of the neurodevelopment pathway and you have not yet received an invitation, please contact ayaz.ladha@alderhey.nhs.uk for details.

Digital Developments

MS Forms tool

The MS Forms version of the tool is now live and can be found here: [Knowing Me profiling tool form - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

We are keen for everyone to use this form and share their experiences with us so that we can test and trial it ahead of more advanced digital development and integration. You can complete our feedback survey [here](#) or get in touch with our brilliant evaluation team [here](#) to share your thoughts.

Power BI dashboard

Work continues to develop our new Power BI dashboard, which will help professionals collate and interpret profiling tool data with greater clarity and provide visual summaries. Work will continue over the next month and updates will follow.

Training

1396 people trained so far!

Professionals' training on the Knowing Me profiling tool continues, with training now delivered to 1396 professionals across 563 organisations. This includes 649 education staff across 417 schools.



ADDvanced Solutions to begin training delivery

Knowing Me profiling tool training is now being delivered with our new partner, ADDvanced Solutions. You will soon be able to view upcoming dates for the 3-hour

professionals' training sessions and reserve your space here on the new booking portal – look out for an email with full details soon. We are also making progress on our range of flexible 1-hour information sessions for parents, carers and professionals, and we will be sharing more details on how to access these offers soon.

CANDDID Programme Evaluation Update



The Centre for Autism, Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Intellectual Disability (CANDDID) continues to lead the programme's evaluation work. An end-of-year evaluation report has now been produced by the CANDDID team and can be viewed on request by emailing the team at cwp.ndprofilestudy@nhs.net.

We want to hear from you!

The evaluation team is looking for feedback from professionals who are using the profiling tool to help us understand your experiences. Young people and families are also welcome to be part of upcoming evaluation-led workstreams in 2026. You can find more information on how to get involved [here](#) or you can contact the team at cwp.ndprofilestudy@nhs.net.

ND Programme Group Updates

Programme Board

Progress has been made in implementing the Knowing Me profiling approach, including the development of digital reporting functionality to support local insight, evaluation and service improvement. Work is also continuing to explore digital solutions and future funding opportunities to strengthen the wider offer.

Service mapping activity is helping to build a clearer understanding of early support available across the system, particularly in relation to parenting interventions and early help provision. This is informing work to identify gaps, reduce variation and support a more joined-up pathway for children, young people and families. Co-production and engagement with parent carer forums remain central to this work.

Reducing waiting times and improving access to neurodevelopmental assessment and support remains a key priority. Current discussions are focused on sustainable service transformation, with an emphasis on partnership working, greater consistency across providers and ensuring future investment is directed towards improving outcomes and equity across the system.

Alongside this, the programme is giving increased attention to transitions between children's and adult services, shared care arrangements and the wider experience of children, young people and families. The overall focus remains on delivering more coordinated, proactive and holistic support across the pathway.

Empowerment, Early Help & Ongoing Support (EEHOS) Group

Overall, progress this month has focused on stabilising and strengthening key elements of the Early Help system, particularly around training, tools, and the development of a more consistent offer. The transition to the new training provider is underway, with a more flexible and responsive model being introduced to support ongoing learning rather than one-off sessions, alongside improved oversight and clearer local planning to ensure capacity is managed effectively. Work is also progressing to embed the MS Form as a core profiling tool, with attention on improving user confidence, communications, and supporting materials to maximise uptake and data quality. In parallel, early discussions are exploring longer-term digital solutions to create a more integrated and streamlined system. A major area of focus is the development of a clearer, more consistent Early Help parenting offer, with a shift towards defining a shared framework at system level before assessing local provision. Overall, activity is moving towards a more coordinated, strategic approach, with an emphasis on consistency, co-production, and improved visibility across the system.

Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG)

The Clinical & Professional Reference Group continues to focus on improving integration between neurodevelopmental and children's mental health services, with a particular emphasis on creating a more joined-up, accessible system for children, young people and families. Mental health providers joined us this month to discuss the development of a 'no wrong door' approach, ensuring children can access the right

support regardless of referral route or diagnostic status, building on examples of successful integrated working already in place across several local areas.

Work is also progressing to strengthen neurodiversity-informed practice across the workforce. Initial priorities include improving visibility of existing training opportunities, developing a more coordinated training offer, and supporting wider workforce development across mental health and neurodevelopmental services. The group also discussed opportunities to improve the consistency and effectiveness of reasonable adjustments, with a focus on sharing best practice and embedding more personalised approaches to support.

A further area of focus has been strengthening multi-agency collaboration and reducing fragmentation across pathways. Alongside this, the group is working to improve data quality and integration to better understand outcomes, monitor demand and support service improvement.

Significant discussion took place around the neurodevelopmental service specification and Right to Choose pathways. Work is underway to develop a more consistent approach to quality standards, data requirements and provider expectations, helping to reduce variation and support a more seamless experience for children and families. The group also discussed the impact of duplicate referrals, the need for clearer system-wide communications, and emerging concerns regarding the use of AI-generated referral information.

Looking ahead, priorities will include reducing waiting times through targeted investment, increasing service capacity, and continuing to develop more consistent approaches to pathway management and performance reporting across Cheshire and Merseyside.

ADHD Shared Care

Work is progressing to establish more consistent shared care arrangements for children and young people with ADHD across Cheshire and Merseyside. Updated paediatric shared care protocols are approaching final approval and will provide greater clarity around prescribing responsibilities, monitoring requirements and the respective roles of primary and specialist care.

Alongside this, proposals are being developed to standardise funding arrangements for GPs, reducing variation between local areas and creating a more consistent approach to prescribing and monitoring. Subject to approval, this will support more equitable access and simplify implementation across the system.

Planning is also underway to support the transition of stable patients from specialist services into primary care, with a focus on pathway development, workforce readiness and training. There is ongoing recognition of the challenges associated with patients transferring from independent and Right to Choose providers, and further work is being undertaken to clarify responsibilities and strengthen governance arrangements. A Right to Choose subgroup has been convened to address these issues.

Over the coming months, activity will focus on finalising protocols, aligning training and engagement plans, and supporting local areas to implement a more consistent and sustainable shared care model.

Key Dates for July 2026

- 2nd July: Right to Choose Subgroup Meeting
- 8th July: EEHOS Commissioners' Face-to-Face Meeting
- 9th July: ADHD Shared Care Meeting
- 23rd July: Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG)
- 27th July: ND Strategic Planning Event
- 29th July: EEHOS Early Help Support Functions Meeting