

CYP ND Programme Update June 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

Service mapping

All nine Places continue to make progress with tool rollout. Places leads are continuing to map existing local services against the dimensions of the tool so that we can identify gaps and opportunities in service provision. We will need broad multi-agency input across provider services, local authorities and the third sector to ensure this mapping is as comprehensive as possible and properly address gaps. Please consider getting involved to help us drive this essential work forward. Contact louise.sinclair@alderhey.nhs.uk for more details.

New website content and resources

We continue to expand the resources available on the ICB website to support CYP, families and professionals. You can find the resources here: [Cheshire and Merseyside Neurodevelopment Pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

Upcoming additions will include frequently asked questions about Right to Choose referrals and a family-friendly guide to stratification (now referred to as standardised triage) for parents and carers. The guide has been co-produced with clinicians and Parent Carer Forum representatives as part of our ongoing efforts to improve how we share information. We are now meeting with parents and carers regularly to develop further resources and discuss overall engagement.

If you have any suggestions for helpful resources we can include in future updates, or you would like to take part in the parent/carer engagement group, please contact louise.sinclair@alderhey.nhs.uk.

Feedback, engagement and co-production opportunities

For 2026/27, we are moving into the next evaluation phase of the Cheshire and Merseyside *Knowing Me* profiling tool so that we can make sure that the tool works in practice, measure its impact, and demonstrate how helpful it is. We have a new page on our website with a number of ways for people to get involved here: [We want to hear from you - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

Strategic mapping event

In July, 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. More details to follow shortly!

Digital Developments

MS Forms tool now live!

We are excited to announce that the MS Forms version of the tool is now live and can be found at [Knowing ME profiling tool form - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#). We would like to thank everyone involved in supporting the complex and lengthy development work so far! The next step is to ensure that as many people as possible use the form to complete the profiling tool and let us know how it works for them so that we can test and trial it ahead of more advanced digital developments. Our brilliant Evaluation Team will be supporting this work. Please visit [We want to hear from you - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#) for more details or contact louise.sinclair@alderhey.nhs.uk to get involved.

Power BI dashboard

Work has started on developing a Power BI dashboard to help professionals interpret profiling tool data with greater clarity and provide visual summaries. Work will continue over the next month and updates will follow.

Training

1354 people trained so far!

Professionals' training on the *Knowing Me* profiling tool continues, with training now delivered to 1354 professionals across 545 organisations. This includes 633 education staff across 405 schools.



Introducing our new training provider

We are thrilled to announce that from June 2026, we will be partnering with ADDvanced Solutions to deliver our *Knowing Me* profiling tool training. They have a wealth of experience advocating for neurodiverse children, young people and families, and empowering professionals to better support them. We look forward to working together on a new range of flexible, co-produced training resources for professionals and parents/carers. We'll be sharing more information on how you can access these resources 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 & Mental Health Work

A proposal has been developed for a project to improve mental health provision for neurodiverse CYP. This will be considered within strategic planning for 2026/27 and beyond.

ND Programme Group Updates

Programme Board

The programme continues to make progress on strengthening system-wide coordination, with key pieces of work nearing completion. There is a clear emphasis on aligning programme work with emerging SEND reforms and ensuring that local plans remain coherent and up to date.

Work is increasingly focused on understanding variation across local areas and using this insight to guide future commissioning decisions. Mapping of neurodevelopmental services is progressing, alongside efforts to identify gaps and opportunities for a more consistent offer. There is recognition that organisational changes are affecting local capacity, and this is being actively considered within planning.

Discussions are ongoing around the use of insights from evaluation and Place-based feedback to shape next year's approach, with a stronger emphasis on co-design with local leads and ensuring that evidence informs decision-making.

Reducing long waits for assessment and support remains a central priority, with a renewed focus on moving beyond short-term initiatives toward more sustainable system transformation. There is growing consensus on the need for greater consistency across providers, clearer expectations, and a more collaborative approach to tackling demand. The programme is positioning itself to respond rapidly once funding is confirmed, including proposals to expand support through partnerships and alternative delivery models.

Alongside this, there is a shift toward more proactive and holistic support for children and young people, ensuring that improvements are not limited to access times but extend to overall experience and outcomes.

Empowerment, Early Help & Ongoing Support (EEHOS) Group

The EEHOS group has continued to meet despite staffing reductions across the ICB. Work has focused on developing the training and digital offers, supporting evaluation, rolling out the profiling tool, sharing developments and good practice, and identifying challenges. A report was completed summarising readiness for profiling tool rollout that included a number of helpful learning points for strategic planning in 2026/27. Work continues to facilitate communication, coordination and consistent activity across all the nine Places, drive partnership engagement with local authorities, and join up strategic planning for SEND.

Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG)

The group has progressed a number of priorities across the programme, particularly around the alignment of mental health and ND pathways. Feedback from the ND and mental health stakeholder event is being combined with existing programme principles to create a set of draft recommendations for commissioners. Strong themes include strengthening joint working, improving access to mental health support for neurodivergent children and young people, and reducing duplication through better information sharing.

In support of the emerging funding approach aimed at reducing long waits beyond 52 weeks, providers will be asked to submit proposals demonstrating how investment could support backlog reduction, system transformation, and delivery of the agreed clinical model. The approach prioritises areas with the longest waits and expects alignment with shared tools such as stratification and standardisation of first meaningful contact definitions. While

funding is not yet confirmed, preparation is underway to enable rapid mobilisation once approved, alongside parallel work to improve data quality and consistency across providers.

Concerns have been escalated regarding Right to Choose pathways, particularly around quality, clinical responsibility, and increasing system demand, with agreement to pursue clearer guidance and escalation through governance routes.

ADHD Shared Care

Early planning is underway for a pilot model focused on shifting care closer to primary care. The proposed approach builds on existing adult models, aiming to create a structured pathway where GPs and primary care practitioners take on a greater role in prescribing and ongoing management, helping to reduce pressure on specialist services. While Wirral was initially used as a costing example, there is growing interest from other areas, including Liverpool and Sefton, with flexibility to expand the pilot depending on engagement and final funding arrangements. Alongside this, significant work is underway to standardise shared care arrangements across the system, including harmonising funding models and simplifying processes for GPs.

Key Dates for June 2026

- 3rd June – EEHOS Early Help Support Functions Meeting
- 4th June -- Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG)
- 16th June – ADHD Shared Care Meeting
- 22nd June – CYP ND Programme Board
- 24th June – EEHOS Commissioners' Face-to-Face Meeting
- 25th June -- Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG) Face-to-Face Meeting