

***Knowing Me* Profiling Tool Update**

Microsoft form

We are delighted that colleagues across Cheshire and Merseyside are now using the Microsoft form to complete the *Knowing Me* profiling tool. Information in the form will help us improve the tool and the support and services we offer for neurodiverse children, young people and families. We are quickly developing new functionality so that colleagues across Cheshire and Merseyside can access the information in the form and we hope to share details of this next month.

New training portal

You can now book *Knowing Me* profiling tool training and awareness sessions on the new ADDvanced Solutions Community Network [Knowing Me Booking Portal](#). Professionals can attend 3-hour training sessions, post-training Q&A sessions for additional support, and 1-hour information sessions for those not completing the tool. We have also launched 1-hour information sessions for parents and carers to help them understand how the tool can be used to support their children and what they can expect throughout the process.

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 workshops in 2026. You can find more information on how to get involved [here](#) on the ICB ND web page or you can contact the team at cwp.ndprofilestudy@nhs.net.

Key Areas of Work

ND strategic planning event

On 27th July, 80 stakeholders from across Cheshire and Merseyside met at the ND strategic planning event to discuss priorities and plans for the next three years. Colleagues reaffirmed that reducing the 52-week wait for neurodevelopmental assessments remains the programme's top priority, recognising the significant impact delays have on children, young people and families. The programme team is currently gathering insights and next steps and will share more details soon.

ND Single Service Specification

A working group will soon begin to develop a single service specification for ND providers in Cheshire and Merseyside. Updates will follow as the work progresses.

ADHD Shared Care

The ADHD Shared Care subgroup continues to meet to develop a consistent Cheshire and Merseyside approach to ADHD shared care arrangements. Paediatric shared care protocols

remain in development, with work focusing on monitoring requirements, funding arrangements and comprehensive guidance on relevant medicines.

Alongside this, partners are progressing the rollout of a standardised Local Enhanced Service (LES) specification and developing a project plan to support the transition of 16- to 18-year-olds from specialist services into primary care, helping to create a more consistent and sustainable shared care model across the system.

Right to Choose

A working group is now meeting regularly to develop a unified Cheshire and Merseyside approach to managing Right to Choose referrals and diagnoses. This approach will be built into the single service specification once finalised.

The group has also produced a set of FAQs for families to help answer common questions about Right to Choose assessments. This will ensure that families have access to full, clear and accurate information before making a decision about a Right to Choose referral.

The family FAQs can be found [here](#) and will shortly be joined by FAQs for professionals.

ND triage tool

The Clinical and Professional Reference Group have been working with providers and parents/carers to update the ND stratification tool, which is now known as the ND triage tool. This tool helps providers to assess which ND referrals need to be seen more urgently, and sets out a standardised approach so that all children and young people in Cheshire and Merseyside are triaged according to the same criteria. The updated tool has now been approved by the Programme Board and is being shared with providers and commissioners.

A family-friendly guide has been produced to explain the ND triage tool to parents and carers, and can be viewed [here](#).

Other News & Developments

Funding update

The ICB has confirmed that £2.8million from left-shift allocations is available for the CYP ND programme for 2026-27 to improve access to services. We have plans to spend the majority of this with our CYP ND providers to transform service provision and deliver early support for children, young people and families.

Early support

Following feedback at the ND Strategic Planning event, we will now use the term 'early support' rather than 'early help.' As part of this change, we are discussing a new name for the Empowerment, Early Help and Ongoing Support (EEHOS) group. Please bear with us as we confirm and implement these changes.

Key Dates for August 2026

- 19th August: ADHD Shared Care Meeting
- 25th August: ND Service Specification Working Group
- 26th August: EEHOS Commissioners' Face-to-Face Meeting

- 27th August: Clinical & Professional Reference Group (CPRG)
- 28th August: Deadline for EOI submissions to be returned by NHS providers