

Adult neurodevelopmental assessment and support

Moved by Cllr Barbara Brownridge

Seconded by Cllr Ken Rustidge

The council notes that:

~~There is~~ Currently ~~no~~ the NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support ~~is provided by Right to Choose~~. ~~There has been no statutory support offer for neurodivergent adults in Oldham for years, and the result has had severe repercussions for our mental health services, who see many presentations from people who fall into this category and have not been able to cope with their condition without therapeutic support and intervention. It has also meant additional pressure for their carers, parents or families who are left to pick up the pieces and try to manage as best they can, often with no training or support themselves.~~ Optimise Health Care is in the process of being contracted to undertake ADHD and autism diagnosis work in Oldham. This is to ensure continuity of support in the borough until NHS Greater Manchester puts a new triage process and pathway for assessment and diagnosis in place across the county.

Currently, Northern Care Alliance's (NCA) Paediatric Services provide assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-~~18~~ 8 years, take referrals up to the age of 8 years old for those with ADHD and/or autism, and Oldham CAMHS, provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust support those over the age of 8. There are pathways in place to support the transition into adulthood, including in relation to medications, and at 18 they would be able to access services via Right to Choose, and going forward, Optimise Healthcare. ~~diagnosing and planning the care management for children with neuro-developmental concerns, neuro-disabilities or complex health needs. Once diagnosed, children and young people with neuro-developmental conditions have historically had an annual appointment with a consultant paediatrician, who assesses their ongoing needs and in turn signposts them to additional therapeutic services where appropriate. However, once they turn 18, they are discharged and there is no transitional support nor an adult equivalent service and those adults who are undiagnosed have no access to an assessment pathway at all.~~

On the NHS own website, it states, 'We know that with earlier, well-targeted community support, many admissions and long stays in mental health inpatient units could potentially be avoided.' So, this situation is not just an ethical one, it is also a pragmatic and a fiscally prudent one. With recognition and support, we could reduce the costs associated with mental health burnout, breakdowns and crisis presentations, as well as the number of people experiencing extreme distress.

Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions are not something which only affect children. In fact, recent research has suggested that as many as 90% of adults who have Autism are undiagnosed. Additionally, according to a study by Willis Towers Watson (WTW), nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of neurodivergent employees experience mental health issues. Therefore, there is a real impact upon productivity, absence rates and wellbeing in the workforce and avoiding addressing it is only compounding the problem.

There has nationally been a rise in demand for ADHD and autism assessments, and as mentioned, NHS Greater Manchester is working on a new model for this as part of re-doing the entire pathway for adults, which is currently being consulted on with the public, and we need to be part of shaping these proposals for our residents so that access to assessments and treatment is timely, and also that the support provided is of a high quality.

~~Currently, if an adult visits their GP to request an assessment, they are directed towards the Right to Choose option, which invites them to access private provision.~~

~~The problem with this is that it provides barriers to accessing future NHS support and medication if necessary. In other words, it is not a choice, and many vulnerable people are being failed, and our mental health services and economy are suffering the consequences, as well as those individuals experiencing distress.~~

~~The council further notes that:~~

- ~~There is currently no diagnostic or therapeutic support pathway for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition in Oldham.~~
- ~~the lack of such a service for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition is having a detrimental effect on the individuals themselves, their carers/families, mental health services and the local economy.~~
- ~~A significant percentage of those people presenting at A&E in mental health crisis are neurodivergent and it is important for many reasons to take proactive steps to reduce this.~~

The council resolves to:

- work closely with ~~the local health care authorities to support the expedition of the commissioning of a suitable assessment and therapeutic provision for neurodivergent adults in Oldham;~~ NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults.
- ~~work closely with local health care authorities to provide a timeframe for actioning the commissioning of this service and to provide a suitable strategy for dealing with the backlog that many years with a lack of this service has resulted in;~~
- ~~commission a report for scrutiny on supporting adults with neurological developmental conditions within the community in the borough of Oldham, with suggested approaches to for further ways to achieve this.~~ ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.

Amended motion to read:

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Proposed by: Helen Bishop

Seconded by: Garth Harkness

The council notes that:

Currently the NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support is provided by Right to Choose. Optimise Health Care is in the process of being contracted to undertake ADHD and autism diagnosis work in Oldham. This is to ensure continuity of support in the borough until NHS Greater Manchester puts a new triage process and pathway for assessment and diagnosis in place across the county.

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The council resolves to:

- work closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults
- Ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.