



Portsmouth Neurodiversity Profiling Tool



The Vision

1

Let's enable professionals and parents to work together to profile a child's neurodivergence using a simple-to-use tool and handbook.

2

This in turn will educate us all on neurodiversity (a psycho-educational approach).

3

Let's then gather together in one place, all the tools, apps, guidance, programmes, equipment that can help children and families thrive.

4

Let's move away from the 'diagnose and close' model and develop a whole-system, 'everybody's business' approach to meeting need.

Strategy

- Our Strategy - co-produced in 2020 - has five elements to it:
 1. Designing the *Portsmouth ND Profile* (the nine-dimension model), testing it through thorough research, training a wide set of professionals on using it and then spreading it out across the health, care and education system
 2. Developing a 'resource bank' - what our young people called 'things that help'. We have built an on-line repository of advice, guidance, tools, strategies, equipment, apps, websites etc that will help families and professionals respond to child neurodivergent needs.
 3. ND in Schools - working with schools to make environmental and practice changes to enable children with a wide range of ND needs to feel more welcome, more comfortable and able to learn and make friendships in school.
 4. Implementing an ND Multi-Disciplinary Team - made up of professionals from the local authority and NHS partners - bringing together expertise from Education Psychology, CAMHS, therapies etc so that we have a 'one-stop shop' for families to get support.
 5. ND Competencies Framework - the skills knowledge and competencies that everyone needs to develop to enable the city to be a truly inclusive, non-judgemental, tolerant and informed place to live for children with ND needs.

The Profiling Tool



The neurodiversity profiling tool has been co-produced with parents and young people.



It is a tool to identify needs within 9 different areas: speech and language, flexibility and adaptability, sensory, cognitive, motor skills, emotional regulation, empathising and systemising, energy levels, attention skills and impulse control.



Once the tool is completed the family and practitioners work together to put together a plan for support and strategies

Why the profiling tool?

- Needs led – you shouldn't need a diagnosis to get the support you need. If we can identify the needs at an earlier stage and put support in place this is going to lead to improved outcomes for children/young people and families.
- Tool that identifies the young person's strengths and needs – it is not a diagnostic tool.
- The key part of the whole process is working with the family to gain their views/thoughts and co-produce together a plan for support.

The Neurodiversity Team



Who are we?

- We are a multi-disciplinary team – within the team we have clinicians, an educational psychologist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist and family support workers.
- We are a standalone service – we are not part of CAMHS
- Families can contact us directly for support - a young person does not need a diagnosis or the profiling tool to be completed to access support from the team.
- Current waiting times for formal assessment are approx. 18 months/2 years. This is a long time to wait particular if a young person is struggling. As a team we want to look at what support is missing and how we can improve outcomes for a young person and their family.

What do we do?

- We can support practitioners and schools with queries regarding the profiling tool and new pathway
- Our team of trained clinicians carry out formal assessments for children presenting with neurodiversity.
- All young people who were previously on the waiting list with CAMHS for an assessment also sit with our team and we are working through these assessments.
- Training for practitioners/agencies/education settings
- Support for families at home
- Support for education settings – training/support for staff/work with young people

What have we learnt so far?

The advice we provide to other areas is a good summary of the learning from our journey:

1. Bring NHS clinicians, joint commissioners, local authorities and schools together to co-produce solutions - it is essential in thinking differently.
2. Co-produce with families - they are your (and children's) biggest asset.
3. Focus on needs and not 'activity' and 'processes'.
4. Allow the space for people to define their own outcomes - they almost certainly won't be the same things we currently measure!
5. Health outcomes, education outcomes and wellbeing outcomes are interdependent - focus on care groups not individual outcomes.
6. Unmet needs around ND are almost certainly more significant and affect far more children than you may think. We believe that underpinning a range of poor outcomes for children is unmet ND need - one of the 'big three' together with childhood trauma and early language development.
7. Partnership and integrated working - when well facilitated, led and genuinely valued - is the bedrock of true innovation and transformation. Commissioning is an art not a science.

The Neurodiversity journey

Professional or parent has concern re: a young person being neurodivergent



Profiling Tool completed using a team around the child approach



Plan implemented using ND resources platform



Plan reviewed (ideally x2)

Only open to Neurodiversity Team through stages above if support required



Refer for Diagnostic Assessment with the Neurodiversity Team as needed



Diagnosis and Recommendations report provided

Parents and school seek extra support as needed from Citywide resources

ND Digital Platform

The AIM is to provide families, young people and professionals with access to a range of resources and tools, up to date information and interactive functions which offer peer support.

- Based on the Family Assist Platform
- Up to date information
- Age related information
- Include ND resource pack that contains tools, techniques, equipment, strategies and services to support families and young people to function and thrive
- Chat function
- Knowledge base developed with parent/carers

This will form part of the universal offer for families.

[Family Assist Home \(custhelp.com\)](https://custhelp.com) (neurodiversity tab)



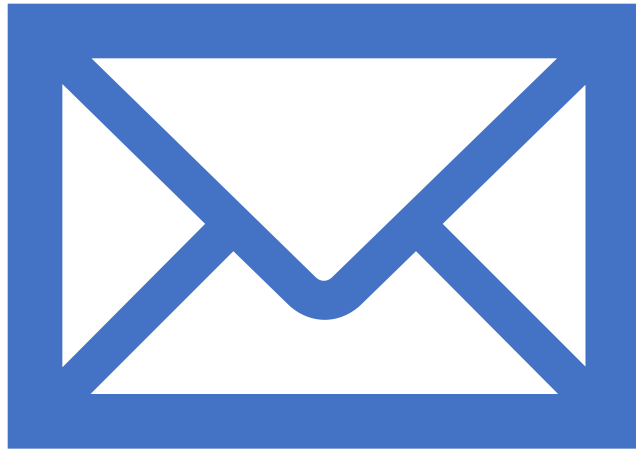
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Profile Tool Training Sessions

- During the Autumn term PPV and the MDT will be offering a training session on the profiling tool.
- Dates for the training: Training for parent carer forums will take place on Zoom 9th October 10am to 12 midday.
- Contact will email all forums details of how to book later in the year. Places will be limited, and the session will not be recorded. For more information email sarah.lee@contact.org.uk.



We are here to help 😊

If you would like any further information or would like to talk things through please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Questions?

