

Appendix 2 : Current pathway and lesson's learnt.

1. The pathway for support, onward assessment and medication management delivered by Mindworks is made up from pre and post diagnostic support and assessment for autism and ADHD. The pathway is dependent on engagement from the network of support around a child/young person and their family.
2. The assessment process is in line with clinical best practice and a series of validated clinical tools together with multi-disciplinary team support to enable the identification of a ND diagnosis. The assessment process is tailored to the presentation and circumstances of the child/young person and is sensitive to the range of reasons why a child or young person might present as if they have neurodevelopmental needs. This ensures that other factors such as trauma, behavioural concerns, sleep and learning needs (not an exhaustive list) are identified and addressed through the most appropriate pathway.
3. The neurodevelopmental service has evolved over the last 3 years using quality improvement methodology and with reference to developments in the pathway nationally. The team have engaged with other Trusts (Portsmouth, Durham and Somerset, Kent and Medway amongst others) and learning has been shared and implemented. Nationally systems are moving toward a 'needs-based' approach.
4. In 2022 a revised referral pathway based on need was tested. An unintended consequence was that utilising a 'needs led' approach encouraged referral for a variety of need. The referral pathway also moved to schools (as opposed to via GP's) which offered a route of access for support, after feedback from stakeholders. (Note: GPs have clear communication on this process and remain able to make referrals if a safeguarding risk is identified). An audit of referrals at this time indicated that one third of referrals were inappropriate and there was a lack of evidence that need was being addressed prior to referral.
5. Consequently, demand grew at a rate that could not be matched by existing capacity and financial resource. The number of referrals grew to 40 per day on average, with the highest being 91 referrals in one day. The service is commissioned to reach 10 – 15 referrals per week. In September 2023 it was agreed that Mindworks could not remain in a position of increasing referrals and waiting lists, and that without any significant changes to resourcing the pathway, a further change in process would be needed. It was also recognised that as the term was starting, this enabled the 10-week period, in line with best practice, to support transition (a new school/new school year/ class etc). The approach was designed to assert the importance of understanding the 'needs' of a child/young person and making all reasonable adjustments to consistently respond to need.
6. The Mindworks pathway re-opened on the 1st December 2023 and is currently open to referrals from schools through a screening and consultation process. In line with other areas in the South East, Mindworks is taking a needs-based approach and the service is currently available for CYP with the following needs:

- For children who may be experiencing high levels of distress that impact on their behaviour and ability to participate in school.
 - If schools are supporting children and young people (CYP) whose school attendance is below 70% (this would trigger a safeguarding referral) or if they are home schooled and where CYP have been referred to (or have self-referred to) Early Help and where support has been provided
 - CYP who are already known to mental health and specialist services and whose neurodevelopmental (ND) needs require more urgent intervention.
7. SABP will prioritise CYP within the Mindworks system including Looked After CYP, Children in Care / Post adoptive support, CYP with eating disorders and those within the community specialist services or with complex needs.
 8. Each primary and secondary school can book a one-hour slot per month, which will enable them to consult on two CYP. It is recognised that this is not proportionate to the school population at present and will be the focus of the termly review scheduled for May 24. The neurodevelopmental team are currently offering 30 to 35 consultation slots per week from a team of 4 staff, all of whom are neurodevelopmental therapists.
 - For children and young people who are being home-schooled and **are on** school roll and where the child or young person is **experiencing high levels of distress that is impacting their behaviour and ability to participate in learning**, consultations can be booked by the school.
 - For children and young people who are being home-schooled and **are not** on the school roll and where the child or young person **is experiencing high levels of distress, that is impacting their behaviour and ability to participate in learning**, a half an hour consultation can be booked by parents/carers by calling the Neurodevelopmental team. For these children and young people, a referral to [Early Help](#) must have taken place (self-referral is possible). This information has been communicated to schools, GP's and is available on the Mindworks website for families and others.
 9. Evidence of implementing strategies and interventions is a requirement prior to booking consultations. This is in line with the graduated response/Ordinarily Available Provision approach, promoted as part of improving outcomes for children with additional needs. It has been key to ensure supporting CYP early is within existing guidance for approaches that support settings, practitioners, families and carers to work together to ensure children with additional needs are met at the earliest point., and not seen as a separate process. Typically, implementation of appropriate strategies as detailed on the Mindworks Neurodevelopmental website may include reasonable adjustment in schools, sleep hygiene techniques, nutritional advice and psychosocial education and support to parents through the viewing of the materials/videos available on the site.
 10. The consultations allow schools to discuss the needs of CYP with the team. This ensures children progress to the right support and may include direct entry to the neurodiversity diagnostic pathway. The consultation will also allow for identification of further strategies and resources to be offered while waiting for a diagnosis, referral to the Third Sector support package or added support to strengthen the existing plans in place.

Mindworks, Surrey County Council and VCSE partners are bringing teams together around the school and child, building on established services such as mental health support teams and LSPA team to be able to increase capacity before the screening phase to help meet needs earlier.

11. In addition: Veteran Families: Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust is a Veteran aware healthcare provider. In supporting the children and young people in veteran families services work to not be disadvantaged in accessing appropriate health services; for example if a child is on a waiting list and the family is moving the team will support the transfer of care and, where it is possible to, engage with the new healthcare provider.
12. To Note: Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, FASD The Neurodevelopmental pathway takes account of CYP who might be presenting with other neurodevelopmental needs including FASD. The team have received training from the national lead on FASD. It is recognised that children looked after have a higher prevalence of FASD. SaBP is commissioned to provide a limited number of diagnostic assessments. Dr Mukherjee, Consultant Psychiatrist is one of the founders for FASD assessments and his advice and consultation is readily given in support of the ND team.

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