

**November 2023**

## Please share with your colleagues

As part of the Joined Up Care Derbyshire transformational changes around Neurodivergence, four community-based hubs across Derby and Derbyshire to support children, young people, families, and carers impacted by or living with Neurodivergence.

The hubs are located in the following areas:

- South Derbyshire
- Derby City
- Central Derbyshire
- High Peak

Neurodivergence has a wide spectrum that covers a range of hidden neurological conditions, such as but not limited to Autism Spectrum, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, and Social Anxiety. Early identification can play an important role in enabling children and young people and their families and carers to get timely support and to understand themselves, which is crucial in preventing escalation of needs.

Whilst some people find a diagnosis beneficial, several families and carers have fed back that they would not have sought an assessment if help and support had been more readily available. The hubs will be open for drop in visits for advice and information, without requiring a formal referral. Staff will work with children, young people families and carers to develop strategies to help manage their situation. Users can drop into the hubs, and staff will make follow-up calls to check in and encourage next steps. Hubs will:

- Create a safe and supportive environment where users can ask questions and be heard without having to repeat their story
- Provide compassionate and supportive staff who act as guides to users
- Offer hope and encouragement to reduce isolation
- Identify and bring together a range of organisations to support users
- Be led by experienced staff who have both personal and professional expertise
- Provide a support network for pre and post-diagnosis for individuals and their families and carers
- Offer information and support services on topics such as benefits, housing, employment, and clinical services through pop-up sessions.

For more information, please signpost parents/ carers to:

Derbyshire Autism Services on [enquiries@derbyshireautismservices.org](mailto:enquiries@derbyshireautismservices.org) for High Peak, Central Derbyshire and Derby, and

Citizens Mid Mercia on [ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk](mailto:ch@citizensadvicemidmercia.org.uk) for South Derbyshire.

**Forthcoming FREE CPD: Anxiety Webinar**  
3.45-4.45pm – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Use the QR code or ask your ND Advocate



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## Autism Outreach News

As we are experiencing a high number of referral and we are a very small team, we are considering referrals and prioritising according to need. We expect all schools to have used the [Graduated Response](#) documents and [Sensory Processing Needs Toolkit](#) to support your Assess– Plan– Do– Review cycles as part of your graduated response to create autism-specific provision and support for this child.

Our offer to your school may involve signposting to appropriate resources, consultation with a written plan, a strategic support visit for training. Our involvement is needs-led; cases will be closed when schools have been given the tools to enable staff to meet the identified needs of the child. The role of the Autism Outreach Teachers is advisory and does not include direct teaching of pupils or working in the child's home.

From 1st December 2023, referrals will only be accepted on the referral form introduced in the spring.

More information can be found on the [Derbyshire Local Offer](#).

Would you like to improve awareness, acceptance and understanding of Autism in your setting?

ND Advocates Cohort 4 training will take place in Spring 2024.

Please contact us using the email below for more information:

## ND Advocates

Please remember to send your completed booking forms to the email address below in advance of delivering your training in school, so that we are able to send you a personalised evaluation link.

**[ND.Advocates@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:ND.Advocates@derbyshire.gov.uk)**