



Integrated
Care System
Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

Improving pathways to care for neurodevelopmental conditions in Nottingham(shire)

Nottingham
Neurodiversity
Network





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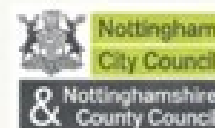
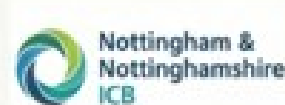
What the network has achieved since starting in May 2023

Nottingham
Neurodiversity
Network



Our strength: diverse and committed partnership

Our Steering Group includes leaders and experts from across the entire ecosystem of care:



- Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB
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- University of Nottingham Researchers
- City & County Councils (NPST & NST)
- Clinicians (Community Paediatrics, GPs, CAMHS)
- Adult Services (NeSS)

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- Adult Services (NeSS)
- Health Innovation Network
- Charities (APTCOO, Autistic Nottingham)
- Education Leads & Parents/Carers



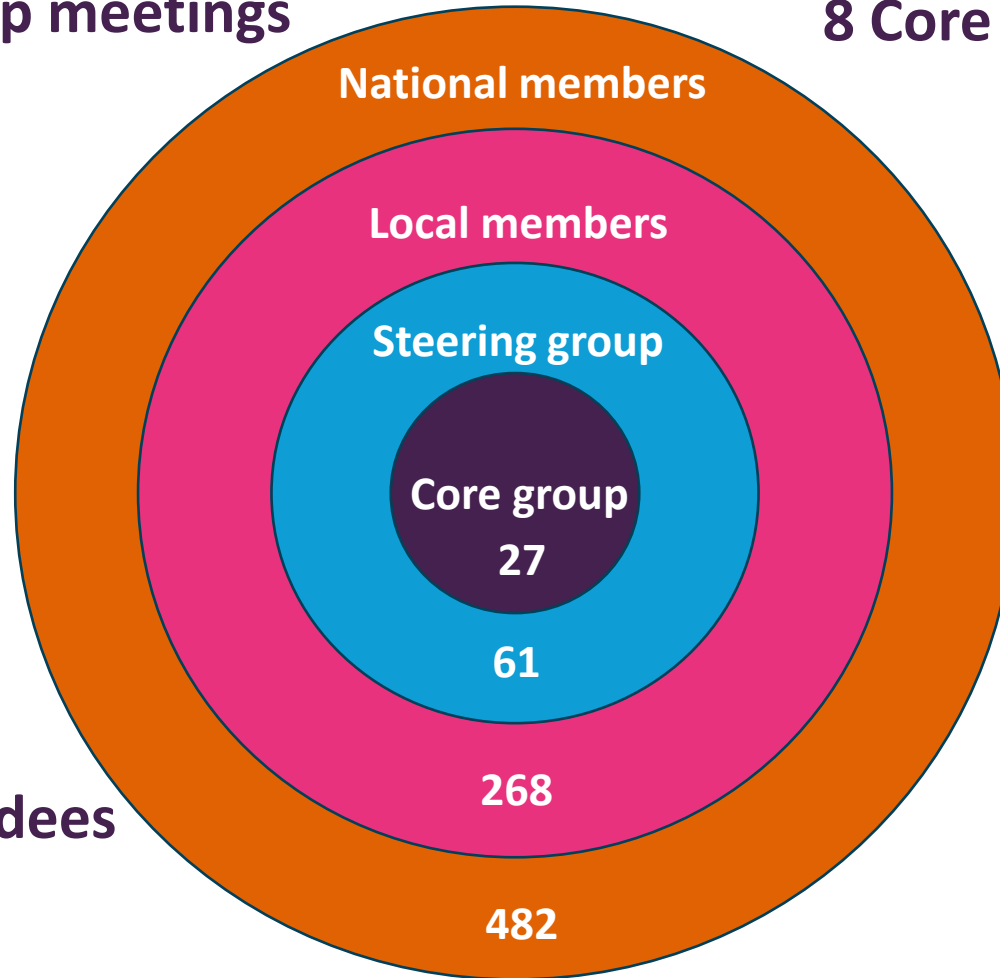
6 Steering group meetings

8 Core group meetings

6 conferences

Over 300 attendees

Website accessed by 4,500 site visitors



Developing the ideal pathway to care for neurodiversities

Our network worked together to assess what the ideal pathway to care looks like



Support

Ongoing, throughout the journey and into adulthood. Flexibility, being able to dip in and out. One key person as point of contact. Waiting well.



Clarity

About the process, the pathway.

Knowledge and education

For parents and all other stakeholders.



Holistic approach

Less siloed thinking, not being passed around different services. Have a ND point of access. Need-led service rather than diagnosis led.



Pathways documents



Neurodevelopmental Referral Pathway for Children and Young People

Neurodevelopmental Pathway Bassetlaw (NPB)



Find out more about support at:
[APTCCO in Bassetlaw](#)

More information visit
[Minds of All Kinds](#)



1st step: Graduated Response	Disc to ag Heal proc here
2nd step: Referral (based on location of GP practice)	Nott
3rd step: Screening	deve
4th step: Specialist Assessment Services (subject to screening outcome)	Com

1 FOR CONCERNS REGARDING SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS, OR MEDICATION REVIEWS ONLY.

Please contact your GP for advice and support. Your GP may refer your child to the Community Paediatrician for an assessment if priority concerns are identified as above.

2 FOR CONCERNS OF AUTISM AND/OR ADHD – SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS AND THE GRADUATED RESPONSE.

If you do not have any of the concerns mentioned above at step 1, please follow the [Graduated Response](#) process prior to making a referral for an assessment. The graduated response process will be supported by professionals such as your Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) lead, teacher and/or the [Healthy Families Team](#).

Talk with your child's teacher about options for making reasonable adjustments in school for your child. These adjustments can help meet their individual needs and make school feel more accessible and comfortable. More information and support regarding reasonable adjustments can also be provided by the [APTCCO in Bassetlaw](#) Family Support Team.

Please note - a diagnosis is not required for reasonable adjustments to be put in place to support your child's needs within their education setting.

[APTCCO in Bassetlaw](#) Family Support Team will assist you through the graduated response process by providing information, advice, support and access to one-to-one and small group family workshops.

Each workshop is delivered within our SEND Family Hub, a safe, friendly and accessible space. They are facilitated by experienced and trained SEND practitioners who utilise professional evidence-based theories matched to individual family needs including [Anna Freud Reflective Parenting](#); an approach to parenting that aims to develop a better understanding of your child's emotions and behaviours, wrapped around [PACE Principles](#) – how to connect and communicate with your child with a sense of security and attachment.

A referral to APTCCO can be made by either your GP/Health Care Professional/Educational lead or alternatively you can refer direct by e-mail at enquiries@aptcco.org or phone 01623 629 902.

Adult Pathway
Not applicable
Any
GP
↓
Neuro-development Specialist Service (NeSS)*

*While these pathways re
This is an overview



Nottingham
Neurodiversity
Network



Integrated
Care System
Nottingham & Nottinghamshire



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

SCHOOL

PRIMARY SCHOOL
No HUG
NURSERY = Differ

Specific strands of diag
need their own intervent
& Process

FURTHER EDUCATION

Information SHOULD be
shared from Secondary Sch
—NOT ALWAYS THE CASE!

16 to 19 Year olds
generally have a
longer wait time
to be assessed

Work in
agencies & PAED!

Learner
for all S
IMPOR
due to r
condition

Smaller classes
to help students
cope in classrooms
Eg: Vocational
Subjects

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SHOULD receive information from
Primary School prior to
transition

Movement breaks
in classrooms

**FOCUS
ON THE
LEARNER
NOT ON THE LABEL**

**CHILDREN & ADOLESCENT
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

CAMHS

We work with a range of
Young People & Parents

We work
Speech &
Special

Creating a BRIDGE between Mental Health
Neurodiversity to help practitioners

Multi-agency work
for the best process

DYNAMIC
SUPPORT
REQUESTED

Run by ICB for young
diagnosed with Neurodiv
disorders & who are at

We try to HELP SERVICES

CHALLENGES

Helping people to
understand the difference
between
MENTAL HEALTH & AUTISM

When we get referrals
for Autism, we are
NOT commissioned for
Assessments

GP

RESPONSIBILITY = To
refer patients to
SHARED CARE PATHWAY

We tend to be a
1st POINT OF CALL

We DO NOT
diagnose ~ we collate
information & send on
for referral

Once diagnosed,
We can RE-REFER
if needed

Once assessed - NHS
will do further
detailed assessments

CHALLENGES

WAIT LIST = knock-on-
effect for families

Referrals can be
REJECTED if there is
not enough
information

Patients could be moved
to the back of the queue

MOST CONCERNED about
Mental & behavioural Patients
Who can ESCALATE when waiting longer

**10-15min
APPOINTMENT
TIME for
Neurodiverse Patients
IS NOT LONG ENOUGH!**

MOST PATIENTS can give their
own evidence to get referred
Sooner

**DIFFERENT ROLES
IN THE PATHWAY**

**STARTING POINT
for REFERRAL PROGRAMME**

Who already have a
diagnosis of Autism/ADHD

**WHEN TO
REFER/CRITERIA**

Behaviour concern
has been identified by a
professional or parent/carer

TIER 1
Support has
been completed

Graduated
response has
been put in
place & reviewed

if child/young
person is between
0-17yrs 9 months

if child/young person
is registered with a Nottinghamshire GP

CHALLENGES

CAPACITY
GP's can not gather ALL
the information we need!

FUNDING

UNDERSTANDING OF
THE SERVICE / ROLES

MISCONCEPTION that a
GP referral holds more weight
= DELAY IN PROCESS

ADULT SERVICES

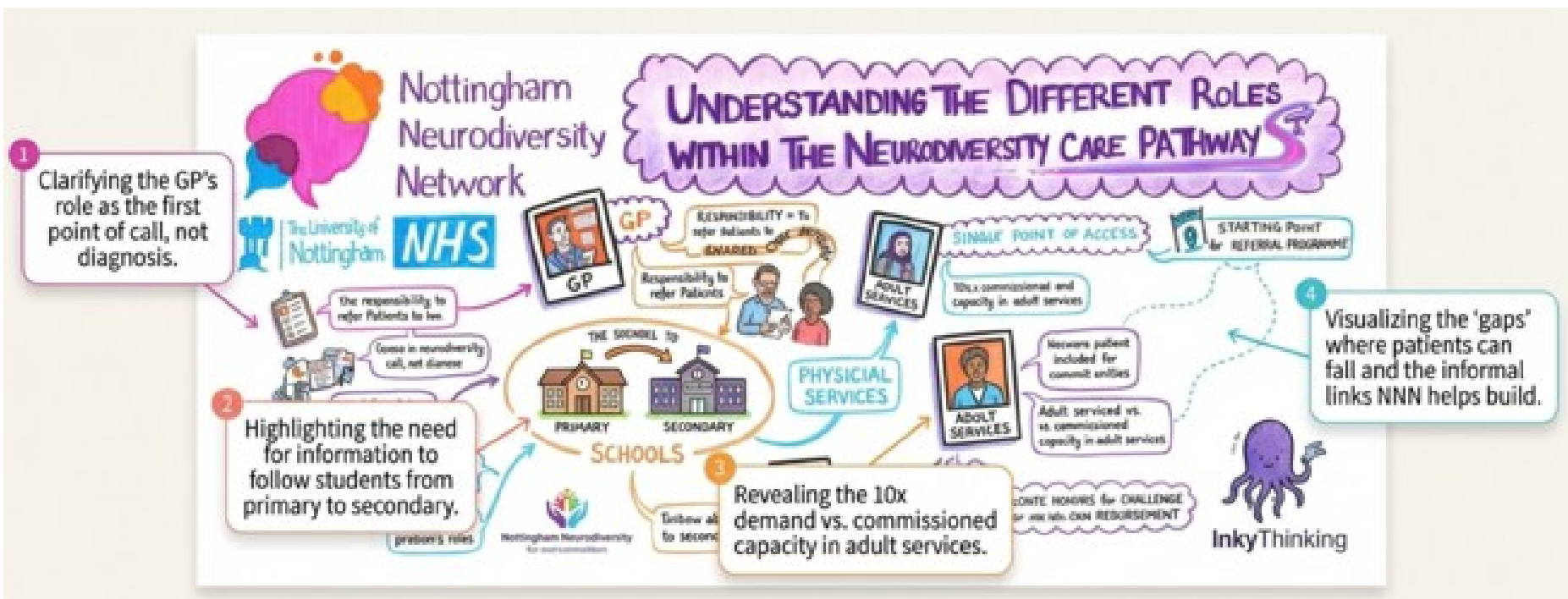
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE VERY FORTUNATE
A lot of places DO NOT have
access to Adult Services

We accept referrals for
assessment & short term
Support for Autism / ADHD

CHALLENGES

Service originally commissioned
to see 600 cases a year

BUT
Demand is
10x HIGHER!



<https://nottsneurodiversitynetwork.org.uk>



Nottingham
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**Improving pathways to care for
neurodevelopmental conditions**



You said, we did



- In February 2024, 278 local families were surveyed.
- Parents would like to be updated frequently at one- or two-months intervals on the status of their referral with their preferred methods of communication being via email or letter.
- The main information that parents would like from the services is regarding waiting times and the referral process. Especially around, what to expect during each appointment and being kept updated on the referral process.
- Parents felt that they would benefit from local support on education, parenting and neurodiversity information.



Minds of all kinds



Welcome to

Minds of All Kinds

Your **safe space** online where you can learn about all the things that make your mind special and find help and information about **Autism** and **ADHD** in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire.

I am a...

Parent / Carer

Young Person

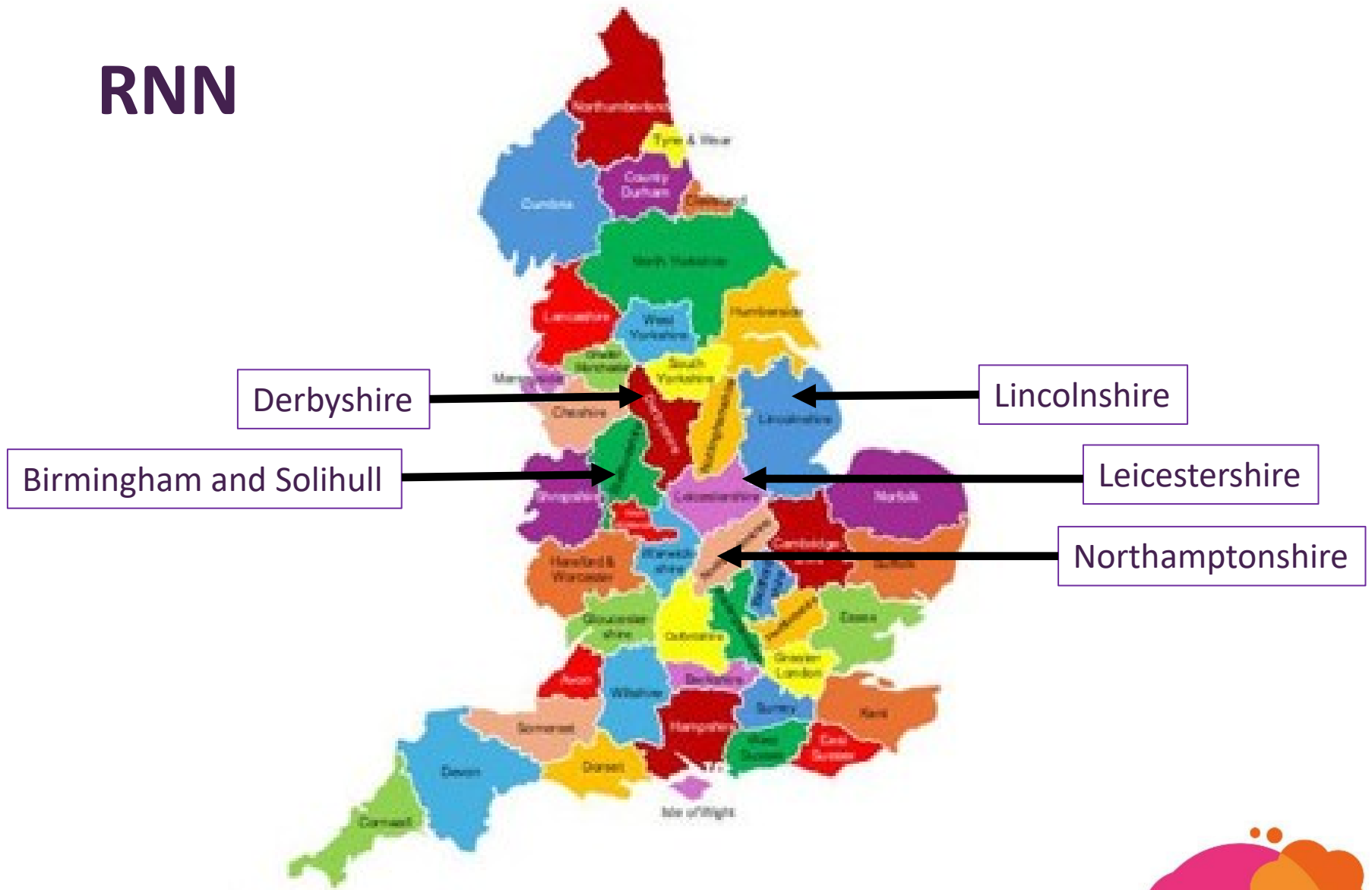
Adult



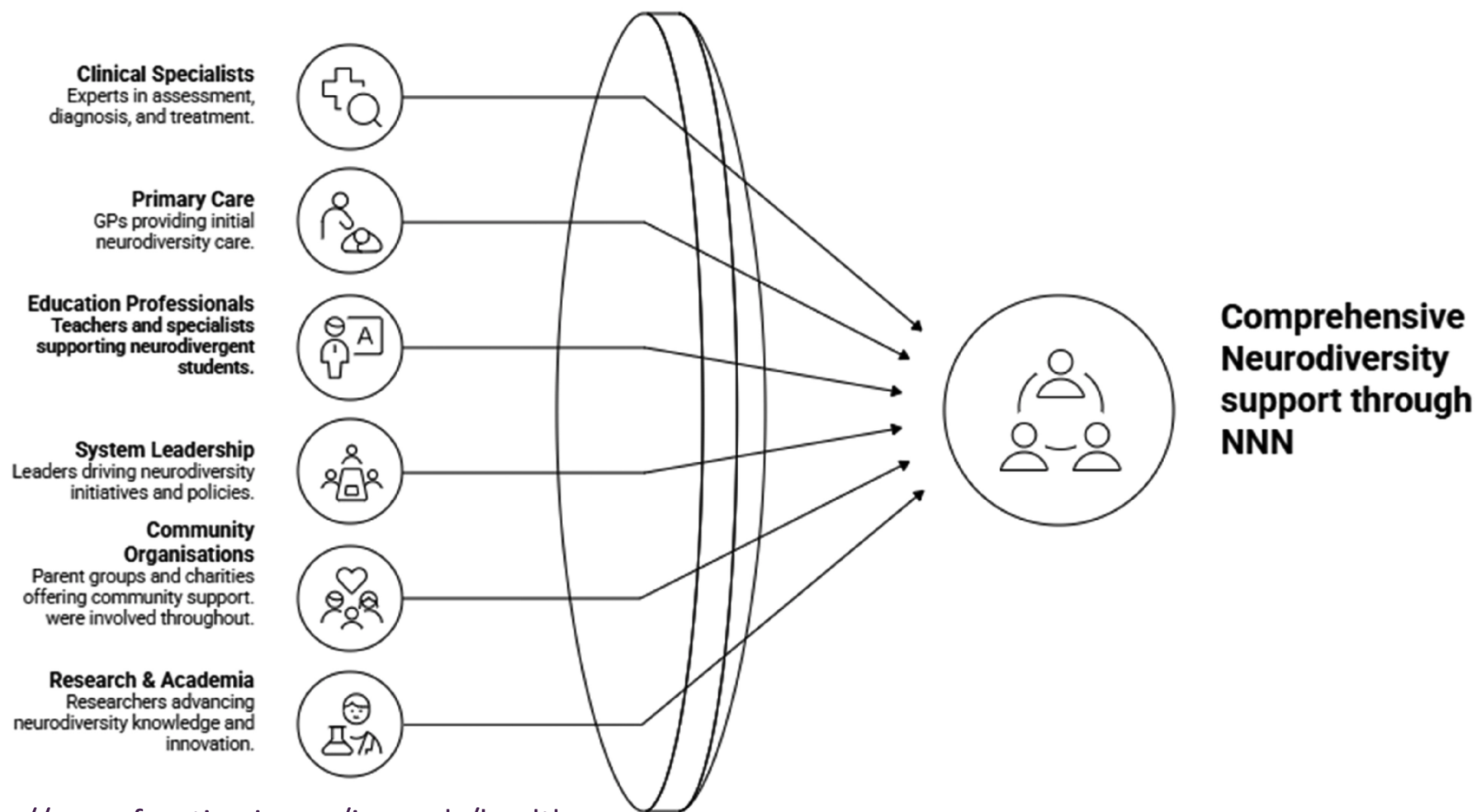
<https://mindsforallkindsnotts.co.uk/>



RNN



Publication updates



<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/health-services/articles/10.3389/frhs.2026.1792930/full>

First NNN paper published March 2026



Local, regional and International impact



Policy Influence

Invited to advise on national NHS strategy for the **ADHD and Autism Taskforces**.



Strategic Partnerships

Established formal collaborations with **NHSE-Midlands**, the **Health Innovation Network**, and other national ICBs.



Research Leadership

Initiated a **UK ADHD research network** via UKAAN and secured research grants from the **NIHR** and the **Waterloo Foundation**.



Institutional Recognition

The network lead received a competitive '**Rising Star**' award from the University of Nottingham Institute for Policy & Engagement.



University of
Nottingham



Built on a Foundation of Trust and Collaboration



Co-produced

"Nothing about us without us." Centering lived experience at our core.



Evidence-based

Integrating cutting-edge research, robust data, and lived experience.



Societal Perspective

Moving beyond a purely clinical view to address whole-life impacts.



Positive & Inclusive

Focusing on strengths, promoting inclusion, and challenging stigma.



Measurable benefits for everyone



For Patients & Families

- More seamless, human-centered care with fewer gaps.
- Access to better, clearer information (pathway infographics, website).
- Direct input into service design ('You Said, We Did').



For Professionals & Workforce

- Reduced silo working and better cross-sector relationships.
- A trusted, safe space for peer support and problem-solving.
- Increased job satisfaction and a better working life.



For the System

- A whole-system approach to service development.
- Improved consistency and interpretation of policy.
- Framework for joint risk-taking and innovation.

