

'Think Autism' in County Durham

Autism Strategy for Children, Young People and Adults
2023/24 – 2026

September 2023



Better for everyone

Background

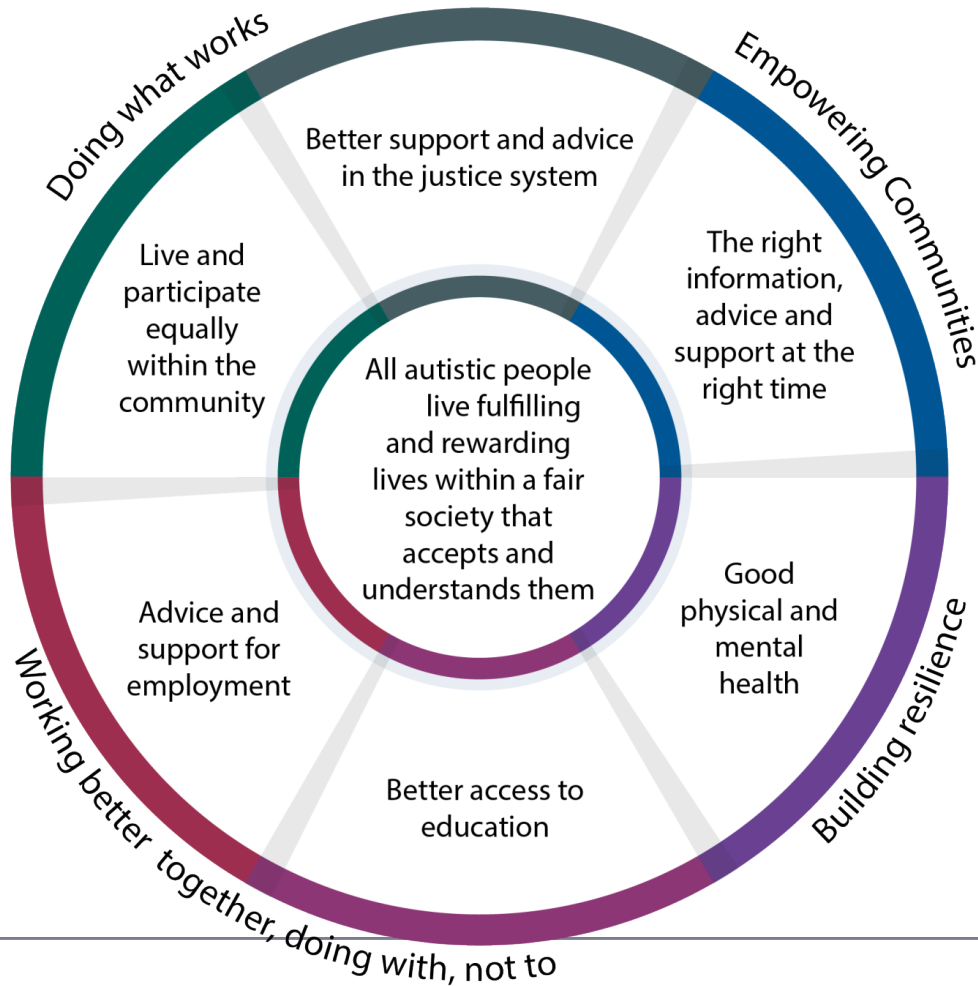
- Refresh of the all age multi-agency Autism Strategy for children, young people and adults in County Durham, extending it to 2026.
- Original three year strategy presented to Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet in April 2019 (extended due to pandemic).
- Called 'Think Autism' in line with the national strategy.
- The refreshed local strategy aligns with the new 'National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults' 2021- 2026.

Our Vision

“In County Durham all autistic people live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society that accepts and understands them. They can access advice and support if they need it, and they can depend on mainstream public services to treat them fairly as individuals, helping them make the most of their talents.”

- Be an equal part of their local community
- Get the right advice and support at the right time throughout their lifetime
- Develop their skills and independence and work to the best of their ability
- Have good mental and physical health

Aims

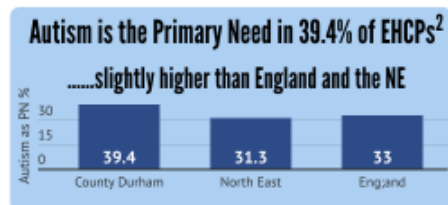
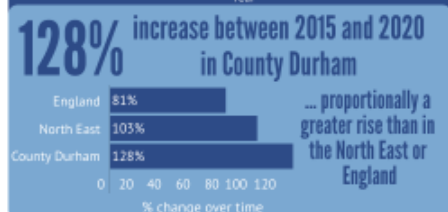
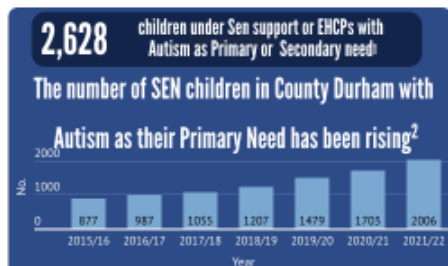


What we need to do and how?

For each objective, the strategy includes

- Indicators of success
- Evidence
- Progress to date
- Steps towards achieving the objective

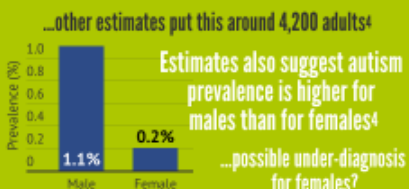
Why? (What is the data/feedback telling us?)



Autism in County Durham

Estimated autism prevalence (18+):
Around 0.7%³

...that's around 3,000 adults in County Durham (aged 18+)



94% of calls to SEND Information Advice and Support related to CYP with autism

94% of SENDIAS referrals are from families who have children with Autism or are on the Neurodevelopmental Assessment Pathway



1350 Children & young people on the waiting list for an Autism assessment locally⁷

Average days waiting for Assessment... **481**

128 referrals to Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance for adults with/awaiting Autism diagnosis seeking support for mental health issues (4.9% of total referrals)

Notes and Sources:

1. Spring School Census, Durham County Council, 2023.
2. SEN Statistics, DfE 2022.
3. Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (APMS), 2017.
4. PANSI and POPPI.
5. Autism Experimental Statistics, NHSE.
6. Autism Experimental Statistics, NHSE (Average is March to December 2022 due to outstanding data validation queries).
7. NHS County Durham Neuro Waiters Dashboard, Feb 1st 2023, TEWY.