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PARENT/CARER INFORMATION SESSION
AUTISM/ADHD NEEDS-LED MODEL
SPACE 12TH MAY 2026

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WELCOME

SCAN ME

- Thank you for being here today
- We recognise that as families you are receiving lots of different communications about changes to various services and processes which may not be helpful
- You may have mixed feelings and are questioning what this means for you and your child/young person
- We are here today to share further information, listen to you and give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings and ask any questions that you may have
- Safe, respectful space for everyone to be open and honest

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WHY ARE WE MAKING THESE CHANGES?

- Increase in number of requests for Autism/ADHD assessments for children and young people
- Existing funding and workforce is unable to meet the demand
- The system focused more on getting a diagnosis than offering support
- We have been working together both locally and across Greater Manchester to build a system that focuses on giving the right help based on individual needs

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TASK 2: SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Group activity: (10 mins)
Please write your thoughts on post-it notes and add to the flip chart around:

- What is working well?
- What would work better?

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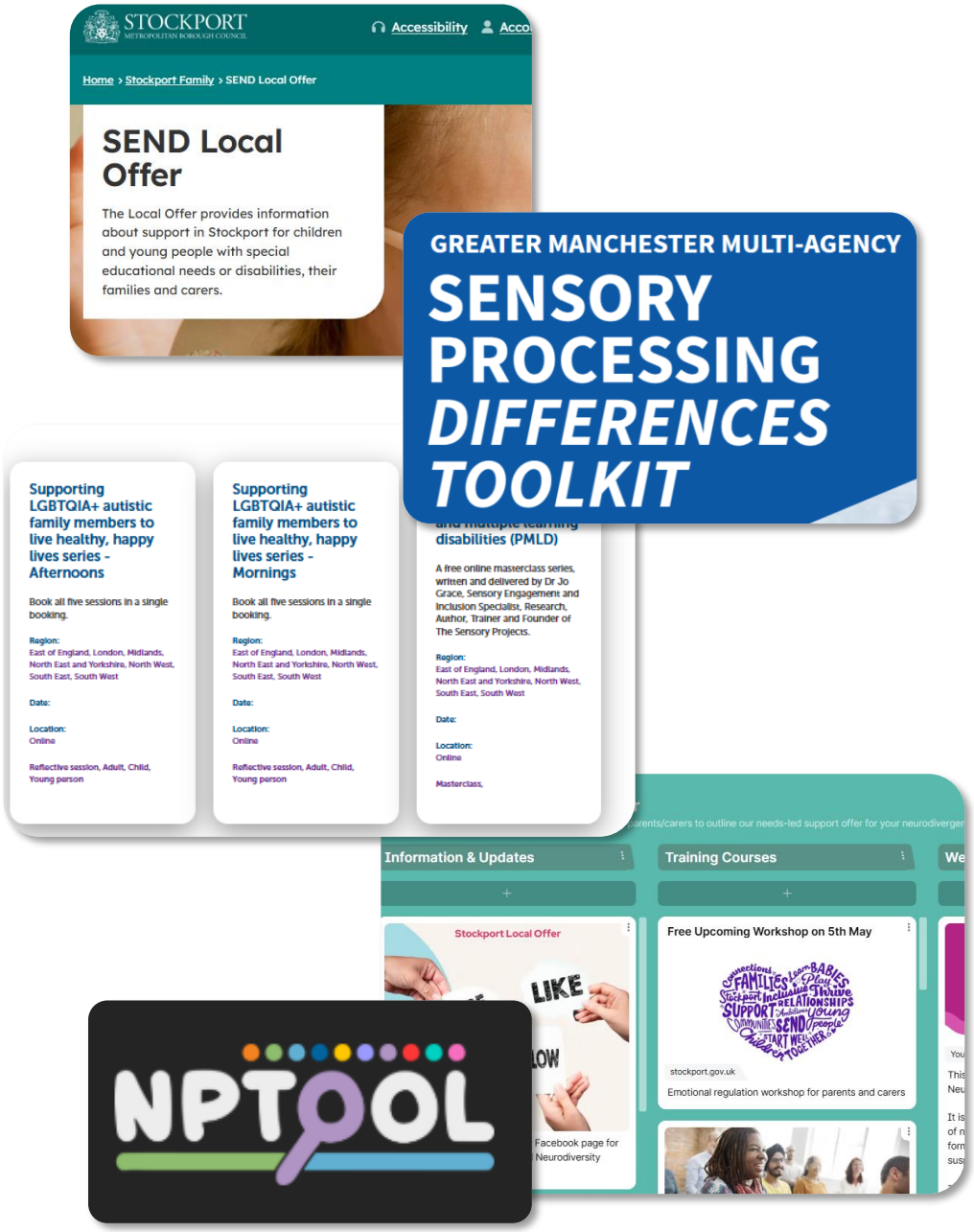
EARLY HELP ND SUPPORT

- Drop-in Sessions
- Training Sessions
- Webpages, Local Offer and Padlets
- Coaching
- Peer Support
- Group Sessions
- Sensory Toolkit
- Mental Health Resources
- Young Peoples Neuroprofiling Tool
- Young People's Support



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EARLY HELP ND SUPPORT

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Drop-ins & Live Sessions

- **ND & SEND Information & Advice Sessions**: monthly sessions at One Stockport Family Hubs
- **ND Team's Parent Support Group**: a different topic each session, ask questions and connect, email the team to find out about upcoming sessions

Recorded Webinars

- **Anxiety**: recognise signs of anxiety and apply practical strategies to support your child at home
- **Sleep**: explore sleep challenges faced by neurodivergent children and gain strategies to improve routines
- **Understanding sensory processing**: introduces the seven sensory systems and provides practical strategies
- **Distressed Behaviour**: understand the causes and triggers of distressed behaviour and gain practical strategies
- **Sensory for parents/carers**: explores the eight sensory systems, and provides practical strategies
- **Understanding Demand Avoidance (PDA)**: understand your child's underlying need and build trust through personalised approaches

Resources

- **ND Early Help Offer Padlet**: outlining our local and Greater Manchester support offer
- **Children & Young People's ND Padlet** & **Post-16 ND Padlet**: a wide range of information about services, events, training and much more
- **16+ ND Guide**: outlining support available for young people aged 16 and over
- **Stockport's SEND Local Offer**: information and guidance on available support
- **Stockport's SEND Directory**: a searchable directory that lists local services, organisations, and support available
- **Family Hubs app**: personalised advice and support from pregnancy through to young adulthood

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EARLY HELP ND SUPPORT

GREATER MANCHESTER & NATIONAL

Training & Courses

- **Autism Central Group Learning:** peer-led online sessions for families, providing opportunities to learn, reflect, and share experiences
- **Autism & Suicide Training:** online training which aims to share information about the risk, spotting the signs, and resources for support.

Counselling & Support

- **Autism Central one-to-one peer support:** a confidential space for families to receive personalised peer support, practical guidance, and signposting
- **Kooth:** free safe and anonymous professional online mental health support for young people aged 10-25
- **SilverCloud:** a free confidential series of programmes to help ease stress, sleep better or build resilience for people aged 16+
- **Qwell:** free safe and anonymous professional online mental health support available 24/7 for people aged 16+

Information & Guides

- **Greater Manchester Website:** clear information, advice, and signposting to local autism services and support for autistic people, families, and professionals
- **Autism Understood:** a website that provides clear, accessible information and resources to help better understand autism

Resources

- **Young People's Neuroprofiling Tool:** helps young people aged 10 and over to gain a greater understanding of their strengths, needs and signposts to support
- **Autism Central Resources:** a collection of online resources, including blogs, videos, podcasts, and guidance, to help families better understand autism and support

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AUTISM & ADHD ASSESSMENTS

GREATER MANCHESTER CHANGES

Greater Manchester is introducing a new, fairer way of deciding which children and young people should be seen.

Requests for autism and ADHD assessments have grown much faster than services can respond to. This has led to long waiting times, families feeling unsure about what support is available and children with the highest needs waiting too long for help.

The new process is designed to be fairer, clearer and more consistent, so that:

- Children with the most urgent or significant needs are seen sooner
- All families receive support straight away, even without a diagnosis
- Every area across Greater Manchester follows the same approach

These changes mean that not every child or young person will have the level of need or complexity for an NHS funded assessment. However, every child can still access support via our new needs-led early help offer.

For more information, you can also visit the Greater Manchester (GM) Integrated Care Partnership website.

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AUTISM & ADHD ASSESSMENTS

RIGHT TO CHOOSE UPDATE – MAY 2026

- No one will lose their place on the waiting list
- Children and young people will keep their original referral date, and you will be contacted as appointments become available
- Once your care has started, your assessment and any follow-up treatment will be provided by the same provider
- If your provider is unable to continue, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) will be aware and will arrange alternative services. In the meantime, your GP is your first point of contact
- If your GP declines a shared care agreement for ADHD medication, the provider will oversee and prescribe the medication directly
- We have made changes to how ADHD and autism assessments are provided to make sure care is safe, high quality and follows national guidance. Some providers have not been able to move to this model of care. In these cases, NHS Greater Manchester have worked with them to return them to local services

For more information, you can also visit the Greater Manchester (GM) Integrated Care Partnership website.

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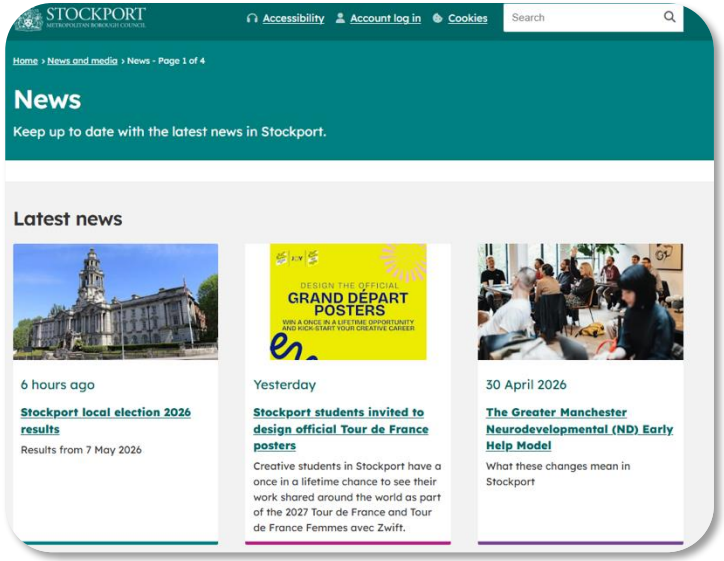
TASK 3: AUTISM AND ADHD ASSESSMENTS

Group activity: (10 mins)
Please write down any questions on post-it notes and add to the flip chart around autism and/or ADHD assessments.



The panel will respond to as many questions as possible during the session. Any questions not addressed will be included in a Frequently Asked Questions article published on Stockport Council's Newsroom after the event. The Newsroom is the council's official platform for sharing updates, press releases, information about local services, and key decisions affecting the community.

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THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME TODAY

Any other questions?

Thank you, we have listened and will use the information captured today to:

- Create a frequently asked questions to share wider
- Capture themes and concerns
- Share a “You Said, We Did” summary
- Use feedback to shape Stockport’s local plans

Have any questions following this session? Email ndearlyhelp@stockport.gov.uk