

Item: 17

REPORT CLASSIFICATION	✓	CATEGORY OF PAPER	✓
Official	✓	Proposes specific action	✓
Official: Sensitive Commercial		Provides assurance	
Official: Sensitive Personal		For information only	

BOARD

1 OCTOBER 2024

Report Title:

Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Improvement Plan

Purpose of report

This report provides an overview of the mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity performance challenges. The report outlines the system approach to improvement and transformation.

Key points

Mental health is one of the primary drivers of poor health outcomes and health inequalities. We cannot address the overall health of our area's population without successfully meeting the challenges set out in this report. The report provides a summary of strategic priorities, and describes the performance and the improvement approach for:

- Children and young people
- Adult mental health
- Adult learning disability and neurodiversity.

The report is still developing, and some sections of the document will be expanded over the coming months. In that respect, this is intended to be an iterative document. Over time, this will include a further focus on:

- Key enablers: workforce, finance, digital etc.
- The role of the provider market
- Strengthening partnership working and governance systems

The document includes an overview of the planned investment in services beginning in 2024/25 and then recurrently from 2025/26. Those investments will enable a performance and quality improvement. However, it is not sufficient to enable the current performance gaps to be entirely mitigated. For some performance gaps, the planned investment is not commensurate with the scale of the challenge, and as such will only have a marginal impact.

Appendix 2 shows the performance against a range of NHS operational plan and long term plan metrics over the last five years. In summary:

- Widespread under-performance: There is underperformance against nearly all waiting time and access/participation metrics.
- Consistent under-performance: Within reasonable fluctuations, most metrics show relatively constant under-performance.
- Entrenched under-performance: in most cases, under-performance has been entrenched across a number of years, including the pre-pandemic period.

- ADHD, autism and neurodevelopmental: Referrals for children and young people and adult diagnostic assessments have risen exponentially compared to the pre Covid pandemic position. Service capacity in those pathways has not grown commensurately, leading to long waiting times, and a large and growing number of people waiting for assessment.

Risks and issues

There are no new risks or issues. The report shows the headline level improvement approach for each metric with underperformance. Despite those ongoing and planned approaches, there is a clear risk that the ICB may not achieve the planned performance included in the 2024/25 operational plan and will not achieve the NHS long term plan trajectories.

Assurances

The report has been developed building on thematic work programmes. For example, significant engagement and planning work has been undertaken in relation to the national in-patient quality transformation programme (IPQT) through the provider collaborative and the Mental health Subcommittee.

The attached report was considered in an earlier draft form by the ICB Finance, Investment and Performance Committee on 5 September 2024.

The ICB has established a mental health performance group, which meets monthly including representatives from provider organisations, to continue to review, understand, and act upon performance challenges.

Recommendation/action required

The Board is requested to approve the following recommendations:

- 1) Approve the improvement plan, including the next steps in chapter 10, recognising it is not yet complete and will be an iterative, live document.
- 2) Note the widespread, consistent, and entrenched performance challenges, and consider any further approaches to addressing those challenges.
- 3) Note the increasing waiting list and waiting times for children's neurodevelopmental assessments, and adult autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder assessments.
- 4) Approve that during the 2025/26 operational planning round, a high level of focus will be given to ensuring the parity of esteem in meeting mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity performance standards, with a commitment to seek to identify an appropriate level of financial investment.

Acronyms and abbreviations explained

As far as possible all acronyms and abbreviations have been written in full in the main report. The final version will also include a Glossary.

Sponsor/approving executive director

Levi Buckley, Chief Delivery Officer
Jacqueline Myers, Chief Strategy Officer

Date approved by executive director

16 September 2024

Report author	Chris Lanigan, Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Programmes Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT (working as part of the ICB transformation team).					
	Peter Rooney, ICB Director of Transformation, Mental Health, Learning Disability, Neurodiversity and Broader Determinants.					
Link to ICP strategy priorities (please tick all that apply)						
Longer and Healthier Lives						✓
Fairer Outcomes for All						✓
Better Health and Care Services						✓
Giving Children and Young People the Best Start in Life						✓
Relevant legal/statutory issues						
Note any relevant Acts, regulations, national guidelines etc						
Any potential/actual conflicts of interest associated with the paper? (please tick)	Yes		No	✓	N/A	
If yes, please specify						
Equality analysis completed (please tick)	Yes		No	✓	N/A	
If there is an expected impact on patient outcomes and/or experience, has a quality impact assessment been undertaken? (please tick)	Yes		No	✓	N/A	
Key implications						
Are additional resources required?	No further resources are requested through this paper. Additional investment in due course will be required to improve some of the performance measures.					
Has there been/does there need to be appropriate clinical involvement?	There has been no specific clinical involvement in developing the report. However, each section is based on pre-existing work which has included clinical involvement.					
Has there been/does there need to be any patient and public involvement?	There has been no specific public involvement in developing the report. However, each section is based on pre-existing work which has included clinical involvement.					
Has there been/does there need to be partner and/or other stakeholder engagement?	There has been no specific stakeholder involvement in developing the report. However, each section is based on pre-existing work which has included clinical involvement. The ICB mental health, learning disability and autism sub-committee on 20 September 2024 will provide a forum for stakeholder engagement.					