



Greater Manchester

**NHS GM Implementation of CYP ND Triage and
Assessment Model
Guidance**

Recap:

- New Pan GM triage and assessment process developed for reviewing CYP autism and ADHD assessment requests
- Clinical criteria developed by ICB clinical leads with input from commissioners, localities, parents, carers and CYP
- Model and criteria approved through ICB clinical governance November 2025
- Provides a multi-agency and standardised approach to reviewing requests for assessment across GM
- Addresses unsustainable demand and long waiting times by moving away from a medicalised model that has resulted in unacceptable delays and avoidable harm
- Prioritises NHS resources and assessment for those with the highest needs whilst ensuring all CYP receive an offer of support regardless of diagnostic status

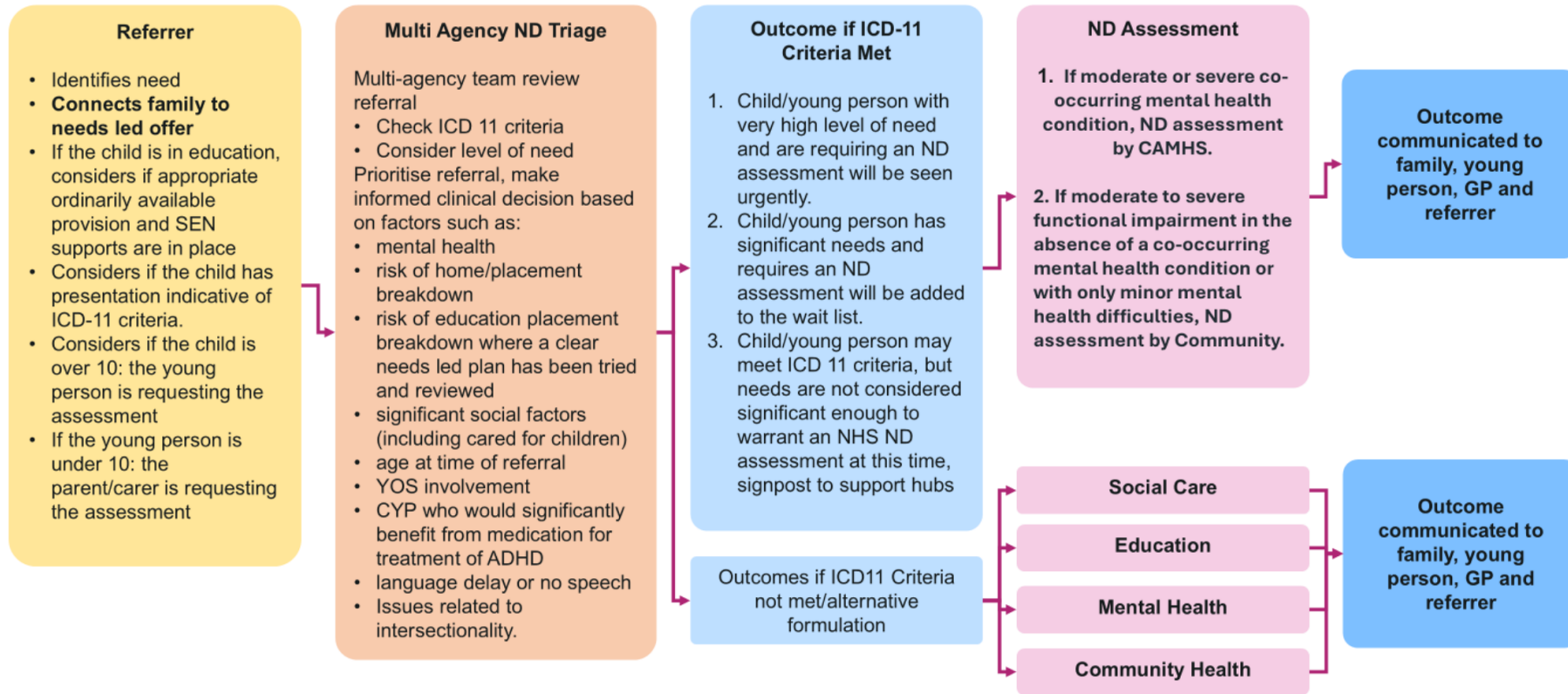
New Referrals

- Providers were issued the clinical criteria in January 2026 and asked to start planning for implementation.
- In the first instance, triage may be undertaken by the provider without any external partners.
- Multiagency triage panels are expected to be mobilised over time with attendance from all commissioned assessment providers and where possible education and social care leads
- Using the clinical triage criteria, providers are asked to continue to accept and support CYP referred into their services with needs identified as warranting an assessment (outcome 1 and 2):
 - o OUTCOME 1: Child/young person with very high level of need and are requiring an ND assessment will be seen urgently.
 - o OUTCOME 2: Child/young person has significant needs and requires an ND assessment will be added to the wait list.
- Some children and young people will not meet the criteria for assessment:
 - o OUTCOME 3 Child/young person does not meet criteria for ICD 11; or child and young person seems to meet criteria for ICD but needs are not high enough for an NHS assessment - child will not receive an NHS assessment.
- All families will need to be notified of the outcome and signposted to available local or GM support.

ND Assessment



Greater Manchester



Waiting List

Existing waiting lists now also need to be triaged with the agreed clinical criteria using the same process. Non-recurrent funding has been identified to support this activity, proportionate to the size of existing waiting lists and population served.

- Funding must be used to:
 1. Triage and screen the existing Autism and ADHD assessment waiting list using the new criteria developed and signed off by NHS GM.
 2. Activity will need to start with the longest waiters first, contacting families/referrers to check that the information is up to date and an assessment is still requested.
 3. Those not eligible for assessment due to not meeting the clinical criteria will need to be notified of this and signposted to local GM support offers.
 4. Undertake assessments for those waiting who meet the clinical criteria, in clinical priority and chronological order

Develop a high-level indicative activity plan to demonstrate implementation of the triage criteria across new referrals and existing waiting lists including assessments. This should demonstrate how waiting list triage and assessment activity will be delivered over and above business as usual activity within services using the funding. The plan should cover Q4 25/26 and the financial year 2026/27.

Centralised Supporting Documentation

A comprehensive suite of supporting documentation has been developed to support providers with implementation of the change process. All documents have been endorsed by Mental Health Clinical Effectiveness Group and Clinical Effectiveness Group for circulation to providers.

- CYP ND needs-led support leaflet and website
- CYP locality ND needs-led support offers details
- CYP ND transformation programme frequently asked questions – internal document
- Provider communication toolkit for the CYP ND transformation programme
- CYP ND referral documentation
- CYP ND triage terms of reference and guidance
- CYP ND clinical criteria
- CYP ND triage outcome letter and guidance
- CYP ND triage review request policy and form
- CYP ND provider reporting framework
- GM CYP autism service specification
- GM CYP ADHD service specification



Mapping and Review of GM CYP Community and CAMHS Autism and ADHD Assessment Pathways

- A Mapping of current GM CYP autism and ADHD assessment provision has been completed to fully understand the commissioned landscape
- A review of current GM CYP autism and ADHD assessment pathways has been completed against the new GM CAMHS service specification
- The review was based on the intention that CAMHS will increasingly focus on assessments for CYP with co-occurring moderate to severe mental health need in the near future
- The findings indicate that the introduction of the new CAMHS specification and criteria will create gaps in commissioned autism and ADHD assessment provision across all 10 GM Localities.
- The most significant gaps relate to community autism and ADHD assessment pathways affecting 9 localities and CYP aged 5 to 18 years requiring assessment but with no moderate to severe mental health need
- Within CAMHS commissioned provision notable gaps were identified for Bolton, Salford, Trafford and Wigan for CYP requiring assessment with moderate to severe mental health needs

Next Steps....

- Providers to submit activity plan to demonstrate implementation of the triage criteria across new referrals and existing waiting lists
- Initial meeting to agree plan and release of funding on a quarterly basis
- Collation and submission of quarterly/monthly data to ICB for review in quarterly meetings
- Development of recommendations for Chief Officers which address gaps and support full implementation of the multi agency triage and CAMHS specification