

AUTISM PATHWAY CHANGES

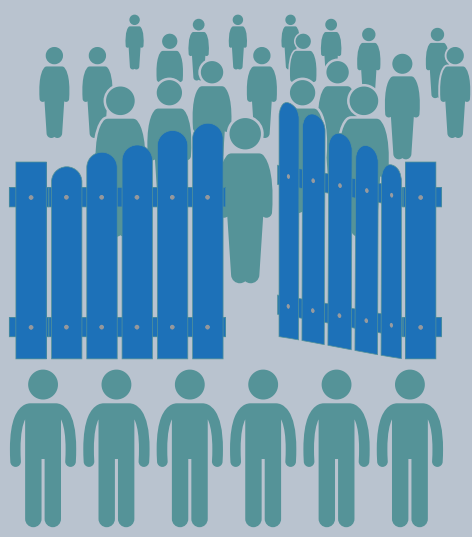


Bristol Parent
Carer Forum
Shaping the Future *Together*

What is going on?

WHAT'S CHANGING?

Health services have announced a change to the way they decide who will be placed on the waiting list to receive an autism diagnosis. We know this is a scary and worrying time for many families. We want to try to help families understand how this impacts them and how they can get support

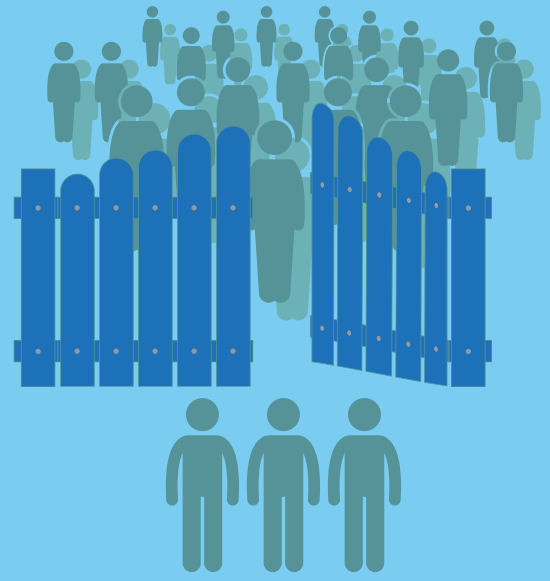


WHY ARE THESE CHANGES BEING MADE?

In the past, when a child or young person was referred to the autism team, they would go through a triage process & then be placed on a waiting list. For some families, this led to delay in accessing support from schools or from social care. This was because everyone involved was waiting for the diagnosis

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?

By narrowing the criteria for a referral, health services say they are hoping they will be able to help children and young people who have the highest level of need. Bristol Parent Carers were not aware of the criteria and did not help develop the changes



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CHILD?

We know this will greatly concern many parents and carers whose children do not match these criteria. It is important to make sure families understand they do not need a diagnosis to access support from Education, Health or Social Care Services

DO THE PARENT CARER FORUMS AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH?

In March 2022 we carried out a survey of 347 parent carers across Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos. It concluded that diagnosis is important for many families & that needs-led support and diagnosis should happen in tandem. We have made a statement on this [here](#).



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