

Why parents and families feel they need a diagnosis of autism and/or learning disability for their child in Newcastle.

Easy Read Summary Report

Support and services for autistic children and young people with a learning disability in Newcastle are 'needs-led'.



This means that children can access support with or without a diagnosis of a learning disability, autism or other type of neurodiversity.



Inclusion North looked into why parents and family carers still feel they need a diagnosis for their child.

Collaborative Newcastle asked Inclusion North to do this.



We wanted to find out why they feel their child needs a diagnosis.



We looked at what support is already available. We wanted to explore ways that diagnosis and support services could be better.



What we did

- Made a survey for parents and carers of children and young people in Newcastle. Our survey was answered by 153 people.
- We talked to professionals who work in diagnostic and support services in Newcastle.



We asked parents and family carers

- Why having a diagnosis for their child felt important.
- What barriers children and families face to accessing support.
- What support people experienced during and after receiving a diagnosis.
- What support they would like to have.





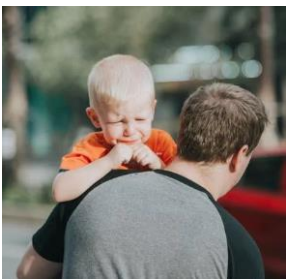
Parents and carers told us they need a diagnosis because

- It helped them and other people to understand their children.
- It supports them to access services.
- It helps their child's development and the wellbeing of the whole family.
- It helps children to do better at school.



Professionals told us that

- Having a diagnosis helps families and other people like teachers understand the child's behaviour. This means families feel less worried about what other people think.
- Sometimes the support a child might get changes if they have a diagnosis.
- There are problems with funding and how many staff are available to offer support.





Ideas about what might make things better for families in Newcastle



1. Help People Understand: We want everyone to know more about learning disabilities, autism and other ways people's brains work differently.



2. Share Information Easily: Make it easier for parents and caregivers to find out what help is available for their children.



3. Better Communication: Make sure everyone (like doctors, teachers, and families) talk clearly with each other, so parents and children feel supported and understood.



4. Train Families: Give parents and families more training on neurodiversity so they feel more confident and happier.



Ideas about what might make things better for families in Newcastle



5. Train Professionals: Train teaching staff and health workers to spot learning differences early so children can get the help they need sooner.



6. More Activities for Kids: Make sure all children, no matter what their abilities, can join in fun and helpful activities after school or during free time.



7. Work Together: Encourage different groups (like schools, charities and health services) to work together better.



8. Plan Together: Get children, parents and caregivers to help make plans with professionals to solve these problems.



Inclusion North exists to make inclusion a reality for all people with a learning disability, autistic people and their families.



Inclusion means everyone living good lives as valued members of society.



We include people with a learning disability, autistic people, families, carers, the organisations that support them and communities in all our work.



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