



Neath Port Talbot Social Services Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions) 2024-27



Consultation Paper

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1. Background

Neath Port Talbot Council is committed to neurodivergent individuals and families are fully supported in the community.

The purpose of the NPT Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions) 2024-27 is to outline the strategic direction of the Council for providing support and guidance for neurodiverse individuals and families, along with carers and professionals.

This Strategic Plan applies to all children, young people, adults, families and carers who receive social care and support now or need it in the future.

2. What are the aims of this consultation?

The aims of the consultation are to:

- Make sure that all interested parties are aware of the Council's proposals.
- Provide clear information so that people understand what the Strategic Plan is about.
- Make sure that people have all the information they need to come to an informed opinion.
- Encourage people to give their views on the Strategic Plan and its aims (outlined in section 4).
- Make sure people know how to submit their views.
- Collect feedback and consider this before a final decision is made.

3. When will the consultation take place?

The Council will be collecting feedback **for 90 days from ((insert dates 2024))** (see section 6 for how to give your views).

As well as this document, Council officers will have public meetings throughout the consultation period to explain the Strategic Plan face-to-face with service users, families, carers and staff. This will be a chance to ask questions.

After the consultation ends, all of the feedback will be analysed and a report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet. This report will set out the proposal and recommendations, taking into account the feedback from the consultation.

4. What is Neath Port Talbot's Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions) about?

This Strategic Plan sets out how Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council ('the Council') aims to promote an inclusive community, for all neurodiverse children, young people, adults, families and carers.

The collaboration of our own professionals and those from different sectors and support networks, will be directed at improving the lives of neurodiverse individuals and their families.

We have set out the Strategic Plan covering four broad themes:

- Improve our understanding around neurodivergence
- Improve access to the services and support neurodivergent people need.
- Support the development of a training plan for the workforce
- Support accessing community services and the community as a whole

5. Questions & Answers

During the consultation, there will be a number of ways in which you can submit questions and feedback about this Strategic Plan (see Section 6). However, here are answers to some questions you may have:

Q: How has the Council developed this Strategic Plan to meet the needs of neurodiverse children, young people and adults living in Neath Port Talbot?

A: Following the Autism Code of Practice (2021) Social Services has reviewed current service provision and has developed this Strategic Plan to raise awareness and understanding of the needs of neurodiverse individuals in NPT, and how we intend to meet those needs.

Q: Who is affected by the Strategic Plan?

A: Any child, young person or adult who is neurodiverse, or their families receiving support now, or who might need support in the future.

Q: Will my views be taken into consideration when deciding the type of care and support I might need?

A: Yes. We look at the needs of the individual and their circumstances and work with all concerned to best support them to have positive outcomes and experiences.

Q: What types of support might I get?

A: Everyone's circumstances are different. So support can range from information, advice and training, to wider support from within the community, NHS, Education, DWP or neurodiverse projects within NPT.

6. How will the Council collect views and opinions?

There are a number of ways that the Council will be collecting views and opinions on this proposal:

- **‘Face-to-face’ meetings with service users, families, carers and staff**

Meetings will take place during the consultation. These will be an opportunity to find out more about the proposal, ask questions and give your views.

- **Team Staff Meetings**

- **One to one meetings**

Individual meetings with service users and their families will be arranged where needed.

- **Advocacy**

If needed, an independent advocacy service will be made available to those who request it.

- **Consultation Portal**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough’s consultation portal which will allow you to comment and provide feedback

- **Meetings with partner agencies, groups and forums**

We will be discussing the proposal at meetings with key partner agencies, neurodiverse/learning disability groups/forums and other stakeholders.

- **In writing**

You can respond in writing by writing to the address below.

You can write to us or complete the Feedback Form at the end of this booklet.

Letters and forms can be posted to:

NPT Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Common Commissioning Unit
Civic Centre
Neath
SA11 3QZ

Or email CCU@npt.gov.uk

7. Explanation of terms used in the context of this document

Advocacy is a service, which represents others or helps them to represent themselves. The advocate will put a person's views forward, make sure that they are kept fully informed and that they have all the information they need to make an informed decision or choice.

Neurodivergence / Neurodiverse / Neurodiversity – refers to the clinical view that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits

Partner agencies - these are agencies who work together to provide services, e.g. the Council, National Public Health Service, Local Health Board etc.

Partnership - co-operation between organisations working together to provide a service.

A **Stakeholder** is a person, group or organisation with a direct interest, involvement, or investment in something, e.g. staff, owners and customers/ service users of a business or service.

Alternative Formats

This information is available in a range of different formats including a Welsh language version and, on request, in other languages, large print, Braille or audio tape/CD. To make a request for another format, please ask one of the Day Centre Staff who will pass your request on to the Commissioning Unit.

8. Feedback form

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

NPT's Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions) 2024-27

Feedback Form

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please complete this form and post it in the questionnaire box or post it to:

CYPS Strategic Plan Consultation
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Common Commissioning Unit
Civic Centre
Neath
SA11 3QZ

If you wish to receive a response to any questions raised on this form please supply your name and address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please indicate your interest in this project (please ✓):

I am a Service User

I am related to a Service User

I am a carer for a Service User

I am a member of staff at a Service

Other (please specify) _____

Please insert your comments below (*please feel free to include additional sheets if required*):

Questions

Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed Strategic Plan?

Please tick one box only:

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions about improvements in the box below

Questions

Do you think that the Strategic Plan for Neurodivergence (Autism & Other Conditions) will have an impact on Children's Services and/or Adult's Services?

Yes	No	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions below:

Questions

Is there anything you feel that needs to be included and considered in the Neurodivergence Plan?

We welcome your views, please provide further comments or suggestions about improvements in the box below:

Questions

Is there anything that you feel should not be included in the Plan? If so we would welcome your comments in the box below:

Questions

Do you think that the Neurodivergence Plan will have a positive or negative impact on the Welsh language?

Please tick one box only.

Positive	Negative	Don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer, or provide further comments and suggestions about improvements in the box below:

Questions

Do you think that the Neurodivergence Plan will have a positive or negative impact on any protected characteristics?

(For example, age, disability, gender, race, religion, marital/partnership status, pregnancy/maternity, sexual orientation).

Please tick one box only.

Positive	Negative	Don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer, or provide further comments and suggestions about improvements in the box below:

Questions

Do you think that the Plan will have a positive or negative impact on valleys communities?

Please tick one box only.

Positive	Negative	Don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer, or provide further comments and suggestions about improvements in the box below:

About You

The Council operates equality policies that aim to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. To make sure that people are not discriminated against when accessing our services we carry out monitoring and therefore would be grateful if you could answer the following questions. The information you provide is strictly confidential.

Age: (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> 86+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-85 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 | | |

Welsh Language – are you: (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent speaker & writer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Learner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly fluent speaker & writer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly fluent speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no knowledge |

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

Ethnic origin: (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black: African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | <input type="text"/> | |

Sex (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

Religion/Belief: (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion (please specify): | <input type="text"/> | | | |

Sexual Orientation (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay | <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

Nationality (please ✓ one answer)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): | <input type="text"/> |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
