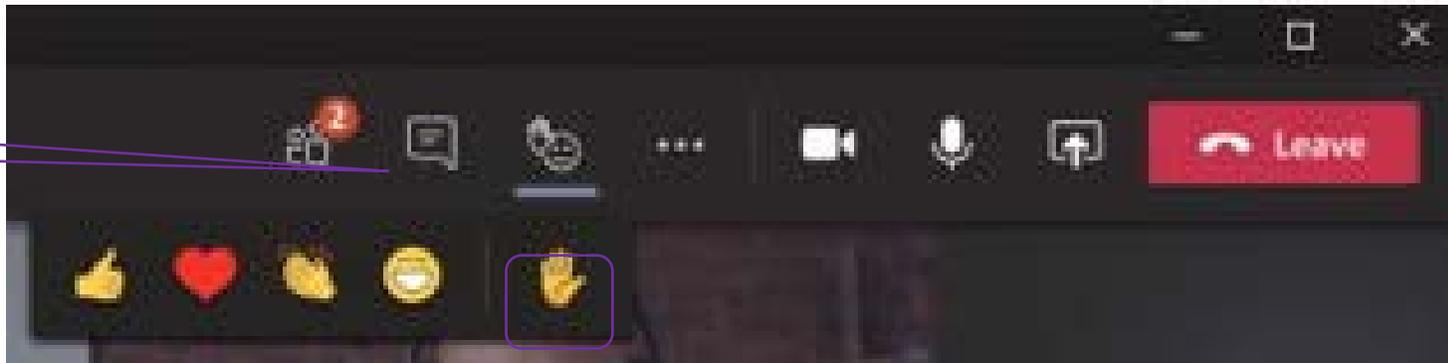


# Welcome

- During the meeting, please keep microphones on mute
- Short presentation followed by opportunity for questions and comments:
  - Please feel free to use the chat section to ask questions
  - Q&A will be added to WCC website after the webinar
  - Further events around themes in the future
  - Menti meter to gather feedback

Chat window



# Warwickshire and Coventry All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2026

- Linked to the national strategy published July 2021
- 5 key priorities:
  1. Support autistic people and people with social, communication and emotional health needs to help themselves pre and post diagnosis
  2. Reduce inequalities for autistic people and make Coventry and Warwickshire autism friendly places to live
  3. Develop a range of organisations and services locally with the skills to support autistic people
  4. **Develop the all age autism specialist support offer (including reducing waiting times for a diagnosis)**
  5. Co-produce, work together and learn about autism

# Written Statement of Action

## Outcomes we will strive for:

- The longest waiting times for an autism diagnostic assessment are reduced from 242 weeks to at least 52 weeks
- Children, young people, young adults and their families awaiting a diagnostic assessment can access a clear and coordinated pathway of support that meets their needs
- Following diagnosis of autism, children, young people, young adults and families can access a clear and coordinated offer of support that meets their needs

# **Outcome: Reduce Waiting Times for Diagnostic Assessment**

- Increase capacity for diagnostic assessment and post diagnostic support in the neurodevelopmental service to meet demand
- Pilot new model to allow straightforward cases to be diagnosed outside specialist services

# Outcome: Improve Support for Children, Young People and Adults Awaiting Assessment and/or Post-Diagnosis

- Improve the self-help offer
  - Online portal linked to the local offer
  - More access to videos and online training
  - Conferences to bring communities together of families and potential support
- Recommission the all-age community support service for neurodivergent people to:
  - Introduce a single front door for referrals with enhanced triage for diagnostic service
  - Provide an advice and navigation function
  - Provide low and medium-level support pre and post diagnosis
- Undertake gap-analysis in Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy Services and look to address any gaps

# **Outcome: Improve Support for Children, Young People and Adults Awaiting Assessment and/or Post-Diagnosis**

- Appropriate and accessible offer within RISE and adult Mental Health provision for autistic children, young people and adults
  - More training for staff on autism
  - More specialist roles with autism expertise
  - Autism champions / peer mentors

# Outcome: Support for Children, Young People and Adults Awaiting Assessment and/or Post-Diagnosis (cont.)

- There is a need to tackle misconceptions

*47% of professionals surveyed said a diagnosis was needed to access an EHC plan*

*85% of parents who were on the waiting list for an assessment said they wanted a diagnosis to enable them to access adjustments in education*

- Implement an education-led, stepped approach for multi-agency support for children and young people (including those who are not attending school) to include:
  - Training and workforce development into schools
  - Clear guidance about tools and strategies
  - More guidance/advice from specialists to enable children and young people to stay in school (with or without diagnosis)
- Links to the elements of the written statement of action relating to inclusion and workforce development (Autism in schools project)

# Support offer – Pre and post diagnosis

- **Community Autism Support Service** for children, young people and adults (awaiting an assessment or diagnosed) living in Coventry and Warwickshire, delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Mind. The service can provide one-to-one support (on referral only), social clubs, peer support groups, and educational sessions.

Children and Young People support:

T: 024 76 631835

e: [vibes@cwmind.org.uk](mailto:vibes@cwmind.org.uk)

- **Parent Training** - Act for Autism - Children Autism Support Programme (CASP) Parents of autistic children (4-12), residing in Coventry and Warwickshire. Teenager Autism Support Programme (TASP) Parents of autistic teenagers (13-18), residing in Coventry and Warwickshire. Diagnosis not required. Focussed on understanding, supporting and empowering people with autism. Act for Autism use a self-developed training model – the 3Cs Pathway (Connect Calm Communicate) to offer advice on additional support strategies to parents/carers of autistic people.
- **CWPT telephone clinic** - 32 hours a week to respond to calls from families on the waiting list. Calls are triaged in the central Navigation Hub (Tel: 0300 200 2021) and where appropriate transferred to a clinician who can offer tailored advice, pre-assessment support and signposting.

- **Dimensions Tool** (<https://cwrise.com/dimensions-tool>) – it is a web-based app that guides users towards wellbeing support that is specific to individual need. The tool points to relevant advice, support, and local interventions after users have answered a series of multiple-choice questions related to their individuals circumstances.
- **Coventry and Warwickshire CAMHS and Rise** – Rise is a family of NHS-led services providing emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire, and includes:

Online based resources and signposting to support <https://cwrise.com/>

Helpline for Rise (Coventry and Warwickshire) Tel 024 7636 2100 Crisis Line for Rise 08081 966798

- **Kooth** - A digital mental health platform (not autism specific) that provides a confidential, anonymous space for all young people aged 11 - 25 years old who are worried about their MH or are experiencing MH issues. Kooth offers free, immediate, online counselling as well as access to lots of self-help tools such as; discussion forums with peers, an online magazine and even an activity hub of challenges.
- **SENDIAS (Special Education Needs Information Advice and Support Services)** supports parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities, from 0 - 25 years of age. It is a free, confidential and impartial service that offers independent support for parents and families who have children and young people with a SEND, as well as provision of independent advice directly to children (0-15yo) and young peoples (16 to 25yo) with a SEND.

Warwickshire: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send> Coventry: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>

# Your Feedback

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter code **60 53 41 9**

**Voting link**

<https://www.menti.com/k23u4amrze>



# Menti-meter for comments

- What support would help while waiting for a diagnostic assessment?
- What do you need support with following a diagnosis?
- What sources of information, advice or support have been useful?  
Do you have examples of good support we could build on?
- What would you like staff working in schools to know about autism?
- Any other comments that we need to consider?

# Thank-you for listening. Questions?

**Email:** [sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk) **Visit the local offer:** <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send>  
**SEND & Inclusion Change Programme:**  
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-disabilities-send/send-inclusion-change-programme>