

## ADHD National Taskforce Briefing Document:

ADHD services in England face unprecedented demand, long waiting times, fragmented pathways, and workforce constraints. The Independent ADHD Taskforce was commissioned to review existing provision and propose sustainable, system-wide reforms.



This briefing summarises the NHS England Independent ADHD Taskforce reports (Part 1 and Part 2), with a specific focus on **service delivery, care pathways, and system-level recommendations.**

## Taskforce Recommendations

### Shift to Needs-Led, Early Support Models

- Provide early support based on need rather than waiting for formal diagnosis
- Embed ADHD-informed support within schools, community services, and early years settings
- Reduce escalation to specialist services through earlier intervention

### Redesign Front-Door Access and Referral Pathways

- Develop single, accessible front-door pathways to ADHD support and triage services
- Reduce dependency on specialist referral as the sole access point
- Enable primary care and community services to identify and support ADHD needs

### Move Away from Specialist-Only Models

- Reserve specialist services for complex assessments and high-risk cases
- Expand the role of generalist and community-based professionals in ongoing care
- Implement stepped-care and shared-care models to improve flow and capacity

### Workforce Development and Capability Building

- Define core national ADHD competencies across healthcare and wider public services
- Invest in training for primary care, education, social care, and justice professionals
- Reduce pressure on specialist clinicians by increasing workforce capabilities across the system

### Integrated, Holistic Care Pathways

- Embed psychological, behavioural, educational, and occupational support within pathways
- Strengthen links between health services and voluntary/community sector organisations
- Support transitions across the life course, including child-to-adult services

### Digital Enablement and Data Infrastructure

- Digitise ADHD services to streamline referrals, waiting list management, and follow-up
- Improve data capture across health and non-health sectors to inform service planning
- Use data to inform commissioning, workforce planning, and quality improvement

### Equity, Access and Regulation

- Design services to meet the needs of vulnerable and socially excluded groups
- Improve consistency and oversight across NHS and independent providers
- Establish clear quality standards for ADHD service delivery

### Implications for System Leaders and Commissioners

- ADHD should be treated as a cross-system priority, not solely the remit of specialist secondary mental health services
- Investment should focus on pathway redesign, workforce capability, and digital infrastructure
- Measures of success should include - person-centered outcomes related to needs-led and post-diagnostic support, as well as equitable access, flow diagnostic & treatment outcomes