

What is Neurodiversity?



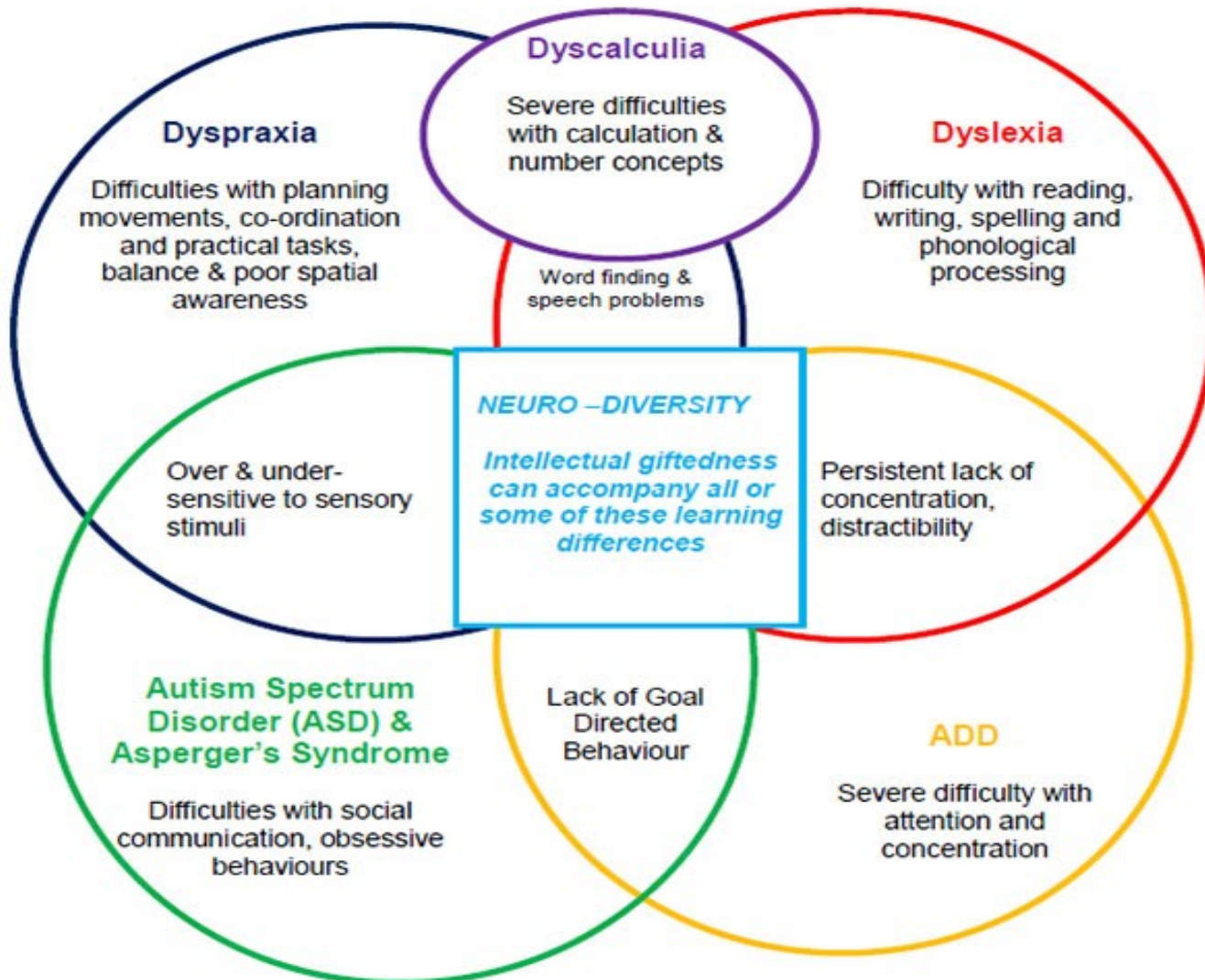
An Introduction to the North Lincolnshire
Neurodiversity Team

What is Neurodiversity?



Neurodiversity is the idea that some people's brains are 'wired' differently and that these differences are simply variations of the human brain and conditions such as ASD and ADHD are not 'abnormal'.

Conditions considered to be neuro-diverse



What is Neurodiversity?



- The neurodiversity movement began in the late 1990's (Judy Singer).
- Neurological differences like ASD and ADHD are considered to be dysfunctional disorders and disabilities under the medical model of mental health.

Consider the term ADHD.....

Attention DEFICIT hyperactivity DISORDER



hyperactive

attention deficit

impulsive

risk taker

creative

interesting

energetic

unique

pioneer

passionate

The ADHD mind is always questioning and curiosity drives discovery.

The Neurodiversity Movement



- There is little attention given to enabling people with neurologically different minds to be accepted for themselves.
- It is important to discover and celebrate their strengths and for society to value their differences.
- The concept that people are naturally neurologically diverse can help to reduce stigma and the idea that something is wrong and can help to build confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Neurodiversity



- 1 in 5 people are considered to be neuro-diverse.
- Nationally 14.6% of children are SEND/ND.
- 2 in 5 are not identified until after 16 (challenge of identification in girls in particular).

Neurodiversity



- What next?
- In 2020 there will be a move towards a national research strategy for Neurodiversity.
- A new national strategy for autism in adults and children is due out anytime.
- The next steps represent a new way of thinking for education and the idea of every school embracing neurodiversity.

The Local Picture



- Context
- In 2011 the ASD & ADHD pathways joined and assessments started within 12 weeks for a number of years.
- In 2017 we started to see a significant increase in referrals in North Lincolnshire (in line with the national picture) leading to an imbalance between capacity and demand.
- Our ethos / vision
- Differences are identified early, young people and families are able to access appropriate support at appropriate times. Systems and organisations around the child allow them to flourish and celebrate their abilities.

The Local Picture



- Response
- Move away from teams working in isolation in North Lincs – pooling resources locally - new innovative, dynamic and effective practice.
- Move towards partner agencies and organisations working together to meet the needs of young people and families, initially with a focus on ASD and ADHD.
- Starting a new dialogue about how we diagnose, support and improve outcomes for young people and families (and across the lifespan).

The Local Picture



- Further investment from the Clinical Commissioning Group in both health and the local authority has led to the creation of the North Lincolnshire Neurodiversity Team who are working on a new neurodiversity pathway, with the aim of improving the young person and family's experience pre, during and post diagnosis.
- The aim is to officially launch the pathway in the New Year.
- Who we are? Key staff from CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Pathway and representatives from Educational Psychology, the Autism Spectrum Education Team and the Behaviour Support Team with a project co-ordinator from the local authority Emotional Health and Wellbeing Team.

The Local Picture



- **Plans**
- **Short-term** - reducing the waiting times and ensure appropriate support for families whilst on the waiting list.
- Structures and systems in place to support families on the waiting list. This will include consultations with family and schools, support from Children's Centres and support to schools to ensure appropriate strategies are in place. A co-ordinator has been appointed to liaise with families in need of additional support and they will co-ordinate support available from local organisations.
- Support and training into schools and Children's Centres in relation to ASD and ADHD.

The Local Picture



- **Longer term plans**
- Revisit the young person and family experience/ journey of the assessment process and to begin a dialogue in relation to diagnosis, support and improving outcomes in the local area.
- Further training and support to schools in relation to supporting and working positively with children who are neuro-diverse.
- Identification of neurodiversity workers or champions in all children's centres.
- Greater identification of females who are possibly neuro-diverse.
- Introduction of peer mentors and people with first hand experience to support young people and families.

Neurodiversity – The Vision



NOW

THIS

Opinions



- Workshops
- Opportunities for us to seek your views and guide us in shaping the future.
- Thank you for listening