

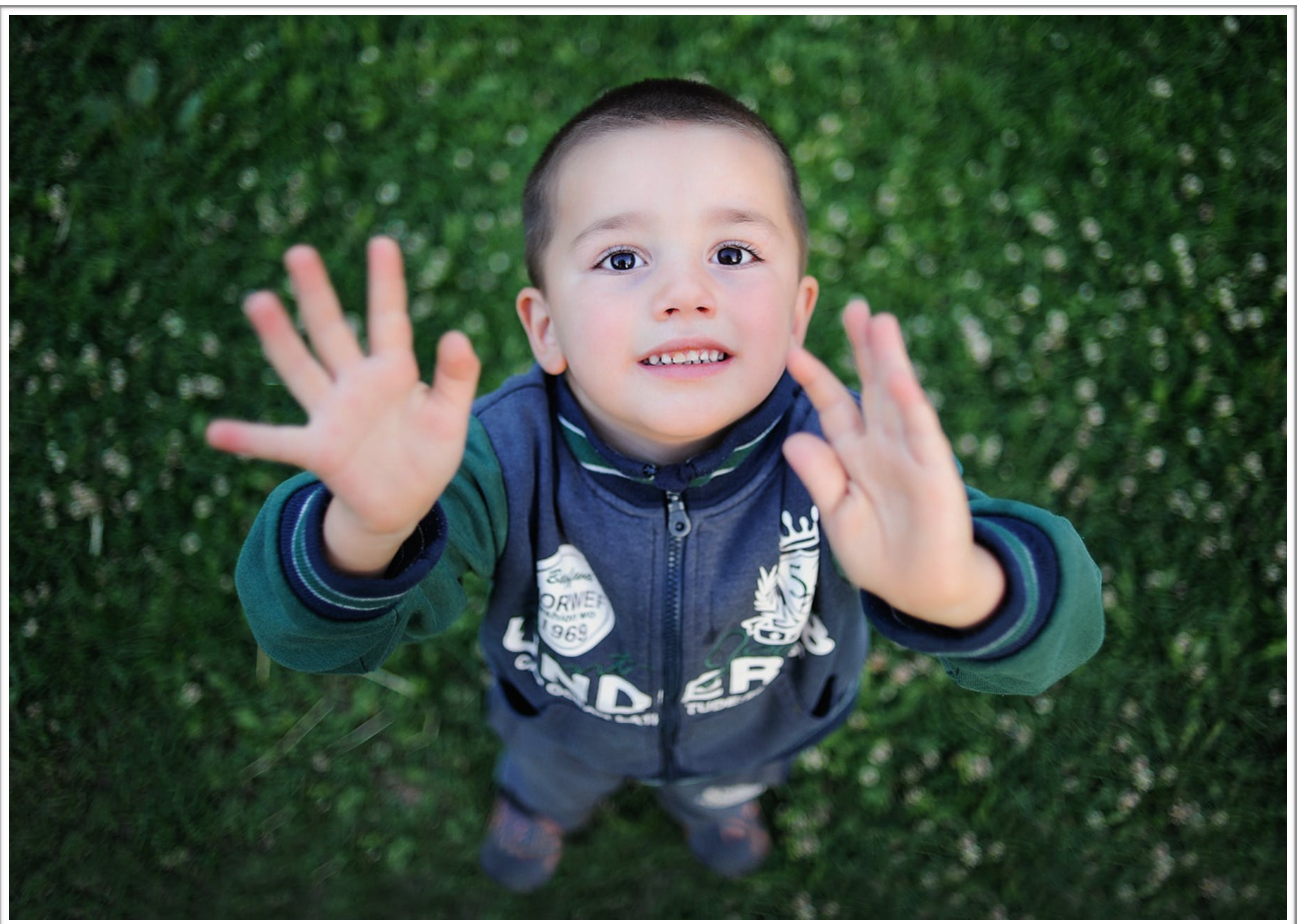
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# Autism Strategy

## Children and young peoples sub group

Ruth Hobbs - 7 December 2017

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## Introduction

We had a good range of attendees from across the services including 4 paediatricians, early years, schools, colleges, commissioning and parent carers.

**Cygnets course-** Despite much effort and time being put into restructuring the course and parents wanting the course they are not proving to be practical. The course runs over 6 weeks and this means that its hard to get time off work. The aim is to drop to running these just once a year in each area.



Instead the team will be running a one day “understanding Autism” course covering similar information. Parents will be charged about £25 and professionals the standard day rate. This will include information to take away. The day courses will not require a diagnosis but will be aimed at parents of children who have ASC traits. This is likely to be rolled out in the new financial year.



**Information packs** - After running several sessions with practitioners and parents we now have a list of what needs to be included. There was a feeling this needed to be for pre and post diagnosis focusing on the traits that bring parents into the systems e.g sleep, behaviour and sensory needs. The focus for the new year is to move forward with securing some funding to make this a happen.

**Inclusive Autism Friendly schools award** - The group had a presentation from Support Service for Education on how the Dyslexia award is currently being run in Somerset and the cost implications of this. The group felt that this is possibly something we would like to pursue but need to wait to see how the licence for the Autism Education Trust training is going to progress. It has been agreed to have a task and finish group in April to look at this in depth.



**Pathway to diagnosis-** Discussions around the current pathway highlighted assumptions that diagnosis means there is something they will receive from education as a result of the diagnosis and so there is disappointment when they then have to go through EHCP requests and the two processes confuse and run separately. There is an early triage stage missing, the access to basic behavioural services has gone. We need to focus on a graduated response and the services available at the bottom rather than having to jump to the top straight to increased diagnoses. Perhaps do we need a health equivalent of the Core Standards? There is a meeting of the behavioural Task & Finish Group on January 15th for looking at the pathway for behavioural presentations; a generic pathway and ASD & ADHD should be appendices to that?

In the new year a Pathways task and finish group will be set up. In the meantime the current medical pathway will be made into an accessible version. Once all hospitals have signed off this can be shared and published on the Local Offer.