



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ97458 and WQ97460

Gareth Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for Vale of Clwyd

Gareth.L.Davies@senedd.wales

12 November 2025

Dear Gareth,

Thank you for your recent written questions asking how is the Welsh Government working to tackle assessment waiting lists for adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder and what work is the Welsh Government undertaking to ensure timely neurodiversity assessment and diagnoses for adults?

The Welsh Government recognises the significant challenges faced by adults seeking assessment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), particularly in relation to long waiting times and inconsistent service provision across health boards. Crucially, we are focused on ensuring that individuals receive appropriate support to meet their needs even before an assessment takes place.

In November 2024, we convened an Accelerated Design Event, which brought together delegates from across health, local government, education, and the third sector. This collaborative event focused on designing a sustainable neurodivergent service for the future. Early key messages emerging from this work include the importance of strengthening relationships and making structural changes to better support neurodivergent individuals.

In addition, to address the concerns around waiting times, we are actively progressing work under the Neurodivergence Improvement Programme, which aims to improve access, quality, and consistency of neurodivergent services for adults. A key milestone in this work was the Adult ADHD Roundtable convened on 3 July 2025, chaired by myself and Albert Heaney, Chief Social Care Officer for Wales. This event brought together clinicians, academics, and policy leads to explore practical solutions to the current demand and capacity challenges.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The roundtable generated a suite of recommendations that are now informing our strategic direction. We are in the process of establishing a task and finish group, consisting of key stakeholders to create an action plan to take those recommendations forward.

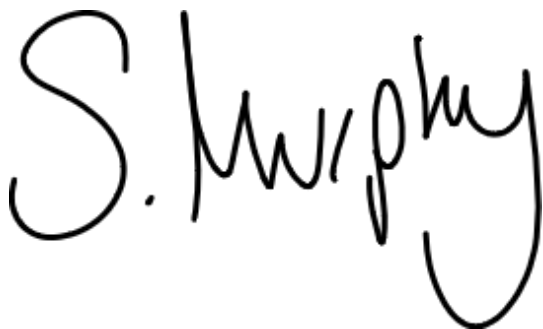
Building on the momentum of the roundtable, we are working with NHS Performance and Improvement and regional partners to:

- Implement proportionate and scalable assessment models that reduce unnecessary delays.
- Share best practice across health boards to improve consistency and equity of access.
- Strengthen workforce capacity through training and recruitment aligned with the needs of neurodivergent adults.
- Monitor and evaluate service improvements to ensure they deliver meaningful outcomes for individuals and families.

These actions reflect our commitment to ensuring that adults in Wales receive timely, effective, and compassionate neurodiversity assessments and support.

We continue to work in partnership with the National Neurodivergence Team, who provide oversight of the Integrated Autism Service (IAS). The IAS are continually seeking to improve their offer, exploring new ways of working and efficiencies to tackle long waiting times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Murphy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing