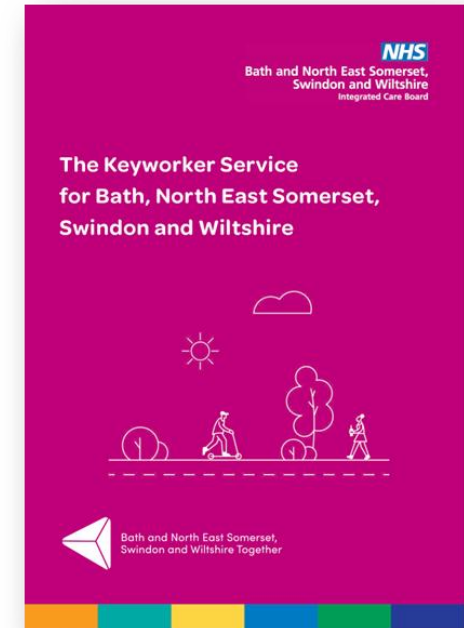




**Bath and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire**
Integrated Care Board

BSW LD/A Keyworker Service

**Bath and North East Somerset
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



Service Overview

- The BSW ICB Learning Disability and Autism (LD/A) Keyworker Service supports children and young people with learning disabilities, autism, or both, who are at risk of admission to mental health or learning disability hospitals.
- The service aligns with the NHS Long Term Plan's ambition to reduce inpatient care for this vulnerable population and ensure they can live well in the community.
Keyworkers play a vital role in:
 - **Coordinating care** between health, education, and social services.
 - **Supporting families** to navigate complex care pathways.
 - **Advocating for appropriate, community-based care** to prevent crisis admissions and hospital stays.



Why Keyworkers?

Children and young people with a learning disability or who are autistic often face significant barriers to accessing timely, effective, and appropriate care. Without support, they are at higher risk of entering crisis, which can lead to hospital admission and disrupted lives.

The BSW ICB LD/A Keyworker Service aims to:

- **Prevent unnecessary admissions** to mental health and learning disability hospitals.
- **Improve care coordination** across multiple agencies, ensuring all aspects of a young person's care are aligned.
- **Support transitions** from inpatient care back into the community, reducing the risk of readmission.

By doing so, the service contributes to:

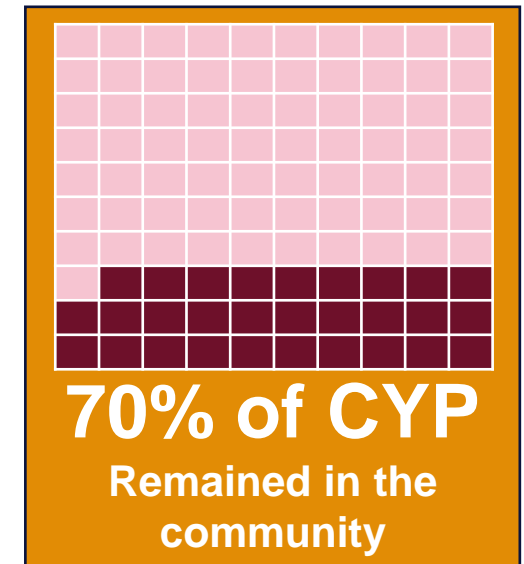
- Reducing health inequalities.
- Improving quality of life for children, young people, and their families.
- Supporting the broader NHS agenda to transform care for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.



Statistics

Since its launch in January 2024, the BSW ICB LD/A Keyworker Service has made a tangible impact in reducing crisis admissions and ensuring children and young people can thrive in their communities.

Specifically, within **Bath and North East Somerset**:



Across the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System, the Keyworker Service has worked with 72 children and young people to date.



Feedback

Really helpful,
knowledgeable and
supportive service

Children, their parents and
carer's having a Keyworker to
liaise with agencies to help
them navigate the systems in
place is helpful.

They have been friendly,
efficient, professional, supportive
to the person and helpful, results
are ongoing. Good service

Thank you for being such an
approachable, empathic and insightful
team keeping neurodiversity at the
centre of all you do therefore making
the world a more neuro-affirming place
for those with autism to live.

The speed of allocation to
a Keyworker has offered a
timely intervention which
is helpful.

Involvement post 18
reduces the 'cliff edge
feeling' young people
understandably have
sometimes



Looking to the future

- The BSW ICB LD/A Keyworker Service is evolving to meet the growing needs of its population. Future developments include:
 - **Expanding capacity:** Plans to recruit additional keyworkers to meet increasing demand
 - **All-age expansion:** To support adults over 25 who would benefit from a Keyworker
 - **Utilising the Dynamic Support Register:** Developing the knowledge of professionals working in BSW for early intervention when a person is identified as at risk of admission.
- Challenges include:
 - **Funding sustainability:** Ensuring long-term recurrent investment in the service to expand its reach and effectiveness.
 - **Local placements closer to home:** Specialist education, care and support within BaNES, including availability of foster care and short-break services.
 - **Increasing complexity of needs,** requiring more specialised support for individuals with dual diagnoses or complex needs such as disordered eating.

