



## Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group: Terms of Reference

### Background

This government is committed to improving inclusivity and expertise in mainstream settings to break down barriers to education for children and young people with SEND, alongside ensuring that specialist settings can support children with the most complex needs. The work of the Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group will support this mission, advising government on how to help improve inclusivity and expertise in mainstream settings in a way that works for neurodivergent children and young people.

### Membership

- Professor Karen Guldberg, Head of the School of Education and Professor of Autism Studies and former Director of the Autism Centre for Education and Research at the University of Birmingham (Chair)
- Anita Thapar - Professor of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neuroscience at University of Cardiff; Chair of the ADHD Taskforce
- Dr Jo Bromley - Service Lead and Consultant Clinical Psychologist for the Clinical Service for Children with Disabilities, CAMHS at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Professor Duncan Astle - Gnodde Goldman Sachs Professor of Neuroinformatics in the Department of Psychiatry, and a Programme Leader at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at Cambridge University
- Professor Mark Mon-Williams - Chair in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Leeds. Professor of Psychology at the Bradford Institute of Health and Director of Centre for Applied Education Research (CAER). Professor of Paediatric Vision at The Norwegian Centre for Vision.
- Tim Nicholls - Assistant Director of Policy, Research and Strategy at National Autistic Society
- Ellen Broomé - CEO of the British Dyslexia Association
- Dr James Cusack - Chair of Embracing Complexity and CEO of Autistica
- Heba Al-Jayoosi - Assistant Headteacher and SENCO, Mayflower Primary School
- Zoe Burlison - Inclusion Lead at The Ruth Gorse Academy, Leeds
- Hayden Ginns - Assistant Director for Children (Performance and Commissioning) across Portsmouth City Council and Portsmouth ICB places (NHS)
- Adam Micklethwaite - Director of the Autism Alliance

## Purpose

To provide an expert view and make recommendations on the best ways to support and meet the needs of neurodivergent children and young people in mainstream education settings, including consideration of the types of support that need not, or should not, depend on diagnosis.

## How the group will work

The group will consider relevant academic and professional evidence, lived experiences, and examples of best practice to inform their recommendations. Where appropriate, the group may draw on international examples, including from the rest of the UK.

In developing advice, the group will draw on a wide range of inputs, including consultation with education professionals in both the mainstream and specialist sectors, alongside other experts, parents, children and young people, and stakeholders such as employers, colleges, trade unions, and charities. The group may establish specialist sub-groups to support this.

The group will work closely with the Expert Advisory Group for Inclusion, and Dame Christine Lenehan as the government's strategic adviser on SEND. The group will also work closely with the independent ADHD Taskforce (convened by NHSE) and interact with and consider other government department initiatives on neurodivergence.

## Timings

The group will meet for the first time in December 2024 and will last for up to 8 months. The duration may be subject to change following ministerial decisions.

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