

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

24th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

## **ASD and ADHD Pathways and Support Inquiry: Background briefing from National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT) - Note by the Clerk**

### **Background**

1. In April 2025, the Committee agreed to undertake an [inquiry](#) into Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pathways and support.
2. The agreed scope of the inquiry is to consider key issues including:
  - Why waiting times for assessment, diagnosis and support for ADHD and ASD are reportedly long, including the drivers of increasing demand.
  - How these conditions are currently diagnosed and managed.
  - The impact of high demand and delays on individuals and healthcare staff.
  - Exploring solutions to improve the capacity of services, referral pathways and support.
3. In preparation for the inquiry, the Committee ran two calls for views on Citizen Space (aimed at organisations) and Your Priorities (aimed at individuals) from 23 June to 18 August 2025. The call for views on Citizen Space received 86 published responses which can be viewed [here](#). SPICe has also produced a [summary analysis of these responses](#). Your Priorities received 1158 unique submissions which can be viewed [here](#) and a SPICe summary analysis can be viewed [here](#).
4. In preparation for the inquiry, the Committee also wrote to the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing on 23 June 2025. A response was received on 26 August 2025, which has been published [here](#).
5. SPICe has produced a briefing on [Neurodevelopmental Pathways and Waiting Times in Scotland](#). There is also a [SPICe blog](#) that considers use of terminology in relation to Neurodiversity, Neurodivergence and Neurodevelopmental Conditions.

## **The National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT)**

6. The National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT) are a mixed neurotype, cross sector, research practice partnership funded by the Scottish Government since 2019. NAIT support public sector practitioners with the implementation of neuro-affirming, evidence informed and neurodevelopmentally informed practice when supporting children and adults. Although originally formed with an autism focus, the current NAIT programme of work is now relevant across different neurodivergent groups. The Team is funded through the Mental Health Directorate and their work crosses health, education, justice, employment and social care sectors.

## **Today's meeting**

7. At today's meeting, the Committee will receive a private briefing from representatives of NAIT. This will give Members an opportunity to ask questions about NAIT's work before the Committee begins taking oral evidence as part of the inquiry at its meeting on 30 September 2025. NAIT have also provided a [written submission](#) in advance of the private briefing.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**September 2025**