

Keyworker Team

What is a Keyworker?

Someone who will spend some time getting to know you and your family, who will then:

- Work with you to identify gaps in your support or provision
- Work to try to address the gaps and issues
- Represent your needs within the network
- Ensure you are being included and informed in your care and support
- Ensure that you get timely access to the right personalised support
- Advocate on behalf of you and your family when needed
- Hold your family story within the professional network
- Ensure your support is Autism and Trauma-informed
- Break down the barriers to you accessing support
- Provide emotional and practical support if needed

Keyworkers should provide additional support within the existing professional network and should not replace or duplicate the roles of other professionals.

Who is a Keyworker for?

If you have Autism and/or a learning disability and a high level of need, you may be offered a Keyworker.

Who will my Keyworker be?

We will try to match you with a Keyworker based on your geographical location, needs, interests, skills, and preferred attributes, as well as the Keyworker's knowledge and experience. If you'd like to change your Keyworker, let us know.

How often will I see a Keyworker?

There is no set timeframe for how long you may receive support from the service or how often you will meet with a Keyworker. Keyworking looks different for every young person and family. We can get to know you directly, or if you prefer, we can work primarily with your parent(s) or carer(s).

Our involvement ends when the right services and support are in place, and we are confident that you are no longer in crisis and are experiencing greater stability in your life.

What difference will a Keyworker make?

- Help you to feel listened to and involved
- Helping you to work towards your goals
- Helping you to access education
- Helping you access mental health support services if needed
- Helping you to access social care support if needed
- Linking you with other services

Meet the team

Louisa Jennings
Keyworker Team Lead

I have a Masters in Autism and more than 20 years' experience of working with children and young people.



I have worked in the NHS, mental health services, Residential Services and for various charities, all with people with autism or learning disabilities. I love my job!

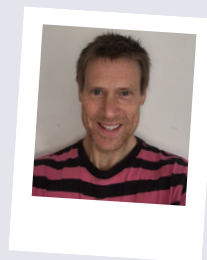
I have a daughter and a little dog (both are cheeky) and I love my 80's disco dancing class.

Andrew Powell
Senior Keyworker

I have worked for over 25 years working with people who have autism and learning disabilities, helping them find their own solutions and ensuring they get the right support from health, education and social care.

I also currently work for Diverse UK – a local organisation that runs activities for and by autistic and neurodivergent people.

I love football, ice skating, playing guitar and doing stuff with my children.



Marcus Tyler
Senior Keyworker

I've worked for more than 15 years supporting learners with additional needs, and autism is an area I'm particularly passionate about.

I've also delivered professional training in Equality and Diversity, Disability Awareness and Understanding Autism.

Alongside my role here, I'm a Director for the North Somerset Parent Carer Forum. Outside of work, I enjoy football, running, building Lego with my children and growing things on my allotment.

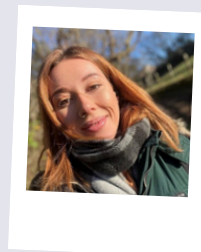


Abigail Jones
Keyworker

Over the last 8 years I have worked in a variety of special educational needs settings including farms, schools and even a placement in Sri Lanka.

I am a neurodiversity advocate and have come from being a Career Navigator for the We Work for Everyone programme - this helps those 16+ with special educational needs, autism, a disability, or mental health issue to create a pathway for a meaningful career, promoting the social model of disability and working with partnerships across the local community.

I am a positive and creative person who loves to experience new things, I adore to learn and try to always stay curious. I enjoy being in natural environments and keeping active. I actively participate in looking into holistic approaches to learning and self-development.



Emily Mayes
Keyworker

My professional background has mainly been working in educational settings. For the last 3 years I have supported individuals with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition and/or Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

I have studied a part-Masters in Motivational Interviewing and have worked as a Social Prescriber for the Bristol Autism Spectrum Service, where I helped adults to engage with the local community through their chosen areas of interest.

I really like spending time outside, climbing mountains or going on strolls in ancient forests. I have 2 cats and being around animals makes me happy. I also recently took up boxing

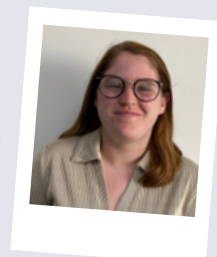


Zoe McIntyre
Keyworker

I have worked with young people and their families for 10 years, especially those with Autism, trauma and mental health challenges.

I've worked in many different areas of support, including schools, charity organisations, the council and the NHS.

I love reading and playing video games. I also love animals, especially dogs and pigs!



Meet the team

Nigel Collins
Keyworker

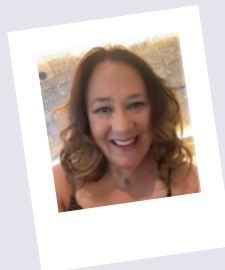


I spent 4 years in the Royal Marines and travelled and worked abroad before returning to the UK and teaching Art and Design.

I have taught in several settings, including: mainstream; SEMH schools; and SEND schools for young people with ASC and special educational needs and disabilities. I have been an ICB Keyworker since the summer of 2022.

Family, friendships and people are important to me. I also love pets and what they bring to our lives. Most recently I have enjoyed walking trips and I love exercise, including yoga and literature, including writing an occasional poem, some good, some ok and some terrible. But I keep them all because this reflects life and experiences I have had.

Emma Lloyd
Keyworker



I have worked for over 20 years working with young people who have autism and learning disabilities, supporting and advocating for them both in specialist and mainstream settings and as a youth worker.

I have also worked for Bristol Autism Team for 8 years advising settings and their staff how to best support the neurodivergent young people they work with within their settings, including advising and supporting families to ensure all views are captured and heard especially the young persons.

Family and friends are a huge part of my life and very important to me. Outside of work I love being outdoors camping, walking (especially the SW coast path) and skiing.

Charlie Thomas
Keyworker



I have over 12 years experience supporting CYP and families as a Personal Assistant, a SEN Teacher in Wiltshire and Bristol and most recently in training NHS and Social Care staff how to best support those with LD and/or autism.

I love spending time with my family being outdoors, by the sea, on our bikes and cooking. My hobbies include DIY, fixing anything mechanical and going to the gym.

Jo Crook
Keyworker



I have worked in the NHS for over 20 years with families who have children with Autism or Learning Difficulties.

I am also trained by National Autistic Society, as an Earlybird Trainer and enjoy delivering this course to parents who have children with Autism. I have worked previously for a charity and residential school.

I enjoy spending time with my family. I have two teenagers and we are always busy. As a family we love to go camping, being by the beach, holidays, mountain biking, attend concerts or festivals and see theatre productions. I love to listen to music and dance as it makes me happy. I also like to watch films, go out for meals or drinks with friends and I try to regularly work out at the gym. I also adore my cat, Willow.

Megan Walsh
Keyworker Administrator



I have worked as an administrator for more than 5 years including at Julian House homeless charity and Knightstone Housing.

I studied Sociology at university and love interacting with lots of different people. I love to travel and see new places. I especially like surfing and I am attempting to learn the saxophone in my spare time.

Contact us

You can call us on 0117 900 2507 or email us at bnssg.keyworkerteam@nhs.net