

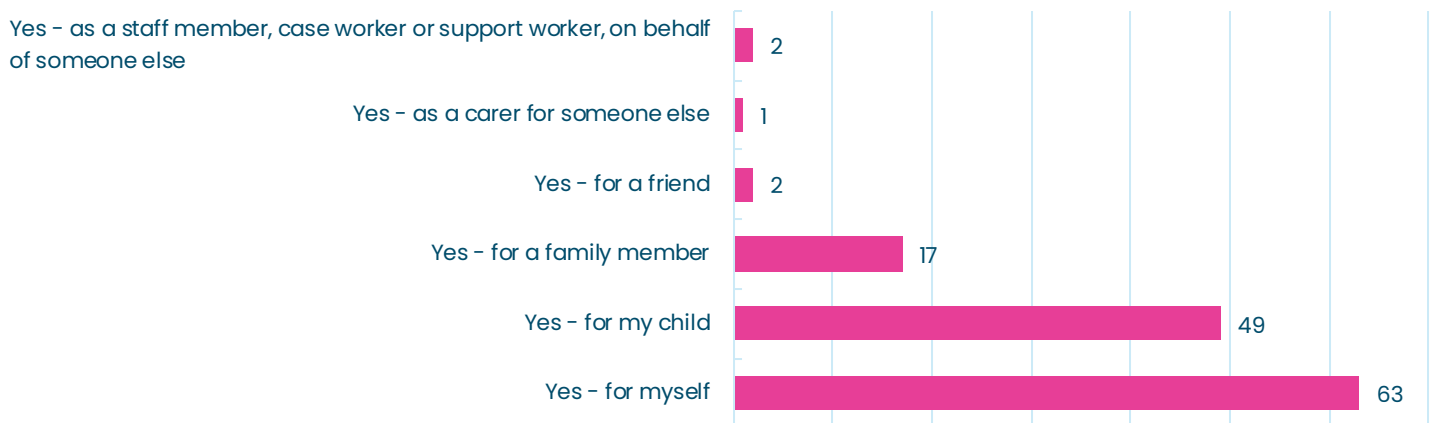
Poll Results: experiences of accessing Neurodevelopmental Services.

In February 2025, Healthwatch in Sussex sought experiences of accessing Neurodevelopmental Services in the last 12 months.

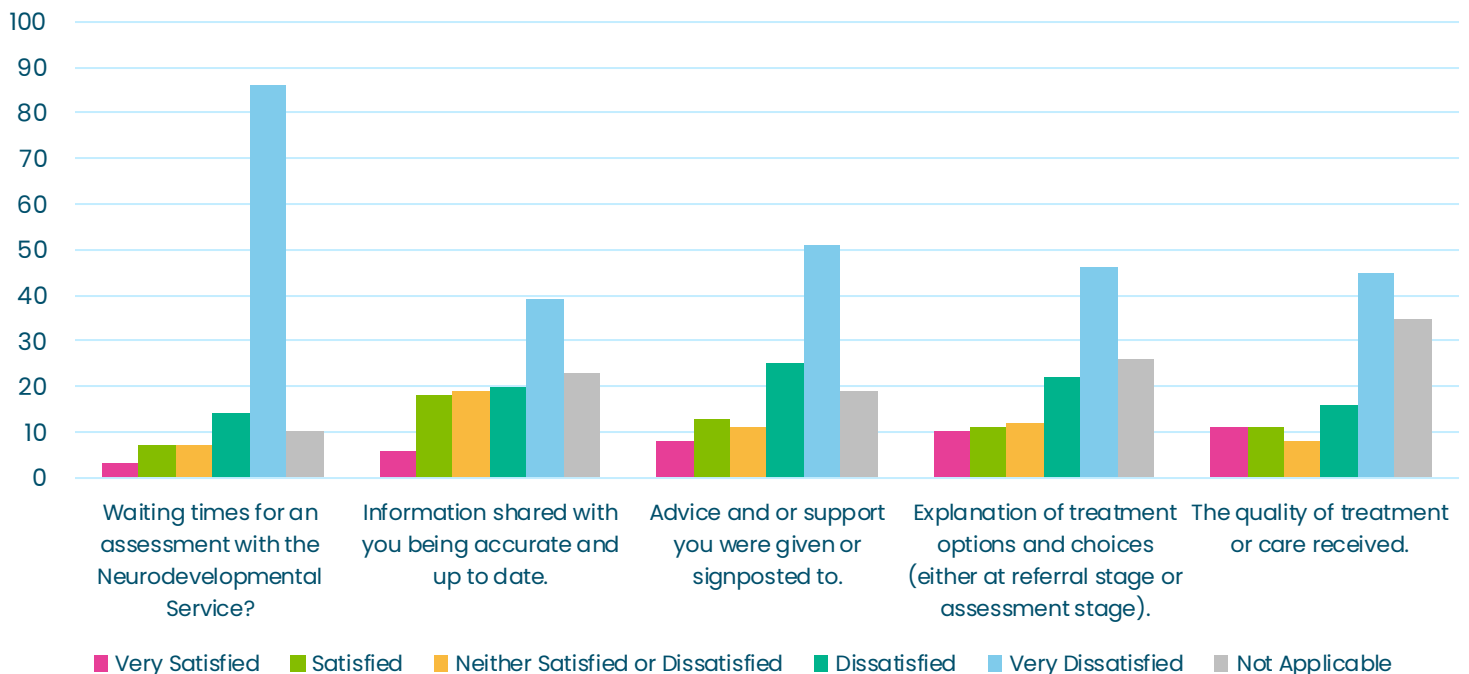
136 people from across Sussex shared their views with us. We heard:

- 63 (51%) responders have been referred to, accessed or tried to access Neurodevelopmental Services for themselves and 49 (40%) responders for their child.
- 86 responders were very dissatisfied with waiting times for an assessment with the Neurodevelopmental Service.
- 73 of responders told us they have had challenges in accessing GP services.

Have you been referred to, accessed or tried to access Neurodevelopmental Services in the last 12 months?



How satisfied were you with your experience?



As a neurodivergent individual, have you experienced any of the following in the last 12 months?



Respondents to our poll told us:

Waiting lists

"Waiting lists are so long and at the end of it, there is no real support available, apart from a leaflet."

"The waiting times are too long and there is very little communication or updates to those who are waiting for assessment."

"I have been on a waiting list for an adult Autism referral since December 2021."

Cost

"I have needed to pay £3600 over the last 3 years to get a diagnosis for my daughter before she reaches 18 (13 when referred with 5 Yr CAMHS waiting list)."

Appointments

"There is a real lack of knowledge, awareness and compassion in all health care services and the challenges for neurodiverse people accessing appointments, managing during appointments."

"When in hospital A&E my neurodiverse children are left for hours in the main waiting room, which is overstimulating and distressing. They are unable to vocalise how poorly they are, which often means it is guess work on my behalf."

Tell us your experience

We always want to hear more about people's experiences of health and care services. Share your story with your local Healthwatch:

Healthwatch Brighton & Hove: info@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk or 01273 234 040

Healthwatch East Sussex enquiries@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk or 0333 101 4007

Healthwatch West Sussex helpdesk@healthwatchwestSussex.co.uk or 0300 012 0122