

**Western Area Outcomes Group
Outcome Monitoring 2025/26**

Provider: Autism NI **Date:** 13th May 2026

KPIs	
Receive referrals from FSHs % referrals from hubs?	
Expenditure on Target? Yes/No <i>All underspends to be reported early for redistribution</i>	Yes funding allocated via WAOG facilitated recruitment of 1 post the Provider match funded a second post which enabled us to double our capacity in terms of service delivery

KPI's <i>(only relative KPIs to be completed)</i>	Programme Delivered	Number of Attendees (Parent/ Children/ Families)	Outcome achieved	% Clients rate service good/ excellent	% Clients increased confidence
Practical family support delivered in the home	184 families will use the Autism Support Officers in the Western Health & Social Care Trust area. We will provide these families with three visits each, creating bespoke action plans that will be	185	192 participants were referred to the project, with 192 engaging with the Autism Support Officers either via telephone or during their first sessions. Of these families, 178 progressed to three one-to-one support sessions. These sessions identified the individual needs of	100% of completed families showed positive change in at least one Family Star	

	developed in partnership with the parents/carers.		each autistic child and informed the development of bespoke action plans designed to enhance autism acceptance, improve connectivity, and strengthen strategies for supporting newly diagnosed children. In addition, 7 families were carried forward from the previous reporting period and concluded during this period, bringing the total number of stars completed during the reporting period to 185.	Plus indicator	
	The lives of the beneficiaries within this project will ultimately be improved due to their better understanding of Autism and how they can support their child.		Bespoke action plans provided tailored support and practical strategies to each family. Upon completing their work with the Autism Support Officers (ASOs), the following outcomes were achieved: • Parent/carers gained a greater acceptance of autism. • Parents/carers developed a deeper understanding of their child's strengths and needs through education, support, and information. • Increased knowledge led to a reduction in stress and improved emotional well-being for parents/carers.		

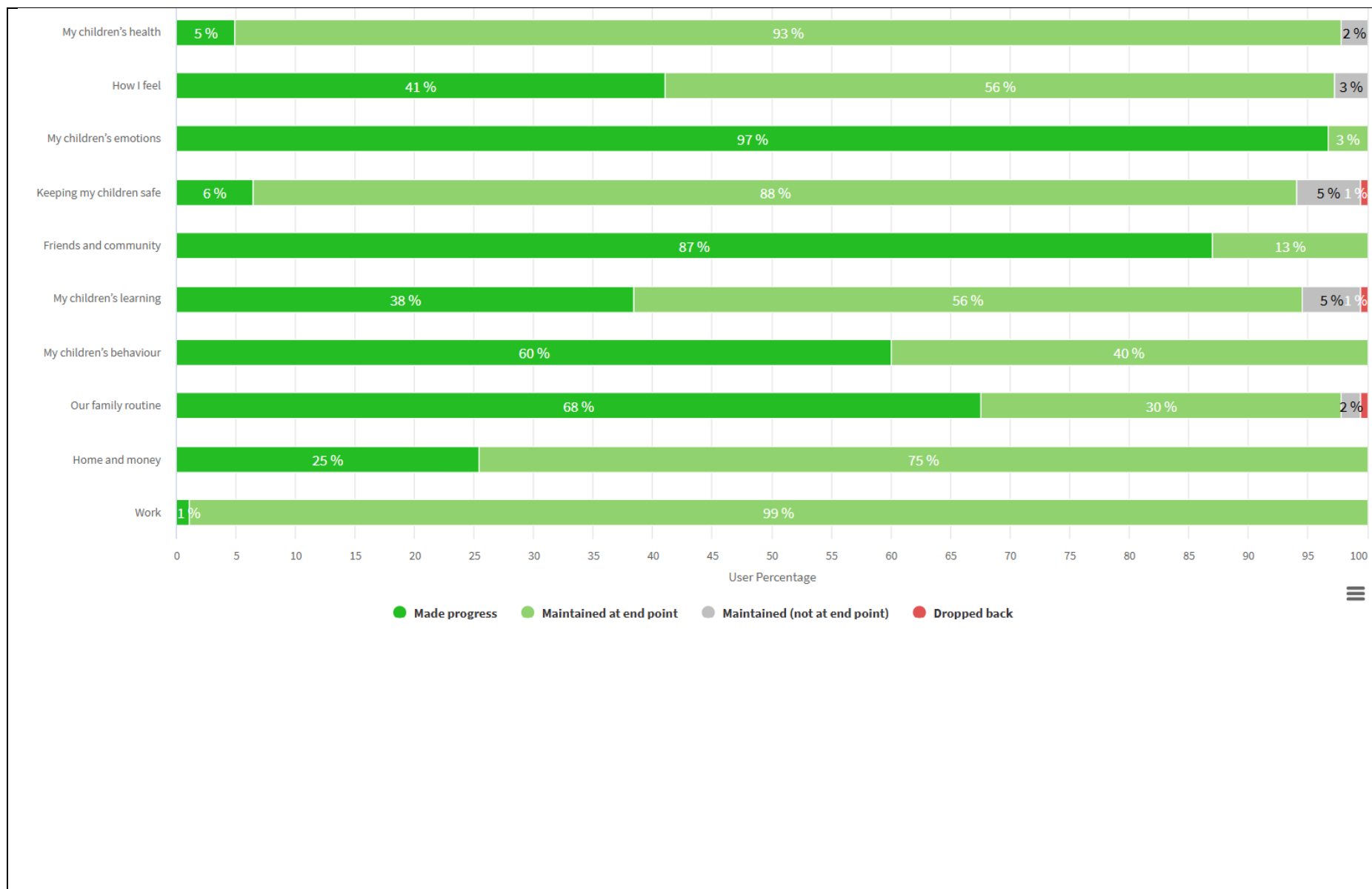
			• Parents/carers were empowered to access financial support, and housing services. • Parents/carers enhanced their awareness of health and social care systems, enabling access to specialist and mainstream support (e.g., occupational therapy, speech & language services, and review appointments with the Autism Intervention Team).		
Engage and support parents into additional supports/ parenting programmes/peer support/ workshops	The service will be flexible in its approach enhancing social networks and bridging families to a menu of options.	185	• Parents/carers gained a sense of optimism and built resilience through support sessions. • Signposting to community organisations and local opportunities helped reduce isolation. • Parents/carers accessed local support groups/activities and learned from other parents. • Parents/carers learned how to use visual strategies effectively within the home. • Parents/carers through implementation of knowledge and resources, highlighted regularly during feedback that they	99% of parents/carers experienced positive changes in two or more areas of the Family Star Plus outcomes. 99.4% of families who completed surveys, rated the service as 'excellent'.	

			experience less of the behaviours that challenge within the home. • Parents/carers availed of training that enhanced their knowledge and improved their ability to support their child.		
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Any additional comments:

Alongside tailored early intervention support aimed at achieving improved outcomes, the Autism Support Officers implemented the Family Star Plus outcomes framework. This approach explored nurturing practices that support and strengthen family units, with a clear focus on building on existing strengths and positive change. Full engagement from each family was encouraged throughout the assessment, planning, and review process.

The early intervention provided by the team has had a demonstrably positive impact on referred families, with 99% reporting positive change across two or more of the ten key outcome domains. On average, families made progress in four outcome areas. Key areas of focus included understanding of the autism diagnosis, development of a positive autistic identity, emotional and behavioural support, educational challenges, sleep, diet, housing, advocacy, and mental health. Families reported both small but meaningful and significant improvements across these domains.



Families shared what worked well, highlighting that the tailored support provided facilitated increased parental engagement with educational settings across a wide range of sectors. These included Preschool and Nursery provision, Special Schools, Mainstream Primary and Post-Primary schools, Irish-Medium education, Integrated Education, Grammar Schools, and Education Other Than at School (EOTAS), among others.

Participation from families who completed the support reflected overwhelmingly positive outcomes. Overall, 99.4% of respondents rated the service as 'excellent', with the remaining 0.6% rating it as 'good'. Participants shared their experiences and reported meaningful changes, with many noting that they had learned new information. Feedback highlighted an increased understanding of diagnoses, improved knowledge of strategies for managing toileting, sleep, and educational support, and a reduction in anxiety. Families also reported the development of new skills for both children and parents. Some comments are listed below:

- "The Autism Support Officer is so knowledgeable and extensive resources provided have been a God send. I was apprehensive about getting support, I found it brilliant. The ASO has been very good about making me feel relaxed about getting support and moving forward. Thank you for everything – such a positive experience".
- "The Autism Support Officer was so professional, non-judgmental and helpful. Great support in explaining autism and useful strategies. I learned a lot about supporting my child and was provided with many useful resources".
- "Learning how to understand my son's autism, especially understanding 'School Can't'. The Autism Support Officer has been very helpful".
- "The reassurance that I'm meeting my son's needs and the resources provided, especially his life story to help explain where he came from".
- "It helped me with tasks I was nervous to do as I had extra support and tips. I enjoyed the service so much".
- "The resources helped me to communicate better with my child".
- "Excellent resources, tailored to my child's needs".
- "Understanding around sensory issues and emotions...Going through visual boards helped to get a better understanding of autism".
- "Visual for toileting has been so useful. Also tailored social story for my child's nose bleeds has been very helpful".
- "So much information provided has been very helpful. I have learned so much. Visual support for mealtimes is fantastic and working well".

- “I am very happy with all the new information that has been provided – emotions chat, teeth brushing, etc. Thank you for all”.
- “I feel I really benefitted from the toileting and out/about visuals. Overall, I am very pleased with the Autism Support Officer’s advice and strategies to help myself and child.
- “The Autism Support Officer was very understanding of our son’s needs. The sessions have helped me accept the diagnosis and understand my son better. Thank you so much”.
- “We were really pleased with all the support and resources that the Autism Support Officer provided us with as we did not know how much help was out there and it has been great with tips also”.

Please return to valerie.maxwell@hscni.net