

Investigating the Current Organisation of Tic Services in England through Freedom of Information Requests

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Background

- ♦ Children and young people (CYP) with Tic Disorders do not have **access** to suitable **NHS support** in England —including effective **assessment, diagnosis and treatment**
- ♦ **Tic services in England are critically lacking:**
 - ♦ Referral pathways are unclear
 - ♦ Availability of **specialist tic services** is insufficient
 - ♦ No established **clinical guidelines**
- ♦ Freedom of Information (FOI) requests: requests that are sent to public organisations in order to access information



Integrated Care Boards

- ♦ Integrated Care Boards (ICBs): Statutory NHS organisations that bring together the NHS and local health services
- ♦ ICBs are made up of one or more geographical regions, referred to as Places
- ♦ There are 42 ICBs in England, made up of 295 Places

Aims/Method

Aims:

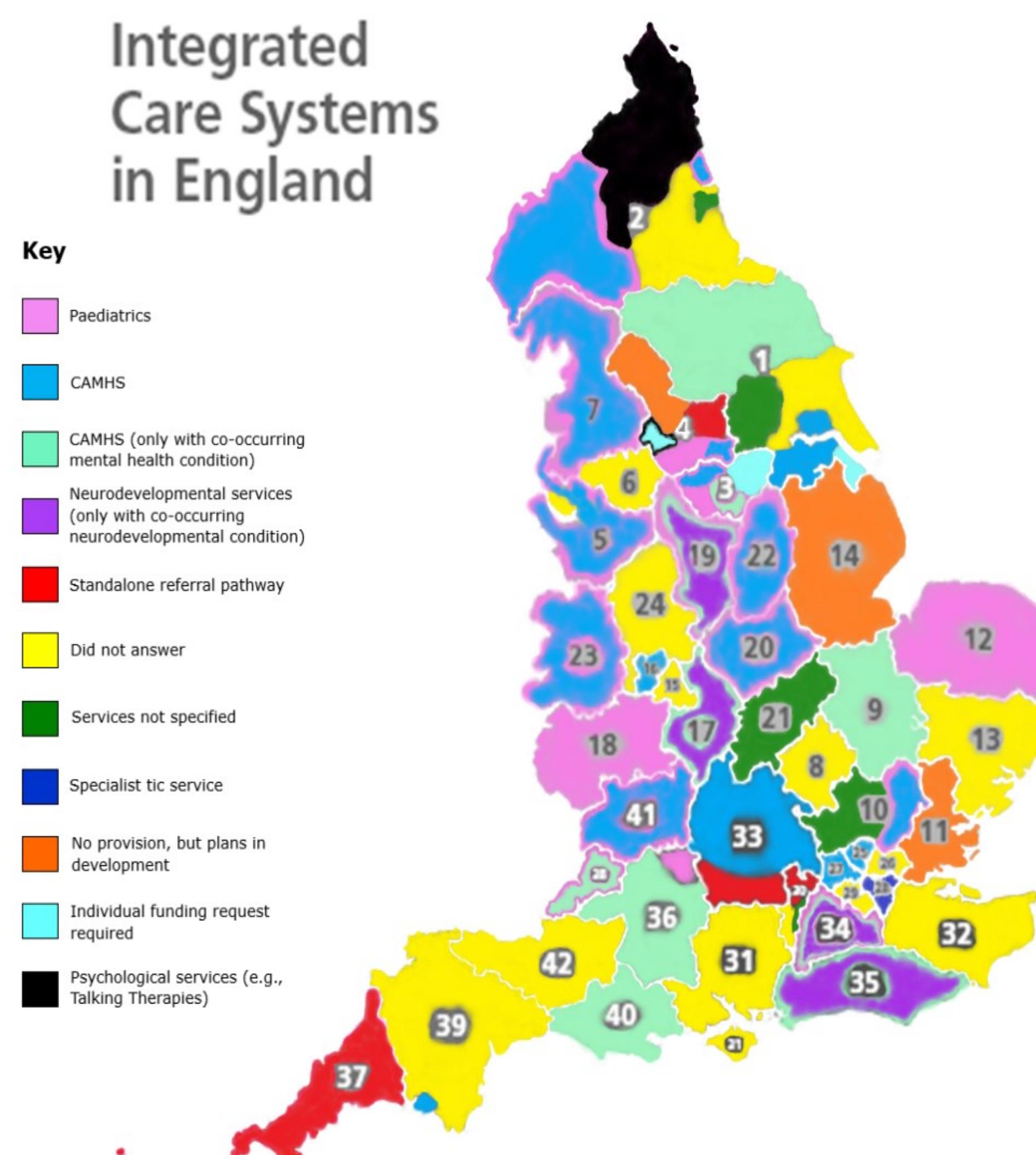
- ♦ To understand how tic services are currently organised in England
- ♦ To map provision of tic services in different geographical regions



FOI requests inquired:

- ♦ Do Places commission a standalone referral pathway for CYP with tics?
- ♦ If not, what services are CYP referred to?
- ♦ FOI requests sent to all 42 ICBs

Support available for CYP with tics within each ICB



Findings

- 3% of Places commission a standalone referral pathway
 - ♦ Mostly located in South of England and Northern England; none in Midlands or East of England
- ♦ In some Places, no NHS support available for tics
- ♦ 42.8% of Places had no plans to improve tic Services
- ♦ CYP with tics most commonly referred to **Paediatric services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and neurodevelopmental services**
- ♦ Referral acceptance into services sometimes dependent on comorbid conditions being present
- ♦ The **INTEND Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) panel** consisting of ten parents/ carers of CYP with Tic Disorders said these findings reflect their struggles to access adequate support

Conclusion

- ♦ Unclear, standardised referral pathways: available services differed considerably between Places
- ♦ Imbalance between service development and **clinical need**: many Places did not plan to improve services for tics

For more information, please email

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