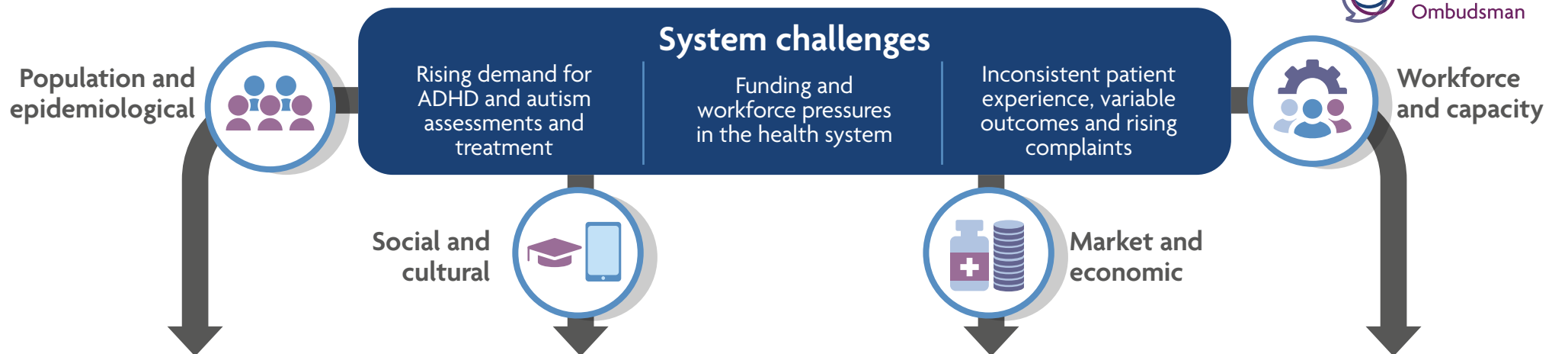


System challenges and long-term shifts in ADHD and autism care



Factors contributing to rising demand, service pressures and increasing complaints

Historically low rates of ADHD and autism diagnosis in the UK compared with other nations

Increasing clinical understanding of ADHD and autism and co-occurring conditions

Increasing media and social media attention

Reduced stigma around conditions

Digital-first shift and expansion of online assessment tools

Regulatory gap around diagnostic-only providers

Global medication supply issues

Reliance on the reducing psychiatry workforce and long training pipelines

ICB workforce cuts and mergers

GP workload saturation

Long-term and/or national shifts required

- Increased focus on early identification and holistic, needs-led support, with or without diagnosis
- Integration of ADHD, autism and wider mental health diagnostic criteria
- A multidisciplinary approach to care and support, building on integrated and neighbourhood health models

- Improved training, guidance and awareness-raising of ADHD and autism for GPs and wider health professionals
- Expansion of training and awareness-raising across different sectors, including education, employment, social care, housing and the criminal justice system

- A long-term national plan for improving ADHD medication supply
- Requirement for CQC registration for diagnostic-only providers and more coordinated evidence generation for digital diagnostic tools
- Long-term plans for Right to Choose and Shared Care that balance patient entitlement, local funding pressures and clinical discretion

- Long-term education and workforce plan for the psychiatry profession
- Improved training, guidance and standards for ADHD specialism across wider health professions
- Opportunity in the future Strategic Commissioning Development Programme to support ICB capabilities around Right to Choose commissioning duties and Shared Care Protocols
- Shared accountability for ADHD and autism improvement across DHSC, NHS Regions and ICBs