

Autism/ADHD Referral Pathway for Children & Young People - Community Paediatrics Team

Sherwood Forest Hospital

Sherwood Forest Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

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REFERRAL TO THE COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIAN – WHAT TO EXPECT

Your child's referral will be triaged by the Community Paediatrician to ensure it is appropriate an assessment to take place. If accepted, your child will be placed on the wait list where you will be offered an appointment in writing. The waitlist is currently approx. 3 months, but this is subject to change.

Please scan here for information about the role of the Community Paediatrician



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FIRST NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT APPOINTMENT

Every child/young person is assessed according to their individual need.

The Community Paediatrician will meet with you and your child to understand their assessment needs. This appointment will usually include a physical examination, a review of your child's medical/family history and developmental milestones.

This appointment will determine what further assessment your child needs i.e. ADHD/Autism assessment. If no assessment is required, and your child has no other medical needs, they will be discharged, or an open appointment will be offered (an open appointment means you can request a further appointment based on your child's symptoms and individual needs).



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ADHD ASSESSMENT

For referrals related to ADHD, occasionally a diagnosis may be given at the first appointment.

If no diagnosis can be given, further tests or information gathering may be required to determine a diagnosis, dependant on assessment need. A further follow up appointment will then be offered to consider a diagnosis.

ADHD ASSESSMENT (if diagnosis confirmed)

If a diagnosis is confirmed, a report will be issued to you, your GP and educational setting to support your child's needs.

An appointment with the Specialist Nursing Team will be offered to provide information and advice, along with signposting to post diagnosis support to the appropriate local and national support organisations.

If medication is prescribed, regular ongoing follow up appointments will be arranged. If your child does not require medication, they will be discharged but can be referred back into the service if their medical needs change over time.



Scan here for
alternative
language options





AND/OR
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AUTISM ASSESSMENT

Autism may be diagnosed at the first appointment (in a very small number of cases). Whenever a diagnosis is made, a follow up appointment with the Specialist Nurse Team will be arranged for information and advice, signposting to post diagnosis support to the appropriate local and national support organisations will also be provided.

You will receive a diagnosis report and a copy will also be sent to your child's GP and education setting to help support their needs. Your child will then be discharged.

If your child has related medical needs, they will be offered further ongoing appointments.

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FURTHER ASSESSMENT REQUIRED FOR AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS

Further assessment/monitoring may be required to determine a diagnosis of autism (this may include a further number of appointments (between 30mins - 1 hour each appointment) dependant on your child's individual needs.

The Community Paediatrician may want to gain further information from you about your child to help with the assessment. Your child may require a direct observation of their behaviour, this may be through an observational assessment in a clinic, or school setting dependant on need (this may be with the Community Paediatrician or another trained member of the team e.g. Specialist Nurse)

Onward referral to other services may be required at this stage to gather further supporting evidence, for example information may be required from school/nursery etc to support the diagnosis process. Alternatively, the Community Paediatrician may need to take a watch and wait approach if your child is not displaying behaviours of autism at this point (a further appointment will be offered in this case for a later date to re-assess)

OR
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UNCERTAINTY REMAINS REGARDING AN AUTISM DIAGNOSIS

Your child may be kept under review and further information gathered when there is doubt about a diagnosis or a second opinion is sought. Your child's referral may be discussed at a monthly joint professional meeting. The outcome of this may include a joint appointment with the speech and language therapist, further information gathering, a referral/discussion with other services, or conclusion of either a diagnosis or non-diagnosis.



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AUTISM/ADHD NOT DIAGNOSED

Where a diagnosis is not made, there may still be behaviours in common with neurodevelopmental conditions, but these are: not sufficient to meet the agreed diagnostic criteria; there may be other co-existing conditions, or reasons why your child is demonstrating these behaviours. A letter or report will be sent to you detailing the outcome of the assessment, along with signposting to the appropriate local and national support organisations and/or referral to the appropriate services.

Your child will be discharged by the Community Paediatrician.

