

Information for patients and carers

**Autism Spectrum Disorder Pathway Multi-
Disciplinary Assessment,**

Broadoaks CDC

0-5 years of age

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy horizontal bands in shades of blue, ranging from a light sky blue to a dark navy blue.

Why are children referred to the team?

Your child may have been referred for assessment because you, the health visitor, speech and language therapist or another professional may be concerned that your child has social communication difficulties.

The Team at Broadoaks CDC consists of the following professionals:

- A community paediatrician (children's doctor)
- A speech and language therapist
- SEND teacher (if available)
- Complex needs nurse (if involved with child)
- Involvement from an educational setting is encouraged
- Portage (for some children) and health visitors, who are encouraged to attend all our meetings

One of the team will act as your link worker throughout the period of the assessment.

Please note that from March 2015, educational psychologists are no longer part of the Autism diagnostic team. Nurseries and schools can refer to them separately.

Who is in the team?

The community paediatrician

The community paediatrician will arrange to see all the requests at Broadoaks child development centre.

The information gathered at this first appointment is about your child's general background, health and development.

Your child will also be examined to look for familiar conditions that may be associated with delay in social communication.

The paediatrician will arrange for the rest of the team to meet with you in order to plan the rest of the information gathering process.

The speech and language therapist

The speech and language therapist will assess your child's communication skills at Broadoaks child development centre or another appropriate setting.

The communication skills that the speech and language therapist will be looking at may be your child's:

- Understanding of language
- Social communication skills
- Expressive skills – nonverbal and verbal

The assessment will be carried out through play and may just consist of observing your child.

It is important not to worry if you think your child will not co-operate with the assessments.

If a speech and language therapy need is identified the therapist will agree an involvement plan with you as parents.

Senior practitioner complex needs team

They are based at CAMHS, Shawbrook house and provides input in our under 5 pathway. They may undertake home visits at the discretion of the paediatrician. They also facilitate the parenting courses post diagnosis.

How the assessment works

Since 2008, NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) has provided guidance on the multi-disciplinary approach to the assessment of social communication difficulties in children. This means that the diagnosis has to be supported by assessments from the speech and language therapist, nursery/school setting, the educational psychologist and the paediatrician.

After your child has been seen by the community paediatrician or the speech and language therapist, they will ask for your consent to discuss your child with the multi-disciplinary team regarding their identified social communication difficulties. The pathway is run by the community paediatricians, speech and language therapist, and a complex/additional needs nurse.

Multi professional meeting

Once your child has been seen by the professionals involved, a multi-professional meeting is held to discuss the outcomes of the assessment.

You will have already received feedback from each professional from their individual assessment with your child. No new information is being shared at the meeting.

If we require further clarification prior to making a decision about a diagnosis, we may invite you to attend for an Autism diagnostic observation assessment (ADOS).

Parent feedback

You will receive an invitation to attend a parent feedback meeting which will be held immediately after the multi-professional meeting on the same day, to discuss next steps for you and your child. If an ADOS is required, you will be informed of the same and a separate appointment will be sent out. A further feedback session will be organised very soon after the ADOS with you.

Flow chart

Referral from health visitor/GP/consultants/school nurses



Seen by paediatrician or speech therapist. Concerns about Autism Spectrum Disorder



Referred to the Autism Spectrum Disorder pathway – multi-professional meeting, run by paediatrician, speech therapist, complex needs practitioner



Date for multi-professional meeting booked, taking into consideration times required for all involved to assess the child



Multi-professional meeting held with nursery/school in attendance, feedback gathered from all involved



If diagnosis not agreed upon, ADOS booked with diagnosis given soon after by the relevant consultant. If diagnosis agreed upon, this will be fed back in the parent feedback session immediately after the multi-professional team meeting.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please telephone:
Community paediatrics, Broadoaks CDC, **01772 215560** Option 8.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

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