



Multi-disciplinary Assessment Clinic

Information for parents and carers

Your child has been referred because:

The referrer has concerns about your child's development in one or more of these areas:

- Communication
- Social skills
- Learning
- Attention and concentration difficulties
- Physical difficulties
- Co-ordination difficulties

Information which will be gathered before your child is offered an appointment:

A Consent Form and Contact Record Sheet are being sent to you for completion and return.

Your child will be on the waiting list until we have an available appointment slot. Please note currently we have a long waiting list and therefore advise you to return the consent form within the timescale otherwise your child's name will be taken off the waiting list.

Upon receipt of the consent form and nearer availability you will be contacted to agree an appointment date. If we are unable to contact you by telephone then we will write to requesting you contact Care Co-Ordination Centre to agree an appointment date. If we do not hear back from you within a period of time then you will be removed from the waiting list/discharged from the service

Appointments:

It is recommended that two adults attend the appointment with your child. Please could we ask that alternative arrangements are made for the care of any other children as their presence could disrupt the assessment.

Who is attached to the diagnostic team?

- Senior Community Paediatrician
- Specialist Occupational Therapist
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

What to expect during the consultation:

A two hour consultation comprising:

- Detailed medical history including birth details, developmental progress, family details and history, social development, educational progress, and a physical examination [if necessary]
- Standardised assessment of your child's current communication skills by observation and engagement in play and non-verbal/verbal communication – (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) if you child has social communication difficulties)
- Assessment of your child's motor and sensory skills
- A diagnosis as appropriate

We aim to give a diagnosis at this appointment but this is not always possible, for example if the results of the assessment are unclear and we need further information, such as observation of your child in school or nursery.

What you can expect following the consultation:

You will be given a verbal summary in the clinic of the conclusions regarding your child's difficulties, along with any further recommendations, for example:

- Appropriate information leaflets and / or references
- Simple behavioural management strategies
- Appropriate referral on to other agencies [usually so you can access further information], education dept. or internally within the NHS

A report will then be written by the team, sent to you as parents and copied to the other professionals involved with your child's care as agreed by you in Clinic when signing Section B of the Consent Form.

Follow – up:

After the initial consultation, a member of the team may, with your agreement, follow – up with a visit to your home, or offer you an appointment to meet with them at a Clinic or liaise with your child's school or nursery staff.

Your child will be offered a follow –up appointment, if required, with the Paediatrician from the team within 6 – 12 months