

School Aged Neurodevelopment Pathway for Autism– Information leaflet.

Patient Information

School Aged Neurodevelopment Team.



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

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Introduction

The children's school-aged Neurodevelopment Pathway is managed by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching NHS Trust within the Childrens Community Specialist Services and is overseen by the Neurodevelopment Pathway Manager.

The service is delivered across the Wigan Borough and will accept referrals to the pathway for children and young people who are aged from 4 to 16 years old.

Referrals to the pathway are accepted by:

G.Ps, Paediatricians, Education settings, CAMHS & Specialist Health Services. The referrals can be sent to the pathway via email or post using the details below.

wwl-tr.aschubreferrals@nhs.net

Neurodevelopment team
Platt Bridge Health Centre
Rivington Avenue
Wigan
WN2 5NG.

Triage process.

Once the referral has been received by the pathway, it will be triaged through a multi-disciplinary triage meeting. During this time the team will determine whether any further information or onward referrals are needed for the child or young person; the team will make these onward referrals according to need.

Meet the team.

Emma Wilson - Specialist Nurse for Early Years / Team Lead for Early Years Health and Development Team & Team Lead for School Aged Neurodevelopment Pathway Service.

Emma Nicholls – School Aged Neurodevelopment Pathway Manager

Rachael Major - Neurodevelopment Pathway Co-Ordinator.

Vicky Stanford - Clerical Officer: Early Years Health and Development/Neurodevelopment Team.

School Age Autism Process

Referral into Neurodevelopment Pathway Service – See entry points below.

G.P./Paediatrician

School/Sendco

**CAMHS/Specialist
Health Services**

MDT Triage – All referrals will be discussed at the triage meeting. Further information requests /onward referrals will be made according to need.

Service criteria met and referral accepted. Onward assessment requests will be referred to Paediatricians/SALT/OT etc and Pre diagnostic support offered.

Request for further information made as unable to make decision inline of criteria. Plan to return to triage process once received.

Criteria not met:

- Signpost to more appropriate service.
- Discharged from Neurodevelopment Pathway.

Once all required assessments have been collated discussion at Panel will be arranged. Child / Young person will be presented at multi-disciplinary panel and a diagnostic outcome will be decided. Decision confirmed in writing to parents/carers. This will be followed with a detailed report including the information discussed at panel to determine the decision made. Copy letters will be shared with professionals involved in care and electronic patient records.

Diagnosis agreed - Post Diagnostic support offered:

- Training Offer/
Drop-In sessions.

No diagnosis agreed signpost to most appropriate service. Discharged from Neurodevelopment Pathway Training Offer/ Drop-In sessions.

Deferred cases, further assessment needed.

Information gathering.

As part of the information gathering process, the school-aged Pathway will need the following documents completed to form part of the assessment:

Parent Cambridge Questionnaire, to be completed by parent/carer.

School Cambridge Questionnaire, to be completed by the school/education setting.

Parent & Carer views & consent, to be completed by parent/carer.

School summary of need, to be completed by the child/young person's teacher/teacher assistant.

Voice of the child document, to be completed where possible by the child or young person.

Once the referral has been triaged and accepted by the Pathway, we will send these documents to the family & education setting to be completed and returned to the Pathway team.

Assessment.

As part of the Pathway process, assessments need to be undertaken; the child or young person referred into the Pathway will need a social communication assessment and/or (ADOS) autism diagnostic observation schedule by a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. The child or young person will also need a clinical face to face assessment by a Paediatrician.

Diagnostic Panel.

Once all the above information & assessments have taken place, the child or young person will then be booked onto the next available diagnostic panel appointment.

The panel is chaired by the Neurodevelopment Pathway Manager; the panel members consist of at least one of the following services:

Paediatricians

Special Educational needs & disability team (SEND team)

Social Care services

Educational Psychology (EPS)

Targeted Education Support Services (TESS)

Speech and Language Therapy Team (SALT)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Each child or young person's case will be discussed during the panel; during the discussion the Pathway manager alongside the paediatrician will complete a DSM-5 assessment tool to review whether the child or young person meets the criteria for a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition.

Post Diagnosis.

After the panel decision is agreed, parents/carers will receive an outcome letter, including all reports that contributed to the decision making.

If the outcome was 'yes' to diagnosis, then the child or young person's family will be invited to a post diagnostic session with the Neurodevelopment Pathway Co-Ordinator. These are held across the borough, and give families the opportunity to link up and network together. The Neurodevelopment Pathway Co-Ordinator will share a presentation at the session, focusing on what is Autism, the difficulties some children and young people may face, and how to support them as a family (including lots of information sharing on local community groups, strategies and advice).

For the families who cannot make a post diagnosis session, we have a QR code inputted to the bottom of the outcome letter. This QR code will take the family to a WWL website, which will have all the supportive information and signposting which would have been shared during the session.

If the panel decision was 'no' to diagnosis, then the child or young person will stay on our Pathway as a patient for 12 months; this is a 12-month waiting period. Should any further concerns arise, the child or young person can be referred back onto the Pathway for the process to start again if required. After the 12 months wait, if no further referrals are made to the Pathway, then the child or young person's period of care with the Neurodevelopment Pathway team will end.

If the panel decision was to defer:- this means the panel felt more information was required and the decision was inconclusive. The outcome letter will share what further information is required, and the Pathway will request this information on behalf of the child or young person. Once the required information is received, the child or young person will be allocated another panel date, where the case will be re-discussed with the additional information obtained.

The Service also facilitates various specialist topic training throughout the year. This runs online and is accessible via the Local Offer or Eventbrite. All families at any stage of the assessment process are welcome to attend the range of topics available.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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