

Community Paediatrics Team and the Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway

Communication Update July 2021

Who Are We and What Do We Do?

Our small community team of consultants and neurodevelopmental nurse specialists provide a **diagnostic** service to children who present with a possible neurodevelopmental condition(s) and neurodisability: Autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, Tourette syndrome, dyspraxia, delayed development significantly impacting function in more than one area, children with cerebral palsy and other neurodisabilities.

All possible conditions will be considered when children are evaluated through our neurodevelopmental pathway. All neurodevelopmental disorders are pervasive, by definition, they will manifest in more than one setting which is why we require evidence of functional difficulty in **at least 2 settings**.

Schools, nurseries, therapists, health visitors and other community professionals can refer in to the neurodevelopmental pathway and often have a great deal of relevant information to support such referrals.

You can find the NDC Pathway in Appendix A.

We prescribe medication for ADHD. We prescribe melatonin for sleep **ONLY** in children with an existing neurodevelopmental diagnosis.

What we do not do:

We do not accept referrals for suspected ADHD in children under the age of 6 years. Where ADHD is suspected in preschool children the community support should be accessed via the Early Help Hub: EHHUB@swindon.gov.uk.

We do not undertake attachment or mental health assessments and cannot provide any mental health support. Children who require behavioural interventions or support for anxiety, low mood, self harm or possible mental health needs should be referred to the Single Point of Access (SPA). Services in Swindon for mental health are provided by the targeted mental health service (TaMHS) and the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). The Mental Health Support Team in Schools (MHST's) Trailblazer join the SPA three times a week working collaboratively to assess referrals and appropriateness for service. All referrals for mental health support come to a Single Point of Access (SPA), referrals to this SPA are made by a professional who knows your child. This could include GP, health professional, teacher, SENCO or social worker.

We do not prescribe medication for mood disorders in children. Children should be referred to a child and adolescent psychiatrist. **We are aware of delays for children being seen for significant mood problems and self-harm because parents have been told to wait to see their paediatrician.**

Additional information about the team can be found on the Local Offer:
<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/health-landing-pages-and-content-pages/the-community-paediatric-team/>

Please note that accessing support for children and young people is not dependent on a diagnosis. This includes school support which is also not dependant on a diagnosis to provide support in a school setting. There is a clear graduated response that schools are expected to provide for any child presenting with Special Educational Needs regardless of whether they have a diagnosis.

The graduated response can be found here: <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/education/core-standards/>

There are services across Swindon that can provide advice and support to children and young people and their families whilst they are waiting for their child's assessment. For further information about what is available in the local area, you can visit the Swindon Local Offer Website:

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/health-landing-pages-and-content-pages/information-and-advice-on-learning-disabilities-autism-and-adhd/>

You can also find updates and current waiting times on the Neurodevelopmental Conditions Pathway (NDC) by visiting the Swindon Local Offer Website:

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/yousaidwedid>

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Appendix A: The NDC Pathway

DRAFT Neurodevelopmental Conditions Pathway for Assessment and Diagnosis ages 0-18 years



