



## Community Paediatrics Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway - What you can expect from your child's assessment

### Who are we?

The Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway is led by Community Paediatrics who are based at Great Western Hospital. We are a team of child development specialists who see children and young people and their families in the community.

### Who do we see?

We see children and young people age 0-18 where there are concerns regarding possible neurodevelopmental conditions.

The NDC Pathway is a **diagnostic pathway only**. This means the purpose of the pathway is to offer assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other neurodevelopmental conditions e.g., Tic disorders, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy. This also means that we don't offer any further specialist intervention support.

### What do we do?

The NDC Pathway is part of an 'integrated' pathway, which means the service is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) who come from diverse disciplines and include: Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Nurses. The team will develop an understanding of your child's strengths and difficulties, which may or may not include a diagnosis.

The assessment will look at all your child's strengths and weaknesses to provide a full developmental profile. As part of this assessment we aim to gather as much information to help with our assessment, which means we will often liaise with schools or any other professionals involved. If it is still unclear as to what the underlying difficulties are, then the team may initiate further assessment, for example, an Educational Psychologist might explore a child or young person's cognition and learning ability through an observation and/or direct work. The team may also need to liaise with local mental health services such as TaMHS (Targeted Mental Health Service and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service).

In some instances the Community Paediatrics Team will need to expedite referrals accepted onto the pathway due to the presenting clinical needs of the child. This is discussed and agreed at multidisciplinary meetings (MDT) that take place twice monthly which also provides a second layer of triage to assess who the child would also be best placed to see. This is a small team of professionals, including



# Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway

## What you can expect from your child's assessment

educational psychology, speech and language (SALT) and key members of the community paediatric team.

**Pre-assessment information** you will be sent some forms that will need to be completed by you and your child's school, if they attend one. It is important that we receive this information as it helps us to inform next steps in the assessment process based on your child's needs.

### **What will happen at my first appointment?**

You and your child will meet with one or more members of the team to explore your concerns and challenges that you are facing. This appointment will take up to one hour. It can help to bring along your child's favourite toy or game to help them feel more comfortable throughout the assessment process.

Your child may also receive a physical examination which may include taking height and weight measurements.

If you feel it would be helpful to speak with a clinician without your child present, please inform the clinician of this. We cannot provide supervision of your child in these circumstances, so you will also need to bring along a relative or friend to supervise them.

### **What happens next?**

A follow up appointment will be offered to discuss the outcome of the assessment, which may or may not include a diagnosis. During this appointment, we will help you to understand what the outcome of the assessment means and also think about how you might share information about your child's needs with other people.

Not every child receives a diagnosis, and, in these instances, we will do our best to sign post you to other relevant local services.

You will receive a comprehensive written report explaining the outcome of the assessment. A copy of your report will be sent to your child's GP. You may share your child's report with other professionals should you wish to do so.

As we are a diagnostic service only, this means we do not offer on-going support or intervention, unless your child requires medication or has complex medical needs. This means following receipt of the written outcome, your child will be discharged from the service.

### **What can you do whilst you await the outcome of your child's assessment?**

The aim of the NDC Pathway is to clarify if your child has a neurodevelopmental condition – it doesn't provide on-going therapy support or advice. This means if you have on-going concerns about your child's functioning and progress in school, you should liaise with your child's class teacher and/or Special, Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).



## Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway

### What you can expect from your child's assessment

You may hear things from different sources about a diagnosis leads to additional funding or access to support in school for your child. The Code of Practice (2015) makes it clear that provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) is a matter for the school and irrespective of diagnosis.

Schools are provided with additional money to provide support for children with SEN, this is called their delegated budget.

The school should use this money to meet a child's SEND needs and put in place a graduated response, for example, putting in additional support or getting professional advice, such as that from an Educational Psychologist, Advisory Teacher and/or Speech and Language Therapist.

For further information about the 'graduated approach', see Chapter 6 of the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

All maintained schools (mainstream and special) and academies must publish a 'SEN Information Report' which can usually be found on the school's website. This report must include how the school identifies children and young people with SEND and also how specialist expertise will be obtained. For further information, please see paragraphs 6:79 - 6:83 of the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

The SEND Code of Practice 2015 also emphasises how schools should fully involve parents and pupils in planning the support given and reviewing how well it is working.

#### **Where can I find out more information about what I should expect and what is available in the local area?**

There are plenty of services in Swindon that can provide advice and support to help you whilst you wait for your child's assessment.

For further information about what is available in the local area, visit the **Swindon Local Offer Website**: <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/home/>.

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>

The **Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service** (SIAS) also provide free confidential and impartial advice and support to families about matters relating to SEND. The aim of the service is to provide accurate, useful and relevant information and advice to empower you to make decisions about your education or the education of children or young people you have responsibility for. For further information, please visit the following link: [www.SwindonSIAS.org.uk](http://www.SwindonSIAS.org.uk)



## Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway

### What you can expect from your child's assessment

You may also wish to get in touch with **Swindon SEND Families Voice** who are a community parent and carer forum, who are passionate about ensuring services in the area meet the needs of families of children with SEND. They also support families by hosting free workshops, support groups, answer questions one to one over the phone, online or in person and are a listening ear whenever needed. They can also sign post you to other services and support groups in the local area. This is all available whether your child has a diagnosis or not. For further information, please visit the following link: <https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/>.

#### **What should I do if I can't attend or need to change an appointment?**

If you cannot make an appointment, please ensure that you phone us on **01793 604080 (Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm)**.

Due to the nature of the assessments and high demand on the service, we must implement a strict policy when people do not attend appointments, cancel appointments at late notice or repeatedly cancel appointments:

- If you do not attend (DNA) an appointment and fail to inform us, you may be discharged back to your GP. Any cancellation with less than 48 hours' notice will be classed as a DNA (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- We run set clinic hours and are generally unable to offer alternative appointments
- If an appointment is cancelled more than 48 hours in advance, we will endeavour to offer an alternative appointment. This will affect the length of time your child will spend in the pathway

#### **Queries**

If you have any questions about your appointment, please get in touch.

Email: [gwh.communitypaeds@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.communitypaeds@nhs.net)

Telephone: 01793 604080

Monday to Friday: 8.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm.



## Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway

### What you can expect from your child's assessment

#### Concerns or Complaints

We always aim to provide you with a high-quality service. However, if you have any concerns, complaints or comments about your experience of our service, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

You can contact the PALS Team by email or telephone or visit them on the ground floor at the Great Western Hospital, Swindon at the address below.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)  
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Great Western Hospital  
Marlborough Road  
Swindon  
SN3 6BB  
Email: [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)  
Tel: 01793 604031

Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

#### Document Control

Division: Surgery, Women's and Children's  
Department: Community Paediatrics  
Approved Date: 3 February 2021  
Next Review Date: March 2024  
Document Number: SW&C - PIL0025