

School Aged Neurodevelopment Pathway for Autism

Patient Information

School Aged Autism Pathway 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 Age Autism Pathway is managed by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching NHS Trust within the Children's 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:

- GPs
- 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

School Age Autism Pathway

Level 2,
Platt Bridge Health Centre
Rivington Avenue
Wigan
WN2 5NG.

Pathway Process



Referral & Consent

Once the referral has been received by the Pathway, the family will receive a parent/carer consent form. This must be completed and returned to us within 8 weeks. Parents/carers will receive this consent form through a text message link sent to their mobile phone number; parents/carers are invited to contact us if they require an alternative method of receiving the paperwork.

Once the consent form has been returned to us, we will request further parent/carer and education pack information.

Once these packs are returned, they 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.

Information gathering

As part of the information gathering process, the school-aged Pathway will need the following documents completed; these will 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, to be completed by parent/carer.
- School Summary of Need, to be completed by the child/young person's teacher/teacher assistant.

Also, the 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 then they will be 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 and may need a face-to-face assessment with a Community Paediatrician.

Diagnostic Panel

Once all the above information & assessments have taken place, the child or young person will then be placed on our diagnostic panel waiting list, where they will await a date for this panel.

This 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)
- Primary and High School Specialist Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCOs)

Each child or young person's case will be discussed during the panel; during the discussion, the Pathway manager and 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 report.

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 give 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 about 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 report. 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. We can also email this information.

If the panel decision was 'no' to diagnosis, the child or young person can be referred back onto the Pathway if further concerns arise within 12 months.

If the panel decision was to defer, this means that 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 gives 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 training on the range of topics available.

We aim for the autism assessment process to be completed within approximately 2 years; this is the total time from us receiving the referral to the final diagnostic panel discussion. We do unfortunately have some cases exceeding this process time.

Support resources



For further information on the School Aged Neurodevelopment Pathway, please visit <https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/neurodevelopment-autism-pathway-service-school-age-4-16-years> or scan the QR code.



For further information on support resources, please visit <https://www.wvl.nhs.uk/neurodevelopment-post-diagnostic-support-> or scan the QR code.

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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