

# Referrers' Guidance for the Neurodevelopmental (ND) Pathway

Also see the [Derbyshire Local Offer](#) and [Derby City Local Offer Neurodevelopmental Pathway for South Derbyshire](#)

## Who is the Neurodevelopmental Pathway for?

The pathway is for children and young people where concerns have been raised about their neurodevelopment, particularly related to social communication and hyperactivity disorders, such as ASD or ADHD. If referred onto the pathway, children and young people will go through assessments with clinicians to find out whether a diagnosis is applicable and may help identify appropriate support needed for the child/young person and families/carers from services including health and education.

Assessments for possible ADHD will only be accepted from the age of 5 years.

## Who is the best person to make a referral onto the Neurodevelopmental Pathway?

The professional who knows the child best should make the referral – if the child is in education, this will probably be the school or nursery. Any professional from Health, Education or Social Care may refer.

## How to make a referral to the Single Point of Access for the Neurodevelopmental Pathway.....

1. Print out and give the parent or guardian the [SPOA leaflet](#), which explains about the Single Point of Access and the Neurodevelopmental Pathway.
2. Print out and ask the parent or guardian to take the '[Parental/Guardian Questionnaire](#)' away, complete and return it to referrer.
3. The school should complete the [Nursery/Primary School questionnaire](#) or [Secondary School questionnaire](#).

If the referral to SPOA is not from education, ask the parent or guardian to take the school questionnaire to their school or nursery for them to complete and return to the parent.

4. Referrer to meet with the parent/guardian to complete referral and collect both questionnaires. Complete the [Single Point of Access \(SPOA\) referral form](#) and send to the SPOA with:
  - Parent/guardian questionnaire
  - School questionnaire
  - Vanderbilt questionnaires for [school](#) and [home](#) (above the age of 6).

## Why are all the questionnaires needed before the referral is made to the Single Point of Access?

Having the best quality information as soon as possible allows us to make an informed decision about which would be the most appropriate services or services to be involved.

The information is also used as part of the assessment process.

## What can the parent/guardian do in the meantime?

See the SPOA Leaflet and Local Offer pages (links above) for advice, information and support.

**Referrers and other professionals involved are expected to continue to provide support to families and address changes/ risk following referral and throughout the pathway....**

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## What happens when the referral and questionnaires arrive at the SPOA?....

When they are received at the SPOA, a Coordinator checks all the information is complete.

### Referral is complete....

#### NO

- Referral returned to the referrer with request for complete information.

#### YES

- Referral is checked for obvious pathway journey.
- If required a letter is sent to the parent/carer requesting further specific questionnaires. These need to be returned within 2 months.

#### Yes

ND Pathway

Uncertainty if ND is the correct pathway or not.

### Neurodevelopmental Pathway (ND)

- Referral is registered onto pathway

#### Yes

ND Pathway

### Single Point of Access Meeting (SPOA)

All information is assessed by clinicians to help decide which pathway would suit the child/young person best.

### ND Multi-Disciplinary Meeting (ND MDM)

- The neurodevelopmental pathway clinicians will decide whether an assessment is indicated and if so who the best professionals for the assessment and where they should meet them i.e. clinic, home, school/nursery.
- The clinician who may see the child or young person could be a Community Paediatrician, Neurodevelopmental Nurse, Clinical Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner or Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist.

### NO - ND is not the correct pathway

- Referral and questionnaires are registered to the alternative pathway and accepted for appropriate service or else signposted to alternative agencies.

## What happens next?

- Parent/carer will receive a letter explaining which professional or professionals will be getting involved with their child/young person along with a [Journey Plan](#) and [Glossary](#).
- This may be an appointment date or information about waiting times.

## The child/young person or parent will have a first appointment with one or more of the professionals getting involved....

- This may be in a clinic, hospital, school/nursery or at the child/young person's home.
- Following this further assessments may be needed and this will be arranged.

## Once all planned assessments have taken place...

- The parent/carer will meet one of the team to feedback the information gathered and provide an outcome.
- This may include a formal diagnosis or exclusion of a condition which had been considered
- The professionals involved will write a summary to clarify the information from the assessments and to share recommendations with everyone involved.

## A plan will be made with the parent/carer for next steps in support for the family...

This may include:

- Signposting to sources of information and support.
- Advice to others involved.
- Attending training or groups for the parent/carer or child/young person.
- Individual support.