What can *I* do in the meantime?

There are many different reasons why we behave as we do.

Some factors we are born with and others are affected by parenting, environment, illness or experiences.

These are sometimes called **‘nature and nurture’** factors.

It is important to recognise and encourage our strengths as well as problem areas.

It is often helpful to read about some of these before you meet the professionals: partly so you can understand the jargon, but also so you can think about which factors might be important in your case.

MORE INFORMATION

The Local Offer websites have links to support and services in the City and County:

FOR DERBY CITY

Derby City Council

Google “**Derby City Local Offer**” ….

….or go to www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/special-education-needs-disabilities/

The Local Offer
information for disabled children and young people

FOR DERBYSHIRE

Google “**Derbyshire Local Offer**” …

…..or go to http://www.derbyshiresendlocaloffer.org/

Derbyshire Local Offer

Joined Up Care Derbyshire NHS

SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS

Neurodevelopmental Pathway

Information for Young People and Parents

Your Single Point of Access Referral

What happens next?

You (or your child) will be referred to the Children’s Single Point of Access (SPoA) so that your case can be assessed by a team of experts.
Your concerns and that of the school will need to be provided by completing short questionnaires so that the SPoA Team can discus your case.
They will then write to you in the next few weeks to let you know what will happen next…
This may involve:

- seeing a specialist for further assessment or therapies
- or sometimes attending special classes
- or contact with a team for support and advice

Sometimes SPoA will request some more information from you, your school or GP.

The SPoA accepts referrals from professionals in education, social care and health services, who will work together to support you along the way.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school or GP.

What can my *GP* do to help?

Your GP can:

- Make an initial referral to the SPoA.
- Provide more information for the SPoA if they ask for it.
- Advise on physical illness and health problems.
- Advise on mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.
- Continue to prescribe some medications if started by specialists.

What can my *School* do to help?

A young person does not need a medical diagnosis in order to get support in school. Schools must comply with the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice (January 2015) and follow the guidance and processes described.

If a young person has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, then he or she would be considered to have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

There is a full guide for parents available on line which is called:

'Special Educational Needs and Disability – a guide for parents and carers' (published in August 2014 by the Department for Education).

School staff need to do all they can to give a young person the support they need. That could include getting advice and support from specialists outside the school (such as an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist or the specialist teaching and advisory service).

SEN support can take many forms, which could include:

- A special learning programme for a young person.
- Extra help from a teacher or a teaching assistant.
- Making or changing materials and equipment.
- Working with the young person in a small group.
- Helping the young person to take part in class activities.
- Making sure that the young person has understood things by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they may find difficult.
- Helping other children to work with a young person or play with them at break time.
- Offering support with physical or personal care difficulties such as eating, getting around safely, using the toilet or dressing.

Every school has to have a teacher who co-ordinates the SEN provision in the school. This teacher is called a SENCO. The SENCO is the key contact for parents and carers. Talk to the SENCO about working in partnership with them and opportunities to be involved in discussions about the SEN Support your child needs.

Your school and GP will continue to provide support whilst your case is assessed along the pathway.

Please remember that some young people who are referred will NOT get a medical diagnosis for their behaviours, but will be offered support and advice to best suit their situation.