

Department of Developmental Paediatrics

Alder Hey Autism Spectrum Pathway Information for Parents and Carers

This leaflet aims to provide information for parents & carers of children referred to the Alder Hey Autism Spectrum Pathway for an assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Each child's journey on the Pathway is tailored to their individual needs.

Who we are

The Alder Hey Autistic Spectrum Pathway team is a multidisciplinary team of professionals that consists of:

- Neurodevelopmental Practitioners (Key Worker).
- Developmental Paediatricians.
- Psychiatrists.
- Speech and Language Therapists.
- Clinical Psychologists.
- Assistant Psychologists.

ASD Key Worker

Your ASD Key Worker is your main point of contact should you have any queries or require signposting to other external agencies for additional support.

ASD Assessment

The multidisciplinary ASD assessments can take place in your child's school or at our clinic. Depending on your child's individual needs, your child's ASD assessment **may** include:

- Single or joint assessments.
- A neurodevelopmental history.
- Developmental Paediatrician assessment.
- A Speech and Language Therapy assessment.
- Clinical Psychology assessment.
- A school observation.
- A school questionnaire.
- The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) assessment.

Outcome of Assessment

Once all the assessments are completed and a decision about your child has been made, the team will feed back to you in either the joint assessment or in a separate feedback session. You can also ask any questions you may have regarding the outcome of the assessment. We will also provide you with information as to what support is available locally for your child and family. After this meeting you will receive a written report summarising the assessment and the outcome and you your child will be discharged from the Pathway.

Please note: A referral to the Pathway does not mean that your child automatically will receive a diagnosis.

What support is available from Alder Hey?

Informal Advisory Sessions are available to parents/carers of children on the Pathway to meet with professionals from the Pathway for information, support and advice. Topics the team can advise you on may include; sleeping, eating, behavior management and sensory issues.

These 30 minute sessions are by appointment, every Tuesday between 9.30am-12.30pm in the Department of Developmental Paediatrics at Alder Hey. Please call **(0151) 252 5252** to book a place. If you have any queries regarding Alder Hey Autism Spectrum Pathway please **e-mail asdqueries@alserhey.nhs.uk**

Support for your Child and Family

ASD Drop in Advisory Sessions/ASD Training Team Pre and Post Diagnosis ASD courses for parents. **Contact:** Tracey Williamson / Margaret Kelly **Tel:** 0151 225 6632
Email: asdtrainingteam@liverpool.gov.uk

Face2Face is a joint project between the Charity 'Scope' and Alder Hey. They offer emotional support to parents or carers of children who have disabilities and/or complex needs who access any of Alder Hey's services. **Contact:** Vicky Harris 07843 467 588

Isabella Trust Training and support in relation to ASD and sensory difficulties.

Tel: 0151 792 8178 / 0151 378 0998 **Email:** info@theisabellatrust.org www.theisabellatrust.org

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network offers a wide range of training, support and social activities for families with children with neurodevelopmental difficulties. **Tel:** 0151 486 1788

Email: info@advancedsolutions.co.uk www.advancedsolutions.co.uk

Liverpool Parent and Carers Forum (LivPaC) aims to provide support and training for parents/carers, so that they feel empowered and informed from Services and Professionals.

Email: livpac@hotmail.co.uk www.livpac.co.uk

The Community Speech & Language Therapy Service provides support to children with speech, language & communication difficulties as well as those with eating and drinking difficulties. **Tel:** 0151 295 3990

Autism Initiatives (Crosby) **Tel:** 0151 330 9500 **www:** www.autisminitiatives.org

The National Autistic Society **www:** www.autism.org.uk **Helpline:** 0845 070 4104

Please note: This leaflet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment. Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is neither liable for the contents of any external internet site listed, nor does it endorse any commercial product or service mentioned or advised on any of the sites.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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