

Impact Report Neurodevelopmental Conditions Referral Pathway

The Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway was redesigned and launched in October 2019 to improve the experience of children and families seeking a diagnosis for neurodevelopmental conditions (including autism and ADHD).

**What Are
We Making
Better?**

The aim of the redesign was to improve waiting times for assessment and diagnosis, reducing the number of inappropriate referrals with a revised referral form with the intention to remove assumed diagnosis by the referrer and provide a single point of referral for all neurodevelopmental conditions.

Parent feedback was received from SSFV highlighting concerns with the NDC pathway referral form criteria, particularly with children educated at home and evidence documentation required as part of the referral form submission.

Some parents are still coming across difficulties with referring professionals when it comes to the supporting documentation and what is required when a school may not be involved and enquired if there was scope to amend the wording to make it clearer or provide further clarity/guidance to the referring professionals on alternative documentation that can be submitted as evidence.

**What Are
We Doing?**

The local CCG Children's Programme Manager reviewed the existing referral documentation and criteria with the Designated Medical Officer and Community Paediatrics Consultant Lead and recognised that the existing criteria request for supporting documentation could be more robust for referring professionals. There are 3 elements of criteria under the Supporting Documentation section that need to be met for the referral form to be triaged appropriately as part of the revised pathway. This has been updated to reflect the concerns raised by parents and now advises that evidence is required to be submitted for **all** of the 3 elements of the supporting documentation criteria and additional information providing guidance on alternative documentation that can be sought if the child is electively home educated.

We have also updated the letters received by the referrer and parents/carers when a referral is not accepted into the service which in addition to recommending to contact the referrer to discuss next steps now also provides further details and link to the Swindon local Offer for further support access to information and resources that may be of assistance to families.

"I know that I was assured that there was a pathway to the pathway for those who are home educated, (thus not having school to complete the report linked to what the GP would submit) However, I am still hearing people are having difficulty. (GP's don't necessarily know what to do) Would it be possible to ask for clear guidance about what needs to happen / be completed for EHE kids to join the list please."



**What
Difference Will
This Make?**

The improvements and actions taken aim for children, families, and professionals to be able to access the right support, from the right service, at the right time. By providing additional guidance, information to professionals with evidence necessary improving the number of referrals received that may require additional information and avoid delays.

Signposting parents/carers at the earliest point to information, support, and resources provides them with knowledge and services and provision available, how to access these. We will continue to work closely with SSFV to improve and provide a high quality service.