

## Quick process guide

The referral will be reviewed by a team of professionals.

You will be informed by letter if the referral has been accepted or declined. If accepted, each service will contact you separately to arrange an assessment appointment.

The MDT may request further reports from other professionals involved with your child, such as from school.

The MDT will meet to discuss all the information and decide on the next step.

The MDT will inform you about the meeting outcome. The possible options include:

- No further assessment required (this will be explained)
- More information needed over time
- Further diagnostic assessment for ASD.

A family feedback meeting will be arranged for you to attend once the MDT has completed their assessment.

There is no set timeframe for completing the assessment. As each child is different, it will vary from child to child depending on their needs.

## Useful Contacts

Speech and Language Therapy via [Haltonslt@chatter-bug.com](mailto:Haltonslt@chatter-bug.com)

Halton Local Offer

[www.localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk](http://www.localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk)

CHAPS (Cheshire Autism Parenting Support)

[www.cheshireautism.org.uk](http://www.cheshireautism.org.uk)

HAFS (Halton Autistic Family Society)

[www.hafs.org.uk](http://www.hafs.org.uk)

NAS (National Autistic Society)

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>

## Contact information

If you have any questions or other comments please contact Woodview Child Development and ask to speak to the Case Co-ordinator on the phone number below.

Tel 0151 495 5400

Text Phone: 18001-0151-495-5400

Woodview Child Development Centre

Crow Wood Health Park

Crow Wood Lane

Widnes. WA8 3LZ



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## Halton Social Communication Assessment Process



Quality first and foremost

## What is autistic spectrum disorder?

Autistic spectrum disorder, commonly known as ASD, is a complex developmental disorder.

Children with ASD have difficulties with:

- Social interaction
- Social communication
- Restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour.

These difficulties may vary with age and be experienced over a period of time.

## What are the signs of ASD?

Children can display 'traits' of ASD, however, these traits may not impact on their daily life and how they function.

Signs of ASD may be more obvious in some ages than in others.

## Why has my child been referred for a social communication assessment?

Your child may be displaying difficulties with their social communication and social interaction skills, such as:

- Speech
- Facial expression
- Gesture and body language.

## How will my child be assessed?

There are various reasons why a child may have social communication difficulties. To receive a clear diagnosis of ASD, your child will need to have been assessed as having significant problems in:

- Social interaction
- Social communication
- Restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour.

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is responsible for this referral pathway. It follows the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance for the assessment and diagnosis of ASD.

## What is the Multi-Disciplinary Team?

They are a group of professionals from different agencies. They meet regularly to discuss your child's completed assessments.

The team may include:

- Paediatrician
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Educational or Child Psychologist
- Teaching Staff

- Specialist Teachers
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapists.

## What does the team do?

The team will review your child's assessment information and agree an outcome together.

The MDT will keep you updated. They will let you know each time they meet to discuss your child, including any next steps to be taken.

## What happens next?

The MDT may decide to watch and wait if your child is showing signs of progress with their social communication and social interaction skills.

The MDT may recommend further assessments, such as Autism Diagnostic Observational Schedule (ADOS); this is a clinical decision and is made on a case by case basis.

Once the MDT has reached a decision from their assessment, you will be invited to a family feedback meeting.

Parents/carers will also receive a written report that contains information about any relevant support services needed.