

Multidisciplinary Assessment (MDA) of children with social communication difficulties

Paediatrics Department



Patient information leaflet

Some children have difficulty with their language and social communication skills. This leaflet explains how we assess children with these difficulties.

How do we do this?

Once your child has seen the paediatrician, they may be offered further assessment.

What happens next?

We will arrange further assessment of your child's social interaction and communication. This may be with a Speech and Language therapist and/or Clinical Psychologist.

We find it very helpful to ask for further information and reports from your child's nursery, child minder or school. We will ask your permission to do this.

What happens after the assessments?

Once the assessments are complete, your paediatrician will ask for a review meeting to be booked. This is to bring together parents, professionals and reports.

The role of the review meeting is:

- to bring together all the information we have about your child.
- to see whether a formal diagnosis is appropriate or not. This may be of an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), language disorder or some other diagnosis.
- to agree some plans and recommendations.

We would like parents to feel able to be a full part of these discussions. Parent's knowledge of their children is very helpful in our discussions and conclusions.

Who attends the review meeting?

Parents, the paediatrician and other health professionals involved in the assessment. We like to invite anyone else involved, especially your child's nursery/school.

What happens at the meeting?

At the review meeting:

- We will summarise and discuss reports.
- We will share up to date information.
- We will discuss diagnosis. A formal diagnosis may or may not be made at this point.
- We will agree plans and recommendations, for parents, nursery/ school and health professionals to take forward.

A typed summary will be sent out after the meeting. At the meeting we will agree who this will be sent to.

Key reference sources and further information

You may wish to look up further information about social communication difficulties and/or Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Here are some useful sources of information:

Information about Speech, Language and Communication needs:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/earlysupportslcnfinal.pdf>

Information about ASD:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachemnt/earlysupportasdfinal.pdf>

The National Autistic Society (NAS):

www.autism.org.uk

The Surrey Branch of NAS:

www.nassurreybranch.org

RSCH Parents' Group:

Each term we run a group on Monday evenings. This is for parents of children who have or may have ASD. The aim of the group is to share information about ASD, local services and resources. Please contact us on **Ext 2418** for more information about this group.

Contact details

Child Development Team

Anne Buckwell (secretary)

Telephone: 01483 57112 **ext** 2418

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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