

Appointments

Appointments will be offered on a day & time that suits you.

Missed appointments result in a loss of clinical time & longer waiting lists.

Failure to attend; If you fail to attend any appointment you may be discharged on the day of the missed appointment & a letter sent to your child/young person's referral agent.

Cancellation of appointment; If you have to cancel an appointment please give the service as much notice as possible.

How to find us:

Autism Services
The Oaks
Old Longstone Hospital Site
Mullinure Lane
Armagh
BT61 7PR
Tel 028 37 566777

Autism.services@southerntrust.hscni.net

Monday – Friday, between 09.00-17.00



Autism Assessment Journey



The steps involved an Autism Assessment

Your child/young person has been referred for an Autism Assessment because of concerns about aspects of their social interaction, communication & behaviours have been identified by you or a professional.

- To determine whether or not your child/young person has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the multidisciplinary team will gather information about your child/young person & how they present in different environments.
- Firstly, you will be offered a telephone appointment to discuss your child/young person. This appointment is just for parents/carers & your child/young person will not attend. If your child is of the age to understand they are having an Autism Assessment (such as adolescents), we may send them a questionnaire to gather their thoughts & opinions.
- Information & reports will be gathered from Health & Education professionals. A school questionnaire will be sent to your child/young person's school to request information.
- A clinical observation, either face to face or virtually will be completed by staff of the Multidisciplinary Team.
- The multidisciplinary team will review all the information & conclude whether or not your child/young person meets the diagnostic criteria for ASD.
- Feedback will be provided about the outcome of your child/young person's assessment.

What professionals will be involved?

The Multidisciplinary team will include a range of professionals trained in the Autism Assessment process of children/young people.

Including Speech & Language Therapists,
Community Paediatricians,
Senior Practitioners & Occupational Therapists.

What happens after the assessment is completed?

If your child/young person receives a diagnosis of ASD, a referral for Post-Diagnostic Support can be made if required.

If your child/young person does not receive a diagnosis of ASD, the team will explain why & they will be discharged from the team.
If other services are appropriate you will be advised of these.

Support during your child's Autism Assessment

It is beneficial for parents/carers to avail of intervention whilst undergoing the assessment process, as opposed to waiting until a decision is reached.

When your child/young person is known to Autism Services, the following support is available:

- Parent/Carer Virtual Drop-In Sessions. These workshops will focus on various topics relating to Autism & you will regularly be invited to attend by text. These workshops will provide specific knowledge & strategies to provide support to parents/carers of children who are going through the Autism Assessment Journey.
- A support line phone call can be arranged with a practitioner for advice. To avail of this, parents/carers should contact the service directly, Monday - Friday 09.00 –17.00 on 028 37 566777.
- Resources are available on the Trust website: www.southerntrust.hscni.net/services/children-and-young-people/autism-resources/
- For school-related queries, you can contact the Education Authority on 028 3831 4471 or visit www.eani.org.uk

For more information on the Autism Assessment process:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5mZPaiqnjg

If you are a smart phone user you can scan the QR code:

