



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you



Autism Service Newsletter March 2024



Working together



Excellence



Openness & Honesty



Compassion

Waiting Times

The longest wait for a first appointment as of 31 March 2024 is 62 weeks

Current time period from initial consultation to completion of ASD Assessment is 66 weeks

Average age of child at referral

Diagnostic Referrals (Accepted) by Age and Gender	2021/22		2022/23		2023/2024	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<2 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-<3 years	4	6	10	3	6	2
3-<4 years	119	36	131	33	83	40
4-<5 years	86	18	73	43	93	39
5-11 years	244	97	332	158	340	180
12-14 years	53	66	103	94	90	119
15-17 years	40	52	52	84	76	94
18+ years	0	0	0	2	5	1
Subtotal	546	275	701	417	693	475
TOTAL	821		1118		1168	

Average age of child at diagnosis

Positive Diagnosis by Age	2021/22	2022/23	2023/2024
<2 years	0	0	0
2-<3 years	0	3	2
3-<4 years	43	27	72
4-<5 years	66	66	146
5-11 years	251	190	471
12-14 years	109	37	175
15-17 years	80	36	152
18+ years	2	1	21
TOTAL	551	360	1039

How many children are currently on the waiting list for initial assessment

As of 31 March 2024 1160 children and young people were awaiting initial assessment.

Position as at 31/03/2024	0-4 Weeks	4+ to 8 Weeks	8+ to 13 Weeks	13+- 18 weeks	18+- 26 weeks	26+ to 39 weeks	39+- 52 weeks	+52 weeks
Autism - Assessment	95	81	101	88	139	275	246	135

How many children are currently awaiting a diagnostic assessment

As at 31 March 2024 1264 children and young people were open to the ASD Diagnostic Team for an Assessment of Autism.

What services does the Trust provide at point of referral

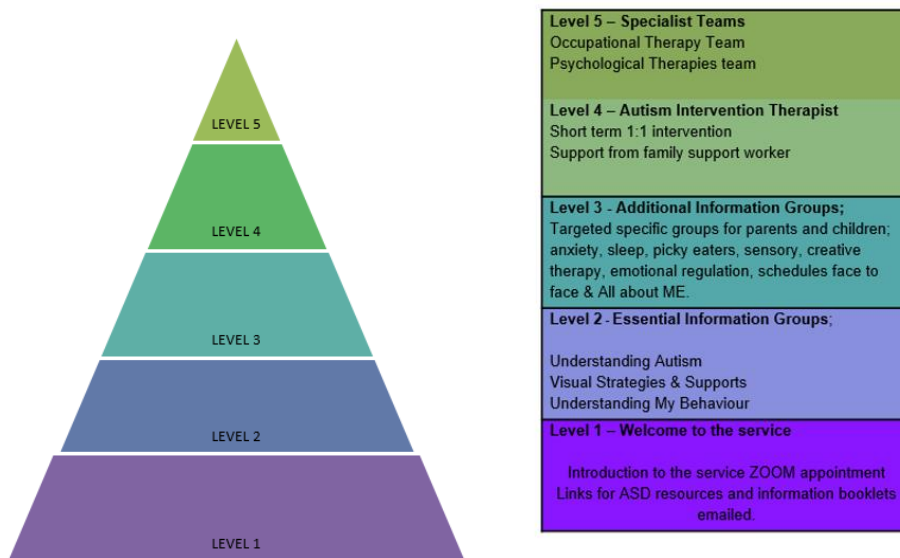
Autism Services provided Early Intervention to those children and young people who are awaiting an assessment of Autism. This includes:

- Parent zoom workshops, which provide support and information on a variety of relevant topics, including, Toileting, Eating (selective), Communication, Emotional Regulation, Play, Sensory awareness, Behaviour, Sleep and Life Skills. Parents/carers are invited via text message on a monthly to avail of workshops.
- Monthly Parent/carer Drop In Zoom group. This zoom group is held on the first Wednesday of every month (academic year). A text message is sent to all parents/carers known to the service.
- A range of information and resources that can be accessed on the Southern Health and Social Care Trust's webpage.
- Telephone support line calls, parents can contact Autism Services by telephone if they need support or advice, Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00 on 02837 566777.
- Incredible Years Programme.
- Following consultation 1:1 support can be provided based on clinical need.
- RE:Mind Programme

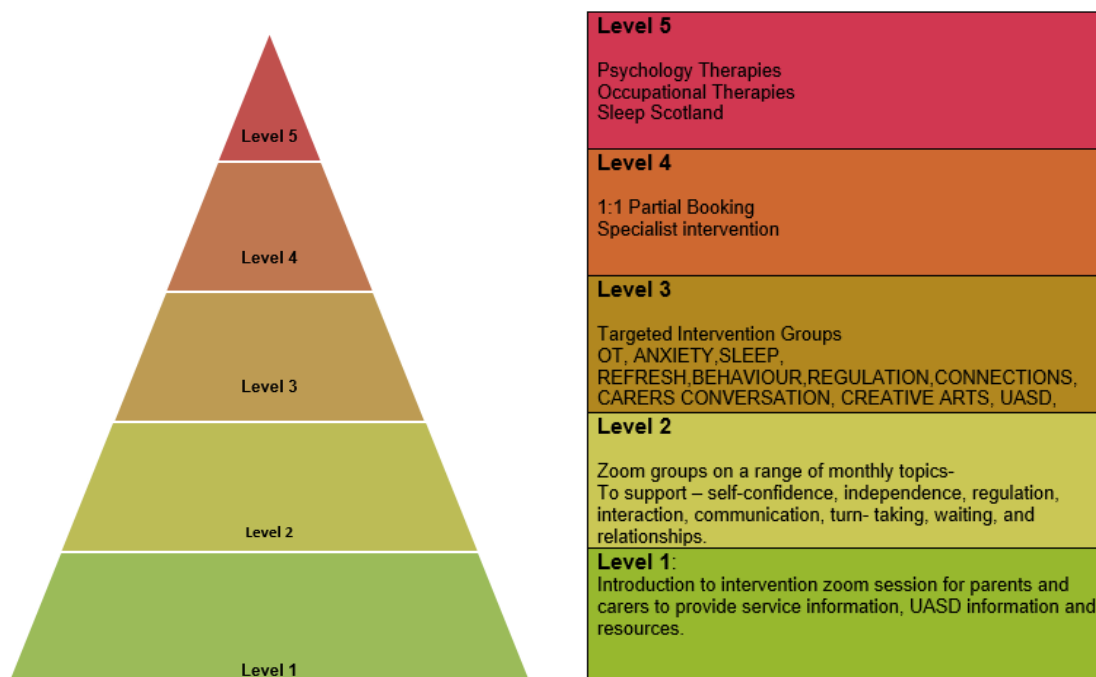
What services does the Trust provide at the point of diagnosis

Autism Services provide intervention following confirmation of a diagnosis using a tier approach, see Intervention Pyramids below for primary and post primary aged children. Those children/young people and their parents/carers can access intervention based on clinical need and can move fluidly within the pyramid. Each intervention has associated resources that can be emailed or posted to parents/carers. These interventions are delivered via telephone, virtually, face to face and group work (parent/carer and children/young people). At level 5 the service offers as required Psychological Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

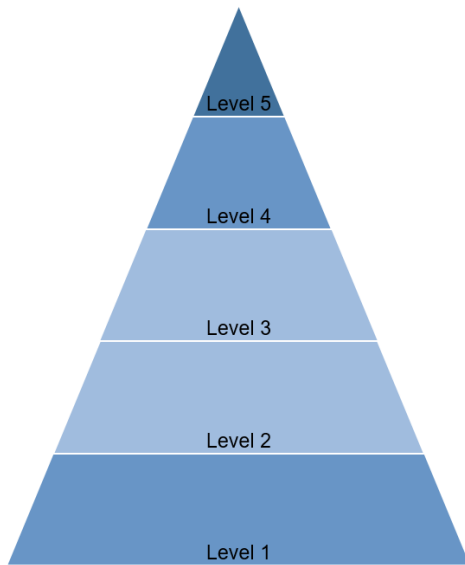
Primary school aged Intervention Service



Post primary school aged Intervention Service



18 – 30 year old Adult Autism Intervention



Level 5
Occupational Therapy Signposting to other services
Level 4
1:1 Autism Intervention Therapist Support and planning.
Level 3
Specialist Support Worker – review calls Advice / resources / signposting / AIT referral Targeted intervention groups – Full list on spreadsheet.
Level 2
Social groups – F2F / Community / Zoom Full list on spreadsheet.
Level 1
Adult introduction to intervention- open to service users and family- outlining service and providing UASD information and additional resources.

Statistics relating to those referring for assessment, i.e. GP, Health Visitor, School, Parent, Other

Source of Diagnostic Referrals (Accepted)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/2024
CAMHS	67	206	298	384
Core AHP Services	0	1	23	56
Core Paediatrics	444	588	755	638
Education	0	0	1	16
Families	0	3	0	0
General Practitioner	2	8	6	10
Community Nursing	0	0	0	1
Multidisciplinary Teams	13	15	12	18
Social Services	0	0	0	1
Private Provider**	0	0	23	44
TOTAL	526	821	1118	1168
**Added into Dataset 2022/23				

Statistics relating to demographic of those referred for assessment, i.e. age, sex, religion, ethnicity, parental income bracket

Data is not currently reported on religion, ethnicity or parental income bracket.

What outside agencies do the Trust engage with to conduct assessments?

We do not outsource any of our diagnostic assessments.

What outside agencies do the Trust engage with post diagnosis?

- IncredABLE provide intervention opportunities for children and young people through Social Saturdays, Activity Adventures and Community Connections.
- Bolster Community
- The Appleby Trust, including Print room
- Gathering Rooms –including Job Coaching