

North Lincolnshire Child Development Centre Early Years Assessment Pathways.

Within North Lincolnshire there are two Early Years assessment pathways that are coordinated from the Child Development Centre (CDC) and managed within the Children's Therapy Team, as part of the Children & Young People's Service. Both assessment pathways are supported by the CDC Early Years Assessment Coordinator who will help and support families in accessing and understanding the pathway. The assessment pathways offer specialist coordinated multi-disciplinary support and assessment for children up to the age of 5 years, identified as having complex developmental needs.

North Lincolnshire Communication & Interaction Assessment Pathway

This pathway offers a specialist multi-agency assessment of the developmental needs of children referred in with difficulties around communication and social interaction. In particular, children referred in for assessment commonly exhibit behaviours suggestive of a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Key professionals involved in the assessment can include: Speech and Language Therapy; Clinical Psychology; Paediatrician, Play Specialist and other relevant support agencies dependent upon the individual needs of the child being assessed.

This pathway offers a time limited, targeted assessment for children under the age of 5 and makes recommendations to universal and targeted services, to ensure the child's developmental needs are met. Children referred onto this pathway will already be in receipt of support through the Early Help system, and assessment findings and recommendations are fed back in to this forum. Additionally, there is representation from the pathway team in the Emotional Health & Well Being Early Years triage meetings, where children known to early years educational and support provision are monitored.

North Lincolnshire Neurodevelopmental Assessment Pathway

This pathway joins together community and acute paediatrics and children's therapy clinicians to offer an assessment around the child's developmental needs. Children who may access this pathway will present with significant and/or complex health and medical needs. This assessment will involve paediatricians and community nurses alongside professionals from Children's Therapy services as appropriate: Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy; Speech & Language Therapy; and Nutrition & Dietetics.

To access this pathway, children will need to be referred by a local Consultant Paediatrician, or from a consultant from within an out of area specialist hospital. Children will need to have significant and complex health needs and have referrals made to 2 or more health clinicians in order to be eligible for acceptance on the pathway. An Early Help Assessment will also need to be completed alongside the assessment pathway. On completion of assessment, findings are agreed and shared within the wider group of professionals involved with the child's care, through the Early Help system. Plans for future intervention needs for the child are also identified and shared.