

Your child has  
been referred to the

# ASD Diagnostic Pathway

**Your child has been referred to Alder Hey for consideration of access to the ASD Diagnostic Pathway.**

The referral will be logged onto the ASD Diagnostic Pathway and additional information about your child may be gathered.

This information will be presented to a multi-disciplinary triage team for review.

**A decision will be made about what will happen next for your child and you will receive a letter from the ASD Diagnostic Pathway team explaining one of the following options:**

## Option 1

**The ASD Diagnostic Pathway team have had enough information available to them at triage to confirm that your child does not meet the criteria for ASD diagnosis. If appropriate, a referral will be made to an alternative service.**

You will receive a letter confirming this.

## Option 2

**The ASD Diagnostic Pathway team have had enough information available to them at triage to confirm that your child does meet the criteria for ASD diagnosis.**

You will be invited to a feedback session with one of the Neurodevelopmental Practitioners (ND Practitioner) from Alder Hey. The ND Practitioner will contact you in advance to introduce themselves and discuss with you whether to bring your child with you to this appointment.

## Option 3

**The ASD Diagnostic Pathway team has not had enough information available to them at triage to make a decision on diagnosis. They will arrange for any or all of following to take place:**

You will be invited to attend a Neurodevelopmental Assessment (ND Assessment) with one of the Neurodevelopmental Practitioners (ND Practitioner) from Alder Hey.

At the ND Assessment, you will meet with one of the ND Practitioners (this is most likely where possible to be your allocated keyworker). The appointment will last approximately 1½ hours. **Due to the sensitivity of the discussion, your child does not need to attend this appointment with you.** Other professionals further down the pathway will meet your child for various assessments as required.

You may wish to bring photocopies of any supporting documents including nursery reports, school reports, social work reports, after school club documents or anything else you feel is useful. These will be kept in your child's case notes.

Sometimes parents / carers find that their minds go blank during the assessment as there is a lot to cover. It is sometimes useful, to look back at photographs or to think of relevant milestones such as first Christmas etc... to trigger memories.

It may be helpful to think about or make a list of your child's early milestones, such as walking, talking, first words. Also thinking about their play and the toys that they played with. If you have any examples of your child's misunderstandings, such as literal thinking, their understanding of jokes and sarcasm or reactions in social situations, these could be useful.

The ND Practitioner (keyworker) will collate all the information given by yourself and other professionals about your child, into a report for you, your child's GP and any other agencies that you feel appropriate.

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## Joint Assessment and Diagnosis

**You will be invited to a clinic with your child** where they will be assessed by 2 or 3 of the following professionals depending on your child's assessment needs. Some of these assessments may take place separately depending on your child's needs.

- A Paediatrician or Psychiatrist
- A Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) to assess for social and communication difficulties
- A Clinical Psychologist

## Further assessment / observations required

Any further information required as part of the assessment such as nursery or school observations, or reports and information from school, educational psychology or SALT will be arranged and requested.

## Diagnosis outcome

When all the information has been gathered, a discussion will take place, either as part of a joint assessment or between the professionals involved in your child's assessment.

A decision will then be made as to whether your child:

- Fulfils the criteria for a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
- Requires even further investigation on the ASD Diagnostic Pathway
- Will be referred to another pathway or service
- Ready to be discharged from the ASD Diagnostic Pathway as they do not meet the criteria for diagnosis.

You will be invited for a feedback appointment, it is likely that this will be with your ND Practitioner where possible; the purpose of this appointment is to discuss the outcome of the decision as above. These appointments last approximately 1 hour and are an opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have and for the ND Practitioner to sign post you and your family to appropriate support networks in your local area.

A formal report will be sent to you and with your consent, all professionals involved outlining the outcome of the assessment.

If your child does not receive a diagnosis, we will sign post you to appropriate support networks if available.

If your child is given a diagnosis, you will still have the opportunity to contact your ND Practitioner if there are any issues or queries that your local support networks cannot resolve.