

Doncaster Under 5's Autism Pathway

Parent/Carers Newsletter July 2026



Within this newsletter you will find up to date information regarding the team, any updates, our offer and wait times.

Welcome to our new Parent and Carer Newsletter for the 0-5 Autism Assessment Pathway. This Newsletter is designed to keep you informed with up-to-date information about our team, what we are currently working on, our service offer, and estimated wait times.

We understand that waiting for an assessment can be a challenging and emotional time. Our aim is to provide clear and honest information and to support you as best we can while your child is on our pathway.

About the Team

Our team is made up of skilled professionals: Consultant Community Paediatrician, Speech and Language Therapists and Nursery Nurses, who specialise in early childhood development and autism assessment for children. We work closely together to ensure assessments are thorough, child-centred and supportive for families.

While waiting for assessment, what can I do?

Keep us updated with any changes, such as:

- If you choose another assessment route for example Right to Choose or a private diagnosis
- A change in your child's school or GP
- New or updated reports or assessments for your child
- If you move address

Engage with local and online support services such as:

- Early Help services
- National Autistic Society
- Doncaster Autism service
- Doncaster Parents Voice
- Witherslack Group <https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/advice-and-support/>
- Sendias
- Sleep Charity

Our offer- what you can expect while you wait

While your child is waiting for an assessment, we aim to:

- Provide clear and honest communication about your child's referral
- Answer questions about the assessment pathway
- Signpost families to helpful resources and support services
- Keep you informed of any changes that may affect wait times or service delivery

Please note that being on the assessment pathway does not prevent you from accessing other support services in the community.

Estimated wait times and key information

Our current **estimated** minimum wait times are **29 months** from when we receive your child's referral to when they are offered an appointment.

We are now appointing referrals received **March 2024** and there are **372 active children**.

*****Please note, wait times are only a guide and can change depending on how many referrals we get each month*****

Staying in touch

We are here to answer your questions and support you where we can. We always aim to give you clear, honest and compassionate information about your child's referral and care.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the team:

Contact details 01302 642304 email dbth.doncasterasdpathway@nhs.net

Please use the below QR codes to access information and support:



Sleep support



Understanding Autism