

- **THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN TOTAL CAN TAKE AROUND 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.** If there is any delay in this we will do our best to keep families informed with reasons why.

What happens after Umbrella Pathway assessment?

- Once all the information has been collected from all of the assessments, the needs of each child/young person is discussed by the appropriate team of professionals. A decision is made whether individual children/young people meet criteria for a diagnosis on the autism spectrum.
- Parents are informed of the outcome as soon as possible after the decision.
- A written report is then completed and shared with the parent/ carer/ young person and also the referring professional. Recommendations will be offered for the child/ young person and family following the conclusion of the assessment .
- For nursery and school age children confirmation of the diagnosis will be provided for their educational setting with consent from parent.



Do you have a concern, complaint or comment?

We always value feedback from you about the care you receive and you may be contacted to comment on the service. However, if you wish to make a compliment, comment or complaint please contact:

Patient Relations Team, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust
Isaac Maddox House, Shrub Hill Road, Worcester, WR4 9RW

Tel: 01905 681517 Email: Whcnhs.pals@nhs.net

Do you have a communication or information support need?

If so please contact the person who gave you this leaflet so that those needs can be recorded and responded to.

Information leaflet for Professionals

The Umbrella Pathway



@WorcsHealthandCareNHS



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The Umbrella Pathway provides assessment and diagnosis for children and young people who may have signs consistent with the autism spectrum.

What are the signs of autism?

The signs of autism vary from one person to another but may include any of the following:

- Difficulties with social communication
- Difficulties with social interaction
- Restrictive and repetitive behaviours
- Repetitive activities and interests since early childhood
- Disturbance of daily functions due to the above
- Other difficulties such as sensory processing and co-ordination difficulties
- Difficulties in learning, information processing and other behaviours may be apparent

Who is involved in the Umbrella Pathway?

The Umbrella Pathway Team includes; Community Paediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Autism/CCN Teachers and Clinical Psychologists.

How can Children and Young People be referred into the Umbrella Pathway?

All referrals to the Umbrella Pathway will require a referral form to be completed and signed. It is also essential that the parent / carer with parental responsibility signs an Umbrella Pathway consent form. If the young person is 16 or over, a consent form will be required from the young person themselves. By signing consent, information can be shared between the professionals involved in the pathway. It also allows information to be requested from education and social care services if required. To access a referral form and consent form please go to:

www.hacw.nhs.uk/umbrella-pathway/

Who can refer into the Umbrella Pathway?

It is important that sufficient and accurate information is provided within the referral form. The people who can provide this and refer include:

- GPs
- Health Visitors
- School Health Nurses
- Paediatricians
- Occupational Therapists Professionals
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Educational psychologists
- Specialist Autism/CCN Teachers
- Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo), with support from one other of the above professionals

What happens after a referral to Umbrella pathway?

- All referrals are triaged by an Umbrella Pathway co-ordinator to ensure all the information required is available. Parental consent should be sent with the referral form if possible. A parent questionnaire (and consent form if not already received) will be sent to parents. In the event of parents being separated, a consent form will be sent to both parents if both parents have parental responsibility and contact details are available.
- When consent is received, questionnaires are sent to the child's educational placement e.g. nursery, school or college (unless home educated). Once the questionnaires are returned the referral is discussed at a planning meeting.
- Members of the multidisciplinary team attend the planning meeting and decide which assessments are required for each individual child/young person.
- After the planning meeting, referrals are made to the agreed teams for assessments to be arranged for each individual child/young person.
- Appointments will be sent to the child and family for each assessment required. These may take place in a number of settings dependent on the child's age and difficulties reported.
- Parents/carers are asked how they would like the outcome of the assessment to be communicated to them. Their choice should be confirmed towards the end of the pathway to ensure they have adequate opportunity to discuss and ask relevant questions. The outcome can be given in writing, via a telephone conversation, or in a clinic appointment.