



Information regarding assessments for Autism and ADHD for Children and Young People – February 2024.

We are currently receiving many referrals for children and young people for Autism and ADHD assessments. This is in line with the national picture and consequently we have long waits for both assessment pathways. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is working to identify additional resources to increase the capacity to help meet this increasing demand. This continues to be a priority. Currently, children and young people can expect to wait up to 3 years for an assessment for Autism and ADHD.

We accept referrals for children and young people over the age 2 years for Autism and 5½ years for ADHD.

Referrals for assessment will only be considered if additional supporting information from another setting outside the family home (usually the school) is provided.

Children and Young People will be added to the Neurodevelopmental assessment pathway in date order of the acceptance of the referral. Priority will only be considered for children who under the care of a local authority or children of military families where an assessment has been started outside of LLR and the child has moved to the local area.

If you do not agree with the outcome of the assessment a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) will review the report, information and decision making and make a judgement about the validity of the outcome. The MDT may uphold the original decision or request further assessments to reach a conclusion.

If, after a minimum period of 2 years of the assessment outcome, there is additional information which you feel supports another assessment, a re-referral will be considered by the appropriate service.

We recognise that some families pursue a private assessment, particularly for ADHD. We recommend families ensure that the private provider meets the requirements of the guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). In receipt of private report, the local NHS team will review the report in line with this guidance to clarify the assessment, diagnosis and to review any treatment that has started. Our treatment plans may differ from that initiated from other providers.

Details of a NICE compliant assessment can be found on the ADHD UK website <https://adhduk.co.uk/adhd-diagnosis-pathways-children/> and National Autistic Society <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/diagnosis/diagnostic-assessment/parents-and-carers>

When you are seeking support for your child or young person to meet their needs, it is important for you to ask your Early Years setting or school about their ordinarily available provision. Such provision refers to the resources that the local authority expects to be made available in all settings and schools.



The term “ordinarily available provision” comes directly from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice and refers to the support that mainstream settings should be able to provide through their agreed funding and resource arrangements.

This means that this provision for your child should be made available in line with their specific needs and should not be dependent on any formal diagnosis.

The following links are for the 3 SEND Local Offer websites which provide further information and signposting for families about what is available; they all provide a section on their websites for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland on ordinarily available provision.

[Family Information | SEND Local Offer \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/family-information/send-local-offer/)

[Special educational needs and disability | Leicestershire County Council](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disability/)

[SEND Local Offer | Rutland County Council](https://www.rutland.gov.uk/send-local-offer/)

Where can I look for support whilst I wait?

Local forums, Charities local Offer and other websites provide information and support for you and your family whilst you wait for your assessment and beyond too.

Click the link to find out more about each one:

Health for Teens has loads of information about health for young people. It includes lots of information in bite sized articles on neurodiversity.

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/health/neurodiversity/>

Autism Space is a local site for Leicester and Leicestershire. This site answers all things about autism in helpful categories.

[Autism Space | Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust \(leicspart.nhs.uk\)](https://www.leicestershirepartnershipnhs.uk/autism-space/)

Also on Autism Space are these cool digital animations which have been made especially for children and young people to help you manage friendships

<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/autism-space/health-and-lifestyle/maintaining-and-strengthening-friendships/>

<https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/autism-space/health-and-lifestyle/social-understanding/>

Chat Autism – this is local text messaging service to answer your questions. It’s staffed by qualified NHS health professionals so you can be confident in the advice they share with you.

[ChatAutism- text messaging support service | Autism Space | Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust \(leicspart.nhs.uk\)](https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/chat-autism-text-messaging-support-service/)

NHS Website



[Autism - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

National Autistic Society

www.autism.org.uk

Ambitious about Autism is a website for autistic children and young people, their parents and carers.

www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Autism Support is an online space to meet with other young people who have a autism

[Autism Support | HealthUnlocked](#)

Autism East Midlands has support hubs based in Leicestershire [Providing help and support to autistic people... | Autism East Midlands](#)

ADHD Solutions – this is a Leicester based charity that can support you if you have ADHD or are waiting for an assessment.

<https://www.adhdsolutions.org/>

NHS website for ADHD

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/>

The ADHD Foundation is a charity working with young people and families

<https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>

ADHD UK is a charity run for people with ADHD by people with ADHD

<https://adhduk.co.uk/>

Free online courses designed by teenagers, working with Mental Health professionals, for teenagers. These are to help you understand your brain development and what that means for your feelings and how you behaviour. There are also sections on how to look after your mental wellbeing and looking after your friendships and relationships. Scan the code and use the access code CURVE. You can also [click here](#) if you can't scan the code.



[Solihull Approach](#) - these are for parents and carers interested in free online courses, developed by the psychologists at the [Solihull Approach](#). These also have translated



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versions. A variety of courses are available including managing relationships and communication styles. See the [full range here](#), using the access code CURVE