

**Contact us**

**Autism Assessment Service**

Child Development Centre

24 Brompton Road

Northallerton

North Yorkshire

DL6 1EA

Tel: 01609 780471

**Helpful website**

National Autistic Society 0808 800 4140

[www.autism.org](http://www.autism.org)

**Feedback**

We welcome your comments, suggestions, compliments or concerns

[www.hdft.nhs.uk/our-services/specialist-childrens-services](http://www.hdft.nhs.uk/our-services/specialist-childrens-services)

‘Have Your Say’ using the Friends and Family online feedback form

**Or contact**

The Patient Experience Team 01423 555499

Minicom 01423 554466

[thepatientexperienceteam@hdft.nhs.uk](mailto:thepatientexperienceteam@hdft.nhs.uk)

Please contact us if you need this leaflet in a different format, or language, or if you require the interpretation service.

## Specialist Children's Services

Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby



## Autism Assessment Service

Children and young people age 5 years or older

Information for parents and carers

### Why is my child being offered this assessment?

Your child has been referred to the Autism Assessment Service following concerns about areas of his/ her development. This could be related to concerns about your child's speech and language, behaviour, social skills or particular/ unusual interests.

### Who is in the assessment team?

- Consultant Paediatrician
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Clinical Psychologist
- Occupational Therapists

You may not meet all the members of the team.

### What does the assessment involve?

The next step is to ask you, and others who know your child well, such as their teacher to complete a questionnaire. We also gather information from other therapists or services if they are involved. Once we have all this information, we decide if a full assessment is needed.

The assessment is carried out over a number of weeks and will involve different appointments, which may include

- A clinic based assessment of your child's communication, social interaction and play (or imaginative use of materials)
- A detailed interview with parents/ carers
- An observation of your child, usually completed at school
- An assessment of your child's language
- We will let you know if any additional assessments are needed

### Where will we be seen?

Usually, you will be seen at an NHS location within Hambleton, Richmondshire or Whitby for the assessment and the interview. We will arrange to observe your child at school, or another place if that is more appropriate. An appointment will also take place at an NHS location once the assessment is completed so that we can share the outcome of the assessment with you.

### What might happen following my child's assessment?

Once the process of assessment is completed the Autism Assessment Team discusses the findings at the Autism Diagnostic Forum. Colleagues from school and/ or other health services that have had involvement with your child **may** be invited to the Forum meeting, but they are **not included** in the final diagnostic process.

As soon as possible after the Autism Diagnostic Forum, we will meet with you to share whether or not your child has been given a diagnosis of autism, or whether it is uncertain. If it is uncertain we recommend a period of 'watchful waiting' and a review at an agreed date in the future.

We will discuss the support that your child needs to help his/ her on-going development. We ask your consent to refer your child to other services. We will also discuss with you who we will share this information with.

Soon after this meeting you will receive a written report summarising the assessment and the outcome.

### Who do I contact if I have questions?

A member of the assessment team will be assigned as your case coordinator and they will keep you informed of the assessment process and appointment dates. See contact details over leaf. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

### I have no transport how do I get to appointments?

**If you do not have your own transport and public transport is not available we can arrange this through the ambulance service who need 48 hours notice.**