

# Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Clinic

## Paediatrics and Clinical Psychology

### What is the joint Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Clinic?

The Access Pathway Panel have recommended that your child attends the joint Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) screening clinic. This is a screening clinic and not a full ASD assessment, and therefore your child will not receive a diagnosis in this clinic.

### What do we mean by screening?

The purpose of the screening clinic is to gather and review important information about your child's behaviour and communication, relating specifically to ASD, in order to decide whether a comprehensive ASD assessment is required.

### Who is involved in the ASD Screening Clinic?

At the joint clinic you will meet a Consultant Paediatrician and Clinical Psychologist. Prior to your appointment the Paediatrician and Clinical Psychologist will review your child's available medical notes and any additional information submitted by multi-agency professionals (e.g. SENCO, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language, Educational Psychology); this information may have been submitted as part of the Access Pathway referral.

This appointment will typically comprise of a discussion of your child's development, their social interaction and communication, and their behaviour. Following this the Paediatrician will complete a medical examination. The screening clinic also allows the Paediatrician and Clinical Psychologist to observe and interact with your child.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the clinic will still take place at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital with the Consultant Paediatrician, and the Clinical Psychologist will be present virtually via a video call.

### How long does the joint ASD Screening Clinic last?

The appointment will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour, and will give you the opportunity to discuss your concerns regarding your child.

### What do I need to bring?

You may wish to bring some notes of anything in particular you wish to discuss. If you have any additional information you think may be helpful which was not available in the Access Pathway information you can also bring this. There is nothing specific you need to bring to the clinic.

### What happens next?

The purpose of the screening clinic is to decide whether your child requires a full ASD assessment. If this is indicated, then your child will be referred to Young Minds Matter (YMM) for a comprehensive assessment. YMM will make contact with you to arrange assessment appointments following the referral being received.

If the evidence and observations indicate that an ASD assessment is not required, then you will be signposted to appropriate services and discharged from the ASD screening clinic.

The Paediatrician and Clinical Psychologist may also consider alternative explanations or diagnoses for your child's difficulties.

### Who to contact throughout this process?

The Joint Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Clinic takes place at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, therefore if you have any concerns or questions please contact the hospital administration team on 03033 306536. Alternatively, email [Access-pathway@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Access-pathway@nelincs.gov.uk) and your enquiry will be directed to the most appropriate person.



Lincolnshire Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

