

Pathway for the Diagnosis of Autism in Children and Young People <19 years

Stage 1

Concerns about child's social communication skills are raised with GP, Health Care and/or Education Professional.

GP, School Nurse or other HCP to assess concerns, gather information and review.
Education Professionals to follow the Assess, Plan, Do, Review, cycle as per SEND Code of Practice

Concerns still exist. Consent gained to share information with other health/education professionals. Early referral for medical assessment if necessary (see reverse for criteria¹).

Needs can be met by advice/interventions or explained by other cause or factors. Early referral for medical assessment if necessary (see reverse for criteria).

GP or other HCP to complete GP Sharing Information Form* and send to Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) (see reverse on how to send to SENCO² & for info on Electively Home Educated children⁴)

Parents and carers are signposted to Bolton Parent Carers for support (see reverse for Bolton Parent Carer details³)

Stage 2

Initial information is shared with other agencies, including Health Visitor (if appropriate age), nursery/school setting. **Appropriate Lead Professional identified** (Health Visitor or Education Professional) and **Early Help Assessment is started.**

Early Help Action Plan identifies interventions and strategies for School and parents. If relevant, this should include meeting any wider needs the family may have. The school / setting should refer to Assessment and Intervention Strategy in the SENCO handbook.

Following review, concerns are reduced and improved outcomes for child and family are noted or difficulties are explained by other cause or factors. Continue to review and close when best outcomes are achieved.

Early Help Review of assessments, interventions and strategies as outlined above is undertaken (for a minimum of one term). As per SEND Code of Practice, the setting must refer to outside specialist support service/s for further assessment.

Concerns still exist – Early Help Review is updated to identify outstanding concerns, and success (or not) of interventions and strategies. Lead professional and parents/carers to complete autism screening questionnaires.

Stage 3

Lead Professional to refer to **Bolton Social Communication and Interaction Panel (BSCIP)** with parental consent via Early Help with all information collated in Stage 2. Referral information to be securely emailed to the Integrated Community Paediatric Service (ICPS) on boh-tr.icpsreferrals@nhs.net

BSCIP triages request and **arranges further assessments as needed** (including either Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services or Community Paediatrics)

Additional specialist assessments are completed and returned

ADOS assessment if required

BSCIP meets to consider all the information about the child

Outcome is shared with family in clinic and also confirmed formally in writing. Copies are sent to GP, Education Setting and Lead Professional and others involved.

Stage 4

Autism Identified:
Follow post diagnosis pathway and review in 6-8 weeks

Autism Excluded:
Alternatives explored and Early Help Assessment continued

1. Referral for medical or CAMHS assessment:

For Pre-School and Primary School age - Refer to Community Paediatrics if:

- There are concerns about child's development
- There are concurrent medical issues such as possible seizures or regression

For Secondary School age of older - Refer to CAMHS if:

- Suspected associated mental health problems e.g. ADHD / Attachment / Behaviour

2. Referral to SENCO by GP or other Health Care Professionals

- The Integrated Working (IW) Team will be able to inform which School a child goes to.
- Telephone: 01204 331392
- Email: boltonISA@bolton.gov.uk
- GP/Health Care Professional to send GP Sharing Information Form* securely to the School to initiate Early Help Action Plan

*Please ensure GP Sharing Form content is covered if sending a GP letter to SENCO instead.

3. Referral to Bolton Parent Carers

- Parents and Carers are signposted to Bolton Parent Carers for support
- Telephone: 07715 201798
- Email: info@boltonparents.org.uk
- Website: www.boltonparents.org.uk
- Parents and Carers are given leaflet regarding Bolton Parent Carers

4. Electively Home Educated (EHE) Children and Young People

- Responsibility for children and young people who are Electively Home Educated sits with the EHE Officer at the Achievement, Cohesion and Integration Service (ACIS)
- Health Care Professional to contact the EHE officer who will further liaise with appropriate Professionals
- Telephone: 01204 332309
- Email: ehe@bolton.gov.uk