

Gloucestershire Pre-School Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway



Introduction

The Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway has been developed to help identify children with social communication difficulties; this will enable you and your child to receive the appropriate care and support so they can fulfil their full potential.



Consent and Referrals

Your consent needs to be obtained to allow your child to be on the pathway and for the relevant referrals to other services to be made. These referrals will include:

- **Speech and Language Therapy**—help identify and implement strategies to help your child communicate. You will be required to play a major role in the therapy, alongside the Therapist. The Therapist will work with others supporting and interacting with your child e.g. family members, nursery etc. One of their roles is to work with families and early years' settings to agree communication goals and how to achieve these.

- **Audiology**— a hearing test will be arranged to rule out any hearing difficulties that may be impacting on your child’s communication.
- **Paediatric Consultant led Specialist Services (Community/ Neurodisability)** - Paediatricians are experienced in assessing, and where indicated supporting specific health issues for children with Special Needs (including SEND).

The doctors work in partnership with children, young people and families, and with other professionals and organisations.

- **Clinical Psychologists** - work to understand your child’s strengths and challenges, thinking about the effect of their life experiences, temperament and those around them to fully understand their needs and how to help them develop their potential.
- **Advisory Teaching Service** - Specialist support for children with a hearing, visual or physical disability or difficulties with communication, interaction, cognition, learning and behaviour. The Advisory Teacher will observe your child either in their educational setting or the home (if not in a setting) to make sure your child receives the required support.
- **Educational Psychology Service -(EPS)** The Educational

Psychologist (EP) will usually visit your child at the pre-school setting or at home. The EP may observe your child and may do some play-based assessment to find out what your child is good at and what they need more help with. The EP will usually meet with you. They will help you, the setting and other professionals to find ways to help your child to learn and to develop. The EP will share feedback with you and the other professionals involved.



Once referrals are received by these services, you will be contacted directly by each individual service. This process of continuing assessment may take up to a year.

After the assessments have been completed they will be shared at a multi-professional meeting which takes place every other month.

At this point a decision will be made as to whether your child will continue on the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway. If the professionals decide that your child is not displaying the signs of autism, then your child will leave the

Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway.

They will continue to receive support on Gloucestershire's Graduated Pathway (MyPlan, MyPlan+.) For more information, please go to the Gloucestershire County Council Website. (www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)



Following this multi-professional discussion, your child will be added to a waiting list for the following three appointments:

- A video assessment with a Speech and Language Therapist and a Clinical Psychologist (this video will be deleted following the professional's reflective discussion meeting.)
- A Medical Assessment with the Paediatrician
- A feedback meeting for the parents.

These appointments may vary in order depending on availability.

Alongside the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway your child will also be on Gloucestershire's Graduated Pathway so that their educational progress can be monitored. You will be invited to regular Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings. Your Health Visitor and other professionals involved with your child may attend these meetings and will continue to support you and your child.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Why has my child been placed on the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway?

A: Your child has been placed on the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway because a concern has been raised about their communication and interaction with others. This may be an indication that your child is on the Autistic Spectrum. This may have been picked up at a routine developmental assessment, via yourselves or by the early years setting.

Q: Do I have a choice whether or not my child goes on the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway?

A: Yes. It is up to you. You can discuss this with your Health Visitor or any professional at any time.

Q: What will happen first?

A: Your Health Visitor (HV) or Public Health Nurse (PHN) will complete SALT and Audiology referrals. The HV, PHN or early years setting will make a referral to the EPS and ATS.

Q: When will my child be discussed at the multi-professional Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway meeting?

A: Your child will be discussed when all referrals have been made, your child has been seen by all services and the feedback has been sent to the Social Communication Diagnostic Pathway administrator.

Q: What happens at the video assessment?

A: The Clinical Psychologist will ask you about how your child is developing and what they find easy and hard, whilst the Speech and Language Therapist assesses your child through play. If you give consent their play will be videoed to allow professionals to think more about how to help your child.

Q: Why has my child been removed from the Social Communication diagnostic pathway?

A: This may be due to your child making progress and therefore the professionals consider that your child currently does not meet the criteria for a diagnosis of Autism.



Useful Resources

- Gloucestershire's SEND Local Offer – www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk
- Family Information Service Free phone: 0800 5420202
Email: familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- SENDIASS: Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support.
www.sendiassglos.org.uk
- Advisory Teaching Service: link to information leaflet
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2324/advisory_teaching_service_leaflet-38611.pdf
- Education Psychology Service: link to information leaflet
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2709/eps_parent_leaflet-11044.pdf
- Speech and Language— www.glos-care.nhs.uk/our-services/children-young-people/slt

Facebook—Gloucestershire Children's Speech & Language Therapy



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