

## Feedback

You will be invited for a feedback appointment with a member of the ASD clinic, sometimes your keyworker may also be present. In this appointment the various assessments carried out in the ASD clinic will be discussed and you will be given an outcome: diagnosis, inconclusive or no diagnosis.

If we require further information following an inconclusive outcome, recommendations will be made for further assessment and your child will be re-discussed at a panel meeting in the future.

## Following a diagnosis, what help can my child receive?

We will refer you to Autism Outreach. This is a local service that supports children and young people with a diagnosis of ASD. They are able to carry out home visits and provide you with advice and resources to support difficulties at home. School visits can also be carried out to help ensure that your child's educational needs are met. Training and workshops are also offered to school staff, parents and other family members.

## What happens if my child does not get an ASD diagnosis?

If your child does not meet the criteria for a diagnosis of ASD, appropriate recommendations will be made and followed up by your case worker.

## Useful websites:

National Autism Society - [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

Autism West Midlands  
[www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

Child Autism UK  
[www.childautism.org.uk/](http://www.childautism.org.uk/)

For more information, please contact either your case worker or our ASD administration co-ordinator.

**Address:** Dudley CAMHS, The Elms Health Centre, Halesowen, Dudley, West Midlands, B63 2UR

**Tel:** 01384 324689

## How do I give feedback about the service?

If you have a suggestion, compliment or concern about the service, please speak with a member of the team. Alternatively, you can contact the Service Experience Desk (SED) which is the central point of contact for all concerns, enquiries, formal or informal, complaints, compliments or suggestions. We welcome any comments you may have on the service we provide. You can contact SED on:

**Tel:** 0300 555 0535

**Email:** [SED@dwmh.nhs.uk](mailto:SED@dwmh.nhs.uk)

**Address:** Service Experience Desk, Second Floor, Trafalgar House, 47-49 King Street, Dudley, DY2 8PS

If you require this leaflet in another language or format such as large print, braille or easy read please contact the communications team on 01384 325022 or email [communication@dwmh.nhs.uk](mailto:communication@dwmh.nhs.uk).

## Leaflet Control

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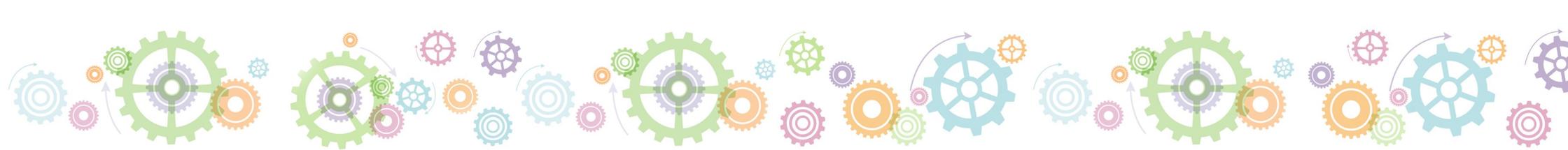
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# Dudley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

## Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic Clinic

Information for parents, guardians and carers





## What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects approximately 1 in 100 children.

ASD is a spectrum condition. This means that although all children with the disorder will share some core characteristics, their level of disability and combination of symptoms can vary widely.

## What are the characteristics of ASD?

In order for a child to meet the criteria for a diagnosis of ASD they must display symptoms across three areas:

### 1. Impairments in social interaction

- E.g. difficulties with non-verbal communication, understanding emotions, forming friendships or showing interest in others

### 2. Abnormal communication

- E.g. delayed language development, difficulty sustaining conversations, repetitive use of language, lack of make-believe play

### 3. Restricted or repetitive behaviour and interests

- E.g. unusually intense or focused interests, repetitive use of objects, insistence on sticking to routine, sensitivity to certain sounds and texture

Symptoms must be evident before the age of 3 years and must not be attributable to another neurodevelopmental disorder, early trauma or an attachment problem.

## What is the ASD clinic?

The ASD clinic is located within CAMHS. Referrals can be made to CAMHS via a GP, Social Worker or Paediatrician. Following an initial assessment and appointments with your allocated caseworker (4-6 sessions) you can be referred to the ASD clinic.

The ASD clinic is usually used with cases of greater complexity. If the ASD traits are more obvious, your caseworker may decide to arrange an appointment directly with a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in CAMHS who may be able to diagnose more quickly.

## The assessment process

The following assessment tools may be used by the ASD clinic:

### Developmental history

- Structured or semi-structured interview with parent/caregiver over 2-3 sessions

### Autism Diagnostic Observational Scale (ADOS)

- Individual assessment involving a clinician interacting and involving your child in age appropriate games and puzzles
- Your child will also be asked questions and observed by a second clinician who will be taking notes

### Assessment group

- This is led by the Occupational Therapists here at CAMHS who will assess how your child interacts with similar-aged peers (2 sessions).

## School observation(s)

- A clinician will visit your child's school to discreetly observe their behaviour and social interaction in a classroom setting

## Panel meetings

The ASD panel meet once a month and consists of the following professionals

- Consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist
- Clinical psychologist
- Educational psychologist
- Community psychiatric nurse
- Speech and language therapist
- Representative from autism outreach

The panel will discuss reports from all assessments in detail, including the case notes taken by the caseworker and any other reports from other professionals e.g. educational psychology or speech and language reports.

Should the panel be in agreement and decide that they have sufficient evidence then a diagnosis of ASD will be given to the child.

If further information is required the panel will conclude that the evidence is insufficient and make recommendations for further assessment.

If the panel agrees that there is insufficient evidence and no further assessment is required then a conclusion of 'no diagnosis' will be reached.