

The South Tees Neurodevelopmental Needs Led Pathway

Autism is something people are born with or first appears when they are very young and it is a life-long condition. Autism is a spectrum which means everybody with autism is different. Being autistic means your brain works in a different way from other people. Some autistic people need little or no support whilst others may need support every day.

Neurodevelopmental is the name given to a group of disorders associated with the functioning of the neurological system in the brain. This includes neurological developmental brain dysfunction which presents problems with:

- Motor functioning
- Learning
- Language
- Communication

We know when services work together for children and young people with complex needs, the needs of the child / young person are met in the best way.

The Neurodevelopmental Pathway is a “**needs led**” method. It is a multi-agency approach to identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have been referred. Support is available for children and young people with and without a formal diagnosis through their whole journey (before, during and after). As part of the offer it includes support for families, regardless of the age of the child / young person.

The Neurodevelopmental Pathway was originally developed in St Helen's and was held up as good practice by Ofsted. It has been successfully piloted in North Tees and is now operational.

We would like to introduce the pathway in to South Tees as it:

- Cuts waiting times
- Provides support at the earliest opportunity
- Co-ordinates a range of timely multi-agency assessments
- Improves outcomes

The new approach will be available for children aged 5 and up to the age of 18. Children under the age of 5 will still be seen by the Paediatrician Service.

The main changes in the new **needs led** pathway are:

- Development of a ‘**Bubble of Support**’
- Streamlining of the process
- Development of a triage panel - who review all referrals as they come in to make sure they are appropriate
- No self-referrals – all referrals will come from a SENCO or Health professional

This meeting is to find out from parent carers:

- What works
- What doesn't work and needs to change
- Where are the gaps in support - What support is missing and why is this important

All of the information you provide, will help us shape and design our “**Bubble of Support**” along with letting us know where there are gaps in the system.

