**Autistic Spectrum Disorders Multi Disciplinary Team Referral, Assessment & Diagnosis Pathway**

**Recognition—Stage 2**

Complete signs & symptoms checklist and collate observations/information that have lead to consideration of Autism including any concerns from parents/child (further information included in guidance)

**Recognition—Stage 1**

Concerns about development and or behaviour

Parent/Professionals concerned that a child has Autism

**Referral—Stage 2**

Referral received and dealt with by a dedicated business support team attached to the ASDAT.

Referral information will be checked for sufficient detail as advocated in the guidance. Additional information will be requested if referral information is incomplete.

**Referral—Stage 1**

Referral form to be completed and submitted to the Autistic Spectrum Disorders Assessment Team (ASDAT) with the specified information included.

A GP referral should be made via a referral letter containing the specified information and be submitted to the ASDAT.

**Referral—Stage 3**

Referral passed to the ASDAT Referral Panel

**Referral—Stage 4**

Referrals will be discussed by two/three members of the ASDAT on a weekly basis (Paediatrician or Psychiatrist,

Clinical Psychologist, Speech & Language Therapist) and a decision taken whether to accept the referral or recommend different action. If young people present at the time of transition to adult services the autism team should consider carrying out the autism diagnostic assessment jointly with the adult team.

**Referral Accepted**

The referral is accepted and allocated to the ASDAT Case Coordinator. Assessments required to take place during the assessment process will be considered by the panel and arranged by the case coordinator.

Parents/carers and the referring professional will be contacted by the ASDAT case coordinator who will remain the main point of contact throughout the assessment process.

A home and school or settings visit will be arranged and a list of information required during the visit will be sent prior to the visit being made. Appointments for assessments will be made with the family by the business support team.

**Referral Declined**

Referral not appropriate alternative action recommended &

communicated to refer/parent. CAF

recommended if not already in place.

**Assessment**

The child/young person will be seen by any member of the team within 12 weeks of acceptance at the referral panel. The most appropriate members of the ASDAT will be included in the assessment process.

**The Core Autistic Spectrum Disorder Assessment Team Consists of:**

Paediatrician and/ or Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Clinical Psychologist

Speech and Language Therapist

Case Coordinator (professional)

Occupational Therapist

**Additional Team Members may include:**

Paediatric Neurologist

Educational Psychologist

Disabled Children’s Team

**Assessment Programme:**

Home and school or settings visits. Feedback from the visits communicated to the appropriate members of the ASDAT.

**Session 1:** Paediatrician or child Psychiatrist – ASD specific history taken including medical examination

**Session 2:** SALT & Clinical Psychologist – clinical history taken + observation in clinic, school or setting.

**Session 3:** Multi Disciplinary Team Assessmentcarried out by the core members of the ASDAT as per NICE guidance.

* Multi Disciplinary Team meeting to discuss the outcome of the diagnostic assessment.
* Feedback to parents/carers
* Dictation of the report outlining the outcome of the assessment including next steps/and ongoing needs based management plan for the child/young person, all members together.
* With parental consent the profile/plan will be made available relevant involved professionals.

**Session 4:** Any further assessments which are needed including consideration of differential diagnoses and coexisting conditions. If suspected appropriate assessments and referrals will be made.

The process from referral panel to diagnosis will be completed within a six month timeframe.

**Diagnosis Uncertain**

The child or young person will be kept under review, taking into account any new information.

A date for reassessment will be

agreed.

**Diagnosis—Autism Confirmed**

A follow-up appointment with a

member of the ASDAT will be offered within 6 weeks of the end of the autism diagnostic assessment. This will provide more detailed information about the findings of the assessment and implications and proposed plans for the child or young person. With parental consent the child/young person will be added to the Barnsley ASD Register.

An information pack will be provided at the time of diagnosis and an information session offered to parents/carers to provide local information and opportunities for support.

**Diagnosis not Autism**

If the child does not have autism consideration will be given to appropriate referral based on their profile. Recommend CAF if not already in place.

No further action taken.