



Autism Diagnostic Service

Adult Neurodevelopmental Services

Information for service users

Further information about the content, reference sources or production of this leaflet can be obtained from the Patient Information Centre. If you would like to tell us what you think about this leaflet please get in touch.

This information can be made available in a range of formats on request (eg Braille, audio, larger print, easy read, BSL or other languages). Please contact the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 246 7288

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www.ntw.nhs.uk/pic Tel: 0191 223 2545

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Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information that you will find useful about the Autism Diagnostic Service. If you are not sure about anything in this leaflet please get in touch with the Administrator, Autism Services at Keegan Court, Grassbanks, Gateshead. Contact details are at the back of this leaflet.

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.ntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- email complaints@ntw.nhs.uk Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk
- We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- the quickest way for you to do this is to complete our short online survey at

www.ntw.nhs.uk/poy

- complete a Points of You survey, available on wards, reception areas or from staff.

- some areas of the Trust have electronic feedback touch screens, staff can help you to use these.

What we do

We assess people for potential ASD with:

- Adults who have difficulty with change
- Adults who display lack of social connection
- People over 18 years of age, although collaborative work on transitions is available.

The service is available in Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Sunderland, South Tyneside and Gateshead.

How to be seen

We have an open referral system. This means anyone can refer themselves or for other people.

Remember: The person being referred must agree to it being made.

Referral should be made to the Autism Diagnosis Service using the referral form available from the Administrator, Autism Services.

Autism Diagnostic Services Adult Neurodevelopmental Services

Keegan Court

Grassbanks

Gateshead

NE10 8DX

Tel: 0191 287 6250

Email: ANDS@ntw.nhs.uk

Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk.

The assessment

An initial assessment/interview will be carried out with two professionals. The assessments are at locations around the region. The assessment will be carried out at a place that is convenient for you and for the people who will be carrying out the assessment. Directions will be sent with appointment information.

We encourage people to bring someone with them (perhaps a parent) who can tell us about their early childhood. This is important to collect the information about early developmental milestones. We are also happy for you to bring a friend/partner for moral support and to provide us with an outside view of how you cope.

It would also be helpful if you could bring with you any school or medical reports you feel may be relevant.

All this information is useful as diagnosis is based on a combination of two things:

- **Developmental history** - which looks at how you were as you grew up.
- **Current presentation** - which looks at how you manage socially now.

What happens next

After the interview the assessors will decide whether they have enough evidence to make a diagnosis using established diagnostic criteria.

You will be told there and then what their opinion is. Please note one possible outcome of this initial interview may be to tell you that we do not have enough information at this time to make a diagnosis.

How to contact us

If you want to contact us or have a suggestion which would make the service better please tell a member of staff or write to:



Autism Diagnostic Services Adult Neurodevelopmental Services

Keegan Court
Grassbanks
Gateshead
NE10 8DX



Telephone: 0191 287 6250



Fax: 0191 287 6251