

## Community Paediatrics Referral Criteria

Referral to our Community Paediatrics Service provides specialist medical care for children and young people with developmental, neurodevelopmental, and complex needs. We support children and their families by offering assessment, diagnosis, and management of conditions affecting development, learning, and long-term health.

### Referral Guidance

- We accept referrals for children aged **0 to 17** years, up until their 17th birthday (unless they are in a special school setting).
- Referrals should be made using the WVT Community Paediatrics referral form.
- Referrals are accepted from professionals in healthcare, education, or social care, including GPs, hospital and community consultants, social workers, health visitors, school nurses, therapists, the CLA team, and SENCo staff.
- We do **not** accept referrals directly from parents.
- The child must be registered with a GP in Herefordshire.
- Please include as much relevant information as possible with the referral, including consent.

**For referral eligibility, please refer to the criteria outlined below.**

### Inclusion Criteria

- Children with developmental delay- Global or isolated requiring medical evaluation and/or intervention.
- Children with suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Preschool and School age until the age of 10 years.
- Behavioural and Emotional Concerns (Medical Basis) - Challenging behaviour associated with suspected neurodevelopmental conditions.
- Sleep difficulties related to neurodevelopmental and neuro genetic conditions.
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – concerns related to prenatal alcohol exposure.
- Complex Medical Needs and Disabilities- Children requiring specialist medical input for:
  - Complex neurological conditions requiring multidisciplinary input
  - Genetic conditions affecting development
  - Chronic disability requiring medical coordination with education and therapy services
- Coordination and Movement Disorders- Children with suspected or confirmed:
  - Cerebral Palsy or Neuromuscular Disorders – motor difficulties, abnormal tone, or involuntary movements.
  - Dyspraxia (Developmental Coordination Disorder – DCD) – difficulties with motor planning and coordination affecting daily activities [*Referral to an occupational therapist is recommended as the first step*]

## Exclusion Criteria

The following referrals are **not** typically accepted by Community Paediatrics and should be directed elsewhere:

- Primary mental health concerns (e.g., anxiety, depression, eating disorders) → Refer to CAMHS
- Emotional and behavioural difficulties without a medical basis → Refer to Early Help, Parenting Support, Young minds.[Also refer to resources page in our website]
- Speech delay without other developmental concerns → Refer to Speech and Language Therapy
- Educational difficulties without medical concerns → Refer to Educational Psychology or SENCo
- Routine enuresis (bedwetting) or constipation → Refer to Primary Care or bowel and bladder services at WVT.
- ADHD – We **do not** provide services for children with suspected ADHD.
  - For children under 7 years, please refer to parenting support services and our resources page in our website for behaviour management.
  - For children aged 7 years and above, refer directly to CAMHS.
- Hearing concerns – GPs or health visitors can refer directly to the specialist Audiology Service at the Child Development Centre.
- Private assessments – We **do not** validate or provide second opinions on private assessment reports for autism or ADHD.

## WVT Referral Pathway

**Initial Screening** – Referral reviewed by the Community Paediatrics team.

**Triage Decision** –

- Accepted for assessment
- Redirected to more appropriate service
- Request for further information if required

**Appointment Scheduled** – If accepted, appointment offered based on clinical urgency/ waiting list.

## Other Services Provided

- Medical advice for **Adoption and fostering** (referrals via Local Authority).
- Medical assessment for **Children Looked After** (referral via Social Services).
- Medical assessment **where neglect is suspected** (referrals via Social Services).
- Medical input for formal **Special Educational Needs** assessment (referral via Local Authority).