

Community Paediatrics

Changes to Pathway for General Developmental Assessment



Background

The community paediatrics pathway is the route for children and young people to be assessed for autism, ADHD and non-global developmental delay via a **General Developmental Assessment (GDA)**. Previously all referrals for this pathway came from:

- **General Practice**
- **Healthy Families Team (School Nurses / Health Visitors)**

However, this is changing to make the pathway work better for our children and young people.

Why is it changing?

To help professionals work better together to provide children with the support they need. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) recommends that schools support children with additional needs through an 'assess, plan, do and review' graduated response. The new process for a GDA reflects this and makes sure that children will get on-going support whilst they wait for an assessment.

What has changed?

The big change is that early years services and schools will lead on the request for assessment, not GPs. This is because they will have more information about children, information that clinicians need to be able to make a good assessment. Early years services and schools will be supported by practitioners from the health families Team.

If a child is not in an early years setting or is being educated at home, the Healthy Families practitioner will lead on submitting a request for assessment.

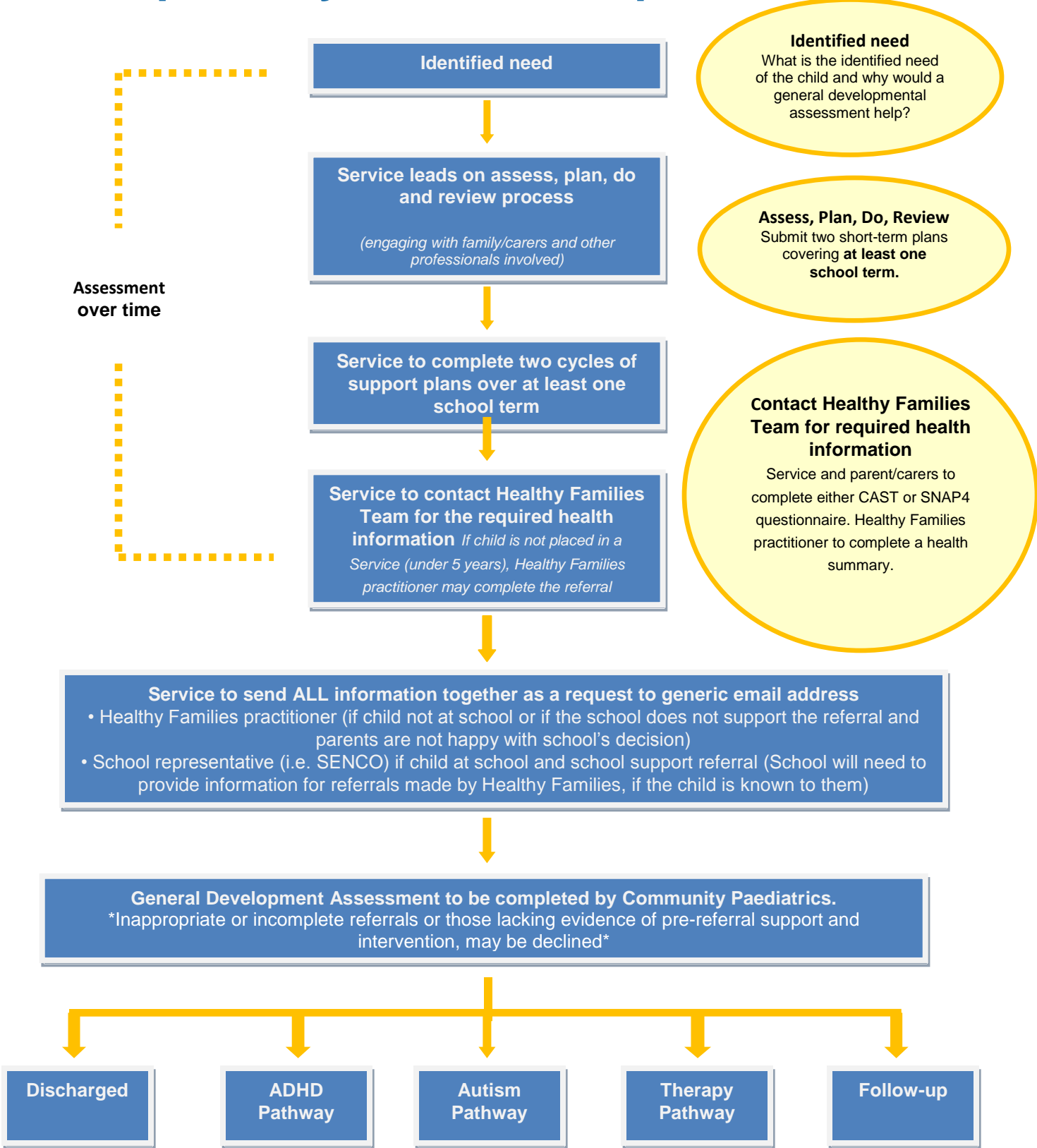
What to do if early years and/or schools won't put in a request?

We encourage parents/carers to have another conversation with the early years or school setting as they will have lots of information on the child, information that clinicians need to be able to make a good assessment. However if parents/carers continue to feel they are not being given the support needed then they should contact the Healthy Families Team on **01777 274422**.

Red flags

Any child presenting with "red flag" signs/behaviours, such as developmental regression (losing previously acquired skills), significantly delayed in achieving early developmental milestones (social smile, sitting, walking, speech and language), suspected vacant episodes/seizures etc. should be referred by the GP to Community Paediatrics/Paediatric Neurologist promptly.

This pathway outlines the process



Support for families:

Healthy Families Team

Healthy Family Teams are part of the Healthy Families Programme, an integrated service for children, young people and families which brings together care provided by health visitors, school nurses, the Family Nurse Partnership Programme (for first time teenage mums) and the National Childhood Measurement Programme.

Phone: 01777 274422

Website: [Healthy Families](#)

Ask Us Nottinghamshire

Ask Us Nottinghamshire is part of the Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS). Ask Us Nottinghamshire fulfills many of the roles and functions that were previously undertaken by the Parent Partnership Service. The service provides impartial information, advice and support for parents/carers of children with SEND, aged 0- 25 years.

Phone: 0800 1217772

E-mail: enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk

Website: [Ask Us](#)

Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum

Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum (Notts PCF) is an independent parent carer led organisation run by volunteers who represent the views, experiences and ideas of families that live or access services in Nottinghamshire and have a child or young person with an additional need and/or a disability.

Phone: 07751 776481

Email: enquiries@nottspcf.org

Website: [Notts PCF](#)

Family Action

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support Programmes, services and resources to support schools and families across the country

Phone: 01623 621059

Website: [Family Action](#)

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

Phone: 01909 500990

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net

Website: [DBTH](#)

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust

Phone: 0115 969 1300

Website: [NHCT](#)

GDA Pathway adopted from the Doncaster Model February 2017