

## **Leeds Autism Diagnosis Service - The Care Pathway**

### **Screen**

When a referral is received by the team, an appointment will be sent for a screen, usually within 12 weeks. Service users, where possible are asked to complete a set of questionnaires and return these with any reports prior to the screen appointment. The screen will take place with a qualified member of the team. Students or other professionals visiting the team may be present at any one of the appointments offered. If this causes concern the team would appreciate being informed. Service users are invited to bring a friend or relative with them if they would like to. During the screen further information regarding the service user will be collected and a decision made regarding the next step in the care pathway.

### **Developmental Assessment**

It is essential that developmental information is available to enable a conclusion to be reached. If possible, a further assessment will take place with a family member and involves asking questions regarding the service user when they were 4-5 years of age. If a parent is not available this can be done with an older sibling. The assessment can take between 3-6 hours depending on the type of assessment used. If a family member is unable to attend for an appointment, questions can be e-mailed to family members in order to obtain the information required. The team may also want to look at reports from paediatrics, child and adolescent mental health services, school reports or medical reports.

### **Clinical Decision**

When the developmental information has been received an appointment will be made for a Clinical Decision. At the appointment there will usually be at least two clinicians from different disciplines present. Prior to the person being brought into the clinic room the professionals involved will discuss the information received so far and the outcome of the developmental assessment. This may mean that the service user will wait in the reception area for a brief time while this occurs. During the appointment there will be a series of simple activities to complete. When these have been completed and any further information collated, the person will be asked to sit back in the reception area while the professionals have a brief discussion. The service user will be invited back into the clinic room and informed of the outcome of the discussion.

### **Follow up Appointment**

If the service user is informed that they have autism, a further appointment will be offered. During this appointment an information pack will be provided and further information regarding autism and available services will be provided. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and talk about any particular difficulties and how these might be overcome. When a person has been diagnosed with autism, they and their carers' are entitled to an assessment by Social Services. The service user will be offered the opportunity to sign a consent form allowing the team to pass on their details to Social Services.