

Intellectual Disability assessment pathway for children and young people: **revised Jan. 2016**

This pathway explains the most appropriate referral pathway for children/ young people suspected of having global developmental delay/ intellectual disability.

Please note that this does not include children/ young people with specific learning difficulties (eg dyslexia, low average academic performance etc). These are the responsibility of the Education service to assess and manage. If a child is under RTLB, there may be limited RTLB funding available for assessment and this should always be considered.

Paediatrician OPD review



Concerns child may have global developmental delay or intellectual disability

(as evidenced by presentation, developmental history AND clinician assessment using standardised tools eg SYSTEMS, Griffiths Mental Developmental Scales etc).



Child 5 years and under

TWK

- All children 5 years and younger are referred to TWK for either developmental assessment by Occupational Therapist (NFER Nelson or Bayleys) or cognitive/ adaptive assessment by Clinical Psychologist (WPPSI/ ABAS).

Child 6 years and over

Support Net

- Support Net no longer arrange cognitive/adaptive testing for children and young people.
- Support Net accept Global Developmental Delay for children 0-7 years to access services. When children turn 8, evidence of ID is generally required for continued access. Children should therefore be referred to one of the providers below, ideally around their 7th birthday, given service waitlists. Support Net withdraw services if children no longer meet eligibility criteria.
- There is some leeway to continue a child's eligibility status whilst cognitive/ adaptive results are awaited. Formal testing may not be required if child ORS funded (for example) or where testing is impossible as ID clearly evident. If unsure, discuss with Support Net.
- Support Net complete cognitive assessments for adults to determine eligibility for NASC services

TWK

- If 6-17 years and intellectual disability suspected.
- Where intellectual disability AND autism spectrum disorder/ syndrome is suspected/ diagnosed, refer to TWK.
- *Note that children with ADHD are excluded from TWK services.*

Special Education

- Where a child is under Special Education (eg ORS funded, Behavioural Support Team), contact SE Lead Worker first regarding cognitive/ adaptive assessment.

Paediatric Clinical Psychology

- If 0-14 years and intellectual disability is suspected in addition to ADHD.
- If complex presentation, refer to CAMHS.
- No Paediatric Psychologist access without prior review by Paediatrician. Discuss first with Paediatric Psychologist if you are unsure about the referral.

CAMHS

- If 0-18 years, refer to CAMHS for assessment where comorbid mental health concerns are present and complicating presentation (eg anxiety, depression, psychosis, mutism, child abuse, conduct disorder, complex presentations etc).