

## **NEURODIVERSITY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM**



Portsmouth's Neurodiversity Team (0-19) consists of family support workers, child and adolescent clinicians, an educational psychologist, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and service lead.

The team has been developed to support the city's new neurodiversity pathway which aims to improve early identification of neurodiversity and offer increased support for families and professionals, meaning children and young people may not need to go through the lengthy assessment process to get their needs met.

The Neurodiversity Team will provide:

- A single point of access for parents/carers and professionals who require additional support and/or training to meet a child or young person's needs
- Universal and consistent support for families, children and young people
- An extended offer for more complex cases which may include assessments, diagnoses, and focused support, but this is dependent on each case

**Please get in touch with the team if you have any queries or questions about the new pathway**

### **Contact Details**

Email address - [Neurodiversity0-19Enquiries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Neurodiversity0-19Enquiries@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Telephone Number - 02392 606051

Neurodiversity Platform - [Family Assist Home \(custhelp.com\)](https://www.familyassist.com) (click on the neurodiversity tab)



## **NEW PATHWAY**

From September 2022 a new pathway was launched for young people presenting with neurodiversity needs.

Any children who were previously on the waiting list for an assessment with CAMHS remain on the waiting list and sit within the new neurodiversity team. They will be seen for an assessment as soon as the team are able to.

The neurodiversity service is a standalone service and is not part of CAMHS - it is a multidisciplinary team who are able to support and help anyone who may have a concern about a young person presenting with ND needs.

## **PATHWAY EXPLAINED**

### **Glossary**

**CYP** - Children & Young People

**School** - This can be an education establishment including early years providers and/or other professionals who may be involved such as health visiting/early help.

**Families** - parent carers or guardians

**CYP presents with difficulties in behaviour/communication in school or at home and ND is suspected.**



**Either the family/practitioner/school can identify the need to complete ND Profiling Tool OR if unsure can contact the ND Team to discuss.**



**If a young person is showing signs of ND at home but not at school.**

The first step would be for families to speak to school and explain the child's behaviour at home. The school may have seen signs of this in school or the CYP may be masking.

We would suggest that it would be good for parents to discuss their concerns with the school and agree a way forward.

It may be that signposting to other agencies are needed or that further support/strategies are needed. The neurodiversity team are available to provide advice and guidance to families and our neurodiversity platform also provides a range of information.



It may be that after further discussion with school that the profiling tool doesn't need to be completed at this stage but could be considered again at some point in the future.

Families can also contact Portsmouth Parent Voice for advice and support - [ppvadmin@hiveportsmouth.org.uk](mailto:ppvadmin@hiveportsmouth.org.uk)



***If school/practitioner/agency have not been trained in ND Profile tool, they should contact: [sharedmailbox.sendstrategy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:sharedmailbox.sendstrategy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) to book onto training before completing a profile with a child and their family.***



***If school/practitioner/agency have been trained, they can complete the profiling with the family, then identify the strategies to be used by the family and the school to support the CYP. The strategies can be found by using the following link [Family Assist Home \(custhelp.com\)](http://FamilyAssistHome.custhelp.com)***



**IF all the strategies have been tried and tested and these have not improved the initial presenting needs of the CYP, the school/family/practitioner can contact the ND team to discuss their options to support the CYP.**



**The ND team will meet with the family/school and practitioners to review the profiling tool and the strategies and support that have been implemented.**



**At this point, there are generally three options:**

- a. The ND Team will advise of different strategies and could offer support through groups/short interventions as required.
- b. The ND Team could request all evidence to support an assessment. Evidence will include the completed profiling tool, any assessments completed in school or with other professionals such as therapists/CAMHS/CPMS. The type of evidence will be discussed with the person contacting the service. This evidence will be taken to the "Case Review Group" and a decision will be made if to offer an assessment and what type of assessment will be required.
- c. The ND Team is concerned there may be other reasons for the presentation and a referral made to one or more other services.



**Once a decision has been made regarding next steps the team will contact the family to discuss the decision and what will happen next.**

**IT IS WORTH NOTING** - even if the CYP has been through the Pathway, either through assessment or not, they can contact the ND Team for information, advice or guidance at any time.

**IF** a CYP has been assessed, a care plan will be put in place (in co-production with the family, CYP and school) to support the identified needs and a follow-up with family and school will be scheduled.

***Any queries relating to the tool, resources/ strategies or the ND pathway should be directed to the ND Team.***



