

# Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

## Your referral to the ASD assessment team

### What is ASD?

We all have things we are good at and things we find difficult. People with an ASD may be good at noticing details, remembering things and, if they are really interested in something, they can become an expert on the subject. They may also find some things difficult such as understanding other people, joining in with groups and being flexible about things.

Not everyone with ASD is the same and it affects people in different ways. Although having ASD can make some things harder, it does not limit what people can achieve.

### What does an ASD assessment involve?

#### Initial referral and assessment

After a referral to CAMHS, you may be offered an appointment for an initial assessment with a clinician from our CYPF Hub. Sometimes a member of the Hub may call your family or carer instead to get some additional information. In some cases you may be referred to the ASD team by someone you already know in CAMHS. If you or others think it would be helpful for you to have an ASD assessment they will make a referral to the ASD pathway for you.

As we have a lot of people waiting for an ASD assessment this may mean you have to wait longer than we would like. While you are waiting we will be in touch with your family to make suggestions of organisations and websites that can help with information, advice and support while you are waiting to see us.

#### The process

Initially, questionnaires will be sent to your family and school teachers. These enable us to see where you are doing well and where you are having difficulty. We then arrange an appointment for you and your family/carer to come in. There will be two members of the team involved in the assessment; one to talk to you, while another talks to your family/carer in a different room. This helps us to find out more about you and to think of ideas that might help. We will then put all the information together and decide whether you have an autism spectrum disorder or not.

## What happens next?

If you do have an ASD, it is normally helpful for you and others to know this. This is because it will help you and other people to understand more about your strengths and difficulties and to know more about the best ways to support you.

When we finish our assessment, we write a report which helps others to understand you better and shares our ideas about the best ways to support you. We do this whether we think you have an ASD or not.

We are an assessment only service, so we will decide together with you and your family or carers where the best places would be to get support and any other help you might need after our assessment.

## How to contact us

### If you feel that your mental health issues are getting worse...

Contact the CYPF Hub:

- Call 0300 365 1234
- Email [bks-tr.hub@nhs.net](mailto:bks-tr.hub@nhs.net)
- Or fill out the form on the website <https://forms.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/cypf>

### If you feel you need immediate and urgent help...

- Contact your GP
- Dial 111 to contact your GP out of hours service Westcall NHS
- Or go to A&E

### If you require further information...

**Call: 0118 931 5804 / 5896**

9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Please ask to speak to the ASD administrator

**Email:** [ourservice@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:ourservice@berkshire.nhs.uk)



**[www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/CAMHS](http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/CAMHS)**