



Feedback from The Designated Clinical Officer for SEND

Parents Voice Report Jan – March 25

Page 5 – Diagnosis

This is very difficult to unpick without the particular presentation or specific condition that a diagnosis is required for. So, a breakdown in the diagnoses would be really helpful. Also bearing in mind that SEND provision is based on need not diagnosis.

- Reasons for delays in diagnoses can be that some conditions are identified at birth or just after however others may become visible or show symptoms at various childhood developmental stages. Diagnosis can take time: Weeks, months, or even years depending on complexity or condition. Deriving a diagnosis is based on medical evaluations which may include blood tests, scans, or neurological exams. Sometimes developmental assessments, which often involve speech therapists, psychologists, or paediatricians.

Page 12 – QB Test

The QB Test is a computer-based assessment used to help evaluate ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) in children, adolescents, and adults. It's not a standalone diagnostic tool, but it provides objective data that complements clinical observations and interviews. It measures:

- Attention: How consistently someone responds to visual stimuli.
- Impulsivity: How often they respond incorrectly or too quickly.
- Activity: Physical movement tracked with high precision.
- The person wears a headband with a reflective marker.
- An infrared camera tracks movement while they complete a task on a computer screen.
- The task involves pressing a button when certain shapes or patterns appear.
- The test lasts 15–20 minutes, depending on age.

Results are compared to a normative group of the same age and sex. A clinician interprets the data alongside other assessments like questionnaires and interviews. It helps clarify symptoms and monitor treatment effectiveness over time

Page 14 – Private Assessment - the NHS cannot recommend private practitioners however private sensory assessments providers can be sought by contacting www.rcot.co.uk and searching via the Private Practice section to find suitably qualified local practitioners.

Page 15 – Speech & Language - Waiting times for Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) in Lincolnshire have been impacted by a surge in referrals, leading to temporary changes in service delivery by Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (LCHS). LCHS has prioritised support for children and young people with highly complex needs, including:

- o Eating and drinking difficulties, Speech and/or language disorders, Severe communication challenges.

Children with low-level speech, language and communication needs may not be accepted for specialist assessment or therapy during this period. Instead, they're being signposted to resources and support Family hubs and children's centres across Lincolnshire - online training and guidance for families and educators. If you're concerned about a referral or waiting time, you can contact the service directly at 01522 309025 or Email the team at LHNT.lincschilrenstherapyservice@nhs.net or Reach out to Patient Advice and Liaison Service at LHNT.Lincs.PALS@nhs.net

Page 16 – ADHD Referral and Medication

ADHD medication shortages in Lincolnshire are part of a wider national issue affecting access to key treatments like methylphenidate, guanfacine, and atomoxetine. Manufacturing delays and global demand spikes have disrupted supply chains. Please contact your GP or ADHD specialist to discuss alternative medications or temporary adjustments or check with multiple pharmacies—some may have stock even if others don't.

Page 17 – ADOS Assessment / Paediatrics

The waiting time for an ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) assessment in Lincolnshire can be quite lengthy, with current estimates suggesting a minimum of 12 months for children. This is due to huge surge in demand nationally .After the ADOS is completed, the child is typically seen by a community paediatrician to discuss the outcome and determine whether the diagnostic criteria for autism are met.

For more support whilst waiting or after diagnosis please contact Virtual Autism Hub :: Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust

Virtual Autism Hub :: Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust <https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/our-services/virtual-autism-hub>

The Virtual Autism Hub is an innovative source of all age autism support to empower autistic people and their parents/carers. We work closely with community groups and organisations to strengthen support for autistic adults, children and young people and parent/carers, increasing the range, breadth and reach of these groups.

www.lpft.nhs.uk

Page 22 & 28 – Private Diagnosis - the NHS cannot recommend private practitioners however PAACT can provide advice and support PAACT Support - PAACT Support

Page 25 – Podiatrist

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust provides specialist podiatry care, including children's toenail surgery. You may need a referral from your GP for access to these services. For routine foot care or minor issues, you can search for local NHS podiatry providers via the NHS service finder or visit SEND Local Offer – Lincolnshire County Council

Page 28 – Sensory Processing Difficulties (SPD) - Thank you for recommending the NHS Lincolnshire Sensory Processing Difficulties Programme - this evaluates very positively and is based on providing supportive parent carer mediated intervention. To access the workshop and resources please go to Sensory processing difficulties : <https://www.lincolnshirechildrenstherapyservices.nhs.uk/neurodevelopmental-difficulties/sensory-processing-difficulties>: Lincolnshire Children's Therapy Services - to understand more around how this could support you, please visit Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - Lincolnshire ICB and view our new video!
<https://lincolnshire.icb.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/mental-health-and-disabilities/send-local-offer/>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Lincolnshire's Local Offer includes services and events for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their families. It includes advice about health, education and social care Find out more about Lincolnshire's SEND local offer on the Lincolnshire County Council website. What is Sensory Processing ...

lincolnshire.icb.nhs.uk