

# Neurodevelopmental Service

## Early Developmental History Guide

### WHAT IS AN EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY?

The Early Developmental History appointment enables us to gather information about your child's early years and development. This is gathered in order to identify if symptoms associated with an underlying neurodevelopmental disorder, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) were present in the early developmental period. Understanding your child's early development and life experiences also helps to identify if any differences in behaviour may be occurring for other reasons, such as experiencing significant life events or having other health complications which may require further assessment. We will ask about when your child was a baby as well as their pre-school years, primary years and High School years when relevant. This gives us a sense of when you first had concerns and how things have changed over time.

### HOW LONG WILL THE ASSESSMENT TAKE?

The assessment can take around 2-3 hours.

### WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE ASSESSMENT?

It might be helpful to bring a drink with you as these cannot be provided.

We can have a break during the assessment if you need one.

### WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY?

When you arrive on the day, we will collect you from the Reception and show you to the room. We will do introductions and take a few minutes for everyone to get settled.

We understand that everyone may be anxious or feel unsure and will make every effort to make the environment comfortable. Staff won't wear uniforms and allowances will be made for breaks if they are needed.

We will explain what will happen before we start, and you can ask questions. We will make notes throughout, as this helps us to remember the things you tell us. For some people the assessment is too long for them to do in one go. If this is the case we can arrange for the assessment to be completed in an additional session or via a phone call.

### WHO CAN COME TO THE ASSESSMENT?

This assessment does not require the young person to be present. One or two adults can attend the appointment and can include parents/carers, other family members or another adult that knows the child well.

We are not able to accommodate the young person being assessed, siblings or additional children. We are unable to offer a waiting area for those not attending appointments.

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### WHERE WILL THE ASSESSMENT BE HELD?

We have two clinics in Norfolk:

1. **If you live in the Norwich area, your appointment will be booked for:**

The Children's centre  
Norwich Community Hospital  
Bowthorpe Road  
Norwich  
NR2 3TU

2. **If you live closer to King Lynn, your appointment will be booked for:**

St. James Clinic  
Extons Road  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk  
PE30 5NU

**The appointment letter we send out will let you know where you need to go on the day.**

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE ASSESSMENT?

**We will let you know when all the sections of the assessment are complete. We will then end the session with a brief chat to make sure everyone is ok, and then show you back out to reception so you can head home.**

**We will meet as a Multi-disciplinary team to discuss the Early Developmental History. If you have further appointments these will be completed on a different day.**

**When all assessments are complete and reviewed, we will invite you to a feedback meeting to discuss the assessment decision.**

**If you have any further questions prior to the assessment, please contact the admin team who will be happy to answer your questions:**

**01553 668712 Monday to Friday 9 – 5pm**

**Or email us on [nds@nchc.nhs.uk](mailto:nds@nchc.nhs.uk)**