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**Autism Spectrum Pathway**

**Support services whilst you wait and beyond…**

There is a wealth of support available for families who are waiting and who have had an assessment. This list is not exhaustive. Each section has been written by those delivering each of the services. Details as follows:

***Health***

**Health Visitor Service**

Health Visitors complete a universal health needs assessment with all families from an antenatal contact and therefore identify families with a variety of complex needs. They can then offer support not only from the child’s perspective but also parental and family support. Children who have additional needs often have their health needs addressed but parents’ emotional health and wellbeing is one of the key areas Health Visiting skills are paramount.

We have a small amount of Health Visiting staff who have completed the Early Bird Training and in conjunction with our Children’s Centres can advise parents and staff in supporting early intervention strategies for children with communication difficulties and possible autism.

**Tel:** 01302 852680

**Community Nursery Nurses**

Community Nursery Nurses use an early identification tool of development with parents from the age of two months called Ages and Stages. This is completed again at six months, twelve months and two years of age providing a progressive and comprehensive assessment of the child’s development. This is an effective tool that feeds into the Communication Pathway referral. Again the Community Nursery Nurses provide early intervention behavioural strategies within their varied groups, healthy child drop-in sessions and when completing the Ages and Stages questionnaires with parents.

**Tel:** 01302 852680

**School Nursing Service**

Support children and young people who have additional needs requiring assistance in school, by providing support and advice to schools and signposting to specialist services as appropriate. The School Nursing Teams work closely with schools and other agencies supporting children/ young people and their families and can refer direct to several services with the parent's consent. Also provide health, development and behavioural advice and support to children, young people and their parents/carers (including parenting advice, bedwetting ('enuresis'), soiling, bereavement support, anger management etc.).

**Tel:** 01302 384138

**Sleep Clinics**

Family and child-centred, one-to-one Sleep Clinics are provided in community settings across Doncaster. These allow families to access appropriate support and advice, which will help them to address their child’s identified sleep problems and establish a regular night-time sleep pattern. The Sleep Practitioners also provide out-of-hours e-clinics where necessary and follow-up support is also provided for 5 weeks after the initial appointment.

**Email:** office@thechildrenssleepcharity.org.uk

***Parent Groups***

**Seedlings Group**

The Portage Service and Pre School Inclusion Team run an OFSTED-funded group for pre-school children with complex social communication difficulties. Children are referred to the Early Years Support Panel by consultant and community paediatricians, speech & language therapists and by members of the multi-disciplinary autism assessment team.

**Tel:** 01302 862103 **Email:** earlysupportpanel@doncaster.gov.uk

**Little Rainbows Autism Group**

Little Rainbows is a parent run support group providing activities and advice to the families of children affected by Autism and Asperger Syndrome in the Doncaster area. We hold coffee mornings, after school clubs and family play sessions as well as organising days out in the school holidays. It can feel like you are the only one going through it some days but with all our lovely families to meet and talk to you will soon realise, with great relief, you're not.

**Tel:** 0750 028 2120 **Email:** littlerainbows@hotmail.co.uk

Or find us on **Facebook**

**Doncaster Parents’ Voice**

The forum represents the views of parents and carers in the local area of all children with special and additional needs and has been established to work in partnership with service providers with the purpose of parent participation to help parents get involved in service planning and decision making. Parents and carers may join to gain information and be as active or non-active as they wish.

**Tel:** 01302 637566

Or find us on **Facebook**

**Other Support Groups** There are other parent led groups running across Doncaster including Unique Stars and the Bubble Group. Please ask at your local Children Centre on information of what exists in your area.

***Education***

**Educational Psychology Service**

The Educational Psychology Service supports all schools within the Doncaster area. Its role is to help raise achievement and promote inclusion for all children, particularly those with additional needs such as autism. This includes teaching and learning strategies for meeting the needs of pupils with social communication and autism. Educational Psychologists do not diagnose medical conditions but look closely at how medical diagnoses (such as autism) and other factors impact on the work of schools and settings, and then advising on how to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

If you have concerns about your child’s needs being met within the school environment please contact the school ‘Special Educational Needs Coordinator’ (SENCo). The SENCo will then make a decision as to whether involvement from the educational psychologist is necessary and will organise this involvement if it is deemed appropriate. Parents can of course contact the Educational Psychology Service directly for advice and we will always help with queries about how a child or young persons’ needs are best met.

**Website:**[www.doncaster.gov.uksections/educationandlearning/teacherandschoolinformation/educationalpsychology/](http://www.doncaster.gov.uksections/educationandlearning/teacherandschoolinformation/educationalpsychology/)

**Tel:** 01302 737291 **Email:** AdminEPS@doncaster.gov.uk

**The Autism and Social Communication Education and Training Service) (ASCETS)**

ASCETS is a small team of teachers and learning support assistants with specialist knowledge and skills in supporting children and young people with social communication difficulties and autism. The team focuses on improving the progress, educational achievement, and inclusion of children with social communication difficulties and autism.

ASCETS is now part of the Educational Psychology Service and the team covers all school settings across the Borough. ASCETS works within the framework of support described in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice and the service is currently under review, seeking to develop further its reach and effectiveness across Doncaster.

Training to assist schools in supporting children and young people with social communication and autism needs can be accessed directly from the ASCETS teachers.

Please contact:

ASCETS (Autism, Social Communication, Education and Training Service)

Floor 3 Civic Office

Waterdale,

Doncaster

DN1 3BU

**Tel:** 01302 734 838 **Email:** asdteam@doncaster.gov.uk

**Doncaster Portage Service & Pre School Inclusion Team**

**Portage** is a home teaching service for children up to the age of two years. The Portage Home Visitors support parents to promote early developmental skills with their child using a small steps approach to learning. Children are referred to the Early Years Support Panel by the Consultant and Community Paediatricians.

**The Pre-School Inclusion Team** (PSIT) offer support to Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) day care settings (non-school nurseries and pre-school settings) to promote the inclusion of children with SEND. Referrals can be made to the Early Years Support Panel by parents, PVI settings, health visitors and therapists.

Area SENCOs and SEN Development Officers work with nursery staff to ensure the curriculum is adapted to meet the individual needs of the child, that the SEN Code of Practice is adhered to and that services are co-ordinated to meet the needs of the family and child.

**Tel:** 01302 862103 **Email:** earlysupportpanel@doncaster.gov.uk

***Other Information***

**Families Information Service**

Families Information Service (FIS) is the central point of information and advice for families, children, young people 0-19 years and people who work with families. We specialise in providing information and advice on an extensive range of issues that impact on family life, including: childcare, education, children with disabilities, employment, money matters, parenting and family support. In particular, see the **Local Offer**.

**Website:** <http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/thelocaloffer.html>

**Tel:** 0800 138 4568 **Email:** fis@doncaster.gov.uk

**SAIDSEND (Formerly Parent Partnership)**

We can provide independent information, guidance and support for parents and carers of children (under 25 years) with any level of special educational needs and disabilities.

We can offer advice and information on:

* Support with documentation in relation to the Statutory Assessments and the new Education Health and Care Plan as well as the Statementing processes.
* Short Breaks and respite with Aiming High, SEN, early years/school action support and Statements/Educational, Health and Care Plans.
* Advice and support around ensuring that your child's views are included in all decisions that affect their educational and health needs.
* We can support you with meetings at schools, nurseries or the local authority about your child's needs.
* We work with partners and have information about the best service to help you, groups such as: Aiming High/T.I.E., Health Services, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs), Children's Services and the Doncaster Voluntary Sector.

**Tel:** 01302 736920 **Email:** saidsend@doncaster.gov.uk

**Cerebra**

Cerebra is a unique charity, set up in 2001 to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions through research, education and directly supporting the children and their parents/carers. More information is available on their website [www.cerebra.org.uk](http://www.cerebra.org.uk). It is free to become a member of Cerebra and receive their quarterly bulletin.

Their services are available from birth to the age of sixteen; however they can also provide advice during the process of transition to adult services. They support in many various ways including, providing information and advice on a number of issues for parents; a grant scheme which funds up to 80% towards the cost of equipment; a free lending service - loaning out books and sensory toys; advocacy; support with sleep problems; Wills and trusts voucher scheme; a holiday home; assistance with relevant forms (e.g. DLA); and an Innovation Centre of designers who can custom make equipment.

The role involves visiting families and professionals who are the primary care providers involved with the child’s wellbeing. They aim to provide information, signposting, referrals, advice, guidance and advocacy.

They also hold sleep forums, where they offer an information and question and answers session for families and professionals, sleep clinics where they book appointment slots to meet parents/carers to discuss their individual needs, parent workshops and teen sleep workshops.

Please contact: Laura MacDonald on 07920106218 or lauram@cerebra.org.uk for general enquiries

Claire Varey on 07827829299 or clairev@cerebra.org.uk for sleep enquires.

**Children Centres/Early Help**

Please consider visiting your local children centre who have a role to provide support to families of children with additional needs up to the age of 25. They can help you to access family support as required. Please follow the link below to find the details of your nearest centre.

[www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/earlyhelp](http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/earlyhelp)

***Additional resources:***

Challenging Behaviour Foundation - [www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk)

National Autistic Society - [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk) Huge amounts of information, guidance and support available here.

Autism West Midlands – [www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk) Lots of information under the About Autism Tab in Publications

Autism Connect - [www.autism-connect.org.uk](http://www.autism-connect.org.uk) Good resources and free e-learning courses

Research Autism – [www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net) Sound information on recommended interventions