

Therapeutic Assessment Group (TAG) (CNDS, Walkergate Park)

What I need to know



Parent and carer information



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Welcome

We are part of the Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service (CNDS) based at Walkergate Park.

The Therapeutic Assessment Group (TAG) is an assessment and therapeutic small group setting for children and their families.

Our aim is to work closely with children, their families, health and educational professionals to understand the needs of the child and family. Most children attend the Hub for several sessions.



The hub where your child will spend most of their day

What will happen when I arrive with my child?

The CNDS team will arrange a school and home visit to prepare for your child attending the Hub. Your child will then be booked in for a series of usually about six appointments, one per week.

They will usually attend between 10am and 2pm. During this time, they will have a variety of structured and play based assessments by different members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Settling in session

Usually 10am -12pm

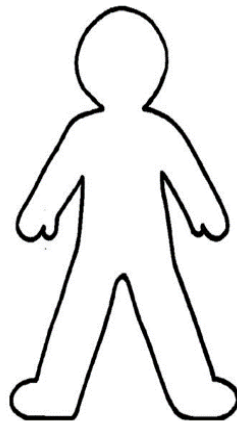
Over the next sessions, the following assessments may be carried out

Play assessment

Occupational Therapy assessment

Speech and Language assessment

Cognitive assessment

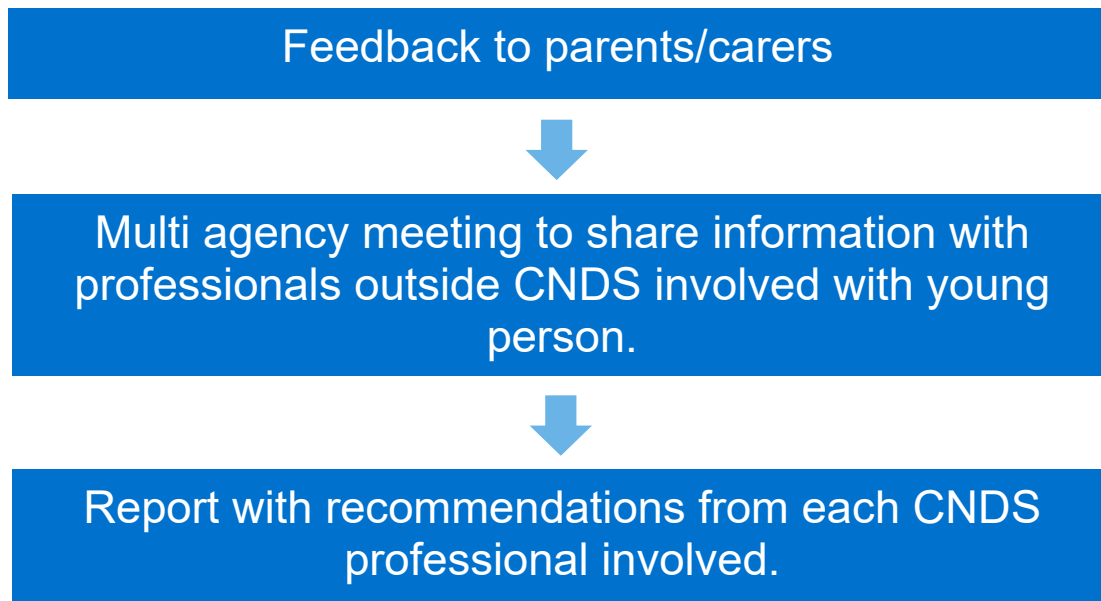


Medical Examination
E.g. height and weight

ADOS assessment
(Autism Diagnostic
Observation Schedule)

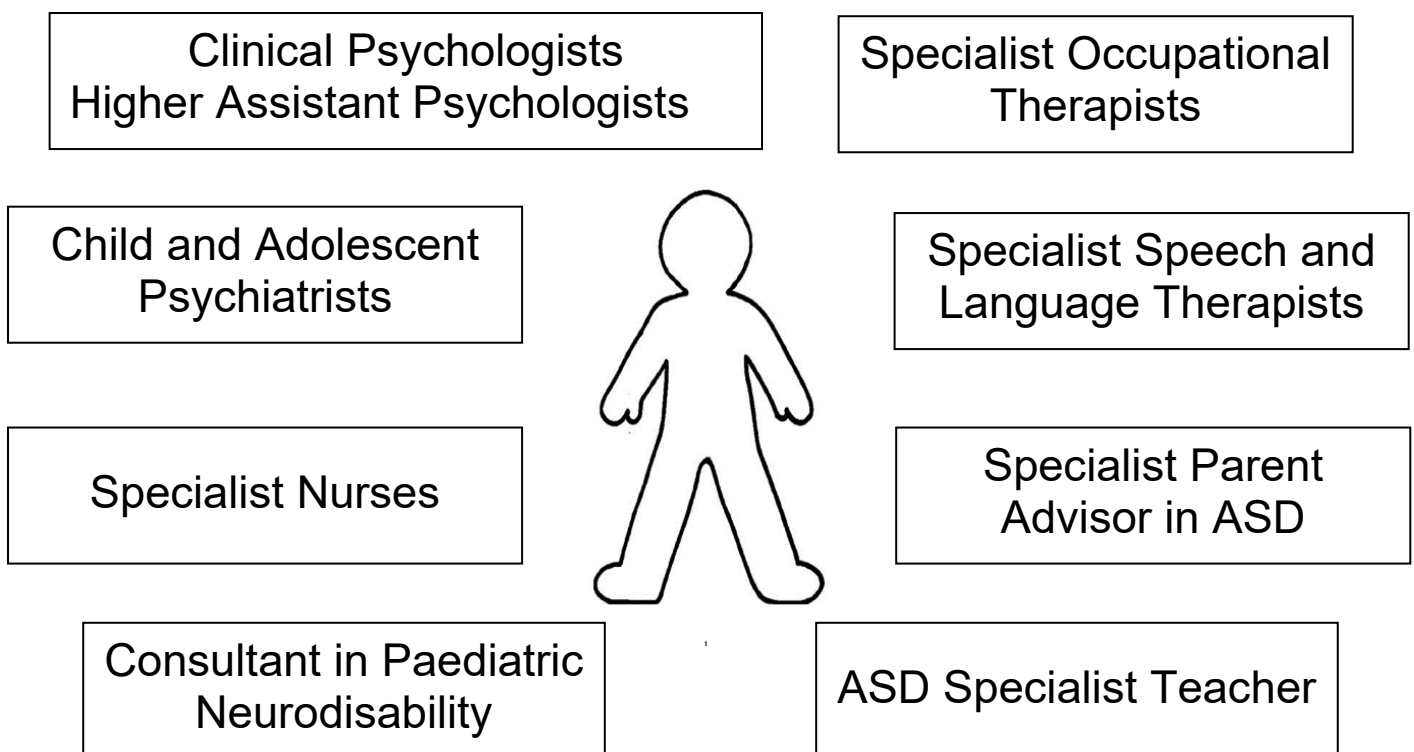
Once all your appointments are completed the members of the CNDS team who have met your child will meet to think about your child's individual profile (e.g. What are their strengths? What things do they find more difficult?), what might be causing any difficulties (e.g. Do they have ASD?) and what support/treatment might help.

After the sessions are completed, the following process is followed.



Your child's assessment is individual to them, some children will attend in small groups and some attend alone. Sessions run from 10am to 2pm.

Who might be working with my child?



There will be at least two members of our specialist team working in the Hub at all times. We may also have trainees and students as we are a teaching department.

What will my child be doing?

Within the Hub, every opportunity is used to help us gain a full understanding of your child's profile. We do this by targeting the child's individual needs to create a bespoke assessment and therapeutic plan using a mix of formal and observational assessments.

We use mainly play assessment for our informal assessments to create a relaxed, fun environment. Using semi-structured activities and conversations gives us many opportunities to observe the behaviours, strengths and difficulties in social communication, interaction and play that are important for diagnosis.

You will have plenty of opportunities to meet with team members to talk about your child and discuss ways of helping your child to make progress. There is a visitors room and café where you can wait while your child attends their session.

Where will my child be spending their time?

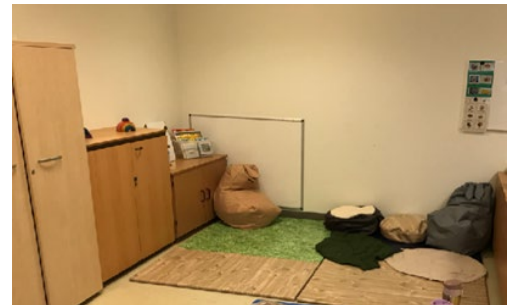
We have different spaces that your child might visit during their appointments. There are pictures of these spaces below.



Garden



Activity room



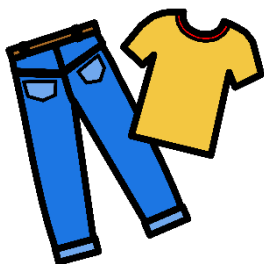
Hub

What will my child need to bring?



Any prescribed medications needed to take during the day.

These must be in the original packaging and labelled with your child's name, dose and time.



Spare clothes



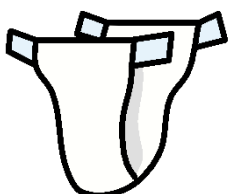
Coat



Wellies

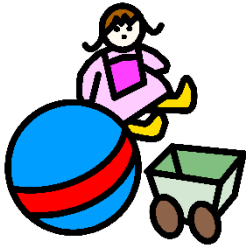


Indoor shoes

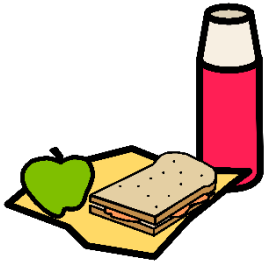


Nappies and wipes if used

Some children might want:



A special toy or item to help them settle

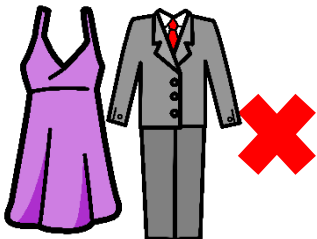


Packed lunch (if they have a very restricted diet)
Snacks, drinks and a hot meal are provided

They do not need:



Money



'good clothes' Your child will be doing 'messy play'

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What happens at mealtimes?

Snacks are provided throughout the day and a hot meal will be provided free of charge at lunchtime.

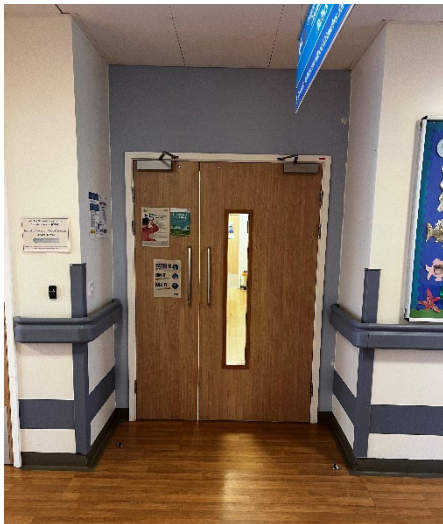
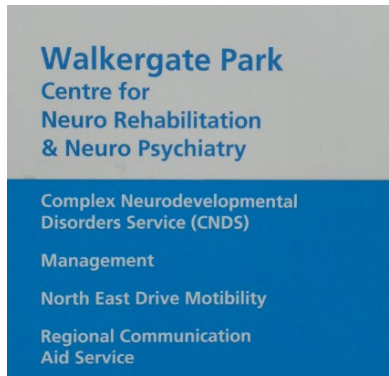
It is important that you make staff aware of any specific dietary requirements, restrictions or allergies.

Is there anything else I need to know?

During your child's settling in session, you will be expected to stay on site. There will be some paperwork for you to complete.

If you need any help during your assessment, for example a low stimulus environment, easy read format information, or an interpreter, please let us know so we can arrange this prior to your appointment.

Our entrance is at the rear of the Walkergate Park building which you can drive to or walk to; but you can reach us through the main entrance of the hospital and follow the signs to Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service.



We have a door buzzer entry system located just inside the back door.

You may be entitled to help with travel costs (excluding taxi fares) if you are in receipt of benefits. Staff will discuss this with you.

Car parking

Parking is available. It is pay and display, however parking permit passes are available. If you require a parking permit please contact the Admin team with your car registration before your appointment. There are some disabled parking spaces located beside our back door which is the closest to our department.

Travel information

Contact Traveline: Tel: 0871 200 22 33

Website: www.traveline.info/

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.cntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- email complaints@cntw.nhs.uk Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk
- We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- the quickest way for you to do this is to complete our short online survey at www.cntw.nhs.uk/poy
- complete a paper copy of the Points of You survey, available from staff.

Contact details

Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorder Service (CNDS)

Walkergate Park

Benfield Road

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE6 4QD

Tel: 0191 287 5260

Email: CNDSAdmin@cntw.nhs.uk

Web: www.cntw.nhs.uk



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Published by the Patient Information Centre

2022 Copyright, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Ref, PIC/639/1222 December 2022 V7

www.cntw.nhs.uk Tel: 0191 246 7288

Review date 2025

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