

# GDA PATHWAY: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## What is a GDA (Global Development Assessment)?

It is a clinic appointment with a doctor, who will perform an *initial assessment* of your child. The aim is to determine what difficulties your child is having, and how best we can support and help them. The initial assessment will last 1 hour.

## Why has my child been referred?

Your child may have been referred for assessment for any of the following:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Developmental Delay
- Dyspraxia
- Cerebral Palsy

Your local Special Educational needs provision (SEN) at school, school nursing team or the health visiting team can refer into the pathway.

## What happens next?

A Multi-disciplinary team meeting will be convened to discuss your child's referral with a professional panel from Doncaster providers such as the Council, Community services and the Hospital. At this review the panel will discuss the referral form and the information contained within it, specialists will look at the support that can be offered to you and your child and whether a continuation into the GDA pathway will be suitable for you at this time. If this referral is felt as inappropriate, the panel will suggest further interventions to support the child. This may be support within school, at home or both.

If suitable, the General Development Assessment will be undertaken by the Consultant Community Paediatrician when there is an appropriate clinic available in Doncaster. This clinic will identify the early signs of presentation in your child. As a means of being transparent, this wait may be some months away. In the interim there are several organisations that can support yourself and your family:

**Doncaster Local Offer:** The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health, and social care.  
[www.doncaster.gov.uk/Local Offer](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/Local Offer)

**Doncaster Parents Voice:** Doncaster Parents Voice (DPVoice) is run by parents of children with a variety of additional needs. They exist to support families with disabled children whenever they need them. Parents often make contact when they are at their most vulnerable and have no one to turn to. DPOvoice offer support, information, advocacy, advice and peer support for families with similar issues.

**Tel: 01302 637566 Email: [Dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:Dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk)**

**SENDIAS:** Doncaster SENDIAS provides information, advice and support (IAS) to parents, carers, children and young people in relation to Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability and related health and social care issues.

**Tel: 01302 736920 [www.doncaster.gov.uk/SENDIAS](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/SENDIAS)**

## What will happen after the General Development Assessment?

Depending on the Consultant's assessment there are various possible outcomes:

- A further follow up appointment in the same clinic for further assessment or monitoring. They may also ask for more information from school or an Early Years setting.
- Referral to a more specialist service, therapist or specialist community pathway such as ASD. As a means of being transparent this may involve a further wait for assessment.
- Discharged from the clinic with advice and guidance

Before a referral is accepted to the GDA pathway there must be evidence that:

- 1) The early years provider, school or post-16 setting, has reviewed progress for a **minimum of two terms** (e.g. through an SEN plan, Individual Support plan or Behaviour Support plan
- 2) The School Nurse or Health Visitor has completed the GDA Health summary
- 3) There must be a referral form completed by the SENCO or School Nurse/ Health Visitor or Early Years Provider

**Referrals sent without the above information will be returned**

