

**Neurodevelopmental Assessment Service (NDAS)**

**Private Neurodevelopmental Assessment**

Assessment of the child or young person should lead to a profile of neurodevelopmental strengths, pressures and needs. While symptoms and behaviours often change as a child grows older, some difficulties are more long-standing and may require evaluation. Assessment can be complex and usually involves a range of professionals (multi-agency or multi-disciplinary).

Assessment may lead to a single diagnosis, or a combination. However, sometimes the profile does not fit any specific diagnostic criteria. Some children and young people who have a combination of needs that do not meet the criteria  for a specific diagnosis may experience greater impact  on everyday functioning than someone who has a clearly defined diagnosis.

**Neurodevelopmental Difficulties**

Neurodevelopmental difficulties can affect children and young people’s development. They may experience difficulties across different areas including:

* Independence Skills
* Motor skills
* Communication / Social Interaction
* Play/Flexibility
* Sensory/Regulation
* Academic and Learning
* Attention, Memory, Organisation and Planning Skills
* Emotional Wellbeing / Mental Health
* Attachment and Relationships

When the impact and extent of the difficulties are significant and long lasting it may be part of an underlying disorder. Examples of neurodevelopmental disorders are:

* Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
* Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
* Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)
* Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)
* Intellectual (Learning) Disability (ID/ LD)
* Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

**Assessment**

We do not recommend private assessment from any particular company but would advise that assessment should be evidence based, robust, include information from 2 or more settings and show evidence over a period of time.

It may be helpful to complete this checklist when considering any private company:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment includes:** | **Y/N** |
|  | Assessment will be by specialist qualified healthcare professionals with training and expertise in neurodevelopmental conditions |  |
| Assessment should include consideration of - |
|  | Possible co-existing neurodevelopmental conditions |  |
|  | Possible medical conditions and medical history  |  |
|  | Possible genetic conditions |  |
|  | Possible impact of adverse childhood experiences |  |
|  | A full developmental history |  |
|  | Psychiatric history where appropriate |  |
|  | The child/ young person’s needs and wants |  |
|  | Different areas of personal and social functioning |  |
|  | Social situation |  |
|  | Family situation |  |
|  | Educational/ training/ work situation |  |
|  | Physical health/ general medical examination |  |
|  | Observation reports/ evidence across more than 1 setting ( e.g. School/ Early years setting, home) |  |
|  | Observations / evidence over time- showing differences being present over 6 months or more, and present during early years |  |
| Assessment may also include- |
|  | Appropriate formal assessments (e.g. Conners, ADOS) |  |

**Support from NHS Highland/ Highland Council Health professionals following private assessment**

It is helpful to provide results of the private assessment to the professionals involved with the child or young person, and this may sometimes be required. This should include evidence and reports from the company, and information and scoring from any standardised assessments carried out. When requests are made to individual services they will consider the results of assessments from private companies in relation to ongoing intervention and support as appropriate. If there is disagreement between Highland professionals and private company outcomes we may recommend further assessment.

ADHD- in order for consideration for medication to be prescribed and monitored Community Paediatricians will need to see the methods and results of the private assessment, including everything in the checklist above, and this will be reviewed. Results must be clearly evidenced as meeting the criteria for diagnosis. Further assessment through NDAS could be requested to determine whether there is agreement with any diagnosis, and to decide whether medication is in the best interest of the child or young person.

* If you do decide to access private assessment and you are on our waiting list please let us know by emailing nhsh.nds@nhs.scot

**Support**

NDAS is an assessment service and does not provide support. Decisions on support and provision should be based on the needs of the child or young person, not any diagnosis. It is therefore important that support is sought through the education setting or named person/ lead professional.

**Information, advice and resources** can be found at:

**The Pines**: Is a Neurodevelopmental Centre. You will find lots of resources to support you and your child on the website. This includes information about different neurodevelopmental conditions and ideas to help your child. There are social stories and visual schedules, details of upcoming Pines events and access to the Pines Library. They also have a great selection of training films created by members of the Pines team. [www.thepineshighland.com](http://www.thepineshighland.com)

**Just Ask:** Phone- **0300 303 1365** any Tuesday or Thursday between 1pm - 4pm and a professional will call you back within a few days.

This enquiry line is for Highland parents, carers, children, young people, and those who work with them.

Staff usually available are- Dietitians, Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Primary Mental Health Workers, Speech & Language Therapists, School Nurses, Pre-school Home Visiting Teachers, Autism Practitioner, Community Learning Disability Nurses, Infant Feeding Support Workers.

**Bumps 2 Bairns:** Early help for Highland children. This Highland website has lots of useful information mostly written by local professionals <https://bumps2bairns.com/> .

**Thriving Families (previously known as CHIP+)**: This Highland-wide charity aims to give you confidence, empowering you to know your rights, know what questions to ask and have your voices heard. They provide an independent information, advice and support service for families with children (up to age 25) with additional support needs. They also offer digital peer support. Email: info@thrivingfamilies.org.uk Phone- 07514 120288 [www.thrivingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.thrivingfamilies.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/thrivingfamilies](http://www.facebook.com/thrivingfamilies)

**National Autistic Society**: the UK’s leading charity for people on the autism spectrum and their families. The friendly Highland Information Service offers support before and after diagnosis, including ideas to help your child, and details of local support groups. Email: highland.informationofficer@nas.org.uk

Phone: 01463 720056 or 07444 340380

<https://www.facebook.com/autismscotland> <https://www.autism.org.uk/services/scotland.aspx>

**Sleep Scotland**: <https://www.sleepscotland.org/>

**CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)**:

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> -This site has lots of helpful resources to support mental health and well-being, including anxiety.

**Occupational Therapy**: Phone- 01463 644993

Email: Childrens.OTservice@highland.gov.uk

**Speech & Language Therapy**: Phone- 01463 705424

Email: sltservicehighland@highland.gov.uk

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