

## Southampton City Autism Assessment, Diagnostic and Support Services

These services are designed to assess and diagnose Autism in adults, children and young people, and then offer help and support through Autism Hampshire.

Autism is a lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.

People with Autism share certain difficulties but their condition can affect them in different ways. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives, but others may have accompanying learning disabilities, and need a lifetime of specialist support.

People are normally referred to our services through their GP or another health professional. GP tutorials/top tips for referrals can be obtained via this link: [www.gptutorials.org.uk/search?searchword=autism&searchphrase=exact](http://www.gptutorials.org.uk/search?searchword=autism&searchphrase=exact)

The following link supports awareness and understanding of autism [www.forms.portsmouth.gov.uk/AutismAwareness](http://www.forms.portsmouth.gov.uk/AutismAwareness) A local autism directory can be found at:

[www.autismhampshire.org.uk/local-autism-directory/directory/](http://www.autismhampshire.org.uk/local-autism-directory/directory/)

**These services are commissioned by Southampton City CCG and Southampton City Council and are run in partnership with Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust and Autism Hampshire.**

## Referring children and young people

The Child & Adolescent Autism Service is provided for children and young people up to their 19 birthday, and is carried out in clinic locations across the city depending on the child or young person's needs.

### How we can help

There is a single point of access for all referrals to the service which are discussed at a monthly Autism panel meeting. All children and young people accepted for an assessment will have an assessment co-ordinator who will provide information to families regarding the process for assessment and diagnosis.

### Get access to this service

Referrals to our assessment service are by a GP or paediatrician.

#### You can refer in writing to:

Child & Adolescent Autism Service, Autism Case Co-ordinator, Mailpoint CAM, A Level, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, SO14 OYG

**Or via email to:** [sue.harrison5@nhs.net](mailto:sue.harrison5@nhs.net) (only from nhs.net addresses)

This service is offered by Solent NHS Trust, more information can be found by visiting [www.solent.nhs.uk/autism](http://www.solent.nhs.uk/autism) or call 023 8071 6676.

## Referring adults

We provide an assessment service for adults with autism in Southampton.

Everyone over the age of 18 in the Southampton city area is entitled to an assessment of their needs. They will normally have an initial assessment from a specialised autism practitioner and in some cases a specialist psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or speech and language therapist.

### How we can help

- Diagnosing people who may have autism.
- Providing family, staff and organisations with advice and information.

Making referrals after an assessment to other health and social care services on your behalf

If you're not eligible for support from our services, we will always try to offer you advice on where you can get help.

### Get access to this service

Referrals to this service are by a GP or other mental health or learning disability service.

#### You can refer in writing to:

Deborah Brown, Thomas Lewis House, 236 Empress Road, Southampton, SO14 0YJ

**Or via email to:** [Deborah.brown5@nhs.net](mailto:Deborah.brown5@nhs.net).

This service is offered by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. Further information can be found by visiting [www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/autism](http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/autism)

## Southampton City Autism Support Service

Autism Hampshire offers support for children and adults with autism, their families and those connected to them, professionals and the wider autism community. The service is based in Northam and offers drop-in sessions across the city. The Support Service provides help pre, post and during diagnosis, offering advice, guidance, information and signposting.

For more information visit [www.autismhampshire.org.uk](http://www.autismhampshire.org.uk), email [communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:communityaccess@autismhampshire.org.uk) or call 023 8063 3951.