

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder pathway

Referral criteria



Berkshire Healthcare
Children, Young People and
Families services



Our **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)** pathway is made up of a team of experienced professionals from a range of backgrounds and disciplines. Together, we provide assessment and treatment for young people between the ages of 6-18.

How to access our service

We accept referrals from professionals who know the child or young person well, including health visitors, nursery nurses, teachers, GPs, special educational needs coordinators (SENCO) and educational psychologists.

Please be aware that we don't accept referrals for assessment for children under six.

Referrals should include information on previous assessments and evidence that the steps described below have been followed prior to a referral.

If you're making a referral for a young person who you feel needs to be assessed within 24 hours, please contact our HealthHub on 0300 365 1234 to discuss the referral.

Before referring for an ADHD assessment

If the symptoms observed are having a negative effect on the child or young person and their school and family life, professionals should take the following steps before making a referral for further assessment.

- ✓ Observe the child's behaviour for 10 weeks and make notes, including any changes and patterns in their behaviour
- ✓ Parents and carers should be referred to a parent training/education programme

If the above steps have been taken and the child is still presenting with behaviour and/or attention problems with at least moderate impairment, then a referral should be made for further assessment.

Waiting times for an ADHD assessment

In CAMHS, we assess all referrals for clinical risk and prioritise appointments on that basis. Some young people will therefore be offered an assessment appointment very quickly.

We're working to bring the waiting times for all children and young people down to 6-12 weeks. Most of the referrals received now have been contacted within that timescale.

Screening questionnaires

When a child or young person is referred to the ADHD pathway, their parents or carers and the school will be sent screening questionnaires to complete.

These questionnaires play a vital part in the assessment, and delays in returning them is one of the main reasons for some families experiencing long waits.

It's therefore important to return these questionnaires as quickly as possible so that an appointment can be set up.

Missed appointments

Missed ADHD appointments are historically well above average, which causes delays for both the child or young person and other people on the waiting list.

When referring a child for assessment, please let us know if a family is likely to have specific challenges in attending appointments. We can work with them to minimise the problem and maximise attendance.

