

Autism Pathway

Post Diagnosis Guidance

Updated: June 2023

There is a wealth of support available for families who are waiting and who have had an assessment. This list is not exhaustive. Details as follows:

Doncaster Local Offer

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health, social care and clubs, groups and leisure activities. Visit the Local Offer at: www.doncaster.gov.uk/LocalOffer

Doncaster Autism Service

Doncaster Autism Service (DAS) is a new service which aims to support people of all ages with autism, along with their families and carers. Visit www.facebook.com/doncasterautism to find out all about the support Doncaster Autism Service offer.

National Autistic Society

Founded in 1962, we are the UK's leading charity for autistic people and their families. Our goal is to help transform lives, change attitudes and create a society that works for autistic people. The National Autistic Society website can be found at: www.autism.org.uk

Health

Health Visitor Service

Health Visitors complete a universal health needs assessment with all families from an antenatal contact and therefore identify families with a variety of complex needs. They can then offer support not only from the child's perspective but also parental and family support. Children who have additional needs often have their health needs addressed but parents' emotional health and wellbeing is one of the key areas Health Visiting skills are paramount. Health Visitors provide services for children under the age of 5 years.

We have a small amount of Health Visiting staff who have completed the Early Bird Training and in conjunction with our Family Hubs can advise parents and staff in supporting early intervention strategies for children with communication difficulties and possible autism.

Tel: 01302 566776

Community Nursery Nurses

Community Nursery Nurses use an early identification tool of development with parents from the age of two months called Ages and Stages. This is completed again at six months, twelve months and two years of age providing a progressive and comprehensive assessment of the child's development. This is an effective tool that feeds into the Communication Pathway referral. Again, the Community Nursery Nurses provide early intervention behavioural strategies within their varied groups, healthy child drop-in sessions and when completing the Ages and Stages questionnaires with parents.

Tel: 01302 852680

Zone 5-19 (Previously School Nursing Service)

Zone 5-19 (previously known as the School Nursing Service) work closely with schools and other agencies supporting children/ young people and their families and can refer directly to several services with the parent's consent. They also provide health, development and behavioural advice and support to children, young people and their parents/carers (including parenting advice, bedwetting ('enuresis'), soiling, bereavement support, anger management etc.).

Tel: 01302 566776 **Website:** <https://zone5-19.rdash.nhs.uk/>

Sleep Clinics

Family and child-centred, one-to-one Sleep Clinics are provided in community settings across Doncaster. These allow families to access appropriate support and advice, which will help them to address their child's identified sleep problems and establish a regular night-time sleep pattern. The Sleep Practitioners also provide out-of-hours e-clinics where necessary and follow-up support is also provided for 5 weeks after the initial appointment.

Tel: 01302 751416 **Email:** info@thesleepcharity.org.uk **Website:** www.thesleepcharity.org.uk

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

Doncaster Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides mental health assessments, therapy and interventions for children, young people up to the age of 18 years and their families or identified carers when the child and young person is experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties.

All requests for support from CAMHS should be made through a single online referral form: www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/children-s-services-delivering-social-care-and-safeguarding-to-children-young-people-and-families

Where there are concerns of an urgent nature, please contact the CAMHS Single Point of Access team for advice via 01302 796191 in the first instance or 01302 796000 (Out of Hours).

This can then be followed-up by completing an online referral, where appropriate. Children and young people should only be advised to attend the Emergency Department for assessment if they are considered to be at imminent risk to themselves or others. For further information please telephone 01302 796191.

Parent Groups

Doncaster Parent's Voice

The forum represents the views of parents and carers in the local area of all children with special and additional needs and has been established to work in partnership with service providers with the purpose of parents participation to help parents get involved in service planning and decision making. Parents and carers may join to gain information and be as active or non-active as they wish.

Tel: 01302 637566 **Email:** Dpvoice@doncastercarers.org.uk

Website: www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk

Other Support Groups

There are parent led groups running across Doncaster including Unique Stars and the Bubble Group. Please ask at your local Family Hub on information of what exists in your area.

Education

Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service supports all schools within the Doncaster area. Its role is to help raise achievement and promote inclusion for all children, particularly those with additional needs such as autism. This includes teaching and learning strategies for meeting the needs of pupils with social communication and autism. Educational Psychologists do not diagnose medical conditions but look closely at how medical diagnoses (such as autism) and other factors impact on the work of schools and settings, and then advising on how to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

If you have concerns about your child's needs being met within the school environment please contact the school 'Special Educational Needs Coordinator' (SENCo). The SENCo will then make a decision as to whether involvement from the educational psychologist is necessary and will organise this involvement if it is deemed appropriate. Parents can of course contact the Educational Psychology Service directly for advice and we will always help with queries about how a child or young persons' needs are best met.

Tel: 01302 737291 **Email:** educationpsychology@doncaster.gov.uk

Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/educational-psychology-service

The Autism and Social Communication Education and Training Service (ASCETS)

ASCETS is a small team of teachers and Specialist Education Support Officers with specialist knowledge and skills in supporting children and young people with social communication difficulties and autism. The team focuses on improving the progress, educational achievement, and inclusion of children with social communication difficulties and autism.

ASCETS works closely alongside the Educational Psychology (EP) Service and the team covers all school settings across the Borough. ASCETS works within the framework of support described in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice, seeking to develop further its reach and effectiveness across Doncaster.

ASCETS support in the case of any particular child is accessed via the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO). Please contact them in the first instance.

Address: ASCETS, Floor 3, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

Tel: 01302 734838

Doncaster Portage Service

Portage is a home teaching service for children up to the age of two years. The Portage Home Visitors support parents to promote early developmental skills with their child using a small steps approach to learning. Children are referred to the Early Years Support Panel by the Consultant and Community Paediatricians.

Tel: 01302 862103 **Email:** earlyyearsrequest@doncaster.gov.uk

Early Years Inclusion Team

The Early Years Inclusion Team (EYIT) offer support to private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) day care settings (non-school nurseries and pre-school settings) to promote the inclusion of children with SEND. Referrals can be made to the Early Years Support Panel by parents, PVI settings, health visitors and therapists.

Area SENCos and SEN Development Officers work with nursery staff to ensure the curriculum is adapted to meet the individual needs of the child, that the SEN Code of Practice is adhered to and that services are co-ordinated to meet the needs of the family and child.

Tel: 01302 862103 **Email:** earlyyearsrequest@doncaster.gov.uk

Seedlings

The Early Years Inclusion and Portage Team run OFSTED registered group for pre-school children who have a diagnosis of autism or who have referred for a General Development Assessment. Children are referred to the Early Years Support Panel by consultant and community paediatricians, speech and language therapists and by members of the multi-disciplinary autism assessment team.

Tel: 01302 862103 **Email:** earllysupportpanel@doncaster.gov.uk

Other Information

Families Information Service

Families Information Service (FIS) is the central point of information and advice for families, children, young people 0-19 years and people who work with families. We specialise in providing information and advice on an extensive range of issues that impact on family life, including: childcare, education, children with disabilities, employment, money matters, parenting and family support. In particular, see the Local Offer.

Tel: 0800 138 4568 **Email:** fis@doncaster.gov.uk **Website:** www.doncaster.gov.uk/fis

SENDIAS

(Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Information Advice and Support)

We can provide independent information, guidance, and support for parents and carers of children (under 25 years) with any level of special educational needs and disabilities.

We can offer advice and information on:

- Support with documentation in relation to the Statutory Assessments and the new Education Health and Care Plan as well as the Statementing processes.
- Short Breaks and respite, SEN, early years/school action support and Statements/Educational, Health and Care Plans.
- Advice and support around ensuring that your child's views are included in all decisions that affect their educational and health needs.
- We can support you with meetings at schools, nurseries or the local authority about your child's needs.

- We work with partners and have information about the best service to help you, groups such as: T.I.E., Short Breaks, Health Services, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Children's Services and the Doncaster Voluntary Sector.

Tel: 01302 736920 **Email:** sendias@doncaster.gov.uk **Website:** www.doncastersendias.co.uk

Cerebra

Cerebra is a unique charity, set up in 2001 to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions through research, education and directly supporting the children and their parents/ carers.

It is free to become a member of Cerebra and receive their quarterly bulletin. Their services are available from birth to the age of sixteen; however they can also provide advice during the process of transition to adult services.

They support in many various ways including, providing information and advice on a number of issue for parents; a grant scheme which funds up to 80% towards the cost of equipment; a few lending service – loaning out books and sensory toys; advocacy; support with sleep problems; Wills and trusts voucher scheme; a holiday home; assistance with relevant forms (e.g. DLA); and an Innovation Centre of designers who can custom make equipment. The role involves visiting families and professionals who are the primary care providers involved with the child's wellbeing. They aim to provide information, signposting, referrals, advice, guidance and advocacy.

They also hold sleep forums, where they offer an information and question and answers session for families and professionals, sleep clinics where they book appointment slots to meet parents/ carers to discuss their individual needs, parent workshops and teen sleep workshops.

Website: www.cerebra.org.uk

Family Hubs / Early Help

Please consider visiting your local Family Hub (previously known as Children Centres) who provide support to families of children with additional needs up to the age of 25. They can help you to access family support as required. Please follow the link below to find the details of your nearest hub.

Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk/familyhubs | www.doncaster.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Additional Resources

| Name | Website |
|--|--|
| Challenging Behaviour Foundation (Really helpful information) | www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk |
| National Autistic Society (Huge amounts of information, guidance and support available on this website) | www.autism.org.uk |
| Autism West Midlands (Lots of information under the About Autism tab in Publications) | www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk |
| Autism Connect (Good resources and free e-learning courses) | www.autismconnect.com |
| Research Autism (Great information on recommended interventions) | www.researchautism.net |



DONCASTER'S LOCAL OFFER

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people (0-25) with SEND and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including:

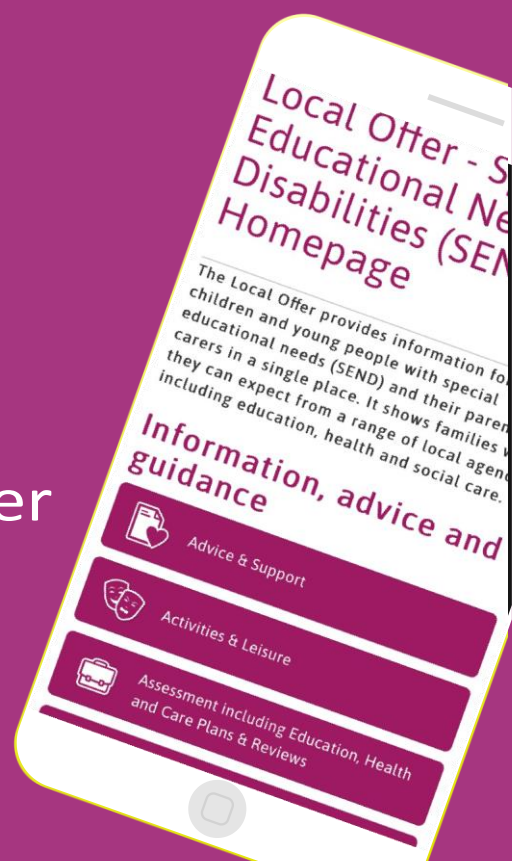
- Education
- Health
- Social Care
- Activities and Leisure
- Clubs and Groups
- Advice and Support
- Preparing for Adulthood

Visit the Local Offer at:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/LocalOffer



Doncaster
Council





Workshops for Parents of Children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

The ASCETS team have been working collaboratively with Doncaster Council, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and Doncaster Parents' Voice to provide a new service called DAS (Doncaster Autism Service).

As part of this collaboration, we are delivering workshops across a range of subjects. These have included:

- What is Autism?
- Understanding social communication
- Understanding social interaction
- Understanding social imagination
- All things sensory
- Accessing support in school
- Managing behaviours that challenge
- Moving into Employment and Sustaining Employment
- Understanding risky behaviours – drugs and alcohol

There are many more workshops to be planned and delivered in the future.

For up to date information please check the DAS Facebook page or contact Doncaster Parents' Voice

- Telephone: 07536455292
- Email: das@doncastercarers.org.uk
- Address: Doncaster Carers Centre, 2 Regent Terrace, South Parade, Doncaster, DN1 2EE
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/doncasterautism

CLUBS, GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

**FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG
PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL
EDUCATION NEEDS &
DISABILITIES (SEND)**

**FIND THEM ON
DONCASTER LOCAL OFFER**

WWW.DONCASTER.GOV.UK/LOACTIVITIES



Doncaster
Council

ARE YOU A PARENT/CARER OF A CHILD AGED 0-19 WITH A DISABILITY?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED ON DONCASTER'S TIE REGISTER?



TIE (Together Information Exchange) is Doncaster's voluntary register of children and young people (0-19) with a disability.

TIE MEMBERS CAN RECEIVE:

- A free membership card
- Information on local activities and events
- Access to the half-term activity timetable
- Discounts at certain venues

**REGISTER
TODAY AT**

WWW.DONCASTER.GOV.UK/TIE

EMAIL: tie@doncaster.gov.uk

PHONE: 01302 735237



Education, Health and Care Plans

Myths and Facts

Myth: A child can only have extra help in a mainstream school if they have an EHCP.

Fact: Mainstream schools can meet a wide range of needs without a statutory needs assessment. They should meet with parents and others to agree how best to meet individual needs as part of an SEN Support Plan and review this three times a year.

Myth: Schools need an EHCP to get funding to meet the needs of children with SEND.

Fact: Schools have SEND funding in addition to their core funding, they can use this to assess and meet the needs of the majority of children who need extra help. Schools can also apply for High Needs Funding before requesting an EHCP Needs Assessment.

Myth: An EHCP can be written by anyone at any time if they think a child would benefit.

Fact: An EHCP is drafted by the Local Authority's SEND Service following a statutory needs assessment. The draft will be developed with parents but it will not say where a child will be educated until the final version is issued.

Myth: My child must have needs and involvement across Education, Health and Social Care to qualify for an EHCP.

Fact: The starting point is the definition of SEND: significant, complex and long term SEND needing special educational provision. If a child also has health and/or care needs there should be an integrated assessment and planning approach to meet all the child's needs.

Health and care needs must continue to be met without an EHCP if the child does not have SEND.