

Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service

Early Years Intensive Group

Parent and Carer Information Leaflet

Shining a light on the future



Introduction

This leaflet provides you with information that you will find useful about the service. If you are not sure about anything in this leaflet please ask a member of staff.

What is Early Years Intensive Group?

We are part of the Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders Service (CNDS) based at Walkergate Park.

Early Years Intensive Group (EYIG) is an assessment and therapeutic group for young children and their families.

We work closely with families, professionals and schools/nurseries to understand the needs of the children and families we work with. All children attend the EYIG on a part-time basis.



Classroom and therapy base where your child will spend most of their day.

What will happen when I arrive with my child?

You will be met by a member of staff and shown to the classroom. You may have already met us as we try to make at least one home visit before your child comes into the EYIG.

Your child will join a small group of children (up to 4 children per session). Most of the children attend EYIG for one or two days a week. Parents/carers usually arrive with their child between 9.15am and 9.30am and collect their child at 2-2.30pm. Some children may attend for individual sessions.

Who will be working with my child?

Before a child attends the EYIG there will usually be a meeting with parents, members of the EYIG/CNDS team and the local professionals who know you and your child. This meeting is to help plan the aims of the assessment and therapeutic work to be undertaken with your child.

There will normally be our specialist teacher and at least two other members of staff supporting the group of children in the classroom.

You and your child will meet other members of the CNDS team for assessments and play and therapy sessions.

Your child will be allocated one of our Consultants;

- Professor Ann Le Couteur, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Dr Vicki Grahame, Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- Dr Jeremy Parr, Consultant Paediatric Neurodisability
- Dr Emma Honey, Clinical Psychologist
- Dr Ellie Smith, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

On a day to day basis your child will meet the following staff:



Linda Dixon, Specialist Teacher



Teresa Ingram, Staff Nurse



Carol Johnson, Nurse



Joanne Rose, Nursery Nurse

You may also meet other members of the team as part of your child's assessment and therapeutic work, including;

- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Consultant Specialist Neurodisability Paediatrician
- Clinical Psychologists
- Specialist Advisor in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- other trainees in child and adolescent psychiatry

What sorts of things will my child be doing?

Each child will have an individual assessment and therapeutic educational plan targeting their needs.

The day consists of structured and less structured activities with opportunities to build on;

- Communication
- Social interactions
- Emotional literacy
- Imaginative play skills

The daily programme covers areas of the National Curriculum. The team, with your permission, will make close links with your child's nursery or school.

This allows similar topics to be covered so that your child does not miss out on the work their peers are doing.

You and your child will also take part in assessments and therapeutic activities with members of our team. Some of these are play based assessments and others are observational. We may also do more formal assessment of your child's abilities, these are often broken down into short sessions depending on your child's concentration and temperament. We will inform you when there is a more formal assessment taking place.

We will work closely with you and use a home/school communication book to share information on how your child is progressing across all settings (home, school, EYIG). At all times we try to make activities as much fun as possible.

You will have plenty of opportunities to meet with members of our team to share any concerns you may have about your child and to discuss ways of helping your child make progress.

Where will my child be spending their time?

As well as the EYIG Classroom we have a sensory room and a garden that we use regularly. It will be helpful if you could ensure your child has suitable clothing for playing indoors and outdoors depending on the weather.



Sensory room



Outdoor space

What will my child need to bring?

Each day please bring any prescribed medications. These should be in their original packaging with the child's name, dosage and time of administration clearly visible. Nursing staff will discuss this with you.

Your child can bring a special toy/item to show us if you think it will help your child feel more comfortable.

Your child will not need any money.

We do engage in some messy play, so please do not dress your child in anything that you might not like to get covered in paint, sand or play dough. If your child likes to get particularly messy it may be a good idea to send in a spare set of clothes.

Please also let us know if your child is toilet trained or needs to wear nappies. This is not a problem for staff but it is helpful for us to know this information.

What happens at mealtimes?

A free hot meal is provided at lunchtime which comes from our on site restaurant. If preferred your child may bring a packed lunch with them. Snacks and drinks are offered at regular intervals.

It is important that you make staff aware of any specific dietary requirements or restrictions. A member of staff will ask you to complete a diet sheet.

Is there anything else I need to know?

On your child's first day you may be required to stay for a little while to fill in some paperwork. There will be plenty of opportunity to share information with us throughout your child's assessment and therapeutic work. We also ask you to bring their home/school communication book so we can all share new events together.

Car parking

Parking is available. It is pay and display but parking passes are available. There are some disabled parking spaces located beside our back door which is the closest to our department.

Travel on buses and Metro will be reimbursed if you provide evidence that you are in receipt of benefits.

Interpreters

If you would like an interpreter, this can be arranged prior to your appointment.

Travel information

Contact Nexus Traveline: Tel: 0871 200 22 33 Website: www.traveline.info/

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.ntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.
 - **Points of You** - available on wards or from staff. Some areas of the Trust have electronic feedback touch screens, staff can help you to use these.
 - **Friends and Family Test** - available from staff or online at www.ntw.nhs.uk/fft

Contact details

Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorder Service (CNDS)

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Newcastle upon Tyne

NE6 4QD

Tel: 0191 287 5260 or 0191 287 5262

Fax: 0191 287 5261

Email: CNDS@ntw.nhs.uk

Web: www.ntw.nhs.uk

Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk.



Further information about the content, reference sources or production of this leaflet can be obtained from the Patient Information Centre.

This information can be made available in a range of formats on request (eg Braille, audio, larger print, easy read, BSL or other languages). Please contact the Patient Information Centre Tel: 0191 223 2545

Published by the Patient Information Centre

2015 Copyright, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

Ref, PIC/639/1215 December 2015 V3

www.ntw.nhs.uk/pic Tel: 0191 223 2545

Review date 2018



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