

## Dear Parent/Guardian,

You have recently contacted us regarding a possible ADHD diagnosis for your child. This document outlines the referral process at Southam Surgery, and provides links to helpful resources that may support you and your child in the meantime.

Many parents first raise concerns with their child's school, or they may have been approached by a teacher or school SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). The following resource provides a lot of in-depth information about local neurodiversity services.

□ [Neurodivergent Information Booklet](#).

## ADHD Referral Pathways

There are four possible routes for an ADHD assessment referral:

### 1. PREFERRED: School Referral (via CWPT Rise NHS)

- Parents or school raise concerns about ADHD
- School undertakes a period of monitoring and gathers evidence.
- School completes referral to CWPT Rise NHS for assessment.
- Parents must provide an impact statement describing their child's behaviour and emotions at home.

### 2. GP Referral to NHS Service (CWPT Rise)

- Parents consult GP with concerns about ADHD, or GP identifies concerns.
- GP requests:
  - An impact statement from parents.
  - Evidence from the school.
- Referral is made to CWPT Rise NHS for ADHD assessment; this is the same destination as if you were referred by school.

### 3. GP Referral via Right To Choose (RTC)

- Parents review information on the [NHS Right to Choose](#) website and select a provider they would like the assessment to be done by.
- Referral form is completed by the GP - each company is different, but many require parents to complete sections as well.

- In this case the secretarial team will contact parents when a referral form is available to be collected. Once parental information is filled in, the form can be handed back to the reception team. This will then be completed and sent off.
- The provider contacts parents and school to gather evidence.

#### 4. Private Assessment

- Parents self-refer to a private provider for assessment.
- Providers may request evidence from the school or GP.
- Note: Medication started privately usually requires ongoing private prescriptions.

## Important Notes

### NHS Referrals

- The NHS offers ADHD assessments, as well as prescribing and monitoring of medications if required.
- However, waiting times for NHS assessments are currently extremely long (potentially years).
- Even if a private diagnosis is obtained, children needing medication from the NHS will still be added to the bottom of the waiting list and will need to wait their turn for review. A private diagnosis does not speed up this process.
- Additionally, if a child receives a diagnosis on a private or right to choose pathway, and then transitions to adult services, they will not be able to access adult NHS services for medication or diagnostic review.

### Right to Choose

- Right to Choose providers are private organisations contracted by the NHS to reduce waiting times.
- Some providers can initiate and monitor ADHD medication; this varies by provider.
- **You must decide on a provider** before the GP can complete the referral.
- For more details, see [ADHD UK Right to Choose](#).

## Private Assessments

- The quality of private ADHD assessments can vary.
- Ensure the chosen provider is reputable and accepted by your child's school.

- GPs rarely accept shared care agreements for medication started privately, meaning parents often continue paying privately for prescriptions for the duration of treatment needed.

## Shared Care Agreements

- Shared care agreements allow a GP to continue prescriptions initiated by a specialist.
- This service is not compulsory and is at the discretion of your GP practice.
- At **Southam Surgery**, we currently accept shared care agreements from reputable **Right to Choose** providers, provided:
  - The diagnosing doctor has a **GMC registration number**.
  - There is **regular follow-up** (at least annually) with the original provider.
  - All necessary monitoring is arranged by the provider.
- If adequate follow-up is not maintained, we will not be able to continue prescribing, to ensure patient safety.
- The agreement to prescribe medication on a shared care basis is an individualised decision and may be subject to change, depending on national guidance and practice discretion.

## Support Resources

While waiting for an assessment, the following local resources may help:

- **Happy Healthy Lives**  
[Download the Neurodivergent Information Leaflet](#)  
An excellent local guide for families navigating neurodivergent pathways.
- **Dimensions Toolkit**  
[Visit Dimensions](#)  
A helpful tool for identifying your child's strengths and areas where support may be needed, with links to resources.

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If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.