

Luton Community Paediatrics Service Update

June 2022



The service provides assessment, advice, signposting, diagnosis and support for children. The service works to an initial appointment response time (RRT) of 18 weeks for accepted referrals.

How long is the wait for the first appointment?



The services continues to increase the number of face to face appointments with video / telephone consultations available when clinically appropriate. A clinical priority booking system remains in place.

- Target wait to first assessment is 18 weeks
- Average wait to assessment is 51 weeks.
- High risk medication reviews are prioritised.

What is the cause of the delay?



- Increasing demand in referrals for children with complex needs; EHCP, and Children in Care (CIC) Initial Health assessments.
- A 75% increase in accepted referrals on the previous year.
- National and local shortage of Community Paediatricians.
- Long term sickness in administration and clinical roles has limited both medical and non-medical appointments.
- Appointment capacity between new appointments and follow up appointments.

What is the Service doing to help?



- The service offers a blend of face-to-face, virtual and telephone appointments matched to the needs of children and families.
- Recruitment is in place for two Consultant Paediatricians. Three specialist nurses are in post to provide support to families with children who have more complex health needs. Additional recruitment has commenced into administrative roles. Two Speech and Language Therapist have been recruited and we are joint recruiting for a Clinical Psychologist with CAMHS.
- A community health/CAMHS link worker is in post to provide post diagnosis support, a SEND facilitator, and an ASD Advisory teacher (Early Intervention) are in place to support children and families whilst waiting for ASD diagnostic assessment.
- A daily advice line is in place (Monday to Friday). See details for how to contact below.
- Information about waiting times has been added to letters and community resources including where to seek support locally.
- Additional BOSA assessments required will continue to be delivered.
- An ADHD resource pack has been updated with children and families, and a Diagnosis Support Pack has been launched - see details below.
- Specialist Nurses facilitate ADHD medication reviews (non-complex) and diagnostic outcome appointments.
- The pilot for the self-monitoring of blood pressure and pulse as part of ADHD management continues with results available in the autumn.
- The service meets monthly with Parent Carer Forums to listen to feedback and share updates.
- Both Luton and Central Beds Local Authority Early Years SEN (Special Educational Needs) Team now participate in triage of referrals.
- A clinical priority booking system is in place to consider urgent appointment requests.

Where can I go for help in the meantime?



- [Diagnosis Support Pack](#) For families following a diagnosis of a neurodiversity, and contains information, resources and signposting in a variety of media.
- [Post Diagnosis Pack Resources Section](#) Please see our online page, which includes details of local support services.
- [BOSA resources](#) including a video have been developed or visit your Local Offer webpages.
- For advice and support call our nurse led daily advice line on 01234 310271, this is available from 09.30-11.30am Mon -Fri.



Further information about our waiting times can be found here:
www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/beds-luton-community-paediatrics

Contact us via the Beds and Luton Children's Health HUB: 0300 555 0606 or email us:
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