**Guidance for referrals to Community Paediatrics**

Dear Referrer,

Lincolnshire Community Paediatric Service is undergoing a review of its processes. The aim of this review is to ensure that we meet patient, family and referrer expectations, whilst providing a service that adheres to national standards of care and accounts for the high demand for our service.

An adapted referral process has been introduced from immediate effect for all pathways which aims to:

* reduce the number of referrals rejected due to lack of detail
* provide appropriate signposting where additional needs are identified
* ensure a young person is placed on an appropriate pathway and in a timely manner
* minimise the delay in appointments given when referrals are accepted

With regards to the Social Communication pathway specifically, please note that Community Paediatricians are now working in close collaboration with Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT) ‘Clinical Psychology Team’ and Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) ‘Speech and Language Therapy Service’.

**What are the changes to the referral process for all pathways?**

A referral to Community Paediatrics will only be considered when:

1. inclusion criteria is met (please see referral form for details)
2. all forms are submitted

***Forms to be completed and submitted***

* Community Paediatric Referral form
* Parent Questionnaire (returned to referrer to be submitted with the referral form)
* Teacher Information form (returned to referrer to be submitted with the referral form)
* Consent form (returned to referrer to be submitted with the referral form)

It is expected that all completed forms are returned together by the referrer.

We are grateful for your cooperation with the introduction of these new processes.

Yours sincerely,

Community Paediatrics

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