



Derbyshire Autism Pathways: Information for families

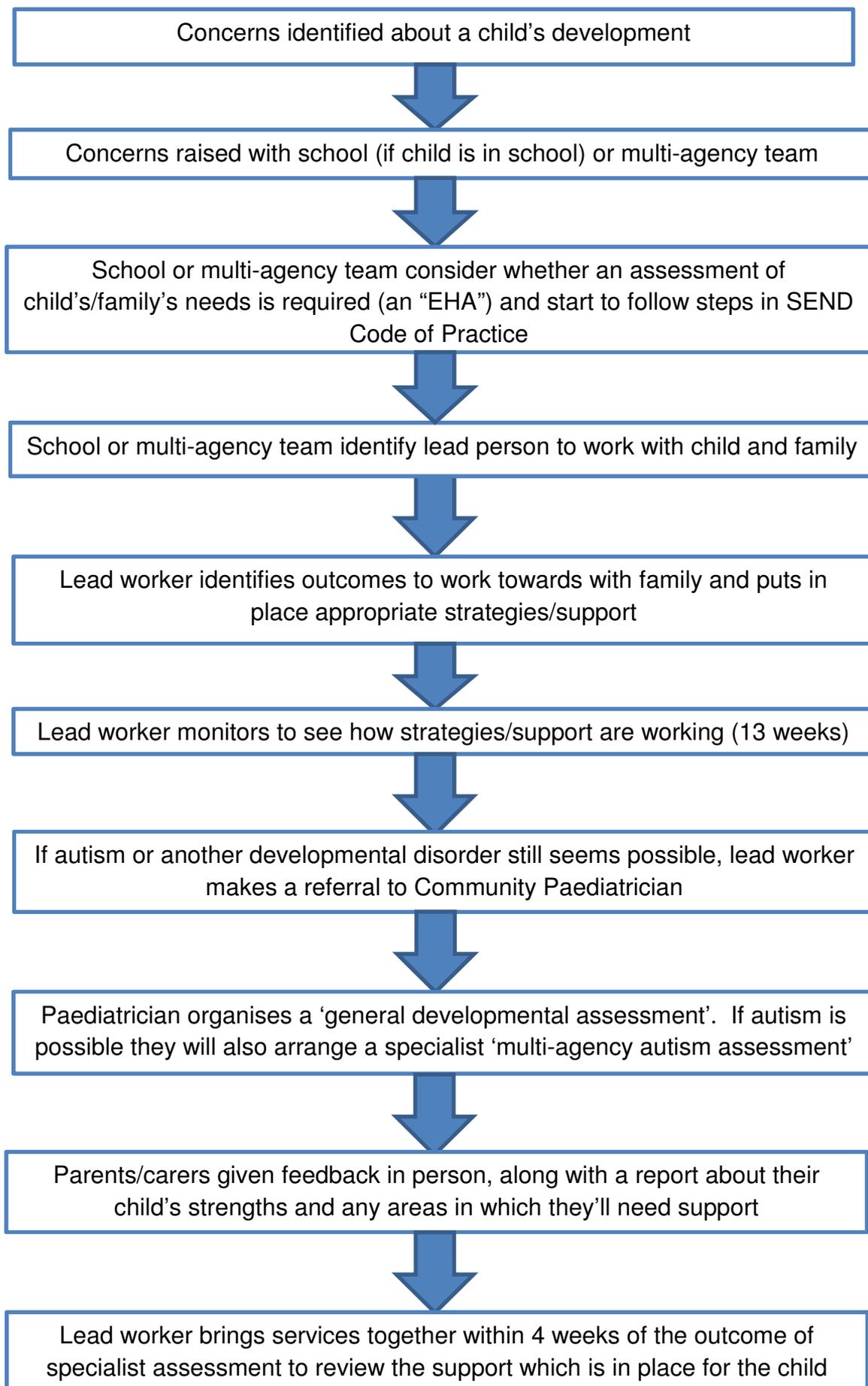
The Derbyshire Children's Trust has agreed how children and young people with autism in Derbyshire should be identified and supported. This information is a summary for parents/carers. The full pathways are on the Derbyshire County Council website at: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/autism

School-age children

- If anyone has concerns about a child's development, they should raise them with the child's school - or with the local multi-agency team if the child is not attending school. You can find your local multi-agency team in the Derbyshire Family Information Directory (see Derbyshire County Council website or telephone Call Derbyshire 01629 533190)
- The school or multi-agency team will look at what is causing concern and identify what can be done differently to support the child. The school may be able to get advice and support from specialist services at this stage, for example an Educational Psychologist. The school will normally try out new ways to support the child for a term (around 13 weeks) to see how well these approaches work.
- If there are still concerns at the end of the term, and it seems possible that the child may have autism or another developmental disorder, the school/multi-agency team will make a referral to a Community Paediatrician.

- At this time, the school/multi-agency team will also identify someone to take the lead in working with the child and his/her family and to co-ordinate any support that may be needed. There may also be an assessment of the child and family's needs, carried out in partnership with the family (an "Early Help Assessment"). The school will consider whether any extra educational support is needed, following the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice.
- The Paediatrician will organise a developmental assessment. It's unlikely that a diagnosis will be made at this stage. If the Paediatrician thinks that autism or another developmental disorder is possible, they will arrange a more specialist assessment. This will always include professionals from different backgrounds with relevant experience and specialist training.
- While the assessments are being carried out, any support which has been identified for the child will continue to be provided by the school and local services.
- The outcome of the assessment will be communicated to parents/carers in person, along with a report which sets out their child's strengths and any areas in which they will need extra help. With parents' permission, the report will be shared with the school and with other services supporting their child.
- Once the specialist assessment has been completed, the professional who is working most closely with the family will bring services together again (within four weeks) to review and update the plan for supporting the child. The child's plan will always include clear outcomes for the child and family, and will be regularly reviewed.

Flowchart: Pathway for school-age children



Pre-school children

Pre-school children who attend nurseries funded by the Council will be supported in the same way as children who are at school. There are a few small differences for children who attend private day nurseries, childminders and children's centres; and for children who don't attend any early years provision:

- Children who don't attend any early years provision: If anyone has concerns about a child's development these should be raised with the local multi-agency team (or children's centre – children's centres are part of the local multi-agency teams). They will consider an Early Help Assessment and make sure that the child is receiving appropriate support. If there continue to be concerns after 13 weeks, the multi-agency team will make a request to the 'Derbyshire Early Years Panel' for additional educational support and/or referral to a Paediatrician for a developmental assessment.
- Children who attend a private day nursery, a childminder or a Children's Centre: If anyone has concerns about a child's development, these should be raised with the child's early years provider. The SEND Code of Practice will be followed and the provider will consider an Early Help Assessment. If there continue to be concerns after around 13 weeks the provider will make a request for additional educational support and/or referral to a Paediatrician for a developmental assessment.

Contact: Linda Dale – linda.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk. Tel 01629 532456.