

# The Social Communication and Autism Pathway Process (SCAMP)



## What is SCAMP?

SCAMP is the recognised pathway for a diagnosis of autism or other complex social communication needs for children and young people (2-18 years old) in North Somerset.

## Who can make referrals to the team?

Referrals can come from a range of professionals, such as paediatricians and CAMHS professionals. The person making the referral to SCAMP should ensure that parents and young people have had an opportunity to discuss whether they wish to go ahead with the assessment process and give consent to be referred to SCAMP. The referrer will be responsible for gathering information from home and school about the child's current difficulties with social communication, social interaction and evidence of any restrictive/repetitive behaviours that impact on daily life.

## Who are the clinicians?

The core team of people in our SCAMP team are Paediatricians, Specialist nurses, Speech and Language Therapists, Clinical and Educational Psychologists. Additionally other clinicians may be invited to contribute for example a Psychiatrist or an Occupational Therapist.

## How long does it take for a child to be assessed if autism is suspected?

This will depend on the complexity of the assessment so that all areas of concern can be explored. Some children require more detailed assessments to make sure all of the information is ready for the clinicians.

## What do you do with all the information ?

Clinicians and others such as school staff attend a multi professional meeting and review the information gathered.

The Team have a diagnostic tool called the DSM5. This is an internationally recognised set of criteria.

The Team will explore the information and find examples for each of the criteria descriptors.

## How to parents find out about the meetings findings?

Generally parents are contacted immediately after the meeting. Arrangements will be made for parents who are unable to be available at that time. An alternative time will be agreed.

## How will the child/young person find out about the assessment findings?

Parents will be asked at the feedback if they require support from other agencies who know the child and young person well.

## Do parents have access to any other conversations about the assessment?

Yes they do. We offer a six week later feedback appointment if they have further questions or any concerns.

# INFORMATION

## During the assessment process?

1. Referrer collects information from home and pre-school/school/college about difficulties with social communication.
2. Members of the SCAMP team meet to look at the information to decide if:
  - Further information is needed to make a decision – the referrer will be asked to collect this information.
  - There is enough information to start the assessment.
  - The information does not indicate that further assessment is currently necessary. At this point, other support will be recommended.
3. The team will decide which further assessments are needed which may include: Interview with parents, Physical examination, Direct observation, Speech and language assessment, School-based assessment
4. All professionals involved with the young person meet to discuss assessment findings. They will decide if the young person meets the criteria for a diagnosis of autism and make a plan for ongoing support based on the young person's strengths and needs
5. Parents will attend a feedback meeting to discuss the outcome of the assessment process





## What happens after the assessment?

When we've gathered all this information, we will put it together into a written report. This report will summarise our understanding of your child's needs and whether we feel they fit a pattern associated with Autism. We will send you the report in the post and give you the opportunity to add any comments or suggest changes. The final report will be sent out to everyone involved in your child's care. Whatever the outcome of the assessment, we will provide information to help you with ongoing support.

You will be offered the opportunity to opt-in for a one-off follow up appointment with a member of the SCAMP team. This appointment will give you an opportunity to talk through the assessment results and ask questions about ongoing support.

<https://cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/autistic-spectrum-disorders/asd-north-somerset>