

8 Myths

BCUHB Children's Neurodevelopmental Services

01

AN ASSESSMENT/DIAGNOSIS IS NEEDED TO ACCESS SUPPORT

FALSE In line with ALN reform and person-centred practice a child/young person on the waiting list for assessment is entitled to support or reasonable adjustments based on the individual needs of the child/young person. However, a diagnosis may not indicate ALN under the reforms.



A DIAGNOSIS WILL MEAN THAT MY CHILD/YOUNG PERSON CAN ACCESS SPECIALIST EDUCATIONAL PROVISION SUCH AS A SPECIAL SCHOOL

FALSE A diagnosis does not typically influence which school a child/young person should attend. We are unable to make recommendations on suitable schools as part of our assessment work.

02

03

A DIAGNOSIS MEANS MY YOUNG PERSON CAN CLAIM BENEFITS LIKE DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE OR PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

FALSE Young people who need significantly more support with everyday living tasks may be entitled to certain benefits. Details can be found through the Department for Work and Pensions website. None of these benefits need a diagnosis in order to apply.

Diagnosis does not automatically qualify for financial assistance. Each case is reviewed looking at the amount of support your young person needs. If you think your young person needs support, you do not need to wait for your assessment before applying.



04

ADHD SHOULD ALWAYS BE TREATED WITH MEDICATION AND MY CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WITH ADHD CAN'T ATTEND SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS

FALSE For some people, medication can be very helpful. Our teams will discuss medication with your child/young person and yourself before offering this treatment. Medication has risks as well as benefits.

05

REFERRAL VIA A GP WILL BE QUICKER

FALSE All referrals into the neurodevelopmental service are reviewed in date order. We do not expedite referrals from any professional.

Referrals to the service should only be made by professionals who know your child/young person best and have observed difficulties over a period of time.



06

A REFERRAL WILL LEAD TO AN ASSESSMENT

FALSE Please be aware that all referrals to our service will undergo review against national criteria prior to acceptance on our waiting list. You will be informed if your referral is accepted or declined.

07

MY CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WILL DEFINITELY RECEIVE A DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM AND/OR ADHD IF THEY HAVE AN ASSESSMENT.

FALSE We will always carefully consider all information from the child/young person, their parents and their school as well as take a full medical and developmental history as part of our assessment.

For some children/young people a formal diagnosis will be the outcome of their assessment. For some others, their assessment won't lead to a formal diagnosis. In these cases, we will seek to support you with support, guidance and signposting to relevant services.



08

A DIAGNOSIS WILL CHANGE THE SITUATION AND CHALLENGES WE FACE

FALSE We know how incredibly difficult it can be to support a child/young person who has additional needs. We know that lots of people hope that things will feel a lot easier and better after an assessment.

Whilst we hope that an assessment will help you, your child/young person and the people around them, to understand their differences and some of the thinking behind their behaviours, it is very unlikely that a diagnosis will change all the challenges you face.

For more information and advice on strategies to support your child/young person please visit our website

