

## Concerning Behaviours Pathway Information for Families.

### 1. What is the Nottinghamshire Concerning Behaviours Pathway?

The Nottinghamshire County Concerning Behaviours Pathway is a new, multi-agency pathway (sometimes described as way of working) which brings health, social care, education and voluntary sector services together to support children, young people and their families. Its aim is to ensure that the right support is available to you and your child, at the right time and in the right place. For more information you can visit our webpage [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourspathway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourspathway) or call/text the Information Service at the Children's Development Centre on 0115 8831157, 0115 8831158 (text 07500 102796) [infoservicescdc@nottshc.nhs.uk](mailto:infoservicescdc@nottshc.nhs.uk)

### 2. Why has this pathway been developed?

Concerning behaviour can arise for many different reasons which could be social, emotional or medical – or indeed, a combination of any of these. It can even just be part of growing up. This pathway has been developed because children and young people with behaviours that cause concern are often referred to specialist agencies for a 'medical diagnosis' without their needs being properly explored, or appropriate support being put in place. Sometimes referrals are sent to a number of agencies at the same time and agencies may not always work together. Parents tell us this is frustrating, wasteful and inefficient.

Evidence suggests that if young peoples' needs are fully explored and the right support for families is put in place, specialist medical assessment and medical diagnosis may not be needed. Some children may benefit from specialist input however, and this pathway enables services to work together to provide the right support for them in the right place at the right time-

Families sometimes ask for a specialist medical referral because they think, or are told that a diagnosis is required to be able to get educational or financial support. In fact, a medical diagnosis is **not** required to access either educational support or Disability Living Allowance. You can download an information sheet which provides more information on this called "Information on Accessing Educational and Financial Support" at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourspathway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourspathway) or, request a printed copy by contacting The Information Service 0115 8831157 or 0115 8831158 (text 07500 102796).

### 3. Who has been involved in the pathway development?

Key professionals from health, education, social care and voluntary organisations have been involved in the pathway development, along with families and service users.

#### 4. Who is the pathway for?

The pathway is for all children and young people who are registered with an NHS Nottinghamshire County GP (and their families) who have behaviours that are causing concern to them, to their family, or that have been identified by someone working with them e.g. a teacher, nursery nurse or health visitor. The pathway with your consent can be initiated by a GP or any professional working with your child. You can also request to either of these that the pathway is initiated.

#### 5. What can I expect to happen if my GP recommends this pathway?

Your GP will discuss your concerns with you and give you this information about the pathway. They will check your child's hearing and vision and assess if there are any serious medical issues which need an urgent specialist medical assessment. If this is the case, they will make an appropriate referral.

Whether or not your GP refers your child for a specialist assessment they should, with your agreement contact your local school nurse or health visitor who will assist in identifying a 'key worker' to help you and your child and work with you to develop a support plan. This may include simple strategies at home or school/nursery, or include parenting courses or other sources of support. Your plan should be reviewed regularly. Your GP may offer you a review appointment to see how things are going. You can also access many sources of support yourself and can download a "Sources of Support" leaflet at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourpathway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/concerningbehaviourpathway) or, request a printed copy by contacting The Information Service 0115 8831157 or 0115 8831158 (text 07500 102796).

In some cases, your GP may refer you or recommend you contact the [Early Help Unit](#). This is a unit which offers advice, and signpost families to a wide range of support. You can also choose to access this service yourself.

For many children and young people putting this support in place will meet their needs and they will not need to go beyond this stage of the pathway. However, if moderate concerns continue, your key worker will, with your consent, gather information about you and your child from you and those who are working with you and your child. This information will help to clarify the needs of your child and your own needs, and allow a decision to be made about the next steps. It may be that with your consent, your key worker may ask advice from a specialist, or the Early Help Unit as to the best way forward. If you and your key worker feel the needs of your child require specialist medical assessment, they will share the information you have gathered with your GP who will review the information and make any necessary referrals. If a specialist assessment or ongoing referral is initiated with your consent, the key worker will work with you to continue support throughout this process. The results of any specialist assessment will be shared with you, your GP and your key worker and together you

should review your support plan accordingly with your key worker. Remember, you don't need a medical diagnosis to access this support.

## **6. Who is the key worker?**

The key worker should be someone who is in direct and everyday contact with your child – and you should agree and know who this person is. It is likely to be a nursery nurse or class room assistant. The key worker can access support from a range of experts and services involved in the pathway. You can be the key worker if you choose to take on this role.

## **7. What if my child is home-educated?**

You can contact the school nurse at your catchment school, or your GP can refer you if necessary. The school nurse can help you to identify a key worker - usually a professional who sees your child most frequently. If there are no other professionals involved, the school nurse can take on the role of keyworker. Alternatively you can take on the role if you feel able to do so.

## **8. What if my child does not go to school in Nottinghamshire County?**

This pathway is a Nottinghamshire County initiative. That means that if your child attends school in another county, the school may not follow the pathway. In this case, your GP will still discuss your concerns with you and give you this information about the pathway. They will check your child's hearing and vision and assess if there are any medical issues which need an immediate specialist assessment. If this is the case, they will make a relevant referral. Following this, your GP will discuss next steps with you and may contact your child's school and school nurse for or information and support. They may consider referring or inviting you to access the Early Help Unit. The information on accessing educational support and DLA applies to all schools not just those in Nottinghamshire County.

## **9. Where can I go to get more information or give feedback?**

There is a [webpage](#) which provides information and important documentation to support the pathway. It provides lots of useful links and resources which you may find helpful. It also provides a link to the Nottinghamshire Participation Hub (NPH) and you can e-mail or call the NPH to give feedback about your own experiences of the pathway, 01623 629902/ **email** [nphenquiries@aptcoo.co.uk](mailto:nphenquiries@aptcoo.co.uk) . If you cannot access the internet your keyworker may be able to help you or alternatively you can contact the Information Service at the Children's Development Centre on 0115 8831157, 0115 8831158 (text 07500 102796)