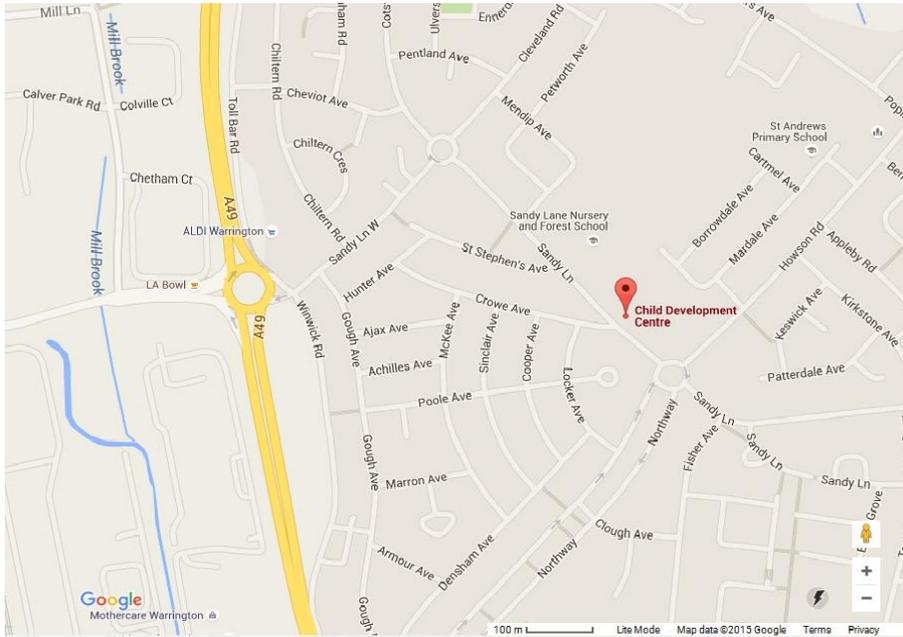


Where we are based

Our address is: The Child Development Centre, Sandy Lane, Orford, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 9HY



We are next to St Stephens School, on the site of Sandy Lane Children's Centre, parking is available on site. The nearest bus stops are at St Stephens Church or Cleveland Road, which is on the numbers 20 & 21 bus route.

For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.

 www.twitter.com/Bridgewater_NHS

 www.facebook.com/BridgewaterNHS

Visit our website at: www.bridgewater.nhs.uk

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Reviewed by Patient Partner Group



**Bridgewater
Community Healthcare**
NHS Foundation Trust

**Assessments for children with
additional health needs in Warrington**

Information for parents and carers



Quality first and foremost

Information for parents

Your child may have been identified as doing things a little differently and this may be a worrying time for you.

All children are different and may learn to do things at different ages. Some children require extra time and support to reach their milestones.

Many factors contribute to a child's development such as:

- Personality
- Physical ability
- Experiences within the family and learning ability.

The Additional Needs Panel is here to help identify your child's strengths and needs and to suggest help, if required.

Due to the number of appointments and assessments involved the assessments may take a long time to complete.

We will give you advice throughout the assessment process so you can begin to use this to support your child. We may also need to work with you over time to see how your child develops and how they respond to the advice given to you.

Sometimes, when the assessment is complete, it is clear that a child needs help but there may be no specific name or diagnosis for a child's needs.

Our focus is always to identify strengths and difficulties of the child, to allow you and your family to receive the appropriate support and access to provision that we or other services offer.

Support for families available in the local area

Warrington Parents and Carers

Support and information for parents of disabled children and those with additional needs within Warrington:

www.warringtonparentsandcarers.org

Telephone: 0794 046 6092

or email

warrpac@gmail.com

“We can signpost you to specific support groups that could offer support and services for you and your family”

Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT)

Support and counselling for parents allowing access to talking therapies as close to their home or place of work as possible:

Telephone: 01925 401 720

www.warringtoniapt.org.uk

Copies of reports

You, your child's GP, health visitor/school nurse and nursery/school will receive copies of all reports. If you do not wish this to happen please let us know.

Resources and information

At any time following a referral, parents can contact the additional needs co-coordinator for queries, guidance and direction to relevant support by:

Telephone: 01925 867837

Email: ALWCH.complexcasecoordinator@nhs.net

Warrington Local Offer

Information about the provision in the local area for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities is available on the sites below :

<http://www.thelocaloffer.co.uk/>

<https://askollie.warrington.gov.uk/localoffer/site/index.php>

What Is the Additional Needs Panel?

The Additional Needs Panel is a group of health and other professionals who work together when a child needs to see more than one health professional.

They work together to assess and support children and young people with a wide range of needs. They ensure children and families receive a joined-up approach from the many professionals involved in their care.

This range of needs may include:

- Delay in development
- Physical, vision and hearing impairment
- Social communication and sensory issues
- Attention / hyperactivity difficulties
- Motor co-ordination and functional difficulties
- Learning difficulties or likelihood of additional needs in school.

Children and young people are referred to the panel using the additional needs referral form, which is completed by health visitors, school nurses, school staff, GPs, education staff and other professionals.

The panel meets weekly to discuss new referrals.

Assessments

Once the referral is accepted you will be invited to make appointments with the professionals who will be involved in your child's assessment.

You know your child best. To make sure you have the opportunity to tell us all about your child, we ask that you bring any questionnaires we send you to your first appointment with each service.

The specialists who will see your child have a range of expertise to meet your child's individual needs. This may include one or more of the following staff:

- Specialist Nurse
- Speech & Language Therapist
- Audiologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Community Paediatrician
- Orthoptist
- Dietician
- Educational Psychologist (arranged via school).

If other tests like blood tests and X-rays are required, these may take place at other hospitals/clinics.

Some appointments will be at the Child Development Centre, other health clinics and some may be at school, nursery or children's centres.

An accurate assessment of your child is likely to take a number of appointments with different professionals. It will take a number of months for all appointments to take place and for reports to be available.

Support

All professionals will give you advice at the assessment appointments so you can further support your child.

After the assessment

During the assessment time, depending on your child's particular needs, you may receive specific programmes to implement at home.

Once your child's assessments are finished a member of the team will meet with you to discuss the assessments, your child's strengths and areas of need and help develop a health plan.

The support offered may include group training with other families. This means you will meet other parents in a similar situation. This training may be delivered by health professionals or other professionals.

Advice may be given to nursery or school to help them support your child.

If your child requires an Education Health Care Plan, the health professionals will contribute to this when asked.