

COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICS

WHAT IS COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICS?

Community Paediatricians provide specialist care for children and young people. We also carry out a range of duties in relation to child protection, medical advice for special educational needs, and health assessments of children in care.

The service is provided by a team of Consultant Community Paediatricians, staff, and specialty (SAS) Paediatricians and Paediatric trainees. CWPT is a teaching Trust and so medical students are often present with us in our clinics.

Community paediatricians work with GPs and within the wider health network of therapists, nurses and mental health services. Community Paediatricians work with Education, Social Care and Public health services provided by the Local Authority and the voluntary sector. The role of the paediatrician involves prevention, identification, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and support. Many will also have specialist skills/interests in addition to their general work (e.g. autism; adoption; epilepsy; neurodisability).

Community paediatricians are closely networked with acute general paediatricians and other Specialist Community Clinicians, such as CAMHS, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist, and may sometimes triage referral letters and pass them onto a different specialist if appropriate.

This information is designed to improve access to Community Paediatric services for those children and young people who need it most. It is also intended to help those who need to make a referral to the Community Paediatric service.

WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?

For Children and young People with Neurodevelopmental Conditions:

- Assessment and interventions for children with autism, ADHD, Tourette's and Dyspraxia in partnership with the multi-disciplinary Neurodevelopmental team and CAMHS.
- Medical assessments for children who may have special educational needs and the health component of statutory assessments of educational special needs
- Provision of the Statutory role: Designated Medical Officer for SEND

For Children and Young people with Other Developmental Conditions:

Assessment and management of:

- physical disability such as cerebral palsy and co-existent learning disability and associated co-morbidities
- Acquired brain injury and associated co-morbidities
- Neurodegenerative and neuromuscular disorders and associated co-morbidities
- Global developmental delay or developmental delay in specific areas
- Less complex developmental disorders
- Progressive conditions and associated co-morbidities
- Inherited/genetic conditions including Neurofibromatosis and associated co-morbidities

For Children and young people with Other Conditions

- General community paediatric assessment and diagnosis of children identified as in need of the service including Children with non-acute physical health difficulties
- Specialist Paediatric assessment and support to the Continence service health promotion activities
- The service is involved in a wide range of multidisciplinary and multiagency networks that are involved in screening programmes
- Support to immunisation services
- Assessment, diagnosis, treatment and management of long term medical conditions that cannot currently be cured but can be controlled with the use of medication and other therapies, such as Epilepsy and general neurology
- Medical advice to planning processes and assessment and management of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties; and neurodevelopmental difficulties
- Palliative care services in partnership with the Community Children's Nursing service and the Lead Paediatrician for Palliative Care for Coventry and Warwickshire
- Training to students, medical staff and other health professionals

For Vulnerable children and families

- Initial Health assessments of children taken into the care of the local authority
- Medical assessments for children who have a plan for adoption and adults who seek to adopt
- Advice on health concerns related to safeguarding, adoption and fostering (LA permanency panels),
- Assessment, and support for children from marginalised groups such as asylum seekers, refugees;
- Safeguarding medical assessments (physical abuse and neglect)
- Assessments for Child Sexual abuse (forensic and historic) through our contribution to the regional PSAS

- Provision of Statutory safeguarding roles: Designated Doctors for Child Protection and Looked After children, Named Doctors for Looked After children and Child Protection, Medical Advisor for Adoption Panel.
- Detailed assessment reports to other agencies, including family and criminal justice processes;