

Fife Multi-disciplinary autism care pathway (ASCA & FAST)

Fife Education and Health Services have initiated a partnership under the auspices of Getting Right for Every Child and the SIGN Guidelines with regard to creating an Autism Care Pathway to deliver joint assessment, diagnosis and intervention for children and young people identified as potentially being on the autism spectrum. The autism care pathway provides 1st and 2nd tier assessment and diagnosis of autism with a direct linkage to 3rd tier assessment and diagnosis of autism for more complex cases (Fife Autism Spectrum Team, FAST) An Autism Spectrum Community Assessment (ASCA) Manual for professionals has been developed to provide detailed guidance.

Tier 1

Referrals are agreed by both Health and Education professionals and with the agreement of the parents/carers. Prior to referral to ASCA, school senior management must seek agreement from the school's link educational psychologist.

A Referral form is submitted to the ASCA Administrator. All relevant reports must also be included. Incomplete referral forms and letters will be returned to the referrer for further information to be added.

Triage by community paediatricians.

The child's name is added to the ASD assessment and diagnosis database.

Tier 2 ASCA process

A meeting date is set and those professionals directly involved with the child or young person gather assessment information and write an assessment report in advance of the meeting. This includes a school observation schedule. The professionals share the information they have gathered at the meeting and make a diagnostic decision about the child. The meeting can decide:

- to diagnose the child or young person as having autism
- to conclude that the child does not have autism
- to conclude that further assessment is required and to refer the case on to FAST (Tier3)

Intervention and planning occur in terms of Education alongside this assessment and diagnosis process.