

Patient information

Integrated Community Paediatric Services

Children's Community Therapy Focus Suffolk

Therapy Focus Suffolk is a specialist service for children presenting with any of the following conditions: Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, complex development and movement disorders.

Targeted blocks of treatment are given by a team of highly specialist Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech & Language Therapists following a referral from the local therapy team.

Putting the focus on your child

The decision to refer your child to Therapy Focus Suffolk (TFS) is made in consultation with you and your family, through joint discussion between therapists working with your child and your child's paediatrician. This may be to solve a particular problem or to identify a way forward when your child is having difficulties in specific areas.

Who will we see?

The Therapy Focus Suffolk team consists of a speech and language therapist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and a member of therapy support staff.

How is a referral made?

Once the referral is agreed, you and your family will be asked to complete a detailed questionnaire together with your local therapy team. This is used to help understand your child's needs fully to inform the decision making at the panel. It is also used when planning the sessions and deciding on priorities for treatment.

What will happen next?

Once your child has been referred, their needs are assessed by the Therapy Focus Suffolk Referral Panel, (which meets every 3 months), who will consider whether input from Therapy Focus Suffolk is appropriate and timely. The panel may decide to either accept the referral or make alternative recommendations. You will be informed at all stages of the referral process.

If the referral is accepted

You and your child will be invited to attend either a 3 or 5 day consecutive block of assessment and therapy for your child. Each session lasts approximately 1½ hours. At the end of your block the team will discuss the outcome with you and your local therapy team. You will then be sent a written summary and recommendations for your child's future therapy.

Where will we be seen?

Therapy Focus Suffolk (5 day blocks) operate every 3 months in 4 different locations across Suffolk - Bury CDC, Stowmarket CDC, Ipswich CDC and Thomas Wolsey School, Ipswich.

Therapy Focus Suffolk (3 day blocks) can be offered flexibly in suitable locations according to the child's/family needs.

Where possible, we will try to offer appointments as close to your home as we can, but on some occasions, it will be necessary for you and your family to travel. Please let us know if you have any difficulties with transport.

To assist with communicating with you we have a SMS Text Messaging and Email service available. To use this we require your consent. Please ensure that we always have your correct contact details.

The teams will work closely together to ensure any recommendations are carried forward. This includes planning of a 6-month review after TFS. This will be carried out by your local Therapy Team.

Families are respectfully advised that Therapy Focus Suffolk cannot provide childcare for siblings during the focused weeks and that alternative care arrangements for other children need to be made.

Policy for missed appointments

We ask that if you are unable to attend appointments that you contact the service as early as possible to cancel or rearrange. If you do not attend a planned session and you have not notified us that you need to cancel it, this may affect your future service offer.

Contact us:

If you would like to know more about Therapy Focus Suffolk and whether it would be of benefit to your child, please contact your local therapy team, who can advise on whether they feel referral to the service would be appropriate. If you have already been referred to Therapy Focus Suffolk, then please discuss any queries with your local therapy team.

Further information on our services can be found on our website:

www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps

If you have any queries or concerns with any aspect of your child's care that cannot be resolved with your clinician, please contact the team as above and ask to speak to the service lead.

[If you feel unable to discuss your concerns in this way please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service \(PALS\).](#)

Email: PALS@wsh.nhs.uk Tel: 0800 917 9673 or 01284 712555 (24hr answerphone)

Clinical research

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is actively involved in clinical research. Your doctor, clinical team or the research and development department may contact you regarding specific clinical research studies that you might be interested in participating in. If you do not wish to be contacted for these purposes, please email info.gov@wsh.nsh.uk. This will in no way affect the care or treatment you receive.

Accessibility

If you require this leaflet in a different format, please contact the patient advice and liaison service on 01284 712555 or email PALS@wsh.nhs.uk

If you would like any information regarding access to our Trust services and facilities, please visit the website for Accessible: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>

