

## Patient information

### Integrated Community Paediatric Services

# Children's Community Occupational Therapy

We enable children and young people who have difficulties or a disability affecting their participation in daily activities and education.

### Who are we?

Occupational therapists qualified and registered with the Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC) with specialist knowledge of children's conditions and development.

Technical Instructors and occupational therapy students who work under the supervision of the occupational therapists.

### What do we do?

We provide assessment, advice, and intervention so children from birth to 19 years can participate safely, and as fully as possible in activities of daily life. We work closely with other NHS therapy services, Education, Social Care, and other care providers to ensure that children receive the support they need.

### Who do we see?

Children with physical and neurological impairment including:

- cerebral palsy; neuromuscular conditions; genetic conditions affecting motor development
- babies on the Neonatal Units and children in Ipswich Hospital
- children with functional difficulties
- children with sensory processing differences
- children with motor-coordination and functional difficulties affecting their daily activities.

We have a Motor Skills Resource Pack and a Pre-school Resource Pack available on our website: [www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps) for advice and ideas about supporting children to practise and develop skills prior to referral to Occupational Therapy.

[Please refer to the webpage under occupational therapy for children who have sensory processing difficulties.](#)

## **We do not accept referrals for:**

- School-age children with functional difficulties that are in line with their age and general level of development.
- School-age children whose difficulty relates to emotional and/or behavioural problems.
- Children with co-ordination difficulties in Year Eight and above.
- Children where home adaptations are needed - these should be directed to Social Services.

## **How long will my child wait to be seen?**

We aim to see all children for initial assessment within 18 weeks of an accepted referral.

## **Where will my child be seen?**

We work in various settings - nurseries, pre-schools, schools, special schools, and home.

## **What will happen at the appointment?**

Informed consent will be sought for assessment and treatment at all stages of your child/young person's involvement with the service. An adult with parental responsibility is expected to attend the first appointment.

The occupational therapist will explain the role of an occupational therapist and discuss your concerns. Occupation is all the activities we do in our daily lives. The role of Occupational Therapy (OT) is to enable people to do the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do.

Our focus is on function and independence and fine motor skills. We will look at participation in activities, strengths, and challenges, and identify agreed goals. These will usually be reviewed at future appointments.

When there are no further identified functional difficulties to work on your child may be discharged from our service; they can be referred to us if further issues arise. Some children require intervention from us throughout their lives.

We may prescribe specialist equipment to assist with daily living tasks and postural management.

## **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 do so, we may discharge your child back to the referrer. We use SMS Text Messaging and Email service to

communicate with you; to use this we require your consent. Please ensure that we always have your correct contact details.

### **Contact Us:**

- Child Development Centre, Bury St Edmunds: 01284 741714
- St Helen's House, Ipswich 01473 321230
- Via email: [childrensot.icps.@wsh.nhs.uk](mailto:childrensot.icps.@wsh.nhs.uk)

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

[www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk/icps)

If you have any queries/ concerns regarding your child's care that cannot be resolved with your clinician, please contact the team 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

