

Patient information

Integrated Community Paediatric Services

Community Children's Physiotherapy

Who are we?

We are fully qualified Chartered Physiotherapists registered with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP) and the Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC). We have specialist knowledge of children's conditions, normal growth, and physical development. Our team also consists of physiotherapy technicians, and assistants who work under the direct supervision of the physiotherapists.

What do we do?

We provide specialist physiotherapy assessments, advice and interventions for children and young people from birth to 18 years, or 19 if in full-time education, with an identified or suspected movement or developmental problem.

We work closely with colleagues within the Integrated Community Paediatric Service (ICPS) such as occupational therapists and speech and language therapists, in a variety of settings including home, school, nursery, community clinics and children's centres. We also work closely with our colleagues in the acute hospital setting, in social care and in education.

Who do we see?

Children and young people with the following conditions:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Spina Bifida
- Down's Syndrome
- Developmental delay
- Suspected neurological movement disorder
- Pre-term infants/low birth weight
- Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis/oncology in community setting.

We do not accept referrals for the following conditions:

Musculoskeletal conditions
Cystic Fibrosis/respiratory conditions
Congenital Talipes Equinovarus
Torticollis
Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip
Positional Talipes
Obstetric Brachial Plexus Palsy
Oncology patients undergoing active treatment

Chronic Fatigue
Functional disorder/chronic pain syndromes
Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

These referrals should be directed to the Acute Children's Physiotherapy Services at West Suffolk Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WSHFT) or East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT).

How long will my child wait to be seen?

When a referral is accepted, we aim to see all children for an initial assessment within 18 weeks. Children or young people who are prioritised as having an urgent need will be seen within 6 weeks.

Where will my child be seen?

Your child could be seen in a health centre or community clinic across the county, or at their school, nursery, or home, whichever is most appropriate.

To assist with communicating with you we have a text messaging and email service available. To use this we require your consent. Please ensure that we always have your correct contact details.

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. We will listen to your concerns and ask questions about your child's development.

We will then examine your child through a combination of observation and handling and undertake any relevant assessments. The physiotherapist will explain what they are doing throughout. The physiotherapist will then explain their assessment findings and answer any questions/concerns you may have. We will then agree with you how to manage your child's needs. This may be advice only or exercise/activity

prescription. Specialist equipment may be recommended or provided, and onward referral will be made where appropriate to other specialist services.

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, we may discharge your child back to the referrer.

Contact us

Child Health Centre, Bury St Edmunds: 01284 741786· St Helen's House, Ipswich
01473 321220 childrensphysio.icps@wsh.nhs.uk

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>

