

Children and Family Health Devon News: Issue 1

March 2025

Welcome to Issue 1 of CFHD News, CFHD's new quarterly newsletter.

Whether you're a parent, caregiver, or healthcare professional, we aim to provide you with the latest information from Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD), with each issue including expert advice, career opportunities and our latest news.

To find out more about CFHD, visit our website or [CLICK HERE](#)

Highlights

CFHD waiting times

Autism assessment waiting list project

CFHD EDI Champions – raising awareness of invisible disabilities

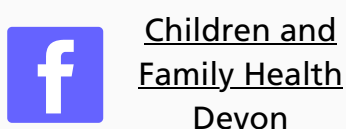
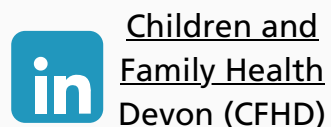
Children and Family Health Devon expands Language Enrichment Groups to over 90 schools across Devon

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Follow CFHD on social media!





CFHD waiting times



Our waiting times are now live on our website. These times will be updated quarterly

It can be difficult to give exact timescales for how long you might wait due to the many things that influence this.

This includes:

- The number of people needing a service from CFHD
- Current staffing capacities
- Increased demand for the service
- Being guided by our triage of your needs

We provide this information to help guide you in understanding typical waiting times for this Pathway.

If you have any questions about your referral, please contact our [Single Point of Access](#) team using the details below:

Phone: 0330 0245 321

Email: CFHD.DevonSPA@nhs.net

You can find waiting times for each pathway here: [OUR WAITING TIMES](#)

Autism assessment waiting list project

NHS Devon and local health providers are working together to ensure that children and young people who are waiting for an autism assessment, receive this as soon as possible.

As part of this project, everyone who has been waiting for an autism assessment longer than 12 months, as of the end of March 2025, will receive a letter. Letters will be sent throughout January and February 2025, with the aim that all letters will be received by the end of March 2025 at the latest.

We know that children and young people in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are waiting too long for their assessments, and we recognise that it is very difficult and frustrating.

If you have any questions about this work, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and project updates below.

If you have any urgent questions, that are not answered below, regarding this Autism Assessment Waiting List Project, please use the contact details below to get in touch.

For more information about this project, visit our website and search Autism assessment waiting list project or [CLICK HERE](#)



CFHD EDI Champions – raising awareness of invisible disabilities

Over the last few years some members of our EDI Champions group have been sharing information to raise awareness of invisible disabilities. In this piece, Louise, a parent, expert by experience and one of our EDI Champions introduces this article by a friend of hers whose child is waiting for an autism assessment.

Introduction

This piece has been written by a parent of a young child.

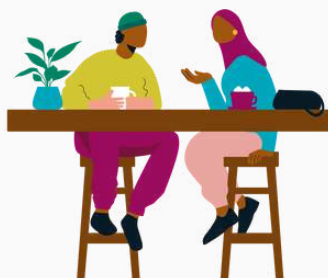
The question is based around how/why you first start to wonder or explore why you feel there is something different about your child and the first steps you take on the journey for diagnosis.

I am sure there will be many parents that can relate to the article and the hope is to be able to help these parents access resources whilst they are waiting for an assessment.

Is it Autism?

As a young child B was developmentally perfect, he hit all his milestones on time, he was very inquisitive and very clever. The only difficulties as a young child (under 3) were poor speech pronunciation, despite having a large vocabulary- people were often unable to understand him, however I was used to his pronunciation and therefore used to “translate” to others.

If you would like to continue reading, visit the news and blogs section of our website or [CLICK HERE](#).



Children and Family Health Devon expands Language Enrichment Groups to over 90 schools across Devon

Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) is making a transformative impact across Devon by delivering language enrichment groups (LEGs) to children in Reception classes through to year six. The initiative, which was given to CFHD by East London NHS Foundation Trust to use, has already reached over 90 schools across the county, aims to provide young learners with the tools they need to develop critical communication skills.

The groups focus on enhancing children’s vocabulary, listening skills, sentence construction, and confidence in communication through screening assessments and resources. Designed for early learners, the initiative supports schools in addressing the growing need for speech and language development among young children.

If you would like to continue reading, visit the news and blogs section of our website or [CLICK HERE](#)



CFHD Easter artwork

This year, Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) are searching for Easter artwork to brighten up their clinical and office space and need your help!

To take part, simply draw your design on one of our Easter artwork forms. You can pick one up at the reception of each of our sites or download the form from our website and send it in to the following address:

CFHD Easter artwork
1a Capital Court
Bittern Road
Sowton Industrial Estate
Exeter, EX2 7FW

DOWNLOAD THE FORM HERE.

There will be printed versions of the application forms at the reception of each of our sites so please ask for one if you are visiting or have an appointment.

Save the dates!

We are currently working on a program of events aimed at parents, carers, schools, partners, professionals, and communities to attend and learn more about our pathways of care around specialist services for physical and mental health for children and young people across Devon and Torbay.

These events are an opportunity for you to:

- ask questions and share feedback
- learn about our pathways of care and discover how CFHD works
- meet teams of experts

Proposed event locations and dates:

- Springfield Court, Barnstaple: **April/May**
- Lescaze, Dartington: **July**
- Oaklands Court, Tiverton: **September**
- Evergreen House, Exeter: **November**
- Virtual event, MS Teams: **December**

Our online tools and resources

We provide integrated care and treatment across physical and mental health for children, young people and their families in Devon.

Our focus is on prevention and early help. Our **self help tools and resources library** is a self service approach to help you get the right help and support.





We are CFHD: Occupational Therapy

We caught up with two of our fantastic occupational therapists, Jessica and Rianne, to find out about their roles, why they do what they do and what advice they would give to someone considering a career in Children's Occupational Therapy.

What is your role?

Rianne: As a Children's Occupational Therapist (OT), my job is to help kids do the things they need, want, and enjoy doing every day. We look at their everyday activities, like playing, doing schoolwork, and doing things like washing and getting dressed. To access OT within CFHD a child or young person needs to be experiencing difficulties within two or more of these areas.

Jessica: As Occupational Therapists we make sure children and young people can do what they need to do, as easily and safely as possible. We might suggest tools or equipment that can help, make changes to their home and school, and work on improving their skills to help them feel more confident in their everyday activities. Within CFHD there are OTs within several pathways. This includes Learning Disabilities, Neurodiversity, Early Child Development, and Physical and Sensory. Within these pathways OT is a core component in the multi-disciplinary team to support active participation in everyday life. There are also OTs within the 0-18 team who provide OT through a service level agreement with the Council for learners who have OT within their EHCP and for SEND tribunals.

To continue reading please visit our website or [CLICK HERE](#).



Join our team: Careers at CFHD

Join our team

We offer a huge range of exciting and challenging opportunities for people who are passionate about making a difference. CFHD vacancies are advertised on [NHS Jobs](#) where you can go to search for the latest opportunities.

Why work with us?

Hear from some of our staff talking about their roles and why they do what they do: [CLICK HERE](#)