

## Children and Family Health Devon News: Issue 2

June 2025

Welcome to Issue 2 of CFHD News, CFHD's 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

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# Community children's services: Care Quality Commission rating

Inpatient and community children's services run by **Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust** have been rated as good by the **Care Quality Commission** following unannounced inspections last year.

The CQC reports (published on Friday 30 May) identify a number of areas of good practice while also recognising areas where action is being taken to improve.

Emma O'Connell, Acting Director, Children and Family Health Devon, said:

"I am delighted that the hard work and commitment of our colleagues in Children and Family Health Devon has been recognised. To be rated as good overall is a fantastic achievement and is a testament to the way our teams work together with children, young people and their families to improve outcomes and experiences."

To continue reading, head to our website: **CLICK HERE** or visit:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/news-and-events/inpatient-and-community-childrens-services-care-quality-commission-rating/>

## Autism assessment waiting list project

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

### Looking Ahead

Thanks to the efforts of our project teams and dedicated practitioners across the providers, we can report that we have successfully increased the number of clinics and appointments available.

### Key actions taken to address waiting lists

- **Increased Workforce:** Additional staff members have been brought in to aid both business support functions and clinic operations, ensuring that more patients are seen without compromising care quality.
- **Joint Clinics:** Services are working together to do a joint assessment if a child is waiting for assessments on more than one neurodevelopmental pathway.
- **Additional Clinics:** Holding additional clinics, including out of hours clinics.
- **New ways of working:** Where there are several children in the same school waiting for an assessment, we will work with the SENCO to start the diagnostic process at the same time. This means that observations and reviews can be undertaken for many children in one location in the same day. This has been trialled in two schools and will be reviewed and rolled out in other schools.
- **Partnership working:** Where children are known to more than one service, providers are working together to collate relevant information and identify where further consultation or assessments are required to make a diagnostic decision.

To find out more, **CLICK HERE** or visit:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/news-and-events/autism-assessment-waiting-list-project-update-april-2025/>

# Supporting a successful secondary school transition with MHST

Our Mental Health Support Team in Schools (MHST) team will be running an online transition workshop for all year 6 parents/carers, whose children will be moving up to year 7 in September 2025.

**Date:** 23 June 2025

**Time:** 3:45pm- 4:45pm

**Join us:** Microsoft Teams (MS Teams)

**Want to join?**

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 367 593 566 991

Passcode: qg2a8U6j

**Y6 PARENTS/CARERS**  
You are invited to an online workshop:  
**SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
TRANSITION**

DATE - MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2025  
TIME - 15:45 - 16:45  
ONLINE VIA TEAMS (joining code below)

Discuss the common secondary transition concerns.

Helpful tips to support your child's mental health during the transition.

Explore signs and reasons for worries about change.

Microsoft Teams  
Meeting ID: 367 593 566 991  
Passcode: qg2a8U6j

Join us online

## Exciting move to Evergreen House

We're thrilled to share that our services previously held at Bull Meadow Clinic are now being delivered at the newly refurbished, Evergreen House in Exeter.

As Phase 1 of refurbishment works at Evergreen House draw to a close, patients and staff alike can look forward to a refreshed, more spacious and better connected clinical environment now with 17 bookable clinical spaces. As part of our commitment to accessibility, we've also installed a new accessible bathroom which also has the ability to be used for assessment purposes, offering greater comfort and dignity.



For more information [CLICK here](#) or visit:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/news-and-events/exciting-move-to-evergreen-house/>



# The Balanced System ® Transformation

This year will see a change in the way that the children and young people across Devon and Torbay access speech, language and communication support.

NHS providers together with Devon County Council are using The Balanced System, a framework designed to make sure that everyone, including children and young people along with their support networks, have the right support, at the right time to develop and improve speech, language and communication skills.

To find out more [CLICK HERE](#) or visit:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/the-balanced-system-transformation/>

## CFHD community outreach event

Date: 27 June 2025

Time: 10am-2pm (Drop in event)

Where: South Devon College, CHCP (Centre for Health Care Professions) The Annexe, Newton Road, Torquay, TQ2 7BA

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 our teams

Teams from the following pathways will be on hand during this drop in event to answer any questions you might have:

- Community Children's Nursing
- Early child development
- Eating disorders
- Physical and sensory
- Specialist Learning Disability
- The Mental Health Support Team in Schools (MHST)
- Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Speech Language and Communication

**SAVE THE DATE: CFHD Community outreach event: Oaklands Court, Tiverton: 24 September 2025**



# We are CFHD: Single Point of Access (SPA)

Our Single Point of Access (SPA) team provides a first point of contact for people wishing to access children's services across Devon and Torbay.

We caught up with Inira, Cora and Josh to find out more about what they do within CFHD's Single Point of Access team and why they enjoy it: What do you like about your role?

**Inira:** I like working as part of a team to start the process for helping young people that need it.

**Cora:** My job is quite diverse day to day but we have such a great team around us it doesn't feel like work.

For more information and to continue reading, [CLICK HERE](https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/news-and-events/we-are-cfhd-single-point-of-access-spa/) or visit: <https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/news-and-events/we-are-cfhd-single-point-of-access-spa/>



## Our waiting times

We publish the waiting times for each pathway on our website every three months and are working hard to reduce the length of time families wait for our services.

The average wait time and the longest wait time are published per pathway to help people understand how long they may be waiting. We provide some information about why people wait different lengths of time depending on the urgency of their situation.

You can find our waiting times here: [Our waiting times - Children and Family Health Devon](#)

We have created a short survey to help us understand how best to communicate our waiting times. If you would like to take part in this survey, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Need urgent help?

Are you a young person, struggling with how you are feeling?

We know it can seem really difficult to seek help when you are worried, stressed or lonely but getting the help you need and deserve can make a big difference.

Visit the urgent help page on our website to find out what help and support is available to you.

Visit our website for information and support: [CLICK HERE](#)



## CFHD Careers

We offer a huge range of exciting and challenging opportunities for people who are passionate about making a difference.

You can view a list of our current vacancies below or visit NHS Jobs where CFHD vacancies and latest opportunities are advertised.

CFHD encourages creativity, is forward thinking and leaders are compassionate in the way they lead and support teams. CFHD understands the value of trust, partnership and collaboration at all levels of the organisation. Clinicians are proud of being part of such an innovative organisation.

CFHD staff are experienced, committed and dedicated, always placing children and family at the centre of what they do. Clinicians strive to improve their practice and welcome new ideas whilst always keeping NICE guidance at the centre of what we do.

For more information and a list of our current vacancies, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Our resources

Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) provides 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.

