

### Children's Therapies Service Referral Criteria

Our Children's Therapies Service is provided by a team of specialist Children's Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, as well as experienced Therapy Support Workers.

Senior therapists screen our referrals to ensure that they are appropriate for the service. Where this is not the case, referrals may be passed on to other agencies.

If appropriate we may offer multi-disciplinary assessments.

#### Referral criteria

- ◆ Children from birth to 18 years old (up to 19 in special schools) with some exceptions - see `Who we see` below
- ◆ Children living in Bath and North East Somerset registered with a B&NES GP
- ◆ Children who live outside of BANES but who are registered with a BANES GP
- ◆ Children from BANES or adjacent counties who are under a Consultant led service e.g. congenital talipes, hip dysplasia, NICU follow up.
- ◆ Children who require specialised plaster casts or hydrotherapy referred from Wiltshire

#### Who we see

If a child has a functional problem and/or pain, we will see children with:

- ◆ Neurological conditions e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Head Injury
- ◆ Neuromuscular conditions e.g. Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- ◆ Developmental difficulties, delay and syndromes affecting developmental milestones
- ◆ Motor co-ordination difficulties e.g. Developmental Co-ordination Disorder, handwriting difficulties, spatial awareness
- ◆ Musculoskeletal problems e.g. assessment of altered walking patterns, leg postures, joint/ muscle pain (**young people over 12 years old are usually referred to their local adult physiotherapy service**)
- ◆ Orthopaedic conditions e.g. Talipes, Torticollis, Congenital Hip Dysplasia
- ◆ Rheumatology conditions e.g. juvenile arthritis (**young people over 16 years old are seen by the adult rheumatology service**)
- ◆ Respiratory conditions e.g. children who have difficulty clearing secretions (NB there is a separate specialist service for children with a diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis at the RUH)
- ◆ Specific sensory preferences affecting a child's ability to complete functional tasks

This is not a comprehensive list. If you have any questions about a referral, please phone and discuss it with us. Our office number is 01225 824220

There is a separate specialist service also based at the RUH for children and young people with a diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

### **Who can refer?**

Referrals are accepted by any qualified health care or education professional. Re-referrals by parent / carer for their child are only accepted by prior agreement with the therapist for a time limited period of up to a maximum of 6 months from discharge.

### **How to refer**

Referrals are accepted by email to [ruh-tr.childrenstherapies@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.childrenstherapies@nhs.net), via BANES Single Point of entry (SPE) or by telephone from a parent/carer to re-refer their child.

For referrals to Occupational Therapy please complete the [OT Referral Form](#)

### **Waiting time**

Our waiting time varies depending on number of referrals and staffing levels at any one time. However, our maximum waiting time from receipt of referral is no more than 8 weeks.

More urgent referrals are prioritised and seen within 2 weeks of receipt of referral e.g. babies or children whose condition needs faster intervention.

Children`s Therapies RUH, August 2018