

Briefing note for Salisbury Area Board
10 January 2013

The process for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis in Southern Wiltshire has historically been different from the process for children and young people in other parts of the County. In Southern Wiltshire, the paediatricians have led the process for under 5s with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) leading the process for children over the age of 5. For children and young people in North, West and East Wiltshire, the paediatricians lead the diagnostic process for children and young people of all ages but with input from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service practitioners when a child's needs are particularly complex or the child is already receiving a service from CAMHS.

Commissioners from the PCT have held discussions with Salisbury Foundation Trust about paediatricians leading the diagnostic process for all children and young people up to the age of 18. However, changes to the process have not yet been agreed. In the meantime, all referrals for a possible ASD diagnosis for children in Southern Wiltshire who are over the age of 5 are being assessed by the Speech and Language Therapy Service who will then ensure that children have access to a diagnostic process from a paediatrician based at Great Western Hospital if required.