

Summary of the Multi-Agency Assessment Pathway

For children with Autism



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What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition. People with autism tend to have persistent difficulties in social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotypic (rigid and repetitive) behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interests.

What is the Multi-agency Assessment Team (MAAT)?

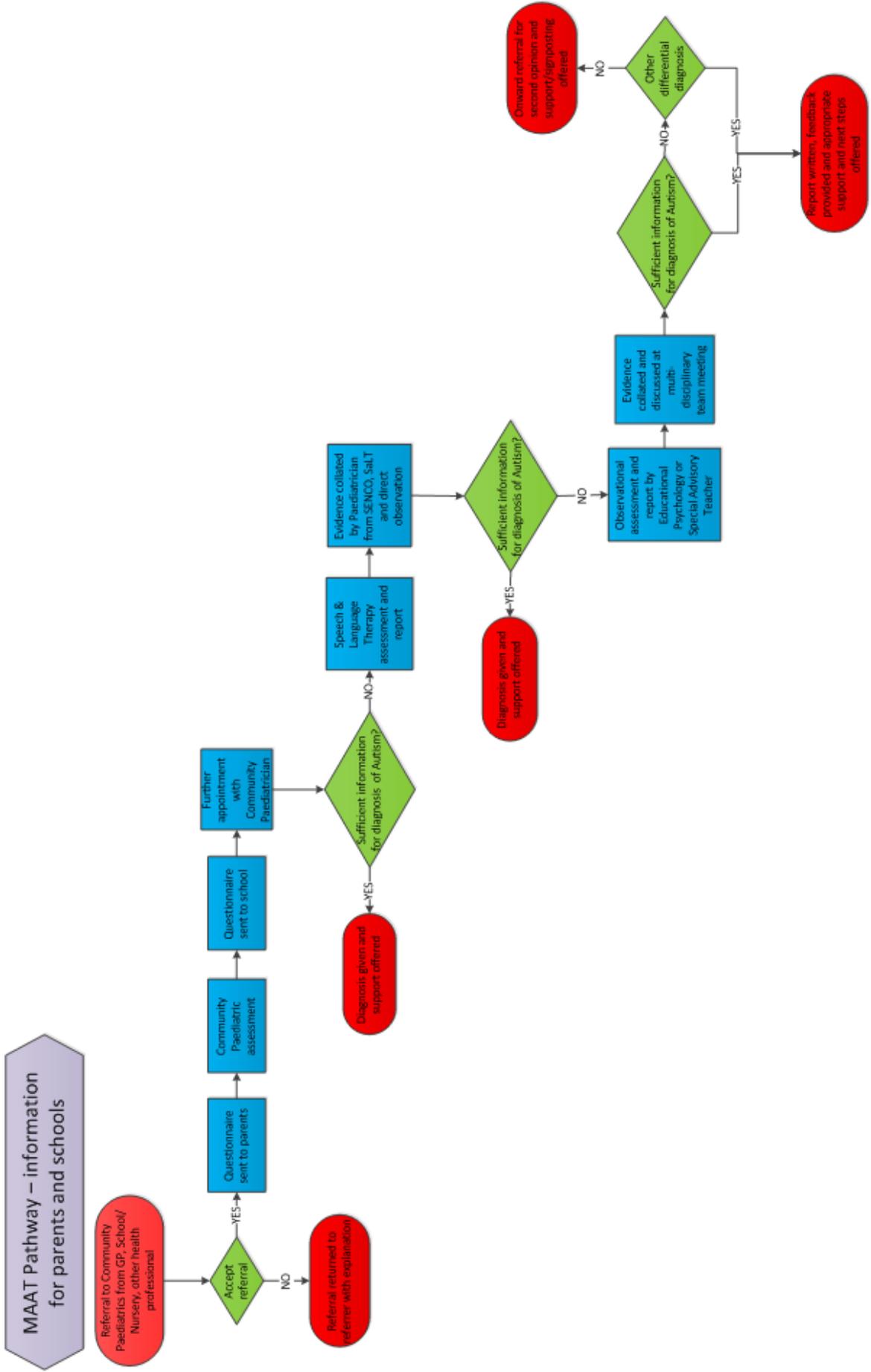
This is a team of people from relevant professions within a number of agencies including health, education and social care who provide specialist assessments and work together to look at evidence in order to make an informed diagnosis of a child/young person's condition.

Summary of process

1. Referral received into community paediatrics and a decision is made on accepting or rejecting the referral
2. If the referral is accepted, an appointment and a parental questionnaire is sent
3. After assessment
 - a. A school questionnaire is sent with consent from the parents.
 - i. A further appointment is arranged for 3-6 months where further observations and an assessment will be carried out.
 - b. If a diagnosis cannot be made at this point, a referral will be made to speech and language therapy for assessment and report. The information will be collated by the paediatrician and, if possible, a diagnosis will be made.
 - i. If there is still insufficient evidence for a diagnosis, a referral will be made to an educational psychologist or a specialist advisory teacher for an assessment and report.
 - ii. The evidence is collated and discussed at the multi-disciplinary MAAT meeting.
 - iii. The result of this meeting will be one of three options:



1. Diagnosis made leading to feedback to the parents with support offered
 2. Differential diagnosis made leading to referral and signposting as necessary
 3. Unable to make a diagnosis of any kind an onward referral will be made.
4. Feedback will be given to the parents regardless of diagnosis and appropriate next steps and support will be offered.
 5. A report will be written explaining the reason for the outcome and the family will be offered an individualised management plan where a diagnosis of Autism has been made.



Contact us

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