

repetitive behaviours or rigid routines, and any other difficulties that are affecting the client's life.

Useful resources

National Autistic Society (NAS)

Offers national information and support:
www.autism.org.uk
020 7833 2299

Scottish Autism

Offers Scottish support for parents and individuals on the spectrum:
www.scottishautism.org
01259 720044

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service

Local service offering information and support on mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and hyperactivity:
01851 701868

Consent and confidentiality

We need to know whether the client wants to pursue an assessment before we proceed, this information is gathered as part of our referral and screening process. We will also ask for information from others working with the client in order to inform this process.

Following the client's assessment, with their consent, we will share their information with other professionals directly involved with them on a need-to-know basis. Very rarely we may have to share the client's information without telling them if we are concerned about their health or their safety.

Further information and help

For further information contact the Social Communication Team:

Social Communication Team
Speech & Language Therapy Department
Western Isles Hospital
Macaulay Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2AF
Tel. (01851) 708 282
Email: wi.asdteam@nhs.scot

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website feedback section at: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 or 07814 071868 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

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Disclaimer

No liability is accepted for misinterpretation. All information was correct at the time of publication and information will be updated annually.

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NHS Western Isles

Social Communication Team



Information for health and social care
professionals

About us

The Social Communication Team (SCT) is an experienced multi-disciplinary team for children, young people and adults. We are made up of the following disciplines with support from an administrator:

- Psychology
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy

What do we offer?

SCT offers a detailed assessment of each person's:

- strengths and needs
- behaviours and skills
- interests and difficulties

We do this by asking relevant people within the client's life to complete questionnaires before the client comes to their first appointment.

We will also meet, where possible, with a family member to find out about the client's developmental history and current concerns. We will review any previous reports and assessments that have been shared with us.

An additional session with the team will include an in-depth clinical assessment of the child/adult.

How do we assess?

Questionnaires are sent out to the client or others, perhaps their school or college. If there is enough evidence of an Autism Spectrum Disorder we will proceed with

an assessment which has two parts. We will arrange a meeting which will focus on a thorough developmental history which may take a couple of hours.

The client will also have an activity based session with us. A typical assessment session will last between one to two hours.

In the majority of cases this assessment will take place at Action for Children on Bayhead in Stornoway, however we can travel to locations in Uist and Barra as required. The client's appointment letter will tell them where their appointments are and who should attend each.

What happens at the assessment?

Assessments will involve play, conversation and activities requiring imagination. At least two members of our team will be present. We will look at communication, social interaction and flexibility of thinking, which are core areas of difficulty in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

We are involved in assessment and clinical diagnosis. We do not carry out investigations such as blood and urine tests, scans, etc. In the majority of cases these tests are not required but would be done by local services where indicated.

What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment we will meet the client and/or their family to discuss our findings. The client

will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss implications.

We will prepare a report summarising our observations and conclusions. The report will be sent to the client and, with their consent, will also be sent to relevant professionals working with them.

Parents and professionals are invited to contact us to discuss any aspects of the report, if required.

If a diagnosis is given, the client will be provided with an information pack and, if appropriate, the opportunity to discuss available support.

What are we looking for?

The four main areas that we focus on to gather evidence for a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder are:

- **Difficulty with Social Communication** including verbal language for example taking things very literally, and non-verbal language, finding it hard to read facial expressions or tone of voice.
- **Difficulty with Social Interaction** including not recognising other people's feelings, not understanding social rules, preferring to spend time alone.
- **Difficulty with Social Imagination** including not predicting how people will react, limited imaginative play and struggling with unfamiliar situations.
- **Sensory Sensitivities** where we will look at any sensory sensitivities the client has,