

# Paediatric Neuropsychology Service: neuropsychological assessment

## Information for parents and carers

This leaflet explains more about the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service at King's College Hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to one of the doctors, nurses or psychologists working with you.

### **Confirming your identity**

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

## **What is the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service?**

We are a team of specialist psychologists (called neuropsychologists) who see children with medical conditions or injuries that may affect their brain and development. This could be a condition with which they are born, for example a genetic or neurodevelopmental disorder or something that occurred during development, for example a brain injury, brain tumour, epilepsy or stroke.

Children are referred to our service for an assessment to see how their condition may be affecting their thinking skills, learning, behaviour and/or emotional wellbeing. This is called a neuropsychological assessment. The assessment can help identify a child's strengths and weaknesses to inform treatment and the types of strategies that might be useful at home and at school. The assessment is tailored to meet your child's needs.

## **Who is this service for?**

Children are normally referred by their consultant neurologist, neurosurgeon or paediatrician. Once referred, your child will go on our waiting list and we will send some questionnaires for you and your child's school to complete and return to us. This provides us with useful background information.

When we are able to offer an appointment we will contact you to arrange this and send an appointment letter. If you would like more information on waiting times or are concerned that you have not heard from us then please call 07890 062502.

## **Where do I need to go?**

Neuropsychological assessments take place on the 4th Floor of the Ruskin Wing at King's College Hospital in the Neuropsychology Department.

Your appointment letter will have details about where the appointment is and how to get there. Please ensure your child attends with someone who can legally consent to the assessment, that is, someone who has parental responsibility.

## **What should I bring?**

It is helpful to bring the following to the appointment:

- any recent school or therapy reports (if not already sent)
- glasses and/or hearing aid, if appropriate
- a snack and drink for your child
- something for the adult accompanying the child to read/do

## **What does the assessment involve?**

Your initial contact with the psychologist may be a virtual appointment to discuss any concerns that you may have. This normally takes about one hour. The psychologist will then typically see your child face to face on a different day to complete a range of thinking games and puzzles to assess skills such as intellectual functioning, memory, attention, language and problem solving.

This typically takes three to four hours. Breaks will be provided, as needed. Do not worry if you can't manage a video call, you can be seen in person for the initial interview.

## **What happens afterwards?**

The psychologist will score and interpret the tasks that have been given, so comprehensive feedback can't always be given on the same day. They will write a report, with the findings from the assessment used to inform recommendations to support ongoing care. The psychologist will also arrange a time to discuss the report with you and your child (if appropriate), which could be at the hospital, via video call or over the telephone. The final report will be shared with medical professionals and non-medical professionals (for example, education) if parental or carer consent is given.

## **Getting to and from the hospital**

Information about getting to the hospital, as well as a map of the hospital site, is available on our website: [Getting to King's – King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust \(kch.nhs.uk\)](https://www.kch.nhs.uk).

There is no public car parking at the hospital. If you usually travel by car, please make alternative travel arrangements.

Some children and families may be eligible for patient transport and if you would like further information please contact the Patient Transport Assessment Centre from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday 020 3299 8000. For Kent and Medway patients the number is 020 3299 8103.

## **Contact us**

If you have any questions about the Paediatric Neuropsychology Service or would like to speak to us about arranging an interpreter for your appointment, please contact us on 07890 062502 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or leave an answerphone message on 020 3299 8330.

## **Sharing your information**

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

## **Care provided by students**

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

## **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleden Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: [kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact Interpreting Services on 020 3299 4826 or email [kch-tr.interpreting@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.interpreting@nhs.net).**