

First Appointment

An initial assessment is offered, where possible within 18 weeks of referral, usually at one of our clinic bases. Certain conditions are triaged as more urgent than this and will be seen sooner. At this appointment the therapist will talk to parents and the child or young person and carry out assessment then discuss next steps.

Intervention

Many children will need assessment and advice only. For those who remain open to the service the emphasis will be on enabling others including the parents, school or pre-school staff and the young people themselves to help the child or young person to overcome any difficulties. Where possible activities will be recommended which can be part of everyday routines. Some children will need group or individual therapy sessions for a period of time.

Discharge

The ITS works in episodes of care and children may come in and out of the service at different points in their lives. Discharge will take place when

- there are no current therapy goals
- advice about ways to support difficulties has been given
- strategies to continue to develop skills are in place
- the child's needs are likely to remain the same over a period of time.

Service contact details

Mendip Team, Wells
01749 836691

South Somerset Team, Yeovil
01935 848246

Taunton and West Somerset Team, Taunton
01823 346131

Sedgemoor Team, Bridgwater
01278 435858

IntegratedTherapies@sompar.nhs.uk

This leaflet is available in other formats, including easy read summary versions and other languages upon request. If this would be helpful to you, please speak to a member of staff.

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Integrated Therapy Service for Children, Young People and Families



Service Information leaflet

What is the Integrated Therapy Service for Children and Young People?

The Integrated Therapy Service (ITS) delivers a service to children and young people with physical, occupational, communication and eating and drinking difficulties.

Our aim is to empower parents, young people and those who support them in different aspects of their lives to meet their needs without specialist intervention whenever possible. We know that the best people to help children and young people are those who are part of their every day lives and who know them best.

Many children show delays or difficulties with their development and often simple advice and recommendations are enough to meet their needs.

Sometimes specialist assessment and intervention are needed and the child or young person is referred to one or more of our therapists.

Staff teams

We have four teams around the county which are made up of, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, therapy support practitioners and administrators.

Where can I get more support?

There are many sources of information which can help parents and other professionals who have a concern about the development of a child or young person. The Early Years Fact File and the School-aged Fact File are full of information about children's development and ways to help children who are finding some things difficult. Many professionals have hard copies of these books and more can be obtained by contacting your area base. They are also available on our website along with lots of other information including pages written for children and young people <http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-and-young-people/>.

Therapists also run some training sessions for parents and professionals on a regular or occasional basis.

Telephone Advice Line

Our Telephone Advice Line is open four mornings a week where you can speak directly to a therapist to discuss a concern or query and get advice.

0303 033 3002

09.00—12.00

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays)

Single Point of Access for Referrals

All referrals are made using an Early Help Assessment form (for professionals) or our referral form available on the ITS website <http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-and-young-people/>.

Select either 'parent' or 'professional' and then click on the ITS pages. For speed it is best to email forms to ITSreferrals@sompar.nhs.uk.

You can also send the forms by post to:
Integrated Therapy Service for CYP
Priory House
Priory Health Park
Glastonbury Road
Wells
BA5 1XL

Referrals

We accept referrals from a wide range of people including parents.

All referrals are looked at by a team of therapists to decide whether an assessment is needed or if some simple advice and recommendations are more appropriate initially.

A letter will be sent to the person who made the referral and the parents to let them know the decision.