



Rotherham

Autism & ADHD Assessments

Children & Young People (5-18 years)



What are the different assessments?

- **Local NHS assessments:** Provided by your local NHS team, usually RDaSH in Rotherham (although they may choose to offer an alternative provider- for example, virtual) with waiting lists.
- **Right to Choose assessments:** NHS-funded, but allow you to choose a different approved provider once accepted onto a consultant-led pathway, with variable waiting times. Often, once you have received your NHS funding assessment, you cannot be referred back into the local NHS service.
- **Private assessments:** Paid for by you, chosen by you, often most flexible appointments, do not affect your right to further NHS-funded assessments.

Which assessment should I choose for my child?

Choosing the right assessment for your child can feel overwhelming, but you know your child better than anyone, so trust your instincts and what feels right for your family. Take time to make an informed choice by understanding the differences between options, and think about what will best support your child not just now, but in the long term. It can also help to consider how easy it will be to access follow-up care, advice, and ongoing support after the assessment, as this can make a big difference in your child's journey.

Here are some links you may find useful when considering the right assessment:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/your-choices-in-the-nhs/>
- <https://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/>
- <https://www.rdash.nhs.uk/services/childrens-and-young-peoples-autism-and-adhd-assessment/>

Questions to consider before choosing a provider

- ☐ Check that your child has been accepted onto a consultant-led pathway. In Rotherham, this is usually done via the school referring to the RDaSH screening service. You can ring the service if you have any questions or your child is not in school.
- ☐ Often in Rotherham, GPs will not refer to Right-to-Choose; this is normally done following a referral made by schools & accepted by the local NHS service. Ask your GP if they are able to make a Right-to-Choose referral for you if your school cannot.
- ☐ Ask your GP if they will accept a shared care agreement. This matters if you want prescribed ADHD medication through your GP following a diagnosis of ADHD.
- ☐ Check the assessment follows NICE guidelines.
- ☐ Check that the provider is CQC-registered for children's autism/ADHD assessments.
- ☐ Ask if the provider will keep prescribing and reviewing ADHD medication for as long as it is needed.
- ☐ Check that the waiting times are accurate and not just for initial screening/introduction
- ☐ Check that the provider uses an "end-to-end" approach, including both assessment AND support after diagnosis, especially if you are considering medication for ADHD. Usually in Rotherham, you cannot be referred back into the local NHS service for post-diagnosis support.