



Supporting children
and young people in
complex situations



CAMHS

The Link Programme

Information for Young People



What is the Link Programme and why have I been referred to it?

The Link Programme is designed to help people like you who have a range of needs. These include education, health, social care and others.

The variety of these needs means they cannot be met by any one service or organisation. As a result professionals are finding it difficult to help you.

There is concern for your emotional health and well-being

Professionals and other people involved in your daily care may have significant concerns about your ongoing emotional and mental health or neurodevelopmental difficulties.

You may have been referred to the Link Programme because you may have:

- Both physical and mental health needs
- Longer-term issues such as autism or learning disabilities or both
- Needs that are not being met by the 'standard' treatments.
- Lives framed by family and social experiences such as early family disruption, loss or inequality.

How does it work?

The Link Teams work with NHS services as well as with other organisations to get you the best care and support.

There are four ways in which the Link Teams get involved:

1) Giving advice for professionals

The Link Team will discuss your situation with the professional who has concerns. They will talk about what actions have already been taken to help you.

The Link Team may make recommendations or refer to other services.

2) Single or Multiple Agency consultation

There may be several professionals who are working to support you.

A consultation could involve, among others, a social worker, an NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Practitioner, Youth Offending Services, Pupil Referral Units or staff from educational settings.

The group would meet to develop a shared understanding of your story. They would also develop a care plan for you.

3) Assessment by Link Team staff

There may be times when further clinical assessment of you is needed. This would be carried out by an experienced member of the Link Team.

This could be with a psychologist, psychiatrist or occupational therapist.

As part of this they will look at your wider home, school and social environment.

4) Assessment and direct management by the Link Team

In certain cases a Link Team will take on the management of your care alongside other professionals.

You will take part in helping to develop your care plan.

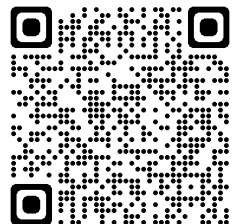
Direct management might also include monitoring medications, psychological, educational/occupational and youthwork involvement.

How is the Link Programme going to help me?

One of the main outcomes the project is hoping to achieve is stabilisation or improvement in your emotional health.

This will also help in other areas of the your life.

For more information please see the Link Programme pages on the Oxford Health website.



Accessibility

Patient information leaflets are also available on the Oxford Health website www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/

One in seven people have some form of disability. For some, this can impact their ability to access online content or services.



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Oxford Health has partnered with AccessAble to produce Access Guides for our services, departments and wards. Each guide

Comments, suggestions and complaints

We are committed to providing a high standard of professional support and advice. You can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) which provides advice and support to patients, families and carers and can help to resolve any problems, concerns or complaints that you may have. Call them on **0800 328 7971**, or email **PALS@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk**

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