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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for contacting us about an ADHD or autism assessment for your child, or a child in your care. This letter explains how to request a local NHS assessment, and why we usually ask your child's school to make the referral.

How Local NHS Assessments Work

Local NHS assessments for children are carried out by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). To decide whether an assessment is needed, CAMHS ask for detailed information about a child's behaviour and learning needs at school. Teachers see this every day, so the school is in the best position to provide it. In the past, referrals from the surgery have often been turned down because they did not include the information CAMHS need.

CAMHS have advised us that the school is best placed to make the referral, unless a child has significant medical needs and is already under the care of clinicians (for example, a child with multiple physical disabilities).

What to Do Next

1. Contact your child's school and ask to speak to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo).
2. Explain your concerns. The SENCo will gather information from your child's teachers and knows which forms CAMHS need.
3. The SENCo will make the referral to CAMHS. Other teachers can also refer, but the SENCo usually knows the process best, and their referrals are more likely to be accepted.

If your child has significant medical needs and is already under the care of hospital clinicians, please contact us to discuss a referral.

Right to Choose

You can also choose an assessment provider yourself under the NHS Right to Choose. How this works, including how to send us the provider's forms, is explained on our ADHD and Autism Assessments page (southbournesurgery.com/adhd-and-autism-assessments). ADHD UK also has helpful information (adhduk.co.uk/right-to-choose). We cannot choose a provider for you or advise on which one to use.

Please note that we do not accept shared care prescribing agreements from private providers, including Right to Choose providers, and we do not issue prescriptions on behalf of Right to Choose providers.

If you have any questions, please contact us and we will help where we can.

Kind regards,
Southbourne Surgery GPs