Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Assessment Explainer

Understanding your ASD Assessment at Gateway Psychology

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An Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessment is carried out with the aim to provide a definitive diagnostic opinion about the presence or otherwise of ASD.

This short guide is designed to help you understand what to expect during your ASD Assessment with Gateway Psychology.

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Who is Gateway Psychology?

We are an independent private psychology company. We are contracted by Local Authorities, private individuals, insurance companies and other organisations to provide psychological services, including assessments and therapy.

We are not part of Social Services or the Local Authority.



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What is involved in an ASD assessment?



Prior to the assessment:

- Information gathering from parents and/or carers using screening measures.
- These will need to be completed and returned to your clinician prior to the appointment.

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What is involved in an ASD assessment?

During the assessment:

An ASD assessment is comprised of several elements and will usually entail a **multi-disciplinary approach** to diagnosis. This will include the following (your clinician will decide which measures are appropriate on a case-by-case basis):

- Clinical interview with parents/carers to establish a detailed developmental history.
- Questionnaires and rating scales from other settings – usually school/nursery/college.
- A brief speech and language evaluation to examine social communication (depending on requirements)
- A brief occupational therapy evaluation to examine any sensory difficulties (depending on requirements).
- Direct behavioural observation of the child either play based (for younger children) or conversation based (for older children). using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) where appropriate.
- A feedback session of the findings.

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What happens after the assessment?



After the assessment:

A detailed report will be prepared summarising the child's developmental history and describing their current presentation in each of the key ASD areas.

This report will provide a diagnostic conclusion along with recommendations for treatment/management and further assessment.

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Where are appointments held?



Most appointments will take place at our specialist therapeutic venue in Stoke-on-Trent.

We do not see clients in their home or elsewhere.

We may offer virtual sessions if required or appropriate for the assessment.

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Referrals and timescales

- **Please email** referrals@gateway-psychology.co.uk to make a referral a for an ASD assessment.
- A full quotation will be provided upon request.
- Once the quote is accepted, we will begin case opening, which can take 6-8 weeks to complete.
- We aim to complete ASD assessments within 3 months of case opening (timescale will provided on a case-by-case basis).

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Payment and payment plans

- Payment is usually required upfront for your ASD assessment at Gateway Psychology.
- However, we can offer the option to spread the cost with a payment plan, to be agreed on a case-by-case basis. Please let us know if you would like to explore this option.



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Our contact information

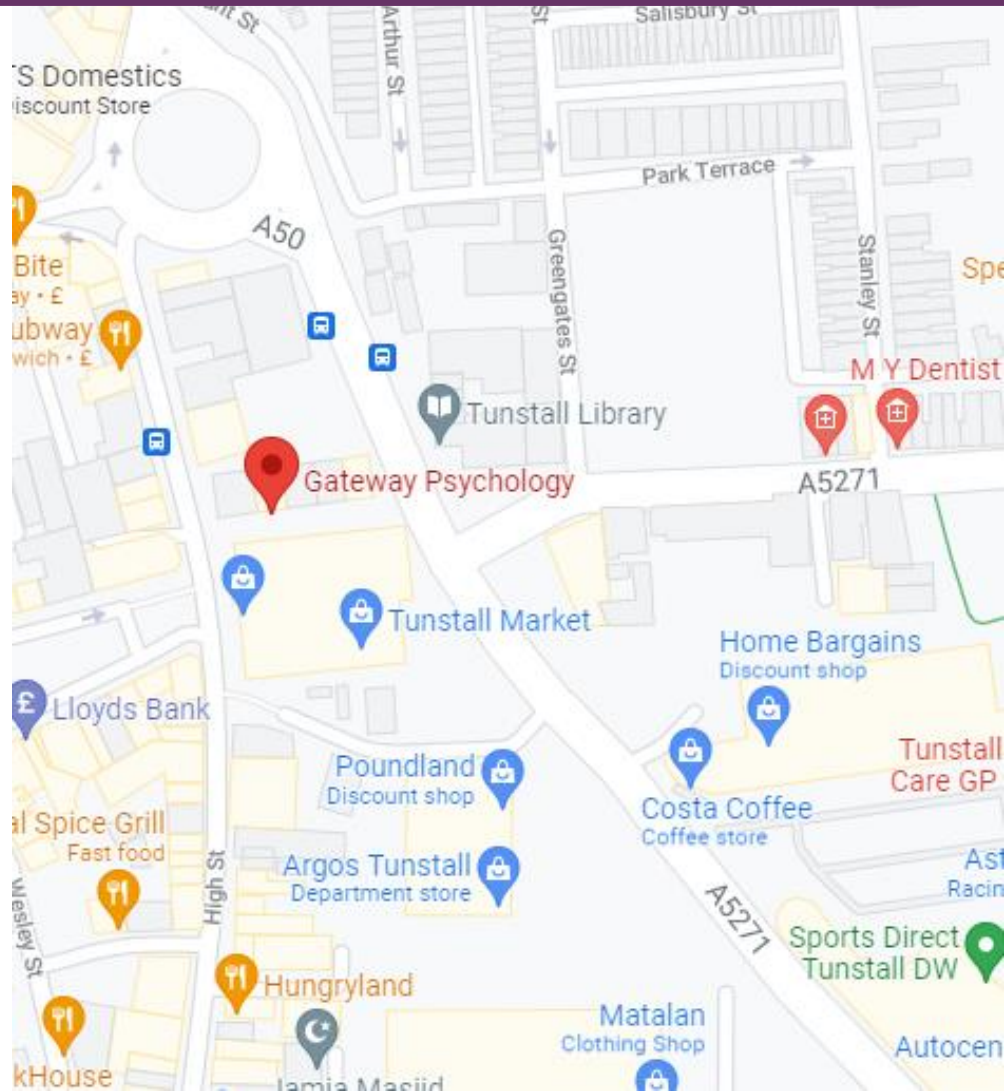
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