**Our Ref:**

**April 2019**

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Neurodevelopmental Assessment Services in Knowsley**

We wrote to you in November 2018 regarding the long waits for Neurodevelopmental assessments within Knowsley and our intentions to improve the situation, working in close partnership with North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trust. We said we would write further and keep you informed of progress and further developments.

Over the past few months we have put in place additional resources and a new process which reduces the time taken for assessments through better co-ordination of the services involved. A number of children have now attended for assessment or have appointments in place over the next few months, with priority given to children who have been waiting the longest.

Although these changes will improve the situation we recognise that the waiting times have been too long and we are, therefore, in the process of identifying additional extra support which will help to reduce the waiting times further. This will involve bringing in staff from an external specialist organisation to ensure we have the right level of specialist skills and support required. We expect to have this in place within the next 6-8 weeks.

The service is currently reviewing all the children awaiting assessment and it is our intention to write to you by the end of May to inform you of the next steps for your child and expected timescales for the appropriate assessments to take place.

 **Cont’d ……..**

Should you have any questions about this process we would advise you to contact the service directly by telephone on 0151 244 3091 (if unanswered, messages left will be responded to ASAP) or by email nwbh.ndpathway@nhs.net.

We are sorry for the problems you have experienced and do thank you for your patience as we put in place the improvements required.

**Yours sincerely**



**Dianne Johnson Mike Harden**

**Chief Executive Chief Executive**

**NHS Knowsley CCG Knowsley MBC**