

Policy Recommendation: Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Date of issue: 12th March 2020

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term encompassing a range of neuro-developmental impairments which can result in cognitive, physical and behavioural difficulties.

The Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of specialist (regional) teams undertaking a detailed assessment (to confirm or refute a diagnosis of FASD) and providing intervention strategies.

The Committee recognises there are locally commissioned services able to treat those with developmental difficulties associated with FASD

It is recognised that many neuro-developmental issues, resulting from various diagnoses and conditions, can be assessed and treated more cost-effectively in localised settings. As there is as yet no evidence-based specific treatments for difficulties arising from FASD it was felt that all children with neuro-developmental and behavioural problems should be managed in a holistic and multidisciplinary way, focusing on the child's individual symptoms, their difficulties and needs, rather than the underlying diagnosis.

Therefore a referral for an FASD assessment for diagnostic purposes only is **low priority and will not be routinely commissioned**