



Falkirk Council
Education Services



NHS
Forth Valley

PreFCAT



Pre-Five Community Assessment Team

A service for pre-school children provided by NHS Forth Valley and Falkirk Council



What is PreFCAT?

- a co-ordinated approach to identification and assessment of the needs of children under five years who may have additional support needs.
- Professionals and parents working together to support this assessment process.

Why is the Service needed?

- to support and co-ordinate referrals to professionals.
- to support early identification or assessment of developmental problems.

What are PreFCAT'S objectives?

- to provide a route to multi-disciplinary assessment and support to children with all types of developmental difficulties, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- to ensure early identification and accurate assessment of a child's additional support needs.
- to promote partnership between professionals and parents.

Who is in PreFCAT?

- PreFCAT is a children's team of professionals from health, education and social work.

Which children should be referred?

- Children under school age for whom there is concern about their development and who are likely to benefit from assessment by a number of different professionals.

If you are unsure about whether a child should be referred, please contact your G.P., Health Visitor or Education Services.

Referral forms are available from your health visitor, nursery establishments, Education Services, Sealock House, Grangemouth and Children With Disabilities Team, Oxbang Road, Grangemouth.

How does it operate?

The referral process is administered by Education Services, Sealock House, Grangemouth. Referrals can be made by health, education and social work professionals, in consultation with parents.

Referrals will be considered on a monthly basis by a multi-disciplinary team. Not every child will require a full PreFCAT assessment, in which case, recommendations will be made to individual agencies.



Who's who and what they do in PreFCAT

Some members of the PreFCAT team will assess your child over a period of a few weeks. This will require several appointments, at home or in other settings, such as a clinic or playgroup. Where possible, team members will assess your child jointly to try to limit the number of appointments.

By the end of the assessment period, the team should have built up an accurate profile of your child's development, including his or her strengths and difficulties. At the feedback meeting with the team, you will be able to discuss the reports and the plans for future therapy and support. Further assessment may be required in some cases.



EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

The Educational Psychology Service is part of Education Services. Its central role is to advise on how the educational needs of children and young people can best be met. The Service joins PreFCAT as required. Educational Psychologists advise how to effect positive change for the development of learning and behaviour. This is carried out through a problem solving approach focused on the context in which needs arise, such as nursery or school. We work alongside parents and other professionals, and directly with your child, if appropriate.

THE PAEDIATRICIAN

The Paediatrician will take a medical history, make observations and examine your child. He or she, will consider if there may be a medical cause or a diagnosis for any developmental problems and order any investigations which may be required.

If your child has problems with their eye sight, a visual assessment will be arranged. Medical treatments and follow up will be arranged, if appropriate.

AUDIOLOGY

Your child will be offered a hearing assessment.

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

If concerns are raised regarding your child's motor development, the Physiotherapist will assess your child and identify any difficulties associated with posture and movement skills.

The Physiotherapist will assist your child to achieve their maximum independence and mobility using a variety of methods including

- functional positioning (seating and wheelchairs)
- gross motor activities
- orthotics, e.g. insoles
- home exercise programme

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST

The Speech and Language Therapist will assess your child's speech, language and communication skills to identify any difficulties he/she may have. These may be a physical difficulty (e.g. eating and drinking), or problems with listening and understanding, with remembering or pronouncing words or with speaking in sentences.

Children may be seen in a clinic, at home or at nursery, but



parents and carers will always be involved. At first, we will want to find out about your child's early development to help us understand any problems described in the referral or identified during the assessment.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational Therapy aims to develop your child's potential to be as functional as possible in their everyday activities. To allow your child to achieve this, assessment and treatment may be required in the following areas:

- Seating and positioning
- Hand Function
- Sensory Motor development
- Cognitive / Perceptual skills
- Play
- Activities of Daily Living

Occupational Therapists work with your child, the family and other professionals associated with your child's care. This may take place at home, nursery, or at a local centre.

SOCIAL WORK REPRESENTATIVE

The social work assessment will involve at least one meeting, usually at the family home, with the parents and the child. Generally, PreFCAT assessments are undertaken by social workers from the Children With Disabilities Team. As part of the assessment,

the social worker will talk with the family about their concerns in order to develop an understanding of the child's needs and will also take account of how these affect the family as a whole.

The aim of the social work assessment, is to identify what, if any, additional supports the child/family may need. Support from the social work service can address both emotional and practical issues and is based on the needs identified in the assessment. Arrangements for support are made in consultation with families and are regularly reviewed.

Where there is no ongoing social work involvement, families are offered a follow up meeting approximately six months after the PreFCAT assessment.

HEALTH VISITOR

Your Health Visitor will be involved in the referral process to PreFCAT and will usually pass on relevant information about your child's development to the PreFCAT Team. Your Health Visitor will be invited to the feedback meeting.

Your Health Visitor can provide information on local and national self-help groups, benefits and other organizations which may offer help and advice to children and their families.



PreFCAT TEAM MEMBERS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD



**If you should require any further information
please contact:**

Education Services
Sealock House
2 Inchyra Road
Grangemouth
FK3 9XB

Tel: 01324 506627/506658
Fax: 01324 506611



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