

Hello. My name is Gemma Clarke and I am the lead for the positive behavioural support care pathway.

The positive behavioural support care pathway supports people with learning disabilities when they are presenting with behaviours that may place themselves or other people at risk. When a referral comes in to learning disabilities services, initially, we will complete a triage. Part of this will ensure that the person has been seen by a GP and that we have eliminated any physical health causes that might be causing the person's behaviours to change.

Following receiving the referral we will review the patient's notes, and if we've worked with that patient before, we might be able to offer some initial advice.

The main aim is for us to gain an understanding about why the person is needing to use those behaviours that put themselves, or other people at risk.

Once we've identified why the person is needing to use those behaviours that place themselves or other people at risk, we can identify strategies and interventions that will make changes in their environment and improve their quality of life.

These interventions will include supporting the people who provide care to that person, to gain a better understanding about why the person might be using those behaviours, so that they can make those changes to that person's environment.

There are a range of professionals that might be involved in the delivery of the positive behavioural support care pathway. If a referral comes in and it's urgent, it will go to the crisis response intensive support team. They will respond to referrals where there's a really, really high risk associated with those behaviours, or the referral needs to be responded to within 48 hours.

All of the referrals will be managed with a number of different professionals involved. Firstly, nursing who will provide the bulk of their behavioural assessments. Speech and language therapy who will provide support with communication needs and introductions of communication systems and capacity assessments. Occupational therapy who will provide support with sensory assessments, planning activities, meaningful activities and structure to the person's day. Psychiatry will be involved if a medication review is needed.

Throughout our involvement, we will work closely with the patient themselves, their carers. We will keep the GP up to date and we'll work closely with the social worker or commissioners of the placement.