

Parental Consent Policy

Every Mind views the diagnostic assessment process as that of an important discovery and understanding about how a young person's brain works and how they view the world. We strongly believe the diagnostic process should be positive and supportive throughout, and that any diagnosis made follows a comprehensive and thorough assessment where multiple informants are involved. This process can be undermined somewhat if a parent who have parental responsibility does not consent or is not involved in the assessment somehow. It is important that all views and perspectives are given and respected, to increase the integrity of any diagnosis and to prevent any possibility of it being questioned in the future.

We appreciate that when parents are separated, involving both parties can be challenging. We would like to involve both parents in the most appropriate and sensitive way for your family and for the child or young person.

To this end, if the child or young person has contact with both parents, **both** parents with parental responsibility for a child or young person will need to be aware of and consent to the diagnostic assessment.

We will ask for details of both parents ahead of the diagnostic assessment. We are happy to contact both parents to discuss the assessment in more detail so as to gain consent.

We would like to involve both parents in the assessment if possible or appropriate. This can be done in a number of ways:

Pre-assessment:

- We will ask both parents to complete the preassessment form and associated questionnaires.

During the assessment:

- Both parents will attend the parental interview together (where the developmental history is taken)

Or

- One parent attends the parental interview and the other emails to say that they do not wish to take part

Or

- One parent attends the parental interview and the other views a draft of the developmental history review report and adds comments over email

Or

- Parents attend the developmental history interview at different times (please note this will incur a fee which will be discussed before commencing the assessment)