



## Attachment and Trauma Team

**The Attachment and Trauma Team (ATT) is a multidisciplinary Tier 4 NHS Service with specialist expertise in the assessment and treatment of children and young people from 0-16 with a background of abuse, neglect or trauma. This includes children placed in new families after experiences of maltreatment. We also see families where there is a concern about potentially harmful parent-child interactions. We will offer assessment and treatment for families where this may be of concern.**

**ATT is one of two teams within the Parenting and Child Service in the Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health; our Child Care Consultation Team (CCCT) provides an expert witness service.**

**We have specialist clinical expertise as well as research interests in areas of complex trauma and assessing attachment in children with a background of maltreatment. We have extensive child protection experience. Our aim is to provide services where local CAMHS, LAC Teams, and Social Care have identified a need for specialist input. We have the capacity to bring in a wide range of multidisciplinary expertise.**

### The clinical team

The team includes a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist who is also the head of the service, senior specialist registrar, child and adolescent psychotherapists, clinical psychologists, family therapists and a consultant guardian.

The team also has an important teaching and training role, and will offer teaching sessions or workshops on a variety of aspects of working therapeutically with traumatised children, young people and their families; on complex attachment difficulties; on supporting children and carers in permanent placements; or on harmful or potentially harmful parent-child interactions

### Reports

Once we have completed our assessment, we will discuss the findings with you. We will also discuss with you what options we can offer and then jointly make a plan about what should happen next. We will send a written report to you, the referrer and your GP. We will discuss what feedback it would be helpful to send to your child's school.



## Conditions we treat

We deal with a number of different conditions. These centre around the psychological distress of children and young people who have complex attachment or trauma-related difficulties, often related to difficult care experiences. Our assessment will include the full range of psychiatric disorders.

We provide comprehensive assessments of children in care or in long term alternative placements such as adoption. This will include specialized assessments of the child's attachments, trauma symptoms, or neurodevelopmental/ cognitive problems. We also see children and families referred by professionals who are concerned about difficulties in parent-child interaction which might currently, or potentially, cause emotional harm, and can offer a trial of therapy.

We work with children and young people aged 0-16 who may present with difficulties related to complex trauma and/or attachment problems; who may have symptoms of PTSD relating to acute or complex trauma, including traumatic medical interventions; who may be exposed to potentially harmful interactions with their parents; whose parents may present them to medical services with a range of unexplained medical symptoms leading professionals to suspect FII; where emotional abuse has been identified and where parents/carers' capacity for change needs assessing; where there is a diagnostic query about social communication disorders and attachment-based difficulties.

## Contact us

### **Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

4<sup>th</sup> floor Frontage Building, Great Ormond Street Hospital  
Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH

**Service telephone number:** 020 7405 9200 ext. 5662/5577

**Service fax number:** 020 7813 8411

**Service email address:** maria.earnshaw@gosh.nhs.uk;

**For urgent questions outside of office hours  
please call the switchboard on 020 7405 9200.**

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Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH  
[www.gosh.nhs.uk](http://www.gosh.nhs.uk)