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## THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIAN

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Community Paediatricians provide a secondary, specialised health service to children with a range of additional support needs, developmental disorders and disabilities.

The service has a statutory responsibility to all children (up to 19 years) through the Education and Children's Acts. It provides assessment, diagnosis and follow-up of children with additional support needs including:

- Learning difficulties
- Physical difficulties
- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Emotional / Behavioural difficulties
- Looked after Children
- Children at risk
- Disadvantaged children
- Chronic ill health
- Complex needs



It works in partnership with other agencies, for example:

- Health:** e.g. Hospital specialists, GP's, Health Visitors, Therapists, Dental services, Child Psychology, Child Psychiatry, Community Learning Disability Nurses
- Education:** e.g. Teaching staff, Educational Psychologists
- Social Services:** e.g. Social Workers, Respite Care Staff
- The Voluntary Sector** e.g. CHIP+

Appointments are arranged at various centres e.g. The Birnie Child Development Centre, or bases in various locations throughout the Highlands, or in school clinics. Referrals are accepted from Health, Educational and Social Work professionals.

The Department is Consultant led. Each Community Paediatrician has responsibility for a defined geographical area and each school has a named doctor and nurse. In addition, staff see children in a number of specialist clinics including neuro-disability, follow up of low birth weight infants, and autism.