

Our Ref: lab/FOI 23-207

Direct Line: 01633 435956

23rd May 2023

FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk

ADHD UK

hello@adhduk.co.uk

Dear Henry Shelford

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, received on 17th April 2023, reference number FOI 23-207. Please accept my apologies for the delay, I can confirm that the Health Board has completed a search of its records and has established that it does hold information in relation to your request below:

Please may I request the answers to the following questions. With regards to your organisation: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES

1. For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us: please can you break this down by gender.

The Health Board is currently unable to provide accurate information regarding assessments, diagnostic rates or waiting times for ADHD assessment. Since accepting referrals for ADHD assessment in June 2022, the Health Board has experienced a significant demand for assessments and demand continues to be high. The current demand is significantly higher than capacity to offer assessments and the service is not currently resourced to accurately manage, analyse and validate data.

There is currently a small service in place offering assessment, diagnosis and (where indicated) prescribing for ADHD. This has not been explicitly commissioned. A small amount of non-recurrent monies were made available for the financial year 2022-3 and 4 x Band 6 neurodevelopmental practitioner posts have been funded substantively to offer pre and post assessment/diagnostic support. Medical resource remains low. The Health Board intends bidding for funds recently made available by Welsh Government in order to augment and develop the service offered and if successful it will be used to increase the capacity of resource for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of ADHD.

- a. For each of those years how many adult assessments for ADHD were done?
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
- b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for adults who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
- c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment?
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
- d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES

- 2. For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:
 - a. For each of those years how many child assessments for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) were done?
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 2022 - 2023: 103
 2021 - 2022: 58
 - b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for children who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 2022 - 2023: 42 weeks
 2021 - 2022: 36 weeks
 - c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 2022 - 2023: The Health Board does not hold this information.
 2021 - 2022: The Health Board does not hold this information.
 - d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 2022 - 2023: 61
 2021 - 2022: The Health Board does not hold this information.

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION AND ITS ADHD SERVICES

3. With relation to the present time (reflecting the most recent data that you have). Please can you answer the following questions:

a. With regards to your adult ADHD services.

i. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?

Please refer to Q1.

ii. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?

There are currently over 1443 adults awaiting ADHD assessment in the Health Board.

iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?

Please refer to Q1.

iv. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?

The longest waiting time is currently 10 months, when the service started. It is anticipated that the waiting time for assessment will increase.

v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.

GPs in the Health Board area have been provided with guidance on what information to include in referral letters; there is no exclusion criteria per se. Referrals are screened based on information provided i.e. if the signs and symptoms described are indicative of ADHD.

vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?

The Health Board is confident that it is following NICE guidance in relation to assessment and diagnosis of ADHD in adults. As the service develops, it is anticipated that further intervention will be provided in terms of psychological and other non-pharmacological support.

b. With regards to your child ADHD services

i. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?

ADHD assessments are completed by the core Neurodevelopment (ND) team to include Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), also.

ii. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?

61

iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD Assessment?

32 weeks

iv. What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD Assessment?

57 weeks

v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.

Each referral is accompanied by supporting school and parent information and includes the SNAP IV questionnaires. Each referral is discussed at a multi-disciplinary ND screening assessment to determine if the child meets the criteria to be accepted for an ADHD assessment.

vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?

Yes.

c. Information on your financial year.

i. What are the dates of your financial year 2022-23:

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

ii. What are the dates of your financial year 2021-22:

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

If you are not satisfied that the information you have requested has been provided, or because of the way your request has been handled, you have the right to request a review. This would be looked into in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidelines, which state that a request for review should be received within two months of you receiving the Health Board's response to your request for information.

Please contact Rani Dash, Director of Corporate Governance, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Headquarters, St Cadoc's Hospital, Lodge Road, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 3XQ, email: ABB.BoardSecretary@wales.nhs.uk in the first instance if you wish to request a review.

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you have the right to take your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 0330 414 6421

Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicola Prydgodzcziz
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive