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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

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Dyddiad / Date: 29th June 2023

Dear Henry Shelford

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay. Further to your request for information dated 16th April 2023, I am pleased to provide the following response.

Your request and our response:

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES - If you have the data and it won't exceed the cost limit please can you break these down by gender.

1. For financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:

a. For each of those years how many adult assessments for ADHD were done?

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).

c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment?

d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 of the Act.

This is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles or holds in a centralised location and easily accessible. Therefore, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to determine the number of referrals received, and whether these patients are currently waiting to be diagnosed with ADHD.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your request we would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently £450.

In reaching this decision we estimate that it would take staff in excess of 6,342 hours to locate and review patient notes held across three Acute Hospital sites. This figure is based on a timescale of five minutes per patient record, there being 76,114 patient records



to review, who were on the overall referral waiting list for Mental Health. Therefore, the cost to obtain the data would be approximately 6,342 hours @ £25.00 per hour (cost permitted under the Act) = £158,550.

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES - If you have the data and it won't exceed the cost limit please can you break these down by gender.

2. For 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?

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).

c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?

d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 of the Act.

This is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles or holds consistently for all areas under the remit of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). Therefore, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to determine the number of children who have been assessed for ADHD.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your request it would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently £450.

In reaching this decision we estimate that it would take staff in excess of 23 hours to review each assessment for those patients who were on the Neurodevelopment Assessment list. This figure is based on a timescale of five minutes per patient referral, there being 281 patient assessments to review. Therefore, the cost to obtain the data would be approximately 23 hours @ £25.00 per hour (cost permitted under the Act) = £575.

Section 12 is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test.

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?**

No.

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

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 of the Act.

This is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles or holds in a centralised location and easily accessible. Therefore, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to determine the number of referrals received, and whether they are currently waiting to be diagnosed with ADHD.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently £450.

In reaching this decision we estimate that it would take staff in excess of 924 hours to locate and review patient notes held across three Acute Hospital sites. This figure is based on a timescale of five minutes per patient record, there being 11,089 patient records to review who are on the overall referral waiting list for Mental Health. Therefore, the cost to obtain the data would be approximately 924 hours @ £25.00 per hour (cost permitted under the Act) = £23,100.

Section 12 is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test.

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

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 of the Act.

This is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles or holds for all areas under the remit of BCUHB. Therefore, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to determine the waiting time for each adult awaiting a diagnosis for ADHD.

From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your particular request would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; this is currently £450.

In reaching this decision we estimate that it would take staff in excess of 33 hours to review the referrals for those patients who are currently on the waiting list in one of our six Community Mental Health teams alone. This figure is based on a timescale of five



minutes per patient referral, there currently being 398 patient referrals to review. Therefore, the cost to obtain the data would be approximately 33 hours @ £25.00 per hour (cost permitted under the Act) = £825.

Section 12 is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test.

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

Across BCUHB, if functioning is impaired, individuals are seen as soon as possible. For routine diagnostic assessment patients remain on the waiting list until a slot becomes available. Whilst on the waiting list, if a patient has any issues other than requiring an ADHD diagnostic assessment, and they are not open to the team, they are advised to return to their GP for re-referral to Primary Care.

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

Each assessment is undertaken according to NICE guidelines. We are planning small-scale targeted audits to ensure NICE criteria are being met. There is no electronic clinical record currently available until the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) is rolled out nationally, and therefore auditing of records can present challenges and be time consuming to undertake. A neurodevelopmental clinical pathways group is now operational and this is setting the service standard for North Wales.

b. With regards to your child ADHD services

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

No.

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

The Health Board does not hold a waiting list for ADHD assessments alone. The total number on the waiting list for ADHD/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments as at 31st March 2023 is 3,138.

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

We cannot provide a breakdown specifically for ADHD, as the waiting list is combined with ASD. The average wait for a Neurodevelopmental assessment across BCUHB at the end of March 2023 was 50 weeks.



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

As detailed above, we are unable to provide a breakdown for ADHD. However, our longest wait for a Neurodevelopment assessment at the end of March 2023 was 253 weeks.

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

When a referral is received, they are reviewed at a Single Point of Access Meeting against set criteria, in line with NICE Guidance.

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

Yes - All ADHD assessments are undertaken in line with NICE Guidance.

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 dissatisfied with the way the Health Board has handled your request for information, you can request a review by writing to us at the address below, however a review must be requested within 40 working days from the date the response was issued.

Information Governance Office
Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board
Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham LL13 7TD

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH
Tel: 0330 414 6421
wales@ico.org.uk
www.ico.org.uk
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There is no charge for making an appeal. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on 03000 858361.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager