

Our Ref: FOI/2023.017/JM

Date: 11 May 2023

Freedom of Information Team

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Dear Mr Shelford

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email received 16 April 2023 requesting information regarding ADHD.

Please find detailed below a summary of your request, together with our response.

Summary of your original request:

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES

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

The Kent and Medway Adult Autism and ADHD Service (K&M ND Service) is unable to provide historic information prior to 2022-23, due to commencing services in April 2022.

For all questions raised below in relation to a breakdown of data by gender, this would require a manual review of records. This would exceed the appropriate time/cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

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.

2022-2023 – 443 ADHD Assessment were completed

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.

2022-2023 – the average wait time for an ADHD assessment was 48 weeks

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.

2022-2023 - 146 referrals were rejected following clinical triage as they did not meet the criteria threshold for assessment.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

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 please can you break this down by gender.

Patients waiting for an assessment, are based on the referral date received and applicable wait time following clinical triage and acceptance for assessment. These are not managed based on financial year parameters.

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES

We are only able to provide 2022-23 due to data migration issues and change in processes.

To provide a breakdown by gender would require a manual review of records. This would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

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.

All children are seen for an initial assessment as it is common for children to be referred in for multiple concerns, the service has not previously broken down ADHD only referrals at this point but has introduced this from April 23.

Total referrals from April 22-March 23 = 8,232.

Of this a significant proportion will be for/ in part for ADHD assessment and due to new referral criteria introduced in October 21, many children are able to be diagnosed at the first appointment and are therefore not needing to go onto an ADHD pathway. 402 ADHD assessments were completed following on from initial assessments as further investigations were required.

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.

12-18 months, our systems only allow us to run reports to show us the current waiting list position, which means we do not hold the historical information you have requested.

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.

We do not hold information relating to the number of rejected ADHD assessment referrals.

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.

There are 688 children that have been clinically seen for an initial appointment and need further assessments to conclude or rule out a diagnosis. All children receive an initial assessment before entering any pathway, we have 2492 children awaiting these but this will include all paediatric referrals and not just ADHD. Children can be diagnosed with ADHD at the initial appointment.

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?

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust are commissioned as the lead provider to deliver the Adult Kent and Medway Autism and ADHD Diagnostic service

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

There are currently 1536 patients awaiting an ADHD Assessment who have been clinically triaged and accepted to the waiting list

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

The current expected wait time for an adult ADHD assessment is under review by the service, due to an unprecedented volume of referrals received during the 2022-2023 financial year.

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

The longest current wait time for an ADHD assessment following referral is 64 weeks, due to patient disengagement during the assessment appointment booking stage.

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

Patients referred to the service for an ADHD assessment, are required to complete a series of pre-assessment questionnaires and a screening tool. This information is clinically triaged against the acceptance criteria set out within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), which is used by specialist practitioners to assess adults for ADHD.

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

NICE guidelines were included in the service specification to ensure we are delivering a service to the highest standard, however, we are aware of challenges to meeting standards such as waiting times and we are looking at ways to address this.

b. With regards to your child ADHD services

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

We have a Community Paediatrics service of which ADHD assessments form part of this

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

There are 688 children that have been clinically seen for an initial appointment and need further assessments to conclude or rule out a diagnosis. All children receive an initial assessment before entering any pathway, we have 2492 children awaiting these but this will include all paediatric referrals and not just ADHD. Children can be diagnosed with ADHD at the initial appointment.

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

12 months

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

Our longest waits are 2 years

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

Referrals must be made by health providers or education and must detail professional concerns for ADHD as well as concerns reported by parents. SNAP IV questionnaires must be submitted as part of the referral completed by education and parents and a school report must also be included. A background information sheet is completed by the referrer with the family to detail medical and developmental history to aid triage. We accept referrals for ADHD if information supplied shows a clinical assessment is required. All referrals are clinically triaged within 10 working days. Children must be between 6-11 years of age and either resident and/ or have a GP in West or North Kent.

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

The paediatric service follows referral guidance from NICE and is compliant with this.

c. Information on your financial year.

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

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

The KCHFT financial year runs from April 1st – March 31st each year.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: kcht.foi@nhs.net.

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, and Cheshire, SK9 5AF or via <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Act Team

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Re-use of information

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If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.opsi.gov.uk. This will not affect your initial information request. If you wish to re-use any third party copyright material we have identified you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders. Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at the address above.