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Our ref: FOI 9141

Date: 15 May 2023

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

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Dear Henry,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – SECTION 8 REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information dated 16/04/2023. Your request has been managed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested the following information under section 8 of the Act:

QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES

1. For your 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?
 - i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

Section 12 exemption – We do not hold this information in a reportable format. Due to the way in which we hold this information, we are unable to provide the number of assessments without manually reviewing patient records. This would greatly exceed the appropriate cost / time limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

- 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.

2021-2022

Bromley - 18 months (78 weeks)

Bexley - 20 months (87 weeks)

Greenwich - 23 months (99 weeks)

2022-2023

Bromley - 23 Months (99 weeks)

Bexley - 23 Months (99 weeks)

Greenwich - 30 Months (130 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.

Section 12 exemption – Due to the way in which we record this information, attempting to collate this information would exceed the appropriate cost / time limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 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.

2021-2022 - We do not have previous data available for this information.

2022-2023 - Currently 995 adults waiting for an assessment across all 3 boroughs.

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?
- a. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

2021-2022 - 560 (155 female, 405 male)

2022-2023 - 278 (104 female, 174 male)

- 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).
- a. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

2021-2022 – 21 (male 21 weeks, female 22 weeks)

2022-2023 – 7 (male 6 weeks, female 8 weeks)

- c) For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?
- a. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

2021-2022 – 29

2022-2023 – 104

- d) For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.
- a. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

2021-2022 – 388

2022-2023 – 666

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?
Yes
 - ii. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?
995 across 3 boroughs as of the 25/04/2023
 - iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?
Bromley - 23 months (100 weeks)
Bexley - 23 months (100 weeks)
Greenwich - 30 months (130 weeks estimated)
 - iv. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?
130 weeks
 - v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.
Screening process using the Wender Utah Rating Scale and Questionnaire sent to the client. We accept them if no serious co-morbid mental health issues requiring secondary care and they meet the threshold of 46 and above on the Wender Utah.
 - vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?
Yes regarding Medical Treatment and Assessment, but we are not able to provide non-pharmacological treatments
- b) With regards to your child ADHD services
 - i. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?
Yes, Greenwich & Bexley services
 - ii. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?
704 as at end of April 2023
 - iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD Assessment?
We can supply the latest average figure (22 weeks)

- iv. What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD Assessment?
103 weeks
- v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.

Bexley

In Bexley the primary and main route of referral for ADHD assessment is from school to the Bexley Community Paediatric Services. Referrals are accepted from children aged 6 to 18 years. Referrals are also accepted from CAMHS and GP. Schools make the referral after appropriate intervention and observation in school.

The referrals are made through a single "referral form for ASD/ADHD and behavioural difficulties", along with information from the parents completed through the "Parent Questionnaire". The referral form is counter signed by the Educational Psychologist with parental written consent

Referrals are accepted from the GP in the following circumstances:

- Child is unable to attend school
- Child is home educated
- Child registered with Bexley GP, but attends out of borough school
- No concerns in school

Referral is taken forward by further gathering information from school and parents through specific questionnaires as appropriate. This is followed by medical assessment with the Doctor in the ADHD team. Referral to appropriate assessment pathways, referral to other services/therapies, interventions and investigations are planned following the medical assessment.

All referrals are followed up in the ADHD Multidisciplinary team meeting involving ADHD Service Administrator, Educational Psychologist and the ADHD service lead. Help from CAMHS is available as appropriate. We use standardised screening tools (e.g. Conners 3) and QB test (as required).

Following ADHD assessment / confirmation of diagnosis, we discuss and educate the parents about ADHD support and management strategies (including behavioural and medical management, benefits and side effects of medication). We provide written information on ADHD, medication and signpost to ADHD resources / post diagnostic support services available in Bexley and nationally. The child is then discharged from the ADHD assessment service - parents can contact the service if they have any concerns or would want to discuss further.

Subsequent to a confirmed diagnosis of ADHD, parents can contact the service within a period of 12 months if the family would like to consider medical line of management (following recommended intervention). After this period, the family must have a referral from the family doctor to consider an appointment for medication initiation. A behaviour checklist from school will be gathered prior to the medication initiation. Medication is prescribed and monitored in line with NICE guidance.

Greenwich

The Greenwich Community Paediatrics team accept referrals from health, education, and social care via a referral form for children up to 16 years registered with a Greenwich GP. Referrals are triaged in the team with senior clinicians, and we accept most referrals for neurodevelopmental concerns.

If the concerns relate only to difficulties in relation to inattention and hyperactivity / impulsivity - the referrals are forwarded to the Greenwich IND ADHD Team. If concerns relate to ADHD with comorbidities like ASD, learning disabilities, underlying genetic conditions/ medical diagnoses Greenwich Community Paediatrics accept these referrals from the age of 5 years, provided supporting information (in the referral form and school questionnaire) is indicative. We have also introduced a parent questionnaire last month to gather further information to support the referral/assessment.

We use standardized screening tools (e.g. Conners) as part of the assessment. A diagnostic interview and observation are completed with families/CYP by a trained Paediatrician which covers all the areas NICE recommends. Following a diagnosis, we discuss management options with families. This includes advice on behaviour support (via websites/ links in the post diagnostic pack). Some are referred to the IND ADHD Team for a one-off ADHD information session providing psychoeducation and behavioural advice. If family want medication, they are referred to the Consultant ADHD management clinic where medication is prescribed and monitored in line with NICE guidance.

- 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

01/04/2022-31/03/2023

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

01/04/2021-31/03/2022

If you have any queries or concerns or are dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you wish to request a review of the decision, you should write to the Information Governance Manager, Julie Lucas via email at julie.lucas9@nhs.net in the first instance. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of your review and wish to make a formal complaint, please address this to: Complaints, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, Pinewood House, Pinewood Place, Dartford, DA2 7WG - Email: oxl-tr.complaints@nhs.net

In addition if you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information

Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (Telephone: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545 745 - www.ico.org.uk).

Kind regards,

Information Governance Office

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