



26/06/2026

The Countess of Chester Health Park
Liverpool Road
Chester
CH2 1UL

Email: foi.enquiries@nhs.net

Dear Requester,

RE: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Reference Number: 9749

Thank you for your correspondence dated **12/06/2026** making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information which may be held by the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

You requested the following information and our response is detailed below:

information on children's ADHD assessment services is held by your Trust.

Child ADHD Assessments

1. How many children do you have waiting for an ADHD diagnosis at the moment?

964 (as of 19/06/2026)

2. How many children were given an ADHD Assessment in the last year (1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026).

Counting assessments started (first face to face attendances in 25/26) = **472**

Counting assessments completed (diagnosed / discharged without a diagnosis in 25/26) = **533**

3. If a child was referred to you now when would you expect them to be seen?

59-60 weeks

4. Please describe your current Child ADHD Assessment pathway.

Current ADHD Pathway

If a child has mild/ moderate impairment that could be explained by ADHD, please apply ADHD recommendations and strategies as per the Guidance for the Multiagency Map (available to schools) and allow 6 months to monitor progress.



If a child has severe impairment that could be explained by ADHD, they can be referred to the Community Paediatric team by school. Severe ADHD is defined as hyperactivity, impulsivity and inattention are all present in multiple settings and with severe impairment in multiple domains (e.g. home life, classroom learning and friendships).

On referral to the Community Paediatric team, please complete and return all the relevant paperwork:

- Referral and consent form, with the child's details, explaining the reasons for referral
- 'ADHD Rating Scale'
- 'Request for Information Form'
- Any professional reports
- Strategies that are in place and progress report (e.g. SEND Pupil Profile)

Parents and carers, or where age-appropriate, young people with potential neurodevelopmental disorders are entitled to request an assessment via the referral process. Any request for assessment must be accompanied by supporting evidence, which will be reviewed by our clinical team of neurodevelopmental specialists. This is the initial screen. When deciding whether to accept for assessment, we take into account the following:

- The severity and duration of the signs and/or symptoms.
- The extent to which the signs and/or symptoms are present across different settings (for example, home and school). The national guidelines recommend evidence of pervasiveness of the symptoms with some impairment in 2 or more settings
- The impact of the signs and/or symptoms in different settings, on the child or young person and on their family or carer.
- The likelihood of an alternative diagnosis.

If referrals are declined this is because the evidence did not support the need for an assessment.

ADHD Assessment Process

The ADHD assessment will be carried out by a paediatrician/specialist nurse, who will complete a thorough history about your child's health and development from birth onwards. You may be asked some questions that you may not want to discuss in front of your child so please consider bringing an additional adult to the appointment to enable them to supervise your child elsewhere during this part of the appointment. We will ask for Conner's Questionnaires to be completed to collect more information from both home and school in advance of the initial appointment. All questions need to be answered on these questionnaires for the results to be calculated. Additional tests including a QB test may be required in certain situations depending upon the decision of the clinician.

The waiting list for our ADHD assessment varies. Whilst awaiting ADHD assessment, we recommend accessing the ADHD Foundation website (www.adhdfoundation.org.uk) for further information and resources about ADHD. Any additional educational support should be needs based and this can be discussed with your child's school without the need for a formal diagnosis as described in the Children's and Families Act 2014.

Additional advice on special educational support can be accessed via the Cheshire West and Chester Information and Advisory service (iasservice@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk). All services for children and young people with any special educational needs provided by the local authority, health or



voluntary sector should also be found on the local offer website. ([Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer | Live Well Cheshire West \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk))

Right of appeal:

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response, or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact the FOI team to discuss. However, if you remain dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, this can be formally requested in writing initially to the freedom of information officer by email or post to Countess of Chester Hospital Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1UL. The freedom of information team will review your request and provide a response within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a decision. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

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<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1151/datasets-foi-guidance.pdf>

Yours Sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust