



26 October 2017

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI 2691

Thank you for your request concerning CAMHS waiting times.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

Please can you action the following Freedom of Information Requests:

- 1. What was the average waiting time for patients referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your Trust between May 31st 2016 and May 30th 2017?**

The information that you are requesting regarding average waiting times does not form part of the Trust's national, contractual or local reporting at present. We have a number of performance indicators relating to waiting times and access to services which form part of the Trust's [Quarterly Performance Report](#) to Board and are available on the Trust's Public web-site. We would therefore refer you to this in the first instance¹.

We are commissioned to assess referrals for children and young people within 28 days; urgent referrals are seen within 7 days.

- 2. What was the average waiting time for patients referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your Trust between May 31st 2015 and May 30th 2016?**

Please see attached our Quarterly Performance Reports for 2015/16. The 2015/16 commissioned targets times are the same as 2016/17.

- 3. What was the longest waiting time for a patient referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your Trust between May 31st 2016 and May 30th 2017?**

Again, as explained above the information that you are requesting regarding the longest waiting time does not form part of the Trust's national, contractual or local reporting at present and again we would invite you to review our Quarterly Performance reports on our web-site.

- 4. What was the longest waiting time for a patient referred to the Child and Mental Health Services at your Trust between May 31st 2015 and May 30th 2016?**

Please see the answer to question 2.

¹ Section 21 – Information available through other means has been applied

5. **How often did limited capacity mean your Trust had to decline access to services for patients referred to the Child and Mental Health Services between May 31st 2016 and May 30th 2017?**

We do not turn patients away due to capacity.

6. **How often did limited capacity mean your Trust had to decline access to services for patients referred to the Child and Mental Health Services between May 31st 2015 and May 30th 2016?**

We do not decline access to our services due to limited capacity. Families may incur a wait for our service but this would always be risk assessed. We may also refer on for specialist services provided by other organisations such as GOS or Tavistock but would never turn away not based on capacity.

7. **What's the furthest distance a patient has had to travel from your trust to find adequate, available care from the Child and Mental Health Services between May 31st 2016 and May 30th 2017, having been turned away due to a lack of resources?**

We do not keep a record of the furthest distance in a reportable format. The Trust always endeavours to admit patients within Hertfordshire, where this is not possible placements tend to be in London or counties bordering Hertfordshire. We do not refuse admission to anyone needing our services due to any lack of beds within our area. We will work to return young people to the local in-patient provision as soon as a bed becomes available.

8. **What's the furthest distance a patient has had to travel from your Trust to find adequate, available care from the Child and Mental Health Services between May 31st 2015 and May 30th 2016, having been turned away due to a lack of resources?**

Please see the answer to question 7.

9. **What age was the youngest patient dealt with by the Child and Mental Health Services at your Trust between May 31st 2016 and May 30th 2017?**

2 years old.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

