

17 May 2023

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: Hpft.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI/04549

Thank you for your request concerning ASD Services.

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

Please provide the following information to the email address specified below.

1. Please name the organisation(s) that deliver(s) CYP (children and young people) ASD assessment / diagnoses in your Trust area

This information is already in the public domain¹. Please follow this [link](#) to a previously published response (FOI 4323)

- a. **When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end**
- b. **What is the annual spend for this service for 2022, and for the last 5 years?**
- c. **How is the service contracted – is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP contracting?**
- d. **If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?**
- e. **At what prevalence (% of the child population) have the contracts been commissioned against?**

We do not hold this information². Please contact [Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(HCT\)](#).

2. Does the same organisation as for Question 1 also deliver CYP ASD prescriptions and post-diagnosis ASD support in your Trust area? If not, please provide the same information for this organisation.

We do not hold this information². Please contact [Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(HCT\)](#).

3. Please outline the CYP ASD pathway in your area, including key referral sources

Please see the answer to question 2.

¹ Section 21 – Information is available through other means

² Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

- 4. How many children and young people are currently waiting for a CYP ASD assessment in your area? What is the longest and median wait time from a referral?**

Please see the answer to question 2

- a. Within the last year, how many children and young people were assessed within 12 weeks of referral?**
- b. Within the last year, how many children and young people were discharged without assessment?**
- c. Please answer Questions 4, 4a, 4b for as many historic years as possible, up to 5 years**

Please see the answer to question 2

- 5. For the last 5 years, please give the number of CYP patients per year in the Trust who were:**
- a. Referred for ASD assessment**
 - b. Given an ASD assessment**
 - c. Given an ASD assessment from a 'Right to Choose' provider, outside the service contracted**
 - d. Diagnosed with ASD**

Please see the answer to question 2.

- 6. For the last 5 years, what was the average number of ASD-qualified staff delivering services in the area? How does this split by role:**
- a. Qualified psychiatrists**
 - b. Paediatricians**
 - c. Speech and Language therapists**
 - d. Clinical Psychologists**
 - e. For a-d, please also give numbers of trainees**

Please see the answer to question 2.

Please provide equivalent answers for Questions 1-6, but for Adult ASD services in the Trust. If the Trust does not distinguish between CYP and Adult ASD services, please answer Questions 1-6 for all patients collectively

7. Please name the organisation(s) that deliver(s) Adult ASD assessment / diagnoses in your Trust area

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Herts ACMHS ASD assessment group The commissioners have commissioned another provider to support dealing with waiting list backlog.
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services The commissioners have commissioned another provider to support with the waiting list.

- a. When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	1 st April 2019 until 31 st March 2024
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	June 2014 until 31 st March 2024

- b. What is the annual spend for this service for 2022, and for the last 5 years?

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	This is part of a Block contract and the annual spend for Adult ASD assessment/diagnosis cannot be identified separately.
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability Mid Essex West Essex	Approximately £53k Approximately £66k

- c. How is the service contracted – is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP contracting?

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Block
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic Services for adults without a learning disability	Block

- d. If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Hertfordshire service is commissioned via the Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team (IHCCT) on behalf of the Herts & West Essex Integrated Care Service (ICS).
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic Services for adults without a learning disability	West Essex ASD Diagnostic services is commissioned from NHS Hertfordshire & West Essex ICB For MID Essex ASD Diagnostic service commissioned with the Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, changed to Mid Essex ICS.

- e. **At what prevalence (% of the population) have the contracts been commissioned against?**

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	We do not hold this information ² , please contact IHCCT
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic Services for adults without a learning disability	We do not hold this information ² , please contact IHCCT

8. **Does the same organisation as for Question 7 also deliver Adult ASD prescriptions and post-diagnosis ASD support in your Trust area? If not, please provide the same information for this organisation.**

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	No, although we do treat associated mental health problems in our IAPT, ACMHS and other services where these are required.
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic Services for adults without a learning disability	No post diagnostic support offered to adults but signposting to IAPT, EPUT Mental health services and we work closely with SUMMIT Advocacy services to support signposting to relevant services

9. **Please outline the Adult ASD pathway in your area, including key referral sources**

Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Referrals from GPs asked to ensure NICE criteria for referral are met, Triage via Single point of access, offered a MH assessment in ACMHS and then further triage and assessment as necessary by specialist workers.
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	Referrals from GPs , screened for appropriateness of referral by the service and then declined or offered assessment.

10. **How many Adults are currently waiting for an ASD assessment in your area?**

	Currently Waiting ASD Assessment
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	433
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	
Mid Essex	19
West Essex	47

West Essex – transferring referrals to Psychiatry UK

In addition to the above figures

- Since 3rd Jan we have transferred 43 referrals to PUK
- We are waiting for a further 27 people to give us their consent for us to transfer their referral to PUK. If they do not give consent they will remain with us meaning **20 could increase (to a maximum of 47)**

Mid Essex – transferring referrals to Psychiatry UK

In addition to the above figures

- Since 7th Sept 22 we have transferred 134 referrals to PUK
- We are waiting for a further 1 person to give consent. If this person does not give consent she will remain with us meaning **19 will increase to 20.**

What is the longest and median wait time from referral?

	Longest Waiting ASD Assessment	Median Wait Time From Referral
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service (AMHS)	<p>This information is not held in a reportable manner².</p> <p>ASD assessments are an integrated part of our AMHS.</p> <p>In order to provide this information would involve manually going through every service user's EPR who either has/had a psychologist or psychiatrist assigned to them and then scrutinise the record for ASD assessment and waiting time.</p> <p>This would invoke S12 – Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.</p>	
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability Mid Essex West Essex	32 months 30 months	21 months 25 months

a. Within the last year, how many Adults were assessed within 12 weeks of referral?

	Number of adults assessed within 12 weeks of referral			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	This information is not held in a reportable manner ² .			
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability Mid Essex West Essex	This information is not held in a reportable manner ² .			0 0

b. Within the last year, how many Adults were discharged without assessment?

	Number of adults discharged without assessment			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Please see answer to question 10.			
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability Mid Essex West Essex	This information is not held in a reportable manner ²			17 30

Please answer Questions for as many historic years as possible, up to 5 years

11. For the last 5 years, please give the number of Adults patients per year in the Trust who were:

a. Referred for ASD assessment

	Number of adults referred for ASD assessment			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	155	144	191	355
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability				
Mid Essex	92	73	55	171
West Essex	89	115	40	97

b. Given an ASD assessment

	Number of adults given an ASD assessment			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	Please see the answer to question 10.			
ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability				
Mid Essex	48	56	34	37
West Essex	31	33	20	31

c. Given an ASD assessment from a 'Right to Choose' provider, outside the service contracted

	Number of adults given a 'Right to Choose' provider			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Service	This information is not recorded ²			
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	This information is not recorded ²			

d. Diagnosed with ASD

Service	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adult Mental Health Services	50	60	55	59	46
Mid Essex					
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	31	36	40	24	25
West Essex					
Mid and West Essex ASD Diagnostic services for adults without a learning disability	19	19	23	22	16

12. For the last 5 years, what was the average number of ASD-qualified staff delivering services in the area? How does this split by role

- Qualified psychiatrists
- Paediatricians
- Speech and Language therapists
- Clinical Psychologists
- For a-d, please also give numbers of trainees

We are unable to provide the number of ASD qualified staff as this service is provided by staff within various teams as part of their wider roles/responsibilities and not identified separately.

Most of our psychologists and therapists have received training on this. We do have trainees but trainees are not qualified to assess.

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](#).

