

11 March 2024

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/04954

Thank you for your request concerning ASD referral to diagnosis wait time.

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

1. Please tell me of the length of the current waiting time between referral acceptance and Diagnostic Assessment for Adult ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) in your Trust.

This information is not held in a reportable manner. ASD assessments are an integrated part of our Adult Mental Health Services.

However, for those without co existing Learning Disability (LD) or significant challenges (for example awaiting specialist accommodation) most people are currently offered a complex triage within 28 days and for those where autism is suspected full assessment within 2 years if they live in Hertfordshire.

Those with co-existing significant challenges related to LD or significant other challenges waits are considerably shorter.

For West Essex (Adults without a Learning Disability) the average waiting time is 24.5 weeks. However, those waiting longer have been offered by ICB to be transferred to another service for quicker assessment but declined.

For North Essex LD services we are unable to provide you with a waiting time because this information is not recorded in a reportable manner. Service users who are waiting for an autism assessment in the LD services will be eligible and appropriate for the specialist LD health team and their additional needs will be met while waiting for an autism assessment.

In order to provide a more accurate waiting time would involve manually going through every service user's Electronic Patient Record who either has/had a psychologist or psychiatrist assigned to them and then scrutinise the record for ASD assessment and waiting time and this would invoke S12 – Cost of compliance¹.

In addition, we do not believe reading through individuals medical records for the purpose of a FOI request would be in line with the GDPR Data Protection Principles or the Caldicott Principles.

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

¹ Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

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](#).

