

30 April 2024

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Our Ref: FOI/05140

Thank you for your request concerning Autism waiting times.

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

1. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust.

The ASD diagnostic service for CYP is provided and managed by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust ¹.

It is not possible to provide medians length of times for adults in Hertfordshire or West Essex due to the nature of the 2 step assessment process.

However, between 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2023 we believe the median length of time from referral to receiving an autism assessment is more than 126 days in West Essex.

2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust.

Again as explained above it is not possible to provide medians length of times for adults Hertfordshire or West Essex.

3. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust.

Similar to the above, in Hertfordshire it is not possible to provide a conversion rate.

West Essex about 78.5% positive diagnosis of autism for period 01.04.2023 -22.02.2024

¹ 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. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust.

In Hertfordshire we do signposting and referral on to the commissioned service provided by or on behalf of Herts County Council. We do offer support and treatment for any co-occurring mental health / learning difficulties.

In West Essex we will offer a post diagnostic feedback session. We also write an extensive report with recommendations and refer people on the SUMMIT advocacy service. For their mental health needs we will refer to EPUT or Vita Minds.

5. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.

In Herts we offer a post diagnostic feedback session whether the person receives a diagnosis of autism or not. We also write an extensive report trying to provide an explanation and formulation of the difficulties that people presented with. We offer recommendations and refer on to commissioned services.

In West Essex we will offer a post diagnostic feedback session whether the person receives a diagnosis of autism or not. We also write an extensive report trying to provide an explanation and formulation of the difficulties that people presented with. We offer recommendations and refer people on the SUMMIT advocacy service. For their mental health needs we will refer to EPUT or Vita Minds.

6. What standardised tools are currently used by Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment.

In Hertfordshire we are using a combination of clinical interviews, Royal Psychiatry interview schedule and Service user / Carer questionnaires.

In West Essex we use the AQ10 with additional questions, the EQ, AQ and RQ.

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](#).

