

10 March 2022

## **Information on Primary Care Talking Therapy Hubs**

**This is a request, under the Freedom of Information Act, for information on Primary Care Talking Therapy Hubs. Please provide the following information for the period April – December 2021**

### **1. Number of referrals received**

There have been 7165 referrals to the Primary Care Talking Therapy Hub (PCTTH) from 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.

### **2. Breakdown of waiting time data, measured from referral received from the GP to first appointment, as follows:**

- i. Longer than 1 month**
- ii. Longer than 3 months**
- iii. Longer than 6 months**
- iv. Longer than 12 months**

Unfortunately, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust do not hold this information electronically. This would require a manual count, which would take more than 18 hours to collate.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

### **3. Average number of sessions provided.**

Six sessions per client.

### **4. Breakdown of modality utilised i.e. face-to-face, video, telephone.**

The initial triage appointments within the PCTTH are facilitated via telephone.

Currently the Community and Voluntary (C&V) partners are using a hybrid model of face-to-face and telephone appointments.

Belfast Trust does not record the actual breakdown of the modality used, as this is agreed individually with each client and the C&V organisation involved.

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**5. Outcomes of treatment recorded**

The Talking Therapies Hub receive end of therapy letters from all contracted organisations. These are to ensure an individual's record is complete. They are not used by the Hub or by Belfast Trust as an outcome measurement tool.

Belfast Trust requires organisations to use the CORENET system to record outcomes anonymously.

**6. Demographic and geographic data**

The PCTTH service is available to individuals aged 18 years and over. All GPs based within the Belfast locality can refer to this service.

**7. Details of geographic areas currently not serviced by the PCTT Hubs**

This is a locality-based service and, therefore, the service can only be accessed by individuals whose GP is within the Belfast Trust locality.

**8. Work undertaken to expand the capacity and reach of the PCTT Hubs during 2021/22**

The PCTTH is a locally commissioned service and capacity can only be expanded if commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). Belfast Trust hold regular meetings with the HSCB to request additional funds to address the unmet need.

**9. Budget and anticipated underspend for 2021/22**

The recurrent budget for 2021/2022 is £1,344,550.00, with no anticipated underspend.

Additional non-recurrent funding of £50,000 was made available in 2021/22.

**10. Projected budget for 2022/23**

The recurrent budget for 2022/2023 is £1,344,550.00.