

17 August 2022

Autism Services

Request

I am undertaking a dissertation around childhood autism diagnosis and the links to adult mental health difficulties. As such, I am reaching out to a number of trusts to obtain some further information on what services are available and gather some information.

If you are able to, please could you provide a response to the below questions?

What service does child autism diagnosis and support fall under within this trust (ie CAMHS, Learning Disability, Neurodevelopmental, etc)?

- The Child & Adolescent Autism Service sits under the management of Children's Psychological Services which sits under the wider Psychological Services in the Trust (MH/LD & Psychological Services Directorate).

What are the wait times for children receiving an assessment from point of referral?

- Longest wait 1175 days

What is the time between children receiving a diagnosis and an EHCP in place, if applicable?

- This isn't something that is formalised in NI. However, our assessments are made available to parents and can be shared with schools / educational psychologists who will be responsible for progressing any educational based supports.

What service are children passed to when reaching the age of 18?

- If a young person is referred for autism assessment before age 18 they will remain in the service until the assessment has been completed regardless of age. Funding allocated to Adult Autism Service only allows for a limited amount of post diagnostic intervention. C/V sector organisations provide support and intervention