

1 July 2024

ADHD Service Children and Young People

1) Confirm the scope of services provided to children and young people (people 18 or younger) seeking care for ADHD.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) provide a Paediatric ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) diagnostic service from age six years to age eleven years. The diagnostic assessment incorporates Conner's 4 Parent and Teacher Scales (validated from the age of six years) and a Qb-Computer Test. Those who fulfil the ADHD diagnostic criteria may benefit from ADHD medication, which are licensed from the age of six years. This is consistent with NICE Guidance.

ADHD medications are prescribed through Shared Care Agreement with Primary Care (General Practitioner) in line with NICE Guidance, with regular six monthly medical review, more frequent if required.

This medical review comprises monitoring of height, weight, pulse and blood pressure, and medication side effects. The Paediatric ADHD clinicians refer directly to BHSCT CAMHS if a child has additional mental health needs.

BHSCT provide ongoing medication review for children until the age of 18 years. In line with NICE Guidance (NICE NG 87 1.1.4), children are reassessed prior to age 18. Those with an ongoing need for ADHD medication are then referred to Adult ADHD Service.

The Paediatric ADHD Clinic sees children who live in within Belfast Trust **AND**

1. Are >6 years of age where there is a concern regarding possible ADHD

OR

2. Children with a diagnosis of ADHD requiring supervision of ADHD medication who have moved into Belfast Trust area

BHSCT Paediatric ADHD Clinic DO NOT see:

1. Children whose primary concern is their behaviour. The Health Visitor can provide support to the pre-school child. Families can also access support from the voluntary sector (Family Support Hubs, Incredible Years, Parents Advice Centre, Relate NI, and New Life Counselling).

1 July 2024

2. Children where there are concerns regarding mental health (anxiety, depression or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder), with advice to refer directly to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
3. Children who are secondary school age for diagnostic assessment.
4. School aged children regarding dyslexia or additional learning need, which may require an educational psychology assessment. A parent should discuss their concerns with the school SENCO, teacher, or make a parental referral to the Education Authority.

2) Since 2014 how many children and young people (18 or younger) - if available please separate the data by gender:

a-have been referred for a diagnosis.

5574 children

b-been assessed.

4008 children

c- received a diagnosis.

The diagnostic yield for this clinic is approximately 60%

3) What is the average waiting time for an assessment for children and young people seeking an ADHD diagnosis.

It is difficult to give an accurate figure for the “average waiting time” for ADHD diagnostic assessment. This would involve a retrospective analysis of a sample of children who have been assessed.

The longest waiting time for routine assessment is currently five years and four months.

Some children have a shorter waiting time. Primary 7 children are currently prioritised. Waiting list data for ADHD assessments for children already known to community paediatric services are not easily captured. These additional assessments are completed outside of the ADHD waiting list, within their ongoing care.

1 July 2024

4) How many specialist consultants/psychiatrists able to diagnose ADHD are currently in place?

Currently, BHSCT have seven consultant community paediatricians, of which five have allocated diagnostic ADHD clinic sessions. The remaining two consultants have ability to complete ADHD assessments for children already in their care. In addition, there are three specialty doctors who are able to carry out diagnostic assessments and review of ADHD patients, with an additional consultant locum who provides review clinics. We have two less-than-fulltime ADHD nurse specialists who support diagnostic assessment and review.

Currently, we have capacity to deliver 30 new ADHD assessments per month.

CAMHS do not currently provide any input into the community paediatric ADHD diagnostic assessment.

5) Number of children and young people diagnosed ADHD currently registered with the trust and how many are on medication.

We hold a review caseload of >2500 patients within the ADHD clinic. This is likely to be an under-estimate given children with comorbid diagnoses may be under review in another community paediatric clinic. The majority are on medication. We are not able to give a figure for this number. The Community Paediatric ADHD Service do not have direct Pharmacy provision.