Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/33610

29 April 2025

Adult Services in NI – RCSLT

Adult Community Service
Community Definition: Outpatient speech and language therapy services in community settings (not outpatient services delivered within an acute setting), domiciliary, community hospitals, care homes etc.

1. **How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020?**

	2024 *until 5th June**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Adult Community Service	931	2319	2268	2198	1719

* BHSCT went live with ENCOMPASS on the 6th June 2024 and ENCOMPASS reports are not available

2. **Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.**

   a. **How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:**
      I. **Less than 4 weeks**
      II. **5 to 8 weeks**
      III. **9 - 12 weeks**

IV. **13 to 18 weeks**
V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
VI. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
VII. **1 year to 2 years**
VIII. **over two years**

TEAM	**ADULT COMMUNITY**					
Dec-23	0-3 Weeks	3-6 weeks	6-9 weeks	9-13 weeks	13-26 weeks	26+ weeks
No. waiting	4	5	4	5	8	12

Information only available from November 2023 (PARIS report available) until 5th June 2024 (Encompass Go Live) – numbers above reflect 1st Dec 2023

b. **The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December**.

335 days

c. The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:
I. **2-10 days**
II. **10 days to 12 weeks**
III. **13 weeks to 18 weeks**

IV. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
V. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
VI. **1 year+**

TEAM	ADULT COMMUNITY					
Dec-23	0-3 Weeks	3-6 weeks	6-9 weeks	9-13 weeks	13-26 weeks	26+ weeks
No. waiting	102	83	62	67	144	9

Information only available from November 2023 (PARIS report available) until 5th June 2024 (Encompass Go Live) – numbers above reflect 1st Dec 2023

d. The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.

227 days

e. The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:

I. **2-10 days**
II. **10 days to 12 weeks**
III. **13 weeks to 18 weeks**
IV. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
V. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
VI. **1 year+**

We do not record this information as tertiary referrals – not reported on

Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, ***but doesn't include administrative letters or calls****.) If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*

Adult Learning Disability Service (ALD)

ALD Definition: Speech and language therapy services designed to support Adults with a Learning Disability.

1. **How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020**

	2024 *until 5th June**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Adult Learning Disability Service	172	352	363	433	233

* BHSCT went live with ENCOMPASS on the 6th June 2024 and ENCOMPASS reports are not available

2. **Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.**

    a. **How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:**

I. **Less than 4 weeks**
II. **5 to 8 weeks**
III. **9 - 12 weeks**
IV. **13 to 18 weeks**
V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
VI. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
VII. **1 year to 2 years**
VIII. **over two years**

TEAM	**LEARNING DISABILITY**					
Dec-23	0-3 Weeks	3-6 weeks	6-9 weeks	9-13 weeks	13-26 weeks	26+ weeks
No. waiting	3	0				

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b. The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December.

6 days

c. The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:
I. Less than 48 hours
II. 2-10 days

III. **10 days to 12 weeks**
IV. **13 weeks to 18 weeks**
V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
VI. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**
VII. **1 year+**

TEAM	LEARNING DISABILITY					
Dec-23	0-3 Weeks	3-6 weeks	6-9 weeks	9-13 weeks	13-26 weeks	26+ weeks
No. waiting	3					

Information only available from November 2023 (PARIS report available) until 5th June 2024 (Encompass Go Live) – numbers above reflect 1st Dec 2023

d. The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.

15 days

e. The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:

I. **Less than 48 hours**
II. **2-10 days**
III. **10 days to 12 weeks**
IV. **13 weeks to 18 weeks**
V. **19 weeks to 26 weeks**
VI. **27 weeks to 52 weeks**

VII. 1 year+

We do not record this information as tertiary referrals – not reported on

Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, ***but doesn't include administrative letters or calls.)*** *If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*

Adult Acute Service

Acute Definition: Inpatient services in the acute setting and outpatient services, where the service is delivered within the acute setting.

1. **How many total referrals were received by the service in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020**

	2024 *until 5th June**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**
Adult Acute Service	1807	4302	3988	3817	3365

* BHSCT went live with ENCOMPASS on the 6th June 2024 and ENCOMPASS reports are not available

2. **Please detail the following for 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.**

a. **How many adults were waiting for *initial contact re communication on 1st December? Please break this down by how many were waiting:**
   - I. **1-2 weeks**
   - II. **3-4 weeks**
   - III. **5-8 weeks**
   - IV. **Over 9 weeks**

   We do not record this information – not reported on

b. **The longest waiting time for *initial contact for adult speech and language therapy re communication on 1st December.**

   We do not record this information – not reported on

c. **The number of adults waiting for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December. Please break this down by how many were waiting:**
   - I. **up to 48 hours**
   - II. **3-4 days**
   - III. **5-7 days**
   - IV. **8-10 days**
   - V. **11-14 days**
   - VI. **More than 15 days**

   We do not record this information – not reported on

d. **The longest waiting time for a dysphagia assessment on 1st December.**

   We do not record this information – not reported on

e. **The number of adults waiting for an instrumental assessment on 1st December. Please break this down into FEES and VFS and by how many were waiting:**
   - I. **up to 48 hours**
   - II. **3-4 days**
   - III. **5-7 days**
   - IV. **8-10 days**
   - V. **11-14 days**
   - VI. **More than 15 days**

   We do not record this information as tertiary referrals – not reported on

*Please define 'initial contact' as contact where the patient received input from a Speech and Language Therapist that added value to their care / moved their care forward. (This could include assessment, advice, education, signposting, **but doesn't include administrative letters or calls**.) If you do not record 'initial contact' in this way, please provide your definition and the associated data.*