

30 January 2026

Play Therapists Belfast Trust

FOR ACUTE HOSPITALS IN YOUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST – If you have more than one hospital in your Health and Social Care Trust we would like you to return the below data for each hospital that cares for babies, children, and young people (aged 0-17).

FOR COMMUNITY OR MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS/SETTINGS/SERVICES IN YOUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST – If you have more than one community or mental health team/setting/service in your Health and Social Care Trust, we would like you to return data for each team/setting/service that cares for babies, children, and young people (aged 0-17). Please include teams/settings/services that also provide healthcare support to people outside of the age range (18 year olds, 19 year olds, adults), if they also provide support to 0-17 year olds.

Return for Community & Inpatients Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. Please note Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provide services from 0-18 years so figures relate to this age range.

Section 1: Information about completing this FOI request

Who has contributed to filling in this FOI response? Please provide job titles, not names.	Were the Play Team and/or Health Play Specialists and/or health play qualified workers involved in compiling the response? [Y/N]
Service Manager Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service & Service Manager Acute Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Not applicable

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Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children PLAY SERVICES MANAGER Financial Accountant, Planning and Contracts Department	Yes

Section 2a: FOR ACUTE HOSPITALS ONLY – Information about numbers of wards and beds, and types of play provision

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, for each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the numbers of wards/departments and beds that care for 0-17 year olds and the types of play provision.

To provide this information, please use the following table (**you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments**).

Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Name of ward/department that cares for 0-17 year olds	Number of beds for 0-17 year olds in this ward/department	Are 0-17 year olds supported by a member of the play team* in this ward/department ? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to an <u>indoor</u> playroom/area in this ward/department? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to a designated <u>outdoor</u> play area in this ward/department ? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to play resources such as toys, games, activities etc. in this ward/department ? [Y/N]
Beechcroft Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Inpatient Service (0-18 years)		25	0	No but various room available – art, music, group rooms all with resources for play and activities	Y	Y

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Royal Belfast for Sick Children	All wards	91 overnight beds and 12 Paediatric Intensive Care Unit	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
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**Please see Appendix A below for list of job titles*

Section 2b: FOR COMMUNITY OR MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS/SETTINGS/SERVICES ONLY – Information about numbers of teams/settings/services, and types of play provision

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the numbers of 0-17 year olds seen and the types of play provision. To provide this information, please use the following table.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Number of 0-17 year olds seen by this team/setting/service	If applicable, number of beds for 0-17 year olds in this team/setting/service	Are 0-17 year olds supported by a health play professional* in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to an <u>indoor</u> playroom/area in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to a designated <u>outdoor</u> play area in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to play resources such as toys, games, activities etc. in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	If support is provided to 0-17 year olds at home, do they have access to play services provided by your team/setting/services? [Y/N]
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Approx. 2400-2500 0-18 year olds across all teams	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

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Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust							
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**Please see Appendix A below for list of job titles*

Section 3a: FOR ACUTE HOSPITALS ONLY – Information about the current Play Team(s)

For each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the current Play Team(s). To provide this information, please use the following table: **(you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments).**

Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Which Directorate(s) does the Play Team(s) sit in?	How many health play professionals are in the Play Team(s)?	How many of these are qualified Health Play Specialists (including Senior Health Play Specialists)?	How many other health professionals (aside from the Play Team) have responsibility for delivering play?	Do you employ any other health professionals who have a health play specialism qualification, but their job title does not include the word 'play'? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us their job title(s).
Beechcroft Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Inpatient Service (0-18 years)	Mental Health & Learning Disability	0	0	0	0

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Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	Child Health and Northern Ireland Specialist Transport and Retrieval	Funded for 21 Staff Current in post 16	8	0	0
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Also, for each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know what job titles are within the Play Team(s) and some subsequent information about their roles. To provide this information, please use the following table **(you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments)**. **NB If multiple members of staff share the same job title, please list each staff member separately as the subsequent information about their roles might differ.** Please see Appendix A below for a list of Play Team job titles and their definitions (not exhaustive but can help to make distinctions between each job title).

Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Name of ward/department that cares for 0-17 year olds	What is their job title?	Are they registered with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SoHPS)?	What is their salary band?	What is their WTE? (e.g., 1, 0.8, 0.6 etc)	What is their average number of hours per shift?	Are there occasions where they work beyond their shift hours? [Y/N]. (If yes, what is the average number of hours worked beyond their shift hours?)	Do they work in the community? [Y/N]	Do they have a qualification in health play specialism? [Y/N/No but currently completing the course]	What play-related qualifications do they have? Please list.

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Mental Health Not applicable as above										
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	All ward	Health Play Specialist	5 staff hold registration with SoHPS	Band 4	14.05 WTE	7.5	Y Average 45 mins to 1hr	1 HPS works part time in community	7 staff qualified 1 currently completing qualification 9 unqualified	NNEB Degree in Early Childhood Studies NVQ level 3 and level 4 in Childhood Studies
		Play Services Manager	Yes	Band 6	0.86 WTE	8.15	Yes average 1-2 hrs		Yes	NNEB
		Play Co-Ordinator	Vacant post at January 2026	Band 5	0.88 WTE	7.5				
		Community Play Specialist	Vacant post at January 2026	Band 5	1	7.5		Yes		

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Section 3b: FOR COMMUNITY OR MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS/SETTINGS/SERVICES ONLY – Information about the current health play professionals

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the current health play professionals. To provide this information, please use the following table.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Which Directorate(s) do health play professionals sit in?	How many health play professionals work in this team/setting/service?	How many of these are qualified Health Play Specialists (including Senior Health Play Specialists)?	How many other health professionals (aside from health play professionals) have responsibility for delivering play?	Do you employ any other health professionals who have a health play specialism qualification, but their job title does not include the word 'play'? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us their job title(s).
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Belfast & South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	Mental Health & Learning Disability	0	0	0	We have 3 staff who are qualified Play Therapists across our teams. Lead Senior Social Worker x 1 ,

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						hours worked beyond their shift hours?)		
Not applicable we do not currently have specific play therapist posts within community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service								

Section 4: Information about recruiting the Play Team(s)/health play professionals

For each hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about recruiting the Play Team(s)/health play professionals. To provide this information, please use the following table: **(you may need to list each hospital or team/setting/service in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments).**

Name of hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	When recruiting a Health Play Specialist, do you request a qualification in health play specialism as essential criteria for the role? [Y/N]	When recruiting a Health Play Specialist, do you request being registered with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SoHPS) as essential criteria for the role? [Y/N]	Do you recruit people into a Health Play Specialist role, that do not have a qualification in health play specialism? [Y/N]. If yes, is it mandatory for them to do this qualification when in post? [Y/N]	Is it mandatory for Health Play Specialists to be registered with SoHPS in your Trust? [Y/N]
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<p>Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, various wards and clinics.</p>	<p>The following criteria is used to appoint to this role - BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies or equivalent PLUS one year's experience providing play in a hospital setting. OR Diploma in in Child Care, Specialised Play for Sick Children and Young People or equivalent PLUS one year's experience providing play in a hospital setting.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The criteria used has been provided.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Note: The information in the above table relates to the recruitment of Play Specialist Band 4. The job description and specification are standard for this role in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.</p>				

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Mental Health - Not Applicable we do not currently have specific play therapist posts within Inpatient CAMHS				
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Section 5a: FOR ACUTE HOSPITALS ONLY – Information about play coverage

For each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know about the play coverage in terms of hours/times of day. To provide this information, please use the following table (**you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments**).

Name of hospital that for 0-17 year olds	Name of ward/department that cares for 0-17 year olds	What hours are the Play Team available on weekdays? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.)	What hours are the Play Team available on weekends? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if not available on weekends]	What are the opening hours of the indoor playroom/area on weekdays? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no indoor playroom]	What are the opening hours of the indoor playroom/area on weekends? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no indoor playroom]	What are the opening hours of the designated outdoor play area on weekdays? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no outdoor play area]	What are the opening hours of the designated outdoor play area on weekends? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no outdoor play area]
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	All Wards/ departments	7.30am – 5pm	In Emergency Department 10am – 10pm In Haematology	Wards with playrooms are open at all times. (only closed at	Wards with playrooms are open at all times. (only closed at the request	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

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			Only 7.30am - 5pm	the request of the ward manager	of the ward manager	
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Also, for each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know the following information:

Name of hospital that cares for 0–17-year-olds	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make this hospital or ward/department more welcoming or playful for children and young people <u>before</u> attending an appointment/being admitted? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us what these measures/provisions are.	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make this hospital or ward/department more welcoming or playful for children and young people <u>during</u> their appointment/admission? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us what these measures/provisions are.
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	If referred to a Health Play Specialist prior to the appointment resources on hospital/preparation may be forwarded to the child/parent which can include hospital preparation photos and colouring activities as part of making the familiarisation process more fun.	The hospital environment which has colourful murals and welcoming decorations depending on the seasons definitely makes for a more pleasurable first impression. Ward playrooms and play materials are available which are helpful when the Health Play Therapist is not on duty.

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Section 5b: FOR COMMUNITY OR MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS/SETTINGS/SERVICES ONLY – Information about play coverage

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know about the play coverage in terms of hours/times of day. To provide this information, please use the following table.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	What hours are health play professionals available on weekdays? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.)	What hours are health play professionals available on weekends? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if not available on weekends]	What are the opening hours of the <u>indoor</u> playroom/area on <u>weekdays</u> ? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no indoor playroom]	What are the opening hours of the <u>indoor</u> playroom/area on <u>weekends</u> ? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no indoor playroom]	What are the opening hours of the designated <u>outdoor</u> play area on <u>weekdays</u> ? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no outdoor play area]	What are the opening hours of the designated <u>outdoor</u> play area on <u>weekends</u> ? (e.g., 9-5, 24/7 etc.) [write n/a if no outdoor play area]
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Belfast Health and Social Care Trust & South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	9-5	No	9-5	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Also, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know the following information:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make that	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make that

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	team/setting/service more welcoming or playful for children and young people <u>before</u> attending an appointment/being admitted? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us what these measures/provisions are.	team/setting/service more welcoming or playful for children and young people <u>during</u> their appointment/admission? [Y/N] If yes, please tell us what these measures/provisions are.
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Belfast Health and Social Care Trust & South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	No	We have a range of play therapy resources and other play resources such as toys/ games which are used in delivering therapeutic interventions
Inpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	No	We have a range of play therapy resources and other play resources such as toys/ games which are used in delivering therapeutic interventions

Section 6a: FOR ACUTE HOSPITALS ONLY – Information about play budgets

For each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the annual budget for play. To provide this information, please use the following table.

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Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Is there an annual budget specifically for play resources and materials (aside from health play staff)? [Y/N/No but resources can be purchased through a central budget].	Is there an annual budget specifically for health play staffing and training? [Y/N]
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Belfast Health and Social Care Trust & South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	No	No
Inpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	No	No
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	Yes	No

If you answered ‘Yes’ or ‘No but resources can be purchased through a central budget’, I would also like to know what the annual budget was for play in healthcare in FY24-25 (between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025) and what it was spent on. To provide this information, please use the following table (**you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments**).

Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Name of ward/department that cares for 0-17 year olds	What was the approximate overall annual budget available for play in FY24-25? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on Play Team staffing? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on resources and materials for play? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on commissioning/ paying for external organisations/individuals providing play on an ad-hoc basis? (In £) [please list these organisations/individuals]	How much of the budget was spent on health play staff training and development budget? (In £)
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	All Wards					

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Also, for each hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know who funds the budget for play staff / resources (e.g., ICB, Health Board, Charity, a Fundraising Group, other donations, etc.). To provide this information, please use the following table (**you may need to list each hospital in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments**). If more than one funder, please specify in the table below who they are and what they are funding.

Name of hospital that cares for 0-17 year olds	Name of ward/department that cares for 0-17 year olds	Funder/source of donations	Value of fund/donation (In £)	What are they funding? (e.g., play team, toys and resources, external entertainers)
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	All Wards	Charitable Funds	£25,000	Toys and resources
		Hospital Charity	£25,000	Toys and resources, external entertainers

Section 6b: FOR COMMUNITY OR MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS/SETTINGS/SERVICES ONLY – Information about play budgets

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the annual budget for play. To provide this information, please use the following table.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Is there an annual budget specifically for play resources and materials (aside from health play staff)? [Y/N/No but resources can be purchased through a central budget].	Is there an annual budget specifically for health play staffing and training? [Y/N]
Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Belfast Health and Social Care Trust & South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	No	

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If you answered 'Yes' or 'No but resources can be purchased through a central budget', I would also like to know what the annual budget was for play in healthcare in FY24-25 (between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025) and what it was spent on. To provide this information, please use the following table.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	What was the approximate overall annual budget available for play in FY24-25? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on health play professional staffing? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on resources and materials for play? (In £)	How much of the budget was spent on commissioning/paying for external organisations/individuals providing play on an ad-hoc basis? (In £) [please list these organisations/individuals]	How much of the budget was spent on health play staff training and development budget? (In £)
All team and specialities within Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	£727,741	£632,363	£8,348	0	This was additional spend to the budget.

Also, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know who funds the budget for play staff / resources (e.g., ICB, Health Board, Charity, a Fundraising Group, other donations, etc.). To provide this information, please use the following table. If more than one funder, please specify in the table who they are and what they are funding.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Funder/source of donations	Value of fund/donation (In £)	What are they funding? (e.g., health play professionals, toys and resources, external entertainers)
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Section 7: Information about the Play Well Toolkit

For each hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the Play Well Toolkit. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Is this hospital OR team/setting/service aware of the Play Well Toolkit? [Y/N] • If yes, would it be useful to adopt the Play Well recommended standards and guidance in Northern Ireland? [Y/N]	Do you have any other guidance/policies on how play should be delivered in your Health and Social Care Trust? [Y/N]. If yes, please share it with us if you can.
Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Regional Inpatient Unit	No	
Royal Belfast for Sick Children	Yes	No

Section 8: Information about measurement tools for 0-17 year olds

For each hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about measurement tools. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of hospital OR team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Does this hospital OR team/setting/service measure procedural anxiety for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N] • If Yes, please share the measurement	Does this hospital OR team/setting/service measure pain for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N] • If Yes, please share the measurement tools with us if you can.	Does this hospital OR team/setting/service measure emotions/how they are feeling for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N] • If Yes, please share the measurement	Does this hospital OR team/setting/service evaluate the impact of play? [Y/N] • If yes, do they evaluate the efficiencies and cost

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	tools with us if you can.		tools with us if you can.	benefits of play? [Y/N] • If yes, please share any reports or evidence with us if you can.
Mental Health	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes – Kidscreen, SDQ, HONSCA, C-GAS and a range of clinical outcome measures and carer/ patient feedback	No
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	Yes. Procedural anxiety is measured but not with a specific tool; using reaction and experience	Yes. Using visual tool, faces pain scale.	Yes, using visual emotions tool.	No

Section 9: Information about numbers of admissions and attendances

For the financial year 24-25 (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) for, each acute, community and mental health setting (e.g., hospital, centre etc) in your Health and Social Care Trust, I would like to know:

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1. the number of admissions for 0-17 year olds into inpatient care

Responses below are from Service Area Mental Health

No. Admitted (0-18 years)	TOTAL
Female	66
Male	23
Total	89

2. the number of attendances for 0-17 year olds into outpatient care
 1393 Female
 986 Male
 196 Sex not reported. (sex box left blank)
3. the number of attendances for 0-17 year olds into A&E
 Not Applicable

For each of the requests above, please provide the number in total and broken down by the following categories:

- Sex – See Above
- Ethnicity – Not available
- Level of deprivation (e.g., most deprived 10% to least deprived 10%) – Not available
- Disability/additional needs – Not available
- Main specialty (of treatment) – Child and Adolescent Mental Health

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Admissions to Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025			
Combined Inpatient Admissions			
Sex	Female	Male	Total
Total	2948	3512	6460

Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children Emergency Department Attendances Aged 0-17 For period 1/4/24 to 31/3/25			
Source - Boxi & Epic			
Sex	Female	Male	Total
Total	19511	23481	42992

Outpatient Activity Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children			
Sex	Female	Male	Total
Total	23781	29322	53110