Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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FOI/38651

4 November 2026

Paediatric Adhd Assessments

Please can I have copies of all policies and procedures in relation to paediatric adhd assessments?

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested in a recorded format. There are no specific policies relating solely to paediatric ADHD assessment. Further information can be found on our website Community paediatrics | Belfast Health & Social Care Trust website

The Community Paediatric ADHD Service provides diagnostic assessments for children aged over 6 years up to the end of Primary 7. The service does not offer diagnostic assessments for post-primary school pupils and does not assess children with severe learning difficulties or disabilities. However, children and young people prescribed ADHD medication can remain under review by the service until they reach 18 years of age.

The service is delivered by a multidisciplinary team consisting of Consultant Paediatricians, Specialty Doctors, a Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) Nurse, Health Care Assistants and administrative staff. Referrals are accepted from GPs, healthcare professionals and educational psychologists. As part of the referral process, information is routinely sought from the child's school, usually via the class teacher or SENCO, in line with NICE guidance which requires evidence of difficulties across more than one setting. Where a child is not attending school, information may be sought from alternative sources such as childcare providers, youth groups or sports coaches.

Referrals are received through the Community Paediatric Partial Booking Office and are reviewed on a weekly basis by Consultant Paediatricians and/or the NMP Nurse using the Encompass system. When a child reaches the top of the waiting list, parents are contacted for consent to issue standardised Conners Rating Scales to both home and school. Following receipt of the completed questionnaires, the child is invited to undertake a QB Test, which is administered by a Health Care Assistant.

Once the questionnaires and QB Test have been completed, the case is considered at a weekly multidisciplinary screening meeting attended by Consultant Paediatricians and the NMP Nurse. The assessment information is reviewed alongside any relevant medical history available through electronic records systems, including ECR, Paris and Encompass.

Where the assessment findings do not support a diagnosis of ADHD, namely where the Conners questionnaires do not meet diagnostic thresholds and the QB Test is

not suggestive of ADHD, the child is discharged from the assessment pathway. A letter outlining the assessment findings and outcome is issued to parents and the

GP, together with information regarding sources of support that may be available to the family.

Where the screening results suggest possible ADHD, or where the findings are inconclusive, further assessment is undertaken. This usually involves a detailed neurodevelopmental history with the parent or carer and, where appropriate, the collection of additional information such as social communication questionnaires or further evidence from school. The child and parent/carer are subsequently offered a face-to-face clinical appointment, during which a further assessment and examination are completed and feedback is provided regarding the outcome of the assessment.

Where a diagnosis of ADHD is confirmed, treatment options, including medication, are discussed alongside signposting to relevant support services. Children and young people prescribed ADHD medication remain under the care of the Community Paediatric ADHD Clinic and are reviewed regularly in accordance with the Shared Care Agreement. These reviews include monitoring of height, weight and blood pressure, as well as assessment of medication effectiveness and tolerability.

For young people who remain on ADHD medication approaching their 18th birthday, transition planning is undertaken. This includes completion of a QB Test both on and off medication to support decisions regarding ongoing treatment. Within Belfast Trust, referral to Adult ADHD Services can only be made within nine weeks of a young person's 18th birthday and only where they continue to require medication. Young people who are no longer receiving medication at the point of discharge are transferred to the care of their GP, with advice regarding future referral to Adult ADHD Services should this be required.

Can you also provide numbers for:

1. **Number of ADHD assessments undertaken in past year**

The number of children who have had ADHD assessments October 2025 to 21 October 2026 is 471.

2. **Number of children who received an ADHD diagnosis in past year**

This information is held by the Trust, but in order to retrieve the information from Encompass /EPIC this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of data which would involve a significant number of hours.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one

or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

3. **Number of home educated children who undertook an ADHD assessment**

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested.

4. **number of home educated children who received a diagnosis**

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested.