

4 April 2023

Provision of Children's ADHD Services

I wish to make the following Freedom of Information request in relation to the provision of Children's ADHD services within your Trust area:

- 1. How many individuals are currently on the children's ADHD diagnosis waiting list (i.e. as at 6 March 2023)?**

Unfortunately, Belfast Trust have over 1000 children currently on our waiting list.

- 2. What is the Average wait time for an ADHD diagnosis for children within the Trust Area?**

The waiting time for a routine new patient is approximately 5 years and for an urgent new appointment the waiting time is 9 weeks.

- 3. What is the current target waiting times for ADHD diagnosis?**

The current target waiting time is 9 weeks for a new routine appointment.

- 4. When was the last time the ADHD service met the maximum waiting time target, as set by the Health and Social Care Commissioning Plan and Indicators of Performance Direction?**

The 9 week target has not been met for several years.

- 5. What ADHD services are commissioned for Children in the Trust area?**

The Children's ADHD service has never been specifically commissioned in the Trust area. The clinics have grown organically, as a result of service demand. They are run by Community Paediatricians, without formal input from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Demand significantly outweighs capacity and funding is needed to properly resource and improve this service.

- 6. Are the commissioned services in proportion to the levels of ADHD suspected in the population?**

The service demand is significantly greater than the suspected population.

- 7. How much funding is allocated to ADHD services in the Trust area?**

Some recurrent funding has been allocated through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, (£115K) to support the implementation of the framework. Previously there was also a non-recurrent allocation of £125K, this funding was utilised to reduce ADHD waiting times by acquiring additional capacity in the independent sector. This funding has not subsequently been made recurrently available to ADHD services.

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8. If children have a private diagnosis of ADHD, are they accepted into the Trust ADHD services?

The Trust ADHD service does accept children onto the waiting list who have been diagnosed privately.

9. What interventions are offered to children and families whilst they are waiting to be seen for an ADHD diagnosis appointment?

Families can seek support from their Health Visitor and the voluntary sector, including the Family Support Hubs [Search Results in Family Support Hub Category \(familysupportni.gov.uk\)](#), Parenting NI [Parenting NI](#), Relate NI [Relate NI | Counselling Northern Ireland | Counselling Belfast](#) and New Life Counselling [AMH New Life Counselling | Action Mental Health](#).

10. Has a patient impact assessment been completed by the Trust for those on the ADHD waiting list? For the individual and their family / carers?

No, this process has not been completed by the Trust.

11. Does the Trust area allocate any funding to the voluntary sector for ADHD support services?

The Trust does not allocate any funding to the voluntary sector for ADHD support services.

12. How has ADHD been considered in the Recent Mental Health Strategy?

Paediatric ADHD has not been considered in the recent Mental Health Strategy

13. How are co-morbid conditions managed within the ADHD service?

The main co-morbid condition is autism. This service is delivered separately from ADHD services in the Trust by the Autism Intervention Service.