

23 October 2021

## **Autistic Spectrum Disorder Care**

May I please have the questions below answered year by year:

- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- and so far in 2021.

May I also have the data:

for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome).

for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome).

### **1. Budget received and budget spent on ASD services.**

The budget for working with children and adults with ASD is contained across many different services and budgets within Belfast Trust and may not necessarily be called 'ASD funding'. Services are normally needs led rather than diagnostic label led.

E.g. within the children with disabilities service there is no specific budget for services to children with Autism and therefore it is not possible to disaggregate the budget/spend for children with ASD. All spend is based on assessment of need, not diagnosis, however children with ASD will be entitled to an assessment of need and services commensurate with the outcome of this assessment.

As this information is not centrally held and for the reasons outlined above we would not be able to provide this within the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

### **2. A breakdown of the expenditure.**

See no.1

### **3. Clinical staff involved in making ASD diagnosis – broken into details of specialism. And weekly hours spent.**

Below gives an estimate of ASD staff weekly hours spent undertaking ASD assessments when all staff are in post, estimated September 2021. However

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this may change over time and it would take more than 18 hours to identify these changes with a high degree of accuracy for the time period specified.

**Children & Young People (CYP) Service**

Psychologist	11.25
Operational Lead Clinician	9.38
Psychologist	18.75
Psychologist	18.75
Nurse Specialist Practitioner	18.75
SLT Clinical Lead	9.38
Psychologist	18.75
SLT Senior Specialist	16.88
SLT Senior Specialist	16.88
SLT Senior Specialist	18.75
SLT Senior Specialist	11.25
OT Senior Specialist	18.75
OT Senior Specialist	11.25
OT Senior Specialist	11.25
OT Senior Specialist	18.75
Psychologist	11.25
Child Development Practitioner	18.75
CAMHS Practitioners	9.38

**Adult's Service**

Psychologist	18.75
Psychologist	18.75
OT	3.75
Social Worker	3.75
Psychological Therapist	3.75

**4. Number of Service users newly diagnosed.**

	CYP	Adults
2018/19	812	23
2019/20	535	33
2020/21	90	4
April 2021 – July 2021	89	10

**5. Number of Service users now collated on ASD database.**

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Belfast Trust holds a list of patients awaiting ASD specific services such as assessment and intervention but we don't hold an ASD database of service users. 2021/22 waiting list details as follows:

**CYP ASD Assessment**

<b>Month Ending :</b>	<b>Total Waiters</b>	<b>Longest Wait (in Days)</b>
<b>Apr-21</b>	1825	903
<b>May-21</b>	1912	934
<b>Jun-21</b>	1918	964
<b>Jul-21</b>	1990	995
<b>Aug-21</b>	1990	1026

**CYP ASD Intervention**

<b>Month Ending :</b>	<b>Total Waiters</b>	<b>Longest Wait (in Days)</b>
<b>Apr-21</b>	65	49
<b>May-21</b>	83	57
<b>Jun-21</b>	81	51
<b>Jul-21</b>	122	75
<b>Aug-21</b>	76	53

**Adult ASD assessment**

<b>Month Ending :</b>	<b>Total Waiters</b>	<b>Longest Wait (in Days)</b>
Apr-21	<b>470</b>	1766
May-21	<b>476</b>	1797
Jun-21	<b>484</b>	1827
Jul-20	<b>486</b>	1858
Aug-21	<b>488</b>	1889

**Adult ASD intervention**

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Month Ending :	Total Waiters	Longest Wait (in Days)
Apr-21	8	450
May-21	9	481
Jun-21	15	511
Jul-21	25	542
Aug-21	31	573

Below are the numbers of children known to the Children with Disabilities service with a primary diagnosis of Autism.

2018 (31/3/18) 228  
 2019 (31/3/19) 259  
 2020 (31/3/20) 204  
 2021 – not available

**6. Provision made for ASD support – pathways and clinical input by ASD employed trust personnel. Please include the medical sectarianisms involved in delivery and the clinical hours available weekly.**

The Pathway for children who have Autism into Children with Disabilities service is following referral - usually Paediatrician, GP Health Visitor and occasionally self/carer referral. This will lead to an assessment of need which will then determine if or which service will be provided and the level of service required. This is the case for all referrals regardless of disability or condition. The service does not provide clinical input/services directly, but via Children's Therapeutic Service

Below gives an estimate of ASD employed Belfast Trust clinical staff supporting ASD services when all staff are in post, estimated September 2021. However this may change over time and it would take more than 18 hours to identify these changes with a high degree of accuracy for the time period specified.

**CYP services**

Psychologist	37.50
Psychologist	22.50
Operational lead	37.50
Psychologist	37.50
Psychologist	37.50
Nurse Specialist Practitioner	37.50
SLT Clinical Lead	18.75
Psychologist	37.50

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SLT Senior Specialist	33.75
SLT Senior Specialist	33.75
SLT Senior Specialist	11.25
SLT Senior Specialist	37.50
SLT Senior Specialist	11.25
OT Senior Specialist	37.50
OT Senior Specialist	22.50
OT Senior Specialist	22.50
OT Senior Specialist	37.50
Psychologist	22.50
Child Development Practitioner	37.50
CAMHS practitioner	9.38
OT	18.75
Child Development Practitioner	37.50
Assistant Child Development Prac	112.50
SLT Assistant	18.75

Adult Services

Psychologist	18.75
Psychologist	18.75
OT	18.75
Social Worker	18.75
Psychological Therapist	37.5
Autism Psychological Assistant	37.5
Autism Support Worker	56.25

**7. Provision for mental health support for ASD patients and service users.**

Whilst we recognise that not every child or young person with ASD will have mental health difficulties, we do know that having ASD means that young people are more vulnerable to developing mental health problems. We therefore have a range of clinical staff in the service offering preventative support as well as direct intervention for mental health issues. We also offer different levels of support to improve young people's mental health – advice and information, webinars on specific mental health difficulties, evidence-based groups for children and young people and direct 1:1 support. The service is staffed by child development practitioners, autism intervention assistants, an autism intervention therapist and psychologist practitioners. We also work directly with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in supporting young people with thoughts of life not worth living and co-morbid diagnoses. Some children and young people with mental health difficulties will be managed jointly between the Autism Service and CAMHS but some will transfer directly to CAMHS.

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Within adult services the Psychological Therapist is a qualified CBT Therapist and works therapeutically with service users. Psychologists also deliver therapy in intervention. Service users also access services via mental health services.

Within the Children with Disability service, children with autism will be supported via Psychiatry and Psychology which are not directly managed by the CWD service, but there are clear referral pathways to these services and regular MDT liaison.

**8. Support for ASD provided by external agencies – and what services are provided by these agencies**

Belfast Trust ASD service currently contract the following to provide post diagnostic ASD support:

- Autism NI
- SENSations Learning Support
- Cedar Foundation
- Maria McAleese (Incredible Years)
- SOLAS- after schools and youth provision/summer scheme
- Autism Initiatives- social support/short breaks
- Kids Together- after schools/youth provision/summer scheme

**9. The number of ASD patients in cared for placement in the trust**

One

**10. The number of ASD patients in the community**

We do not collect the number of ASD patients in the community.

As CWD service is not a clinical service we cannot provide the number of patients in the community.