

22 November 2023

## Adult ASD Diagnoses and Services

1. How many adults have been referred for ASD diagnosis, broken down by year in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023?

Year	Referrals for ASD assessment
2020	70
2021	154
2022	248
2023	247

2. What is the average waiting time for an adult who has been referred for an ASD diagnosis from point of referral?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust do not hold this information as we do not report on average waiting time. Rather we report on the longest waiting service user each month. It would take more than 18 hours to identify and define waiting time for all patients who have been referred / had an assessment then average this total. However, the table below provides the days waiting, for the longest waiting service user for the time period noted above.

Month and Year	Days waiting for longest waiting service user
Apr-20	1442
Apr-21	1766
Apr-22	2131
Apr-23	2196

3. What is the process for being diagnosed with ASD as an adult?

See link below re NICE guidance:

[Recommendations | Autism spectrum disorder in adults: diagnosis and management | Guidance | NICE](#)

- Referral for client is sent to Adult ASD service from client's GP or other service / professional within Trust.
- Referral triaged by team and accepted or declined.
- Each ASD assessment is comprised of client completing screening measures (AQ/EQ), a clinical interview, a developmental history with parent / carer /

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sibling / other person who can provide relevant developmental information and an ADOS-2 observational assessment.

- MDT case discussion is held, where all assessment information is reviewed and a diagnostic decision of ASD confirmed / not confirmed is made.
- Diagnostic summary report completed.
- Final appointment with client, where decision is fed back to client and discussion of post-diagnostic supports provided. Diagnostic summary report also given to client.
- Letter / report sent to referrer and / or GP.
- Discharged from service.

**4. What support is available through the Belfast Trust for adults who have been diagnosed with ASD?**

Due to limited resources Belfast Trust Adult Autism service is primarily a diagnostic service.

In acknowledgement of the potential ongoing needs of people with Autism past childhood, Belfast Trust has set up the Belfast Adult Autism Advice Service (BAAAS), which will provide support and information across a range of partner organisations – [Directory of Services - 1 \(pagetiger.com\)](https://www.pagetiger.com/directory-of-services-1) .

This service is available from 16 years upwards, with the intent to bridge between Children's ASD service support and adult needs. It also acknowledges that Health Services become a much less pressing need for Adults with Autism in comparison to issues of employment, housing, benefits, etc.; and the BAAAS model of multi-agency partnership supports those needs being better met.

Information about BAAAS is available to families within our children's services to facilitate their accessing support in the move to adulthood.