

Our ref: SF/kd/20120724 FOI87 McCulloch
Your ref:
Date: 24 July 2012

NHS Cambridgeshire and NHS Peterborough
working in partnership

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Dear Ms McCulloch

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing further to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 dated 22 June 2012. A joint NHS Peterborough and NHS Cambridgeshire response is set out below.

1. *How many adults you have with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (any, although if there are separate statistics for Asperger's, HFA, LFA, they would be appreciated) in your area;*

We do not collect specific statistics for autistic spectrum disorder. A common estimate is that approximately 3 per cent of a local population will have such a disorder, although the number who might require help from a specialist service is much lower than this. There are pilots nationally at present looking at how GP information systems might be used to collect more accurate data on the numbers of people locally with an autistic spectrum disorder.

2. *How many children;*

The published evidence suggests a similar level of prevalence amongst children as amongst adults.

3. *What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children;*

- a) Adults: We have commissioned a diagnostic pathway this year and are currently in discussions with the service provider and local stakeholder groups to finalise this.
- b) Children: A specialist pathway is also being developed for children, meanwhile referrals are seen by local community paediatricians or the child and adolescent mental health services.

4. *What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategize, etc.*

Local support services are commissioned by the Learning Disability Partnership, which has an autism "sub-group" developing a service strategy. Details of the membership of this group and the organisations involved in this work can be obtained from the LDP commissioner lee.mcmanus@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

5. *An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.*

This information would also be available from lee.mcmanus@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

6. *What the typical process should be for an adult in your area first asking their GP for an assessment for autistic spectrum disorder to receiving a diagnosis/support.*

Once the diagnosis pathway currently being finalised is in place, clear instructions on how to make a referral will be circulated to all local GPs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Fox
Trust Board Secretary