

## FOI 1213 103NS

### Summary Issue – Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### This information relates to NHS North Somerset

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
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;	According to information provided by the National Autistic Society it is estimated that there are approx 1900 people in North Somerset with ASD.
2. How many children;	The Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents Children (ALSPAC) showed a local prevalence rate of autistic spectrum diagnosis as 6.2 per 1000 children up to the age of 11 years of age. A small local study of children on 5 GP registers found an averaged rate of ASC diagnosis of 5.5 per 1000 children, aged 0-18 years. These figures suggest that approximately 300 children in Nsomerset are likely to have ASD.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
3. What diagnostic services are available to	
a) adults	<p>NHS North Somerset current spot purchases two diagnostic services for North Somerset residents seeking a diagnostic service.</p> <p>Bristol Autism Spectrum Service (BASS) offers a diagnostic service to individuals from 18 years upwards. This consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stage 1: Assessment 2 x 1.5 hour assessment appointments by DISCO/ADIR/ADOS qualified</li></ul>

diagnosticians to conduct a full clinical interview in addition to the analysis of a battery of pre-assessment measures and the administration of tests of social reasoning and/or cognitive reasoning as required.

- **Stage 2: Feedback**  
Individuals are offered a feedback session where the results of the assessment and the implications of this are discussed with them in detail. If they have been given a positive diagnosis, they are offered an appointment for a comprehensive needs assessment, signposted to appropriate mainstream services, and given the opportunity to attend a post-diagnostic psycho-educational group.
- **Stage 3: Needs assessment**  
An individual needs assessment is undertaken by the team social worker. This meeting includes an assessment of an individual's needs in a number of different areas of life; such as housing, employment and mental health. Following this, referrals can be made for a full Community Care Assessment, and/or individuals can be signposted to relevant services as required.
- **Stage 4: Report**  
A detailed report is written to the referrer and client. Relevant referrals are also made to other agencies as appropriate.
- **Stage 5: Post-diagnostic psycho-education group.**  
Individuals attend a 6 session post diagnostic psycho-education group.

The Priory Hospital Bristol provide an outpatient diagnostic clinic for adults. This is a two-hour session.

b) children;	Services are provided by Weston Area Health Trust

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>4. What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc.</p>	<p>North Somerset has an Autism Strategy Group. The group meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Associate Director of Adult Social Services and Housing, North Somerset Council. The group comprises representatives from: The following organisations / services / groups will be represented at meetings of the Group;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults with ASD</li> <li>• Carers of people with ASD</li> <li>• The National Autistic Society</li> <li>• Local support groups</li> <li>• Weston College</li> <li>• Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust</li> <li>• North Somerset Council</li> <li>• The Community Team for People with a Learning Disability</li> <li>• NHS North Somerset</li> <li>• North Somerset Community Partnership</li> <li>• The Carlton Centre – providing education, occupation and support for work readiness in North Somerset.</li> </ul> <p>Representatives of the following organisations / services / groups will attend meetings of the Group as appropriate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal Justice System</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>

	<p>The aim and the objectives of the strategy group are:</p> <p>To lead the delivery and improvement of services and experiences for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, their family and carers through the implementation of the North Somerset Action Plan for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) which incorporates all the objectives of the Strategy for Adults with Autism in England; Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives. To monitor and lead the implementation of local improvement projects for adults with ASD in North Somerset.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To agree priorities for the improvement of services for adults with ASD, their family and carers</li> <li>• To implement the North Somerset Action Plan for Adults with ASD</li> <li>• To monitor progress in the implementation of the North Somerset Action Plan for Adults with ASD</li> <li>• To monitor the performance in relation to the implementation of projects for adults with ASD in North Somerset; including employment projects.</li> </ul>
--	--

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
5. An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.	North Somerset Council: <a href="http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk">www.n-somerset.gov.uk</a> NHS North Somerset: <a href="http://www.northsomerset.nhs.uk">www.northsomerset.nhs.uk</a>

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust: [www.awp.nhs.uk](http://www.awp.nhs.uk)

Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities: [www.ld4u.org.uk](http://www.ld4u.org.uk)

National Autistic Society: [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk) or [www.nas-northsomerset.co.uk](http://www.nas-northsomerset.co.uk)

Weston College: [www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)

North Somerset Community Partnership: <http://www.nscp-communityhealth.co.uk/>

Carlton Centre:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education/studentandadulthoodeducation/carltoncentre.htm](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education/studentandadulthoodeducation/carltoncentre.htm)

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
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.	The GP will complete referral information on the individual commissioning panel proforma.  All referrals are triaged with reference to the mental health commissioning team, referrers and providers as appropriate.  A letter confirming funding is then sent to both the referrer and the service user to confirm funding for a diagnostic assessment.  The referrer will then make the referral to the appropriate service.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Please note that the information being provided to you is for information only and remains subject to existing intellectual property rights; no licence for the re-use of this information is given or implied through its provision to you.