

Ms Sarah McCulloch

Date 27 July 2012  
Your Ref  
Our Ref FOI 0000806

By Email

Enquiries to Hilary Chalmers  
Email [fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net](mailto:fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net)  
Direct Line 01786 433284

Dear Ms McCulloch

### Request for Information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

We write in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

*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;*

**Response: The number of Forth Valley residents admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of Autism/Asperger's for the period 2011/12 was five adults.**

*2. How many children;*

**Response: The number of Forth Valley residents admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of Autism/Asperger's for the period 2011/12 was 16 children.**

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

**Response: a) We currently have four hours of dedicated time per week from a trained consultant psychiatrist for diagnostic and consultancy work in general adult psychiatry, for ASD and are attempting to develop the service further. Learning Disability services also provide a similar service**

**b) As part of their core role clinicians with a specialist interest in ASD work together as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide a diagnostic service to patients between the ages of 5-18 years. Psychology, psychiatry and child mental health practitioners can all be involved in the diagnostic assessment, on a case by case basis. Speech and Language Therapy, Paediatrics and local Educational services also form part of the multi-disciplinary team, working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) during the assessment process.**

**Diagnostic services for Pre- 5s are covered by PREFCAT (Falkirk) and CEAT (Stirling).**

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

**Response:** CAMHS  
Speech and Language Therapy  
Paediatrics  
Educational Services in both Falkirk and Stirling and Clackmannanshire

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

**Response:** FV-UHB.NorthCAMHS @nhs.net  
FV-UHB.SouthCAMHS @nhs.net

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.*

**Response:** GPs will make a referral to a Community Mental Health Team within NHS Forth Valley.  
If appropriate the client is then offered an outpatient appointment under the auspices of the local diagnostic consultancy;  
Assessment diagnosis is undertaken in the outpatient department by way of a full clinical history together with collateral accounts and formal diagnostic instruments, as appropriate;  
The outcomes of the assessment diagnosis are discussed with the client/carer together with information regarding the condition and the patient-centred management plan;  
If the client has co-morbid mental health issues of a severity to warrant input from secondary care psychiatric services these will be met by the local community mental health team. A range of assessments/interventions including 'sensory profiling' and other occupational therapy and skills based inputs, together with referral on to psychological services, will be offered as indicated.  
It is not unusual for individuals with ASD to have fairly complex employment issues and we offer a) information regarding the relevant ASD related services to assist with this b) accompanied by the relevant mandate, information/patient-centred advice for employers.

We trust this is to your satisfaction. However, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 if you are dissatisfied with our response you are entitled to request a review. A request for review must be made in writing to Miss Deirdre Coyle, Head of Information Governance, NHS Forth Valley, CSD, Colquhoun Street, Stirling, FK7 7PX or [fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net](mailto:fv-uhb.freedomofinformation@nhs.net), no later than forty working days from receipt of the response. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to a formal appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Please feel free to contact us should you require any further advice or assistance.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Chalmers  
Lead Freedom of Information Officer