

Our Ref: RB/bc/12155

Your Ref:

Direct Line: 01495 765057

Email: Richard.bevan3@wales.nhs.uk

19 July 2012

Dear Ms McCulloch

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act received on 22nd June 2012, reference number **FOI 12155.** Please find the response from Aneurin Bevan Health Board 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;

There is no central record relating to numbers of people with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. However, based on information collated by the managers within the Learning Disabilities service, there are approximately 216 adults who have a learning disability and autistic spectrum disorder and are receiving services from the Adult Learning Disabilities Service. There are also approximately 119 adults who have been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder within a tertiary clinic available for adults who do not have a learning disability. Unfortunately information does not exist for adults with autistic spectrum disorder who are supported by Mental Health services.

2. How many children;

The Health Board does not have a record of the number of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, however it is understood that the prevalence is approximately 1% of the population.

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

When there is a query as to whether an adult with a learning disability has autistic spectrum disorder, diagnostic services would be provided by the Community Learning Disability Teams. Adults who do not have a learning disability may be diagnosed by secondary Mental Health services. A tertiary autistic spectrum disorder clinic is also available where diagnosis may be more complex and at present one clinic per week has been set up to support this.

More recently Welsh Government grant funding has been made available to support pre and post diagnostic counselling for adults with autistic spectrum disorder. A job description is currently being developed for a pre and post diagnostic counsellor.

Children are seen and assessed as part of community paediatrics and Child and Adolescent Mental Health services. A joint pathway is currently under development

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

Within Aneurin Bevan Health Board the following teams/persons work with adults with a learning disability who have autistic spectrum disorder:

- Community Adult Learning Disability Teams clinicians within these teams provide assessment and therapeutic interventions to adults who have a learning disability and autistic spectrum disorder.
- Community Monitoring and Support Project Officer this post, which is funded for a 2 year period via Welsh Government grant funding, aims to provide a link point for signposting adults with Aspergers Syndrome or High Functioning Autism to appropriate services and support mechanisms; support the implementation of Aspergers Syndrome and High Functioning Autism awareness raising initiatives; work with other agencies to support the development of appropriate support and intervention groups; develop a local directory of services and supports available to adults with Aspergers Syndrome and high Functioning Autism; develop a recording system to collect data to inform further service planning and development

External to Aneurin Bevan Health Board, the following services would work with individuals with autistic spectrum disorder or provide support/services:

- National Autistic Society
- Local Authorities
- Day Services
- Private / Independent providers

Community paediatrics and Child and Adolescent Mental Health teams work with Children with autistic spectrum disorder.

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

Blaenau Gwent Community Learning Disability Team	alexis.clayden@wales.nhs.uk
Caerphilly Community Learning Disability Team	heather.thomas3@wales.nhs.uk
Monmouthshire Community Learning Disability Team	Linda.marshall@wales.nhs.uk
Newport Community Learning Disability Team	Christine.fretwell@wales.nhs.uk
Torfaen Community Learning Disability Team	steve.harris@wales.nhs.uk
Community Monitoring and Support Project Officer	joy.white@wales.nhs.uk
National Autistic Society	www.autism.org.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.

Adults who have a learning disability can be referred to the local Community Learning Disability Team for diagnosis. Once a referral has been received into the team, it will be considered by the multi-disciplinary team and if appropriate, the referral will be allocated to an appropriate clinician and an appointment made with the service user to commence the assessment process.

A tertiary diagnostic clinic exists for those individuals who do not have a learning disability but there is a query of autistic spectrum disorder. A multi professional group has been established to develop and implement an appropriate pathway to ensure appropriate diagnosis and ongoing support is available to individuals.

I trust that the information provided satisfies your request. If you are not satisfied that all of the information has been provided, or because of the way your request has been handled, you have the right to request a review.

This would be dealt with in accordance to the Health Board's Appeals Procedure. Please contact me in the first instance if you wish to pursue this option.

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you have the right to take your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH Telephone: 029 2067 8400

fax: 029 2067 8399

email: wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk

In the meantime if you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the following address: Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Block A, Mamhilad House, Mamhilad Park Estate, Pontypool, NP4 0YP. Email:

Richard.bevan3@wales.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Richard Bevan Board Secretary