

Our ref: NG/FOI 115

11 July 2012

Sarah McCulloch

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Dear Ms McCulloch

I am writing with reference to your Freedom of Information request received on 22 June 2012 in which you asked for information relating to autistic spectrum disorder.

NHS North of Tyne works on behalf of Newcastle and North Tyneside PCTs and Northumberland Care Trust and is responding on their behalf.

Please find below our response to the questions you raised.

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;

Unfortunately we do not hold the information you are requesting. You will need to request this information from the individual providers of the services.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT) –

foi@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH) –

patient.relations@nuth.nhs.uk

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW)-

foi@ntw.nhs.uk

2 How many children

CAMHS ASD Caseload = 124 (data from NHCFT)

Paeds ASD Caseload = 0 (data from NHCFT)

See response above to question 1.

3 What diagnostic services are available to:

a) Adults

Assessments for adult ASD diagnosis are offered for people at a provider trust.

Referral is via GP or a registered mental health professional.

b) Children

ASD diagnosis for Children and Young People in North Tyneside are undertaken through a Multi-Disciplinary Team led by an NHS CAMHS Psychiatrist or Consultant Paediatrician.

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

All NHS services within North of Tyne will provide services to meet the assessed and confirmed 'clinical' needs of children and young people including those diagnosed with ASD.

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

Disability & Additional Needs Information Service: www.norhtyneside.gov.uk/dans
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8140>

Children and young people's service -

<http://www.ntw.nhs.uk/sd.php?l=2&d=9&sm=36&id=262>

Autism diagnostic services -

<http://www.ntw.nhs.uk/sd.php?l=2&d=9&sm=15&id=221>

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/care-and-wellbeing>

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 can be referred for an assessment for diagnosis of ASD via either their GP or a registered mental health professional (eg nurse or psychologist). Referral is via the PCT electronic individual funding request policy. Referrals are screened by clinical staff at the PCT for urgency, risk and supporting clinical evidence.

Appointments are then offered for assessment with a provider. People who are diagnosed are informed at the time and referral made to Local Authority.

I trust that this answers your request.

If you are unhappy with the response you receive to a request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you should contact us as soon as possible giving us reasons why you believe we have not satisfied the requirements of the act. The matter will then be considered by one of our executive directors who will respond in writing.

You will receive a letter about the outcome of this review, inviting you to contact the Information Commissioner if you remain dissatisfied with our response.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Gannon
Information Access/HQ Manager

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Working on behalf of Newcastle and North Tyneside
Primary Care Trusts and Northumberland Care Trust

