**ANSWERS**

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

Gateshead – 61

South Tyneside – 59

Sunderland – 243

2. How many children;

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

a) Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) provide the autism assessment and diagnostic service across SoTW.

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

Local Authorities are the lead commissioners for learning disability services and provide care management services for those people who meet fair access to care criteria. NHS South of Tyne and Wear commission specialist learning disability health services from NTW (Sunderland) and South Tyneside Foundation Trust (Gateshead and South Tyneside) which includes people on the autistic spectrum

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

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/) , [www.southyneside.gov.uk](http://www.southyneside.gov.uk/) , [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/) , [www.sthct.nhs.uk](http://www.sthct.nhs.uk/), [www.ntw.nhs.uk](http://www.ntw.nhs.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.

Referral from GP to provider (NTW), appointment letter, appointment and assessment, diagnosis, signposting to relevant agency if required, initial follow up support from provider link-worker.