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**Ein cyf / Our ref:** 115/12/FOI

**Eich cyf / Your ref:**

**☎: ext**

**Gofynnwch am / Ask for:** Wendy Hardman

**Ffacs / Fax:**

**E-bost / Email:** [wendy.hardman@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:wendy.hardman@wales.nhs.uk)

**Dyddiad / Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Dear Ms McCulloch

Further to your request for information dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, I am pleased to provide the following in response to your request.

**You asked us:**

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;
2. How many children;
3. What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children;
4. What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc.
5. An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.
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.

**Our Response:**

1. Whilst the exact number is not known, a prevalence survey was carried out which aimed to provide a conservative estimate of the number of adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This found that at least 1.4% of the Adult Mental Health (AMH) caseload have a diagnosed or probable ASD. In North Wales this represents around 68 cases.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) does not currently record differential diagnoses, but this is something that should improve as the adult diagnostic processes becomes embedded (see 3 below)

This percentage is in line with nationally available data.

As an indicator, since its inception in April 2011 the BCU ASD Assessment & Diagnosis (Adult) Leadership Group have received 17 referrals.



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2. BCUHB does not hold this information in a format that is easily retrievable, however, from January this year a central record on the child health database is being maintained so this information will be collected in the future.
3. a) Clinicians within most Community Mental Health or Learning Disability Teams currently undertake assessments leading to diagnosis. In addition, the BCU ASD Assessment & Diagnosis (Adult) Leadership Group receive referrals of a complex nature and are able to either provide assessment or assist colleagues in the process.

Services use a range of tools across the area including Autism Diagnostic Interview-revised (ADI-r), Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), Diagnostic Interview for Social & Communication Disorder (DISCO), and the Royal College of Psychiatrists Diagnostic Interview Guide for the Assessment of Adults with ASD to structure a developmental history to aid clinical judgement.

b) Access for ASD assessments is available via Children and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or disability services. Assessments are conducted by a multi-disciplinary group of staff who will conduct different aspects of assessment and then meet to review evidence and agree diagnosis. All services use formal diagnostic tools and a protocol on standards for ASD assessment and diagnosis is in place.

4. In addition to primary care / GP services, Clinical Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Learning Disability Nurses, Psychiatric Nurses, Speech and Language Therapists and other disciplines, such as Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, BCUHB staff work alongside Social Service and third sector colleagues to endeavour to meet individual need as presented.

The BCU ASD Assessment & Diagnosis (Adult) Leadership Group have engaged with service users to consider strategy as its been developed and aim to continue this via the Local ASD Stakeholder Group interface.

5. Community Teams contact details are available on the BCUHB web site.

If you require further details relating to the BCU ASD Assessment & Diagnosis (Adult) Leadership Group, then please contact the coordinator;  
[Lloyd.nelson@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Lloyd.nelson@wales.nhs.uk) or telephone 01745 818113.

6. Where a GP is unsure of a person's diagnosis, or is unable to confirm a diagnosis, then the GP should make a referral to the local Community Mental Health Team, who will then process the referral either directly, or following discussion with the BCU ASD Assessment & Diagnosis (Adult) Leadership Group, dependent upon individual circumstances.



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There is no charge for making an appeal.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01745 534136

Yours sincerely

Wendy Hardman  
Information Governance Manager