



Bwrdd Iechyd
Cwm Taf
Health Board

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Date/Dyddiad:
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CTHB_156_12
20 July 2012
01443 744835

Claire.northwell2@wales.nhs.uk
Corporate Services

Private & Confidential

Sent by email to:

sarahmcculloch@gmail.com

Dear Ms McCulloch

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_156_12

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 June 2012 regarding autistic spectrum disorder. Please find the response from Cwm Taf 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;

As you may be aware, Cwm Taf Health Board provided services to the population of Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) and Merthyr Tydfil. In 2008/2009, in response to the launch of the All Wales ASD Strategy, mapping was undertaken locally to establish the number of individuals known to services with a diagnosis of ASD together with the estimated prevalence figures. In Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) this work was updated in 2010 and submitted to the Welsh Government. These are the figures provided below.

As at 30 September 2010 there were 534 individuals known to services in Rhondda Cynon Taf with ASD. Of these, 431 were children and young people under the age of 18 and the remaining 103 were adults. Please note that the data includes figures collated from health, social services and education and the data has been validated to ensure that double-counting has been eliminated.

2. How many children;

See response to Question 1.

The Local Authority lead the review on behalf of health, social services and education agencies in the Merthyr Tydfil area and the request therefore needs to be redirected to:-

Freedom of Information Officer
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

With regard to prevalence rates the number of children and young people with ASD in RCT is comparable to prevalence rates. However, due to the historical lack of diagnostic services for adults, particularly for Asperger Syndrome, the actual number of cases known to services is significantly lower than prevalence rates. It is hoped that over time this will become less as the diagnostic services for adults improve and awareness of ASD is raised.

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

Cwm Taf Health Board provides assessment and diagnosis of ASD to children which includes input from the Paediatric Department, CAMHS and Speech and Language Therapy. Part of the process is to include information from partner agencies such as education and social services as appropriate as clearly we cannot diagnose the holistic needs of these individuals without their input. Work is currently ongoing within the Health Board to review these processes with a view to meeting the recently published NICE Guidelines.

With regard to diagnostic services for adults, there is an All-Wales approach to the assessment and post-diagnostic support of adults with autism within the NHS. A network of professionals is being coordinated by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board with support from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board and there is a national steering group to take this work forward, including representation from Cwm Taf Health Board. Please also see response to point 6.

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

I am attaching a copy of our 'ASD Directory of Services for individuals and families' which was developed locally for families in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This outlines all of the services which are available to families. The Directory is provided to all families with a diagnosis of ASD.

The Directory is currently being reviewed and we can forward you the updated version when it has been finalised.

Information is also available on the ASD Info Wales website which is www.ASDInfoWales.co.uk

Please note also that the Steering Group for the Merthyr Tydfil area is lead by the Local Authority as set out in the response to Question 1.

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

The Directory of Services, which is enclosed, includes a range of contact details for each of the agencies and services available.

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.

At present people who present to their GP requesting an assessment for AS, providing there are some grounds for thinking this may be the case, are usually assessed by a clinical psychologist using Adult ASD Assessment (AAA). They are also counselled at the same session as to how this would affect their lives but generally require no further input. They may be offered further counselling sessions if they require them to cope with mental health issues such as anxiety or OCD.

Those who are referred to the mental health services, and for whom the diagnosis will mean a difference in treatment, are tested using DISCO by another psychologist working in secondary care.

I trust that this provides the information that you require. Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below. If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or fax: 01625 524510.

You should note, however, that the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted our internal complaints procedures before dealing with such an application. Further guidance may be found on the Information Commissioner's website <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

The Information Commissioner recommends that all public authorities should publish a disclosure log. Such logs allow the public and other interested parties to see questions which have already been asked and answered and to quickly identify information of interest. Please note that Cwm Taf Health Board routinely publishes details of all Freedom of Information Act requests received in its disclosure log. The Disclosure Log can be found at www.cwmtafwb.wales.nhs.uk.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries

Yours sincerely



Amanda Powell

Corporate Services Department, Ynysmeurig House, Navigation Park, Abercynon CF45 4SN

