

Ref: 367D

Sarah McCulloch

sarahmcculloch@gmail.com

24 October 2012

Dear Ms McCulloch

Request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing to confirm that NHS Dorset has now completed the search for the information you requested on 10 October regarding autistic spectrum disorder. I now provide the information requested within the attached paper. For your information I also attach the Pan Dorset ASC Strategy.

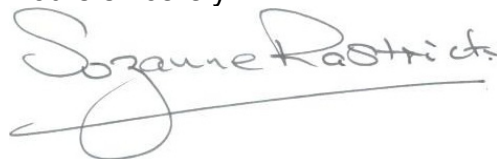
You will note that the response is identical to the one you received from NHS Bournemouth and Poole on 19 July. By way of explanation, from 01 July 2011 both NHS Bournemouth and Poole and NHS Dorset became the Pan Dorset Cluster, working as one organisation, with an overall Chief Executive and Board

I trust this is the information you are seeking and that your request has been fully discharged.

If you are unhappy with this response, you are entitled to request an internal review of our decision, handled where possible by a member of staff not directly involved in the initial decision. If you wish to request such a review, please write direct to The Interim Chief Executive, NHS Dorset, Vespasian House, 3rd Floor, West Wing, Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1TS. We aim to deal with requests for internal review within three weeks of receipt, although where the issues involved are very complicated this period may be extended up to a total of six weeks.

If you have queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number and I shall be pleased to offer any further assistance that you may require.

Yours sincerely



Suzanne Rastrick
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Bournemouth and Poole
NHS Dorset

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Question 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?

Response:

NHS Dorset does not hold this information but are able to estimate the figure as approximately 6000 based on a prevalence rate of 1% (Brugha et al 2007).

The implementation of the Pan Dorset Adult Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Commissioning Strategy will address the need for recording and identifying people who have ASC.

Question 2:

How many children?

Response:

NHS Dorset does not hold this information. We are a commissioning organisation and do not provide direct services. The service provider, Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (DHUFT), will be able to provide this information to you. To place a request with DHUFT, under the Freedom of Information Act, the contact details you require are:

Chris Harvey
General Manager Business Development and Corporate Assurance/Board Secretary
Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
11 Shelley Road
Boscombe
Bournemouth
BH1 4JQ

Question 3:

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

Response:**Adults**

In Dorset there are several options for diagnosis.

- Community Adult Asperger's Service (CAAS) which is a primary care service that provides a diagnostic and treatment and social care service;
- referral to the community mental health teams for diagnosis;
- the referrals for assessment are usually via the GP
- the assessment and diagnostic process takes approximately six hours over a few appointments but this is dependent upon the individual and their needs;
- the formal diagnosis is made by a Psychologist or Psychiatrist;
- treatment is offered dependent on outcome of the assessment;
- CAAS will also complete a social care assessment which indicates whether or not an individual is eligible for community care services.

Children

Diagnosis is carried out by the Core Diagnostic Team and is as follows:

- the Core Diagnostic Team consists of a paediatrician, clinical or educational psychologist and speech and language therapist;
- referrals may be made to any member of the team;
- if the referral is appropriate the young person is offered an initial screening appointment with a paediatrician;
- the assessment consists of an interview which looks at the child's social communication skills, functional language skills, imagination, social interaction and use and understanding of non-verbal communication;
- a range of formal and informal assessments and observations are used, depending on the child's age and ability;
- a report is then sent to the parents, GP, school, speech and language therapist and psychologist. No diagnosis is made at this stage, but the report may include recommendations that would be beneficial to the child at home and at school;
- a feedback meeting is arranged involving the parents/carers, the child (if over 14 years), the paediatrician, the psychologist and/or speech and language therapist;
- all the reports are discussed and the parents invited to talk about any recent developments;
- a diagnosis is made, if appropriate;

- if a diagnosis of ASD is made the reports are forwarded to the Education Department via the Educational Psychologist to ensure that the child can access the right level of support at school;
- the Speech and Language Therapist liaise where necessary with the community speech and language therapist and offer advice on management;
- the psychologist may arrange for further behavioural management advice from the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service). If another diagnosis is made, parents and the referrer are offered appropriate advice and referred to other agencies as necessary.

Question 4:

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

Response:

There are a number of services across Dorset working with people who have an ASC diagnosis. Some of the teams are health or social services teams and others are in the voluntary sector:

- Community Adult Asperger's Service (CAAS);
- Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT);
- First Point Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) – Support Time Recovery service ;
- Social Inclusion Team (BBC) – a social worker from this team works with CAAS;
- Gateway Team (BoP) – A social worker from this team works with CAAS;
- Community Resource Teams, Dorset, work with people who have an ASC;
- Wessex Autistic Society (WAS);
- Dorset Adult Autistic Support (DAAS).

Question 5:

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

Response:

All the services are listed on the councils' websites or on the Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust website.

Below are the contact details for the services mentioned:

The Gateway Service in Poole

Email: gateway@poole.gov.uk

Telephone: 01202 633583

Text Relay: 18001 012020 633583

Fax: 01202 633634

Address: Civic Centre Annexe, Park Road, Poole BH15 2RU

The MH Social Inclusion Team Bournemouth
Bournemouth Care Direct
Customer Services Centre
St Stephens Road, Bournemouth, Dorset
BH2 6EB
Tel: 01202 454975

Community Resource Teams Dorset
North Dorset - contact the Resource and Information Social Inclusion Network
Weymouth and Portland - contact Wellbeing Weymouth and Portland
email: enquiries@dhuft.nhs.uk

DAAS: To contact one of our team of voluntary helpers please call:

Bournemouth area	07765 484 270
Dorchester area	07789 521 758
Poole area	07818 173 390
Weymouth area	07515 881 200

The Wessex Autistic Society: You can contact the information and advice team by email: advice@twas.org.uk Telephone: 01305 213135. This line will be staffed from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday with a voicemail out of hours.

Question 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.

Response:

West Dorset

In Dorset the GPs refer to Community Mental Health Teams and once referred the Mental Health team's Psychiatrist will offer appointments for the diagnostic assessment. Once diagnosed and assessed as eligible they will be allocated to a care coordinator in the Community MH Teams or they may be referred to other services for example the Community Resource Teams.

Bournemouth, Poole and East Dorset

The typical process in Bournemouth, Poole and East Dorset is that that GP can refer to the Community Adult Asperger's Service. The CAAS service has worked with the GPs to ensure that the GPs are fully aware of the referral process.

Prior to a diagnostic assessment the CAAS service uses a screening assessment that will indicate in most cases whether or not a person is likely to have an ASC. The full diagnostic assessment will be carried out following the screening assessment.

As part of the service the social workers in the CAAS team will complete a social care assessment which assesses social care needs and determines whether or not a person is eligible for ongoing social care services under the Fair Access to Social Care (FACS) criteria.