



Devon, Plymouth and Torbay
Western Locality

Freedom of Information Office
For the cluster of NHS Plymouth, NHS Devon and NHS Torbay
Building Two
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Plymouth
PL6 5QZ

☎ 01752 435112

foidevoncommissioners@nhs.net

06/11/2012

Your Reference: - email dated 09/10/2012
Our Reference: - 1507/1013dB FoI 2012 - Reply

sarah@sarahmcculloch.com

Dear Sarah McCulloch

RE: - Freedom of information Act request

On the 09/10/2012, we received your request for information made in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request and our reply

- 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;**

NHS Plymouth does not hold the information requested. There is no distinct diagnostic service for Autism spectrum disorder and diagnosis may be identified in any of the services.

Section 16 advice: The applicant would be advised to look at prevalence figures and apply that to the Plymouth population. The most recent population figures by age are displayed on the Plymouth County Council website at: <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/population>. You may want to ask the national autism charities that could have already carried out research and are able to answers questions one and two.

NHS Plymouth commission mental health and learning disability services from Plymouth Community Healthcare and other service

providers. Services are identified by overarching functions and not diagnosis. In terms of numbers of patients diagnosed, GP information systems are more likely to hold this information. In secondary care settings only inpatient activity has diagnosis coding.

2. How many children;

NHS Plymouth does not hold the information requested. The applicant would be advised to look at prevalence figures and apply that to the Plymouth population. The most recent population figures by age are displayed on the Plymouth City Council website at:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/population>

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

- a) Adults can access a diagnostic pathway via Community Mental Health Teams, GPs make a referral to their standard mental health service and that referral will be assessed by local psychiatrists.
- b) There is a national pathway that describes the primary and secondary care roles in the diagnosis and management of Autism spectrum disorder in children.

The National Map of Medicine pathway A to Z is available from:
<http://localcare.mapofmedicine.com/mom/public/30/az.html?null>.

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

NHS Plymouth is a commissioner and not a provider of patient services. We do not work directly with autistic people that are presenting for assessment or treatment.

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

Not applicable

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.

Please see our response to question 3a.

Formal legal notes

NHS Plymouth is confirming in accordance with Section 1.- (1) (a) of the Act, it does not hold the information requested.

Satisfaction

I trust this matter has been dealt with to your satisfaction, despite not being able to supply the information requested, but if you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 01752 435112 or by email at foidevoncommissioners@nhs.net. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to me and I will arrange for an independent appeal. You of course can write directly to the Chief Executive if you prefer using the “contact us” details displayed on the PCT website.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal, you have the right to appeal again to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510

Legal information pertaining to the release of this information

Please note that the information being provided to you is for information only and remains subject to existing intellectual property rights; no licence for the re-use of this information is given or implied through its provision to you.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edmunds
Freedom of Information Manager