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Information Governance Department

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Our Ref: FOI.12.0120

Dear Ms McCulloch

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 22 June 2012 by one or all three of the three primary care trusts in NHS Kent and Medway.

All answers relate to NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS Medway unless otherwise indicated. The information that you requested is listed below together with a response in each case:

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;

NHS Kent and Medway does not record information on autistic spectrum diagnosis. We did include some 'estimates' of Learning Disability prevalence in a LD Needs Assessment in 2010, Please find attached that document. Autistic Spectrum disorder is on page 32.

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

Until July 2012 assessment and diagnosis was received from South London and Maudsley Hospital and funding was approved through our local Tertiary Funding Panel.

People aged over 18 years without a diagnosis of learning disability will be able to access our local Social Communication Assessment and Diagnosis Service from July 2012 which will be co-located with Kent County Councils ASD Support Service. The assessment and diagnosis service is health funded and will be available one day / week in each of the East Kent, West Kent and Medway localities and comprises of a Speech and Language Therapist and a Clinical Psychologist. The service model has been developed in partnership with KCC.

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

Kent County Council
Community Teams for PLD for those with a diagnosis of learning disability
Kent Autistic Trust
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust - Mainstream mental health services where a comorbid mental illness exists

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

These teams can be contacted via their local public websites.

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.

Where the patient does not have a learning disability a GP would refer to a local Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) to screen out any co-morbid mental health problems. The CMHT refers to the local Specialist Assessment, Placement and Treatment Panel (routine referrals for assessment and diagnosis should be to local service).

I hope that this has dealt with your questions but if you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with, please feel free to contact me directly. If you remain unhappy, you may approach our Chief Executive in writing at:

Chief Executive
NHS Kent and Medway
Wharf House
Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1RE

Kent and Medway

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response, which will protect your anonymity, will be posted on the NHS Kent and Medway website.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Sheldrake
Senior Information Governance Manager