

6 November, 2012

Southampton, Hampshire Isle of Wight & Portsmouth

Freedom of Information request response 4214-FOI (Southampton), 4215-FOI (Hampshire), 4216-FOI (Isle of Wight) & 4217-FOI (Portsmouth)

Response to Sarah McCulloch
On behalf of Southampton City, Hampshire &
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT Cluster

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Request 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

The Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT cluster does not hold figures for the number of adults with autistic spectrum disorder within our population, however the following information is provided to assist:

Southampton City PCT does not hold a register for adults with ASC however identifies that, based on information held in the Local Authority PARIS database, there are 23 adults within the area covered by the Trust.

Hampshire PCT does not hold a register of adults with ASC, however has recently commenced data collection, however at present data is not complete, and therefore not a reliable source.

Isle of Wight PCT does not hold data for adults with ASD specifically; the trust has identified 887 adults with a Learning Disability and 80 children. Data Source: *'the Learning Disability Health Self-Assessment Framework 2010/11'*.

Portsmouth City Teaching PCT has provided the following briefing notes that address this question: *'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Briefing Note - Autism-spectrum conditions'* (Gen2dw) attached.

Request 2

How many children?

Response

The Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth PCT Cluster does not hold data identifying the number of children with autistic spectrum disorder within the population. Hampshire PCT does not commission children's services for this and would not hold relevant data. However, in November 2010 a consultation report by the Isle of Wight PCT identified that 290 children on the island had been diagnosed with ASD. Portsmouth City Teaching PCT has provided briefing notes that address this question: *'Children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions - A Health Needs Assessment'* attached.

Request 3

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

Response

Southampton City PCT commissions services from Solent NHS Trust who provide the Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Service for Children and Young People. The service specification has recently been reviewed to comply with NICE Clinical Guideline 128 – please see attached '*Diagnosis pathway*' which includes a single point of access and 6 week follow-up post diagnosis. The PCT is currently in the process of commissioning an adult service.

Hampshire PCT holds a contract with the Winchester Assessment Clinic & Therapy Centre to provide diagnostic services for adults with high functioning autism and Asperger's. Adults who meet the criteria for referral to Learning Disability teams will be offered diagnostic services within the Learning Disability team. Hampshire PCT does not commission children's services for this.

Isle of Wight PCT: Psychology services for the general population, adults and children, are provided by Arthur Webster Clinic, while ADRC (Autism Diagnostic Research Centre) are commissioned to provide a screening, diagnosis and time limited post diagnosis support service for individuals with suspected high functioning autism and Asperger's where they are not eligible for Learning Disability Services. The service will (amongst other things) develop a clear pathway to diagnosis for children, young people and adults with autism, that develops a clear diagnostic pathway, including developing referral and screening options and ensures that people with autism are no longer falling between the gaps in services, provides patients and carers with signposting to appropriate services.

Portsmouth City Teaching PCT has a similar arrangement to Hampshire PCT but with another provider and the attached briefing notes also address this question.

Request 4

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

Response

Based on the findings of the local Autism Joint Needs Assessment (Summer 2011) the proposed Joint Autism Strategy was consulted upon in Jan – Feb 2012 and the Autism Working Group was established by Southampton City PCT to finalise and implement the Strategy with representation from Health, LA and voluntary sector organisations who work with Autistic people.

Southampton City PCT has also recently jointly commissioned the new Southampton City Autism Support Service which is provided by Hampshire Autistic Society to offer an open access community based pre and post diagnostic support service for those impacted by Autism.

Hampshire PCT: Where they meet the criteria, individuals will be seen within the Learning Disability Teams for support and services. Patients with high functioning autism and Asperger's that also have mental health comorbidity will be seen within the Adult Mental Health teams. Where an individual does not meet the criteria for either mental health or learning disability teams the GPs are able to refer the individual for specific health interventions or therapy via the non-contractual referral route. These will be assessed and a decision to fund or not made accordingly. The mental health Wellbeing Centres which are jointly funded by Health (NHS) and Adult Care (Social Services) will provide services, information and advice for people with mental health needs including high functioning autism and

Asperger's. There are also various voluntary organisations around Hampshire that offer support and advice – the Hampshire County Council website has further information.

Isle of Wight PCT commissions services from:

- NHS Psychology Services;
- ADRC – (Autism Diagnostic Research Centre);
- Residential Homes/Nursing Homes for specialist placements;
- Housing Association in partnership with a Not for Profit Organisation is currently developing further independent living accommodation specifically for people with autism at St Helena in Sandown;
- Local Authority Commissioning Team – Isle of Wight Council.

Portsmouth City Teaching PCT has attached the document “*Autism Support Organisations*” that addresses this question.

Secure placements for patients with learning disabilities (including autism) who have severe behavioural problems or other conditions which necessitate secure/inpatient care, are commissioned by South Central Specialised Commissioning Group (SCG) on behalf of all the PCTs in the South Central region. The following secure units provide secure learning disability facilities for our population:

- Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Ludlow Street Healthcare Group
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Oxfordshire Learning Disability NHS Trust
- Partnership in Care
- Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
- St Andrew's Healthcare
- St Georges Healthcare Group
- St. Luke's Healthcare
- The Huntercombe Group
- Vista Healthcare

Included are the titles of the main organisations, however please note these are organisations that treat people with diagnoses of LD (not specific to ASD).

Request 5

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

Response

Hampshire Autistic Society web page is www.has.org.uk

Winchester Assessment Clinic & Therapy Centre www.autismassessment.co.uk

Portsmouth City Teaching PCT has attached the document “*Autism Support Organisations*” that addresses this question

Request 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

Hampshire and Southampton City PCTs: Attached is a diagnosis care pathway '*Diagnosis pathway*' for the service in Hampshire. This is comprehensive and sets out the pathway for an adult. All GPs in Hampshire have received this pathway and it should therefore be in use.

Portsmouth City Teaching PCT: If an individual and their GP refer for an autism assessment the ECR process (attached) is followed. The current form has not been updated to offer ASD as an option as arrangements for diagnostic review by Solent NHS Trust Adult Mental Health Services have recently been completed and an update is expected shortly.