

Freedom of Information request 568-23

Request

Under Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. At the present time what is the referral pathway for adults requesting ADHD assessment within your health board area,
2. What plans are in place to develop Adult ADHD services in your health board area to support the growing number of adults seeking for assessment, treatment, and support for undiagnosed ADHD? Please supply the written plans and policy documents detailing the process. If a formal plan is not yet in place, please supply meeting minutes where plans have been discussed.
3. What is the target waiting time for an adult ADHD assessment from referral to first appointment
4. What is the current waiting time for adult ADHD assessment from referral to first appointment
5. What is your target timescale from first appointment to conclusion of assessment
6. What is your current average time from first appointment to conclusion of assessment
7. For patients assessed during this calendar year, please supply the shortest and longest waiting time between receipt of referral to diagnosis
8. How many hours of assessment are required by your health board area to reach a formal medical diagnosis of ADHD
9. Who can diagnose ADHD within your health board area
10. How many referrals were made by GPs, each year, for the last 5 consecutive years, for adults seeking an ADHD diagnosis, broken down into the categories of male and female and by age
11. What number of adult patients were seen for an ADHD assessment, for the last 5 consecutive years, within your health board area, broken down into the categories of male and female and by age
12. What number of adult patients were diagnosed with ADHD within your health board area, for the last 5 consecutive years, broken down into the categories of male and female and by age
13. What centrally disseminated information is being given out by GPs currently to adults seeking support for ADHD, and what are the numbers of people being given this information? Please supply copies of documents or letters sent to GPs detailing the process. Including a sample of the information, if provided, for GPs to disseminate to patients
14. What criteria is being used by GPs within your health board area, to determine whether a patient should be referred on for ADHD assessment
15. What is your health board area's policy for privately diagnosed patients receiving care under Shared Care Agreements? What guidance is the most up to date guidance provided to GPs regarding this?
16. What is the process for privately diagnosed patients' being accepted for ongoing care under your health board area's Psychiatric services and no longer requiring private appointments

17. What is the transition process for children ageing out of the CAMHS service, and moving to adult services, who are being treated and supported for ADHD
18. What is the transition process for children ageing out of the CAMHS service while on the waiting list

Response

1. Adult patients referred for ADHD assessments are accepted into Mental Health secondary care service if they have a co-morbidity as well as potential ADHD. The pathway for referral into secondary care is through the patients' GP.
2. NHS borders follow the Level 4 National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT) threshold criteria and accept patients with symptoms and impairment suggestive of diagnosis, complexity and significant risk, who meet criteria for Mental Health secondary There are no current plans to develop our service to support the growing number of adults seeking assessment other than we will continue support and assess patients that meet the threshold for Level 4 of the NAIT guidance, therefore there are no minutes of meetings where plans to support the growing numbers of adults seeking assessment as the access to secondary care remains.
3. There are no legislative waiting targets within adult secondary care for ADHD assessments.
4. NHS Borders do not record waiting time for a diagnosis of ADHD in an adult, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
5. NHS Borders does not have target timescale from first appointment to conclusion of assessment this would differ according to complexity of need or risk within secondary care, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
6. Within the adult service we do not routinely record the times between assessment start and treatment start (which would give us the total assessment time to average), therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
7. NHS Borders do not routinely record waiting time for a diagnosis of ADHD in an adult, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
8. The time required to reach a formal medical diagnosis of ADHD will vary according to the complexity of someone's difficulties, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
9. NHS Borders staff in the Community Mental Health team have received training in diagnostic instruments which allow them to assess someone for ADHD. However, the information must be discussed at a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) where a senior Doctor is part of the discussion.
10. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
11. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
12. This information is not held electronically. The data may be held in a patient's record, but to extract this data would require a manual trawl of all patient records and the cost of carrying out this work would exceed the limit set in the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and under Section 12 we are not required to provide.
13. GPs have Mental Health secondary care criteria to refer to, however NHS Borders does not have any centrally disseminated information for GPs supplied by Mental Health although GPs may have information that they provide individually. A referral pathway is being drafted which will be given to GPs when approved. Attached it the booklet that is provided to patients within the service. NHS Borders

does not record the number of booklets that are sent out to patients, therefore this information is not held, as defined in Section 17, Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.



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14. GPs will refer to secondary care if the patient has co-morbidity and as well as potential ADHD. The patient must meet the criteria for secondary care Mental Health.
15. The current guidance to GPs is that they can enter into a shared care agreement with a private provider if they wish and are clinically competent to do so. However, all shared care agreements are voluntary and if the GP/practice do not feel competent or do not have the capacity then they can refuse to operate under a shared care agreement.
16. NHS Borders would give consideration for ongoing care under the Psychiatric services for privately diagnosed patients' no longer requiring private appointments on a case-by-case basis.
17. Transfer of care from the Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to adult services is considered when the young person reaches 17y 10 months. They are made aware of the possible transfer of care to adult services and their consent is sought. The young person's history and ongoing care needs are discussed at CAMHS & Adult Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) transition meetings. NHS Borders inter-team referral form is completed by the young person's case holder and forwarded to Adult CMHT.
18. The CAMHS waiting list is currently monitored by a Senior Nurse. When a young person aged 17y 2m is placed on waiting list they receive an acceptance letter advising that because of their age they may not be seen by CAMHS and, with their consent, referral will be passed on to adult services. The letter also highlights that NHS Borders cannot guarantee that their referral will meet criteria for adult services.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **568-23** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.