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RE: Freedom of Information Request

28th June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 16th April 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 1. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**
We do not hold this information, as initial autism services are not under SFH. The journey for the majority of patients starts with the Neurodevelopmental Support Team which is a separately commissioned service through the ICB. Under Section 16 of the Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Please contact notts.foi@nhs.net who may hold this information.
- 2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**
We do not hold this information, as initial autism services are not under SFH. For the majority of patients the journey starts with the neurodevelopmental support team which is separately commissioned service through the ICB. Under Section 16 of the Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Please contact notts.foi@nhs.net who may hold this information.
- 3. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**
We do not hold this information as referrals are for neurodevelopmental assessment not specifically for autism only.

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4. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

An explanation of the diagnosis is given in clinic. Then children/families receive a report with recommendations to home and school, they receive a list of local and national support services for autism, videos, reading/websites etc. Children/families are then offered a specialist nurse parent information session which is either 1:1 or group setting. Information is provided to families about the post diagnosis support on offer through the Neurodevelopmental Support Team (not under SFH) – families can self-refer to this support eg Cygnets programme, drop ins. If there is an ongoing medical need which requires hospital care the patient is followed up in clinic.

5. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.

An explanation is given in clinic, a report/letter is written. Dependent on outcome and need information is shared with families about how to access support through education, the local authority or other health services. (eg parent information leaflets on emotions, behaviour, developmental delay etc) If there is an ongoing medical need which requires hospital care the patient is followed up in clinic.

6. What standardised tools are currently used by Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.

Screening/triage occurs mainly occurs in the Neurodevelopmental Support Team (outside of SFH) for the majority of children. If an autism assessment is commenced within SFH, a range of holistic information is gathered from school and home. Social communication questionnaires lifetime or current may be used in some patients alongside other wider ranging information to consider whether an Autism assessment is required.

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

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Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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