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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 28th May 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-D-024

01639 648363

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 23rd April 2021. Your request sought information relating to referrals for children with additional learning needs.

Please note that our Neurodevelopmental Disorder service assess for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or both. The diagnostic category Neurodevelopmental Disorders (DSM-5) includes 6 other conditions which are not in our service specification.

Please could your Health Board:

1. Supply any document that describes the monthly assessment capacity of your service that receives referrals from schools, of children thought to have neurodevelopmental needs.

The monthly assessment capacity in the Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ND) service in SBUHB for the diagnostic assessment of children referred for ASD, ADHD or both conditions is 35 new cases.

2. Supply any document that describes the average number of such referrals to this service in each month.

You clarified on 30th April 2021 that this relates to referrals from schools only.

Our average referral rate to the service is 70 individuals per month, with the majority of these referrals coming from schools.



Pencadlys BIP Bae Abertawe, Un Porthfa Talbot, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR / Swansea Bay UHB Headquarters, One Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

3. Supply any document that describes the current average waiting time from referral to assessment.

You clarified on 30th April 2021 that this relates to referrals from schools only.

The current waiting time is 22-24 months, dependent on the whether the referral is for ASD, ADHD or both.

4. Supply any document that describes the time between the assessment being done and the school receiving a report of the child's needs.

Once the assessment is complete, the report is typed and shared with the child's parents. This takes approximately one month. After this, it is sent to whoever the parents' consent to share with, which will generally include the school.

5. Confirm the date of referral of the child who has been awaiting assessment for the longest period. If there any mitigating circumstances, that you can disclose this.

You clarified on 30th April 2021 that this relates to referrals from schools only.

As at 20th May 2021, our longest waiter was referred on 10th April 2019.

We are unable to provide you with the level of detail you are seeking in regards to mitigating circumstances as there is a potential risk of identifying the individual if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Our next longest wait for routine appointment with one of the core team was referred on 10th May 2019.

6. Supply any document that sets out an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (or similar) between your Board and one or more Local Authorities that describes how both your Health Board and the Local Authority I Authorities concerned intend to manage this service so that is compliant with the United Nations Charter regarding the rights of a child and, also the Future generations Act in Wales

I can confirm that Swansea Bay Health Board does hold a Children's Charter document, but this is currently in draft format and as a result I am unable to comply with your request. This is in line with Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act which states that information is exempt if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date as yet unconfirmed.

7. If not contained in 6 above, supply any document that describes how your Board and the Local Authorities served by your Board intend to ensure that the waiting time for assessment does not exceed that set out in NICE and other guidance.

For ADHD there are no recommended waiting times specified in NICE guideline



(NG87). Within the ASD NICE guideline (CG128), the recommended timescale from referral to start of assessment is 3 months. However, all Health Boards report to Welsh Government on their performance against a 26 week referral to treatment time as specified in the *Guidance on the Delivery of Neurodevelopmental Services in Wales*.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

