

Date: 16 August 2021
Our reference: N/21/3329

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we partially hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

1. Do you have a locally commissioned NHS autism assessment service for adults? And if so:

Yes.

- a. What is the name and address of the service?

Neurodevelopmental Specialist Service (NeSS)
The Pines
Highbury Hospital
Bullwell
Nottingham
NG6 9DR

- b. What are the current waiting times for new patients being referred to this service?

The current average waiting time for the initial screening of the referral is 12 weeks. This is a screening to check that all the indicators for autism are present. The current wait for a diagnosis is 24 months from the point of referral.

2. Does your CCG have any other contracts, for example with other agencies, companies, or localities, to provide autism assessment services for adults? And if so:

No.

- a. Who are these contracts with? (Please provide the provider name and address as a minimum)

Not applicable.

- b. What are the current waiting times for new patients being referred?

Not applicable.

- c. When are the current contracts due to end?

Not applicable.

3. Do you have a locally commissioned NHS autism assessment service for children (under 18)? And if so:

There is no one single service commissioned to lead diagnostic assessments for autism. There are a number of providers who contribute to this process. The services commissioned by the CCG are as follows;

- **Small Steps** - is a county service providing early support and evidence-based interventions to families of children and young people displaying behaviours that cause concern or challenge. Support will be available where there is no formal diagnosis of ASD or ADHD, but where behaviours maybe indicative or characteristic of these conditions and also for families of children and young people diagnosed with ASD and/or ADHD.

- **The Nottingham City Behavioural and Emotional Health (BEH) Service** provides a city service providing early support and evidence-based interventions to families of children and young people displaying behaviours that cause concern or challenge. Support will be available where there is no formal diagnosis of ASD or ADHD, but where behaviours maybe indicative or characteristic of these conditions and also for families of children and young people diagnosed with ASD and/or ADHD.
- **Paediatricians** at Nottingham University Hospital and Sherwood Forest Hospital work with a range of children including where there are medical or physical health concerns, developmental concerns, concerns about growth, disability etc. Within the neurodevelopmental pathway community paediatricians will be involved where there is concern that there may be an underlying medical or developmental condition to explain a child's difficulties and will where appropriate, diagnosis and management of autism spectrum disorders (ASD)
- **CAMHS** provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will conduct, where appropriate, diagnosis and management of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) where there is a co-occurring mental health presentation.

a. What is the name and address of the service?

Small Steps

Mansfield Business Centre
Ashfield Avenue
Mansfield
Notts
NG18 2AE

BEH Service

Nottingham City Council
Loxley House
Station Street
Nottingham
NG2 3NG

Community paediatrics

NUH

Derby Road,
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

Community paediatrics

SFHT

King's Mill Hospital

Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - CAMHS

Hopewood
Foster Drive
Nottingham
NG5 3FL

- b. What are the current waiting times for new patients being referred?

The waiting times for neurodevelopmental presentations cannot be identified from the CAMHS and community paediatric waiting lists. As this is the key feature of Small Steps and BEH this data can be reported;

The most recent available Small Steps Waiting and BEH time data can be found below:

Small Steps Waiting time data June 2021 breakdown by weeks

	Average Waiting Time
Specialist Practitioner	53 weeks
Workshops	19 weeks
New Forest Parenting Programme	30 weeks
Cygnets Parenting Programme	7 weeks
Sleep programme	36 weeks
Transition groups	9 weeks
FSW 1:1	29 weeks
Volunteer Befriender	26 weeks

An improvement plan is in place to reduce the waiting times.

BEH Wait time Data for June 2021

- Referral to assessment – 5 weeks
- Referral to treatment - 39 weeks

Please note Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SFHFT) paediatric wait time data currently is not reported and therefore the CCG does not hold this information.

4. Does your CCG have any other contracts, for example with other agencies, companies, or localities, to provide autism assessment services for children? And if so:

Yes.

- a. Who are these contracts with? (Please provide the provider name and address as a minimum)

Small Steps Family Action

Family Action
Services and Innovation (North)
Family Action Head Office
34 Wharf Road
London N1 7GR

BEH Service

Nottingham City Council
Loxley House
Station Street
Nottingham NG2 3NG

Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Hopewood
Foster Drive
Nottingham
NG5 3FL

- b. What are the current waiting times for new patients being referred?

Please see most recently available waiting time data for Small Steps and BEH services above, wait time data for NUH and SFHFT and CAMHS currently not reported by presentation.

- c. When are the current contracts due to end?

- Small Steps-18th June 2020 – 17th June 2022
- BEH -1st April 2020 – 31st March 2022
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (CAMHS) - 31 March 2022.
- Due to the pandemic SFHFT and NUH acute trust contracts are currently managed directly by NHS England.

5. Has your CCG received any individual funding request (IFRs) for adult autism assessments in the last 12 months (or latest period for which you have this data, please specify the period)? And If so:

Yes.

- a. How many such requests did you receive?

In 2020/21 the CCG received 62 individual funding requests for adult autism assessments.

- b. How many such requests were refused?

None.

6. Has your CCG received any individual funding request (IFRs) for child (under 18) autism assessments in the last 12 months (or latest period for which you have this data, please specify the period)? And If so:

No.

- a. How many such requests were received?

Not applicable.

- b. How many such requests were refused?

Not applicable.

7. Has your CCG received any Patient Choice referrals for adult autism assessments in the last 12 months (or latest period for which you have this data, please specify the period)? And if so:

Yes.

- a. How many such requests were received?

Currently 2 patient choice referrals for adult autism assessments have been received in 2021/22.

- b. For how many such requests was funding approved?

Currently 2 patient choice referrals for adult autism assessments have been approved in 2021/22.

- c. For these requests how long did it take to approve funding? An ideal answer will include as many of the following as you can provide:

- i. longest time to approve

- ii. shortest time to approve
- iii. average time to approve

Funding approval not required for patient choice referrals.

8. Has your CCG received any Patient Choice referrals for child (under 18) autism assessments in the last 12 months (or latest period for which you have this data, please specify the period)? And if so:

Yes.

- a. How many such requests were received?

Currently 1 patient choice referral for child (under 18) autism assessments has been received in 2021/22.

- b. For how many such requests was funding approved?

Currently 1 patient choice referral for child (under 18) autism assessments has been approved in 2021/22.

- c. For these requests how long did it take to approve funding? An ideal answer will include as many of the following as you can provide:

- i. longest time to approve
- ii. shortest time to approve
- iii. average time to approve

Funding approval not required for patient choice referrals.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. 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/for-the-public/>

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 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group*.

notts.foi@nhs.net

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