

Freedom of Information Act Audit: ADHD services – England

Analysis

Questions sent to 231 English NHS Trusts from Hanover Communications on behalf of Shire.
Research conducted between October 2016 and February 2017.

Overall response rate: 73%

Total number of respondents: 169

Trusts providing data in response to one or more questions: 75 (44.4%)

Trusts not able to provide data: 85 (50.3%)

Trusts not able to provide data either do not provide any kind of ADHD service (e.g. they are a specialist Trust) or do not record any data about ADHD

Trusts citing Freedom of Information Act legal exemption for all questions due to disproportionate cost: 9 (5.3%)

Children and Young People

65 respondents provided some data relating to a CYP service (38%)

Of these, 1 respondent provided data on referrals onward to another Trust's ADHD service only

Number of children and young people with symptoms of ADHD who have come into contact with services in the past 12 months?

Of the 65 respondents:

44 (68%) provided information on the number of children in contact with their services who have symptoms of ADHD

Across these 44 respondents, a total of 24,807 children and young people were reported

The largest caseload was reported by Ashford and St Peter's Hospital (2391 patients), followed by Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHSFT and Norfolk Community Health and Care Trust (both with 2280 patients)

The smallest caseload was reported by Homerton University Hospital NHSFT (9) followed by North Lincolnshire and Goole NHSFT (32)

The number of children and young people referred with symptoms of ADHD who are currently waiting for their first outpatients appointment?

Of the 65 respondents:

34 provided information on waiting times (52%)

2540 people are reported to be waiting for a first outpatient appointment

The smallest waiting list is 2 people at North Lincolnshire and Goole NHSFT

The largest waiting list is 511 people at Northampton Healthcare NHSFT

Average waiting times from referral to first outpatients ranged from 14 days (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHSFT) to 187 days (Lancashire Care NHSFT)

9 trusts reported average waiting times above 126 days (18 weeks) (14%)

South West Yorkshire Partnership and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough reported the waiting time ranges with the highest upper limit (0-531 and 0-532 days respectively)

East Lancashire Hospitals NHSFT reported the waiting time range with the lowest upper limit (7-35 days)

What proportion of parents or carers of children with symptoms of ADHD who meet the NICE eligibility criteria have been offered a referral to a parent training programme in the past 12 months?

Of the 65 respondents providing data relating to a CYP service:

21 offer parent training programmes to all or most of the parents of patients (33%)

12 offer parent training programmes only to small numbers of families or signpost parents to other services (18%)

6 offer no parent training programme (9%)

1 (2%) offer a parent training programme but only to patients who have been diagnosed with ADHD

25 were unable to answer the question or provided an unclear response (38%)

What proportion of children and young people with moderate ADHD have been offered a referral to a psychological group treatment programme in the past 12 months?

Of the 65 respondents:

7 offer group psychological treatment (11%)

7 offer group psychological treatment to a small percentage of patients (11%)

26 offer no group psychological treatment (40%)

25 did not provide information or the response was unclear (38%)

In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible children and young people with ADHD who are starting drug treatment go on to have their initial drug dose adjusted and response assessed by an ADHD specialist?

Of the 65 respondents:

24 did not answer the question or their response was unclear (37%)

Three trusts - Isle of Wight - 86%, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - 95%, and Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation trust (majority) provided responses that did not state 100% (5%)

The remainder (38) responded 100% or 'all' patients (58%)

In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible children and young people with ADHD who are taking drug treatment have a specialist review at least annually to assess their need for continued treatment?

Of the 65 respondents:

23 did not answer the question or their response was unclear (35%)

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation trust responded with 80% (2%)

The remainder (41) almost all responded 100% (although not every trust records the data in a reportable format so this was their estimate) (63%)

Adults

32 respondents provided some data on adults with ADHD (19%). Of these:

4 provided some form data (e.g. on adults with ADHD symptoms in contact with the trust but do not provide an ADHD specialist service)

28 specifically stated that they provide an ADHD service or supplied data indicating this to be the case

The number of adult patients with symptoms of ADHD who have come into contact with your service in the past 12 months?

Of the 32 respondents providing data on adults with ADHD:

23 (72%) provided information on the number of adults in contact with their services who have symptoms of ADHD

Across these 23 responses, the number of adults in contact with services totalled 9,954 (N.B. This figure includes identical responses from two neighbouring trusts suggesting double counting of 911 patients)

The largest caseload was reported to be 2309 at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The second largest was 1059 at Northampton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The smallest caseload was reported by South Essex Partnership University NHSFT at 57 patients

The number of adult patients referred with symptoms of ADHD who are currently waiting for their first outpatients appointment?

Of the 32 respondents:

22 provided information on waiting times (69%)

4097 people are reported to be waiting for a first outpatient appointment.

The smallest waiting list is 6 people at Isle of Wight NHSFT

The largest waiting list is 695 people at South West Yorkshire Partnership NHSFT.

Average waiting times from referral to first outpatients ranged from 65 days (SW London and St Georges NHSFT) to 388 days (Birmingham and Solihull MHNHSFT)

16 trusts reported average waiting times above 126 days (18 weeks)

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHSFT reported the waiting time range with the highest upper limit (14-831 days) followed by Birmingham and Solihull MHNHSFT (6-1225 days)

Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHSFT reported the waiting time range with the lowest upper limit (25-182 days)

In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible adult patients with ADHD who are starting drug treatment go on to have their initial drug dose adjusted and response assessed by an ADHD specialist?

Of the 28 trusts which offer an adult ADHD service, 14 (50%) did not answer this question or provided an unclear response

Those that did answer all reported 100% with the exception of Greater Manchester West at 90% and Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust at 90.01% and Isle of Wight NHS Trust at 86%

In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible adult patients with ADHD who are taking drug treatment have a specialist review at least annually to assess their need for continued treatment?

Of the 28 trusts which offer an adult ADHD service:

17 did not answer this question (61%)

8 (28%) replied 100%

3 (11%) replied greater than or equal to 80% but less than 100% (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Cheshire and Wirral and Greater Manchester West)

Transition for adolescents to adult services

Of the 169 trusts which responded to the FOI request, 63 provided information on transition (37%)

Responses were highly varied making conclusions challenging to draw

13 of the 169 simply reported there is no transition service or pathway with no further information

The remainder provided some information about a transition service or pathway in existence or in development, some areas explained that there is no ADHD adult service to transition to and several areas refer ADHD patients back to the GP. Some areas only have a non-ADHD specific transition pathway