

22 February 2017

Our Ref: RFI 19381

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Cerebral Palsy Services**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 16 January 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Work Directorate with input from the Allied Health Professional's Department and is attached in Appendix A.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

Q1. *A copy of your care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy.*

A1. The Trust does not have a specific pathway for children with Cerebral Palsy. Children follow a pathway of care and support dependent on their assessed needs. This will take into consideration social, emotional, physical, educational needs and complexity of need.

Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy professions provide a service in line with professional guidelines and best practice.

Q2. *A copy of your service framework for children and young people with cerebral palsy.*

A2. The Trust does not have a service framework dedicated to children with Cerebral Palsy.

As children present with different degrees of disability, each child is assessed individually and a treatment plan developed based on their specific assessed needs.

Q3. *Whether your Health Board commissions the following services for children and young people with cerebral palsy:*

- a. *Paediatric speech and language therapy*
- b. *Paediatric physiotherapy*
- c. *Paediatric occupational therapy*
- d. *Conductive Education*

If so:

i. *What is the annual cost of these commissioned services to the Health Board?*

ii. *Are they provided in an integrated manner (under one roof)?*

A3. The Trust will provide Allied Health Professional (AHP) services to children with Cerebral Palsy, based on ongoing assessment of individual need. There is no dedicated service for children with Cerebral Palsy.

A3i. The costs for cerebral palsy are not commissioned separately as they are incorporated in the overall service for children with disabilities.

A3ii. The Trust's Children's Services are integrated and are provided in the most appropriate location to meet the child's assessed needs.

The Trust will attempt, where possible to provide services locally to children and their families.

Q4. *Whether South Eastern Health and Social Care Board commissions/funds any other programmes or initiatives by independent or third sector providers to improve outcomes for children and young people with cerebral palsy.*

A4. The Trust, through the Children's Disability Team has a contract with the Cedar Foundation who provides an Outreach Service and a Transitions Service for children with a physical disability.

Q5. *An overview of training and advice provided by South Eastern Health and Social Care Board, as part of its co-commissioning duties, for GPs and other health professionals on identifying and referring children with cerebral palsy.*

A5. The Trust has worked with GP colleagues in relation to identification and referral processes for children where there are concerns in relation to a child's development. A referral form has been developed and discussed with GP colleagues in relation to significant information required to be detailed in each of the highlighted areas.

Single Point of Entry (SPOE) is a process whereby a multidisciplinary panel sits weekly to review all of the referrals into Child Health, to consider what pathway would best meet the needs of the individual child and to expedite this in a timely manner.

Referrals are received from GP's, Acute Children's Services, Consultant Paediatricians, Health Professionals and Education staff.

Q6. *Whether there is a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral for diagnosis of cerebral palsy, from the point of the formal identification of symptoms.*

A6. There is no specific pathway for children with cerebral palsy.

Q7. *What the estimated cost is to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Board of medical and therapy costs for children and young people with cerebral palsy.*

A7. This would require a manual review of individual case files for every child throughout the trajectory of their condition, during their childhood years to ensure its accuracy.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 under Section 12(1), so it will not be possible to make this information available to you.

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

Q8. *The total number of children and young people diagnosed with cerebral palsy in your Health Board population area within each of the last five years.*

A8. In order to retrieve this information a manual search of all patient files is required as the information is not collated on our information systems. The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 under Section 12(1), so it will not be possible to make this information available to you.

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