

8 August 2018

Our Ref: RFI 24195

Dear

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

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 11 July 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

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

**Catherine Treanor
Information Governance Assistant**

Q1. What is the total number of children and young people diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy by your Trust/Health Board in the last five years? (N.B.: this should be recorded as a total figure rather than figures for each year individually.)

A1. The Trust does not collect data in this format. When a child is referred to a service, the initial recording on will be the primary/actual reason for referral at that time. Often a diagnosis has not been confirmed and therefore would not be recorded on the system.

Q2. What is the care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy in your Trust/Health Board? Please provide a copy of this if possible.

A2. There is no specific care pathway for children who have a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. The pathway that a child follows is dependent on the child's individual needs.
Each profession provides a service in line with Professional guidelines and best practice. Within Physiotherapy a best practice pathway is followed which is evidence based, this is due to be launched regionally (please see copy attached).

Q3. Is there a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral to a child development service for diagnosis of cerebral palsy from the point when symptoms are initially identified? If so, please provide this data.

A3. Not applicable.

Q4. What is the total number of:

- **Health visitors employed by your Trust/Health Board?**
- **Specialist health visitors for children with special needs employed by your Trust/Health Board?**

A4. The total number of Health Visitors employed by the Trust is 74. There are no specialist Health Visitors for children with special needs.

Q5. What training is given to healthcare professionals, including health visitors and GPs, to recognise the risk factors and possible symptoms for Cerebral Palsy?

A5. There is no specific training provided to groups of staff. Where there is a child diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and there is complexity of need, the relevant Health Professional(s) will provide awareness sessions and bespoke training to those involved in the child's care.

Q6. What is the total number of specialist staff employed by your Trust/Health Board, who are trained to work with children and young people with Cerebral Palsy, from the following disciplines:

- **Paediatric speech and language therapy**
- **Paediatric physiotherapy**
- **Paediatric occupational therapy**

A6. The Trust are unable to give specific numbers as specialist paediatric speech and language therapists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists are trained to work with a range of conditions in children and young people, of which Cerebral Palsy would be one.

Q7. How many children and young people with Cerebral Palsy are currently on a waiting list to access any of the above services within your Trust/Health Board?

A7. The Trust does not collect data in this format. When a child is referred to a service, the initial recording on will be the primary/actual reason for referral at that time. Often a diagnosis has not been confirmed and therefore would not be recorded on the system.