

Information Governance

5 December 2016

Our Ref: RFI 18852

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Provision of Services for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**

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 4 November 2016.

A response to each of the questions raised, has been provided by the Adult Services Directorate 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. *What proportion of children and young people with symptoms of ADHD have been referred to an ADHD specialist for assessment in the past 12 months (Quality Statement 1).*
- A1. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are provided by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, as outlined in the email issued by the Information Governance Department on 7 November 2016.
- Q2. *What proportion of adults with symptoms of ADHD without a childhood diagnosis of ADHD have been referred to an ADHD specialist for assessment in the past 12 months (Quality Statement 2).*
- A2. The Trust does not hold information on how many adults have “symptoms” of ADHD within our Trust area and therefore is unable to give a “proportion”.
- The Trust does however hold data on the overall number of adults who are referred for psychiatric assessment of which people presenting with symptoms of ADHD will be an unquantified subset, please advise if this information is relevant to your request.
- Q3. *What proportion of adults who were diagnosed with ADHD as children or young people and present with symptoms of continuing ADHD have been referred to general adult psychiatric services in the past 12 months (Quality Statement 3).*
- A3. All young people diagnosed with ADHD and who are under the active and ongoing care of paediatrics are transferred to adult mental health when they turn 18 years of age if they are assessed as requiring continuing treatment. The Trust cannot however provide a “proportion” figure in regard to the number of people who may have been discharged from under 18 services but who are subsequently re-referred at a later stage to adult mental health services as such data is not collated.
- Q4. *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 (Quality Statement 4) – Children’s Services/Paediatrics to answer.*
- A4. No information is held by the Trust as CAMDS is provided by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

Q5. *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 (Quality Statement 5)- Children's Services /Paediatrics to answer.*

A5. No information is held by the Trust as CAMDS is provided by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

Q6. *In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible patients with ADHD who are starting drug treatment go on to have their initial drug dose adjusted and response assessed by an ADHD specialist (Quality Statement 6).*

A6. The following answer refers to Adult Mental Health only. The Trust is unable to provide a figure re "proportion".

ADHD physical health monitoring clinics which run within Mental Health Day Hospitals in the Trust monitor people weekly for adverse side effects (ASE) during titration and to ensure people have their dose adjusted to have optimum effect . Psychiatrists and nurses assess and review patients throughout this process until the optimal dose is reached.

Q7. *In the past 24 months, what proportion of eligible patients with ADHD who are taking drug treatment have a specialist review at least annually to assess their need for continued treatment (Quality Statement 7).*

A7. All eligible patients are offered an annual review.

Q8. *The number of people with symptoms of ADHD who have come into contact with your service in the past 12 months:*

- *Children and young people*
- *Adults*

A8. This response refers to Adult Mental Health only.

There have been 185 people aged 18years or over who have come into contact with Adult Mental Health Physical Health monitoring clinics in the Trust area over the past 12 months.

Q9. *The number of people referred with symptoms of ADHD who are currently waiting for their first outpatients appointment:*

- *Children and young people Children's Services/ Paediatrics to answer*
- *Adults*

A9. The Trust is unable to provide this specific data (for Adult Mental Health) for ADHD as it is not a specialist, stand-alone service within Adult Mental Health. The Trust can however confirm that all new mental health referrals which may include referrals for ADHD are seen and assessed within the

Department of Health (DoH) 9 week target time, at the Trust's 3 Mental Health Assessment Centres.

The Trust does not gather data on these referrals with regard to presenting symptoms at the time of referral. The reason being someone may present or be referred with what appears to be condition related symptoms such as ADHD however after psychiatric assessment a very different clinical formulation may be reached leading to a different or no diagnosis.

Q10. *The average waiting time from referral to first outpatients appointment in the past 12 months for:-*

- *Children and young people presenting with symptoms of ADHD*
- *Adults presenting for the first time with symptoms of ADHD*

A10. Adult Mental Health Directorate is unable to provide data specific to ADHD. The Adult Mental Health Service can confirm that it complies with all DoH targets.

Q11. *The range of waiting times (ie shortest to longest) for patients from referral to first outpatient appointment in the past 12 months for:-*

- *Children and young people presenting with symptoms of ADHD*
- *Adults presenting for the first time with symptoms of ADHD*

A11. As above, the Mental Health Directorate is unable to provide data specific to ADHD however can confirm that the Trust's Adult Mental Health programme complies with DoH target waiting times.

Q12. *What specialist services are available for referral for adults presenting with symptoms of ADHD.*

A12. Within the Trust once people reach 18 and are continuing on medication for ADHD they transfer to adult services. People from 18 years onwards, reporting symptoms of ADHD are seen by the Trust's Adult Psychiatrists for assessment. If medication is indicated they will then attend our ADHD physical health monitoring clinics. At these clinics patients are monitored and symptoms reviewed to ensure the effective dose is provided. Patients continue to be seen by the Psychiatrist for outpatient review and have annual reviews in regard to their medication.

As part of professional registration and continuing professional development, ADHD training and conferences are attended by the staff that provide the clinics to ensure appropriate skill and knowledge within the Trust.

Q13. *Does your organisation provide a transition to an adult service for adolescents with ADHD.*

A13. Yes, patients transfer from paediatrics to adult psychiatry when they are 18.

A transitional joint appointment has been piloted within the Ards area and a transition pack and resource is currently under development for trust wide provision in line with the NICE guidelines.

Q14. *The age at which your organisation transitions a young person diagnosed with ADHD to general adult psychiatric service.*

A14. A young person diagnosed with ADHD transitions to general adult psychiatric services at 18 years of age.

Q15. *Does your organisation receive out of area referrals for specialist ADHD services.*

A15. No, our organisation does not receive out of area referrals for specialist ADHD services.