

17 January 2024

Our Ref: RFI 55504

Dear
Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Pathways in Delivery of NICE Guidelines.

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 18 December 2024.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care and Older People 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 –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Can you please tell me what is the physiotherapy input for the pathways in delivery of NICE guidelines with children with ASD, ADHD and children born pre term?

A1. With regard to children with ASD & ADHD, there is no dedicated Physiotherapist working in either the ASD or ADHD service in the Trust. Children with confirmed or suspected ASD or ADHD, presenting with relevant functional difficulties can be referred to physiotherapy, which may be provided in a community clinic or school-based setting.

With regard to Children Born Pre-Term, the Trust provides physiotherapy input for Neonatal inpatient wards in the Ulster Hospital, offering support and advice to parents on developmental care/play and positioning. The Physiotherapist will liaise as required with other involved professionals e.g. Neonatologist, Health Visitor other Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) or Paediatrician, and will refer to Community Physiotherapy Services as required. All referrals to physiotherapy for children born preterm are made according to the criteria described in the NICE guidelines.

Q2. Can you also tell me what the waiting lists are for these services?

A2. Physiotherapy Community Services aim to see urgent referrals within 10 working days of referral, and routine referrals within 13 weeks of referral in accordance with regional guidelines. As of December 2023, the longest wait without an allocated appointment is 118 days. The longest wait for a child in a special school is 57 days.