



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB604

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

4 December 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 8 November 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000), please provide responses to the below questions, labelled **1a-1m** and **2a-2d**, around Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments and treatment within your ICB area.

1. ADHD & ASD Arrangements

- a. Please name the organisation(s) that deliver(s) ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) assessments / diagnoses in your ICB area for both adults and CYP (children and young people)?
- b. When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end along with any extension clauses included in the contract?
- c. How is the service contracted – is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP / RTC contracting?
- d. Does the service, sub-contractor or Right to Choose provider provide assessment / diagnosis only or post-diagnosis treatment also, and whether this is through coaching/counselling and/or pharmaceutical treatment?
- e. Where post-diagnosis treatment is provided by the service, sub-contractor or Right to Choose provider, please outline what treatment is offered and the spend for 2023-24 and for the last 5 years?

- f. What is the annual and forecasted spend for this service for 2023-24, and for the last 5 years?
- g. How many assessments have been carried out by the service provider / contract holder and by any sub-contractors for 2023-24, along with any outstanding period forecasted and for the last 5 years?
- h. If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?
- i. If any of the organisation(s) subcontracts any ASD or ADHD Assessments, and if yes the names of those subcontractor organisations, and the numerical quantity of ASD and ADHD Assessments undertaken by each subcontractor organisation along with the number of post diagnosis treatment provided?
- j. A list of Right to Choose providers used and whether this is for adults or children, young people or both.
- k. The number of ASD and ADHD assessments undertaken by each Right to Choose provider including breakdown of adults and children & young people numbers for 2023-24 and for the last 5 years?
- l. The annual spend and forecast on ASD and ADHD assessments undertaken by each Right to Choose provider including breakdown of adults and children & young people for 2023-24 and for the last 5 years?
- m. If information on Right to Choose is not held by yourselves, please advise why this is and who would hold this information, as to my knowledge all Right to Choose referrals data and costings are accountable by the ICB?

2. ADHD & ASD Waiting Lists

- a. What is the current shortest, longest and average wait time from referral for ADHD and ASD assessments? Please break this down separately by ADHD and ASD, as well as by the different localities the ICB cover where applicable.
- b. What is the current number of referred patients waiting for an ADHD and ASD assessment? Please break this down separately by ADHD and ASD, as well as by the different localities the ICB cover where applicable.
- c. How many ADHD and ASD assessments have been carried out per month by the ICB for the 2023-24 period along with how many are forecasted to be completed for the remaining months of the 2023-24 period? Please break this down separately by ADHD and ASD, as well as by the different localities the ICB cover.
- d. What are the current ICB plans to reduce the waiting list times and patient numbers?

Any clarifications, questions or further information requirements you need from myself, please don't hesitate to ask.

Our Response

County Durham and Tees Valley places

Question 1 responses:

- a. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), are commissioned to deliver CYP and adult ASD and ADHD services across County Durham, Darlington and Teesside via a block contract. These services have been in place for many years, however the current signed contract in place is dated from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Psychiatry UK Limited are currently commissioned by Newcastle and Gateshead to provide approximately 300 adult ASD and ADHD assessments as part of a waiting list initiative. The current signed contract in place is dated 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023, currently negotiating new contract.
- b. See response to question 1a.
- c. See response to question 1a.
- d. Please note the above information only relates to contracts commissioned by the NENC ICB for all age CYP and adult ASD and/or ADHD services, we cannot comment on RTC providers or sub-contractors, the main contractor would need contacting in the latter and the provider directly would need contacting, or the commissioner of the NHS with

the provider in the case of RTC. In response to whether the service offers diagnosis or post-diagnostic treatment for each area described above:

- TEWV/South – the ASD and ADHD services commissioned are clinical diagnostic services rather than post-diagnostic treatment services. However, there are a number of other post-diagnostic services that can be accessed across County Durham and Tees Valley:
 - [Online recovery colleges](#)
 - Adult ADHD Support Groups Northeast UK offers friendly, informal meetings for adults who have a diagnosis or are in the process of seeking a diagnosis of ADHD and partners of adults with ADHD. Friends, relatives, support workers and professionals with an interest in ADHD are welcome. Contact details: 07856 212 564 / aadhd_ne@yahoo.co.uk
 - [Daisy Chain](#) runs social groups for neurodivergent adults in Tees Valley. Darlington, Middlesbrough, and Hartlepool groups are open for expressions of interest; groups in Stockton and Redcar & Cleveland are in progress.
 - ADHD North East
 - Locally commissioned neurodevelopmental pathways in Tees Valley have access to a "Bubble of Support" to enable families to access the right support and care in the right place whilst they are waiting on the pathway or as part of the "needs led" offer should a neuro assessment not be appropriate. No diagnosis is required to access these services:
 - Darlington: <https://nenc-teesvalley.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/darlington-needs-led-neurodevelopmental-pathway/>
 - Hartlepool and Stockton: <https://nenc-teesvalley.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/hartlepool-stocktons-needs-led-neurodevelopmental-pathway/>
 - Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland: <https://nenc-teesvalley.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/south-tees-needs-led-neurodevelopmental-pathway/>
- e. Please redirect your request to providers noted in earlier responses.
- f. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- g. Please redirect your request to providers noted in earlier responses.
- h. The responses within this FOI relate only to commissioned contracts for the specified services across the NENC ICB.
- i. None of the contracts above use sub-contractors to deliver these services.
- j. NENC ICB do not currently hold a list of RTC providers across the entire country (as right to choose applies across England) or have access to the number of assessments they undertake. In order for individuals to exercise their right to choose in line with the NHS Constitution & NHS Choice Framework amongst other conditions, a provider must have in place a signed NHS Standard Contract with NHS England or any other NHS ICB in England for the required service. NHS England may have access to such information across the entire country, but unlikely. However the following link is a good indicator of available providers should you wish to contact them to ask for that information directly: <https://adhduk.co.uk/right-to-choose/>.
- k. See response to question 1j.
- l. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- m. See response to question 1j.

Question 2 responses:

- a. TEWV – NENC ICB can only provide waiting times information currently for CYP services, as adult services are not currently reported via the contract. This is being progressed via the Data Quality Improvement Plan and should be available before the year end. In the meantime, this can be redirected to the provider for the adults update. Please see below the recent CYP waiting times for neurodevelopmental pathways at the end of the reporting period September 2023:

	Grand Total	1-2 years	2-3 years	Over 3 years
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CAMHS D&D Neuro Assessment	2940	1841	1096	3
CAMHS North Tees Neuro Assessment	631	612	15	4
CAMHS South Tees Neuro Assessment	590	586	4	0
Grand Total	4161	3039	1115	7

- b. Please redirect your request to providers noted in earlier responses.
- c. Please redirect your request to providers noted in earlier responses.
- d. The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board Directors have been tasked with reviewing existing service provision across the region and considering options to reduce waiting times. This is a work in progress.

Newcastle Gateshead, Northumberland, South Tyneside places

Question 1 responses:

- a. Autism and ADHD: Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW) – Adults and CYP. ADHD only: Psych-UK Limited – Adults. Autism only: Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH) – pre-school children and South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT) – pre-school children.
- b. CNTW: 01/04/23 – 31/03/23, no option to extend. Psych UK Limited: Newcastle and Gateshead – contract ended 30/09/23 currently negotiating a new contract., Northumberland – 01/04/23 – 31/03/25 – no option to extend. ADHD – contract ended currently negotiating a new contract. NuTH: 01/04/23 – 31/03/24 STSFT 01/04/23 – 31/03/24.
- c. All contracts are block contracts.
- d. CNTW: Assessment / diagnosis, post-diagnosis treatment through pharmaceutical treatment. Psych UK Limited: Assessment / diagnosis and post-diagnosis treatment (titration only, not shared care). NuTH and STSFT: Please contact the trust directly for this information.
- e. Please contact the providers noted above for this information.
- f. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- g. Psych UK Limited: Newcastle and Gateshead – 220 ADHD. A contract for Autism assessments ended 30 September 2023. 231 assessments were undertaken. CNTW, NuTH and STSFT: please contact the provider directly for this information.
- h. The service is not commissioned with other CCGs or ICSs. Trust providers are noted in the responses to question 1.
- i. Psych UK does not subcontract assessments. Please contact CNTW, NuTH and STSFT for details of subcontracts.
- j. NENC ICB do not currently hold a list of RTC providers across the entire country (as right to choose applies across England) or have access to the number of assessments they undertake. In order for individuals to exercise their right to choose in line with the NHS Constitution & NHS Choice Framework, amongst other conditions, a provider must have in place a signed NHS Standard Contract with NHS England or any other NHS ICB in England for the required service. NHS England may have access to such information across the entire country, but unlikely. However, the following link is a good indicator of available providers should you wish to contact them to ask for that information directly: <https://adhduk.co.uk/right-to-choose/>.
- k. See response to question 1j for details of RTC providers.
- l. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- m. See response to question 1j for details of RTC providers.

Question 2 responses:

- a. Please contact Acute and Mental Health Hospital Trusts for this information.

- b. Psych-UK: Newcastle: 1 ADHD and Gateshead: 3 ADHD. Please contact Acute and Mental Health Hospital Trusts for their information.
- c. Please contact Acute and Mental Health Hospital Trusts for their information. For Psych-UK, refer to the table below:

Psych-UK	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
ADHD	58	31	25	11	10	13	3
Autism	20	8	1	2	3	2	N/A

- d. NENC ICB are looking at options available in terms of increasing capacity to meet demand in recognition of existing long waiting times. This will also include working with system partners to ensure that referrals are made to the most appropriate pathway as well as ensuring help and support is available both pre and post diagnosis.

North Cumbria place

Question 1 responses:

- a. Psychiatry UK provide adult ADHD assessments. Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (FT) (CNTW) provides adult autism assessments and children and young people ADHD assessments. North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT (NCIC) provides children and young people's autism assessments.
- b. CNTW and NCIC: part of rolling block contract. Psychiatry UK annual contract April 23.
- c. CNTW and NCIC: block, Psychiatry UK: activity based.
- d. Psychiatry UK: assessment but offers coaching or pharmaceutical treatment. NCIC: assessment, with post-diagnostic support provided via a pathway navigator. CNTW (adult autism): 1 post-diagnostic support session provided via trust and further sessions by a third-sector partner.
- e. Psychiatry UK: part of spend below. NCIC: forms part of wider paediatrics contract.

North Cumbria adult ADHD:

2019/2020	£199,050
2020/2021	£162,871
2021/2022	£384,344
2022/2023	£906,799
2023 to date	£815,822

For adult autism, children and young people: please contact NCIC and CNTW for respective data.

- f. Adult North Cumbria ADHD:

2019	97
2020	196
2021	648
2022	999
2023 to date	1408

For adult autism, children and young people: contact NCIC and CNTW for respective data.

- g. Psychiatry UK: information not held by the ICB. North Cumbria adult autism: information not held by the ICB. Information is also not held for children and young people's autism and ADHD in North Cumbria. Please refer to the providers noted in question 1a.
- h. Please refer to the response to question 1g.
- i. There are no Right to Choose providers for North Cumbria adult ADHD. Psychiatry UK: Right to Choose provider for adult autism, children and young people's autism and ADHD assessments in North Cumbria.
- j. In 2023/24 there were forty-one adult autism assessments under Right to Choose and one child autism assessment under Right to Choose.

- k. This question cannot be answered as the information is not held by NENC ICB in North Cumbria place.
- l. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- m. Please refer to the response to question 1j.

Question 2 responses:

- a. North Cumbria adult ADHD (Psychiatry UK): currently 16-weeks' waiting time. For adult autism, children and young people contact CNTW and NCIC for respective data.
- b. North Cumbria adult ADHD (Psychiatry UK): 197. For adult autism, children and young people, contact CNTW and NCIC for respective data.
- c. North Cumbria adult ADHD:

April	125
May	132
June	159
July	86
August	190
September	136
October	138

For adult autism, children and young people: contact CNTW and NCIC for respective data.

- d. The ICB are looking at options available in terms of increasing capacity to meet demand in recognition of existing long waiting times. This will also include working with system partners to ensure that referrals are made to the most appropriate pathway as well as ensuring help and support is available both pre and post diagnosis.

North Tyneside place

Question 1 responses:

- a. The organisations are Northumbria Health Care Foundation Trust (FT) for Children and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT (CNTW) for adults.
- b. This service is within the Foundation Trusts' contract which is renewed annually.
- c. This is a block contract
- d. No
- e. This questions cannot be answered by the ICB – please refer to the providers noted in the response to question 1a.
- f. FTs have been paid through a block payment since 2020/21.
- g. North Tyneside does not hold this level of information, the providers would need to be contacted directly
- h. North East North Cumbria ICB has a contract with CNTW that covers Northumbria, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Cumbria, Sunderland & South Tyneside.
- i. Please contact provider organisations listed in the response to question 1, for this information.
- j. ADHD 360 & Psych-UK both for adults
- k. This information not held by the ICB at North Tyneside place.
- l. The Finance response is detailed in a separate section further down this letter.
- m. This information not held by the ICB at North Tyneside place.

Question 2 responses:

- a. This information is not held by NENC ICB in North Tyneside place. Please contact the providers noted in the response to question 1a directly.
- b. See response to question 2a.
- c. See response to question 2a.
- d. NENC ICB are looking at options available in terms of increasing capacity to meet demand in recognition of existing long waiting times. This will also include working with

system partners to ensure that referrals are made to the most appropriate pathway as well as ensuring help and support is available both pre and post diagnosis.

Sunderland place

Question 1 responses:

- a. Adults: Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT (CNTW), Childrens: Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT and South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- b. 01 April '23 – 31 March '24
- c. Both are block contracts.
- d. CNTW: Assessment / diagnosis, post-diagnosis treatment through pharmaceutical treatment.
- e. Please request from the providers
- f. Block contract so unable to breakdown
- g. Please contact the provider for this information
- h. Please contact the provider for this information
- i. There are no sub-contracts in place
- j. A list is not held but referrals are supported as requested. The majority of referrals are made to Psychiatry UK.
- k. The breakdown is shown in the table below:

Year	Spend	Assessments
2020/21	£8,418	6
2021/22	£26,840	25
2022/23	£51,961	74
2023/24 YTD	£58,440	169

- l. Please refer to the table above for the spend breakdown.
- m. Please contact the providers noted in the response to question 1a for this information.

Question 2 responses:

- a. Please contact the providers noted in the response to question 1a for this information.
- b. Please contact the providers noted in the response to question 1a for this information.
- c. Please contact the providers noted in the response to question 1a for this information.
- d. The ICB are looking at options available in terms of increasing capacity to meet demand in recognition of existing long waiting times. This will also include working with system partners to ensure that referrals are made to the most appropriate pathway as well as ensuring help and support is available both pre and post diagnosis.

Finance responses

Question 1f response:

The ICB started operating from 1 July 2022 and on that basis, figures have been provided for the two financial years during which it has been in existence. Some elements are part of wider block contracts and as such represent an estimate:

2022/23	£5.4m
2023/24 forecast	£8.0m

Question 1l response:

The ICB started operating from 1 July 2022 and on that basis figures have been provided for the two financial years during which it has been in existence. Financial information held does not include a breakdown of spend between adults and children and young people.

Provider	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 forecast £'000
ADHD 360 LTD	10	40
AXIA ASD LTD	7	4
EVOLVE PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES LTD	23	120
PSICON LTD	1	0
PSYCH-UK LTD	841	2,590

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold all the information you have sought. However, we have determined the records are held by Acute and Mental Health Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those acute and mental health hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer