

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB824

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300  
E-mail: [necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net)

By Email

5 April 2024

Dear Applicant

**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 14 March 2024 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**

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment in the North East and North Cumbria for children.
2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment in the North East and North Cumbria for adults.
3. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) in the North East and North Cumbria for children.
4. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) in the North East and North Cumbria for adults.
5. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses in the North East and North Cumbria for children.
6. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses in the North East and North Cumbria for adults.
7. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through North East and North Cumbria ICS.

8. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through North East and North Cumbria ICS.
9. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through North East and North Cumbria ICS but do not receive a diagnosis.
10. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through North East and North Cumbria ICS but do not receive a diagnosis.
11. What standardised tools are currently used in the North East and North Cumbria for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.
12. What standardised tools are currently used in the North East and North Cumbria for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment.

## **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

### County Durham and Tees Valley places

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought for County Durham and Tees Valley places. However, we have determined the records are held by Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS FT ((TEWV) [tewv.foi@nhs.net](mailto:tewv.foi@nhs.net) )

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 address for CNTW to make your request.

### Newcastle place

*Response 7 and 9:* We commission Northeast Autism Society to deliver a children and families autism hub (pre and post diagnostic support). Families are also signposted to children and families early help hubs. Our Children's IAPT 'Getting Help' is available for first and second tier mental health support. Families can also access the Local Offer to see what other supports are available.

*Response 8:* Tyneside Mind have an adult's autism support service in Newcastle. We will be commissioning an Adult Autism Hub this year in Newcastle. Skills for people offer support to autistic adults and the ICB funds some of that support.

*Response 10:* It would depend on what the person's support needs were.

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested for questions 1 to 6 and 11 to 12.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought for Newcastle place. However, we have determined the records are held by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT ((CNTW) [foi@cntw.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cntw.nhs.uk))

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 address for CNTW to make your request.

#### North Tyneside place

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought for North Tyneside place. However, we have determined the records are held by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT for adults ([foi@cntw.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cntw.nhs.uk)) and Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT ([foi@northumbria.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@northumbria.nhs.uk)) for children.

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 address for the trusts to make your request.

#### Gateshead, North Cumbria, Northumberland, Sunderland, South Tyneside places

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought for Gateshead, North Cumbria, Northumberland, Sunderland and South Tyneside places. However, we have determined the records are held by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT ((CNTW) [foi@cntw.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cntw.nhs.uk)) and Psych-UK.

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 address for CNTW to make your request.

In accordance 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 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 review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**