

Our Ref: NG/RM/24029  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Nicola Griffiths  
Deputy Director of Governance  
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
Bellringer Road  
Trentham  
ST4 8HH

Dear

Reception: 0300 123 1535

### **Freedom of Information Act Request**

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### ***Requested information:***

1. The number of referrals made to each of the below services/through each of the below pathways\* during 2015/16, 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date. Please break these figures down by the number of referrals received, the number of referrals accepted, and the number of referrals responded to with advice and guidance or support, with the recorded reason for declination. Please provide earliest figures from 2015/16 and reasoning if you do not have 2015/16 figures available.

Services/Pathways (split into adult/CYP where applicable)

CAMHS

Eating Disorders

Autism

ADHD

Crisis team

Memory

Gender

Talking therapies/IAPTs

**We are unable to provide 2015/16 information, this information was held on the Trust's previous PAS system which would take extensive time to retrieve and validate. We are unable to specify if the patient had received advice and guidance or support, we do not record this information in a reportable way that we can extract from our PAS system.**

Gender

**The Trust does not have a specific gender service, we are unable to provide this information.**

Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) hold the contract for talking therapies for anxiety and depression / IAPT that covers our local area. Please seek this information from them. MPFT FOI Team can be contacted at [Home Page - SAR Portal \(ams-sar.com\)](https://ams-sar.com)

CAMHS and Adult ADHD teams were newly created in 2023/24, in 2022/23 this service was provided within their respective Core Community Mental Health Teams in which we are unable to report the specific ADHD referrals. We are validating the data quality of information provided within this FOI relating to the ADHD services as we are disaggregating the activity from the Core Community Mental Health Teams.

	2022/23		2023/24	
Team Type	Referrals Received	Referrals Accepted	Referrals Received	Referrals Accepted
CAMHS	10,680	9,500	10,976	7,615
CAMHS ED	109	85	147	95
Adult ED	152	91	143	80
CAMHS ASD	1,050	702	1,290	877
Adult ASD	557	238	497	174
CAMHS ADHD	-	-	271	266
Adult ADHD	-	-	977	950
Memory	2,467	2,242	1,970	1,813
Crisis	495	465	1,204	1,170

- Details of any policy change regarding altered thresholds for referrals, altered access to pathways or triage systems and documentation outlining the change (and reasoning of the change if available) as regards referrals to each of the services/pathways.

- CAMHS  
Triage referrals

Historically referrals in to CAMHS came via the single point of access. Referrals were initially triaged by duty practitioners at the Central Referral HUB. During this process the HUB made the decisions on the pathway for the young person based on the information in the referral. As from June 2023 all routine referrals are triaged by the relevant community CAMHS teams, however the HUB continue to assess any young people that sit above the criteria for routine referral where there is significant risk or mental health crisis. The referrals are triaged by practitioners within core CAMHS via Multi -Disciplinary Team approach. Needs are identified based on the information available; the appropriate response is then considered in line with the Ithrive framework approach. If it is felt the young persons' needs is better met by a partner agency such as, New Era, Stay well, Wellbeing, social care for family support we signpost young people to these services as appropriate. If it is felt the young person's needs are better met by core CAMHS we will offer an Initial Assessment. At times it may be necessary for a practitioner to make contact with the family to complete a triage assessment where additional information on presenting mental health need and /or risk to make a decision on the appropriate pathway as required. This at times would include other partner agencies to meet the needs of the young person.



Chairman: David Rogers  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo  
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- Eating Disorders (CYP & Adult)
- Autism (CYP & Adult)
- ADHD (CYP & Adult)

**We constantly revise our thresholds of referral acceptance to meet national guidance and commissioning requirements and do not have a policy for this. We have not removed any service provision and have improved our access to our service offer through the introduction of an All-Age Access single point of referral where referrals are screened and triaged based on their presenting need and the directed to the appropriate NSCHT team/service to meet their needs.**

**We have introduced an individual team management for the referrals to ensure an earlier identification of clinical needs to allow better access or re-direction to improve the service users journey. From 2023, the CYP ED service enhanced their offer through the opening of an AFRID pathway, this is in response to national transformation guidelines. The Adult Eating Disorder team (SAEDS) are now accepting Binge Eating Disorder and OSFED in addition to Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa and have implemented FREED in line with national transformation guidelines.**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Griffiths**  
**Deputy Director of Governance**



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