

Our Ref: NG/RM/24064
Date: 13th March 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 20th February 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:

I would like to make the following Freedom of Information Request in relation to your community child and young adult mental health service (CAMHS).

1. What is the full name of your Trust? **North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust**
2. Can you please confirm which area your CAMHS service cover?
The Non-metropolitan district council areas of Newcastle under Lyme Borough and Staffordshire Moorlands District (North Staffordshire team) and the unitary authority area of the City of Stoke on Trent (South Stoke and North Stoke team)
3. Can you please confirm the criteria that must be met in order for an individual to be referred into your CAMHS Service.
For a referral into the Stoke and Staffs CAMHS, there needs to be a predominant mental health concern/ symptomology that is having a moderate – severe impact on the individual's functioning. The teams also evaluate which primary services a young person has engaged previously with to identify previous interventions and potential treatment pathways.
Dependent on the symptomology, depends on the service delivery for the young person.
In relation to the neurodiversity pathway, for example ADHD, as per NICE guidelines a young person has to be aged 6 years and above with evidence of symptoms being demonstrated in two domains to consider CAMHS intervention.
4. Can you please confirm the population you cover (i.e., how many thousands are in the catchment area covered in that sector).
North Staffs – 142,000
South Stoke – 95,000
North Stoke – 83,000

Demand

5. How many referrals did you receive into the service in each financial year, can you include how many were accepted and not accepted.:

- 2020/2021
- 2021/2022
- 2022/2023

Financial Year	Referrals	Accepted	Not Accepted
2020/21	1339	1173	166
2021/22	1393	1150	243
2022/23	1715	961	754

6. Does your CAMHS service have Mental Health Support Team's and if so, what percentage of the schools do you cover? **Yes, we do have Mental Health Support Team (MHST)**

% of schools covered by MHST	Stoke on Trent	North Staffs	Moorlands
First	N/A	N/A	40%
Middle	N/A	N/A	75%
Primary	53.5%	28.5%	7.1%
Secondary	71.4%	89%	87.5%
Colleges	100%	0%	0%
Specialist Provisions	75%	33.3%	NK

Assessment and interventions.

7. Do you have a separate assessment team or an assessment process which uses current CAMHS clinicians from within your service? **No**

8. If you have an assessment team how many CAMHS clinicians does this comprise of and how many assessments per week would you expect per clinician? If there is no allocated specific number of assessments, can you provide an estimation? **N/A**

9. What is the average length of wait for an assessment since January 2022? **63.9 days**

10. At the point of this request, how many people do you have on your waiting for an assessment?

North Staffs – 54

North Stoke – 9

South Stoke – 86

11. At the point of this request, what is the longest wait time of an assessment. Please provide a narrative / context as to why the wait time occurred.

North Staffs - 5 weeks due to high amount of referral rate into the teams

North Stoke – 4-5 weeks

South Stoke – 12 weeks due to high amount of referral rates.

12. What is the average length of wait time for an intervention from January 2022 until January 2024. If there are different waits for specific disciplines for example CAMHS

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clinicians, psychology, art psychotherapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Systemic Family Therapy etc, can this be included please?

North Staffs:

- **MHP Wait – 3 months.**
- **Therapy screen wait - 3-6 weeks.**
- **Therapy - 6-8 months**
- **Psychiatry - 4 weeks**

North Stoke:

- **MHP Wait – 5-6 months.**
- **Therapy – 60 weeks**
- **Psychiatry – 4 weeks**

South Stoke

- **MHP wait - 3 months.**
- **Therapy - 5 months**
- **Psychiatry - 4 weeks**

13. At the point of this request, how many people are waiting for an intervention?

North Staffs:

- **49- MHP**
- **27- Therapy**

North Stoke:

- **59 - MHP**
- **20 - Individual Therapy**

South Stoke:

- **100 - MHP**
- **28 -Therapy**

14. At the point of this request, what is the longest wait time of an intervention ? Please provide a narrative / context as to why the wait time occurred.

North Staffs: 7 months – due to waiting for staff to come into post and return back off sick.

North Stoke: Delay with CBT due to only having 1 CBT therapist.

South Stoke: 5 Months- Lots of pressure on CBT as there are few alternatives. No Art Therapist or IPT service.

15. The average length of time young people are waiting between initial referral and treatment for

- **2020/2021- 57.9 days**
- **2021/2022- 72.1 days**
- **2022/2023- 92.2 days**

16. How many young people referred into the service were refused treatment for the following years: ***NOTE: Definition of 'refused treatment': CYP was not taken on by the Service.



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- 2020/2021
- 2021/2022
- 2022/2023

Those not taken on can be derived as the “Not Accepted” numbers provided in Q5 above. This could however mean that the referral was appropriately sign posted elsewhere and does not denote a refusal of treatment.

Staffing

1. How many CAMHS clinicians are within the core service that deliver interventions?
Please can you confirm if they are whole time equivalent and banding.

Please see Appendix 1 attached.

2. How many pathways do you have within the service and what are they?

North Staffs Combined Healthcare have six approved clinical pathways:

- Eating Disorders
- Anxiety
- Low Mood
- Trauma
- Attachment
- ADHD

More Clinical Pathways are in the process of being developed:

- Sleep
- Tics
- Disordered Eating

3. What is the caseload size for a full-time clinician who delivers the following:

- CBT
- EMDR
- Systemic family interventions
- Care co-ordination
- Medication management and reviews

If there is no allocated /specific caseload size, can you provide an estimation/ expected caseload size?

For all CAMHS teams

We don't have a fixed caseload for clinicians as caseload sizes will vary on an individual basis depending on other factors in their job plan including:

- complexity of the cases they are working with.
- other responsibilities in role e.g., supervision, duty
- other clinical delivery to one to one e.g., groups

Management



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4. Do you have separate clinical, caseload and managerial supervisions or are they combined.
North Staffs: Both Separate clinical and caseload
North Stoke: Both Separate clinical and caseload
South Stoke: Both Separate clinical and caseload
5. What tools are used to support caseload management.
North Staffs: Self-designed tool
North Stoke: Self-designed tool.
South Stoke: Self designed tool.
6. If you do use a tool, can you please provide the providers name, contract start and end date and contract value. **N/A**

Budget

7. What is your annual budget and expenditure for your CAMHS Service for the financial years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 (to date)

The Trust has considered this part of the request as exempt under section 43 (2) as its release would be prejudicial to its commercial interests. As part of our consideration, we have considered the balance of releasing the information in relation to the wider public interest vs our commercial interests . In our view the interest in ensuring the Trust remains commercially viable and able to deliver quality healthcare services (and therefore applying the exemption) is greater than the public interest in releasing the information.

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



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Deputy Director of Governance



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