

Our Ref: NG/RM/24115  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

### Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 28<sup>th</sup> March 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 median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for children.
2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust 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) from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust 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) from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for adults.
5. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for children.
6. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for adults.
7. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust.
8. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust.
9. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust 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 Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.
11. What standardised tools are currently used by North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.

12. What standardised tools are currently used by North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment?

**Please see Appendix 1 attached.**

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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Chairman: Janet Dawson  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo  
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No:	Information requested	NSCHT Response
1.	The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for children.	694 days
2.	The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for adults.	343.5 days
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) from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for children.	777 days
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) from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for adults.	425 days
5.	The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for children.	We are unable to provide this data. The Trust have moved to a new data collection system from April 2024 which will accurately capture this for future service development.
6.	The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for adults	Within the financial year of 2023/24, 70 Adult ASD diagnosis were given with a conversion rate of 73.6%.

7.	What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust.	All CYP and families are offered a post diagnostic support session to aid skills development following diagnosis. The Trust is currently expanding this offer to offer more psychoeducation sessions and life skills session on living well with an autism diagnosis
8.	What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust.	The Adult ASD Assessment service was a diagnostic only service with no post diagnosis support routinely offered. The Trust is currently expanding the post diagnostic support offer for our 18 – 25 aged service user group.
9.	What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.	Should a diagnosis not be reached following assessment with the CYP ASD service, CYPs and their families are signposted to the appropriate partner agencies who may be able to offer further support.
10.	What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.	Should a diagnosis not be reached following assessment with the Adult ASD service, service users and their families are signposted to the appropriate partner agencies who may be able to offer further support.
11.	What standardised tools are currently used by North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.	The CYP ASD service designed and implemented a range of screening and further information gathering tools to aid the review and triage of referrals received for an assessment of ASD.
12.	What standardised tools are currently used by North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment	The Adult ASD service use the AAA screening tools.