

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB\_309\_17**

### **You asked:**

I am trying to figure out how **autism referrals** differ in each Local Authority in Wales.

### **1. Could you please let me know how kids of pre-school age and at school age are referred for NHS assessment? (*is it generally through schools or through GPs?*)**

#### **Pre-school**

The Health Visitor is the best person to refer to the Neurodevelopmental Service for an assessment as they have detailed developmental history related to the child. They are asked to provide a copy of the Schedule of Growing Skills (SOGS) developmental assessment along with information following an observation at a pre school setting, if appropriate.

#### **School Age**

Schools are best placed to refer in for an assessment providing the relevant information. We ask for them to complete our referral form and include copies of any Educational Psychology Assessments, Individual Education or Behaviour Plans and other relevant observations they can provide. We encourage schools to speak with the School Nursing Service to gather further information from the family, if required.

Health professionals are also able to refer for an assessment ensuring they include information suggestive of pervasiveness of the child's presenting difficulties

### **2. How are adults referred for assessment?**

Most people approach their family doctors and are seen in Primary Care Mental Health Support Services. Others, already in secondary care (seen by members of the local Community Mental Health Team) approach whichever mental health professional is working with them.

Currently our adult diagnostic service "sits" with the Primary Care Mental Health services and some secondary teams refer to this team. We are reviewing the arrangements for this service.

**3. Do you know if there are considerable waiting times for NHS assessments?**

Neurodevelopmental Service – target date for first assessment from acceptance of referral is 26 weeks. Our current average waiting time is 16.1 weeks.

For adults, the average waiting time is 13.5 weeks as of the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The target date for the Autistic Spectrum Disorder assessment is 26 weeks.