

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_518_18

You asked:

Could you inform us of whether service provision is available for children who stammer (between ages three and eighteen)? This includes information about the structure of the Speech & Language Therapy service commissioned and whether there are specialist services available specifically to children who stammer, e.g. dysfluency pathways. Where possible, please include details relating to any specified criteria for accessing this service, i.e. age range, community/clinic based service, exclusion criteria.

Our response:

In the following response the word dysfluency is used. Dysfluency is a term used that is interchangeable with stammer or stutter.

Cwm Taf speech and language therapy service offers a service to children and their families who require support for dysfluency.

There is an open referral system in place meaning that anyone who is concerned about the child presenting with dysfluency is able to refer the child to the service. Children under the age of 16 are seen by the children's service and those above 16 are seen in the adult service. For some young people between the ages of 16-18 a clinical decision may be made to maintain the young person's provision within the children's service, rather than transferring them to the adult service, if this best meets their needs.

Families are offered appointments in a variety of community clinics which are spread out throughout the health board.

Children with dysfluency are prioritised during the triage process meaning that they will access initial appointments within 6-8 weeks of referral.

Dependent upon the level of need of the child and the complexity/severity of their dysfluency they may access therapy from a variety of different levels of therapists.