

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_434_18

You asked:

Specifically this is for the Mountain Ash autism area.

1. The number of consultants, doctors, supporting staff employed to provide autism diagnosis for referred patients by month/year.

The Integrated Autism Service is based in Ysbyty Cwm Cynon, Mountain Ash. The Service accepts referrals from all areas within the Cwm Taf Region. The following is a breakdown of staff employed as part of the Integrated Autism Service to provide assessment, support and diagnosis of Autism:

Staffing Funded	WTE (A)	Funding Date
Psychologist	1	Apr-17
Occupational Therapist	1	Apr-17
Speech and Language Therapist	1	Apr-17
Dietician	0.5	Apr-17
Speciality Practitioner Nurse	1	Apr-17
Administrative Support	1	Apr-17
Social Worker	1	Apr-17
Support Worker	1	Apr-17
Support Worker	1	Apr-17
Support Worker	1	Apr-17

2. The actual number of consultants, doctors, supporting staff available to provide autism diagnosis for referred patients by month/year.

Please find below a breakdown of staff currently employed as part of the Integrated Autism Service and the month/year their employment commenced:

Staffing Employed (actual)	WTE (B)	Start Date
Psychologist	1	Jun-18
Occupational Therapist	1	Aug-17
Speech and Language Therapist	1	Aug-17
Dietician	0.5	Nov-17
Speciality Practitioner Nurse	1	Sep-17
Administrative Support	1	Nov-17
Social Worker	1	Feb-18
Support Worker	1	Jan-18
Support Worker	1	Jan-18
Support Worker	1	Jan-18

3. The delta between the number employed vs the number available by month/year and the reason for if this is different.

Please find below a breakdown of the delta between the numbers of staff funded vs the numbers of staff employed by the Integrated Autism Service by month/year.

The differences identified in the data relate to the initial set up of the service. A robust service specification and proposal was developed and sign off was required by key stakeholders before the service could be launched. Recruitment issues also were encountered due to the specialist skills required for some posts.

Month	Budget wte	Actual wte	Delta
April 2017	9.5	0	100
May 2017	9.5	0	100
June 2017	9.5	0	100
July 2017	9.5	0	100
August 2017	9.5	2	79
September 2017	9.5	3	68
October 2017	9.5	3	68
November 2017	9.5	4.5	53
December 2017	9.5	4.5	53
January 2018	9.5	7.5	21
February 2018	9.5	8.5	11
March 2018	9.5	8.5	11
April 2018	9.5	8.5	11
May 2018	9.5	8.5	11
June 2018	9.5	9.5	0
July 2018	9.5	9.5	0
August 2018	9.5	9.5	0
September 2018	9.5	9.5	0

4. The number of patients by month/year who have been referred for autism diagnosis.

Since February 2018, the Integrated Autism Service has received 108 referrals for assessment and diagnosis for Autism. Of the 108 referrals, 72 were accepted into the service.

5. The number of patients by month/year who have received appointments for autism diagnosis.

Of the above referrals accepted into the Integrated Autism Service for assessment and diagnosis for Autism, 25 patients were offered appointments. Due to the service not being fully staffed and trained, the first appointments were not offered until 30 July 2018.

6. The number of patients by month/year who have completed appointments for autism diagnosis.

As of 11 October 2018, a total of 11 patients have completed initial appointments since the Integrated Autism Service commenced on 30 July 2018.

7. The number of patients by month/year who have been diagnosed with autism.

As of 11 October 2018, a total of 5 patients have been diagnosed with Autism since the Integrated Autism Service commenced on 30 July 2018.

8. The timescale target for diagnosis from date of patient referral

There is no Welsh Government timescale target for diagnosis from date of referral and at present there are no local target timescales for the Integrated Autism Service.

9. The actual performance vs above timescale target

Unfortunately we are unable to answer this question as local target timescales are yet to be set.

10. The shortest timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral

Referrals into the Integrated Autism Service were accepted from February 2018 onwards. Unfortunately due to staffing resources and training requirements, appointments were not offered until the end of July 2018. The data below may not reflect a true waiting time as the service has only recently become fully functional.

The shortest timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral for the Integrated Autism Service is 20 weeks.

11. The longest timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral

Referrals into the Integrated Autism Service were accepted from February 2018 onwards. Unfortunately due to staffing resources and training requirements, appointments were not offered until the end of July 2018. The data below may not reflect a true waiting time as the service has only recently become fully functional.

The longest timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral for the Integrated Autism Service is 25 weeks.

12. The average timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral

The average timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral is 20 weeks.

13. The Median timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral

The Median timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral is 20 weeks.

14. The Delta timescale for diagnosis from date of patient referral

In order for us to respond to this question, we require clarity in terms of the information requested.

15. The triage approach adopted for referrals and if any patient referrals have been prioritised.

Referrals into the Integrated Autism Service are screened on a weekly basis by two clinicians. Referrals that are requesting diagnostic assessment are discussed individually. Eligibility is established and if there is insufficient information the referral is returned requesting more information. If there is sufficient information in the referral to warrant a full assessment the individual is placed on the waiting list for a diagnostic assessment.

No referrals have been prioritised for a diagnostic assessment.

16. If so what volume of patient referrals have been prioritised.

No referrals have been prioritised for a diagnostic assessment.

17. What interim care is available for patients awaiting referral and how many patients have been offered this and who are receiving

No interim care is provided by the Integrated Autism Service but patients who are receiving treatment or care from another service will continue to receive support depending on need.