

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB\_169\_23**

**You asked:**

**Please may I request the answers to the following questions. With regards to your organisation: Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board**

### **QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON ADULT ADHD SERVICES**

**1.For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:**

**a. For each of those years how many adult assessments for ADHD were done?**

**i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

**b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for adults who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).**

**i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see response to question 1.

**c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment?**

**i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

We do not reject ADHD referrals.

**d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.**

**i.If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

Please see response to question 1.

### **QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CHILD ADHD SERVICES**

**2.For your financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22 please can you tell us:**

**a. For each of those years how many child assessments for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) were done?**

- i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

Between April 2021 and March 2022, the Neurodevelopmental Service provided a 'new assessment' to 320 children/young people. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the service provided 379 new patient assessments to children/young people.

- b. For each of those years what was the average waiting time (in weeks) for children who had an assessment for ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).**

- i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

For all neurodevelopmental assessment ie. Autism/ADHD, there is one routine waiting list managed by the Neurodevelopmental Service. Patients are offered an appointment in turn, as they approach the top of waiting list. The average waiting time for assessment was between 24 and 30 months. This is a range as whilst there is one waiting list for assessments, there are certain cohorts of patients that need to see certain clinicians. For example, a psychiatrist within the team would not see a patient under the age of 5 years if they were at the top of the waiting list, despite having capacity. A Paediatrician or speech and language therapist would typically see these cohorts, so would wait until the most appropriate clinician had capacity.

- c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?**

- i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

Between April 2021 and March 2022, 1242 referrals were received for assessment of ADHD or comorbid ASD/ADHD. Of these, 750 were accepted.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, 1068 referrals were received for assessment of ADHD or comorbid ASD/ADHD. Of these, 647 were accepted.

- d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.**

- i. If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (end of financial year), 639 children/young people were awaiting an assessment of ADHD or comorbid ADHD.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (end of financial year), 1021 children/young people were awaiting an assessment of ADHD or comorbid ADHD.

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION AND ITS ADHD SERVICES**

**3. With relation to the present time (reflecting the most recent data that you have). Please can you answer the following questions:**

**a. With regards to your adult ADHD services.**

**ii. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?**

We provide these services directly rather than commission.

**iii. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?**

Total – 1554

**iv. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?**

Bridgend	-	224 weeks
Merthyr	-	75 weeks
Cynon	-	28 weeks
Taff Ely/Rhondda	-	125 weeks

**v. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?**

Bridgend	-	10.05.2019
Merthyr	-	10.11.2021
Cynon	-	17.07.2022
Taff Ely/Rhondda	-	03.11.2020

**vi. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**

We do not reject referrals.

**vii. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?**

Yes.

**b. With regards to your child ADHD services –**

**i. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?**

No, all assessments for ADHD and/or neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder and comorbid ADHD/ASD are managed via the Neurodevelopmental Service.

**ii. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?**

There are currently 948 children/young people awaiting an assessment of ADHD or comorbid ADHD/ASD. These are held on the Neurodevelopmental waiting list with children/young people awaiting an assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD Assessment?**

Our current waiting time for a neurodevelopmental assessment (Autism and/or ADHD) is currently 25 to 26 months.

**iv. What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD Assessment?**

Our current longest wait for a neurodevelopmental assessment (Autism and/or ADHD) is currently 104 weeks.

**v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.**

In order to consider a referral into the Neurodevelopmental Service, there has to be evidence of difficulties across context i.e. evidence of presenting difficulties in different settings. Referrals are triaged on a weekly basis where the referral is considered. ADHD rating scales and CADDRA forms are also used to provide additional information regarding the child/young person which are also reviewed at triage. If a referral is not accepted, the reasons are clearly stated, along with signposting/recommendations of other services that may be more appropriate for the children/young person.

**vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?**

We are a multidisciplinary team comprising paediatricians, psychiatrists, pharmacist, nurse specialist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and health care support worker. Information to inform diagnosis is obtained from education apart from on rare occasions where this is not possible. The ADHD Rating Scale (home and school version) is used to quantify the extent of symptomatology relative to age and gender. In cases of diagnostic uncertainty a second opinion from another team member can be sought. Families are signposted to local ADHD-specific parenting programmes following a diagnosis, and a post-diagnostic pack is shared including local/national sources of support for families.

Where medication is indicated, the 'Medical history checklist from Consensus All Wales Guideline for Monitoring Children Receiving Medication for ADHD' is used to support safe initiation of medication. ADHD medication titration is done on a monthly basis where possible (more frequent titration is not possible due to mismatch between demand and capacity), with those who are stable on medication being seen six monthly. Standard information sheets for ADHD medications (from the National Centre for Mental Health) are used in our service. Parent and child versions are available.

Pro-formas specific to our service have been developed and are available for clinicians to use, to support:

- Systematic and comprehensive information gathering during the initial assessment process and establish whether DSM criteria for ADHD are satisfied
- The recording of the NICE-required parameters for ADHD medication monitoring (eg physical health parameters compared to reference ranges, objective measures of ADHD symptom levels, side effects)
- The delivery of psychoeducation on methylphenidate
- Key information being taken at the point of repeat prescription requests

Tools are widely used within the team to support safe prescribing, e.g. online blood pressure centiles calculator, e-prescribing system. We strive to maintain high standards and adapt our ways of working to the evolution of patterns of demand while maintaining patient safety.

We have audited our ADHD prescribing on three occasions since 2017.

We have initiated a multidisciplinary ADHD medication clinic model to improve efficiency in the service, which has had positive feedback from patients when this was formally assessed in a service evaluation last year.

**c. Information on your financial year.**

- i. What are the dates of your financial year 2022-23.**
- ii. What are the dates of your financial year 2021-22.**

Our financial year is April to March.