



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_438_24

You asked:

- **How many children are currently waiting ASD or ADHD assessment?**

There are currently 2868 children awaiting an autism and/or ADHD assessment within CTM.

- **What is the average wait time from the date the referral is submitted to the date an appointment is provided?**

Our average waiting time is currently 18-24 months from the date the referral is received to the date a first appointment is provided.

- **What is the longest wait time currently?**

Our longest wait currently is 101 weeks (23 months).

- **The Welsh Government guidelines state no-one should wait more than 26 weeks for an assessment and we are already over double this - can you confirm what is being done to reduce waiting times and when you anticipate being within these guidelines?**

The number of children placed on our waiting list for an assessment for autism and/or ADHD has significantly exceeded the capacity of the clinical team of staff we have available to complete these assessments for a number of years. This has led to increasing waiting times. Recently there has been an increase in the number of permanent staff within the assessment and diagnostic team, and this is resulting in a gradual reduction of waiting times. There has also been temporary investment from Welsh Government in assessment and diagnostic teams with a focus on reducing waiting times. This has allowed us to fund some temporary extra staff and overtime hours for the existing team in terms of extra evening and weekend clinics. If additional funding remains in place, we would anticipate being within the 26-week Welsh Government guideline within the next 2-3 years, if the number of children referred to the service remains the same. We have however seen a 20% increase in demand for assessment and diagnostic services in ND in CTM each year, over the past 4-5 years.

- **Can you confirm the process adopted by the health board if a parent wishes to obtain a private assessment that complies with NICE guidelines (I have been advised that the report would be attached to the pathway and be reviewed when the referral gets to the top of the list)**

If a parent/carer wishes to pursue an assessment from an independent provider and a diagnosis of autism and/or ADHD was made, the child would not need to stay on the NHS waiting list unless the parent/carer wanted this to happen. The family would be able to use the assessment report and potential diagnosis as they so wished – which might be sharing some of this information with the child's school. Our advice to schools is that support and reasonable adjustments should be provided on the basis of the individual child's needs within that environment, rather than based solely on diagnosis. A diagnosis made by an independent provider does not need to be ratified by the NHS team in order for the diagnosis to be valid, although we are happy to complete our own assessments too at this stage if this was felt appropriate or necessary for whatever reason.

- **If the above is correct, can you advise why this is the case if the private report complies with NICE guidelines since further delays are being imposed?**

If a diagnosis of ADHD is made by an independent provider and ADHD medication initiated, this is something that the independent provider would need to continue to prescribe until the child reached the top of our waiting list. At this stage we would be happy to take over the prescribing of ADHD medication as long as the clinician agreed with the ADHD diagnosis made

- **Can you confirm what guidance is provided to the local education authority regarding the acceptance of private assessments?**

Our current advice to the local authority regarding accepting diagnoses made by independent providers is as above, although this is a move away from historic guidance nationally where diagnoses made independently would come into the NHS team for validation.