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CYMRU
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_392_24

You asked:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Do you offer speech and language therapy services for children and young people who stammer? If so, what is the age range for this service?

Yes, CTMUHB Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service offers speech and language therapy services for children and young people (CYP) who stammer aged 0 – 18 years.

2. How are children and young people who stammer referred to the speech and language therapy service, and what are the referral criteria?

The Speech and Language Therapy Service has an open referral system for children and young people who stammer, so anyone can refer, including parents, Health Visitors, teaching staff etc. There is no specific stammering referral criteria, a description of the child's communication difficulty would be required.

3. Do you have a Clinical Lead for stammering in your children and young people service? As of July 2024, how many speech and language therapists work directly with children and young people who stammer?

There is no Clinical Lead Post for stammering. There is one stammering Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (Band 6). As of July 2024, there are 17 Speech and Language Therapists who work directly with children and young people who stammer.

4. If you do not have access to a Clinical lead SLT (Speech and Language Therapist) for stammering, or other stammering specialist SLTs, how do you manage more complex stammering cases?

Please see response to question 3. The complex stammering cases are seen by the Specialist band 6 SLT.

5. Who commissions speech and language therapy stammering services for children and young people? Do third sector organisations fund or contribute to funding speech and language therapy services for children and young people who stammer?

Speech and language therapy services for children and young people who stammer are provided by the core Speech and Language Therapy Service (NHS). There is no third sector funding.

6. How many children and young people were awaiting an assessment by an SLT for stammering in July 2023 and in July 2024?

As of 1st of July 23 – 26 CYP waiting.

As of 1st of July 24 – 15 CYP waiting.

7. As of 1st July 2024, could you provide the waiting times from referral to initial assessment for children and young people referred for stammering? Please categorise the data into the following timeframes: less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 to 26 weeks, 27 to 52 weeks, 1 to 2 years, and over 2 years.

As of 1st of July 2024, there were 15 CYP waiting for an initial assessment. All had waited less than 12 weeks. Average wait from referral to initial assessment was 7-8 weeks.

8. As of 1st July 2024, could you provide the waiting times from initial assessment to the start of therapy for children and young people referred for stammering? Please categorise the data into the following timeframes: less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 to 26 weeks, 27 to 52 weeks, 1 to 2 years, and over 2 years.

Parents are offered a video training session at triage, so within 1-2 weeks from the referral date. This provides parents with generic advice on how to support a CYP who stammers.

At the initial appointment, further advice is provided which is tailored to the child's needs. Following the initial assessment, parents attend an online group workshop where further strategies and advice are shared. This takes place within 4-5 weeks from the initial assessment date.

Following the workshop, depending on the child's needs, direct 1:1 sessions can take place. These take place within 12 weeks from the initial assessment.

9. How many sessions do SLTs typically provide to children and young people who stammer (e.g. once a week for six weeks)

The sessions provided are individualised and tailored to the child's/ Young Person's needs. There is no standard number of sessions offered.

10. Are Independent Patient Funding Requests utilised for speech and language therapy services? If so, could these requests be made for children and young people who stammer to access specialist services outside of Wales?

Yes if required.

11. Would you ever refer or signpost children and young people who stammer to a specialist service or centre outside of your board area?

If so, how often has this occurred between 1st July 2023 and 1st July 2024?

Yes – one referral since July 2023. Approximately one referral a year.

12. Do you provide information about and/or do you signpost to other organisations who can offer support for childhood stammering? If so, who do you signpost to?

- **Action for Stammering Children** - Yes
- **STAMMA** - Yes
- **Michael Palin Centre** - Yes
- **Other (please specify) Support Groups:**

Facebook Stammering Peer Support group.

Space for Stammering;

UK Peer Support Group for Parents of Children Who Stammer;

Mr ST's Stammer Support Group In person/online

STAMMA local support groups e.g. Cardiff and South Wales

13. What therapy approaches (e.g. Palin PCI, Lidcombe, etc.) do your speech and language therapy service offer to children and young people who stammer? Do you offer individual or group therapy to children who stammer, or both?

Palin PCI

Lidcombe

The Swindon Packs

Psychological approaches to stammering – ACT, SFBT and CBT

Demand and Abilities model

Currently offering 1:1 and paired sessions. Specialist SLT planning to set up group therapy for junior and secondary aged pupils who stammer.

14. Where do your SLTs access their specialist training from?

- **Michael Palin Centre** - Yes
- **City Lit London** - Yes
- **Online** - Yes
- **CENs** - Yes
- **In service training** - Yes
- **Other (please specify) -**

All Wales stammering pathway group.

Online peer support group within Wales

15. What barriers exist to your SLTs accessing necessary training courses in stammering? (e.g. cost and funding, availability of specialised courses, time out of clinic, high staff turnover, institutional support, etc.)

External training can be expensive but will be supported if necessary to carry out the role.

16. What information is provided to education setting staff about stammering? Would this information typically be provided for individual children and young people on your caseload or as part of education setting staff training more generally?

For children referred to our service by education staff, a video with information and advice is sent to the referrer at triage as part of a waiting well package of care. After the initial assessment, the therapist may liaise with education staff directly to gather further information and provide advice, depending on the needs of the CYP.

On an annual basis, there is an online training session offered to all education staff in the area.