

Reference:	FOI.11480.23
Subject:	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) diagnosis waiting times
Date of Request:	13 April 2023

Requested:

1. How many people are awaiting ADHD diagnostic assessments within your Health Board?
2. How many of these people are adults awaiting diagnosis?
3. How many are children?
4. What is the current wait time for patients seeking an ADHD diagnosis?
5. What funding is allocated for ADHD assessments and what period is covered by these funds?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the current combined total of adults and children awaiting an ADHD assessment is two thousand four hundred and sixty one (2,461).
2. The UHB confirms that there are currently two thousand and twenty eight (2,028) adults awaiting an ADHD assessment.
3. The UHB confirms that there are currently four hundred and thirty three (433) children awaiting an ADHD assessment.
4. The UHB records data for children and adults separately. Therefore, the UHB confirms that the average waiting time for adults referred for an ADHD assessment was fifty eight (58) weeks, as at 31 March 2023.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of children referred for an ADHD assessment and the weeks waiting, as at 31 March 2023.

Number of weeks waiting	Number of children
Up to and including 11 weeks	74
12 - 17 weeks	20
18 - 25 weeks	31
26 - 35 weeks	9
36 - 51 weeks	46
52 weeks and over	253

5. The UHB does not have a specific budget allocated for its children's ADHD Service. Instead, it is incorporated into the children's services' overall budget.

Within the Paediatric service, all children and young people and/or their families have been contacted by the waiting list support service, to offer generic support whilst on the waiting list.

A review of the demand for community Paediatrics is currently being undertaken, with initiatives being considered to reduce the current waiting list position – including those awaiting

a review for ADHD. Additional staff have been recruited, to include specialist ADHD nurses, Speciality and Associate Specialist (SAS) grade doctors and non-medical prescribers, who are working to support with the assessment and waits for ADHD, along with the support of electronic prescribing.

The UHB confirms that the annual budget allocated for the Adult ADHD Service was £77,571.00, for the 2022/23 financial year.

The inception of the UHB's Adult ADHD service began approximately four years ago, with limited funding for a Consultant Psychiatrist with a particular interest in ADHD in adults, to begin tentatively assessing and treating patients. A Clinical Nurse Specialist, an Advanced Specialist Pharmacist and additional administrative staff were subsequently employed, with the aim to provide a tertiary service to adults aged 18 years and over, diagnosed and undiagnosed with ADHD. The service covers the population of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Ceredigion, which is approximately 384,000 individuals.

The service sits within and is funded by the Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability Directorate, in recognition of the increased prevalence of co-occurring neurodevelopmental conditions, mental health conditions and links to substance misuse.

The UHB is aware of the Welsh Government's (WG) Neurodivergence Improvement programme, which includes Adult ADHD services, and that additional funding can be applied for to facilitate service development.