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| Reference: | FOI.11487.23 |
| Subject: | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) services |
| Date of Request: | 17 April 2023 |

Requested:

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?
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - 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).
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - c. For each of those years how many adult ADHD referrals were rejected prior to the individual receiving an assessment?
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - d. For each of those years how many adults were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.

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?
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - 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).
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - c. For each of those years how many child ADHD referrals were rejected prior to assessment?
If you have the data and it won't take us over the costs limit please can you break this down by gender.
 - d. For each of those years how many children were waiting for an ADHD Assessment at the end of the year.

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

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.
 - i. Do you currently have a commissioned adult ADHD assessment service?
 - ii. How many adults do you have waiting for an adult ADHD assessment?
 - iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for an adult ADHD Assessment?
 - iv. What is your current longest waiting time for an adult ADHD Assessment?
 - v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject adults who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.
 - vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for adults with ADHD?

- b. With regards to your child ADHD services
 - i. Do you currently have a commissioned child ADHD Assessment service?
 - ii. How many children do you have waiting for a child ADHD assessment?
 - iii. What is your current expected waiting time (in weeks) for a child ADHD Assessment?
 - iv. What is your current longest waiting time for a child ADHD Assessment?
 - v. What is your process for reviewing and deciding whether to accept or reject children who have been referred for an ADHD assessment.
 - vi. Is your organisation confident that it is satisfying the NICE guidelines for children with ADHD?

- 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.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the requested data for question 1c, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all adult ADHD patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not held centrally.

Additionally, the UHB does not centrally record ADHD information for Children and Young People (CYP). Therefore, to provide you with the requested data for questions 2a, 2b, 2c and the gender for 2d, the UHB would also need to undertake a manual trawl of all CYP patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1a. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of adult ADHD assessments undertaken, by gender, during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.

| Number of ADHD assessments | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Financial year | Male | Female |
| 2021/22 | 28 | 16 |
| 2022/23 | 142 | 71 |

1b. The UHB provides, within the table below, the average waiting time in weeks for an adult ADHD assessment, by gender, during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.

| Average waiting time | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Financial year | Male | Female |
| 2021/22 | 141 weeks | 111 weeks |
| 2022/23 | 157 weeks | 164 weeks |

1c. Section 12 exemption applied. However, referrals are not routinely rejected.

1d. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of adults that were waiting for an ADHD Assessment, by gender, as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023.

| Number waiting for adult ADHD assessment | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Date | Male | Female |
| 31 March 2022 | 562 | 534 |
| 31 March 2023 | 910 | 1,072 |

The UHB also confirms that it has patients recorded with a gender as 'other'. However, the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

2a. to 2c. Section 12 exemption applied.

2d. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of CYP that were waiting for an ADHD Assessment, as at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023.

| Date | Number waiting for CYP ADHD assessment |
|---------------|--|
| 31 March 2022 | 433 |
| 31 March 2023 | 387 |

3.a. i. The UHB confirms that it does have a commissioned adult ADHD service.

3.a.ii. The UHB confirms that it currently has two thousand and twenty eight (2,028) adults waiting for an ADHD assessment.

3.a.iii. The UHB confirms that the average waiting time for an adult ADHD assessment is currently fifty eight (58) weeks.

3.a.iv. The UHB confirms that the longest waiting time for an adult ADHD assessment is four hundred and forty three (443) weeks.

3.a.v. The UHB confirms that when the service receives a referral for an adult ADHD assessment, the referral is screened for suitability and is prioritised accordingly in the weekly screening/triage Multidisciplinary meetings.

3.a.vi. The UHB confirms that it strives to incorporate the NICE guidelines within its adult ADHD Service.

The adult ADHD Service is a small emerging service faced with an exponentially increasing demand, becoming more challenging. As a result of this increasing demand, the Service now has waiting lists for treatment (titration of Medication).

3.b.i. The UHB confirms that it does not have a commissioned CYP ADHD service.

3.b.ii. Please see response to question 2d.

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

| Number of weeks waiting | Number of CYP |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

3.b.iv. The UHB confirms that the longest waiting time for a CYP ADHD assessment is three hundred and forty seven (347) weeks.

- 3.b.v. The UHB confirms that when the service receives a referral for a CYP ADHD assessment, a senior clinician triages the referral and the patient is then placed on the referral pathway based on the patient's needs.
- 3.b.vi. The UHB confirms that unfortunately, it is not confident that it satisfies the NICE guidelines for CYP. However, the UHB's Children's Services Department is aware of the NICE guidelines and strive to incorporate them.
- 3.c.i. The UHB confirms that the dates for its 2021/22 financial year are from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 3.c.ii. The UHB confirms that the dates for its 2022/23 financial year are from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.