

Reference:	FOI.6842.21
Subject:	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments
Date of Request:	7 September 2021

Requested:

I would like information about the waiting times and the reasons for these waiting times to have an ADHD assessment in this NHS Trust.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that there were 380 Children and Young People (CYP) awaiting an ADHD assessment, as at 01 August 2021. Of those, 326 (85%) have been waiting for more than 26 weeks, with the longest wait time from referral to assessment currently being approximately 3 years.

The primary factor for the delays within this service is due to the lack of Community Paediatricians within the UHB.

The UHB is fully aware of the long waits within the CYP's ADHD service and has introduced new software called QB Tech, which helps to increase the diagnosis of ADHD.

The UHB is unable to provide the current wait time for the adult ADHD service, as it is an emerging service and still in the early stages of development. However, the UHB can confirm that there are 816 people awaiting assessment, who are being seen on a clinically prioritised basis.

The service was developed by a Consultant with a special interest in ADHD. Despite being a very small resource, it has seen increasing numbers of referrals over recent years.

The current Adult ADHD services' resource within the UHB is extremely limited, with demand being greater than the present service provision capacity. Due to this increasing demand, the UHB has a significant waiting list for assessments within its Adult ADHD services, with the potential for people to wait for a significant period of time for an assessment.

The UHB has identified that Adult ADHD services are a priority area for development. Therefore, it is growing and developing the service with additional input from specialist clinicians, in order to increase the availability of assessments and appropriate treatment, including non-medical interventions that are offered to those affected.

Due to the skills, qualifications and interests required, the UHB has been unable to recruit into the ADHD services. However, an Adult ADHD Clinical Nurse Specialist has been in post since January 2020 and has recently qualified as a Non-Medical Prescriber.

Additionally, the CYP service is working with the Workforce Development Team, with a view to revisiting our current staffing and processes. Roles and responsibilities are being reviewed and we are investigating how staff can be utilised differently, with the possibility of recruiting Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants etc. into the CYP's ADHD service.

The UHB envisages that both the CYP and adult ADHD services will grow over time. As the case is made for extra resource and with successful recruitment into both ADHD services, the UHB is

working towards reducing the numbers on the lists and the length of time that people wait for an assessment.