

Reference:	FOI.5904.21
Subject:	Children's assessment services
Date of Request:	26 April 2021

Requested:

1. Supply any document that describes the monthly assessment capacity of your service that received referrals from schools, of children thought to have neurodevelopmental needs.
2. Supply any document that describes the average number of such referrals to this service in each month.
3. Supply any documentation that describes the current average waiting time from referral to assessment.
4. Supply any document that describes the time between the assessment being done and the school receiving a report of the child's needs.
5. Confirm the date of referral of the child who has been awaiting assessment for the longest period. Were there any mitigating circumstances that you can disclose, for this?
6. Supply any document that sets out an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (or similar) between your Board and one or more Local Authorities that describes how both your Health Board and the Local Authority / Authorities concerned intend to manage this service so that is compliant with the United Nations Charter regarding the rights of a child and, also the Future generations Act in Wales
7. If not contained in 6 above, supply any document that describes how your Board and, the Local Authorities served by your Board intend to ensure that the waiting time for assessment does not exceed that set out in NICE and other guidance.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does not have documents that describe the monthly assessment capacity of the referrals received from schools, of children thought to have neurodevelopmental needs. However, scrutiny of the available information confirms that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) completed at least eighty three (83) assessments during the month of April 2021. The number of assessments conducted on a monthly basis is variable as it is dependent on many factors, including the complexity of assessment, location, school holidays and the availability of clinic space. Additional aspects include report writing, diagnostic discussion meetings, telephone advice and feedback times.
2. The UHB does not have such a document but it confirms, based on the information available, that the CAMHS service receives an average of one hundred (100) referrals per month.
3. Again, the UHB does not have such documentation but it confirms, based on the information available, that the current average waiting time from referral to first assessment is sixty three (63) weeks.

4. As in response to the above questions, the UHB does not have such a document which records this information. However, it confirms, based on the information available, that the average total wait time between referral and feedback meeting is eighty seven (87) weeks.

After the feedback meeting with parents, a copy of the report can be provided to the school, with parental consent.

5. The UHB confirms that the current longest wait for assessment was a referral received on 4 January 2018.

The mitigating circumstances were the restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included social distancing, reduced capacity and inability to conduct face to face assessments or other types of assessment, including school observations due to school closures, which are all essential parts of the assessment process.

6. The UHB confirms that there are no formal agreements in place.
7. The UHB confirms that it adheres to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance, which is evidence based recommendations. However, the UHB has a responsibility to meet the Welsh Government's performance standards.