

Information Governance

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Our reference: FOI DA4518

I am responding to your request for information received 29 December 2022. I am sincerely sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Keshia Harvey
Information Governance Manager

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to request information relating to the provision of ASD (autism spectrum disorder) services by East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Question 1: Please name the organisation(s) that deliver(s) CYP (children and young people) ASD assessment / diagnoses in your Trust area

Answer: East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Question 1a: When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end

Answer: The current contract began on the 1st April 2022-31st March 2023.

Question 1b: What is the annual spend for this service for 2022, and for the last 5 years?

Answer: The CYP ASD service was a small part of a wider cost centre so not all the costs within the cost centre relates to ASD. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 1c: How is the service contracted – is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP contracting?

Answer: Block basis.

Question 1d: If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 1e: At what prevalence (% of the child population) have the contracts been commissioned against?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1e of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not record this and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Does the same organisation as for Question 1 also deliver CYP ASD prescriptions and post-diagnosis ASD support in your Trust area? If not, please provide the same information for this organisation.

Answer: ELFT CAMHS service can prescribe for CYP with ASD if clinically indicated. Prescribing is usually initiated by ELFT doctors and then either managed longer term by ELFT CAMHS psychiatrists or handed over to GPs once stabilised, according to local shared care agreements.

Post diagnostic ASD support is provided by a combination of CAMHS services and community child health services, which are mostly commissioned separately and delivered by other organisations. It varies by locality and depends on what is meant by post diagnostic support.



Question 3: Please outline the CYP ASD pathway in your area, including key referral sources

Answer: Referrals require completion of screening questionnaires by the school and parents. Pathways in each area involve both referrals to either CAMHS or Child Development Centres, the latter will be children under five or under 13. Key referral sources are schools and GPs.

Question 4: How many children and young people are currently waiting for a CYP ASD assessment in your area? What is the longest and median wait time from a referral?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record those currently waiting for a CYP ASD assessment on the clinical system and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4a: Within the last year, how many children and young people were assessed within 12 weeks of referral?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4a of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not record this and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4b: Within the last year, how many children and young people were discharged without assessment?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4b of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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The Trust does not record this and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4c: Please answer Questions 4, 4a, 4b for as many historic years as possible, up to 5 years



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Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4c of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does hold the information in the way requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5: For the last 5 years, please give the number of CYP patients per year in the Trust who were:

Question 5a: Referred for ASD assessment

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5a of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5b: Given an ASD assessment

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5b of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5c: Given an ASD assessment from a 'Right to Choose' provider, outside the service contracted

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5c of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 5d: Diagnosed with ASD

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5d of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 6: For the last 5 years, what was the average number of CYP ASD-qualified staff delivering services in the area? How does this split by role:

- **Qualified psychiatrists**
- **Paediatricians**
- **Speech and Language therapists**
- **Clinical Psychologist**
- **For a-d, please also give numbers of trainees**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 7: Please provide equivalent answers for Questions 1-6, but for Adult ASD services in the Trust. If the Trust does not distinguish between CYP and Adult ASD services, please answer Questions 1-6 for all patients collectively

Answer: East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Question 7a: When did the contract(s) begin and when is the contract(s) due to end

Answer: 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Question 7b: What is the annual spend for this service for 2022, and for the last 5 years?

Answer: No costs are recorded.

Question 7c: How is the service contracted – is it Block, Activity-based, or AQP contracting?



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Answer: Block basis.

Question 7d: If the service is commissioned with other CCGs, ICSs or Trusts, which are these?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question 7e: At what prevalence (% of the adult population) have the contracts been commissioned against?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 7e of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not record this and is therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 8: Does the same organisation as for Question 1 also deliver adult ASD prescriptions and post-diagnosis ASD support in your Trust area? If not, please provide the same information for this organisation.

Answer: Medication cannot be prescribed for adult ASD. In Bedfordshire and Luton the same service provides short-term post-diagnostic support, primarily signposting to other services relevant to individual needs.

There is a similar process in East London Autism services which cover City & Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Medication cannot be prescribed for adults diagnosed with ASD.

Question 9: Please outline the adult ASD pathway in your area, including key referral sources

Answer: Key referral sources are Primary Care (GPs, IAPT), Secondary Care (Mental Health services). Any professional can make a referral (self-referrals are not accepted).

East London NHS Foundation Trust offers Adult Autism referral services in Bedfordshire, Luton and East London. Each area has slightly different referral pathways.

Bedfordshire and Luton

Beds and Luton pathway: Adults (18+), living in Beds/Luton & registered with locality GP, requiring assessment for possible diagnosis of ASD.

Key referral sources are Primary Care (GPs, IAPT), Secondary Care (Mental Health services). Any professional can make a referral (self-referrals are not accepted).

East London:

Tower Hamlets are commissioned to provide eight sessions up to twelve months since diagnosis. This can involve group and individual work.



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City & Hackney provide a post diagnostic group (usually eight sessions) but they are not commissioned to do this. They also offer a session on reasonable adjustments in the workplace.

Newham: has only recently started and is only offering diagnosis and recommendations.

Tower Hamlets and City & Hackney accept self-referrals as well as referrals listed for Bedfordshire and Luton. Newham is in early stages so at present is only taking referrals from Consultants and GPs but this will change as the service becomes fully established. Key referral sources are: Self-referrals, Primary Care (GPs), Secondary Care (Neighbourhood Mental Health services). Adults (18+), must be a local resident (post-code in area), recommend GP in area, no diagnosis of a Learning Disability, requiring assessment for possible diagnosis of ASD.

The clinical pathways follow NICE guidance but are slightly different in the order that Diagnostic assessments are completed, for example when the Consultant completes an interview.

All services use ADOS. Tower Hamlets and Newham also use the AQ10 as part of the screening process (this is a change idea to be considered for City & Hackney to reduce numbers waiting and length of time waiting).

Question 10: How many adults are currently waiting for a ASD assessment in your area? What is the longest and median wait time from a referral?

Please answer Questions 10, 10a, 10b for as many historic years as possible, up to 5 years

Answer: Patient's currently waiting for an ASD assessment: 802
Longest wait time from referral: 1056 days
Median wait time from a referral: 284 days

Question 10a: Within the last year, how many adults were assessed within 12 weeks of referral?

Answer: Please see table below:

| Year | Assessed |
|------|----------|
| 2018 | 98 |
| 2019 | 96 |
| 2020 | 119 |
| 2021 | 90 |
| 2022 | 103 |

Question 10b: Within the last year, how many adults were discharged without an assessment?

Answer: Please see table below:

| Year | Discharged without assessment |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2018 | 185 |
| 2019 | 203 |
| 2020 | 191 |
| 2021 | 320 |
| 2022 | 631 |



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Question 11: For the last 5 years, please give the number of adult patients per year in the Trust who were:

- **Referred for ASD assessment**

Answer: Please see table below:

| Year | Referred for ASD assessment |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 2018 | 613 |
| 2019 | 722 |
| 2020 | 601 |
| 2021 | 983 |
| 2022 | 1277 |

- **Given an ASD assessment**

Answer: Please see table below:

| Year | Given an ASD assessment |
|------|-------------------------|
| 2018 | 266 |
| 2019 | 359 |
| 2020 | 450 |
| 2021 | 388 |
| 2022 | 471 |

- **Given an ASD assessment from a 'Right to Choose' provider, outside the service contracted**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response

- **Diagnosed with ASD**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 11 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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East London NHS Foundation Trust does not record the information requested and is therefore unable to provide a response.



Question 12: For the last 5 years, what was the average number of ASD-qualified staff delivering services in the area? How does this split by role:

- a. Qualified psychiatrists**
- b. Paediatricians**
- c. Speech and Language therapists**
- d. Clinical Psychologists**
- e. For a-d, please also give numbers of trainees**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 12 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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