

FOI_0838_2022-23 – FOI Request Concerning – Autism Services

1. What service does child autism diagnosis and support fall under within this trust (ie CAMHS, Learning Disability, Neurodevelopmental, etc)?

Autism diagnosis falls under the overarching CAMHS service within the Trust for children aged 6 and over and our Community Paediatric Medical Service (CPMS) for under 5's. Post-diagnostic support for children with autism will be provided by various services depending on the child's needs and support may be provided by the CAMHS service, the LD health service, or by third sector partners.

2. What are the wait times for children receiving an assessment from point of referral?

The average wait from referral to assessment for over 6's in CAMHS over the last year has been 4 months. The current longest wait is 7 months. For CPMS our patients will typically wait anything up to 18-26 weeks for their initial appointment and that will be the first part of their assessment for autism. All referrals across CAMHS and CPMS are triaged to ensure those with the highest needs are prioritised. Recently, due to a change of service pathway, our Portsmouth CAMHS service have shown a reduction in assessment waiting times as referrals have been paused to enable the transition from the old pathway to the new one in September 2022.

3. What is the time between children receiving a diagnosis and an EHCP in place, if applicable?

The provision of EHCP and a diagnosis of Autism do not always have a relatable cause and effect and it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits.

4. What service are children passed to when reaching the age of 18?

Again, this depends on the needs of the child. They may move to adult LD services, adult MH services or to GP care. Adult autism assessment is completed by other NHS Trusts in this locality although Solent will endeavor to assess children referred to service under 17.5 years of age before they reach 18.