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St Helens CCG
St Helens Chamber
Chalon Way
Off Salisbury Street
St Helens WA10 1FY

Our Ref: FOI 7648

Date: 25th June 2018

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Further to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Autism Services, please see below our response to your request.

Request/ Response:

We are seeking answers to the following:

- a) What is the diagnosis pathway in your area and what is the referral to assessment time?
 - i. For children under 12.
 - ii. For young people aged 12-18.
 - iii. For adults.

For children and young people up to the age of 18 we have a single Neurodevelopmental pathway which covers autism. The pathway is controlled by a dedicated coordination function, the pathway consists of a multi-agency triage process at the point of referral which identifies which services need to be involved, each identified service will provide an assessment and then be represented at a diagnosis panel meeting at which point a diagnosis may or may not be given. The time varies depending on the individual child's needs but the average time from referral to diagnosis panel is 25 weeks.
- b) What support is given to families during the diagnosis process? A number of services have been commissioned as part of the Neurodevelopmental pathway to help families through the process. Sensory support, training packages and family support are all available from the moment a child is referred on to the pathway irrespective of whether or not a diagnosis is given.
- c) What specialist Autism Services are available in your area? For children none other than the commissioned support mentioned in Question b above.
- d) How long does it take for an EHCP to be approved/ refused in your area? The statutory timeframe is 20 weeks – for further information please direct your FOI to St Helens Local Authority.

Please note the CCG does not hold the required information regarding Adult Services – this will need to be sought from North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust directly at FOI@nwbh.nhs.uk.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review process is available, which will be managed by a FOI Appeals Officer.

This can be formally requested and must be done within a reasonable period of time (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the response to a request for information that falls within the Environmental Information Regulations, you should make a representation for a review to FOI Appeals Officer, sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net within 40 days of receipt of the response.

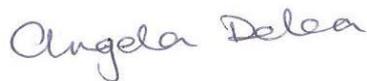
If you are not satisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely,



Angela Delea
Associate Director – Corporate Governance
NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group