

Date response issued: 01/12/2017
Request reference: FOI.17.NOR149

Freedom of Information Request

1. A list of all dedicated or autonomous services you commission for people with autism;
 - a) Please indicate whether each service is for all autistic people or only for people with high-functioning autism;
 - b) Please also say which provider you commission each service from;
2. How many people or what level of through-put each service noted in answer to no.1 is commissioned to manage per year; if you assess the size of the service by some other measure, please provide that statistic/figure together with an explanation;
3. A list of all services you commission for people with autism who also have co-morbid conditions, for example learning disabilities, epilepsy etc; please also state which provider you commission the service from;
4. How many people or what level of through-put each service noted in no.3 is commissioned to manage per year; if you assess the size of the service by some other measure, please provide that statistic/figure together with an explanation;
5. A list of any dedicated services for people with autism you are planning, their intended size and the date(s) it is intended they will start;
6. The current status of Asperger Services Norfolk – it’s staffing, what level of staff posts are vacant and how long they have been vacant, how many people it is commissioned to assess per year; what demand it is actually facing; whether there are any plans to de-commission it, or fail to renew its funding.
 - a) Staffing, what level of staff posts are vacant and how long they have been vacant
 - b) How many people it is commissioned to assess per year; what demand it is actually facing

| Month in 2016 | Number of Referrals | Month in 2017 | Number of Referrals | Variance |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | | | |

- c) Whether there are any plans to de-commission it, or fail to renew its funding

NHS Norwich CCG response

NHS Norwich CCG would like to respond as follows:

- 1a) For Children the service for autistic people is provided by Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust – Starfish and Starfish plus.

Adult Asperger Syndrome diagnosis is undertaken by Asperger Service Norfolk (ASN) which is a partnership of Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, Norfolk County Council and Asperger's East Anglia.

There is no autism diagnostic service for adults apart from Asperger's Syndrome / high functioning Asperger's.

1b) The providers have been outlined above.

2) Aspergers Service Norfolk is an open referral and does not limit the numbers requesting a diagnosis, but uses a triage system based on need for example on housing, employment, personal circumstances.

3) [Norfolk Learning Disabilities](#) services will see individuals with a diagnosis of a learning disability and autism for Norfolk individuals.

For Waveney individuals, the Community Learning Disabilities Team provided by [Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust](#) will see these individuals.

Please note, providers are expected to make reasonable adjustments for anyone who has a diagnosis of autism and a co-morbid condition. The number of providers within Physical Health care, Mental Health care, Learning Disability care and other provision is extensive and individual packages of care with new providers take place frequently. The contractual expectation for all is for reasonable adjustments to be in place

4) The information requested is not held by the CCG. It is advised you refer your query to the relevant providers.

5) The information requested is not held by the CCG. There are none planned at this time for adults in the Norfolk and Waveney area.

6a) The information requested is not held by the CCG. It is advised you refer your request to [Norfolk County Council](#).

6b) The Asperger's Service has seen an increase in the number of new referrals received by the service from Jan 2016 to end of Sep 2016 when there were 168 referrals. Between Jan 2017 and Sept 2017 there were 218 referrals, a 2% increase. The numbers of referrals each month is shown below.

| Month in 2016 | Number of Referrals | Month in 2017 | Number of Referrals | Variance |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| January 2016 | 20 | January 2017 | 26 | 6 |
| February | 24 | February | 23 | 1 |
| March | 16 | March | 26 | 10 |
| April | 22 | April | 19 | 3 |
| May | 16 | May | 24 | 8 |
| June | 18 | June | 26 | 8 |
| July | 20 | July | 24 | 4 |
| August | 19 | August | 22 | 3 |
| September | 13 | September | 28 | 15 |
| Total | 168 | | 218 | 58 |

The ratios of referral in 2016 were 110 male and 58 female. In 2017 there were 141 male and 77 female referrals to the service.

6c) There are no plans regarding de-commissioning this service. A review of this service will be undertaken prior to re-procurement as the contract expires in March 31st 2019.