

FOI_1663_2023-24 – FOI Request concerning Autism Waiting Times

Please be advised, with regards to the questions below, Solent NHS Trust does not provide this service for Adults, and therefore are unable to answer to questions regarding autism assessment for adults.

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from Solent NHS Trust for children.

a) Portsmouth; 80 weeks*

Length of time for children from Neurodiversity go live 53.9 weeks**

Portsmouth: Requests for assessment received into the Portsmouth Neurodiversity service are for a complete neurodevelopment assessment and are not broken down into specific types i.e. ADHD

*Figure includes the children who were previously waiting for their assessments within the Portsmouth CAMHS team.

**Figure collated from children referred into Neurodiversity service since September 2022 (service go-live date).

b) Southampton; 45 weeks - Southampton; ASD only.

2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from Solent NHS Trust for adults.

N/A

3. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from Solent NHS Trust for children.

a) Portsmouth; 86 weeks

Portsmouth; Currently diagnosis data is not able to be pulled directly from the system, manual data would suggest that the majority of children assessed within service are diagnosed within a 6 week timeframe from start of assessment starting.

Please note as above - Referrals into the service are not broken down into specific types i.e. ADHD as all assessments that are completed consider what diagnosis are applicable under the neurodiversity umbrella.

b) Southampton 50 Weeks

Southampton; data suggests that children assessed within the service are diagnosed within a 5 week timeframe from start of assessment starting

- 4. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from Solent NHS Trust for adults.**
N/A
- 5. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through Solent NHS Trust for children.**
 - a) Portsmouth; currently we cannot pull this data unless done manually. This would take longer than the time allocated for a FOI. As above.
 - b) Southampton 91%
- 6. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through Solent NHS Trust for adults.**
N/A
- 7. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through Solent NHS Trust.**
 - a) Portsmouth city launched a new integrated health and social care Neurodiversity service in September 2022 alongside the introduction of the Portsmouth Neuro Diversity profiling tool. This tool is completed in partnership with children and families by professionals that know the child well (usually school or Early Years settings). The tool is designed to highlight the child's areas of strength and challenge along a profile of Neurodiversity needs and provide the family and school with suggested ways to support the child in various settings by adapting the environment and requirements of the child. This is supported with advice and guidance from the service and community partners including Parent Carers and by the multi-disciplinary Neurodiversity team that consists of Neurodiversity practitioners, family support workers, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. It is expected that children will have had Neurodiversity profiles completed and appropriate adaptations made and reviewed before they are referred to the Neurodiversity team for a formal Neurodiversity diagnostic assessment.
A diagnosis is not needed to access the support from the team.
 - b) Southampton: Onward referral to Autism Hampshire, Information on post diagnosis, and list of resources/services that offer support following diagnosis.
- 8. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through Solent NHS Trust.**
N/A
- 9. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through Solent NHS Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.**
 - a) Portsmouth; As above - a diagnosis is not needed to access support from the Neurodiversity Multi-Disciplinary team.

b) Southampton: They will be signposted along with information and resources onto appropriate services in the community for ongoing support.

10. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through Solent NHS Trust but do not receive a diagnosis
N/A

11. What standardised tools are currently used by Solent NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.

Standardised tools used to complete a holistic assessment of the child are;
Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS),
SNAP – screening tool,
Quantified Behavioural Test (QB) ,
Child observations at home and/or school, Development history taken with parents.
Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI)

12. What standardised tools are currently used by Solent NHS Trust for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment.
N/A