

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.19.1130

Date Received: 25 June 2019

Information Requested:

I am investigating the current state of autism diagnosis waiting times.

Please could you provide me with the following information:

1. In your area, how many people who were referred for a diagnostic assessment had the assessment started within 3 months of their referral in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19?
Please provide this information as a number and as a percentage.
We recognise that at the present time the demand for the EPUT service exceeds capacity and are working towards the NICE guidance for starting the assessment within 3 months of the point of referral this situation has improved from 2016 when the longest waiting time was in excess of 2.5 years. This situation is now that the longest waiting time is 11 months and this is in spite of our referral rate having significantly increased since 2016.
2. What was the median wait from referral to the start of the diagnostic assessment in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19?
We calculate the waiting time from when individuals are referred into our service from teams within EPUT as we do not accept external direct or self-referrals.
The median wait from referral to start of the diagnostic assessment in :-
(a) April 2017 - March 2018 was 72 weeks
(b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 56 weeks
3. What was the longest wait from referral to the start of diagnostic assessment in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19?
The longest wait from referral to the start of diagnostic assessment in:-
(a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 141 weeks
(b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 84 weeks
4. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the median time from referral to final diagnosis?
Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the median time from referral to final diagnosis in:-
(a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 73 weeks
(b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 56 weeks
5. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the longest time from referral to final diagnosis?

Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the median time from referral to final diagnosis in:-

- (a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 186 weeks
- (b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 194 weeks, 102 weeks and then 84 weeks.

The longest waiter (194 weeks) was someone who was significantly unwell when an assessment was offered originally and it was agreed that the assessment would be delayed. The next longest waiter (102 weeks) had the assessment spread out over a number of sessions which had delays in between due to their carers' poor health.

6. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the median time from the start of diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the median time from the start of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis in:-

- (a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 0 weeks (range was from 0-18 weeks)
- (b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 0 weeks (range was from 0-80 weeks)

7. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the longest time from the start of diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the median time from the start of the diagnostic assessment to the final diagnosis in:-

- (a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 18 weeks
- (b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 80 weeks but as above this was someone who was significantly unwell when an assessment was offered originally and it was agreed that the assessment would be delayed.

8. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the median time from the completion of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the median time from the completion of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis in:-

- (a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 0 weeks
- (b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 0 weeks

The outcome of the diagnostic assessment is generally given on the day of the assessment unless there is a complex situation or additional information is needed which is relatively rare. If additional time is required a further appointment will generally be given within 2-4 weeks (although sometimes it can longer) and the outcome given at this appointment.

9. Out of those who received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum condition in a) 2017-18 b) 2018-19, what was the longest time from the completion of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

Of those who received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum condition the longest time from completion of diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis is:-

- (a) April 2017 – March 2018 was 0 weeks
- (b) April 2018 – March 2019 was 0 weeks

The outcome of the diagnostic assessment is generally given on the day of the assessment unless there is a complex situation or additional information is needed which is relatively rare. If additional time is required a further appointment will generally be given within 2-4 weeks (although sometimes it can longer) and the outcome given at this appointment.

10. As of June 2019, what is the expected waiting time from referral to the start of the diagnostic assessment?

The average expected waiting time from referral into the EPUT Aspergers Service to the start of the diagnostic assessment is 23 weeks.

11. As of June 2019, what is the expected waiting time from referral to final diagnosis?

The outcome of the diagnostic assessment is generally given on the day of the assessment unless there is a complex situation or additional information is needed which is relatively rare. If additional time is required a further appointment will generally be given within 2-4 weeks (although sometimes it can longer) and the outcome given at this appointment. So there should be limited time from the start of the diagnostic assessment to the final diagnosis.

12. As of June 2019, what is the expected waiting time from the start of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

The outcome of the diagnostic assessment is generally given on the day of the assessment unless there is a complex situation or additional information is needed which is relatively rare. If additional time is required a further appointment will generally be given within 2-4 weeks (although sometimes it can longer) and the outcome given at this appointment. So there should be limited time from the start of the diagnostic assessment to the final diagnosis.

13. As of June 2019, what is the expected waiting time from completion of the diagnostic assessment to final diagnosis?

The outcome of the diagnostic assessment is generally given on the day of the assessment unless there is a complex situation or additional information is needed which is relatively rare. If additional time is required a further appointment will generally be given within 2-4 weeks (although sometimes it can longer) and the outcome given at this appointment.

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