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Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

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26 May 2015

Mr William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

RE: ASD WAITING TIMES

Thank you for your letter requesting information relating to the Powys service.

Please find below waiting times for Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments via the Powys Social Communication Assessment Team (SCAT). To confirm, the waiting time has been calculated from the date the request for an assessment was accepted by the team, to the date of the first assessment appointment. If a home/school observation was required initially to support the teams decision to accept the request, the wait is classed as 0 weeks as the assessment process has already commenced. In line with NHS Guidelines, the waiting times have been reported according to the longest wait for children and young people's social communication assessments but the average wait has also been noted for your information:-

- 2010/11 – 30 weeks 6 days (11 weeks average wait)
- 2011/12 – 18 weeks (9 week average wait)
- 2012/13 – 17 weeks 3 days (8 week average wait)
- 2013/14 – 21 weeks (7 week average wait)
- 2014/15 (up to November 2014) – 16 weeks (5 week average wait)

The Powys SCATs are responsible for the assessment and diagnosis of children and young people up to and including the age of 18 years with social and/or communication difficulties. The pathway has been developed in accordance with The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidelines for *Autism: Recognition, Referral and Diagnosis of Children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum* published September 2011 (please see attached SCAT Terms of Reference inclusive of pathway

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithredd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



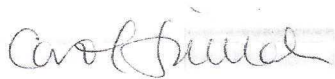
We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

for information). Much work has been progressed in the past four years to review processes as well as develop and implement the pathway and ultimately reduce waiting times.

With regards to adult assessments, please find attached Powys Teaching Health Board's progress as at November 2014, in accordance with the All Wales ASD Clinical Network Standards, drawn from NICE Guidelines *Autism Recognition, Referral, Diagnosis and Management of Adults on the Autism Spectrum* published June 2012. There are currently 26 adults waiting for an ASD assessment and the longest wait is 7 months from the date the referral was accepted.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Carol Shillabeer
Chief Executive

Encs.



SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & ASSESSMENT TEAMS (SCAT) – POWYS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

This document has been developed to support and guide the Powys Social Communication and Assessment Teams established in 2005. The teams are responsible for the assessment and diagnosis of children and young people up to and including the age of 18 years with social and/or communication difficulties. A request for an *autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)* assessment can be accepted from a health clinician or any other professional within the team itself. If accepted, the child is allocated to a minimum of two professionals from within the team to lead the assessment and undertake school, clinic and/or home observations. In addition to the observation reports two standardised ASD assessment tools may be used by the teams as follows:

- 3Di – (Developmental, Dimensional, and Diagnostic Interview) comprising a computer based interview of the parents accompanied by the questionnaire outcome. (Not suitable for children under 3 years)
- ADOS – (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule). As assessment undertaken through play observing how the individual responds to different activities. (Not suitable for children under 18 months)

On conclusion of the assessment process, feedback is provided to the parents and if appropriate, the child/young person being assessed in a formal meeting as appropriate. This will include a SCAT team representative and the professional who requested the assessment. A school representative and other professionals involved with the child/young person will be invited to the meeting. A referral/s to other services can be made as appropriate. A follow up meeting will also be offered to parents within six weeks of the feedback meeting should they wish to discuss conclusions further. SCAT will cease involvement with the child immediately after the feedback meeting or follow up meeting if parents opt to a end.

The work undertaken by SCAT is vital in supporting the objectives outlined in the Welsh Government's (WG) Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategic Action Plan for Wales (2008). The team will provide a forum for multi-agency and multi-disciplinary collaborative working between Powys Teaching Health Board and Powys County Council.

The teams will link to the with Powys ASD Stakeholder Group who are responsible for implementing the national plan at a local level as per the Powys ASD Action Plan 2011-14.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the SCA Teams will comprise the following representation and collectively have experience and training in the diagnosis of ASD. See Appendix 2.

- Chair – ASD Co-ordinator for POWYS
- Consultant Paediatrician
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Educational Psychology
- Children's Speech and Language Therapy
- Children's Occupational Therapy
- Specialist Nursing for Children with Learning Disabilities
- Social Care - Children with Disabilities Team (CWD)

CIRCULATION OF MINUTES & OTHER DOCUMENTATION TO:

- Social Communication & Assessment Teams
- Powys Teaching Health Board (THB) Clinical Director for Women & Children's Services

AIM OF THE TEAM

The aim of the Powys Social Communication and Assessment Teams is to assess social and communication difficulties of a child or young person in whom significant concerns have been raised.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TEAM

1. To act as a forum within Powys for formal ASD assessments of children and young people up to and including the age of 18 years.
2. To discuss new children for whom a SCAT assessment has been requested and confirm if eligibility criteria has been met in order to proceed with assessment.
3. Undertake formal assessment of a child or young person as illustrated and in accordance with the approved SCAT pathway. See Appendix 1.
4. To use evidence based ASD assessment tools in the SCAT assessment process.
5. To ensure high-quality assessment outcomes for all children and young people with an ASD in Powys in accordance with the All Wales Strategic Action Plan 2008.
6. To undertake assessments in accordance with The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for 'Autism: recognition, referral and diagnosis in children and young people' published 28th September 2011.
7. To take all appropriate steps to ensure that assessments of ASD within Powys are inclusive and so do not discriminate on the grounds of ethnic origin, Welsh language, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation.
8. To signpost individuals to other agencies and professionals who may be able to provide support for issues identified during the assessment.
9. To establish and maintain links with key stakeholders from statutory and voluntary organisations and the Powys ASD Stakeholder Group and Local Resource Solution Panels.
10. To liaise with the Health, Education and Social Care Services when appropriate during the SCAT process in regards to the complex needs of children with ASD and their families
11. To maintain links with the Powys Children and Young People's Partnership, Health, Social Care and Well Being Partnership and teaching Health Board.



FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- Meetings will be held monthly for the North and South teams with the exception of August
- Meetings will be chaired by the ASD Co-ordinator for Powys
- A member of the group will be identified as deputy Chair as required
- A joint North and South annual meeting will be scheduled to review processes or on an ad-hoc basis as required

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by North and South teams and approved by the Clinical Director for Women and Children's Services.
- The ASD Co-ordinator will be responsible for scheduling meetings
- The ASD Co-ordinator will be responsible for the development and distribution of the agenda and minutes and other administrative duties
- All members will be responsible for completing tasks allocated and feeding back in accordance with the pathway.
- The professional requesting the SCAT assessment and a SCAT member will be responsible for feeding back to parents and school as deemed appropriate and in accordance with the SCAT pathway.
- Those professionals undertaking observations and assessments will be responsible for the scheduling of appointments and feeding back to SCAT colleagues
- Team members must undertake a minimum of four of each assessment tool during a 12 month period to ensure skills and competences are relevant and up to date.
- A request to review a diagnosis will be considered on an individual basis.

ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- The SCAT are accountable to the Clinical Director within Women & Children's Services at Powys teaching Health Board
- Recommendations must be reported to the Clinical Director within Women & Children's Services at Powys teaching Health Board and the Powys ASD Stakeholder Group.
- Meetings can proceed regardless of the numbers of professionals present however there must be a minimum of 3 professionals to enable decisions regarding acceptance of new cases to be made. Opportunities for members to respond outside of the meeting will be co-ordinated via email.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The individual resides in the county of Powys or registered with a Powys GP practice.
- The individual is 18 years or younger at time of the request.
- The professional requesting the assessment must obtain documented informed parental and if appropriate, child consent in order to progress the assessment process.
- Clearly documented evidence by a SCAT member or other health professional highlighting behaviours associated with social and communication difficulties based upon the triad of impairments in a range of settings.

