

Please contact: Access to Information  
Team  
Email: [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net)  
Direct tel: 01782 916875

8th April 2024

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Ref no: FOI-3934-LSC**

t: 0300 373 3550  
[www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk](http://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk)

Thank you for your request dated 14 March 2024.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment in Lancashire and South Cumbria for children.

**Information on the median length of time from referral to assessment is not held by the ICB, this would need to be sought from the children's autism assessment providers:**

- a. North Cumbria Integrated Care
  - b. University Hospitals Morecambe Bay
  - c. Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust
  - d. East Lancashire Hospitals Trust
  - e. Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
  - f. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
  - g. Mersey and West Lancashire
2. The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment in Lancashire and South Cumbria for adults.

**Within Lancashire and South Cumbria we have two adult pathways. Clinical Partners (across majority of ICB) and Blackpool Council/Blackpool Primary Mental Health Team (blackpool only). You may wish to redirect your request to them on the following link;**

**<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Contact-us.aspx>**

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) in Lancashire and South Cumbria for children.

**The ICB does not hold this information currently. This would be held by the following providers:**

- a. North Cumbria Integrated Care

- b. **University Hospitals Morecambe Bay**
- c. **Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust**
- d. **East Lancashire Hospitals Trust**
- e. **Lancashire Teaching Hospitals**
- f. **Blackpool Teaching Hospitals**
- g. **Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust**

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) in Lancashire and South Cumbria for adults.

**The ICB does not hold this information currently. This would be held by the following providers: Clinical Partners and Blackpool Council/Blackpool Mental Health Team. You may wish to redirect your request to them on the following link;**

**<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Contact-us.aspx>**

5. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses in Lancashire and South Cumbria for children.

**The ICB does not hold this information currently. This would need to be requested via the providers:**

- a. **North Cumbria Integrated Care**
- b. **University Hospitals Morecambe Bay**
- c. **Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust**
- d. **East Lancashire Hospitals Trust**
- e. **Lancashire Teaching Hospitals**
- f. **Blackpool Teaching Hospitals**
- g. **Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust**

6. The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses in Lancashire and South Cumbria for adults.

**Within Lancashire and South Cumbria we have two adult pathways. Clinical Partners (across majority of ICB) and Blackpool Council/Blackpool Primary Mental Health Team (blackpool only). You may wish to redirect your request to them on the following link;**

**<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Contact-us.aspx>**

7. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS.

**The ICB is undertaking a piece of work to redesign the pathway which will include mapping and development of a consistent offer of support for children with neurodevelopmental needs including autism. Currently pathway navigators within each of the providers share information with families regarding the support available following a diagnosis. This may include cygnet training and workshops. Information is also accessible on the local offer websites for each of the local authorities. There is not a single, published offer across Lancashire and South Cumbria at this time.**

8. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS.

**In Lancashire and South Cumbria, an online offer is provided through Autism Unlocked.**

9. What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS but do not receive a diagnosis.

**The ICB is undertaking a piece of work to redesign the pathway which will include mapping and development of a consistent offer of support for children with neurodevelopmental needs including autism. Currently pathway navigators within each of the providers share information with families regarding the support available whilst on the assessment pathway which may include local services and peer support. There is an online support offer available across Lancashire and South Cumbria via the website Autism Unlocked.**

10. What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS but do not receive a diagnosis.

**Adults who do not receive a diagnosis are still directed to Autism Unlocked as a resource and area for information.**

11. What standardised tools are currently used in Lancashire and South Cumbria for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment.

**The work to design a new neurodevelopmental pathway will include the recommendation of a consistent set of tools and approaches for screening and triaging children and young people referred for an autism assessment to ensure compliance with the NICE guidance. The providers would be able to provide further detail on the specific tools used.**

12. What standardised tools are currently used in Lancashire and South Cumbria for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment.

**Both ADOS and ADI-R are used.**

### **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within 40 working days from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or by post to Leyland House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Professor Sarah O'Brien - Chief Nursing Officer**

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery  
ICB Chief Executive**