

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/358

Subject: ADHD and Autism Services Data

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Total spending on ADHD assessment and treatment services for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25	<p>This information has previously been requested, a link to the response can be found here: FOI.ICB-2526/123: ADHD and Autism Assessments and Post-diagnostic Services - BNSSG Healthier Together</p>
2. Total spending on autism assessment services for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25	
3. Of the spending in questions 1 and 2, the amount paid to private/independent sector providers	
4. Current number of people on waiting lists for ADHD assessment (as of most recent available data)	<p>The ICB does not own the information on current number of people on waiting lists for ADHD assessments. The requester is advised to contact the providers directly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) NHS Trust for adult assessments: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information • Sirona care and health for Children and Young People (CYP) assessments (0-18 years): Sirona.hello@nhs.net

	Clinical partners for Right to Choose referrals: https://www.clinical-partners.co.uk/contact
5. Current number of people on waiting lists for autism assessment (as of most recent available data)	<p>The ICB does not own the information on current number of people on waiting lists for ADHD assessments. The requester is advised to contact the providers directly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) NHS Trust for adult assessments: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information • Sirona care and health for Children and Young People (CYP) assessments (0-18 years): Sirona.hello@nhs.net • Clinical partners for Right to Choose referrals: https://www.clinical-partners.co.uk/contact
6. Any age-based restrictions currently applied to Right to Choose referrals for ADHD or autism assessments	<p>There are no age-based restrictions to access a Right to Choose ADHD and/or Autism assessment; although it should be noted that providers will have their own upper and lower age limits according to the service that they are commissioned to provide – e.g. over 18 only. There is also national guidance around the lower age limit for ADHD and Autism assessment in very young children, particularly where services are delivered online.</p> <p><u>Children and Young People:</u></p> <p>Right to choose referrals for ADHD Assessments are available for CYP from the ages of 5 years to 17 years and 9 months. If a young person is 17 years 9 months or older at the point of referral, or will reach this age while waiting for an assessment to be conducted, the Provider should either decline the referral or, if the Provider holds an NHS Standard Contract for Adult ADHD Assessment, the Provider may offer to transfer the patient to their adult ADHD Assessment service.</p>

	<p>Right to choose referrals for Autism Assessments are available for CYP aged between 2 years 4 months up to the age of 17 years 9 months. If a young person is 17 years 6 months or older at the point of referral, or will reach this age while waiting for an assessment to be conducted, the Provider should either decline the referral or, if the Provider holds an NHS Standard Contract for adult autism assessment, they may offer to transfer the patient to their Adult Autism Assessment service.</p> <p>Transfer to an adult service should only be done with consent from the patient.</p> <p><u>Adults:</u> New ADHD or Autism assessment referrals from adults can be accepted from age 18 years, however, transition from a children’s waiting list to an adult service, can be made from 17 years 6 months if they will reach 18 years by the point that an appointment is booked.</p>
<p>7. Current Right to Choose referral status (accepting/paused/restricted)</p>	<p>The ICB has set activity plans for the main Right to Choose providers serving people in our area, detailing the overall levels of activity they will provide for BNSSG residents each year. Activity Plans are agreed in partnership between the provider and the ICB.</p> <p>The ICB has invested more funding into these services for 2025-2026 compared to 2024-2025 spend. This approach is used for commissioning physical health services as well as mental health services accessed via Right to Choose (services in-scope of patient choice) and helps us to balance overall supply and demand across all services (primary care, urgent care, elective care, community and mental health) while meeting our legal duty to stay in financial balance.</p>

	<p>When a Right to Choose provider reaches their activity limit they will continue to accept new referrals, however they will not be able to undertake assessments for newly referred patients until the following financial year. We remain committed to patient choice and GPs can still make referrals as required. These will then be placed on a waiting list by a patient's chosen provider.</p>
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The information provided in this response is accurate as of 2 February 2026 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.