

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2526/400

**Subject:** ICB Assertive Outreach Provision

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. The findings of the ICB's review into its assertive outreach provision, including the latest update on any associated action plans.</p>	<p>The ICBs response has been published here: <a href="#">6.3-Intensive-and-Assertive-Community-Mental-Health-Services-Review-ICB-Board-January-2025-v2.pdf</a></p> <p>And updated here: <a href="#">6.3-Intensive-and-Assertive-Community-Mental-Health-Services-Review-ICB-Board-May-2025.pdf</a></p> <p>The May 2025 paper contains our action plan.</p>
<p>2. The number of patients currently identified as requiring assertive outreach services.</p>	<p>For information relating to <b>case load sizes</b> of BNSSG assertive outreach teams please contact Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) NHS Trust directly who hold this information: <a href="https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information">https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information</a></p> <p>The ICB does not hold information on the <b>number of patients currently identified as requiring assertive outreach services</b>.</p> <p>Please note the following point, which is included in the papers published above, from Risk 2 on page 9 of the May 2025 paper it is identified that:</p>

	<p><i>'Risk 2 - In the absence of a way of identifying individuals who fall under the population cohort AWP cannot currently be fully assured of oversight.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed mitigations:</i></p> <p><i>The development of an options appraisal paper to determine the most appropriate way of identifying the population cohort has been prioritised. Priority given to implement the agreed option with a new Standard Operating Procedure or Policy supporting the new process.</i></p> <p><i>Work with the Quality Improvement team to develop and undertake a full clinical audit of the population cohort using the new methodology in six months, dependent on implementation of agreed option. In addition, AWP will meet with Business Intelligence colleagues from Nottingham to understand steps taken to develop a flag on Rio to accurately identify the population cohort.'</i></p> <p>As such work is underway to identify the full cohort of individuals within BNSSG whose needs could be met by assertive and intensive community services.</p>
<p>3. The estimated cost of implementing a full assertive outreach service.</p>	<p>The paper dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 contains the following narrative on estimated cost of a full assertive outreach service:</p> <p><i>'At the time of the review (Sept 2024) ICBs were asked to provide high level indicative costings to NHSE on resources required. However, this has not been explicitly included in the 2025/26 planning guidance as expected. NHSE are still expected to publish Intensive and Assertive service specifications during 2025/26 but no timescale or requirement to meet any standards has been set.'</i></p>

The figures provided were indicative only, and as such were not formally agreed as estimates between AWP and BNSSG ICB. An accurate estimate will require the work identified in question two to be completed and would also depend on the release of any new service specifications.

However, we can share that the indicative figure explored at the time was in the region of £2 million. This estimate will be refreshed as the described above concludes.

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 25 February 2026 and has been approved for release by Caroline Dawe, Deputy Director of Performance and Delivery, Acute and Integrated Care, MHLDA and EPRR for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***