

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/402

Subject: Right to Choose Framework for Adult ADHD and Autism Assessments

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

| QUESTION | RESPONSE |
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| <p>1. Current waiting lists / demand for assessments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) ADHD assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers). b. The total number of people currently waiting for an adult (18+) autism assessment via NHS-commissioned services (including both local NHS pathways and Right to Choose providers). c. If available separately: the number of people waiting specifically via Right to Choose referrals (or an estimate/indication of the proportion). d. The same information as above, but for children and young people (under 18), if your ICB commissions or holds data for neurodevelopmental assessments in that age group via Right to Choose. e. Median and longest reported waiting times (in weeks or months) for adult ADHD and adult autism assessments in your area (via any NHS-funded route, including Right to Choose). | <p>The ICB holds some data for one commissioned provider, Clinical Partners, up to the end of Quarter 3 2025-26. (Please note that this figure may have changed since the end of December 2025.) At the end of Quarter 3, Clinical Partners reported a waiting list of:</p> <p>Adult ADHD assessments: 1154 Adult Autism assessments: 634 Children and Young People (CYP) ADHD assessments: 1398 CYP Autism assessments: 1034</p> <p>Adults:</p> <p>For Adult ADHD as of Feb 2026 there are 3,993 service users on the waiting list. The ICB does not hold the waitlist number for adult Autism. Therefore, the requester is advised to contact Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) NHS Trust directly for this: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information</p> <p>CYP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirona care & health CIC reported 2703 CYP waiting for ADHD assessment at December 2025. |

Clinical Partners waiting lists for children and young people ADHD assessments are provided above, as at December 2025 via Right to Choose. For more recent figures, the requester is advised to contact the providers directly (contact details below).

Sirona care & health CIC reported 4002 CYP waiting for Autism assessment as at December 2025 via Right to Choose. For more recent figures, the requester is advised to contact the providers directly (contact details below).

- The ICB only receives reporting on waiting lists from providers with which they hold contracts (i.e. Sirona care & health CIC and Clinical Partners). Patients may choose to be referred to another provider via Right to Choose. We are aware of the following providers who hold contracts with other ICBs to provide either ADHD or Autism assessments for CYP. The requester is advised to contact them directly for their waiting numbers:

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| Autism 360 | Evolve Psychology |
| Held Health | Help for Psychology Services |
| KT Healthcare | Oakdale Therapies |
| Paloma Health | Problem Shared |
| Psicon | RTN Mental Health Solutions |
| The Owl Centre | ADHD 360 |

The requester is advised to contact each provider for the information requested in question e.

- Sirona care and health - for CYP assessments (0-18 years):
Sirona.hello@nhs.net

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Partners: https://www.clinical-partners.co.uk/contact • AWP: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/contact-us/freedom-information |
| <p>2. Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs) or activity limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Details of any current Indicative Activity Plans (IAPs), activity caps, funding limits, or restrictions applied to Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments in the current financial year (or most recent period). b. The total number of assessments (or indicative activity volume) allocated or agreed for Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and adult autism in the current financial year. c. Any planned changes to IAPs, caps, or commissioning for the next financial year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please refer to previous FOI for information about Indicative Activity Plans in 25-26, published here: https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/FOI.ICB-2526_259-IAPs-under-Right-to-Choose-for-Autism-and-ADHD-Final-Response-combined.pdf b. The ICB has applied Section 43(2) to this question where further information regarding IAPs has been requested. Section 43(2) exempts from disclosure information which would, or would likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test. <p>The public interest arguments in favour of disclosing information include the ICB's responsibility to be transparent and accountable in its decision making and to promote public understanding of processes. The ICB has considered that the expenditure and any variance within these is funded through public funds and therefore there is a public interest in how this money is spent and whether it constitute value for money. The ICB discharges its duty by monthly publishing of all spend over £25,000 and this is available on the ICB website: https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/library/icb-spend-over-25000-january-2026/</p> <p>The public interest argument in favour of maintaining the exemption include direction from the finance team at the ICB that these IAPs underpin the basis of ICB contracts and</p> |

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| | <p>cannot be shared outside the ICB as these are commercial sensitive. Disclosure of these activity plans and the associated activity and financials would disadvantage the ICB when commissioning future contracts and IAPs. Pricing is often a critical factor in decision making for services. The ICB has a responsibility to secure the best use of public resources and provide value for money and to achieve this, the ICB needs to be able to develop IAPs without disclosure to ensure that confidential pricing information and activity is not disclosed. This information would give providers a commercial advantage.</p> <p>The ICB has considered both arguments and believes that maintaining the exemption is in the public's interest as it supports the ICB to commission services which are value for money.</p> <p>c. The ICB is currently in the process of agreeing IAPs for the 2026-27 financial year.</p> |
| <p>3. Commissioning of new providers:</p> <p>a. The name(s), job title(s), and direct email address(es) (or team inbox if individual contact is not available) of the person(s) or team responsible for commissioning / procuring new or additional providers for ADHD and/or autism assessment services under the Right to Choose framework.</p> <p>b. Any current open procurement/framework opportunities, expressions of interest, or processes for approving new Right to Choose providers for adult ADHD and/or autism assessments.</p> | <p>a. If you would like to contact the Children's & Community Contracting or Mental Health Contacting Teams, please use the following contact details, stating which department you require: bnssg.customerservice@nhs.net, Tel: 0117 900 2655 or 0800 073 0907 (freephone).</p> <p>b. Please see https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/accreditation-of-independent-sector-healthcare-providers/ for details around accreditation of independent sector providers of patient choice services. Please note that there is currently a long waiting list for accreditation, which is in excess of 1 year. Providers holding an NHS Standard Contract with another ICB in England or NHS England may be eligible to deliver services under Right to Choose in BNSSG.</p> |

c. If no such process is currently open, the anticipated timeline for the next review or commissioning round for additional providers.

c. There is no restriction on the time window to apply for accreditation; however, as outlined above there is a long waiting time as there are a significant number of providers wishing to go through the process.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 13 March 2026 and has been approved for release by Caroline Dawe, Deputy Director of Performance and Delivery, Acute and Integrated Care, MHLDA and EPRR and Jenny Bowker, Deputy Director of Performance Delivery, Primary Care and Children’s Services for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.