

Reference: FOI.ICB-2627/027

Subject: Children's and Adults Autism and ADHD Services

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
This request concerns commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e. right to choose) for neurodevelopmental services. Please provide separate information, where held, for each of the following service lines (or, if not available separately, as a combined response clearly identifying what is included within the data): • Adult autism assessments; • CYP autism assessments; • Adult ADHD assessments; • CYP ADHD assessments; • Adult ADHD medication (splitting titration and ongoing medication pathways if commissioned separately); • CYP ADHD medication (splitting titration and ongoing medication pathways if commissioned separately); Given the April 2026 restructuring of some ICBs, please explicitly indicate which area the data provided relates to and please provide data for all areas managed by your ICB (both in 2026/27 and in previous years). Please provide information at aggregate contract or service level only. I am not requesting patient or provider-level data. If information is held only in part, under different service labels, or using different activity or cost measures, please provide the closest equivalent information held. Please provide the following recorded information held by the ICB at aggregate contract or service level only:	
1. For financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, for commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e., RTC) for each service line: a. the planned spend and the actual spend;	We have split the response to this question as the level of information held is dependent on the answer to question 1c. Block Contracts:

b. the actual activity volume and the actual unit cost; and c. the contracting model or structure used, for example block contract, activity-based contract, framework, spot purchase, Right to Choose, Any Qualified Provider, or equivalent.	Block contracting arrangements are in place with Sirona care and health CIC for CYP (Children and Young People) ADHD and Autism assessments and Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) NHS Trust for adult ADHD and Autism assessments. These are not activity based contracts, so it is not possible to provide figures for questions 1a and 1b in relation to these services. Question 1c is addressed within this paragraph. Activity based under Right to Choose: CYP and adult ADHD and Autism assessment and treatment services can be accessed from Independent Sector providers who are eligible to deliver services under Right to Choose. BNSSG ICB holds an NHS standard contract for the provision of adult and children's autism and ADHD assessments with Clinical Partners. 1a – please find enclosed finance information, noting that it is not possible to split charges for medication and titration due to the way invoices are coded. 1b – BNSSG ICB does not hold data on activity volumes across Right to Choose ADHD and Autism and to gather this information from invoices would take in excess of 18 hours. This is due to the numbers of providers involved and the time period the data is requested.
2. For financial year 2026/27, for both commissioned and non-contracted activity (i.e., RTC): a. the planned spend; b. where held, the associated planned activity volume and unit cost; and c. the contracting model or structure planned, for example block contract, activity-based contract,	We have split the response to this question as the level of information held is dependent on the answer to question 2c. Block Contracts: Block contracting arrangements are in place with Sirona care and health CIC for CYP ADHD and Autism assessments and AWP for adult ADHD and Autism assessments. These are not activity based contracts, so it is not possible to provide figures for questions 2a and

framework, spot purchase, Right to Choose, Any Qualified Provider, or equivalent.

2b in relation to these services. Question 2c is addressed within this paragraph.

Activity based under Right to Choose:

CYP and adult ADHD and Autism assessment and treatment services can be accessed from Independent Sector providers who are eligible to deliver services under Right to Choose. BNSSG ICB holds an NHS standard contract for the provision of adult and children's autism and ADHD assessments with Clinical Partners.

2a – please find enclosed finance information, noting that it is not possible to split charges for medication and titration due to the way invoices are coded.

2b – The ICB has applied Section 43(2) to this question where further information regarding planned activity volume is 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.

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/>

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 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.

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.

In terms of unit costs, it is not possible to quantify these as some ICB's who hold contracts with independent sector providers will not be adopting the non-mandatory national tariff for ADHD and Autism within 2026-27. This means that local prices will remain in place for some contracts where the provider operates within BNSSG.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 10 June 2026 and has been approved for release by Helena Fuller, Deputy Director of Business, Strategy and Planning for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

1a

			23/24	24/25	25/26
Adult	Autism	Planned Spend	£0	£0	£500,000
CYP	Autism	Planned Spend	£0	£0	£0
Adult	ADHD	Planned Spend	£871,410	£2,888,639	£6,800,219
CYP	ADHD	Planned Spend	£0	£0	£0
CYP	Autism and ADHD	Planned Spend	£0	£0	£304,377
Adult	Autism	Actual Spend	£8,085	£223,950	£2,172,349
CYP	Autism	Actual Spend	£2,800	£202,658	£1,339,692
Adult	ADHD	Actual Spend	£3,446,107	£5,410,375	£9,782,348
CYP	ADHD	Actual Spend	£2,800	£81,882	£440,992

Notes:

- 1 23/24 and 24/25 Actual Spend from FOI358
- 2 25/26 CYP Combined Assessments cost is included in CYP Autism
- 3 We have not received all 25/26 invoices, the final actual spend might be different from what is presented in this FOI

Notes included in previous FOI:

- Due to the way invoices have historically been processed, all ADHD and Autism spend up to September 2024 was applied to the same invoicing budget code and it would not be possible to retrospectively split these out as far back as 23-24. This means that the figures for Autism spend in 23-24 and 24-25 will look lower compared to ADHD spend.
- 4 - Furthermore, where a third party private provider offers both ADHD and Autism assessment services it can be common for them to consolidate all activity onto one single invoice. While all reasonable steps have been taken to separate adult ADHD from adult Autism spend since September 2024, it is possible that the adult ADHD spend figure will still include some Autism activity, particularly where a provider offers combined assessments.
- The figures in the table only apply to spend with third party private providers and do not include NHS providers as these services are commissioned as part of a wider block contract extending beyond ADHD and Autism. The requestor is advised to contact the NHS providers directly to enquire whether they are able to supply this information.

2a

			26/27
Adult	ADHD	Planned Spend	£8,509,000
Adult	Autism	Planned Spend	£2,242,000
CYP		Planned Spend	£1,805,000