

Our Ref: ID 1827

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
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**Re: Freedom of Information Request - NHS commissioned diagnostic and treatment service providers for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Hyperactivity Disorder**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**You Asked for:**

1. Please can you tell me if you commission diagnostic assessment services for adults, children and young people with:
  - a. Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - b. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
2. Do you commission treatments for adults, children and young people with:
  - a. Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - b. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

If you answer yes to the first question, please can you provide the name, address and telephone details of the service(s) you commission

**Our Response:**

**Tier 1**

Autism Hubs: In addition to the Diagnostic service NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissions, the hubs are delivered via third sector organisations. The Autism Hubs provide advice, information and support from support and peer workers and are very effective and cost efficient in supporting autistic people in the community. Autism hubs offer early intervention to prevent someone requiring more specialist health or social support in the future, provide a support network to minimise risks associated with isolation, social anxiety and depression. The hubs are able to support an Autistic person to access health and social care if a person requires it, but are unable to offer that more specialist professional help if that person's health or living situation was deteriorating and they were posing a risk to themselves, others or were felt to be at risk of abuse from others.

**Tier 2**

Diagnostic services plus additional follow up as recommended and NICE compliant (CG142), multi-disciplinary is timely and locally offered. The assessment includes a full developmental

history, screening for other co-morbidities (physical health and mental health) and identifies which traits have significantly impacted on the person's life (positively and negatively) in order to help identify their strengths, needs and aspirations. The assessment process includes a post diagnostic review to ensure the assessment report is correct, is clear and is helpful to the person and those who support them and assists the person to identify what reasonable adjustments may be beneficial to them in work, education or healthcare settings. It also makes them aware of their right to a Care Act Assessment and to signpost/refer them for further support for their identified needs. As suggested by the research findings from Newcastle University and Autistica, a second post diagnostic follow up is provided 2-4 months after the first to discuss the diagnosis and the impacts of traits including strategies to improve functioning. This also includes dealing with email and telephone queries from the person about our opinion, reasonable adjustments and strategies to improve their coping/well-being.

### **Tier 3**

Specialist advice and consultation service - The function is a point of specialist advice and consultation for professionals (primary or secondary care or Social Services) working with an Autistic adult (not receiving Learning Disability services) who need advice or consultation on any aspect of how that person's Autistic presentation is impacting at that time and implications for reasonable adjustments or advice on what approaches or information might help more quickly to move to optimum functioning. This typically might be two discussions, the first to set out the issues and the second to give the team advice based on that information and the team discussion. It could be one or two more if the first discussion identified a need to consider other information in giving best advice.

### **Tier 4**

Enhanced Function/intervention autism team - this is part of the wider team but a new function. This is not a separate team, it adds to the speech and language team service. There is additional input for someone who either received a diagnosis from the team or for someone with an existing diagnosis referred into the team. This service is predominantly for people who have ongoing health risks and functional issues related to their primary need of autism and who do not meet the criteria for specialist health or social care interventions from established commissioned teams due to a co-morbidity (physical or mental health). Each package would be dependent on need.

### **ADHD - Adults**

NHS Wirral CCG commissions Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) to provide a diagnostic service for adults with suspected Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). I have included their contact details below for information:

The Stein Centre  
Derby Road, Tranmere  
Wirral  
CH42 0LQ  
Tel: 0300 303 3157

In terms of treatment, the remit of the service also includes titration and review of any prescribed ADHD medications. Patients can also be signposted to our locally commissioned Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT) service for any behavioural therapy that clinicians feel can help manage the symptoms/behaviours of ADHD.

## **For Children and Young People with Autism we are piloting a tier 1 approach.**

This will follow a similar approach to the adult tier 1, in as much as it will provide the following;

- The two practitioners will meet with families/Children and Young People (CYP) for post diagnostic support. Prior to the lockdown they were meeting face to face and had further meetings scheduled but these are now being offered as virtual appointments. Information has also been provided to parents to signpost to other existing services.
- They also offer consultations/support with schools, particularly those with higher numbers of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) children. The response has been positive and they are still available for online consultations.

In addition to the above, we have an intensive support function within the Community Learning Disability Team and the Learning Disability Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team. These functions also support our adults and children with autism.

All of the above have been coproduced with people who either have autism and or care for someone who has this diagnosis.

Any contact with these services can be undertaken via the main CWP telephone line, 01244 397397.

## **ADHD - Children and Young People**

NHS Wirral CCG commission Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) to provide a diagnostic service to children and young people with suspected ADHD. I have included their contact details below for information:

St Catherine's Hospital  
Derby Road  
Birkenhead  
Merseyside  
CH42 0LQ  
Tel: 0151 514 2888

In terms of treatment, the service can prescribe ADHD medications if clinically appropriate and with the families consent and support. There are also parent courses available for support and learning in behaviour management for young people with behavioural difficulties as a result of ADHD. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is also an option for referral if clinicians feel that therapy can help the young person manage the behaviours triggered by ADHD.

The ADHD Foundation have been commissioned on Wirral to offer support for parents of children aged under 18, who display behavior that is indicative of ADHD, or who have a confirmed diagnosis of ADHD. The support for parents will help them to understand their child's behaviour, and deploy strategies to manage such behavior. Further information can be found on their website. Please see the link provided for more details: <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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