

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24-443

[NECS – John Snow House](#)  
Durham University Science Park  
Durham  
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300  
E-mail: [necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net)

By Email

20 February 2025

Dear Applicant

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)**

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 12 February 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

Please would you be kind enough to provide me with the referral pathways for the following:

1. ADHD for children to CAMHS/NHS services/local authority services
2. ADHD for children to right to choose providers
3. ASD for children to CAMHS/NHS services/local authority services
4. ASD for children to right to choose providers
5. ADHD for adults to NHS services
6. ADHD for adults to right to choose providers
7. ASD for adults to NHS services
8. ASD for adult to right to choose providers

I would like to know any policies and protocols that the ICB has for ADHD and ASD which are communicated to GPs, CAMHS and schools. Including any regarding shared care for ADHD medication.

**Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding referral pathways for ADHD and ASD services covering North Cumbria, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Tees Valley Integrated Care Board (ICB) places.

Access to NHS providers and Right to Choose providers for ADHD and ASD assessments and treatment is via a GP referral through primary care. This applies to both children and adults seeking diagnosis and / or treatment. The specific provider and pathway may depend on local commissioning arrangements and eligibility under the Right to Choose framework.

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information for referrals made via Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Local Authority routes to access local authority services. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

For referrals made via SEND and Local Authority routes to access local authority services, we would recommend that you contact NENC Local Authority individually for their specific criteria and pathways.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those local authorities to make your request.

<b>NENC Local Authorities</b>	<b>Email</b>
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

In terms of policies and procedures, the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) ICB have a public-facing webpage – [NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board](#); we are working towards a single, standardised version of all agreements across the ICB. Currently, different areas have their own documents, with some combining ADHD medications into one comprehensive document, while others maintain separate documents for Shared Care. These documents are available here: [North East and North Cumbria Formulary](#)

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**