

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–321

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

18 November 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 on 12 November 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, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

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

**Your Request**

1. I'd like to request information on commissioned services for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) assessment in our area, specifically County Durham. Also, (if applicable) details of the commissioned pathway, such as who provides the service and relevant documents.
2. If there is no pathway in Durham, has the ICB accepted individual funding requests for children with neurodevelopmental disorder symptoms with confirmed prenatal alcohol exposure to be assessed for FASD out of area where services are currently being developed?
3. What steps have been taken to implement the NICE Quality Standard 204 regarding FASD in Durham?

**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.

1. There is no stand-alone specifically named commissioned pathway for FASD in County Durham.

For children where there are concerns relating to some of the symptoms that can be displayed as a result of FASD, GPs can refer to community paediatrics. Part of the assessment process will be a conversation about alcohol consumption during gestation. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) do not accept referrals purely for FASD where there are no concerning symptoms displayed.

The CDDFT FOI address is [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net) should you wish to redirect your request.

2. FASD as a condition is not clinically exceptional and so would not qualify for IFR.
3. 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. 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.

Public Health is responsible for advice relating to alcohol consumption throughout the life course including during pregnancy. Public Health is part of Durham County Council.

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 contact for the council – [Freedom of Information \(FOI\) requests – Durham County Council](#) – to make your request.

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 Information 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 ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or [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 faithfully

*Information Governance Support Officer*

**Information Governance Support Officer  
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**