

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-376

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

23 December 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 11 December 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information regarding current ADHD service provision:

1. Current Waiting Lists and Demand
 - a. Current number of people waiting for ADHD assessment (broken down by adults/children)
 - b. Average waiting time from referral to assessment (current data)
 - c. Longest current wait time for ADHD assessment
 - d. Number of referrals received monthly for ADHD assessment (last 12 months data)
 - e. Number of assessments completed monthly (last 12 months data)
2. Service Providers and Contracts
 - a. List of all NHS providers delivering ADHD assessment services in your area
 - b. List of all Right to Choose providers currently accepting referrals from your ICB
 - c. Contract values and duration for each ADHD service provider
 - d. Service specifications for ADHD assessment and treatment contracts
 - e. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each contract
3. Capacity and Workforce
 - a. Current funded capacity for ADHD assessments per month

- b. Number of clinical staff (WTE) providing ADHD assessments
- c. Details of any service restrictions (e.g., age limits, geographical restrictions)
- d. Plans for expanding capacity in 2025/26

4. **Clinical Pathways**

- a. Current clinical pathways for ADHD assessment (adults and children)
- b. Shared care agreements/protocols with primary care
- c. Post-diagnostic support services available
- d. Medication initiation and monitoring arrangements

Please provide this information in spreadsheet format where applicable.

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. **Current Waiting Lists and Demand**

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. However, we have determined that the information is held by the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) and right to choose providers within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 contacts for those foundation trusts below. A list of right to choose providers is attached.

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

2. **Service Providers and Contracts**

- a. Please refer to the response to question 1.
- b. Please refer to the response to question 1.
- c. The CNTW and TEWV services are included in their wider inpatient and community services contract which are paid on a block payment basis.

The terms of both contracts are in place until March 2027, with the option to extend for two years. RTC providers are paid on a non-contract activity basis, NENC ICB do not directly hold a contract with the providers. Host commissioners of each RTC provider would need to be contacted for the term and value of the original contract.

- d. There is no current service specification for CNTW. Please find the TEWV service specification attached.
- e. There are no specific ADHD KPIs for CNTW or TEWV.

3. **Capacity and Workforce**

- a. Please refer to the response to question 1.
- b. Please refer to the response to question 1.

- c. CNTW covers Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland for all ages and North Cumbria up to age 18. TEWV covers Durham and Tees Valley for all ages.
- d. NENC ICB are working towards contracting independent providers to offer ADHD and Autism diagnostic assessment services, accessible via the Right to Choose.

The aim of directly contracting independent providers is to supplement the current offer at a local tariff, and to locally determined quality standards, from a provider market that will not destabilise the NHS workforce. As of December 2025, we are still in the assessment process for a number of providers with an ambition to move to contracting additional provision early in 2026.

4. Clinical Pathways

- a. Please refer to the response to question 1.
- b. NENC ICB holds some of the information you have requested. Please find attached the current ADHD shared care agreements for children and adults in the North of Tyne, Gateshead and North Cumbria area. The agreements are under review by NTAG and the ICB and may change in the near future alongside alternative commissioning arrangements to enhance delivery.

GP practices have the choice to enter into shared care agreements or not. This is not something the ICB can influence.

*Guidance issued by the General Medical Council (GMC) states the GP is not obliged to enter into a shared care arrangement with any provider, and GP practices can decline shared care requests on clinical and capacity grounds. We do not have any local shared care agreements with primary care for ADHD.

- c. For post-diagnostic support services available locally please find list of services within the Newcastle Gateshead area.

Adults

Daisy Chain in Newcastle – Provide information and advice and low-level support. One to One counselling, Group work and peer support. They also offer psychoeducation.

[Newcastle Autism Support Service - Daisy Chain](#)

Tyneside and Northumberland Mind in Gateshead – Provide information and advice and low-level support. One to One counselling, Group work and peer support. They also offer psychoeducation [Autistic & ADHD Adult Service | OurGateshead](#)

Children and Young People

Daisy Chain Gateshead – Daisy Chain provides an autism hub service in Gateshead for parents and carers of autistic children and young people, up to the age of 25 for those with additional needs. An autism diagnosis is not required to access support. The hubs provide multi-agency drop-in sessions out of Blaydon and Deckham for parents and carers to meet representatives from other services and agencies who may be able to support their family, child or young person. The service provides peer support groups and training for parents, carers, and professionals.

The parent support group sessions provide a safe space for parents and carers to meet others in a similar situation and provide the opportunity for peer support, enabling parents to support each other, share experiences and ideas. These groups are facilitated by a

Gateshead Autism Hubs team member. The aim is to provide a supportive and empowering environment for parents and carers. The sessions run out of Birtley Family Hub, Chopwell Family Hub, Chowdene Family Hub, Deckham Family Hub and Felling Family Hub.

The hubs can also offer information and signposting on related co-occurring conditions, such as FASD, ADHD, sensory differences, social and communication differences, mental health, and learning disabilities. Daisy Chain also run a Facebook group for attendees of the autism hub service. Link is [Gateshead Autism Hubs – Daisy Chain](#)

North East Autism Society (NEAS) for Newcastle – NEAS provides an autism hub service in Newcastle for parents and carers of autistic children and young people, up to the age of 25 for those with additional needs. An autism diagnosis is not required to access support. The hubs which are based within children and family hubs provide a range of support. Link is [Autism Hub: Newcastle – North East Autism Society](#)

d. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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.

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. 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