

Our Ref: PW/SR/FOI/1024/1049

14th November 2024

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-1024/1049

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on Saturday 26th October 2024. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website.

Please see our responses in blue below:

1. Do you offer a specialist Memory Assessment Service? If no, how otherwise are people with memory problems diagnosed?

Yes

- North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) provide a Memory Assessment Service for North Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent residents.
- Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) provide a Memory Assessment Service for Staffordshire residents.

2. If you have a specialist MAS,

a. are people routinely offered a brain scan: either CT or MRI, and if so which?

NSCHT and MPFT

Scanning is not essential in moderate to severe dementia over the age of 65 if the diagnosis is clear and has no impact on management plan (NICE Guidelines March 2018). Clinicians should use their own clinical judgement based on their assessment when considering scanning in any age group.

If scanning is judged necessary, then the below guidelines should be referred to and considered:

- Age < 65 years
 1. MRI should be the first line imaging modality for this age group with suspected dementia. (*Rare dementias are more common and the diagnosis often has direct impact on management. e.g. employment*)
 2. CT scans should be performed in patients who have contraindications or cannot tolerate MRI.

- Age 65 -80 years
 1. CT scans should be the first line imaging modality in people presenting with cognitive impairment in this age group if deemed necessary.
 2. MRI is indicated for those with suspected Frontal Temporal Dementia, atypical or unusual presentations (e.g. *suspected brain tumours, hydrocephalous, CJD, CBD etc.*)
- Age>80 years
 1. Imaging is not essential in this age group if the diagnosis is clear.
 2. CT or MRI scans may be considered in people with atypical symptoms, if the diagnosis directly impacts on management plan.

b. which professionals are available as part of the memory clinic service offer, e.g., psychiatric nurse, general nurse, old-age psychiatrist, neurologist, psychologist, occupational therapist, social worker etc, please state.

NSCHT and MPFT

The MDT for the memory assessment service include psychiatrists, Nurse practitioners, healthcare support workers, assistant psychologist, clinical psychologists and occupational therapists, the service can refer to social workers and neurologists, but they don't form part of the team.

c. once people have received a diagnosis, what is the standard offer in terms of post diagnostic support? Please describe.

NSCHT and MPFT

The memory service will facilitate onward referral and signposting to enable patient/service user to access a range of community services, including GP and Primary care services, Social Care, housing, employment, voluntary and independent sector organisations.

The memory service will provide advice and support to GP's and Primary care services to promote clinical liaison and quality care management of older people with dementia and or complex/enduring mental health problems.

All newly diagnosed patients are electronically referred to The Memory Support Service/Dementia Connect provided by the Alzheimer's Society.

d. does the memory clinic keep people on for regular review or are they discharged to their GP or another service? please state

NSCHT and MPFT

The memory service offers a non-exit pathway so those diagnosed and on treatment will be reviewed annually by the memory team and needs led support and respond if contact is made to the service before the planned review.

Those in 2hr nursing care on no treatment are discharged to care of the GP and care home otherwise they remain active to the trusts and Alzheimer society.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB FOI team by emailing; staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

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

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance