

Our Ref: PW/TLR/FOI/0225/1192

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

25th February 2025

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-0125/1192

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on Monday 17th February 2025. 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.

1. In the following calendar years, how many referrals of any form were made to the ICB for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC)?

1. 2022 - 1,856
2. 2023 - 1,248
3. 2024 - 73

2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the ICB? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

1. 2022
1. 2023
1. 2024

The ICB does not hold any data for these referrals.

3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate

Not applicable.

4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family. Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

1. 2022 - 3
1. 2023 - 1
1. 2024 - 0

5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

1. 2022 - 113
1. 2023 - 83
1. 2024 - 18

6. In the following calendar years, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

1. 2022 - 1,544

Chair: David Pearson MBE

Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

2. 2023 - 1,120
3. 2024 - 52

7. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days.

1. 2022
1. 2023
1. 2024

The ICB does not hold this data.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

8. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer days.

1. 2022
1. 2023
1. 2024

The ICB does not hold this data.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support?

As part of this, please could you explain:

1. The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)

Criteria is that referrals have to be made an appropriate clinician who is responsible for the diagnosis, treatment or care and that is a registered nurse or a registered medical practitioner.

2. Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the ICB before being granted? Please explain this process if so.

Further checks take place in form of an internal quality assurance process which establishes that evidence provided is supportive of a rapidly deteriorating condition and that the condition may be entering a terminal phase (this is done via attached QA tool if needed).

3. Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?

No, criteria is that of evidence of a rapidly deteriorating condition and the condition may be entering a terminal phase is in itself sufficient to establish eligibility for fast track support.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to

request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

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 within 40 working days of the initial response.

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

CHC Fast Track Quality Assurance Tool

CMS PA No:		NHS No:	
Date Fast Track received:		Referring clinician:	
Date Fast Track completed:		Referring organisation:	

Section 1: Fast Track Pathway Tool fully completed with all required information	Yes	No
A record of consent or capacity assessment/best interest decision to undertake the Fast Track Assessment and share information to third parties / or copy of LPA (Health and Welfare)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All required information for the individual is fully recorded. If No, please detail below:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence of engagement with individual / NOK / Family / carer involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Fast Track tool completed by an 'appropriate clinician' - a person who is: a) responsible for the diagnosis, treatment or care of the individual, and b) a registered nurse or a registered medical practitioner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the designation of the clinician included? If No, please detail below:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the following been explained to the individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the reasons why a Fast Track application for NHS Continuing Healthcare has been made to the ICB. that the purpose of this is to enable the individual's needs to be urgently met as they have a rapidly deteriorating condition which may be entering a terminal phase. that their needs may be subject to a review, and accordingly that the funding stream may change subject to the outcome of the review. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the CHC Care and Support Plan enclosed with the Fast Track Tool?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Package of Care been requested?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patient Name:	DOB	CMS PA No:
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Section 2: Rationale for use of Fast Track Pathway	Yes	No
Is there adequate clinical evidence and information to indicate the individual has a rapidly deteriorating condition?		
Rationale if insufficient evidence and detail additional information required:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there adequate clinical evidence and information to indicate the individual may be entering a terminal phase?		
Rationale if insufficient evidence and detail additional information required:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On behalf of MLCSU:

Name:		Job Title:	
		Date:	

Section 3: Verification of Eligibility via the Fast Track pathway	Yes	No
Deferred pending submission of additional information required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eligible for CHC funding via the Fast Track pathway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exceptional circumstances only: Not Eligible for CHC funding; in the absence of additional requested information, the documented evidence indicates the Fast Track Criteria is not met; therefore, advise the referrer of alternative pathways or request CHC Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On behalf of ICB:

Name:		Job Title:	
ICB:		Date:	

Patient Name:	DOB	CMS PA No:
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