

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-01-223

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

26th January 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-01-223

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 16th January 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does not hold some of the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below:

Please find below four questions I would like you to consider under a Freedom of Information request.

- 1. For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022, and for the current financial year so far:**
 - a) **How many people living with a neurological condition in your region received an initial checklist assessment for CHC, and how many of these went on to the full assessment?**
 - b) **What proportion of people a neurological condition who received a full CHC assessment in your region were found to be eligible for CHC?**
 - c) **How many people living with a neurological condition in your region received a fast-track CHC assessment?**
 - d) **What proportion of people living with a neurological condition in your region who received a fast-track assessment were found to be eligible for CHC?**

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the information requested due to the reasons provided below:

1. Framework was suspended during Covid, therefore there will be a large gap in the information we provide during the dates you have requested.
2. Patients may have neurological conditions, but this is not always their primary diagnosis and/or sole reason why they have been referred in the first instance. Therefore the information would not be correct if we were to report it.

- 2. For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022 and for the current financial year so far, please provide:**

Interim Chair: David Pearson

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

- a) The number of decisions made in your region resulting in ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition that were subsequently overturned following local review.
- b) The number of requests made in your region for an independent review panel following a local review upholding a decision of ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition.
- c) The number of decisions of ineligibility for NHS continuing healthcare for a person living with a neurological condition in your region that were overturned at the independent review panel.

Please see response to question one above.

3. For each of the financial years April 2020- March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022 and for the current financial year so far, please provide:

- a) The median time taken in your ICB area to conduct NHS continuing healthcare assessments, from receiving the initial checklist to notifying the applicant of the eligibility result.
- b) The range of time taken (i.e. shortest time and longest time) in your ICB area to conduct NHS continuing healthcare assessments, from receiving the initial checklist to notifying the applicant of the eligibility result.
- c) The number of eligibility reviews for people who have previously been found to be eligible for CHC funding which result in CHC funding being taken away.

Please see response to question one above.

4. Does your ICB always ensure involvement of professionals with expert knowledge of the neurological condition when conducting assessments of people for NHS continuing healthcare? For example an MND specialist nurse or a neurologist.

Where the neurological condition is a patient's primary diagnosis or needs arising from the condition would impact on the outcome of the CHC assessment. When we are made aware that a professional is actively involved in the care of a patient, they would be invited to attend the MDT, or contributions would be requested from them, or the patient and/or their family and care provider would be asked to provide information regarding the needs arising from the condition.

Right of Appeal

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 Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at 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