

HOSC Update March 2017 Aspergers Service, SEPT

1. The number of people (if any) that are seen within 13 weeks of referral (NICE guideline);

Individuals are referred through Consultant Psychiatry and the First Response teams so they have been seen before they come to our service. In terms of individuals accessing a diagnostic assessment within 13 weeks of being referred to our service this is not currently possible

2. Average waiting time for diagnosis assessment;

Shortly before the last HOSC the waiting time for diagnostic assessment was in excess of 2 years. We have recently offered appointments to individuals who were referred approximately 15 months ago and now the people who have waited the longest were referred 14 months ago. The average waiting time is now 7 months but the variation of this is from 14 months to 1 month.

3. How many people were referred out of area for diagnosis?

This is information that the commissioners might be able to answer more directly but to my knowledge there have been no out of area diagnostic referrals for individuals with an ASD query.

4. Referrals received between 1st September 2016 and 28th February 2017
(This includes referrals for diagnostic assessment and intervention for those with an existing diagnosis). The service had received 54 referrals between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016

Month	No. of referrals
September 2016	5
October 2016	7
November 2016	6
December 2016	1
January 2017	12
February 2017	7
Total	38

5. Actions being taken to reduce waiting times and progress made

- The local CCG's for SEPT made the decision to increase funding for the clinical psychology post into the Aspergers Service. This has meant that there is greater capacity for diagnostic assessments to be completed and in the six months from 1st September 2016 to the end of February 2017 48 diagnostic assessments have been completed. This is in comparison to the number of assessments completed in previous years which are given below.

30 Diagnostic assessments completed 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

28 Diagnostic assessments completed 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015

23 Diagnostic assessments completed 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

21 Diagnostic assessments completed 1st April 2016 – 9th Sept 2016

- From the beginning of December we have implemented a more detailed paper screening process to filter the referrals coming through into the service. Individuals are sent a series of screening questionnaires which once returned are reviewed in addition to the referral information and then a decision is made as to whether the individual will be offered a more detailed diagnostic assessment. This is a new process which will be reviewed after a period of 6 months.
- The Occupational Therapist in the service was being trained to complete some diagnostic assessments where the picture was clearer. Unfortunately this individual left the service in mid-January and we have just had a new person start in post. This training will be given to the new Occupational Therapist and it is envisaged that in the next 6 months they should be in a position to begin some of these assessments independently.
- We are working closely with our colleagues in community mental health (FRT and RWB) to explore the possibility of sharing of skills and providing them with some screening tools to incorporate in their assessments. This is being piloted in one area initially and there has been a delay due to change in staffing.
- With the increase in staffing we have been able to support trainees in both Occupational Therapy and Clinical Psychology within the service. These training posts have been used to support the intervention aspects of the service such as group and individual work. In view of the number of referrals coming into the service it is important to try and maintain this balance since our service provides both diagnostic assessment and post diagnostic support/intervention.