



<b>Report to:</b>	Essex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)
<b>Subject:</b>	Brief report on the Mid and West ASD service
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017

## 1. Background

This brief report is intended as an update to the recently held Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting (November 2016). The data presented covers a 6 month period from September 2016 – February 2017 (inclusive).

## 2. Number of referrals received during the 6 month period

	Sept 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Total
<b>Mid Essex</b>	2	5	0	3	3	5	18
<b>West Essex</b>	4	2	1	2	1	1	11

## 3. The average waiting time for diagnostic assessment

For Mid and West Essex, “assessment” means the date of first face-to-face contact, which in most cases was the first meeting with the Advocate Navigator to complete the initial questionnaires. A small number of people preferred not meet an Advocate, so the questionnaires were posted to them and for them “assessment” is taken as their attendance for a full ASD assessment.

These figures do not include people who did not respond to contact or dropped out for other reasons before first face-to-face contact.

### Mid Essex:

- Average waiting time: 26 weeks

- Range: 12 – 32 weeks (this is accounted for by the fact that some people did not respond to initial contact and some others wanted their assessments to be delayed eg until the end of the university year).

#### West Essex:

- Average waiting time: 21 weeks
- Range: 15 – 24 weeks (see above)

#### **4. The number of people (if any) that are seen within 13 weeks of referral over the last 6 months**

In the six month period covered by this report, one Mid Essex CCG patient was assessed within 13 weeks of referral.

#### **5. How many people were referred out of area for diagnosis over the last 6 months?**

All referrals to HPFT were seen by our service. None were referred out of area for diagnosis.

#### **6. Actions being taken to reduce waiting times and progress made**

- Additional staffing resources from April 2017 acquired via staff secondments, bank hours and fixed term contracts to increase assessment capacity.
- Regular multidisciplinary discussion and review of pathway and assessments , to minimise any waits where possible.
- Monthly ASD steering group meetings to review levels of activity and performance
- Service user feedback and comments used to review pathway and improve access rates
- Continued joint working with Advocate Navigators to streamline completion of the initial questionnaire process and provide early support and signposting
- On-going supervision and continuing professional development for all staff involved

Through the implementation of the above actions the service aims to have reduced the waiting times\* across both localities to meet NICE recommendations by the end of Q3 17/18.

Whilst 17/18 contract arrangements are currently being confirmed with both CCGs, it is envisaged that progress will be monitored through the usual contract performance route on a monthly basis.

\*Individual waiting times will be influenced by choice and where service users do not attend appointments.