

FOI_0607_21/22 – FOI request concerning – Child & Family Services

1. **Does NHS Solent Speech and Language Therapy provide support for children with previously identified SaLT needs that are not at school e.g. awaiting a school placement, home educated, education otherwise than at school? If so, do you carry out regular home visits?**

Solent NHS Speech and Language Therapy service provides support for children with previously identified SaLT needs in the most appropriate setting, including home, nursery, school or a clinic setting. The regularity of visits would be dependent on the child's assessed need and the intervention required.

2. **Do NHS Solent specialist CAMHS recognise the pathological demand avoidance profile of autism and provide support according to that particular profile of autism, which is very different to a child with e.g. anxiety without a PDA profile of autism?**

Solent NHS Trust is commissioned to provide diagnostic assessments for Autism. Within the NHS, Pathological Demand Avoidance is recognised as a subset of symptoms as part of the Autism diagnostic criteria, rather than a diagnosis in itself. Post diagnostic support for families is offered through Autism Hampshire.

3. **If a child has a private diagnosis of ADHD age 4 from an independent child and adolescent psychiatrist, will this be accepted by CAMHS for support, or will another assessment need to be carried out? If so, is this possible if the child is not able to attend school due to medical reasons?**

The CAMHS services within Solent only accept referrals for children aged 5-18 in Southampton or 6-18 in Portsmouth. Therefore, a child of 4 would not be accepted within our CAMHS services. They may however be referred to our Community Paediatric Medical Services. If the child was 5 or over for Southampton (6 or over for Portsmouth) then the CAMHS teams would request a copy of the independent assessment to review whether this was comprehensive and meets the same criteria as our own. At referral we would gather updated information on the child's presentation from family and school and review the private report and information together. If the private assessment was comprehensive, we would not need to repeat the assessment. If a child is not able to attend school, we would try to gather information from an alternative environment out with the family setting for supporting information.

4. **If you are discharged from one of NHS Solent child and family services, such as speech and language therapy, should they write to inform you of this?**

If a child or young person is discharged from a child and family service, such as

speech and language therapy, the service will write to inform the parent/carer of this usually via a discharge report which is agreed with the parent/ carer.

- 5. Can the NHS Solent community paediatrician's diagnose mental health disorders in a child that is already under their care for neurodevelopmental disability, when their anxiety is incredibly debilitating, and provide support and possible medication for this, rather than waiting for CAMHS?**

If the child or young person is presenting with debilitating anxiety, they would recommend a referral to CAMHS for specialist care.

- 6. Do the NHS Solent community paediatricians recognise independent ADHD diagnosis and provide support accordingly e.g. medication is required?**

Solent NHS Trust community paediatricians do not prescribe for ADHD medication and therefore would not be appropriate for treatment of ADHD. They would recommend a referral to CAMHS for specialist care.