Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
www.nhslothian.scot

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Our Ref 11572

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEURODEVELOPMENTAL TREATMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to neurodevelopmental assessment in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. Does your board have a dedicated pathway for assessment and treatment of NDD? - If so, what are the criteria for entry to this pathway?

Answer:

Neurodevelopmental assessment and treatment in NHS Lothian are carried out separately by each of the four Health and Social Care Partnerships – Edinburgh, East Lothian Midlothian and West Lothian. Details are given in the table below:

Edinburgh	Assessment is undertaken by general psychiatry
East Lothian	Yes, referrals are triaged in the Adult Mental Health service.
Midlothian	Referrals are made for either ASD or ADHD screening.
West Lothian	Yes, referrals are triaged in the Adult Mental Health service.

Question:

2. What are the criteria for assessment and treatment by your secondary care mental health services and are there any specific exclusion criteria relating to NDD?

Answer:

All referrals are considered against ICD-11 diagnostic criteria and NICE guidance. There are no specific exclusion criteria.

Question:

3. Is NDD assessed / treated in the absence of mental illness in your Board's mental health service?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

NHS Lothian

4. What information is sent to patients and referrers when referral for assessment / treatment of NDD is rejected?

Answer:
There would be discussion with the GP or referring clinician and a letter sent to the clinician and the patient explaining why they have not met the criteria for treatment.

Question:
5. Do you have a standard template letter for rejection letters? – If so please provide this

Answer:
There is no standard template.

Question:
6. Do you accept patients on to secondary care mental health caseload who have been diagnosed and / or treatment commenced by a private provider?- If so is it all referrals and if not how do you triage?

Answer:
Patients who have received a private diagnosis or assessment must be referred to NHS services as a new referral.

Question:
7. What arrangements does your board have in place for patients who commence treatment for NDD under CAMHS services when they reach adult age?

Answer:
The patient care will be transferred to adult services.

Question:
8. Does your board or service have a position statement on assessment and treatment of NDD? - If so can this be provided?

Answer:
No, there is no NHS Lothian position statement on this.

Question:
9. What specific NDD training if any have your staff received?

Answer:
Training is provided to the adult Community Mental Health Team internally, through private providers and through NHS Education for Scotland.

Consultants can attend Royal College of Psychiatrists Special Interest Group events including regular seminars, one day conferences, Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule training sessions, and other relevant training. Consultants and clinical fellows provide in-service training to other staff working in primary care settings or in the Adult Neurodevelopment service in support of screening, triage, assessment and titration activity.

Question:

10. Has Lived Experience feedback been involved in any developments within your service for NDD?

Answer:

Edinburgh	The service considers all patient feedback received, but there is no formal Lived Experience mechanism.
East Lothian	East Lothian is about to go through an impact assessment phase. People with lived experience have been invited to participate.
Midlothian	Midlothian has a lived experience group where all proposed changes are discussed, however there have been no new developments within NDD to discuss.
West Lothian	The service considers all patient feedback received, but there is no formal Lived Experience mechanism.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, \you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive