

Information Governance

Robert Dolan House
9 Alie Street
London
E1 8DE

Email elft.foi@nhs.net

Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

24 April 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5290

I am responding to your request for information received 25 March 2024. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Keshia Harvey
Senior Information Governance Manager - Compliance

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Interim Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from East London NHS Foundation Trust for children.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have a dedicated autism service for children as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment from East London NHS Foundation Trust for adults.

Answer: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving an autism assessment for adults at the Trust is 164 days.

Question 3: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from East London NHS Foundation Trust for children.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have a dedicated autism service for children as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 4: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment (i.e. a positive or negative diagnosis) from East London NHS Foundation Trust for adults.

Answer: The median length of time from referral to autism services to receiving the final outcome of an autism assessment for adults at the Trust is 299 days.

Question 5: The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through East London NHS Foundation Trust for children.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—



(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.

East London NHS Foundation Trust does not have a dedicated autism service for children as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 6: The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses through East London NHS Foundation Trust for adults.

Answer: The conversion rate of autism assessments to autism diagnoses for adults at the Trust is 24%.

Question 7: What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who receive an autism diagnosis through East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Answer: The Trust offers:
Post diagnostic Feedback to:

- Parents/Carers
- Child and Young Person

Psychoeducation program to both (where clinically appropriate):

- Parents/Carers
- Child and Young Person

Further referrals to support identified needs to:

- the Children Development Centre
- referral to NAS
- referral to Post-diagnosis workshop
- referral to SAFE (if appropriate)
- referral to sleep/behavioural group (if appropriate)

Question 8: What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults in who receive an autism diagnosis through East London NHS Foundation Trust.

Answer: The Trust offers follow up appointments with staff to answer questions arising and provide signposting information about other services/resources, including Autism-specific. Sessions based on clinical need that becomes apparent during assessment may also be offered.

In terms of referrals, adults may be signposted to adult social care, talking therapy, benefit and employment support.

Question 9: What support and further referral is routinely offered to children who undergo an assessment for autism through East London NHS Foundation Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.

Answer: The Trust provides feedback to family and the child/young person following the assessment explaining why a diagnosis hasn't been given. A review of the care plan and support plan from Trust services and external agencies is provided as well as further assessments or interventions where indicated following the assessment. In addition, referrals to external agencies for support where needs are identified.



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Question 10: What support and further referral is routinely offered to adults who undergo an assessment for autism through East London NHS Foundation Trust but do not receive a diagnosis.

Answer: When a diagnosis is ruled out, follow up is offered with the Autism Specialist Practitioner or a doctor to discuss presenting support needs and signposting to other services. The Autism Specialist Practitioner will also answer questions if a person disagrees with the assessment outcome and how formulation arrived at to exclude diagnosis.

Question 11: What standardised tools are currently used by East London NHS Foundation Trust for the screening and/or triage of children who seek an autism assessment?

Answer: The standardised tools currently used are SCDQ, CAT-Q and/or Coventry Grid, SNAP when indicated.

The Trust also uses non-standardised forms to gain general screening information from school and parents to support the process.

Question 12: What standardised tools are currently used by East London NHS Foundation Trust for the screening and/or triage of adults who seek an autism assessment.

Answer: AQ10 screening questionnaire which serves as initial screening tool. For accepted referrals, the Trust sends screening questionnaires for completion before an initial appointment is offered Autism Quotient (AQ50) (subject & informant/relative version), Empathy Quotient (EQ60), Developmental History Questionnaire & Sensory Integration Checklist.



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