

Seizure freedom project - Freedom of Information request questions

Q1 Please provide the name of your Trust?

Answer: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT).

Q2 What type of adult epilepsy service do you provide?

Answer:

Hospital outpatient clinic?

Answer: Yes, by the Trust at University Hospital of North Durham (UHND), DH1 5TW and South Tees in the South, Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH), DL3 6HX

Planned hospital inpatient?

Answer: No, this is provided by Tertiary Centres at Newcastle and South Tees.

Community services?

Answer: Yes, in North Durham locality only.

Tertiary specialised services?

Answer: Provided by Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust

Q3 Where do you provide your adult epilepsy clinics? Please list the clinic location postcodes:

Answer: Please see above locations.

Does the adult epilepsy service provide access to:

Q4 Epilepsy diagnosis?

Answer: Yes

Q5 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for a first epilepsy appointment?

Answer: Approximately 8 weeks.

Q6 A first seizure clinic?

Answer: Yes

Q7 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for a first seizure clinic appointment?

Answer: Approximately 8 weeks.

Does the adult epilepsy service provide access to:

Q8 Medical treatment?

Answer: Yes

Q9 Surgery?

Answer: No – Surgery would be provided at Tertiary Centre

Q10 VNS?

Answer: No.

Q11 Transition clinic?

Answer: No.

Does the adult epilepsy service provide access to:

Q12 EEG?

Answer: Yes.

Q13 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for an EEG?

Answer: EEG is provided by South Tees NHS Trust and they are responsible for managing their waiting times.

Q14 MRI?

Answer: Yes.

Q15 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for an MRI?

Answer: 4.5 weeks.

Does the adult epilepsy service provide access to:

Q16 Neuropsychology?

Answer: No.

Q17 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, to start neuropsychology treatment?

Answer: N/A.

Q18 Neuropsychiatry?

Answer: No.

Q19 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, to start neuropsychiatry treatment?

Answer: N/A.

Q20 Neurophysiology?

Answer: No.

Q21 Geriatrician?

Answer: Yes.

Q22 What type of paediatric epilepsy service do you provide?

Hospital outpatient clinic?

Answer: Yes Specific Paediatric epilepsy clinics are held at Durham, Stanley, Chester-le-street, Bishop Auckland and Darlington. Also, dedicated epilepsy clinics held in special schools such as the Oaks and Evergreen.

Planned hospital inpatient?

Answer: Paediatrics epilepsy patients can be admitted to Local inpatient units and have access to liaise with paediatric neurology at Newcastle. If paediatric epilepsy patients need ventilating they would have to be admitted to Newcastle hospitals.

Community services?

Answer: Yes the Paediatric epilepsy nurses cover the community for the whole Trust.

Tertiary specialised services?

Answer: In the Durham area a paediatric Neurologist has outreach clinics locally. Bishop Auckland and Darlington used to have outreach services but this has been stopped for a number of years due to lack of paediatric neurology reorganisation. This is supposed to be re started soon. All the epilepsy patients under Newcastle have had to travel to Newcastle for review, although there has been continued support from the paediatric neurologists.

Q23 Where do you provide your paediatric epilepsy clinics? Please list the clinic location postcodes:

University hospital Durham DH1 5TW

Chester-le-street Hospital DH3 3AT

Bishop Auckland hospital DL14 6AD

Darlington Memorial Hospital DL3 6HX

Stanley Clifford road Medical centre DH9 0AB

Oaks school Spennymoor DL16 7DB

Evergreen School Bishop Auckland DL14 6LS

Does the paediatric epilepsy service provide access to:

Q24 Epilepsy diagnosis?

Answer: Yes.

Q25 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for a first epilepsy appointment?

Answer: Approximately 8 weeks.

Q26 First seizure clinic?

Answer: No dedicated clinic but rapid access clinic paediatric patients can be seen or usually present as an emergency to A&E.

Q27 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, in weeks for a first seizure clinic appointment?

Answer: The Trust is unable to answer this question as we do not have specific clinics for a first seizure appointment so there is no way of splitting the data to provide a specific waiting time.

Does the paediatric epilepsy service provide access to:

Q28 Medical treatment?

Answer: Yes.

29 Surgery?

Answer: No.

Q30 VNS?

Answer: No, service is in Newcastle although local Paediatric epilepsy nurses assist in care planning and training for VNS.

Q31 Transition clinic?

Answer: Yes, only nurse led clinics both paediatric and epilepsy nurses only for the north of the county .All children across the whole Trust are offered transition and its completed by paediatric epilepsy nurses in local clinics.

Does the paediatric epilepsy service provide access to:

Q32 EEG?

Answer: Yes, EEG are not done locally they are done at Sunderland, Newcastle or Darlington.

Q33 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for an EEG?

Answer: The Trust does not provide this service to patients.

Q34 MRI?

Answer: Yes.

Q35 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, for an MRI?

Answer: 5 weeks.

Does the paediatric epilepsy service provide access to:

Q36 Neuropsychology?

Answer: Yes.

Q37 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, to start neuropsychology treatment?

Answer: Q37 The Trust is unable to provide an answer this as we do not run these clinics ourselves they are done via another local provider and we do not hold the data.

Q38 Neuropsychiatry?

Answer: No.

Q39 On 31 March 2017, what was the average waiting time, in weeks, to start neuropsychiatry treatment?

Answer: N/A.

Q40 Neurophysiology

Answer: No.

On 31 March 2017, how many neurologists with epilepsy as a specialism* did you have in your Trust?

Answer: As stated above the Trust employ visiting consultants in the North from Newcastle, one of which has a specialist interest in Neurology. In the South this service is provided by South Tees and not the Trust.

Q44 Number of people?

Answer: 1 in the North delivering 1 session a week

Q45 Number of epilepsy sessions per week?

Answer: 1 session

Q46 Full time equivalent?

Answer: 0.2 WTE

**An epilepsy specialist is defined as a consultant with expertise in epilepsy as demonstrated by training and continuing education in epilepsy, peer review of practice and regular audit of diagnosis. Epilepsy must be a significant part of their clinical workload (equivalent to at least one session a week)*

On 31 March 2017, how many adult neurologists (including sub specialists) did you have in your Trust?

Answer: As stated above the Trust employ visiting consultants in the North from Newcastle, one of which has a specialist interest in Neurology. In the South this service is provided by South Tees and not the Trust.

Q47 Number of people?

Answer: In the North we have 3 people each working 1 day a week

Q48 Number of epilepsy sessions per week?

Answer: 3 sessions a week in the North

Q49 Full time equivalent?

On 31 March 2017, how many adult epilepsy specialist nurses did you have in your Trust?

Answer: 2.0 WTE who work in the community

Q50 Number of people?

Answer: 2

Q51 Full time equivalent?

Answer: 2.0 WTE

On 31 March 2017, how many paediatric neurologists (including sub specialists) did you have in your Trust?

Answer: We have paediatric neurology outreach service for the north of Durham.

Q52 Number of people?

Answer: 0.

Q53 Number of epilepsy sessions per week?

Answer: 0 outreach clinic once a month held at Chester-le street hospital.

Q54 Full time equivalent?

Answer: 0.

On 31 March 2017, how many paediatric epilepsy specialist nurses did you have in your Trust?

Q55 Number of people?

Answer: 2

Q56 Full time equivalent?

Answer: one full time one half time.

On 31 March 2017, how many learning disability epilepsy specialist nurses did you have in your Trust?

Answer: None, this is delivered at the Tertiary centres.

Q57 Number of people?

Answer: N/A.

Q58 Full time equivalent?

Answer: N/A.

On 31 March 2017, how many unfilled or vacant posts did you have?

Q59 Neurologists with epilepsy as a specialism*?

Answer: The Trust do not employ Neurologists, we purchase sessions from Newcastle in the North and the South is delivered by South Tees.

Q60 Paediatricians with epilepsy as a specialism*?

Answer: No vacant posts.

Q61 Neurologists?

Answer: Please see above.

Q62 Epilepsy specialist nurses?

Answer: No vacancies.

****An epilepsy specialist is defined as a consultant with expertise in epilepsy as demonstrated by training and continuing education in epilepsy, peer review of practice and regular audit of diagnosis. Epilepsy must be a significant part of their clinical workload (equivalent to at least one session a week)***

We want epilepsy patients to have easy access to an epilepsy specialist and to be able to contact their local ESN directly.

Q63 Could you please provide the best number to contact your adult epilepsy specialist nurse or epilepsy service? (if there is one)

Answer: This is a community based service and only available to patients registered with GP's in North Durham Locality.

Q64 Can patients use these details to contact the service?

Answer: Yes, if they meet above criteria.

Q64 Can patients use these details to contact the service?

Answer: Yes, as above.

Q65 Could you please provide the best number to contact your paediatric epilepsy specialist nurse?

Answer: Sue Lewis Paediatric epilepsy specialist nurse 01388455307
Sarah Bennison Paediatric epilepsy nurse 01388455307

Q66 Can patients use these details to contact the service?

Answer: Yes.

Q67 Do you routinely offer annual reviews for your epilepsy patients?

Answer: Yes.

Leave to GP

Q68 Do you routinely offer care plans to your epilepsy patients?

Answer: Yes.

Q69 What does the care plan look like?

- **Letter to patient and separate letter to GP**
- **Letter to GP, copied to patient**
- **Online template**
- **Booklet kept by patient**
- **Discussion of goals with patient**
- **Other**
- **Please specify:**

Answer:

- Letter to patient and separate letter to GP
- Letter to GP, copied to patient

Please can you provide examples of the above?

Answer: The Trust does not use a standardised letter/ template. The contents of the letters sent out contain information from patient notes accordingly.

Please send to:

**Freepost RTGS-LEYK-XGCK, Epilepsy Action, New Anstey House,
Gate Way
Drive, Leeds, LS19 7XY**

Q70 Can your patients access structured self-management education programmes?

- **No**
- **Yes - face-to-face**
- **Yes - online**
- **Other**

Answer: No.

What is the name of the face-to-face programme?

What is the name of the online programme?

Other - please specify:

Q71 What percentage of patients achieve seizure freedom 12 months after referral to your service?

Q72 What percentage of patients achieved seizure freedom during 2013/2014?

Q73 What percentage of patients achieved seizure freedom during 2014/2015?

We may wish to contact you about your responses to this survey. Please tell us how we can do this.

Q74 Your name

Q75 Your telephone number

Q76 Your email address

You have reached the end. Thank you very much for your help. Please send us your answers by clicking on the **Submit** button