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Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/21/478
St. David's Neurodevelopment Unit

Information Requested:

1. I would like to request information regarding the way that the waiting list for an appointment at the neurodevelopmental unit at St David's is structured.

Children are triaged for acceptance onto the waiting list based on referral information submitted – this can be submitted by schools or other clinical teams (GPs, therapists, paediatricians). This is done by 2 professionals, usually a therapist from the Neurodevelopment (ND) team and a doctor. Once accepted they are added to the waiting list.

If there is indication from the referral to make the referral 'urgent' this will be decided at the time. However, this would be unusual as in the vast majority of cases a diagnosis does not change the support a child receives through education or social care. Children who are on the waiting list are still eligible for support from the specialist teacher teams. We may prioritise an assessment if the assessment or diagnosis affects access to a specialist provision, e.g. a specialist school for Autism. Usually this would be on the request of specialist teachers.

2. I would like to know the process by which waiting list decisions are made from the point of a referral being received up until an appointment notification is sent. I am interested in any age banding that is applied to the list.

Children are added to the waiting list once accepted and are contacted once they near the top of the list. Prior to the initial appointment, usually within 3 months of the appointment, information is collected from school/nurseries and the families or young people about their concerns so that when the appointment occurs the assessing clinician has up to date information about the concerns of the family and any other settings.

The assessments are grouped by age bandings 0-5, 6-13 and >13yrs. This is because 'in general' the group of therapists to assess each age group are slightly different. This enables smaller teams to work together and develop a more efficient assessment process.

Children 5 and under are in general presenting with social communication difficulties and require a medical assessment and usually input from speech and language. The team who work with this group includes doctors, speech and language therapists and the early years team from education as well as





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the ASD specialist teachers. However, if any of these children need to access other members of the ND team this is easily accessible.

Children 6-13 will have a range of presenting difficulties and so the team supporting this group includes the wider ND team, including doctors, psychologists, OT, SLT, specialist ASD teachers and specialist nurses. This group of children can be supported with medication if indicated (such as that to treat ADHD) and be assessed by a range of professionals as indicated by the referral information. If other assessments are needed the wider team can support this.

Children over 13 are less likely to have a primary medical need, and more likely to present with co-morbid mental health difficulties and so the team providing assessments is composed of a psychiatrist, psychology, OT, SLT, specialist teachers and specialist nurses. As with the 6-13 group the assessment and medication can be supported by this team as needed.

All children have access to assessment from the wider ND team as needed.

