

Neurodevelopmental Conditions Pathway: Waiting Time Review January 2021

WHAT ARE WE MAKING BETTER?

The Neurodevelopmental Conditions (NDC) Pathway was redesigned and launched in October 2019 to improve the experience of children and families seeking a diagnosis for neurodevelopmental conditions (including autism and ADHD).

There were 1,261 people waiting for a diagnosis as of April 2019 and one aim of the redesign was to reduce this waiting list. Unfortunately, the waiting times have been further impacted with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The chart below shows the current waiting times broken down by year. An update was provided towards the end of 2019 with how the waiting times looked after several weeks of the new NDC pathway commencing and most recently December 2020. Good progress can be seen with a decrease of 31% since April 2019. During November and December 2020 47 cases have been seen and an additional 62 cases have been added to the waiting list during this time. The Team are currently working booking February 2018 accepted referrals. The increase in numbers that can be seen between June and August 2020 is due to the loss of 1 full time consultant. Due to anticipated December leave and the current vacancy the impact on the cases seen has remained stable.

The three specialist nurse posts have been in post since the end of the summer and have been supporting the team focussing on the review cases of the consultant vacancy. GWH have been unsuccessful with recruiting the paediatric consultant three occasions. There is a national shortage of community paediatricians, however, the Designated Medical Officer is working on alternative solutions with the senior executive team at GWH and readvertisement of the role will go out again in January 2021. Despite the consultant vacancy and alternative ways of working throughout COVID the team are still focussed on reducing the waiting list.

WAITING LIST	Apr 2019	Nov 2019	June 2020	Aug 2020	Oct 2020	Dec 2020	Improvement Since April 2019
Referral in 2017		60	28	15	0	0	↑
Referral in 2018		360	248	314	293	272	↑
Referral in 2019		287	321	294	264	244	↑
Referral in 2020			94	156	208	258	↓
Previous Early years Pathway transferred into NDC Pathway			118	118	100	92	↑
Total	1,261	707	809	897	865	866	→

Progress is being made with the waiting list initiative from the successful proposal to NHS England last autumn. The proposal articulates an innovative multidisciplinary team (integrating teams and practitioners from Virgin, GWH Paediatric and CAMHs) known as the (SWAT Team) of Practitioners who will undertake diagnostic assessment work across BSW providers is being created.

The SWAT Team will work together and will look at longest waiters across all localities. A dedicated administrative team is also being looked into to support with swift communication with families and supporting the SWAT team with the list. The target date for commencing this is March/ April 2021.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THIS MAKE?

Good progress has been made in reducing the waiting list since the introduction of the NDC Pathway. With the additional support continuing to be put in place by BSW CCG and our partners we hope that we can continue to reduce the waiting time for children and families whilst providing a good quality service.

All actions and improvements aim for children and families to be able to access the right support, from the right service, at the right time.