

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4755

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Cerebral Palsy (CP).

You asked:

- 1. What is the total number of children and young people diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy by your Trust/Health Board in the last five years? (N.B.: this should be recorded as a total figure rather than figures for each year individually.)*
- 2. What is the care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy in your Trust/Health Board? Please provide a copy of this if possible.*
- 3. Is there a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral to a child development service for diagnosis of cerebral palsy from the point when symptoms are initially identified? If so, please provide this data.*
- 4. What is the total number of:*
 - a. Health visitors employed by your Trust/Health Board?*
 - b. Specialist health visitors for children with special needs employed by your Trust/Health Board?*
- 5. What training is given to healthcare professionals, including health visitors and GPs, to recognise the risk factors and possible symptoms for Cerebral Palsy?*
- 6. What is the total number of specialist staff employed by your Trust/Health Board, who are trained to work with children and young people with Cerebral Palsy, from the following disciplines:*
 - a. Paediatric speech and language therapy*
 - b. Paediatric physiotherapy*
 - c. Paediatric occupational therapy*
- 7. How many children and young people with Cerebral Palsy are currently on a waiting list to access any of the above services within your Trust/Health Board?*

Trust response:

1. As physiotherapists, we do not actually diagnose CP but can sometimes be the person that suspects and then sends children on for further investigation. We would estimate that our team picks up approximately 8

children per year. However, our service is relatively new, and has only been in place for 3.5 years. We do not actually make a CP diagnosis.

2. If a consultant or paediatrician suspects CP they will often refer to our physiotherapy service for assessment. If the child has a definite CP diagnosis, they will then be referred to community therapy services (ITACC) for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and/or Early Support depending on their needs.
3. There is no specific timescale for assessment or diagnosis. However, any child who is placed on our therapy waiting list for assessment where increased tone or neurological problems are suspected would always be treated with high priority. Realistically seen by physiotherapy within 2-4 weeks.

From this initial assessment, ITACC referral would be done immediately if required, and initial developmental advice given at initial consultation.

Therapy care is generally handed over to ITACC at this point, and the child discharged but if there potential for a long gap in provision due to waiting times, our service does offer interim appointments.

4. None.
5. This service is not provided by the Trust.
6.
 - a. 0
 - b. 5 (part time staff)
 - c. 0
7. 1 child (referral received yesterday, condition not related to CP)