

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 9026

**Please reply to:**  
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[www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

19 April 2024

## **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 Autism.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.*

*1. What facilities do you have available to meet the needs of autistic individuals in the following settings:*

- *Outpatients*
- *Inpatients*
- *Urgent Care*

*2. Do you have any specific policies or protocols for the care of autistic patients in each of those settings? If so, can you include them in your reply.*

*3. What percentage of staff, in the following categories, have completed the Oliver McGowan training programme:*

- *All staff, then specifically;*
  - o *Doctors*
  - o *Nurses*
  - o *Allied Health Professionals*
  - o *Admin/Clerical*
  - o *Council of Governors*
  - o *Board of Directors*

Trust response:

1. Within outpatients, inpatients and urgent care patients with Autism are offered reasonable adjustments bespoke to their individual needs. The Trust encourages patients to complete and share their Autism health passport to help guide us to what reasonable adjustments they require.

Examples of reasonable adjustments include;

- Offering a quiet area or side room to wait where ever possible
- Offering a double appointment
- Reducing wait times as best as possible
- Offering where ever possible appointment times that suit the individual i.e. if they rely on using public transport and have a bus pass we would offer an appointment after 9.30am so they can use their bus pass
- Considering environmental and sensory factors and reducing these where ever possible i.e. reducing lighting and noise
- Enabling carer or family member to support during an appointment, procedure and also adapting visiting times on wards as needed
- Offering accessible information as needed
- For inpatients; ensuring individuals are aware they can bring in additional items that may make them feel more comfortable during their stay i.e. weighted blanket, sensory objects, headphones,
- Offering tours of department prior to admission or procedure
- Ensuring the teams supporting the individual are aware of their Autism diagnosis and any reasonable adjustments they may require

This list is not exhaustive there are often bespoke reasonable adjustments that are offered depending on patient need.

2. People with an Autism diagnosis can be referred and signposted to Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) Autism and ADHD team. Below is the link to their website which includes information about their service, referral process and signposting to additional support for people with Autism and ADHD.

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/asd-adhd/>

Within the trust we also promote the 'Different not less' campaign for people with Autism. We also promote the use of the Autism health passport for all patients with an Autism diagnosis. This is attached to the email.

3.

- All staff (total): 81.57%
- Doctors: 50.05%
- Nurses: 84.93%
- Allied Health professionals: 88.43%
- Admin/Clerical: 86.54%
- Board of Directors: 62.50%