

Freedom of Information Act 2000 disclosure log entry

Reference

16-17200

Date sent

18/10/2016

Subject

Gender Identify Development Service (GIDS) Waiting Times and Treatments

Details of enquiry

1. The current estimated waiting time for patients referred to your service. If this differs between the London base and satellite clinics could these figures be provided separately.
2. Whether referrals are accepted directly from GPs or whether they must come from CAMHS.
3. Whether there are any plans for the year's hormone blocker requirement to be reduced in the near future.
4. Whether there are any plans for the minimum age on testosterone to be reduced in the near future.
5. Whether patients referred from Wales are provided with the same access to medical intervention as those from England.

Response Sent

Your request for information, as detailed in your email below, has been considered in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and our response follows below, in the same order as your listed questions.

1. The current estimated waiting time is around 9 months in London and around 7 months in Leeds and around 8 months in the South West. We are actively working to reduce this with a substantial increase in staff and through piloting innovative approaches. London has a larger catchment area and more new staff who need training up. With more new staff starting in London the start dates have been more spread out compared to Leeds and so the impact on the waiting list is slightly behind in London.

2. The service specifications say that “Referrals can be made by staff in health and social services, schools, colleges of further education and by people in voluntary organisations who may have concerns about a young person’s gender identity development and associated difficulties.” Referrals can be made by GP’s and CAMHS.
A primary objective is ensuring that any risk is being well supported locally with a care plan in place. If risk is identified and no care plan is in place a concurrent referral to CAMHS is suggested.
The service specifications detailing information about referrals can be found at:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/09/gids-service-specification.pdf>
3. This is being actively addressed and it is highly likely that this will be the case. This is likely to be for older clients in the first instance.
4. The recently produced clinical commissioning policy on cross sex hormones can be found at the following link. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/08/clinical-com-pol-16046p.pdf>
Following an independent evidence review the age at which cross sex hormones are offered is around 16 years. The evidence base for the impact of offering cross sex hormones at a reduced age is not available. If this were to be offered it would be under a research type protocol. Again we are actively looking at this and have made links with other centres who are interested in doing the same.
5. Young people referred from Wales have the same access to medical intervention as those from England. The funding arrangements in Wales differ which can affect the timing of care, depending on how long it takes to have funding agreed. We have an outreach clinic in Wales to facilitate access.