

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Hackney College  
Defoe Building, Room 10  
50 Hoxton Street  
N1 6LP

Date 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Email: [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Ref: FOI 2350**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Action Cerebral Palsy.

The Trust can provide the following information:

**1. The total number of children and young people diagnosed with cerebral palsy by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust within each of the last five years.**

The Community Paediatric service carries out surveillance, screening and assessment to detect motor disorders including cerebral palsy but does not routinely make definitive diagnoses independently. Children who present with clinical features suggestive of cerebral palsy are usually referred to Neurology for investigation to confirm the diagnosis and rule out differential diagnoses such as progressive motor disorders. As a result, we do not store data on numbers of children diagnosed by the Trust. Although it is possible to detect the number of children who may have coded diagnoses of cerebral palsy on our system (RiO electronic patient management system), this will not fully reflect the number of children with the condition who have been diagnosed here (although some are) or all the children who do have this diagnosis, as not all patients known to the wider community service are coded for this diagnosis.

Consequently this information is not in readily available format and would take longer than 18 hours to collate this information. We are therefore applying an exemption under freedom of information act, in that it would cost more £450 to provide you with this information.

**2. The total working-time equivalent (WTE) number of specialist staff employed by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust from the following disciplines, trained to work with children and young people with cerebral palsy:**

- a. Paediatric speech and language therapists**
- b. Paediatric physiotherapists**
- c. Paediatric occupational therapists**

a. SLT: 72.6wte of whom 6.4wte work specifically with a range of neurodevelopmental disorders including cerebral palsy.

b. OT: 9.0wte of whom 4.0wte work specifically with a range of neurodevelopmental disorders including cerebral palsy.

c. PT: 10.wte of whom 6.0wte work specifically with a range of neurodevelopmental disorders including cerebral palsy

**3. The total working-time equivalent (WTE) number of employed by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust?**

- a. Health visitors**
- b. Specialist health visitors for children with special needs**

- a. 82.42 WTE HV'S post currently filled
- b. 1 WTE post currently filled

**4. A copy of your care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy.**

The Trust is currently working to produce a care pathway but this has not yet been completed.

**5. A copy of your service framework for children and young people with cerebral palsy.**

We do not currently have a specific care framework but hope to develop one over the next 12 to 18 months.

**6. Whether there is a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral for diagnosis of cerebral palsy, from the point of the formal identification of symptoms.**

The Trust is currently working to produce a care pathway but this has not yet been completed.

**7. An overview of training and advice provided by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for health professionals on identifying and referring children with cerebral palsy.**

All therapy staffs have first degree level training which includes the full range of neurodevelopmental disorders including cerebral palsy; any of these staff may also work with a child with cerebral palsy in a children's centre / school setting. Less experienced therapists will then receive senior expert support; more complex cases will be seen by staff with additional experience / training.

Recognition of the signs and symptoms of cerebral palsy is a part of both the General Paediatric and Community Paediatric curriculum and we train General Paediatric and specialty Community Paediatric trainees to achieve these competencies. The current curriculum competencies for cerebral palsy in Community Paediatric specialty training as published by our national professional organisation BACCH are as follows:

- *early diagnosis*
- *aetiology*
- *classifications*
- *assess severity and function*
- *assessment of other function e.g. vision/cognition in a child with CP*
- *rational investigation*
- *assessment and management of deformity*
- *knowledge of associated medical problems*
- *seating/mobility aids,*
- *communication aids*
- *local services, voluntary groups*
- *gait analysis*

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk) , in the first instance. If following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

#### Copyright Statement

The material provided is subject to the HUHFT's copyright unless otherwise indicated. Unless expressly indicated on the material to the contrary, it may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium, provided it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading manner. Where any of the copyright items are being re-published or copied to others, you must identify the source of the material and acknowledge the copyright status. Permission to reproduce material does not extend to any material accessed through the Publication Scheme that is the copyright of third parties. You must obtain authorisation to reproduce such material from the copyright holders concerned.

Yours sincerely

Mohamed Uddin  
FoI Administrator

Mike Dunne  
Information Governance Manager