13 February 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 132/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request:

We are requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act on behalf of the Autism Alliance.

1. Do you have an Autism Partnership Board or equivalent body? If so please provide its name and a link to its website (if available).

   Answer: Yes – there is an Autism Partnership board covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Details of the work across the LLR can be found at:
   
   http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/OurServicesAZ-AutismCarePathway-CarersandUsersInformation.aspx

2. Do you have a named Autism Lead?

   Answer: Yes. Adult Lead and a Children and Young People (CYP) Lead.

3. Does your named Autism Lead have oversight of assessments of need for people on the autism spectrum? How is this oversight maintained in practice i.e. what measures are in place to ensure the quality of assessments?

   Answer: Adult services – The lead has oversight through the supervision process as well as the internal quality assurance process.

   CYP lead is involved in appropriate assessments with health colleagues via the Autism Pathway process. Early Help Assessments, Single Assessments, Education Health and Care Plan, as well as inclusion referrals are completed by various professionals who may contact the CYP lead for advice. These assessments are all subject to internal audit processes and management oversight is gained via a robust supervision process.

4. What specific assessment tool or tools do you use to assess the needs of someone on the autism spectrum e.g. RAS, recognised autism assessment tool? What else forms part of an assessment?
A variety of recognised ASD screening tools (CARS, GARS, DISCO) are used by NHS professionals during the Autism Pathway assessment process. The CYP and Adults lead are usually involved with initial identification and contribute to the assessment and review process.

5. Do those who are involved in performing assessments receive autism-specific training? If so how long does this training last and how frequently is it refreshed?

Answer: Various training has been completed over many years by the Autism leads and other professionals at Rutland County Council.

Basic autism awareness training is available to all council staff.

6. What level of competency is this training designed to deliver?

a. Basic/General Autism Awareness
   Answer: For all local authority staff.

b. Practitioner
   Answer: For other staff involved in the assessment process.

c. Expert/Practice Leader
   Answer: For Autism leads.

7. Who delivers this training to assessors, is it accredited by an external body or organisation and if so by whom?

Answer: Various.

8. Does this training include any kind of assessment or examination and if so what is the outcome for those who fail?

Answer: Sometimes.

9. What methods of delivery does this training feature e.g. face-to-face, e-learning?

Answer: Various.

10. What proportion of autistic people had their level of funding or services reduced over the last year i.e. between 1st December 2017 and 30th November 2018 inclusive? How many people does this represent in total?

Answer: No autistic children, young people or adults had a reduction in funding or resources.

11. How and against what do you benchmark fee levels to ensure that they represent fair and reasonable rates?

Answer: Services, including direct payment levels are benchmarked regularly against neighbouring authorities and then reviewed.
12. How and against what do you benchmark the service offer to autistic people to ensure that their needs are appropriately met? Is this process based on the level of service provided or the outcomes delivered?

Answer: Assessments are person centred and any identified are needs are met. Regular reviews across all ages are undertaken to ensure that agreed outcomes are being met. Services are provide based on needs not diagnosis.

We use the National Autism Self-Assessment Framework which informs the Action Plan Delivery Group. This group's work stems from self-assessment covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland across Health and Social Care.

You are free to use any documents supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. The documents may also be used for news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the documents or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner, where copyright exists. Such a request would be considered separately in accordance with the relevant Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and is not automatic. Therefore, no permission is implied in the re-use of this information, until such a request to re-use it has been made and agreed, subject to any appropriate conditions. Any request to re-use the information should be made to me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council