



Ref: FOIA Reference 2019/20-139

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 19th June 2019

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 11th June 2019 (received into our office 12th June) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding vision screening of 4 to 5 year olds at school entry.

On 12th June 2019 we contacted you via email as UHNM is not a local authority or a CCG and did you mean to send this request to us?

On 13th June 2019 you replied via email with the following:

"This FOI is intended for you Head of Orthoptic service who will have information regarding visual screening service in your area and whether it has been commissioned by your LA or CCG."

Can I please clarify that it is meant for your trust and that the information will be with your head of orthoptic service in Ophthalmology."

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 The purpose of this FOI request is to establish the provision of 'Orthoptic-led' and/or 'non-Orthoptic-led' vision screening across England.

Definition of 'Orthoptic-led':

A service that is led by a designated Orthoptist who is responsible for all aspects of delivery of vision screening to all eligible children. This includes leadership of the personnel delivering the screening, the care pathway and audit and quality assurance mechanisms. The testing of children may be either Orthoptist delivered or delivered by a vision screener trained by an orthoptist.

We would be grateful if you could please answer the following questions and their subsections (where applicable) for the financial year 2019/20 to allow us to establish current provision and support orthoptists in the future to deliver an 'Orthoptic led' service.

Many thanks for providing this information; it will be extremely useful to support the objective of delivering equitable Orthoptic led vision screening for ALL 4-5 year old children by mapping out current provision.

Questions

1. How many LA and CCGs are served by your organisation for all acute, community and specialist services?

Please list them all.

A1 Please see below:

<u>CCG's</u>	
Stoke on Trent,	Stafford and Surrounds
North Staffordshire,	Cannock Chase
East Staffordshire,	South Staffordshire & Seisdon Peninsular
<u>Local Authority</u>	
Stoke on Trent City Council,	Staffordshire County Council

Q2 Does your organisation provide the Orthoptic Services for the resident populations of these LAs and CCGs? Y/N

A2 Yes = For Stoke
No = For Staffordshire

Q3 Is a vision screening service currently available in the area (by LA or CCG) served by your organisation for providing Orthoptic Services? Y / N If NO - please list the LA/CCG that do not provide a vision screening service If YES – For each commissioned screening service please indicate:

- a. Who commissions it - LA or CCG?
- b. Its compliance with the PHE service specifications i.e. Orthoptic-led and delivered with Quality Assurance and clinical audit processes ([https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio ...](https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio...))

- i. Compliant
- ii. Not compliant

A3 Please see below:

- a) The Trust is commissioned by Stoke on Trent City Council to deliver a school vision screening service for residents of Stoke on Trent only.
- b) Orthoptic-Lead and Orthoptic delivered, with continuous Audit therefore:

- i. compliant

The Trust is not commissioned by Staffordshire County Council to provide a school vision screening service for residents of Staffordshire. As the Local Authority (LA) are responsible for commissioning this service the question as to why the service is not commissioned and plans for 2020/21 would need to be addressed to the LA.

Q4 List the key features of each commissioned screening service:

- a. Settings (e.g. school).
- b. Screening personnel (e.g. orthoptist, school nurse or other health professional).
- c. The onward care pathway for children who fail the vision screening.

d. The quality assurance processes (audit) and identified clinical lead for the vision screening service.

- A4 Please refer below: The following answer relates to Stoke only:
- a) School
 - b) Orthoptist
 - c) A child who fails school screening will either be referred to Paediatric shared care Optician (99%), to Hospital Eye service (HES) to see a consultant ophthalmologist or to HES to attend a nurse lead clinic. Each child will then have a follow up Orthoptic assessment at regular intervals, as required (depending on treatment pathway).
 - d) We quality assure this process for both the council and for the British and Irish Orthoptic society (BIOS). Claire Carrick is the clinical lead for the vision screening service
- Q5 Tell us how you monitor if every eligible child in the Local Authority or CCG commissioning the service has been tested (including those in private schools, or those who are home schooled).**
- A5 The following answer relates to Stoke only:
All the schools are identified and a class list for each school is generated to identify eligible children. We also receive information about Academy schools, home schooled children and those children who live in our area that go to school out of our area. We do have one private school in the stoke area who has declined our service for the past 2 years.
- Q6 Tell us whether a vision screening programme has been commissioned for the current financial year**
- A6 The Trust has been commissioned by Stoke on Trent City Council to deliver a school vision screening service for 2019/20 covering the academic year September 2019 until July 2020
- Q7 If a vision screening service is not currently available, in a Local Authority or CCG served by your Organisation could you please tell us for each of these LA or CCGs – a. why it has not been commissioned?
b. whether a service is planned for the next financial year (2020/21)?
c. whether an existing service has been recently decommissioned?**
- A7 A School vision screening service is not currently available covering Staffordshire. As the LA are responsible for commissioning this service, the question as to why the service is not commissioned and plans for 2020/21 would need to be addressed to the LA.
- Staffordshire
- a) No reason was given.
 - b) Not currently, we do regularly try to make contact due to recent Public Health (PH) initiatives
 - c) We last screened in Staffordshire the school year of 2014/15
- *as above an existing service has not recently been decommissioned (Stoke on Trent as answer 3)

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

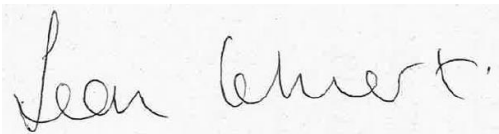
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Information Governance Manager