Dear

Freedom of Information Request – DGS 221

Thank you for your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 18 March 2019, the information requested is below:

Question 1 - For a child under-5 with suspected autism in your CCG area, what is the duration in weeks or months from receipt of referral to a diagnosis appointment?

All children receive their initial assessment clinic appointment with 18 weeks of referral. The majority of children referred are scheduled and being seen within 12 months of the initial assessment at a diagnostic clinic.

Question 2 - What was the number of children aged 0 - 5 receiving a formal diagnosis of autism in the CCG area in the last full year for which records are available?

NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold this level of data, however in total across Kent, there was a total of 199 children.

Question 3 - What was the average age of these children at the point of formal diagnosis?

At this point, the service does not collate this information and is unable to provide a response to this part of the question.

Question 4 – Does the CCG or locality have a local autism strategy group as recommended by the NICE guidelines (Autism spectrum disorder in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis).

The CCG is a member of the Kent Autism Collaborative and is a partner to the KCC Autism Strategy. At present this strategy relates only to adults, however, work is in progress to develop this further to an all age arrangements.
We hope that this has dealt with your request for information however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to request that we conduct an internal review of your request. If you would like us to conduct such a review please contact us within two months of this letter using the contact details below:

E-mail: swccg.northkent.foi@nhs.net
Post: FOI, NHS Swale Clinical Commissioning Group, Bramblefield Clinic, Grovehurst Road, Kemsley Sittingbourne Kent ME10 2ST

Your request for an internal review will then be processed in accordance with our Freedom of Information Policy, a copy of which can be found on our website:

www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following the internal review, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act, and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.
https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/
Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

In line with the Information Commissioner’s directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. An anonymised version of our response will therefore be posted on our website.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.