

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 23-340	04 September 2023
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Your request

You requested the following:

The request relates to children and young people that have Severe or Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (S/PMLD) and services provided by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within your health board area.

S/PMLD may be defined within health as a Learning Disability (LD) and is defined on the NHS website as a person that:

- Has a severe learning disability and other disabilities that significantly affect their ability to communicate and be independent.
- Someone with a profound and multiple learning disability might have difficulties seeing, hearing, speaking and moving.
- They may have complicated health and social care needs due to these or other conditions.
- People with a profound and multiple learning disability need support to help them with some areas of their life, such as eating, washing or personal care.
- Lots of people with a profound and multiple learning disability can still be involved in decisions about themselves, do things they enjoy and be independent.
- Some people who struggle with talking might be able to use other ways of communication, like sign language, Signalong, Makaton, or digital systems like picture exchange communication systems (PECS)

Information Requested for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022:

1. Number of children / young people with S/PMLD referred to your service (CAMHS)
2. Of those referred, how many were offered an appointment with a mental health practitioner?
3. Of those referred, how many were diagnosed with clinical depression?
4. Of those diagnosed, how many were treated with medication to alleviate their symptoms?
5. Of those diagnosed, how many were referred for interventions (e.g., talking therapies / counselling)?
For this group intervention may take the form of advice to family and schools rather than direct therapy or a positive behavioural support plan.
6. Of those referred, how many were referred by person with parental responsibility, school, GP?
7. What is the average waiting time from referral to initial assessment?
8. What specific assessment tools are used by practitioners to assess the mental health needs of children and young people with S/PMLD?

I have provided a template that I would be grateful if you would complete with the requested information.

Our response

Our response is included in the attached completed template and we have provided some additional comments below:

As a general point, please note that the Child and Adolescent Learning Disability Service (CALDS) criteria accepts children with a moderate to severe learning disability. However, CALDS do not capture whether the child or young person has a moderate or severe learning disability, as both moderate to severe are accepted. Attached is a CALDS Intake Criteria Checklist [Attachment 2] that details the criteria necessary for a CYP to be accepted into CALDS. Further information regarding the CALDS service is shown in the attached CALDS Pre-Referral Leaflet [Attachment 3].

For question 3, 4 and 5: recoding practices changed in 2022 which meant that specific data on outcomes is now captured and recorded.

For question 7: we are unable to provide an average waiting time specifically for S/PMLD as we are unable to differentiate patients who are severe/profound and those that are moderate due to the fact that we do not categorise children by their level of learning disability.