

Date of Report: 19/04/2022

## FOI - 7381- Children attending A&E for mental health issues

When patients attend A&E, patients are asked the reason for their attendance in A&E. This information is recorded as the "chief complaint" for the patient's attendance at A&E. Mental Health illness is a very generic term and it would be premature to record a patient attending A&E with a chief complaint as Mental Health illness. In most cases the description of what the patient states as their illness is recorded as Mental Health illness. Historically several reasons recorded in the chief complaint data field could be categorised as a Mental Health illness. We have used these reasons to provide some context to the numbers of patients that have attended A&E with these chief complaints. However, those that are genuine patients with Mental Health illness are those that are referred to the Psychiatry team for further management and action. This will be a subset of the patients that we have identified in question 1.

Questions	Notes/Comments	Response					
1) Number of children attending A&E per month, since Jan 2019 due to a mental health related issue.	The A&E attendances provided are for children aged to 0 to 15 years of age from <b>1st January 2019 to 10th April 2022</b> by month for the following chief complaints:  Behaviour : agitated / violent Behaviour : unusual Self-harm Depressive feelings Feeling anxious Hallucinations / delusions	<b>Month</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
		Jan	13	5	11	14	43
		Feb	9	13	5	15	42
		Mar	10	10	13	22	55
		Apr	16	3	16	6	41
		May	13	7	22		42
		Jun	12	7	13		32
		Jul	8	4	12		24
		Aug	6	9	4		19
		Sep	6	7	15		28
		Oct	13	7	25		45
		Nov	16	22	8		46
		Dec	3	6	8		17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>434</b>		
Questions	Notes/Comments	Response					
2) The top 10 longest stays in A&E of a child who is presenting a mental health issue over the last 12 months.		As highlighted above, we have provided information based on chief complaints in question 1 which may constitute a patient being categorised with a Mental Health illness. However, to have a definitive view of those patients that had genuine Mental Health illness, would be determined by those patients who were referred to the Psychiatry team. Unfortunately, the information on a whether a patient is referred to the Psychiatry team is not available electronically and would require the Trust to review the patients notes. Once we have established the cohort of patients from question 1, which were referred to the Psychiatry team we would need to calculate their waiting times. Unfortunately, given the number of patient clinical notes that would need to be reviewed to answer this question the Trust would not be able to comply with this request as it would breach cost and time ceiling (cost limit set at £600 and 24 staff hours).					