

Your Request:

Please find below our FOI request regarding the NICE guideline NG213 relating to Disabled Children and young people with severe complex needs.

1) Has your organisation completed a baseline assessment to evaluate whether practice is in line with the recommendations in Disabled children and young people up to 25 with severe complex needs: integrated service delivery and organisation across education, health and social care (NICE guideline NG213)? (Please answer yes or no)

2) If no, do you have plans to do one and if so by what date?

3) If the above assessment has been completed, could you please provide us with a copy of the assessment and action plan.

4) Do you specify that provider organisations need to deliver services for disabled children and young people up to 25 with severe complex needs in a way which is consistent with NICE guideline NG23? (Please answer yes or no).

5) Please could you tell us what action you are taking to ensure that provider organisations deliver services for disabled children and young people up to 25 with severe complex needs in a way which is consistent with NICE guideline NG23?

6) How many children with complex needs or disabilities for whom you are responsible are currently accessing services that are located outside of your ICS area?

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held by each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB in relation to your questions about whether a baseline assessment has been completed to evaluate whether practice is in line with the recommendations in NICE guideline NG213.

Cheshire

1) No.

2) No date confirmed yet, this will be agreed at a future Cheshire East SEND Partnership Subgroup and Cheshire West and Chester SEND Strategy Group.

3) N/A.

4) No.

5) This is being commissioned through our Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Strategy and local commissioning arrangements for SEND and Mental Health services.

6) Information not held.

Halton & Warrington

1) No.

2) No.

3) N/A.

4) No. However, our provider organisations under the NHS Standard Contract are required to comply with all legislation including the Children & Families Act (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice (2020), NHS England & Improvement Learning Disability Standards and Equality and Diversity Frameworks in place. We also expect implementation of any actions identified following changes in NICE Guidance as they occur during the year.

5) All our main commissioned health service providers are part of the local Cheshire East SEND Partnership and Cheshire West & Chester SEND Strategy Group. We hold a SEND Dashboard which captures Key Performance Indicators across our providers. We have SEND Health Reference Groups (Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester) where Providers come together to discuss performance, good practice and share lessons learnt and are provided with updates across a range of SEND related work and discuss the SEND Code of Practice. Our two Designated Clinical Officers (DCOs) - one for Cheshire East and one for Cheshire West and Chester - link with all our providers who work with children that have special educational health and/ or disability needs and complex health needs. There is a route through the contract and quality meetings to escalate issues and risks relating to SEND. Both DCOs work with schools and the LA SEND teams with regards to issues relating to individual CYP with complex needs and/ or disabilities, supporting development of Education Health Care Plans (EHCP), as required. The DCO role acts as the Integrated Care Board/Place-Based point of contact for expert SEND health advice. The NICE Guideline will be discussed at the Cheshire East SEND Partnership Assessment and Planning Sub-Group (September 2022) and Cheshire West and Chester SEND Strategy Group (September 2022.).

6) Information not held.

Knowsley

1) No.

2) Yes, by 31 October 2022.

3) N/A.

4) No.

5) The Local Area Joint SEND strategy sets out how partners will work collaboratively to deliver integrated care and all the organisations commissioned are required to report to strategic leaders and this is fed through our governance processes to the SEND Board.

6) None.

Liverpool

1) No.

2) No. We do know who our most complex CYP (Children and Young People) are with continuing care packages. We have a robust joint local authority/health protocol in place to govern, quality assure and fund, which works very well.

The Designated Clinical Officer contact details are on the Local Offer so families can raise any concerns directly, which are then followed up with the appropriate provider/commissioner.

There is a plan around Personal Health Budgets (PHB's), Joint commissioning is practiced e.g. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). We have refreshed and quality assured the Local Offer, with health providers updating their information. The Liverpool Parent Carer Forum are heavily involved in all decision making, planning and delivery. Palliative care has commissioned offer from Alder Hey and Claire House.

There is an NHS England led Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) health advice quality assurance project established across Cheshire and Merseyside.

There is also a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Board at Integrated Care Partnerships (ICS) level across Cheshire and Merseyside, with all Designated Clinical Officers in attendance. This group is in the process of establishing data analysis and improvement plans, which will feed through to Place developments. Risks will be raised via the Senior Reviewing Officer to the partnership.

3) N/A

4) Yes.

5) Providers (the main being Alder Hey Children's Hospital) are held to account via contract and quality meetings. SEND is a standing item at Alder Hey Clinical Quality Performance Group meetings. Information not held.

6) Information not held. Universal, targeted and specialist services are delivered by in area commissioned providers. Some families with PHBs may choose to purchase services outside of the ICS area but we would not collect this data as

this would be part of the choice and control element of a Personal Health Budget.

Sefton

1) No.

2) This requires discussion and agreement by local SEND Continuous Partnership Board.

3) N/A

4) All NHS commissioned providers are required to comply with all prevailing legislation including the Children & Families Act (2014) and the SEND Code of Practice (2020).

5) All NHS commissioned providers are part of a Local Health SEND Performance and Improvement Group. Key SEND KPIs and performance are discussed, and issues/good practice shared. Our DCO links with all key SEND services to discuss compliance with the Code of Practice.

6) Information not held.

St Helens

1) No.

2) No.

3) N/A.

4) No. We do not use that exact phrase in service contracts. However, specifications contain other references to requirements with regards to SEND.

5) From a health perspective via the DCO, we complete regular delivery of SEND and Health Advice training to health services, working directly with casework managers to support processes ensuring health services are aware of the details relating to the Early Notifications Process.

Participation in steering groups for the NDP, ensuring that services are compliant with Legislation.

We work with schools and LA SEND team for issues relating to individual CYP with Complex needs and disabilities, supporting development of Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP), as required. Role as ICB/Place-Based point of contact for expert SEND health advice to continue.

We are currently working on establishing the alignment of annual LD Health Checks for 14 - 25 year-olds with the EHCP Y9 review process. Current focus is on working on a formal process for an LD diagnosis and informing GPs for YP 14 years+ to ensure access to AHCs.

The ICB, through the Mid Mersey DCO Team, deliver training to health services about PfA, it's importance and the role of health services within this work. Ensuring that services are constantly considering preparation for adulthood in their assessments/treatments, transition planning and direct work with patients to improve their understanding around PfA and what this means for them as an individual.

We regularly attend the Big Chat (CYP engagement group in St Helens) with the Local Authority to ensure that CYP are represented. They have completed the young inspectors training and will be visiting health services and providing valuable feedback. Their first visit will be to St Helens CYPMHS.

We have also provided and shared a written response in relation the new Liberty Protection Safeguards in relation to our SEND population. This is shared with our partner agencies.

We work closely with our parent/carer form Listen4Change in co-production. At present, we are re-writing the personal budgets policy and creating an easy read leaflet about this for our parents/carers and young people.

We have coproduced a "Help around the Local Offer" training with parents and carers which is delivered to services to ensure they are signposting children and families appropriately.

In Mid Mersey we quality assure every draft EHCP from a health perspective. We work with services to provide their own health advice templates, which clearly captures the CYP's voice, their need and current provision being delivered. We have identified SEND champions within services and we request that they have a dedicated SEND folder on their corporate shared drives.

We have created a guidance document for health services in writing good quality health advice and this has been shared with our partner agencies.

From a performance monitoring perspective, services report on equity of access to provision and where appropriate, specific KPIs regarding specialist delivery for CYP with SEND e.g. referral, wait times, diagnostic numbers etc.

6) Information not held.

Wirral

1) No, as it is expected that the health service providers would complete this.

2) No..

3) N/A

4) Yes, all health provider services are aware of SEND legislation and duties according to the Children and Families Act 2014. All health providers are aware of the duty to provide services for the age range 0-25 years.

Wirral have a well-established process in place to ensure that health services are fully involved in the EHC needs assessment process along with education and social care. This ensures a collaborative approach to assessing and meeting needs.

The Continuing Health Care (CHC) team hold monthly multi-agency meetings reviewing the needs of our CHC cohort. The meeting provides updates to individuals healthcare needs which further provides an update for the EHCP annual review process. This promotes the tell it once approach.

5) Wirral have a SEND health subgroup established which looks at health service providers data and feedback. There is a data dashboard that looks at information such as the 6-week duty to supply health information to inform the EHC needs assessment. Wirral are able to monitor compliance monthly and there is an expectation on services to provide an exceptions report for any compliance less than 90% to the SEND strategic lead.

Health providers report service satisfaction feedback to the SEND health subgroup and have now included a section on disability on most forms of feedback.

Health providers have audited their own services against implementation of the SEND reforms and also against NICE guidance NG43 on Transition, encompassing this cohort of young people. All health providers and service leads are aware of their own service level position and report any risks identified from this through their risk monitoring meetings.

6) No patients in the 0-25 age group showing as currently accessing services that are located outside of our ICS area.