

Dear

I am writing to you in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Nottinghamshire County Council. I have the following information.

What is the average waiting time for Service Users of Adult Social Care from request for Occupational Therapy Assessment to the assessment being carried out?

During the Covid 19 Emergency, the Council put in new emergency workflows and a reduced number of data reporting. The Council and partners have been assessing priorities on a daily basis through the Local Resilience Forum Emergency Planning Processes. We are now moving into Recovery and Winter Planning. The request for this data is not a current priority, so we are unable to provide it easily or within the timescales for FOI

What is the longest waiting time for Service Users of Adult Social Care from request for Occupational Therapy Assessment to the assessment being carried out?

During the Covid 19 Emergency, the Council put in new emergency workflows and a reduced number of data reporting. The Council and partners have been assessing priorities on a daily basis through the Local Resilience Forum Emergency Planning Processes. We are now moving into Recovery and Winter Planning. The request for this data is not a current priority, so we are unable to provide it easily or within the timescales for FOI

What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the Occupational Therapy waiting list?

People did not refer for OT assessments in the same numbers as pre covid, those waiting for an assessment received OT assessments or will receive OT assessment. We have not implemented care act easements in Nottinghamshire.

Do you anticipate / have you seen any pent up demand following the easing of lockdown?

All demands are being managed within the service as they fluctuate.

How many people are on the waiting list?

We don't operate a waiting list as such. Response to Q1 and 2 above explains our approach.

Have you introduced new ways of working for your Occupational Therapists during this period – for example Virtual Assessments?

The OT in Nottinghamshire have adapted to the lockdown by offering assessments in a wide variety of formats. Our front door services are fantastically adept at telephone and supported self-assessment, with their support all of our OT were able to offer quality t/c assessment and virtual online assessment. Furthermore, we encouraged people to participate in their assessment by emailing in photos of equipment, seat heights etc and OT emailed pictures of specialist equipment.

Covid had enabled some really agile working for OTs particularly around use of technology.

In your COVID-19 recovery planning how long do you feel it will take you to reduce the waiting list to pre-COVID levels?

Covered in previous questions.

Do you use or do you plan to use any third parties to deliver Occupational Therapy assessments (e.g. locums, private sector organisations or self-employed Occupational Therapists)?

No, we are actively recruiting permanent vacancies and have just completed a workforce remodel which has included additional OT resource to enhance our re-ablement model. The Council has procured a staffing agency partner who we use for all our individual agency OT cover arrangements

If you have used third parties, please give the name of the organisation(s) and the number of assessments completed by each during the period 1.1.2019 – 1.1.2020

As per Q9 we only use agency to supply individual temporary OTs whilst we recruit to posts and do not separately track the work they undertake..

Do you have an official contract with any organisations or individuals to provide Occupational Therapy Assessments and if so, when is this due to end?

We have in the past, but this has lapsed and we have no intention of procuring for outsourcing OT assessments.

If you are looking at using a third party to deliver Occupational Therapy assessments when would you be able to do this?

To clarify we are not intending to source a third party or an agency at this point to complete OT assessment work and already have a corporate partner for agency staff that we use when we do need to.

Can you please provide contact details for the current Occupational Therapy Service Lead or equivalent?

Cate Bennett | Principal Occupational Therapist | Adult Social Care and Public Health | Nottinghamshire County Council.

Please note any recruitment will be advertised on the external website and any requirement for agency staff will be forwarded to REED.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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