FOI 3503

Date 23/12/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. A copy of your pathway for assessment and provision of non- specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), this includes tablet based devices, text to speech devices and apps but not equipment provided by the specialist hubs (eg eyegaze)

Patients can self-refer or be referred by GP, Consultant or any community services for this purpose, and SLT will assess to advise what is indicated. Low tech always tried first. If there is a cost, then we would investigate an appropriate funding source, eg client, health charity, employer etc

1. The number of patients (adult and children) assessed for a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

This is an adult only service - The data is not kept specifically for this purpose

1. The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

This is an adult only service - The data is not kept specifically for this purpose

1. Your budget for 2023 and 2023 for the provision of non-specialist communication aids eg boogie boards, lightwrighters, tablets and apps that require direct access NOT eyegaze

There is no specific budget for this provision

1. If provision of non-specialist communication aids is on a loan basis, then how long is this for eg 3 months, or as long as required

Occasional loan for 1-3 months, with a view to extending if not required for another client. We looking into updating this policy in the New Year

1. If you do not have a budget for providing non-specialist communication aid devices (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids) how should a local, community or acute based speech and language therapist working for your organisation make available assessment and provision of these devices for adults (18 or over) living with speech difficulties?

Service has iPads and iPhones for assessing benefit of apps. No loan provision for these

1. The number of patients supported with a non-specialist communication aid via an individual funding requests

One amplifier funded by the service to be used as a loan device, and not followed up by client after trial.

MNDA have supplied several ipads for patients with MND

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

 Yours sincerely,

 *FOI Officer*

 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust