

03 August 2018

Dear

**Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Ref no: CAS-03591-K4L4S5-CC – NHS Cannock Chase CCG**  
**CAS-03601-X5X2S6-ES – NHS East Staffordshire CCG**  
**CAS-03630-S8R8L6-SAS – NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG**  
**CAS-03631-W3H3J9-SE – NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 July 2018 making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information which may be held by NHS Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG.

**You requested the following information and our response is detailed below:**

In February 2017, Lord Boateng asked the government “what assessment they have made of the measures adopted in Scotland which provide guidance and support for children and young adults affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders.” Lord O’Shaughnessy replied that “Early intervention services can help reduce some of the effects of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and prevent some of the secondary disabilities that result. Responsibility for commissioning these services lies with clinical commissioning groups. [Hansard, Written Question HL5052, 10 February 2017: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-27/HL5052/>]

This government policy was reiterated in July 2017 when Lord Campbell-Savours asked the government “what support they are providing for persons whose condition has been described as foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.” [Hansard, Written Question HL500 and Written Answer, 18 July 2017: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-05/HL500/>]. In response, Lord O’Shaughnessy for the government wrote that “It is recognised that Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) can have a significant impact on the early development of children, their behaviours and their life chances. Early intervention services can help reduce some of the effects of FASD and prevent some of the secondary disabilities that result. Responsibility for commissioning these services lies with clinical commissioning groups.” This was again repeated on 8 May 2018 by Steve Brine, Parliamentary Under-secretary at the Department of Health and Social Care. [Hansard, Written Question 139045, 8 May 2018: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-27/139045/>]

The following conditions fall under the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) umbrella: Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND), Alcohol-Related Birth Defects (ARBD), Foetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) and partial Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS)) or neurodevelopmental disorders linked to prenatal alcohol exposure (NDPAE).

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**Cannock Chase CCG Chair:** Dr Mo Huda **East Staffordshire CCG Chair:** Dr Charles Pidsley **North Staffordshire CCG Chair:** Dr Alison Bradley **Stoke on Trent CCG Chair:** Dr Ruth Chambers **Stafford and Surrounds CCG Chair:** Dr Paddy Hannigan **South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG Chair:** Dr Shammy Noor **Accountable Officer:** Marcus Warnes

In the light of these government statements that CCGs are responsible for commissioning services I would like to ask:

1. Please provide copies of any policies your CCG has on the commissioning of services for those with an FASD.

**NHS Cannock Chase CCG, NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG do not commission services for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).**

2. What services has your CCG commissioned to meet the 'reasonable requirements', as is your duty under Section 3 NHS Act 2006, of those in your area who have or may have Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders as a result of antenatal exposure to alcohol, and what is your CCG doing to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of persons with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of FASD (as is in your power under Section 3A NHS Act 2006)? Please release any information you hold concerning provision for:
  - a) prevention education following the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines that the safest course is not to drink while pregnant or attempting to become pregnant;
  - b) diagnosis for both children and adults;
  - c) post-diagnostic care in the years 2013-2018 from professionals including, but not limited to, paediatricians, GPs, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, mental health services and other disability support services to provide specialised intervention services for patients on the FASD spectrum across their lifespan?

**Not applicable.**

3. Please release any information concerning how is your CCG exercising its duty (as specified under Section 14R NHS Act 2006) to securing "continuous improvement in the quality of services provided" to individuals with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders "for or in connection with the prevention, diagnosis or treatment" of FASD?

**Not applicable.**

4. What is the budget for commissioned services for FASD in the current financial year? What was the budget in financial years beginning in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?

**Not applicable.**

5. Please release any agreed plans for service expansion for future years.

**Not applicable – the CCGs do not commission any FASD-specific services.**

6. Has your CCG conducted, commissioned or assisted the conduct of research into any matters relating to the causation, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, as is in your powers according to Section 5 NHS Act 2006 Schedule 1 (paragraph 13).

**No.**

7. Does your CCG commission services from the National FASD Clinic? If so, what is the budget for this in the current financial year?

**No.**

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8. Please release any information concerning ways in which your CCG is fulfilling its duty (specified under Section 14Z, NHS Act 2006) to promote education and training related to FASD?

**Not applicable.**

9. Do you have a lead person in your CCG on FASD? Please provide the name and role of the person responsible.

**Not applicable.**

10. Please release any information concerning the steps are you taking or have you taken (according to your duty under section 14Z2 of the NHS Act, 2006), to involve individuals with FASD or their caregivers in “planning commissioning arrangements; in the development and consideration of proposals for change; in decisions affecting the operation of commissioning arrangements where implementation would have an impact on the manner in which services are delivered or the range of services available.”?

**Not applicable.**

11. How many inquiries/requests/letters have you received from medical practitioners or patients/families in your area related to FASD in the years 2013-2018?

**None have been received.**

### **Right of appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response, or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact the FOI team to discuss.

However, if you remain dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, this can be formally requested in writing and must be within a reasonable period of time (two calendar months) from the date this response was issued

Initially you should write to the freedom of information officer, either by email on [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information team will make sure your request is investigated by an independent reviewer who was not involved in the original consideration of your request and a written response will be provided within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Cannock Chase CCG, NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF / [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

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<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1151/datasets-foi-guidance.pdf>

Yours sincerely



**Sally Young**  
**Director of Corporate Services, Governance and Communications**

NHS Cannock Chase CCG  
NHS East Staffordshire CCG  
NHS North Staffordshire CCG  
NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG  
NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG  
NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG

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