

NHS
Bexley
Clinical Commissioning Group

Second Floor West
Civic Offices
2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath
DA6 7AT
Email: BEXCCG.foi@nhs.net
Website: www.bexleyccg.nhs.uk
Telephone: 020 8298 6000

Sandra Butcher
Email: request-498007-06cce87f@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: CCG/CCGFOI/01524
9th August 2018

Dear Sandra Butcher

Freedom of Information Request CCGFOI/01524

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 17/07/2018, received on 17/07/2018 regarding Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD).

Answers to your request are provided in blue type in the attached document.

I hope this answers your questions but if you need any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have concerns on how your request for information has been handled please write to:

Director of Governance, Quality & Performance
NHS Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group
Civic Offices
2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath DA6 7AT
Email: bexccg.foi@nhs.net

If you remain dissatisfied, you have the right under Section 50 of the FOI Act to apply to the Information Commissioner to seek resolution of the matter. Further details can be found on their website: <http://www.icogov.uk/>

This information is provided in accordance with our statutory obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that under the Privacy and Electronic

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Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information
Publication Scheme Co-ordinator**

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NHS Bexley CCG FOI Ref No CCGFOI/01524

Request	Response
	<p>I am writing as a volunteer researcher for the National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Syndrome-UK (www.nofas-uk.org) to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I am working in cooperation with an ad hoc group of leaders from the organisation and other experts to frame and shape this research project and to analyse the information we receive.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>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/]</p> <p>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</p>

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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)

Request for Information

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.

The CCG has a duty to ensure services are provided for all children and young people with a range of physical, mental, behavioural and/or learning disabilities.

The CCG does not have a specific policy for children/young people with 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

This has not emerged as an issue locally in Bexley. Specialist Children's Services encompasses the services mentioned; paediatricians, GPs, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, mental health services

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<p>is in your power under Section 3A NHS Act 2006)? Please release any information you hold concerning provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	
<p>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?</p>	<p>The CCG has a duty to ensure the improvement in quality of services for all children and young people and is discharged through quality monitoring key performance metrics and in Clinical Quality meetings with the provider.</p>
<p>4) What is the budget for commissioned services for FASD in the current financial year? What was</p>	<p>Please contact the provider for this information.</p>

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the budget in financial years beginning in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?	
5) Please release any agreed plans for service expansion for future years.	This has not yet emerged as a local issue for Bexley. The CCG commissions services based on population needs with targeted support where needed.
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).	This has not emerged as a local issue for Bexley. The CCG commissions services based on population needs with targeted support where needed.
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
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?	The CCG commissions services based on population needs with targeted support where needed. Please contact Public Health for health promotion and advice in relation to substance misuse including alcohol.
9) Do you have a lead person in your CCG on FASD? Please provide the name and role of the person responsible. where implementation would have an	No

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impact on the manner in which services are delivered or the range of services available."?	
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	<p>This has not emerged as a local issue for Bexley. The CCG commissions services based on population needs with targeted support where needed. Please contact Public Health for further information.</p> <p>The CCG engages with service users and their families through a variety of mechanisms as part of the SEND Code of Practice. This includes working with Bexley Voice.</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>if you are considering rejecting this request on the grounds of the costs of responding exceeding the statutory limits then please respond to as many of the numbered items as possible within the limit, in the order they have been presented.</p>	None