

Our Ref: ID 2000

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request - Low and mid communication aids funding

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 11th October 2021.

You Asked for:

I would like to make a request under the FOI for the following information:

1. Do you have a recurring budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices for people with speech difficulties (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids), and if yes how much was this budget for this and the last two financial years?
2. If yes, how many people speech difficulties were provided with a low or mid tech communication aid (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids) that was funded by your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in this and the last two financial years, and what devices were provided?
3. If yes, how many people with a diagnosis of motor neurone disease were provided with a low or mid tech communication aid (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids) that was funded by your CCG in this and the last two financial years, and what devices were provided?
4. If you do not have a budget for providing low and mid tech 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 a CCG commissioned organisation/trust make available assessment and provision of these devices for people living with speech difficulties?

Our Response:

1. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) does not have a separate commissioning budget for these types of aids/devices. This type of device/aid would be supplied via the provider that the patient is being treated by and NHS Wirral CCG would pay a block value for a Speech and Language service. We do not receive a breakdown of what activity is completed under block contracts.
2. Please see the answer to question number 1.
3. Please see the answer to question number 1.
4. Services for Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Motor Neurone Disease are commissioned as part of a wide range of services provided by Wirral University Teaching

Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH). As detailed above, a block value is in place for the whole service. From this, the provider is commissioned to provide services and aids in line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance rather than a service specification. Please see the links below for further information.

- [Overview | Motor neurone disease: assessment and management | Guidance | NICE](#)
- [Quality statement 3: Provision of equipment and adaptations based on multidisciplinary team assessment | Motor neurone disease | Quality standards | NICE](#)

Please can I also suggest that you contact WUTH directly for further information? I have included their contact details below, should you wish to do so.

WUTH - wih-tr.AccessstoInformationOffice@nhs.net

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

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