

58831

Commissioning, governance and oversight of the diagnostic pathway for autism delivered by Autism Initiatives/Number 6 One Stop Shop

Commissioning arrangements and contracts

For the period 2018–2025, please provide:

Copies of all contracts, service-level agreements, grant agreements, variations and extensions between EHSCP/EIJB (or its predecessors) and Autism Initiatives / Number 6 OSS relating to the provision of autism diagnostic assessments (distinct from post-diagnostic support only).

For each agreement, the start date, end date, and any interim extension periods, including the exact date on which Number 6 OSS / Autism Initiatives ceased to be commissioned to deliver autism diagnostic assessments under NHS or EIJB authority.

Any business cases, option appraisals or commissioning papers presented to the EIJB, EHSCP governance groups or relevant committees when deciding to commission, extend or discontinue autism diagnostic services from Autism Initiatives / Number 6.

[Please refer to the Council's previous response to you under EDIR:57935.](#)

Clinical standards, service specification and pathways

The full service specification(s) or equivalent documents setting out the clinical, operational and governance requirements for the autism diagnostic service commissioned from Number 6 / Autism Initiatives, including references to:

- SIGN 145 and/or NICE CG142
- requirements for multidisciplinary assessment and diagnostic sign-off
- expectations regarding clinician involvement and professional registration.

Any pathway diagrams, process maps, or referral protocols describing how patients were referred from NHS services (e.g. iThrive, CAMHS, Adult Mental Health) to Number 6 for autism assessment.

Any clinical governance or quality-assurance documents produced by, or for,

EHSCP/EIJB to assure itself that the diagnostic service delivered by Number 6 complied with SIGN 145 / NICE guidance for adult and particularly female patients.

[Please refer to the Council's previous response to you under EDIR:57935.](#)

Volumes of assessments and diagnostic outcomes

For each financial year 2019/20 to 2024/25, the number of:

- referrals made from NHS or EHSCP services to Number 6 OSS for autism diagnostic assessment;
- autism diagnostic assessments completed by Number 6 under EHSCP/EIJB-related referral pathways;
- positive autism diagnoses issued by Number 6 for those referrals.

Any summary reports, dashboards, or performance returns submitted by Number 6 or Autism Initiatives to EHSCP/EIJB regarding assessment activity, waiting times, or diagnostic outcomes.

[Please refer to attached appendix.](#)

[Note that commercial information and personal data has been withheld.](#)

[The document that covers 2021-22 financial year because it is not held by the Council.](#)

Staff qualifications, clinical oversight and MDT arrangements

Any documents held by EHSCP/EIJB that describe or record the expected professional qualifications, registrations and roles of individuals delivering autism diagnostic assessments at Number 6, including (but not limited to) Andrew Horseman, Scott Wright and Catherine Steedman.

Any records or correspondence confirming which registered healthcare professionals (if any) were formally responsible for diagnostic sign-off or clinical oversight of Number 6 assessments during the period of commissioning.

Any documents describing the multidisciplinary team (MDT) structure (actual or

proposed) for the autism diagnostic pathway involving Number 6, including any references to consultant psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, or other regulated professionals.

[Information requested because it is not held by the Council](#)

Governance, risk, complaints and review

Any risk assessments, governance papers or internal reports produced by or for EHSCP/EIJB concerning:

- the clinical safety or validity of autism diagnoses issued by Number 6;
- concerns raised about the brevity or quality of diagnostic documentation;
- the use of non-clinical staff to deliver diagnostic assessments.

Any internal reviews, audits, or “lessons learned” reports carried out in relation to autism diagnostic services delivered by Autism Initiatives / Number 6, including any review undertaken when commissioning ended.

Copies of any correspondence, minutes or briefing papers held by EHSCP/EIJB that discuss or reference:

- concerns raised by clinicians (e.g. GPs, psychiatrists) about Number 6 diagnostic reports;
- communications with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, or other regulators about the status or quality of the Number 6 diagnostic service.

Any documents held by EHSCP/EIJB that record how it responded to concerns raised by patients (including myself) about the validity of Number 6 assessments and the commissioning arrangements.

[Please refer to the Council’s previous response to you under EDIR:57935.](#)

Data-protection and information-governance arrangements

Copies of any Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs), data-sharing agreements or information-governance assessments relating to the sharing of personal and special-

category health data between:

- NHS Lothian / EHSCP and Number 6 / Autism Initiatives; and
- Number 6 / Autism Initiatives and any other third-party systems used in connection with the diagnostic service.

Any records or correspondence relating to data-protection incidents or breaches arising from referrals to, or information sharing with, Number 6 in relation to autism assessments.

[Information requested because it is not held by the Council.](#)