

Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/227

Subject: Agency Community Packages of Care

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Clarification received 18/09/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSL stands for preferred supplier list. • By complex care, I was meaning severe health needs or disabilities requiring long term care. I am happy for this to be / include continuing care as well as Fast Track. RE mental health and learning disabilities packages of care, I am referring to those who have either mental health needs or learning disabilities that are supported within the community either in provided accommodation or their own home. 	
<p>1. Please can you provide your total of agency spend for community packages of care between April 2022 to April 2023? This includes complex care, mental health needs or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>£22,556,935</p>
<p>2. Please can you confirm how many Children were placed via agency community packages of care between April 2022 to April 2023? This includes complex care, mental health needs or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>BNSSG local authorities have a statutory responsibility to meet the care needs for children and young people living in the community.</p> <p>BNSSG ICB would in some cases contribute and provide specialist health services for those children and young people who are eligible for Children’s Continuing Healthcare. In such instances the care is provided by a service called Lifetime, commissioned by the ICB as</p>

	<p>part of the Sirona Care & Health community services contract. The ICB does not hold patient activity data for this cohort.</p> <p>In addition to the Lifetime service, the ICB commissioned agency care packages for <10* children and young people between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.</p> <p>*Please note that '<10' has been used as the number of patients is less than 10; they have not been included as this could potentially make the patients identifiable.</p>
<p>3. Please can you confirm how many Adults were placed via agency community packages of care between April 2022 to April 2023? This includes complex care, mental health needs or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>800 Adults (aged 19+) were placed via Agency community packages of care between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023</p>
<p>4. Please can you confirm how many unregulated providers for Children were used for agency community packages of care between April 2022 to April 2023? This includes complex care, mental health needs or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>No unregulated providers were used.</p>
<p>5. Please can you confirm what agency providers were used for packages of care (Children) between April 2022 – 2023? This includes complex care, mental health needs or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>The ICB commissioned agency care packages for less than 10 children and young people between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.</p> <p>The ICB must consider Data Protection Principles when responses could make patients identifiable.</p>

The ICB has considered whether disclosure of the information would contravene principle (a): personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject(s). In this case the data requested could make patients with health needs identifiable. Health related records are considered special category data.

The conditions for disclosing this type of data are: Explicit consent and whether the data is already in the public. In this case, the ICB does not have consent to disclose the information and this information is not in the public domain. Therefore, disclosure would contravene principle (a) and the ICB has not disclosed the information.

The ICB Freedom of Information policy outlines the requirement for the ICB to consider whether disclosure of low numbers, particularly relating to health data, could make individuals identifiable. In this case, the ICB has considered that by the very nature of being CHC eligible, these packages are highly complex and usually for individuals who are well known within the health and social care system. FOI responses are made publicly available and ICB must consider whether an individual could be identified through other data available, whether this is on a wider public or individual basis.

	The ICB also has an obligation to consider the reasonable expectations of the individuals involved. In this case, the ICB believes that the individuals would expect that any details relating to their care would be confidential and not disclosable to the public.
6. Who is responsible for adding agency care providers to the PSL? Please provide their work email addresses and phone numbers.	BNSSG ICB Funded Care Brokerage Team Tel: 0117 900 2626 E-mail: bnssg.brokerage@nhs.net
7. Are there are urgent or current staffing short falls of the ICB that HealthNow are able assist with?	There are no urgent care shortfalls at this time. BNSSG ICB would encourage any new provider to contact our Brokerage team to work through the accreditation process.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 24 October 2023 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.