

Investigating the Current Organisation of Tic Services in England through Freedom of Information Requests

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Background

- ♦ Children and young people (CYP) with Tic Disorders do not have access to suitable NHS support in England—including effective assessment, diagnosis and treatment
- ♦ Tic services in England are critically lacking:
 - ♦ Referral pathways are unclear
 - ♦ Availability of specialist tic services is insufficient
 - ♦ No established clinical guidelines

- ♦ Freedom of Information (FOI) requests: requests that are sent to public organisations in order to access information



Integrated Care Boards

- ♦ Integrated Care Boards (ICBs): Statutory NHS organisations that bring together the NHS and local health services
- ♦ ICBs are made up of one or more geographical regions, referred to as Places
- ♦ There are 42 ICBs in England, made up of 295 Places

Aims/Method

Aims:

- ♦ To understand how tic services are currently organised in England
- ♦ To map provision of tic services in different geographical regions



FOI requests inquired:

- ♦ Do Places commission a standalone referral pathway for CYP with tics?
- ♦ If not, what services are CYP referred to?
- ♦ FOI requests sent to all 42 ICBs

Support available for CYP with tics within each ICB



Findings

3% of Places commission a standalone referral pathway

- ♦ Mostly located in South of England and Northern England; none in Midlands or East of England
- ♦ In some Places, no NHS support available for tics
- ♦ 42.8% of Places had no plans to improve tic Services
- ♦ CYP with tics most commonly referred to Paediatric services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and neurodevelopmental services
- ♦ Referral acceptance into services sometimes dependent on comorbid conditions being present
- ♦ The INTEND Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) panel consisting of ten parents/carers of CYP with Tic Disorders said these findings reflect their struggles to access adequate support

Conclusion

- ♦ Unclear, standardised referral pathways: available services differed considerably between Places
- ♦ Imbalance between service development and clinical need: many Places did not plan to improve services for tics

For more information, please email

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