Reference: FOI/86/12
Subject: Children and Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Date of Request: 22/06/12

1. How many adults you have with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (any, although if there are separate statistics for Asperger’s, HFA, LFA, they would be appreciated) in your area;

The count of clients with ASD with current active cases is 71.

2. How many children;

The Child Health Services do not have this information as they do not differentiate by diagnoses for children in need. The Hywel Dda Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service currently have 22 clients with a diagnosis of Co – morbid Autistic Spectrum Disorder. These young people are primarily in this Service as they have an identified Mental Health Need as well as their diagnosis of ASD. These children are monitored at regular outpatient clinics across the Service.

3. What diagnostic services are available to a) adults and b) children;

a) Adults

Health Board specialist services for adults with learning disabilities provide diagnostic services as part of their day to day practice. Some practitioners within adult mental health services have enhanced skills. Specialist practitioners from learning disability services provide second opinion/consultation advice to secondary mental health services. The Health Board is an active member of the Wales Adult Diagnostic Network with additional clinics being set up from Summer 2012. Please refer to the attached document detailing: Pathway and standards for assessment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in adults. (FOI-86b)

b) Children

Children are diagnosed by multi agency/professional panels using a variety of tools and reports from services such as Speech and Language Therapy. Within the Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service there is a twice monthly ASD Assessment Clinic for clients of the Service.

Specialist CAMHS has drawn up a leaflet for clients and their families explaining the process of the ASD Assessment (FOI-86c).
4. What agencies or teams you have that work with autistic people, provide support/services, strategise, etc.

We work on a multi agency/professional basis

**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

National Autistic Society- Carmarthenshire branch offers services for young people and adults with ASD as well as carers for young people or adults with ASD. This service provides social outings, coffee mornings, fun days and meetings about ASD across Hendy, Carmarthen and Llanelli. The NAS can be contacted on Tel: 07824 609319 Email: carms@nas.org.uk

**CEREDIGION**

Tim Plant Anabl is based in Ceredigion and seeks to co-ordinate services for young people aged 0-18 who have a learning, physical or sensory disability, and their families. An assessment of needs can be carried out and a range of services can be accessed based on each individual’s needs including a key worker, respite and support groups.

Tim Plant Anabl can be contacted on 01545 57400 8 8.45-5pm Monday – Thursday and 8.45-4.30 on Friday. Information about services can also be found via the website www.ceredigion.gov.uk.

**PEMBROKESHIRE**

The Hawthorn Project is run by the charity Action for Children and offers a variety of services for young people and their families. This includes a duty service that operates between 10 am - 4pm daily and provides support via a key worker to help families access services and adjust to the challenges associated with ASD. It also offers support groups and coffee mornings monthly for parents of young people who have mental or physical health conditions.

The Hawthorn project can be found in Hawthorn Rise, Haverford West, SA61 2AX and information about the duty service and support groups can be found on www.Hawthornproject.co.uk or 01437 761330.

SIGA is the Special Interest Group in Autism and provides support for carers of young people with Autism. It is located in Bush school,
Pembroke Dock and can be contacted via phone on 07920 164412 or email on sigaenquiries@live.co.uk

Depending on each child's need services/support may come from education, social services or health services, most often a child will receive support for different aspects of their need from different services coordinated by a key worker/lead professional. Those recognised as having complex needs will receive joint funding to secure packages of care. A multi-agency pathway group has been established with an implementation plan (SBAR & care pathway as in FOI-86d). The implementation involves development to improve all Health Board services including awareness & further developments within specialist services.

5. An email address/website for each of these agencies or teams where possible.

Already listed in answer to question above.

Also, the General Manager of the Child and Adolescent Health Directorate is; Mr Kevin Tribble. His e-mail address is: Kevin.tribble@wales.nhs.uk

6. What the typical process should be for an adult in your area first asking their GP for an assessment for autistic spectrum disorder to receiving a diagnosis/support.

Diagnostic services for adults will be within the Health Board primary care scheme as per implementation of the Mental Health Measure. Please find attached a Strategy Implementation plan for ASD in Hywel Dda Health Board, which provides the background of ASD work in Hywel Dda, along with pathways and plans for the future. (FOI-86b)