

FOI - 2005

23rd November 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

What provisions or policies are in place in local hospitals and services regarding reasonable adjustments for individuals with autism?

For example, how are autistic individuals accommodated if they have to attend A&E or are admitted for further tests/treatments, to avoid distress stemming from sensory sensitivity, unfamiliar people on wards etc?

Response:

There is no specific policy or provision within local hospitals to specifically support people with accessing healthcare. Service users who are known to services such as mental health services, disability services or children and young people services, may have a key worker who supports planned admissions by seeking reasonable adjustments. These reasonable adjustments are person specific. Whilst there is no policy, where someone is identified to need additional care needs they will have an individual plan of care developed either in advance of the admission for some services and during admission for other services.

There is no specific policy in place in Craigavon Area Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital with regards to making reasonable adjustments for individuals with Autism.

There are good communication and links, as required, between the Autism Service and Acute Paediatrics for children/young people with Autism.

The Southern trust have created videos to help children/young people prepare for a hospital appointment.

Children's Services within the Southern Trust have created virtual tour videos, links below.

[The Blossom Children & Young People's Centre, Craigavon Area Hospital - YouTube](#)

[The Daisy Children's and Young People's Unit - YouTube](#)

[Children and Young People's Outpatients Department, Clanrye House - YouTube](#)

Other videos have been created, links below.

[Paediatric Emergency Department | Remember if you have a child who need urgent or emergency treatment, bring them to the Paediatric Emergency Department located at Craigavon Area... | By Southern Health and Social Care Trust | Facebook](#)

[Your Visit to Hospital - YouTube](#)

As part of the Trust Paediatric Service Quality and Safety Strategy the videos below were co-produced with parents and children and reflect 'what mattered to them' when attending a children's outpatient appointments.

[Blossom C&YP Centre video https://youtu.be/bSf4IDS5BJE](https://youtu.be/bSf4IDS5BJE)

[Clanrye House Children's Outpatient Dept. https://youtu.be/BTwWZi8f6FY](https://youtu.be/BTwWZi8f6FY)

All of the above initiatives have been developed to support and prepare children and young people including those with Autism who are attending hospital services. Autism Services, through the Promoting Wellbeing Team, deliver awareness sessions three times a year. These sessions are aimed at professionals working with a child or working with a parent of a child who has a confirmed diagnosis, waiting on an assessment or who have concerns that a child may be on the spectrum.

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