

Request title: Cerebral Palsy information and statistics

Date of Response: 22nd March 2016

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

1. The total number of children and young people diagnosed with cerebral palsy by Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust within each of the last five years.

Please see the table below for the number of Patients admitted with Cerebral Palsy Jan 2010 to Dec 2015

Year	Total
2015	42
2014	48
2013	39
2012	44
2011	46
2010	46

Please note: The figures provided are based on admitted patients with either a primary or secondary ICD10 diagnosis code of C80

As the figures are based on the number of admissions, then if a patient is admitted more than once a year, they will be counted more than once during the five year spell.

The total number of unique patients seen over the period is 146

2. The total working-time equivalent (WTE) number of specialist staff employed by Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust from the following disciplines, trained to work with children and young people with cerebral palsy:

- a. Paediatric speech and language therapists

No specialist staff. If the child or young person has a dysphagia (swallowing problem) assistance if necessary is provided by a specialist from Vranck House as the specialist teams are employed by Virgin Healthcare.

- b. Paediatric physiotherapists

No specialist staff. If a child or young person is admitted, there is a general Paediatric Physiotherapist who would see the patient on the ward if required.

- c. Paediatric occupational therapists

There are no Paediatric OTs at RD&E.

3. The total working-time equivalent (WTE) number of:

- a. Health visitors

- b. Specialist health visitors for children with special needs

employed by Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust.
Health visitors are employed by Virgin Care Limited.

4. A copy of your care pathway for children and young people with cerebral palsy.

The Trust does not have a formal care pathway or service framework for the diagnosis of cerebral palsy. When concerns are raised assessment is usually carried out jointly by a community paediatrician and physiotherapist at Honeylands, or by a neonatal paediatrician if the concerns are identified early. Assessment and management of cerebral palsy is part of neuro-disability training undertaken by all community paediatricians. The Trust has guidelines regarding health surveillance once a diagnosis has been made.

5. A copy of your service framework for children and young people with cerebral palsy.
Please see the answer given above.

6. Whether there is a specific timescale set out in your care pathway for referral for diagnosis of cerebral palsy, from the point of the formal identification of symptoms.

At present there is no NICE guidance on diagnosis of cerebral palsy. There is no formal timescale – however as diagnosis is multi-professional the Trust is dependent on the input of its colleagues in integrated children's services to contribute to these assessments.

7. An overview of training and advice provided by Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust for health professionals on identifying and referring children with cerebral palsy.

Paediatricians are trained as part of their general training – neonatal and community paediatricians have more extensive training and specific tools, such as Bayley's assessments. These assessments require specific training and are undertaken at the recommended time points by neonatal paediatricians.

Assessment and management of cerebral palsy is part of neuro-disability training undertaken by all community paediatricians.

Information is shared with parents using the Scope principles 'Right from the Start'