

LUTON COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICS SERVICE (Edwin Lobo Centre)
Service performance update
9th February 2022

Key updates within this report:

1. Service performance and trends
2. Factors impacting performance
3. Update since the last Ofsted/ CQC inspection (2018)
4. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) performance
5. Actions being taken

The Luton Community Paediatric Service provides assessment, advice, signposting, diagnosis and medical support for children. The service works to an initial appointment response time (RRT) of 18 weeks for accepted referrals.

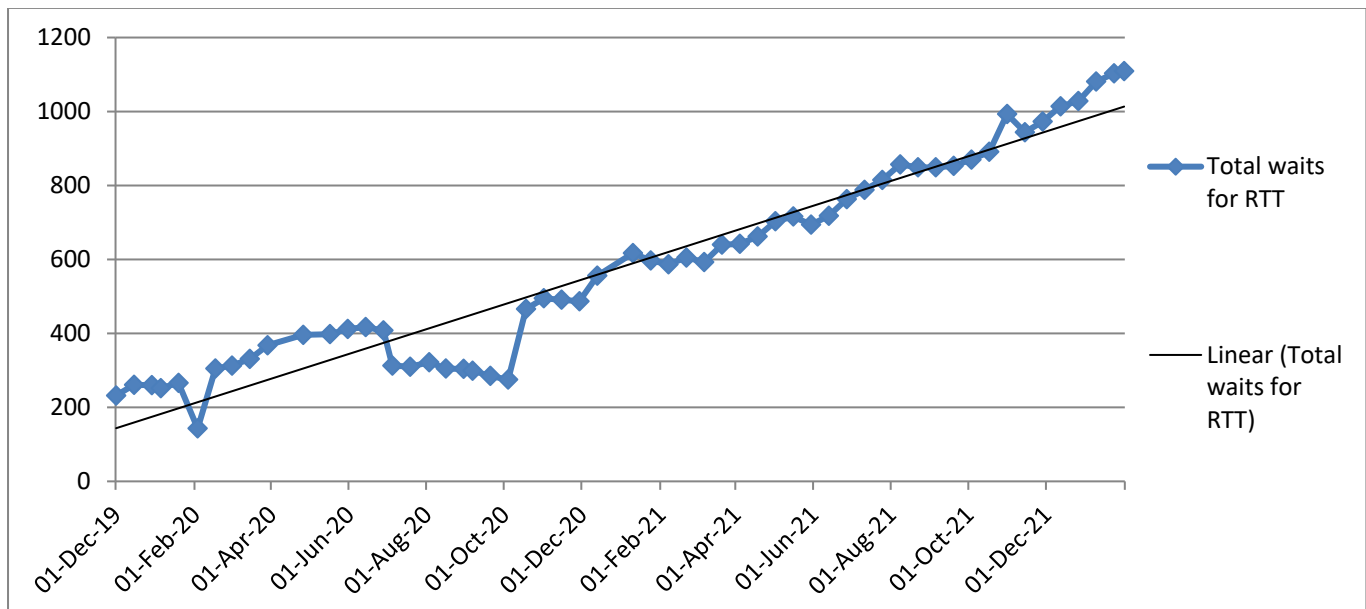
COVID-19 update:

- A COVID-19 restoration plan is in place, reviewed regularly with a Quality Impact Assessment.
- The service continues to increase the number of face to face appointments.
- Video / telephone consultations are offered when clinically appropriate.
- A clinical priority booking system is in place.
- A video and literature is available on the CCS website outlining current service offers.
- A COVID-19 safe Autism assessment (BOSA* assessment) will remain as a service offer until such time it is clinically safe to resume ADOS assessments.

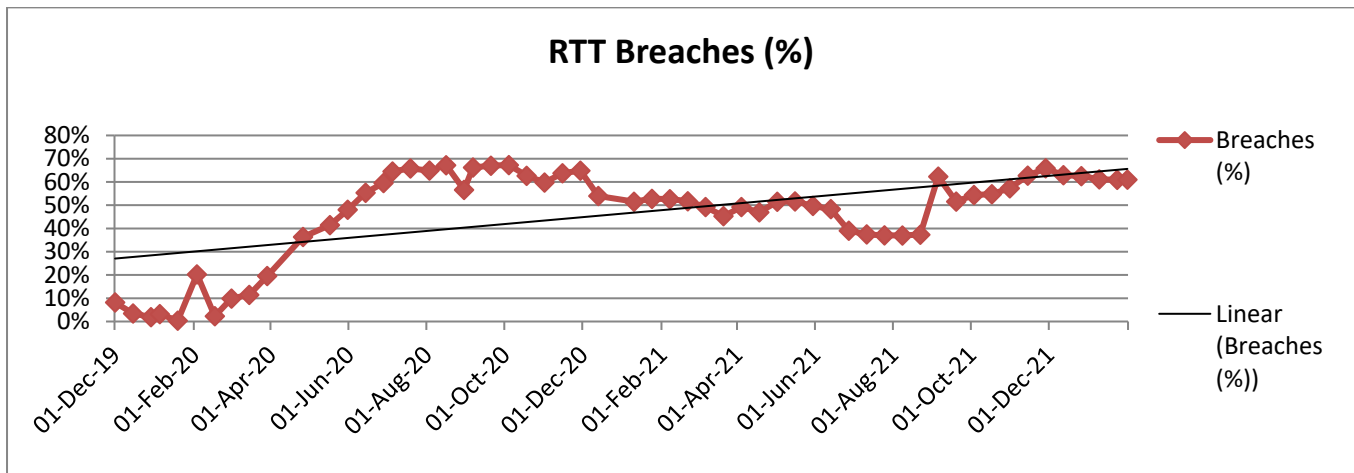
1. Service performance and trends

The average RTT wait is currently 36 weeks (as of Monday 31st January 2022).

Graph 1: RTT waits up until 31st January 2022 (number of Children)



Graph 2: 18 week RTT breaches (up until 31 January 2022)



The number of Children breaching 18 week waits has remained steady since November 2021, however the overall number of children waiting has increased.

Challenges impacting improvement:

- Between October 2021 and January 2022 the service received an 18% increase in accepted referrals (n=163), in comparison to the same period last year.
- Medical locum availability.
- Long term sickness within the Nursing team has limited non-Medical appointments.
- Increased EHCP and IHA requests.
- High volume of requests to expedite/ clinically prioritise appointments

2. Primary factors impacting current service performance

Capacity required for routine physical assessments:

RTT appointments facilitated over video/ telephone consultations require a face to face physical examination thereafter. These face to face appointments have been phased into capacity planning.

New appointments vs follow up consultations

A balance is required between the booking of new (RTT) and follow up appointments to prevent disproportionate waits in either area. High risk medication reviews are prioritised.

Medical recruitment challenges

The demand and capacity model indicates a further 3 Medics (2 Consultant Paediatricians and 1 Speciality Doctor) are required. Posts continue to be advertised with Locum cover in place.

Increasing demand with complex need:

Increased number of multi-disciplinary appointments required with increasing numbers of Children presenting with complex needs.

Increased demand for EHCP assessments & Children in Care (CIC) Initial Health assessments

An increasing volume of EHCP and Initial Health Assessments (during December 2021) is resulting in service capacity being diverted from RTT and follow up appointment slots.

Annual demand comparison as follows:

Month	EHCP assessments		Month	EHCP assessments
Oct-20	18		Oct-21	37
Nov-20	25		Nov-21	50
Dec-20	39		Dec-21	45

Children in Care – Initial health assessments

Month	CIC IHA assessments		Month	CIC IHA assessment
Oct-20	6		Oct-21	7
Nov-20	19		Nov-21	15
Dec-20	1		Dec-21	12

3. Service Improvements since the last Ofsted/ CQC inspection (2018)

Significant service improvements have been progressed to improve overdue medication reviews (highlighted in the 2018 CQC/ Ofsted inspection).

Additional investment has enabled a specialist nursing workforce, directly releasing capacity for Paediatricians to review children with more complex health conditions.

Table 2 Specialist Nurse Caseloads, including ADHD Medication Reviews

Month	Children on the Nursing caseload	Children overdue ADHD medication reviews	Length of time overdue ADHD medication review (weeks)
Dec-18	310	13	Not recorded
Jan-19	407	21	Not recorded
Apr-19	547	11	32
Jul-19	861	9	8
Oct-19	829	26	5
Jan-20	868	2	1
Mar-20	912	24	8
Jun-20	904	4	1
Sep-20	856	37	8
Jan-21	878	40	9
April-21	1020	130	7
May- 21	1034	161	11
June-21	1102	167	12
July-21	1148	172	15
August-21	1226	163	36
Sept-21	1276	141	21
Oct-21	1264	88	23
Nov-21	1259	93	28
Dec-21	1275	78	31
Jan-22	1308	52	37

The service has achieved a **322% increase** in the number of children seen by Nurses since Dec 2018.

The waiting time for medication reviews increased from May 21 due to the secondment of a specialist nurse into the Luton Designated Clinical Officer role. Successful recruitment of replacement has taken place.

Pan-Bedfordshire three new Specialist Nurses have started which will further improve the above performance. Four specialist nurses are completing their Independent Prescribing course.

4. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) performance

To inform the diagnostic outcome for children suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) an ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) or BOSA*) is routinely facilitated.

Current average waiting time for ASD assessment is 49 weeks.

Table 3: BOSA* waiting times

Month	Children waiting	Longest wait (weeks)
Dec-18	108	52
Jan-19	73	52
Apr-19	44	52
Jul-19	74	32
Oct-19	71	26
Jan-20	94	40
Mar-20	48	17
Jun-20	87	47
Sep-20	120	52
Jan-21	100	47
Apr-21	109	57
May-21	98	52+
June-21	119	33
July-21	156	36
August-21	163	24
Sept-21	119	33
Oct-21	282	29
Nov-21	315	34
Dec-21	348	34
Jan-22	343	45

With additional investment, over 300 BOSA assessments pan-Bedfordshire were completed in quarter 3 (21/22)

To further improve waits:

- A preferred provider has been appointed with the option to increase assessment resource as required.
- Staff members have completed their ADOS training to increase in house capacity and other members of the clinical team are encouraged to access training as courses become available.

5. Action updates:

Recruitment:

- Two Consultant Medical posts are being advertised via national bodies with increased social media presence.
- Three new Clinical Nurse Specialists have been appointed.
- Joint recruitment with ELFT is progressing for a Clinical Psychologist.

RTT waits:

- A SEN Facilitator contacts families and offers support for children under 5 years old on the waiting list. Parents/ carers continue to provide positive feedback.
- A Nurse is on call daily for parents/ carers to access support and advice for children on the waiting list.
- Referral acceptance letters include average wait times and community resources for families to access whilst waiting for appointments.
- Expedited appointment requests are centrally managed against set criteria.

ASD Clinical Pathway:

- A community health/ CAMHS Link worker is in post to provide post diagnostic support.
- Educational Psychologist evaluation in the ASD diagnostic pathway is expected in the next 6 weeks.
- 2 posts in place to support children and families whilst waiting for ASD diagnostic assessment.

Partnership work to support Children and families:

- ADHD patient resource pack has been updated with Children and families.
- Post diagnostic resource pack has been launched and shared with system partners.
- BOSA resources have been developed and now accessible via Trust webpages, including a video of what to expect for Children and families.

- A pilot for the self-monitoring of blood pressure and pulse as part of ADHD management continues- 30 families now recruited. Results available in approx. 18 months.
- Monthly forum established with parent carer groups to openly listen and share updates continues.
- Central Beds Local Authority Early Years SENS Team continue to attend and participate in triage of referrals. Luton Early Years SENS Team are already aware of the children being referred to Community Paediatric Service.

***Brief Observation of Symptoms of Autism Schedule Assessments (BOSA)**

<https://www.esht.nhs.uk/service/community-paediatrics/autism-assessments/#:~:text=The%20BOSA%20assessment%20includes%3A,are%20observed%20by%20the%20clinician>