

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2026 / 07
Date of Issue:	28 th April 2026

<p>Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter: Welsh Government Remit Letter to the NHS Wales Executive 2025-26</p> <p>Sponsor: Dr Sally Rees - Head of Evaluation and the Neurodivergence Policy Team, Welsh Government</p> <p>Standard Type: Secondary Use</p> <p>Implementation Date: 31st March 2026</p>	<p>Subject: Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times - Retirement</p>
<p>DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE</p> <p>A Data Standards Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.</p> <p>This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) at its meeting on 19th March 2026.</p> <p>WISB Reference: ISRN 2024 / 023</p>	
<p>Summary: To retire the formal collection of information pertaining to Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times.</p>	
<p>Data sets / returns affected: Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times</p>	
<p>Please address enquiries about this Data Standards Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in Digital Health and Care Wales</p> <p>E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk</p>	
<p>The Welsh Information Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WISB Outcomes relating to the approval of this standard can be found at:</p> <p>https://nhswales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx</p>	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times proforma has presented ongoing challenges relating to data quality, consistency, and adherence to agreed definitions across Health Boards. As a result, the data collected to date is not suitable for publication.

In response, a new reporting template Neurodevelopmental Assessment Services (ASD & ADHD) for Under 18s has been developed. The updated template provides a more comprehensive and standardised approach to activity and performance reporting. The changes aim to:

- Standardise performance reporting through clearer definitions and strengthened guidance.
- Capture full pathway demand and waiting times, extending beyond initial referral and assessment stages.
- Identify trends over time and enhance data quality to better support national planning and assurance.
- Enable robust oversight and performance monitoring, supporting efforts to reduce waiting times and improve service delivery.

The Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times proforma will be formally retired upon implementation of the Neurodevelopmental Assessment Services (ASD & ADHD) for Under 18s Data Provision Notice: DPN 2026 / 02.

Description of Change

To retire the Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times proforma from 31st March 2026 (last submission for census data on 30th April 2026).

Data Dictionary Version

The current release: version 4.25 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary will be the final version published on the existing platform.

The NHS Wales Data Dictionary will be moved to a new and improved platform.

In the interim, please visit [DHCW Data Standards](#) to access notice publications or contact data.standards@wales.nhs.uk

Actions Required

Health Boards / Trust:

- To cease the formal submission of the Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times proforma to Welsh Government.

Welsh Government Delivery & Performance Division:

- To cease the formal reporting of the Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times proforma.

Appendix A: Table reflecting areas that are impacted as a result of this DSCN

The following table shows where there are changes to the scope and/or definitions of applicable data sets, data items, terms and other associated areas that are linked with the changes documented within this DSCN.

Key:

- **New:** The creation of a new data item not already in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary
- **Retired:** The entire data item is no longer in use in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.
- **Changed:** An existing data item on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary has been modified this includes a change to the definition or its value set.
- **Existing:** The inclusion of a data item in a standard that is already on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary, but no changes have been made to its definition or value set.

Data Definition Type	Name	New/Retired/Changed/Existing	Page Number
Aggregate Proforma	Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times	Retired	4

Appendix B: Highlighted changes to be made to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue** and deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~. The text shaded in **grey** shows existing text copied from the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

a) Changes to Aggregate Proforma

Note: Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times will be moved to the 'Retired Data Sets and Aggregate Data Collections' section of the Data Dictionary, with the following changes.

Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times (Retired)

Change History	
DSCN 2021 / 16	Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times (AMD)
DSCN 2020 / 15	Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times
DSCN 2017 / 08	Children and Young People Neurodevelopment Assessment – Wait Times

[Return Submission Details](#)

[Information Requirements 2021-22 onwards](#)

[Archive](#)

Return Submission Details (Retired)

This form should be completed by each Local Health Board (LHB) and submitted to the Welsh Government Delivery & Performance Division:

HSS.Performance@gov.wales

Local Health Boards to submit one completed pro forma per month, by the dates provided in the Definitions and Guidance section of the form.

In relation to the wait times:

- Information should be provided in relation to those children and young people who are waiting for an Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) neurodevelopmental assessment only.
- Only children and young people aged 17 years 6 months and under at the time the referral was received by the Neurodevelopmental Service should be included in the

waiting times and not the age at which any subsequent intervention begins. For example, if a patient was 17 years and 5 months old when they were referred for an assessment, but was 18 years old when they started an intervention or was discharged, they would still be reported within this pro forma

In relation to the number of referrals received during the month:

- Information should be provided in relation to all referrals received during the calendar month.

Local Health Boards are to report on a provider basis (i.e. for the services they provide as a Health Board) and not on a resident basis (i.e. for the residents of their Health Board).

The latest version of each form is available on the Welsh Government's Performance Management Website:

Welsh Government - NHS Performance - Home (sharepoint.com)

Any further queries regarding the data collection forms should be directed to the Delivery & Performance Division, Welsh Government, on 03000 258871, or e-mail:

HSS.Performance@gov.wales

Information Requirements 2021-22 onwards (Retired)

The number of referrals that were received by the Neurodevelopment Service during the calendar month

Referrals should be categorised, of the referrals that were received by the Neurodevelopment Service during the month:

- The number of referrals accepted into the Neurodevelopment Service
- The number of referrals rejected by the Neurodevelopment Service
- The number of referrals which a decision has yet to be made as to whether they will be accepted or rejected

The total number of referrals received during the month should equal the sum of the numbers entered for 'accepted', 'rejected' and 'decision yet to be made'.

Number of patients who are waiting to start an ADHD or ASD neurodevelopment assessment

This is the number of patients who are currently waiting to start an ADHD or ASD neurodevelopment assessment as at each census snapshot (i.e. the last calendar day of each month).

Waits should be categorised into the following time bands:

- Patients waiting up to and including 84 days (<= 11 weeks)
- Patients waiting 85 days and over and up to and including 126 days (12-17 weeks)
- Patients waiting 127 days and over and up to and including 182 days (18 - 25 weeks)

- Patients waiting 183 days and over and up to and including 252 days (26 - 35 weeks)
- Patients waiting 253 days and over and up to and including 364 days (36 - 51 weeks)
- Patients waiting 365 days and over (>= 52 weeks)

When calculating wait times, the following guidance applies:

Clock start point is the date which the referral for an ADHD or ASD neurodevelopmental assessment is received by the Neurodevelopmental Service.

Clock stop point is the date of the first face to face or virtual attendance at the appointment of the assessment process (this may be with or without the patient being present e.g. with the parent or guardian only). A virtual attendance is a two-way conversation between the service provider and the patient, or parent or guardian only, to agree the next step in the patient's pathway. There is contact with the clinician in real time (e.g. via telephone, VC, Skype). The patient record is updated accordingly, and the patient pathway updated.

Could Not Attend (CNA) and Did Not Attend (DNA)

The process to be followed in relation to offering further dates for assessment to children or young people who could not attend or did not attend their assessment will be determined locally. For the purposes of these returns:

CNA – The clock start point is reset to the date at which the patient notified the service that they were unable to attend the appointment. There are no restrictions applied regarding the maximum number of times a date can be reset.

DNA – The clock start point is reset to the date the patient did not attend the appointment. There are no restrictions applied regarding the maximum number of times a date can be reset.

Adjustments

Where the patient is unavailable for medical or social reasons, an adjustment should be made to the wait time to take account of the period of unavailability.

Cancellations by the Neurodevelopment Service

If the Neurodevelopment Service cancels a patient's appointment, the waiting times clock continues, and a new appointment must be booked i.e. the clock is not reset.

Note: Where there is a requirement to obtain additional information in support of a referral, such as information from a social worker, the clock should not be stopped.