

**Reference Number:** FOI202223/655  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 27 March 2023  
**Subject:** CAMHS assessment/acceptance criteria

This is an FOIA request for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) assessment/acceptance criteria.

- Q1 The assessment criteria to work out what cases are taken on following a referral
- A1 The link shared cover the difficulties that young people experience for which they are referred to our service – it is what is shared regarding information for referral to the service, this is available in the public domain via: [Sefton CAMHS :: Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust](#)
- Q2 The document/ documents setting out the objective / subjective elements of the independent assessments. ie what is the objective criteria - is there a measuring stick? what factors does a practitioner have to take into account when making a subjective decision?
- A2 The first assessment, called a Choice Appointment, concludes with a professional view about risk and functioning and where difficulties are arising from. This guides whether our service is indicated. There are no objective measures of mental health so it is an assessment from self-report and any other information that is elicited during the assessment. Should a young person present with high risk and/or low functioning and the difficulties are assessed to relate to mental health, a service will be offered or an intervention recommended.
- Q3 The guidance re children with additional needs - such as those diagnosed as autistic;
- A3 This assessment is conducted by clinically trained professionals. The outcome is reviewed at a multi-disciplinary consultant led meeting. This ensures that robust review of assessments and the outcome takes place. The presence of co-occurring neurodiversity, physical or intellectual disability, physical health is factored into a holistic, individualised assessment.