

FOI 0409/2025 Response

If you have more than one community or mental health team/setting/service in your Trust, we would like you to return data for each team/setting/service that cares for babies, children, and young people (aged 0-17). Please return team/setting/service that provides without support to people outside of the age range: 0-17 year olds, 18 year olds, adults. If they also provide support to 0-17 year olds, please insert more into each table if not enough rows are provided.

\*\*\*Clarification: request is in relation to play work, play provision/play well, as published in NHS England (in partnership with Starlight) published a Play Well Toolkit which can be found here NHS England + Play well – resources for health play services for England in the Toolkit there are recommended standards and guidance for play in healthcare, including a checklist to aid with implementation which can be found here https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Play-Well-Toolkit-Checklist-for-health-play-services.docx

Section 1: Information about completing this FOI request

Who has committed to filling in this FOI response? Please provide job titles, not names.	Was Health Play Specialist and/or health play qualified workers involved in completing the response? [Y/N]
Clinical Service Manager	N

Section 2: Information about numbers of teams/settings/services, and types of play provision

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the numbers of 0-17 year olds seen and the types of play provision. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Number of 0-17 year olds seen by this team/setting/service	If applicable, number of beds for 0-17 year olds in this team/setting/service	Are 0-17 year olds supported by a health play professional in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to an indoor playroom in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to a designated outdoor play area in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	Do 0-17 year olds have access to play resources such as toys, games, activities etc in this team/setting/service? [Y/N]	If support is provided to 17 year olds at home, do they have access to play services provided by your team/setting/service? [Y/N]
Example team/setting/service 1							
Example team/setting/service 2							
Example team/setting/service 3							

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Please see Appendix A below for list of job titles

Section 3: Information about the current health play professionals

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the current health play professionals. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Which Directorate(s) do health play professionals sit in?	How many health play professionals work in this team/setting/service?	How many of these are qualified Health Play Specialists (including Senior Health Play Specialists)?	How many other health professionals (aside from health play professionals) have responsibility for delivering play?	Do you employ any other health professionals who have a health play specialist qualification, but their job title does not include the word 'play'? [Y/N]. If yes, please list us their job titles.
Example team/setting/service 1					
Example team/setting/service 2					
Example team/setting/service 3					

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Also, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know what health play job titles there are and some subsequent information about their roles. To provide this information, please use the following table:

All health professionals who are registered with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SHSPPS) as essential criteria for the role? [Y/N]. If yes, please list us their job titles and their date of registration (not exhaustive but can help to make distinctions between each job title). Please see Appendix A below for a list of Play Well job titles and their definitions (not exhaustive but can help to make distinctions between each job title).

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	What is their job title?	Are they registered with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SHSPPS)?	What is their salary band?	What is their WTE? (e.g., 1, 0.5, 0.4 etc)	What is their average number of hours per week?	Are there occasions where they work beyond their shift hours? [Y/N]. If yes, what is their average number of hours worked beyond their shift hours?	Do they have a qualification in health play specialist? [Y/N]. Has it currently completed the course?	What play-related qualifications do they have? Please list
Example team/setting/service 1								
Example team/setting/service 2								
Example team/setting/service 3								

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Section 4: Information about recruiting health play professionals

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about recruiting health play professionals. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	When recruiting a Health Play Specialist, do you request a qualification in health play specialist as an essential criteria for the role? [Y/N]	When recruiting a Health Play Specialist, do you request being registered with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SHSPPS) as an essential criteria for the role? [Y/N]	Do you recruit people into a Health Play Specialist role that do not have a qualification in health play specialist? [Y/N]. If yes, is it mandatory for them to do this qualification when in post? [Y/N]	Is it mandatory for Health Play Specialists to be registered with SHSPPS in your Trust? [Y/N]
Example team/setting/service 1				
Example team/setting/service 2				
Example team/setting/service 3				

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Section 5: Information about play coverage

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know about the play coverage in terms of hours/days of day. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	What hours are health play professionals available on weekdays? (e.g., 8.30-24.00 etc)	What hours are health play professionals available on weekends? (e.g., 8.30-24.00 etc) (write N/A if not available on weekends)	What are the opening hours of the indoor playroom in this team/setting/service? (e.g., 8.30-24.00 etc) (write N/A if no indoor playroom)	What are the opening hours of the designated outdoor play area in this team/setting/service? (e.g., 8.30-24.00 etc) (write N/A if no outdoor play area)	What are the opening hours of the designated outdoor play area on weekends? (e.g., 8.30-24.00 etc) (write N/A if no outdoor play area)
Example team/setting/service 1					
Example team/setting/service 2					
Example team/setting/service 3					

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Also, for each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know the following information:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make this team/setting/service more welcoming or playful for children and young people before attending an appointment/being admitted? [Y/N]. If yes, please list us what these measures/provisions are.	Do you have any other measures/provisions that make this team/setting/service more welcoming or playful for children and young people during their appointment/admission? [Y/N]. If yes, please list us what these measures/provisions are.
Example team/setting/service 1		
Example team/setting/service 2		
Example team/setting/service 3		

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Section 6: Information about play budgets

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the annual budget for play. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Is there an annual budget specifically for play resources and materials (aside from health play staff)? [Y/N]. If not, resources are purchased through a central budget?	Is there an annual budget specifically for health play staff and training? [Y/N]
Example team/setting/service 1		
Example team/setting/service 2		
Example team/setting/service 3		

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

If you answered 'Yes' or 'No' but resources can be purchased through a central budget, I would like to know what the annual budget was for play in healthcare in FY24-25 (between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025) and what it was spent on. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	What was the approximate overall annual budget available for play in FY24-25 (in £)?	How much of the budget was spent on Health Play Professional staff? (in £)	How much of the budget was spent on resources and materials in play? (in £)	How much of the budget was spent on commissioning/procuring for external organisations/contractors providing play on an on-site basis? (in £) (please list these organisations below)	How much of the budget was spent on health play staff training and development budget? (in £)
Example team/setting/service 1					
Example team/setting/service 2					
Example team/setting/service 3					

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know who funds the budget for play staff? resources (e.g., CCG, Trust, Charity, a Fundraising Group, other donations, etc). To provide this information, please use the following table. If more than one funder, please specify in the table below who they are and what they are funding.

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Under/source of donations	Value of fundation (in £)	What are they funding? (e.g., health play professional, toys and resources, external entertainers)
Example team/setting/service 1			
Example team/setting/service 2			
Example team/setting/service 3			

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Section 7: Information about the Play Well Toolkit

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about the Play Well Toolkit. To provide this information, please use the following table:

Is your Trust aware of the Play Well Toolkit? [Y/N]

If 'Yes', please complete this table:

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Has this team/setting/service adopted or committed to adopt the Play Well recommended standards? [Y/N]. If yes, have they completed the Play Well quality checklist? [Y/N]. If no, please say why (i.e., a team/setting/service is not intending to adopt the recommended standards).	Do you have any other guidance/policies on how play should be delivered in your Trust? [Y/N]. If yes, please share it with us if you can.	Starlight has partnered with NHS England to develop and publish the Play Well Toolkit. Starlight also provides support and training on the implementation of the toolkit. If your Trust would benefit from support and training on the implementation of the Play Well Toolkit, would you like to hear more, please provide the relevant contact details to share this information.
Example team/setting/service 1			
Example team/setting/service 2			

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Section 8: Information about measurement tools for 0-17 year olds

For each team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds, I would like to know information about measurement tools. To provide this information, please use the following table (you may need to list each team/setting/service in multiple rows to cover all wards/departments).

Name of team/setting/service that cares for 0-17 year olds	Does this team/setting/service measure procedural anxiety for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N]. If yes, please share the measurement tools with us if you can.	Does this team/setting/service measure pain for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N]. If yes, please share the measurement tools with us if you can.	Does this team/setting/service measure how they are feeling for 0-17 year olds? [Y/N]. If yes, please share the measurement tools with us if you can.	Does this team/setting/service evaluate the impact of play? [Y/N]. If yes, do they evaluate the effectiveness and cost/benefit of play? [Y/N]. If yes, please share any reports or evidence with us if you can.
Example team/setting/service 1				
Example team/setting/service 2				

N/A - We do not currently use Play Well within the Trust however, we do help engage and encourage the Child and Young Person (CYP) to carry out recreational and therapeutic activities.

Appendix A

Play Well job titles and their definitions (not an exhaustive list)

- Health Play Specialists... are clinical support professionals with the skills to support children's emotional and mental health during treatment and procedures, and throughout their healthcare journey. They will often also manage the play team. Health Play Specialists should have completed, or be completing, a Diploma in Health Play Specialist.
- Playworkers... provide opportunities for children to play, support them to play, engage with them through play and thereby build trusting relationships and communication with young patients.
- Therapists... assess children's mental health needs, provide play-based interventions and are referred to resources and services that align with their interests and needs. A youth worker is essential in supporting a young person into adult care. If required, and knowing services that the young person can use to support them during this transition.
- Play Therapists... have a qualification in play therapy and help children to make sense of difficult experiences, or complex psychological issues through play and will work to improve children's mental health, emotional well-being, learning capabilities and social relationships.