Thank you for your request concerning specialist interventions for people who have both financial difficulties and mental health problems.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. **Whether you consider financial difficulties in your local health needs assessment?**

   Yes, the initial assessment will establish if the service user has financial difficulties and welfare entitlement.

2. **Whether your mental health service users (for both primary and secondary care) are routinely asked about their financial circumstances or difficulties?**

   Yes they are.

3. **Whether you commission or run, either solely or in partnership with another agency (such as local social care), any specialist services like those listed above for people who have both financial difficulties and mental health problems?**

   As a partnership organisation we can access the Hertfordshire County Council Money Advice Unit. We have dedicated Employment and Vocational Workers who support our services users to access employment opportunities. We also have dedicated Housing workers who support service users with housing needs. We also have Support Time and Recovery Workers who include facilitation of access to financial and benefits advice within their work.

4. **Whether you have a formal and/or informal working arrangement with any external organisations (e.g. Citizens’ Advice Bureaux) providing financial, welfare or debt advice?**

   We regularly refer to service users to the Citizens Advice Bureaux or Step Change.
5. How many people using your primary and secondary mental health services are referred to or provided with a specialist service that addresses financial needs?

We do not collect this data¹.

All clients who either ask or are assessed as requiring a full welfare benefits check would be referred; alternatively they are provided with a list of legal advisors from which they can choose from.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust’s complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

Sue Smith
FOI/DPA Officer

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click here.

¹ Section 1(1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.