

6 August 2019

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Our Ref: FOI/03380

Thank you for your request concerning domestic abuse.

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

I have listed below the four quality statements I referred to and the questions I'm seeking answers to. I'm aware from my previous work with mental health trusts that it's unlikely that data is available for all of the questions listed below, however it is still useful for me know which areas you don't collect data on so please state where that is the case. Please answer the below questions in reference to your mental health services only.

Quality statement 1: People presenting to frontline staff with indicators of possible domestic violence or abuse are asked about their experiences in a private discussion.

1. Does your trust have a policy of routine enquiry into patient experiences of domestic violence/abuse?

No, the Trust does not routinely ask about domestic abuse specifically but staff should ask about relationships generally and raise Safeguarding concerns as appropriate for both children and adults.

2. In the year 2018 how many patients accessed services from your trust?

This data is not available for 2018. However, the Trust is currently supporting 21,151 individuals (including children in CAMHS). This figure does not include primary care mental health services that the Trust provides.

3. How many patients were asked about their experiences of domestic abuse?

We do not hold this data¹.

Please be advised that the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held or exist. The FOIA duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

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.

Quality Statement 2: People experiencing domestic violence and abuse receive a response from level 1 or 2 trained staff.

4. How many staff members do you employ?

This information is publically available. Please follow this [link](#) to our Annual Report.

5. Of those staff members, how many have received training on domestic abuse?

All staff members are required to complete domestic abuse training as part of their Safeguarding Adults and children training. The level depends on their job role.

Level 1: 738 have received the training

Level 2: 2290 have received training

6. How long is the domestic abuse training that staff receive? (If there is a range of training lengths available please indicate what those are)

The training delivered by the Trust is generally e-learning. however, individuals receiving Level 3 Safeguarding children training will have it face to face as part of whole day. 88% of staff eligible for this training are compliant – a total of 427 people

7. Who provides the domestic abuse training?

It is delivered via e-learning Safeguarding packages.

8. Is domestic abuse training mandatory?

Yes

Quality statement 3: People experiencing domestic violence or abuse are offered referral to specialist support services.

9. In the year 2018 how many patients disclosed experiencing domestic abuse?

There were 264 Safeguarding Adults domestic abuse incidents recorded Trust wide in 2018.

10. Of the patients that disclosed experiencing domestic abuse, how many were offered a referral to specialist domestic abuse services?

Unfortunately we are unable to provide this information as it is not held in a reportable electronic format. To supply the information requested would involve reviewing each of the 264 incident records and their electronic patient record (EPR) and to carry out this task would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450².

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. It would mean looking at each record and it is estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to manually review each incident record and individual EPR to extract the information, i.e. 44 hours @ £25ph = £1,100.

11. Of the patients that disclosed an experience of domestic abuse, how many were referred to specialist domestic abuse services?

Please see the answer to question 10.

² Section 12 - Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

- 12. Of the patients that disclosed an experience of domestic abuse, how many were referred to a MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)?**

We can only provide some data for Hertfordshire, where HPFT are core MARAC members. HPFT historically send through only a small number of referrals to MARAC in Herts (approx. 1 per quarter). However, in 2018 there were 58 referrals made to the IDVA service in Herts and the IDVA service then went on to refer 8 service users to MARAC as high risk.

Quality statement 4: People who disclose that they are perpetrating domestic violence or abuse are offered referral to specialist services.

- 13. In the year 2018 how many patients disclosed perpetrating domestic abuse?**

We do not hold this data¹. Please see the explanation provided under question 3.

- 14. Of the patients that disclosed perpetrating domestic abuse, how many were offered a referral to a specialist service?**

Please see the answer to question 13.

- 15. Of the patients that disclosed perpetrating domestic abuse, how many were referred specialist domestic abuse services?**

Please see the answer to question 13.

- 16. For patients that disclosed perpetrating domestic abuse, how many referrals did the trust make to a MARAC for victims affected by that perpetrator?**

Please see the answer to question 13.

General questions:

- 17. Does your trust have a stand-alone domestic abuse policy?**

Yes.

- 18. Does your trust have a domestic abuse strategy?**

No – please see below.

- 19. Has your trust created or taken part in any projects or initiatives aimed at improving the trust response to survivors or perpetrators of domestic abuse?**

Yes.

The Trust is a core member of Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and as such has been a key participant in the development, implementation and review of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. This includes co-location of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors within adult community mental health services in Hertfordshire, developing a network of trained Domestic Abuse Champions (training delivered by Herts Sunflower) and augmenting of safeguarding domestic abuse training by running awareness sessions and forums for Trust staff.

- 20. If you answered yes to the above question, please provide contact details for the best person to speak to for further information about this project/initiative.**

Karen Hastings - Consultant Social Worker (Safeguarding Adults)

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Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, 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
Information Rights 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](#).

