

15 February 2021

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
99 Waverley Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954  
Email: [Hpft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:Hpft.foi@nhs.net)

Our Ref: FOI/03884

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.

**1. Do you provide access to an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor?**

Yes.

In Hertfordshire Refuge are the commissioned service to provide Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, and HPFT staff would refer into that service directly. We had 3 IDVAs co-located within the Trust, however, this has ceased with the advent of Covid. They were located in our adult community services and dedicated a day a week to advising staff. It is envisaged that the support will recommence once this current crisis is over.

**2. If yes, do you provide access to an IDAA at every hospital site?**

Please see above.

**3. Do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse?**

No.

The Trust has strong leadership around domestic abuse from the Consultant Nurse (Safeguarding Children) and Consultant Social Worker (Safeguarding Adults). The Consultant Social Worker is also the MARAC Strategic Lead and Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead. In addition Corporate Safeguarding Team also offer support and advice to staff around the issue and there are a number of Domestic Abuse Champions situated across a range of services, including the Bed Management Team (Discharge Co-ordinators), Single Point of Access Service, Mental Health Liaison Teams and services for adults and older adults.

**4. If yes, do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse at every hospital site?**

Not applicable

**5. Do you have a Domestic Abuse policy?**

Yes

**6. If yes, please provide a copy.**

Please see attached our Domestic Abuse of the Service User Policy V1



**7. Do you produce an annual safeguarding report on domestic abuse?**

The Consultant Social Worker & Consultant Nurse are tasked with producing a quarterly Safeguarding report which includes narrative around themes of domestic abuse and incident data etc. This is also reported in the annual safeguarding report. These reports are delivered as part of the overall Trust governance structure to provide oversight of the Trust's safeguarding response.

**8. Do you conduct internal audits to ensure compliance to the domestic abuse policy?**

Yes.

In the past quarter the Corporate Safeguarding team have conducted in depth audits into domestic abuse, firstly into domestic abuse response for adult service users, and a second audit has been conducted into recognition of risks to children in the family. Action plans are in place around both audits.

**9. Have you conducted training for staff on domestic abuse in the last 12 months. If no, in the last 24 months?**

Yes.

Staff have domestic abuse training as part of their statutory mandatory training, in addition, the Corporate Safeguarding Team have delivered several online sessions alongside a range of external/partner agencies around domestic abuse themes (mental health and domestic abuse, coercion and control, high risk domestic abuse). This is being developed into a rolling programme of domestic abuse training for the year 2021 to 2022 as part of the Trust's annual Safeguarding Improvement Plan.

**10. How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) risk assessments were completed by the trust/health board in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?**

We do not hold this information<sup>1</sup>.

Staff are encouraged to use the DASH prior to making referrals to IDVA and also to consider MARAC as part of their response to support our service users.

**11. How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) referrals were made by the trust/health board to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?**

We do not hold this information<sup>1</sup>.

Local MARAC teams will hold referral data.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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**  
**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](#).

