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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
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Request for Information Reference: 01.16.23

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Email only

9 February 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 January 2016 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding domestic abuse services. Specifically you asked for:

Information regarding the provision of domestic abuse services, training and support within NHS Trusts and boards.

1. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for staff affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details?

Answer: A workplace policy is currently being developed which will address this issue.

2. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for patients affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details?

Answer: There is a specific chapter within the NHS safeguarding children procedures which addresses both adults and children affected by domestic abuse.

3. Do you have a domestic abuse service established within your organisation?

Answer: No, we refer patients to an external organisation who are commissioned by the local authority.

4. If so, state when it was established and gives year-on-year figures for referrals/the number of people who use the service?

Answer: Please see the above answer.

5. Are staff inducted in the organisation's policy so that they are fully informed of its content and the support available to them as well as patients?

Answer: All staff are provided with information at their Induction and annual mandatory training. The information provided includes who the service leads are for safeguarding and domestic abuse and how to contact them.

6. How many staff have received training in recognising and supporting victims of domestic abuse in the past year?

Answer: All staff receive basic training on domestic abuse via their Induction and the annual mandatory training.

7. When was domestic abuse training last reviewed in your organisation?

Answer: Domestic abuse training is reviewed annually by the Trust's Domestic Abuse Coordinator who works within the Trust's Safeguarding Children Team.

8. What does the training cover?

Answer: The training covers:

- Definition of domestic abuse – including an overview of forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation incidence and prevalence
- recognition / signs and symptoms – associated health issues such as substance misuse & mental health issues
- routine and selective enquiry
- responding safely and sensitively – referral pathways
- safeguarding children
- safeguarding adults & MARAC
- legal duties, confidentiality, record keeping & information sharing

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer