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Request for Information Reference: 04.18.40

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Email only

25 May 2018

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 April 2018 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 Health and Wellbeing. Specifically you asked for:

**1) Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event accessible to all breast cancer patients at the end of hospital-based treatment?**

**(A Health and Wellbeing event is defined as a group education and support event which helps people to manage their physical and psychological health after a cancer diagnosis.)**

Answer: No

**2) If the Trust does offer a Health and Wellbeing event for breast cancer patients, are these events:**

- A. solely for people with breast cancer**
- or**
- B. for people with all types of cancer**

Answer: N/A

**3) For breast cancer patients who have completed their hospital-based treatment, do the nurses in the breast care unit routinely make direct referrals, where appropriate, to the following?**

**(By 'direct referral' we mean gaining consent from a patient to pass on their details to a support service or arranging for someone from the service to contact the patient)**

**Services provided by charities**

**a. Support services provided by charities that support people with cancer.**

Answer: Yes - when appropriate. The Trust refers to charity support services where appropriate.

**b. Support services provided by charities that support people with breast cancer only (yes/no)**

Answer: yes - when appropriate

**NHS Services**

**c. Counselling / psychology services within the NHS (yes/no)**

Answer: Counselling when required outside of CNS support – refer to hospice, or GP refer to IAPT. No clinical psychology support now available within the trust.

**d. Physiotherapy services within the NHS**

**Answer:** Physio – refer where appropriate or patient can self-refer

**e. Fertility services within the NHS (yes/no)**

Answer: Fertility – refer externally where appropriate

**f. Lymphoedema services within the NHS (yes/no)**

Answer: Lymphoedema – current services limited within the trust and awaiting decision re on-going plan, can refer to hospice in the meantime and possibly James Cook hospital if patient under care of Oncologist

**g. Other support services –**

Answer: Other NHS services that we refer our patients to include genetics services wheelchair clinic, plastic surgeons, welfare rights and community MacMillan team.

**4) If you do not refer to some/any of the services in question 3, is this due to any of the reasons below? Please indicate all that apply.**

Answer: Please see Question 3 above.

- a. **Support services provided by charities that support people with cancer**
- **Service not available (yes/no)**
  - **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
  - **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
  - **Service is unsuitable for breast cancer patients (yes/no)**
  - **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
  - **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
  - **Other (please give details)**
- b. **Support services provided by charities that support people with breast cancer only**
- **Service not available (yes/no)**
  - **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
  - **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
  - **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
  - **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
  - **Other (please give details)**
- c. **Counselling / psychology services within the NHS**
- **Service not available (yes/no)**
  - **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
  - **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
  - **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
  - **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
  - **Other (please give details)**
- d. **Physiotherapy services within the NHS**
- **Service not available (yes/no)**
  - **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
  - **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
  - **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
  - **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
  - **Other (please give details)**
- e. **Fertility services within the NHS**
- **Service not available (yes/no)**
  - **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
  - **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
  - **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
  - **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
  - **Other (please give details)**

**f. Lymphoedema services within the NHS**

- **Service not available (yes/no)**
- **Unaware of service (yes/no)**
- **Service is oversubscribed (yes/no)**
- **Patient is informed of the service but a direct referral is not made (yes/no)**
- **Workload capacity does not allow time for referrals (yes/no)**
- **Other (please give details)**

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely



**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**