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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Darlington
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Request for Information Reference: 04.18.42

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Email only

29 March 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 the Joint Working arrangements. Specifically you asked for:

I would like to make a request for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Please confirm or deny whether the trust entered into any joint working arrangements with private companies in a) 2016 and b) 2017.

Answer: We have answered your question, based on the definition you have quoted: *“Joint working describes situations where, for the benefit of patients, NHS and industry organisations pool skills, experience and/or resources for the joint development and implementation of patient-centred projects and share a commitment to successful delivery.”*

The Trust has a wholly owned subsidiary company, Synchronicity Care Ltd (SCL). Through SCL, the Trust Group had a joint working arrangement with a private company for the development of digital health pathways which was in place for part of both years.

The Trust has had a number of contractual arrangements in place with private companies and industry organisations; for example, for Managed Equipment Services or to support service delivery, at different times during 2016 and 2017.

2. Please confirm or deny whether the trust had a policy on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies in a) 2016 and b) 2017.

Answer: No specific policy was in place.

3. Please confirm or deny whether the trust currently has any policy on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies.

Answer: No specific policy was in place.

4. Please provide details of, or a copy of, any policy the trust has on entering into joint working arrangements with private companies.

Answer: Not applicable – please see the above.

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