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Request for Information Reference: 07.18.45

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Email only

24 August 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 July 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 safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Specifically you asked for:

Under the Freedom of Information Act from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in regards to your guidance for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults that your organisation and staff must follow.

1. Incidents and Discipline

- a. Have you had a reported incident regarding staff not following your safeguarding guidance in the last three years?***
- b. If so, how many?***

Answer: This information is not recorded.

- c. How many legal actions have been taken against you due to staff not following safeguarding guidance?***

Answer: One

- d. Has anyone been disciplined or fired due to staff not following safeguarding guidance in the last three years?***

Answer: No

2. Training

a. How often do you undertake any education or training around safeguarding guidance?

- All Trust Staff will complete Adult Awareness and Level 1 Children's within their annual core essential training. This is completed either by attending one of the core essential training lecture theatre half day programmes or via e-learning.
- All Clinical staff must complete Level 2 Children's through the workbook, once every 3 years (Unless they complete level 3 training. All clinical staff must also complete Level 1 Adults available via a workbook and needs to be updated once every 3 years.
- Managers and supervisors who may receive an alert from a member of staff must also complete Level 2 Adults (once only) Available through face to face training via course bookings.
- Level 3 Adults is aimed at matrons and service leads with designated safeguarding responsibilities (once only). Available through face to face training via course bookings
- Level 3 Children's is Core (6 hours of training) updated every 3 years is for all clinical staff working with children, young people and/or their parents/carers and who could potentially contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and evaluating the needs of a child or young person and parenting capacity where there are safeguarding/child protection concern. Staff groups include urgent and unscheduled care staff, surgical specialties with an outpatient children's workload (e.g. Orthopaedic surgery and ENT), paediatric allied health professionals such as paediatric dieticians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists,, sexual health staff, obstetricians, radiologists and Paediatric orthodontists
- Level 3 Children's Specialist (12 hours of training) updated every 3 years is for clinical staff that fit the core definition but who are working directly with children e.g. Paediatric nurses, Paediatrician, midwives etc.

Please note the adults training will change with the development of the Adult Safeguarding Intercollegiate document which was only published this week. We are currently reviewing standards to assure compliance with this key piece of work.

3. Updating and Dissemination

a. How often are safeguarding guidance standards updated?

Answer: 3 yearly or if there is a required addition/ significant change

b. When was the last complete review of your safeguarding guidance?

Answer: 13 December 2016

4. Storage and accessibility

a. In what format and programme do you hold your safeguarding guidance

Answer: Suite of safeguarding policies/procedures held electronically

b. In what format and programme do staff access this guidance?

Answer: Via staff intranet

c. Can you access safeguarding guidance on mobile devices?

Answer: Yes

d. If so, can this guidance be accessed while offline?

Answer: No however, policies, procedures and guidance are closely linked to arrangements of both adults and children safeguarding boards. Local arrangements specific to each authority can be accessed offline using their websites.

5. Audit and Review

a. Can your workforce audit their compliance to central standards regarding safeguarding guidelines and so identify any shortfalls?

b. Do you have the capability to audit delivery standards against current safeguarding guidance?

Answers a & b: The safeguarding team has an audit plan in place.

6. Quantitative measures

a. How many pages of safeguarding guidance does your organisation have?

Answer: 257

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