

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 08.18.27

Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

13 September 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 15 August 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 support to secondary breast cancer patients. Specifically you asked for:

The following questions, relating to the support provided to patients with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer* under the care of your Trust:

*(*By a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, we mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Secondary breast cancer is also referred to as 'metastatic' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.)*

Holistic Needs Assessments (HNAs)

1) Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?

Answer: Not at present, however the Trust is in the process of rolling out the offer of an HNA to all cancer patients, including secondary breast cancer. Future work will include the offer of HNAs at the point of diagnosis, recurrence or at other appropriate points in their pathway.

- ***Yes, at the point of diagnosis only***
- ***Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes***
- ***No***
- ***Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)***

2) If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?

Answer: Once rolled out all areas will be covered.

- **Emotional concerns and needs (yes/no)**
- **Physical concerns and needs (yes/no)**
- **Information needs (yes/no)**
- **Consideration of palliative care needs (yes/no)**

Access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist

3) How many people with secondary breast cancer are currently under the care of your Trust?

Answer: This is estimated as being 119 patients.

4) Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer? (yes/no)

Answer: Yes. All patients would have access to a CNS with the knowledge, skills and experience to work with people who have secondary breast cancer.

5) If yes, do these nurses:

- a) **Provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only:** No
- b) **Provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients:** Yes

6) If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):

a) **CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only?**

Answer: Zero.

b) **CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients?**

Answer: 2 Full time CNSs, 2 Part Time CNSs, 2 vacant posts (one full time and one part time).

7) If there are CNS posts within your Trust that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients, please tell us if they:

- a) **Work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description):** No.
- b) **Work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients:** Yes.

Information and referrals

8) At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Trust, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?

- **local and national secondary breast cancer support services – Yes**
- **specialist services for financial and employment advice - Yes**
- **information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer - Yes**
- **information about support available for family members - Yes**
- **local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed - Yes**
- **support and information on planning end-of-life care - Yes**

Treatment Summaries

9) Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary* at the end of each significant phase of treatment?

Answer: Not at present, this work is in development.

Access to Health and Wellbeing Events

10) Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer?

Answer: Yes but it is a generic event for a people who may be living with and beyond cancer. We do not offer a specific event for people with secondary breast cancer.

By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:

- **focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment**
- **may be more than one session, rather than a single event**
- **may include discussions on specific topics such as palliative care**

*(*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. An example of this is Breast Cancer Care's 'Living with Secondary Breast Cancer' service)*

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