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Request for Information Reference: 04.19.58

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Email only

29 May 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 30 April 2019 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 supporting homeless patients. Specifically you requested information as follows:

I have the following questions about the support offered to homeless patients who attend your organisation.

1. How many attendances to your organisation were coded as NFA (no fixed address) per year in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018?

Answer: These numbers are Trust Level and to find the no fixed abode patients the following key search terms were used within the Address field - **"*NFA*", "*Fixed*", "*homeless*", "*N.F*" and Not Like "*Infantry*" this is to exclude Forces Patients in specific infantry divisions in Catterick Garrison.**

Year	Emergency Admissions
2015	25
2016	38
2017	52
2018	50

Year	AE Attends
2015	169
2016	233
2017	260
2018	313

2. Does your organisation have:-

(a) a documented pathway for supporting homeless patients; or

Answer: The Discharge Management Team work alongside both Local Authorities of Darlington Borough Council & Durham County Council and both teams are aware of the Duty to Refer Document which came into force October 2018. All ward managers; matrons have this document and were used as part of our #Nextstephome initiative.

(b) a housing officer (or similar); or

Answer: Each local authority has a dedicated Homeless link which CDDFT – can link via telephone – e mail. Discharge Management Team can contact.

(c) a supply of clean clothes to offer homeless people?

Answer: Wards don't keep a supply of clean clothes. DMT Sisters will liaise with Charities, AGE CONCERN & Christian denominations.

If yes to (a), (b), or (c) please provide details.

3. How many patient referrals to a local housing authority under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has your organisation made since 1 October 2018?

Answer: The Trust has a contact at South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust who deals with homelessness and will go out and visit people. We also refer patients to the council if it is an immediate problem. We are looking at our referral pathways soon, and homelessness will be part of that.

4. What is your organisation doing, or planning to do, to support homeless patients or to comply with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017?

Answer: Raising the awareness of Duty to Refer Document which came into force during October 2019 through #NextStepHome – linking with Local Authorities and supporting wards and departments to proactively manage Homelessness.

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