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Request for Information Reference: 06.20.09

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Email only

22 June 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 22 May 2020 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to policy concerning children with ASD and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

I was looking for a written policy which determines how children with ASD can be expected to be catered for when they are admitted to your Trust for non ASD related treatments?

Is there a Trust-wide policy which determines how are the specific needs for children are met when being treated for example with a broken leg but they are a child who does not like to be touched, or a child who has a fear of noise, or a child who needs rigid routines? I realise I have given specifics and any policy would not be so specific but does a written policy exist or is it the case that staff are expected to adapt as per each individual scenario or situation?

The Trust does not have a specific policy which covers how children with ASD can be expected to be cared for when they attend or are admitted to the Trust. When a patient child or adult, presents to hospital, it would be the expectation that staff would act to understand the patient and what, if any, their individual or additional needs would be.

In addition the Trust does use hospital passports which provide information specific to the patient and their additional needs, which is not necessarily clinical such as how much physical contact they are comfortable with. For children these passports would be held by the parents who would update them accordingly.

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer