

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington

Request for Information Reference: 10.20.13

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Email only

20 November 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 12 October 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 victims of violence and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. In your Emergency Departments are adults and/ or children attending with assault-related injuries or attending as victims of violence identified for interventions that go beyond their immediate health needs?

Please note, the Trust has two Emergency Departments, one at University Hospital of North Durham (UHND) and one at Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH). At both sites there are processes in place to ensure that both adults and children with assault related injuries or attending as victims of violence are referred into safeguarding processes and/or signposted to external agencies

2. If yes, we would be grateful to receive information detailing:

3. The remit of this violence-specific work? Specifically, which types of patients are identified (e.g. domestic assault, sexual assault, alcohol-related assault, etc.) and whether identification is specific to a group of patients (e.g. women, children)?

UHND has a part time IDVA (independent domestic violence advisor) service, staff liaise with the Police and signpost patients to Harbour, which is an organisation specifically for victims of domestic violence. Staff also work closely with the safeguarding children's team as well as the local authority. If required staff can link in with the adults safeguarding team.

DMH: Staff liaise with the Police and signpost patients to Harbour, which is an organisation specifically for victims of domestic violence. Staff also work closely with

the safeguarding children's team as well as the local authority. If required staff can link in with the adults safeguarding team.

4. Approximately how many staff are involved with any specific violence-related initiatives?

UHND: There are two IDVAs employed providing a part time IDVA service.

DMH: There is a lead for domestic violence that can be accessed via the safeguarding team.

5. Approximately when the service(s) started (year and month).

The IDVA service at UHND started in 2019.

6. Whether the staff involved with the service(s) in the Emergency Department are NHS employees, employees of other organisations.

UNND: The IDVAs are employed by Durham County Council.

DMH: The lead for domestic violence at Darlington Memorial Hospital is an NHS employee.

7. In the case that patients are referred to service(s) outside of the NHS, which services they are typically referred to.

In relation to both sites, when patients are referred to a service outside of the Trust patients are sent to 'Harbour' which is an organisation specifically for victims of domestic violence.

8. In the case that patients are referred to service(s) inside the NHS, which services/ specialities they are typically referred to?

When patients are referred to services inside the NHS they are typically referred to safeguarding for adult or child services as appropriate.

In your response, it would be appreciated if you could highlight which hospital is being referred to when advising of whether such an initiative is in operation in the A&E department.

If the Trust covers more than one hospital, please note we are looking to audit all initiatives in all hospital A&E departments.

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.cddffoi@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