



**Our Ref:** FOI 21-110

29 April 2021

**Request and Request**

On 7 April 2021 the Trust received an email requesting the following information:

1. The number of nurses or support workers who support patients regarding their housing while they are inpatient in a mental health unit. These could be housing officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.

The Trust does not have specific roles to support patients regarding their housing whilst they are an inpatient.

All our boroughs with inpatient wards (Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington) have access to housing providers and to support agencies (such as Brick, YMCA, etc.) which we can signpost our patients to.

2. The protocol for discharging homeless patients or patients who face homelessness after their discharge. Please provide a document with the discharge policy or, if there is no document, please state what the protocol is.

The Trust does not have a policy specifically relating to discharging people who are homeless. As good practice, if we are discharging someone, who is homeless, they are provided with details of where to present and contact numbers in order that emergency accommodation can be sought. The information provided to the patient is recorded on our electronic patient information system.

3. The number of nurses or support workers who support mental health patients regarding their housing while they are in the community. These could be housing officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.

The Trust has a Homeless Health Team in St Helens working in the community. Information on this service is on our website at the following link [www.nwbh.nhs.uk/homeless-health-team](http://www.nwbh.nhs.uk/homeless-health-team). The team current consists of two staff – Clinical Team Manager and Support Worker – and in May they will be interviewing for a Senior Mental Health Practitioner.

Please note that North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will cease to exist from 1 June 2021 as it is being acquired by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. There is further information about this change on our website at the following link [www.nwbh.nhs.uk/our-future](http://www.nwbh.nhs.uk/our-future)

## **Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations**

Please be aware, any personal information that may be disclosed within this response has been provided for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, including transparency and accountability. The provision of this information by the Trust should not be interpreted as consent for the purposes of direct marketing, sales purpose or unsolicited marketing. Under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (PECR) legislation, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communications.

Any requests to become a new/potential supplier should be directed to our Procurement Department.

## **Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005**

Whilst the supply of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is intended to be for personal use only and does not automatically give the recipient the right to commercially re-use it, the Trust provides the information above in line with the template [Open Government Licence for public sector information](#). Should you wish to re-use any information in line with this Licence then you are not required to take any further action. However if you wish to re-use information outside of the Licence terms then please inform the Trust as unauthorised re-use may be in breach of copyright law.

## **Review Procedure**

We hope this provides the information required. However, if it is felt that the way the request was handled or the content of the response is unsatisfactory and should be reviewed, please write to the Information Governance Team at [FOI@nwbh.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@nwbh.nhs.uk) requesting an internal review and stating the reference number at the top of this document.

A request for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the day this response was sent. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the discretion of the Data Protection Officer.

If it is then felt that the outcome of the internal review is unsatisfactory, a complaint can be made directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision, but it should be noted that the ICO will not make a decision unless the Trust's internal review process has been followed first. The ICO's contact details are available at [www.ico.org.uk/global/contact-us](http://www.ico.org.uk/global/contact-us).