

Our reference: /FOI D9977

13th May 2021

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Vanessa Fillis

Dear Vanessa,

Information Governance
Department
Freedom of Information Team
Bury New Road
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RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST - REF: D9977

Please find our Trust's response in relation to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to request, under the freedom of information act, the following information for adult mental health services in Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

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.

GMMH has 2 housing workers seconded to the Trust from a local housing provider who provide housing support to Manchester patients across GMMH AOWA wards, rehab wards and step down beds.

The Trust also has 2 workers based in Bolton and Salford.

There are a further 3 Delayed Transfer of Care workers who support service users with housing related issues.

Funded from the Winter Discharge Scheme funding in 2021/22, the Trust has also engaged with several housing providers and Third Sector partners to commission housing related schemes to achieve safe and sustainable discharges for people to leave hospital and move into independent tenancies or supported housing.

These schemes include

- brokerage schemes to ensure increased housing capacity,
- step-down beds where people can be supported to progress their applications for independent housing and supported housing,

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- a personalisation fund to enable quick access to essential household goods and furniture,
- additional housing Floating Support to support people preparing for housing whilst still an inpatient
- supporting people during the transition either back to their own tenancy or into a new tenancy.

Several of these schemes include identified housing workers who are focussed on supporting our patient cohort.

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.

GMMH recognises the importance and impact homelessness has on our patients and we therefore have guidance and standards for inpatient and community staff to follow, which are embedded within a whole range of internal documents (an example is attached) and the Trust has developed a Housing Strategy.

The Trust not only works in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act which requires NHS bodies to refer people who are homeless or potentially homeless to the relevant housing authority, but we are also actively involved in developing partnerships with Local Authority housing and social housing organisations to address homelessness and housing options for our patients.

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.

There are several staff, as listed above, who work across inpatient and community services. Our Community Mental Health Team staff also support people with their housing needs in the community. For instance, in Manchester we have a Mental Health and Homeless Team and also Resettlement Workers supporting CMHT colleagues in addressing housing related issues for outpatient cohort. GMMH are part of a national pilot of a Housing First model, where we provide four dual diagnosis practitioners across GM, working alongside Great Places and housing providers, enabling sustaining of tenancies and facilitating access to mainstream services where support is required, such as CMHT and community drug and alcohol teams.

I hope the information provided above is to your satisfaction. If you are unhappy with the way, the Trust has handled your request you may request an internal review.

If you require an internal review please write to Sarah McDonald, Head of IM&T Service Delivery, at the address above, who will arrange a review of your case.

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If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

The FOI Team
Freedom of Information Department
Greater Manchester MH NHS Foundation Trust

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For any named personnel provided in this Freedom of Information response, they do not wish to receive direct marketing, to do so would contravene GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

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