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Reference number: FOI 2021-352

Vanessa Fillis
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04 May 2021

Dear Ms V Fillis,

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your information request which we received on **7th April 2021**. In line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust (C&I NHS FT) are pleased to respond as below.

Your request:

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.
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.
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.

Having completed enquiries within C&I NHS FT and in respect of Section 1(1)(a), C&I NHS FT does hold some information relating to your request, C&I NHS FT can confirm in respect of Section 1(1)(b) the information below.

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.

All clinical staff are involved in identifying housing issues at the point of admission and developing care plans to address these. This is done in partnership with community teams who are likely to know the patient's situation best and family/carers can also be involved. There is a well understood pathway into local temporary B&B hotel accommodation for those who are homeless awaiting an accommodation offer. LBC and LBI provide 1 specialist housing link worker per borough based in their respective housing departments linking with wards. Senior Social Workers in our Discharge Facilitation Team case manage complex cases (1 social worker per borough) and oversee the work of a pilot scheme providing support with accommodation (2 staff).

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 protocol is that we offer access to a local hotel B&B paid for by C&I for 2 weeks (scope for extension if required) for homeless service users. This is if we have been unable to source longer term accommodation during their admission and they are ready to leave hospital. It is possible to discharge service users into a homeless state with advice and signposting to seek housing support from the local authority but this is a very rare event.

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.

See answer to question 1.

Review

We hope you are satisfied with the way in which your request was handled, if not you may request an internal review at the above email address within 28 days of this letter. When contacting the Trust please use the above reference that is unique to your request.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or on the ICO's website via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Team

