

Freedom of Information Team
Information Governance Team Office
1st Floor Haylock House
Kettering Venture Park
Kettering NN15 6EY

**300** 0111133 (voicemail only)

12 April 2021

Vanessa Fillis
Sent by email only to:
<vanessafillis.journalism@gmail.com>

Dear Requester,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request: FOI0421011

With reference to your request for information made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act: we set out below your request together with the Trust's response(s):

## You asked:

- 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.

## **Our Response:**

- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) provides adult mental health inpatient care at two sites; the discharge team at each includes: Bed Manager; Discharge Co-ordinator, Borough Council Dedicated Link Worker and Social Worker.
- 2. The Discharge Coordinator and allocated Housing Advisor assess all patients for homelessness issues during admission. Prior to discharge, staff will work with the

patient in an effort to resolve such issues or prevent imminent homelessness. This could be via Local Authority tenancy, temporary accommodation, room rents and/or local housing schemes with tenancy support. If essential items for the new property are required - such as beds or fridges - the Discharge Coordinator will assist in the sourcing of such items through local charities.

3. Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) has no Nurses dedicated to support community patients with housing issues however it is a recognised need that would be covered as part of holistic care. Nurses and support workers would sign-post to external housing support services - either the Local Authority, Citizens Advice Bureau or the Hope Centre - that specialise in support to individuals with issues such as homelessness, addiction, MH etc.

This concludes our response to your request for information. If you are unhappy with the reply, please forward your concerns to the address below to request an Internal Review detailing the reasons for your dissatisfaction and these will be addressed accordingly.

Head of Clinical Systems and Governance NHFT Information Governance Team Office 1st Floor Haylock House Kettering Venture Park Kettering NN15 6EY

Alternatively, you may email your request to <a href="mailto:dpo@nhft.nhs.uk">dpo@nhft.nhs.uk</a>

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Yours faithfully,

The Freedom of Information Team
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foi@nhft.nhs.uk | Web: http://www.nhft.nhs.uk

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