18th May 2021

**Fitzwilliam House**

2nd /3rd Floors  
Skimped Hill Lane   
Bracknell

Berkshire

RG12 1BQ

t: **0300 365 6565**

e: foi.bht@berkshire.nhs.uk

http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Vanessa Fillis

Email: [vanessafillis.journalism@gmail.com](mailto:vanessafillis.journalism@gmail.com)

Dear Vanessa,

**Freedom of Information Request 008**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 7th April 2021, regarding Adult Mental Health Services at Berkshire Healthcare.

Our answer to your questions is as follows:

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.**

We have zero specialist professionals in inpatient services for helping patients with housing needs, but there is one community-based Housing and Support Co-ordinator for East Berkshire.

The Bed Inpatients Manager flags the homeless and housing concerns to the Housing and Support Co-ordinator after admission in Prospect Park Hospital, who determines if there is a Care Co-ordinator managing the patient and if so, carry out a piece of joint work. If there is no Care Co-ordinator, the Housing and Support Co-ordinator liaises directly with the relevant Local Authority Homeless Team to help address the concern/s.

1. **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.**

There is a statutory responsibility by the ward and community services to complete a Duty to Refer once a patient has been identified as homeless upon admission. There is a working agreement that once this has been flagged, the Housing and Support Co-Ordinator will liaise with the local authority Homeless Team to ensure that the case has been picked up and assigned a Homeless Case Officer. The homelessness assessment is then managed through Local Authority colleagues.

The Housing and Support Co-ordinator will then work closely with the relevant Local Authority Homeless Team to address the identified homeless need (this is subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, which includes having recourse to public funding). Collaborative working co-ordinated by the Housing and Support Co-ordinator will follow between the ward staff, the patient, the Local Authority’s Homeless Team and any other department or service that maybe involved (e.g. Children services, if the patient has children).

1. **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 is one community-based Housing and Support Co-ordinator for Slough who assists the community-based Clinical Sector Teams, the Duty Team, Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Team, Psychological / Wellbeing teams, Early Intervention for Psychosis teams, Approved Mental Health Professionals and any other relevant community-based teams that requires specialist advice, information or support to deal with housing and homeless issues for community-based service users.

We hope this response fulfils your request.

Should you not be satisfied with our response, you have a right to complain and request a review. You should forward your complaint to [foi.bht@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:foi.bht@berkshire.nhs.uk).

In the meantime if you have any queries then please contact us at the above address.

Yours sincerely



**Julie Hill**

Company Secretary