

FOI006/2021 Response

Request

FOI Request

I am a freelance journalist.

I would like to request, under the freedom of information act, the following information for adult mental health services in Birmingham and Solihull 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.
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.

Response

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.

Currently the Trust do not have specialised nurses dedicated to support inpatients with their housing needs.

However, the Trust do have in place 2 MIND Housing Navigation Workers and a Peer Support Worker dedicated to support inpatients with their housing needs.

Furthermore, the Trust have recently recruited an additional Housing Navigation Worker and 2 Peer Support Workers.

In addition to this, the Trust have deployed 6 capacity clinicians who support overall inpatient discharges, which includes assisting patients with obtaining accommodation.

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 do not have a discharge policy explicitly for homeless patients; however we do have a Trust wide Discharge Policy.

For further details of the policy please see attachment and note that an exemption Section 40 has been applied. This therefore means that the Policy author's name has been removed from the policy as this pertains to their personal information.

Please note that inpatient discharges are based on Multi- Disciplinary Team (MDT) clinical decisions, informed by best practice guidance and lead by the ward consultant.

Furthermore, The Trust will not discharge a homeless patient without ensuring a stable and appropriate accommodation is in place, as this is a necessity for a safe discharge.

Moreover, detained inpatients are subject to statutory section 117 after care, and majority of the discharges include three day follow up and step-down support at the place of discharge from the Trust's Home Treatment Team and Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT).

Also note that where MIND Housing Navigation Workers are involved, there is an escalation route for housing needs via the CMHT/ Home Treatment.

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.

Currently the Trust do not have specialist nurses or housing support workers dedicated to assist patient with their housing needs within the Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT).

However, the CMHT do have staff members from various disciplines who support service users with most aspects of their housing needs. This includes identifying and linking patients in with suitable accommodation from private sectors and local authorities.