



Response to FOI 007

Request

Dear Customer Relations, Chief Executive Roisin Fallon-Williams, Dr OBrien & Lucy Papp,

Further to my recent discussion with Lucy Papp, please can we have an e mail copy of the government policy for all CAMHS services in response to Corona Virus at your earliest convenience.

Response

Our understanding of the discussion with Lucy Papp, Occupational Therapist, was in relation to Section 17 leave.

We have enclosed a copy of the Coronavirus Bill as issued by the Government. Also enclosed is the Trust amended Section 17 leave policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we recognise that the current coronavirus pandemic and the extreme restrictive measures that have been put in place on a national scale have had a significant impact upon all of our service users. As you are aware we have had to suspend all visits and all Section 17 leave, other than ground leave, and leave to the local park for exercise in keeping with the national guidance.

We have not taken these decisions lightly as we are aware of the impact that they can have on young people and their families, particularly when there are contact needs that need to be taken into account. We want to try to reassure you however that in order to come to our current decision we have taken on board advice and recommendations from a range of sources including Government guidance, guidance from our own Trust's Legal and Ethics Group, the CQC, NHS England commissioners and the national networks. With some of these groups we have highlighted the importance of maintaining family contact and the impact that the current situation can have on our service users and families.

Taking into account all of the above, as it currently stands we are being advised that in order to try and provide a level of safety for the population that is needed on a national scale, that we need to continue to suspend all visits and Section 17 leave outside of the immediate vicinity of service areas.

Chair: Sue Davis, CBE

Chief Executive: Roisin Fallon-Williams

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We have been advised that these are also the same measures that are in place with all low and medium secure units in England.

The Trust Legal and Ethics Group will continue to review the policy position in light of Government advice regarding social distancing. At this current time the group are considering the needs around visiting for young people and their families.