FOI194

 Request

Dear FOI Officer,

We have been informed by NHS Improvement that this Trust currently uses the Message Exchange for Social Care & Health (MESH) tool to identify overseas visitors who may be eligible for NHS charging.

I would like to FOI request answers to the following six questions relating to the use of this tool:

1. When did the Trust adopt this tool?

2. Please provide copies of any meeting minutes or email correspondence with the Department of Health and Social Care or NHS England pertaining to the adoption or ongoing use of the MESH tool. Please also provide any documents/guidance sent to your trust regarding this.

3. Please provide copies of any documents outlining the rationale for the adoption and use of the MESH tool by the Trust. If available please include equality impact assessments, data protection assessments, and any local policies about the use of the MESH

4.How frequently are patient records submitted to MESH? i.e. on a daily/weekly basis.

5. What patient information is submitted to the MESH tool?
Please supply screenshots of an empty submission template if available

6a. Does the Trust upload the electronic records of all patients accessing Trust services to the MESH system? Yes/No

   - If no, what criteria/algorithm does the Trust use to determine which patient records are uploaded? Please provide a copy of any policies or documents specifying the criteria determining which patient records are submitted to the MESH tool.

Response

1. When did the Trust adopt this tool?

The Trust adopted the tool in May 2019.

2. Please provide copies of any meeting minutes or email correspondence with the Department of Health and Social Care or NHS England pertaining to the adoption or ongoing use of the MESH tool. Please also provide any documents/guidance sent to your trust regarding this.

Please see attached email correspondences relating to the use of MESH Tool and note that a Section 40 exemption has been applied, which therefore means that the names and contact details within the correspondences have been removed.

In regard to the documents/ guidance's pertaining to the adoption and use of MESH tool, please view the link below and note that a Section 21 exemption has been applied as the requested Information is accessible by other means. With this in mind, please liaise with NHS Improvement to obtain further information on MESH Tool as well as related guidance's.

Link: https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/overseas-visitor-cost-improvement-programme/

3. Please provide copies of any documents outlining the rationale for the adoption and use of the MESH tool by the Trust. If available please include equality impact assessments, data protection assessments, and any local policies about the use of the MESH

The Trust is unable to provide any documentation which outlines the rationale for the use of MESH tool, this is because the requested data has not been captured by our system.

However, the benefits of implementing MESH as outlined within the NHS Improvement website, is reflective of the Trust's rationale for deploying the MESH tool.

4.How frequently are patient records submitted to MESH? i.e. on a daily/weekly basis.

Patient records are submitted to MESH on a weekly basis.

5. What patient information is submitted to the MESH tool?

The following information is submitted to the MESH Tool,

- NHS number

- DOB

Please see below for a screenshot of an empty submission template.

NHSNo	DOB

6a. Does the Trust upload the electronic records of all patients accessing Trust services to the MESH system? Yes/No

   - If no, what criteria/algorithm does the Trust use to determine which patient records are uploaded? Please provide a copy of any policies or documents specifying the criteria determining which patient records are submitted to the MESH tool.

The Trust has not uploaded all electronic records for patients accessing our services.

Please note that the submissions began in September 2019 and consists of a weekly list of all new referrals received by the Trust during the previous 7 days.