

## **FOI282 Response**

### **Request**

would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information relating to your activities with regards to domestic violence.

Could you please tell me:

Do you provide access to an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor?

If yes, do you provide access to an IDAA at every hospital site?

Do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse?

If yes, do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse at every hospital site?

Do you have a Domestic Abuse policy?

If yes, please provide a copy.

Do you produce an annual safeguarding report on domestic abuse?

Do you conduct internal audits to ensure compliance to the domestic abuse policy?

Have you conducted training for staff on domestic abuse in the last 12 months. If no, in the last 24 months?

How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) risk assessments were completed by the trust/health board in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) referrals were made by the trust/health board to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

Please provide the data for the last two parts of my request in a spreadsheet format.

## **Response**

### **Do you provide access to an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor? (If yes, do you provide access to an IDAA at every hospital site?)**

Yes, the Trust is hosting an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) from Birmingham Women's Aid for one year. The expectation for the IDVA is to offer support to all Trust clinical teams with-in this time and the Trust hopes to extend this support once further funding can be secured.

The support (currently virtual and telephone support) is targeted at female services users and staff members where domestic abuse has been disclosed or identified.

The IDVA also hopes to offer bespoke awareness training to clinical teams to improve practitioner's confidence and promote better response to domestic abuse in line with the Trust's Domestic Abuse work plan.

### **Do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse? If yes, do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse at every hospital site?**

Yes, the Trust has Nurse for Domestic Abuse and their role is to drive the domestic abuse work plan across the whole Trust.

Please note that the Trust does not have a Domestic Abuse Specialist Nurse in all areas however, the Nurse for Domestic Abuse works in partnership with the Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and the Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Young People, to support clinical staff in their safeguarding responsibilities.

### **Do you have a Domestic Abuse policy? If yes, please provide a copy.**

The Trust has had a Domestic Abuse Policy in place since 2017 and the Trust Nurse for Domestic Abuse regularly reviews and updates this policy.

The Policy reflects the gendered nature of domestic abuse whilst also ensuring that male victims are supported appropriately, it recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children and has guidance on working with perpetrators.

The Policy also highlights the need to support staff members who disclose domestic abuse.

For further details of the policy please see attachment and note that an exemption section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied. This means that any personal information such as Authors and Policy Lead's name has been redacted.

### **Do you produce an annual safeguarding report on domestic abuse?**

Yes, Domestic Violence Abuse is covered in the safeguarding annual assurance report.

**Do you conduct internal audits to ensure compliance to the domestic abuse policy?**

The Nurse for Domestic Abuse carries out internal audits to ensure compliance with the Domestic Abuse Policy.

**Have you conducted training for staff on domestic abuse in the last 12 months? If no, in the last 24 months?**

Prior to Covid-19, the Trust have provided half day Statutory and Mandatory domestic abuse training to all staff members in a supervisory and direct clinical contact role.

Since the pandemic training has been stood down however, it has allowed the Trust’s Safeguarding Team to review the domestic abuse training and offer staff virtual training for domestic abuse, focusing on early identification and safety and support.

**How many domestic abuses, stalking and harassment (DASH) risk assessments were completed by the trust/health board in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?**

Although the Trust Safeguarding Team promote the use of the DASH risk assessment, we are unable to accurately provide this data.

To obtain the requested information will require a manual search and collation which would exceed the threshold to carry out this task.

The Trust therefore rely on the exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to refuse this part of your request.

**How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) referrals were made by the trust/health board to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?**

Please see table below and note the following:

- Referrals to MARAC were not recorded prior to 2018.
- The data captured is based on the Safeguarding Team’s data when supporting operational services to refer to MARAC and may not be inclusive as some operational services may have referred directly into MARAC.

Year	Number of Referrals
2018	16
2019	25
2020	8