

FOI 0214/2023 Response

We are a team of MSc Physiotherapy students from Sheffield Hallam University currently taking part in a leadership placement at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals (STH).

Within this leadership placement we are working towards the aim of developing an effective clinical pathway for patients with Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) on behalf of STH. To aid us with this we are gathering information from other trusts around the country to find out what currently exists and what works and doesn't work.

Due to the limited understanding and limited research of FND, we are aware that many trusts may not currently have extensive pathways for this patient group, however, any information on what you as a trust currently have will be welcomed.

Information we would like to gather includes:

1. **If you currently have any specialist FND staff.**

At present we have a full time consultant and part time specialist FND staff.

The Trust also have Occupational Therapists that work alongside the consultants, providing input.

2. **The ward type in which FND patients usually spend their stay.**

The service we provide is tertiary and there are no inpatient services.

3. **If your trust has a pathway, what does it look like and does it feel appropriate for this patient group**

Individuals are initially assessed by a consultant.

The pathway is resourced with occupational therapists, and they provide education, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) based intervention, self-management techniques.

Please note that we do not have access to physiotherapy, but we do request (or ask GPs to refer) to local physiotherapy support for them if needed.

4. **If there are any community/outpatient services available following discharge in your area that accept FND patients or if they are often rejected.**

At the point of discharge, the service may refer to the Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT) or Psychology Services if they require ongoing support with their mental health wellbeing.