

FOI 027/2025 Response

Dear Sir,

I understand that the trust has commissioned recovery house services from the charity Mind. The published details are as follows:

“Description

This is a 24 hours, 7 day a week Recovery House Facility including staffing. This service relates to the provision of short stay environments for individuals experiencing acute mental health crisis, aged 18+. Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) and Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust Forward Thinking Birmingham are agreeing a multi-agency collaborative to provide short stay environments for individuals experiencing an acute mental health crisis, aged 18+. Such a facility would provide a viable recovery-based resource for those who may be escalating toward a psychiatric inpatient admission and for those who may be considered for a step-down provision from an acute inpatient bed.

It is intended to support those who would benefit from brief biopsychosocial interventions during short term crisis.

The crisis would be viewed as “the moment when the typical activities of the service user's day break down”. Commissioners are seeking an organisation that can provide accommodation and a shared staffing model. The Recovery House will be a 24 hours service and needs to be accessible 7 days a week. The facility must provide a safe environment and support in which service users will receive immediate assistance in identifying the nature of the crisis and how this may be addressed. This will be achieved by using a model of co-production, solution focused and other brief interventions.

The expected duration of a service users stay will be a maximum of 7 nights. There is substantial evidence that demonstrates Recovery houses support inpatient bed capacity, reduce bed days and improve flow.

The Recovery house will be able to feed into this pathway for both service providers, for short term crisis admissions.

Total Quantity or Scope

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Women and Children's NHS Foundation Trust Forward Thinking are agreeing a multi-agency collaborative to provide a 24 hours, 7 day a week short stay Recovery House Facility including staffing for individuals experiencing an acute mental health crisis, aged 18+. To ensure compliance with the Trust Standing Financial Instructions and Public Procurement Regulations, the service has been competitively tendered using the Open Procedure via the Trust's e-tendering portal. This notice is an intention to award a

contract under the competitive process under the Provider selection regime to Birmingham Mind which is a new provider for this service. The contract is planned to commence from July 2025 for Three (3) years (plus extension options for up to Two (2) more years). The anticipated lifetime value of the contract is £5,000,000 over 3 years with the option to extend for up to 2 more years

Award Detail

1 Birmingham Mind (Birmingham)

Reference: 010438-2025-1"

- 1) Please advise whether or not this crisis/ recovery house will be registered with and regulated by the Care Quality Commission.
- 2) If there are more detailed service specifications available for this facility, including any operating procedures for how this facility will interact with trust services such as crisis resolution and home treatment teams, please disclose these.
- 3) Please disclose any trust policy/ protocol for ensuring that referrals to the recovery house will be safe and appropriate.
- 4) If there is a specific trust policy/protocol for identifying patients who are too high risk and need admission to hospital rather than the recovery house, please disclose this also.
- 5) What is the range of " immediate assistance" that the trust expects will be provided by the recovery house?
- 6) What are the " brief biopsychosocial interventions" that will be provided by this facility?
- 7) Does the trust believe that any of these envisaged interventions would constitute treatment or personal care?
- 8) Will patients have the option of receiving help with activities of daily living at this facility? For example, will meals be prepared for some patients or assistance given with laundry and cleaning if necessary, or are patients expected to be fully self caring?
- 9) What staffing is specified by the trust for the recovery house? Please disclose the staffing establishment, including seniority, and the expected staffing level in working hours and out of hours.
- 10) Please advise how many, if any, recovery house staff will be registered healthcare or social care professionals.

11) What Safeguarding policy, if any, has been agreed between the trust and the provider (Mind), including Safeguarding patients from harm by other patients? Please disclose any such Safeguarding policy.

12) What is the agreed mechanism (s) by which the trust will ensure that the quality of care provided by the recovery house is acceptable? How often will the trust review quality?

13) Has the trust agreed any complaint process with the provider, and how will the trust track patients' complaints about the recovery house (assuming that the trust intends to track these complaints)

Response

Please note that the Recovery House Project is due to start in August 2025.

We are in the process of establishing policies, SOP, acceptance criteria and staffing model.

It should be noted that the Recovery House provider will be contacting the Care Quality Commission (CQC) regarding matters of registration.

The Trust currently cannot provide further information, nor respond to your request for information.

The Trust rely on exemption Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to deny your request.

The requested information is therefore intended for future publication and we welcome you to reach out to us in the near future.