

Information Governance

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Our reference: FOI DA3103

Thank you for your request for information received 3rd May 2019. I am sorry for the delay in responding to you. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ayomide Adediran
Information Governance Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision. If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Request:

We are writing to you for details of East London NHS Foundation Trust's strategy to reduce the number of patients sent out of area for mental health rehabilitation. An out of area placement is defined by NHS England as: '...when a person with assessed rehabilitation mental health needs who requires adult mental health rehabilitation inpatient care, is admitted to a unit that does not form part of their usual local network of services.

By this we mean an inpatient unit that does not usually admit people living in the catchment of the person's local community mental health service.' Specifically, a person is considered out of area if they are currently receiving inpatient rehabilitation outside of the Local Authority area that holds responsibility for their future housing. Some out of area placements are appropriate. For example, if a person requires treatment in a 'highly specialist inpatient rehabilitation unit' as defined by the CQC for people with very specific and complex mental health needs and co-morbidities (e.g. psychosis plus acquired brain injury, severe personality disorder, or autism spectrum disorder), as these are usually provided at a regional or national level.

We would like to know the following information:

Question 1. As of April 2019, how many NHS inpatient rehabilitation beds do you have in the care of your Trust?

Answer: The Trust has 16 NHS inpatient rehabilitation beds for Bedfordshire and Luton boroughs. 0 NHS inpatient rehabilitation beds for City & Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham.

Question 2. As of April 2019, how many people are placed in an inpatient rehabilitation unit outside the care of your Trust?

Answer: This data is routinely recorded by Clinical Commissioning Groups at a population level. From trust data, Newham has two people placed in out of area hospital beds – however these are both specialist inpatient (brain injury) beds. City & Hackney – 0 and Tower Hamlets – 0.

Question 3. As of April 2019, of those patients placed out of area in inpatient rehabilitation units, how many are there appropriately because of their highly specialist needs?

Answer: The two people referred to in answer 2 above were placed in an out of area inpatient hospital beds due to highly specialist needs (brain injury).

Question 4. Do you have a local strategy to minimise the use of out of area rehabilitation placements? If so, please provide brief details or attach a copy of any strategy to your response. This should include:

a. How out of area placements are agreed in your area

b. The process for reviewing anyone placed out of area (and potentially bringing them back to a local service)

Answer: There is no formal strategy for this in East London.

In Bedfordshire, we are working with our Bedfordshire and Luton commissioners to review all out of area placements and consider all available alternatives. There are regular review meetings which are supported by the inpatient clinical director. We are also exploring the possibility of establishing a small review team, with the commissioners. For any new out of area placements, requests are screened by the leadership team and clinical director before being passed to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

For Newham, City & Hackney and Tower Hamlets, out of area placements are agreed by the clinical director and borough director and there is an annual review of these placements.

Question 5. Do you have a local community mental health rehabilitation team? If so, please briefly describe their remit, including the characteristics of the clients with whom they are commissioned to work (e.g. those in local high supported accommodation, those returning from an out of area placement etc)

Answer: City & Hackney have a community rehabilitation team commissioned to work along the whole accommodation pathway. The remit of the team is to work with people with chronic severe mental illness and negative symptoms and treatment resistance. The City & Hackney rehabilitation team co-facilitates housing panel and works in an integrated way with the local authority in managing mental health supported accommodation. They are also making links with community health centres to support the wider system.

In other areas, the rehabilitation function is embedded within the community mental health teams.

Question 6. How many local mental health rehabilitation beds have been decommissioned in your Trust in the last five years and how many local beds to you plan to decommission in future?

Answer: No local mental health rehabilitation beds have been decommissioned.