

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning Relative Involvement in Mental Healthcare.

I am assisting in research at the Spectrum Centre at Lancaster University which aims to help improve relative's involvement in mental healthcare. For research purposes, I would like to review the magnitude of how much relatives are currently involved in mental healthcare and what services are available to them through regional NHS trusts.

I am particularly interested in what support and information family members who care, or are affected by, their relative's mental health problem receive from each trust, for example information leaflets/information packs. Additionally, I would like to know whether there are protocols in place to ensure the relative/carer receives the necessary support or whether they are referred by a GP or even themselves for sources of support. Furthermore, I would like to know what information is available to family members educating them on their relatives mental illness.

Specifically, if possible, I would like to see any documentation your trust may use to give relatives or carers of individuals with mental health problems. If possible, I'd like to see why such information is given and any audits at all that show this information for relatives works in aiding the family members recovery. If this information is available, I would like to review any electronic records and documentation which is currently being used within your trust.

Provision for carers does not really factor in to treatment for common mental health problems. The only patients we see who would have designated carers would be people with chronic physical conditions. Carers for some of these patients would usually receive support through physical health services providers

Most of our patients who have a diagnosis of serious mental illness are treated by specialist mental healthcare service provider's e.g. East London Foundation Trust so would not be able to comment on what they provide in relation to patient carer involvement.

We are putting together a strategy, and one section will focus on looking at carer involvement of people who have Dementia.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk) , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR

Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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