

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Hackney College
Defoe Building, Room 10
50 Hoxton street
N1 6LP

Date 08th February 2016

Email: foi@homerton.nhs.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref: FOI 2258

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding an investigation into Domestic abuse services.

The Trust can provide the following information:

1. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for staff affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details.

The Domestic Violence professional policy has been completed and updated in view of The Care Act; it covers Domestic Violence routine enquiry with prompts questions, response to Domestic Violence following the disclosure and referral pathways. A section has also been included to support staff if they wish to seek help. As well as guidance for managers if they are concerned that a member of staff is a victim of domestic abuse. The organisation's Employment Health Services were also involved with the consultation of the policy. It is awaiting approval from the policy group.

2. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for patients affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details.

There is detailed information on how staff can sign post patients for support within the policy. This also includes the SAFE LIVES risk assessment and MARAC referrals. There is a dedicated space for domestic abuse on the intra net where access to materials can be found.

3. Do you have a domestic abuse service established within your organisation?

The organisation does not have a dedicated domestic abuse service the following approach has been adopted:

Staff awareness of Domestic Violence has been embedded in in our systems and process i.e.

- Domestic abuse is included in the staff mandatory and statutory training.
- Routine enquiry about Domestic Violence by midwives at ante-natal booking and by health visitors at the new birth visit
- There is a Health Visitor who has a dedicated role to work with families with children under five who experience domestic abuse. This includes attending MARAC as well as the named professional for refuges located in the borough. The worker is an integral part of the Safeguarding Children Team. She also provides advice and support to, staff as well as supporting staff with the process of attending MARAC.
- Short term project to improve information sharing and liaison between MARAC and general practice

4. If so, state when it was established and give year-on-year figures for referrals/the number of people who use the service.

Not applicable – it should be noted that the Health visitor with Special interest in Domestic abuse started in 2008

5. Are staff inducted in the organisation's policy so that they are fully informed of its content and the support available to them as well as patients?

- The identification and referral pathway for people at risk of Domestic Violence is included in safeguarding training (adults and children).
- When the policy is signed off it will be launched and made available on the intranet.

6. How many staff have received training in recognising and supporting victims of domestic abuse in the past year?

80% and 73% of staff have completed level 2 & 3 mandatory safeguarding children training which includes domestic abuse. In the past 1-2 years about 50% .Staff have been invited to attend on specialist domestic abuse training from NIA which includes making referrals to MARAC referrals.

7. When was domestic abuse training last reviewed in your organisation?

In 2015, and this was done with the London Borough of Hackney Domestic Violence team and the Health Visitor with Special Interest, Domestic Abuse. The LBH post holder (who has since left) was very instrumental in delivering Domestic Abuse training for the organisation. This has since been reviewed by NIA.

8. What does the training cover?

Definition of Domestic violence, the types of abuse (physical, psychological, emotional, financial, sexual). The myths and facts about domestic abuse.

- How to recognise signs and symptoms of domestic abuse? The use of routine enquiry and targeted Domestic Violence questions during assessment. Understanding confidentiality and its limits in relation to Child protection and adult safeguarding.
- Why victims of abuse choose to remain? Confidentiality and child protection? How to recognise signs and symptoms of domestic abuse?
- Domestic Violence routine enquiry and targeted Domestic Violence questions, what to do following disclosure? Referral pathway to Domestic Violence agencies.
- The mandatory safeguarding training delivered to all staff delivers on general information on DA and its impact on children. The local Homicide reviews are also discussed and learning shared.

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at 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 to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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