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Request for Information Reference: 07.23.23

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Email only

3rd August 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10th July 2023 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Tongue Tie and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please see below a request for the following information relating to tongue tie in babies aged 0-12 months.

- 1. How many babies were born within your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

4246

- 2. How many babies were diagnosed with ankyloglossia (tongue tie) between Jan1st 2022 and December 31 2022 at your trust?**

Diagnosed and treated 188

- 3. On average how many days after birth was a tongue tie diagnosis made between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

Diagnosis is only undertaken by a trained tongue tie practitioner therefore referrals in to the service are for an opinion and are made before diagnosis when there is a feeding problem. Diagnosis takes place on the same day as procedure.

4. **How many babies diagnosed with tongue tie were referred for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

436 referrals to the Frenotomy clinic.

5. **Is the frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) available to babies who are fully formula fed?**

Yes

6. **How many frenotomy procedures (tongue tie division) were carried out on babies at your trust between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

188

7. **What was the average waiting time in days between diagnosis/referral and a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

Average wait 4-5 weeks.

8. **How many women had to wait 3 weeks or longer after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) or their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

291

9. **How many women waited more than 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks or longer for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

291 women had to wait longer than 3 weeks and up to 8 weeks. None had to wait longer than 8 weeks.

10. **What is the longest amount of time a women had to wait after a referral for a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) for their baby between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?**

Longest waiting time was between 7 and 8 weeks.

11. **If there is no tongue tie division service in your trust how many referrals were made to an alternative NHS Service for tongue toe division?**

N/A.

12. How many women declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022?

The Trust did not record this information for this time period.

13. Of the women who declined the offer of a frenotomy procedure (tongue tie division) within the NHS between Jan 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022 are you aware how many sought treatment privately instead?

The Trust does not record when mothers decline an NHS appointment and the reason for this, including going privately, however we have only recently begun this and therefore do not have the information for the time period requested.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator