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Request for Information Reference: 08.23.30

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

5th September 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 14th August 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 Feeding Policies and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Please confirm or deny if County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust has a specific policy on provision of support for all forms of infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding.**

The Trust confirms that County Durham and Darlington has an Infant feeding policy which includes responsive feeding, exclusive breastfeeding, support for bottle feeding and combination feeding.

If confirm, please provide a copy of this policy.

See Attachment 1, 2 and 3

- 2. Please confirm or deny if County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust holds information on the number of infants breastfed, formula fed, and combination fed.**

The Trust can confirm County Durham and Darlington holds information on the numbers of infant's breastfed, formula fed and combination fed.

If confirm, please release this data for each of the past 5 calendar years.

Feeding intention at delivery	2018	2019	2020
Breast/expressed breast milk	2597	2354	2295
Artificial	1831	1943	1817
Mixed	210	213	302
Not applicable	18	13	10
Total	4656	4523	4424

Breastfeeding initiation	2021	2022
Breastfeeding initiated	2666	2775
Breastfeeding not initiated	1594	1236
Unknown status	103	219
Total	4363	4230

*change in breastfeeding recording after change to new maternity system in 2021

- 3. Please confirm or deny if County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust provides information on all forms of infant feeding (including breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding) at the 28-week antenatal appointment as outlined in the NICE guideline NG201, post-birth before the family has been discharged and at any other times.**

County Durham and Darlington invites all mothers to have a conversation regarding infant feeding at around 16 – 18 weeks as per UNICEF guidance, and this is repeated at 36 weeks. The discussion is around how to get feeding off to a good start, skin to skin and responsive feeding. Generic information is given to all mothers irrespective of their chosen feeding method. It is anticipated that mothers will make the final decision on how they wish to feed their babies following delivery. Parents are invited to attend an infant feeding workshop between 28 and 34 weeks where feeding is discussed within a group setting. If a mother chooses to bottle feed then this information will be given as required individually.

Prior to discharge from hospital all parents will receive discharge information on how to recognise feeding is going well. Bottle feeding parents are given information on safely making up formula feeds and how to clean and sterilise equipment. All information is now available via Badger net, however prior to this it was given in leaflet format.

Contact details of community midwives are available and parents are advised that they will receive feeding support from midwives and maternity care assistants following discharge from hospital care.

If confirm, please provide a copy of the information on infant feeding that is provided and confirm how as well as when it is delivered.

Please see Attachment 4

- 4. Please confirm or deny if County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust requires mothers to sign a consent form before any information or advice is given on formula feeding OR before an infant receives formula milk in the hospital instead of or alongside breastmilk.**

A consent form is not used prior to supplementation with formula milk, however it is expected that a full discussion around the rationale for giving the formula milk is discussed with parents or if maternal choice this should be fully informed based on clinical evidence. Clinical supplementation audits are required as part of UNICEF accreditation, see attached guidance.

If confirm, please publish a copy of the associated policy and corresponding form.

Please see Attachment 5 and 6

- 5. Please confirm or deny if County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust holds information on the number of infants re-admitted to hospital in the first 28 days due to weight loss.**

The Trust can confirm County Durham and Darlington NHS trust has information on the numbers of infants readmitted to hospital in the first 28 days due to weight loss. Please see attached.

If confirm, please release this data for each of the past 5 calendar years and please publish the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust policy for addressing infant weight loss.

readmission ≤28 days from birth	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
readmission abnormal weight loss/feeding problems	12	6	4	7	5

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