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Request for Information Reference: 06.24.45

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

5th July 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 17th June 2024 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 Sexual Assaults and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. How many sexual safety incidents has the trust recorded where the alleged victim was a patient aged 60 or over and the alleged perpetrator was a staff member (including agency staff)?**

Please provide figures for:
April 2021 to the end of March 2024 (total)
2021-22 - 0
2022-23 - 1
2023-24 - 0

- 2. Do you have a Sexual Safety policy in place that covers assaults on patients by staff?**

The Trust has a Violence, Reduction and Prevention Policy

- 3. Does the policy also explicitly address the sexual abuse of older people?**

No

4. Have staff received training on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?
5. What training have staff received on dealing with sexual abuse against people with dementia?
6. Is this training mandatory for staff dealing with patients with dementia?

A person with dementia may experience changes in how they respond to sex, be inappropriate or aggressive, mistake a person for someone else, or behave sexually in public. There are ways to manage challenging behaviour. Some staff have had training regarding behaviour that challenges, which has been bespoke to their area/field of practice. However not specifically sexual abuse under the umbrella of dementia training, other than that covered by the safeguarding of adults training.

Our Safeguarding adults training will cover the area of sexual abuse as 1 of the 10 categories of abuse set out in the Care Act 2014. The training is directed to staff at various levels dependent on their role as set out in the intercollegiate document.

7. If your hospital has incidents recorded, please provide more information:

Sex of victims

No. Male	- 0
No. Female	- 1
No. Other	- 0

8. Sex of alleged perpetrator

No. Male	- 1
No. Female	- 0
No. Other	- 0

9. Role(s) of alleged perpetrators

HCA	- 0
Nursing Staff	- 0
Surgeon	- 0
Anaesthetist	- 0
Other	- 1

10. Locations of alleged incidents (pls specify number for each incident)

Same Sex Ward	- 0
Single Sex Ward	- 0
Theatre	- 0
Public Area	- 0
Other	- 1

The Trust has mixed bed wards but single sex bays.

11. Was incident reported to the police (please specify number for each incident)

No

12. If not reported, please give reasons for this:

Please indicate if outcome of any police investigations if known:

A full internal investigation was undertaken. Confirmation was received that the allegation was unfounded. The investigation included contact with safeguarding regarding 'LADO' and discussed with the Lead, who also confirmed no further action required. Matron/Sister made contact with the patient to provide the feedback.

13. Was a referral made to the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre?

(please specify number for each incident) Yes No Unknown

Unknown

14. Was the victim signposted to sexual violence support services (please specify number for each incident)

Unknown. The patient was contacted regarding the outcome of the investigation and was briefed and offered support.

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.cddffoi@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