

FOI 069

Catherine Lehal

request-678473-d669b241@whatdotheyknow.com

17th September 2020

Dear Ms Lehal

Request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

On 25th August 2020 you sent a request, made under the Freedom of Information Act, relating to CHC Budgets. I now provide this information as an attachment.

I trust that this is the information you require and that your request has been fully discharged.

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If you are unhappy with this response, you are entitled to request an internal review of our decision, handled where possible by a member of staff not directly involved in the initial decision. If you wish to request such a review, please write direct to the Data Protection Officer, NHS Dorset, Ground Floor, West Wing, Vespasian House, Barrack Road, Dorchester DT1 1TG. We aim to deal with requests for internal review within three weeks of receipt, although where the issues involved are very complicated this period may be extended up to a total of six weeks.

If you have queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Signature Removed

Paddy Baker
Data Protection Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Reference: FOI 069

Catherine Lehal

Q1:

Why has the budget for CHC funding reduced, year on year, given that the law in relation to eligibility has not changed and given that the number of 80+ patients has increased in the same period?

Response:

The CCG sets its budget annually taking into account the funds available to it and various competing pressures across its range of responsibilities.

The Adult CHC budget is impacted by patient demographics and eligibility criteria alongside many other factors.

The Adult CHC budget was reduced in earlier years in line with the downward trend in spend. This trend has since reversed resulting in overspends against the budget in more recent years.

Q2:

To what do you attribute the increased percentage of fast-track spending?

Response:

Providers have increased their costs.

Q3:

What agencies have you paid for consultancy services in relation to CHC funding and which external expertise and/or advice have you sought?

Response:

We generally seek advice where clarification is required from colleagues at NHSE and from our network of CCG colleagues. Occasionally we seek advice on our policies or interpretations of the national framework from our legal representatives. Internally we have utilised Waite Atkins to provide support for some areas of service transformation work.

Q4:

Where can the minutes of policy-making bodies be accessed?

Response:

The Governing Body (Part 1 – Public) minutes are available on our website and can be accessed on our website here: <https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/ccg/members/meetings/>.

Q5:

Can you tell me the dates and attendees of meetings where policy and/or operational decisions relating to CHC funding have been made, please?

Response:

The governing body makes decisions regarding policies in relation to the organisation, including any policies relating to Continuing Healthcare. Where new policies or changes in policy are needed, these are written by members of the service, often shared with local authority partners for comment

and then presented to the governing body with associated reports highlighting the rationale for the new policy / changes to an existing policy.

In terms of the CCG budget for CHC, the numbers of people who are eligible in any given year and who therefore receive CHC funding is not determined by this. This is in line with the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare paragraph 64 which states *“Financial issues should not be considered as part of the decision on an individual’s eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare.”* Where an individual is found eligible for Continuing Healthcare, their needs are met through this funding channel.