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Ian Stirling

Date 24 January 2017
Our Ref NA/CL/FOI 4091

Enquiries to Christine Law
Extension 27998
Direct Line 01592 647998
Email Fife-uhb.foirequestfife@nhs.net

Dear Mr Stirling

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 4091
SERVICES FOR GPS**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request which we received on 20 December 2016.

Question

I am interested in what, if any services are available to GPs in the Fife area to refer patients to, specifically for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Can you please provide a list of these services, what they provide and an indication if this list varies substantially year to year.

What, if any material is available to GPs to guide their selection of appropriate patients to refer to these services.

Response

There is an ME/CFS CNS service for adults in Fife which GPs can refer to and enclosed is a copy of the diagnostic and referral criteria document. This gives information to guide GPs about their selection of appropriate patients to this service and what the service can offer. Children (under 18 years old) receive care through a pathway already in place through paediatric services, paediatric psychology and family services.

The Fife service is well established and we are not aware of any significant year to year variability: not including inappropriate and not appropriate referrals, a total of 1,118 cases are open to the ME/CFS CNS service. 650 new cases have been opened since 2010.

Other services may be helpful depending on main symptom and problem presentation, for instance; Pain Association Scotland, Fibro UK for pain condition or ME Support Fife.

Where there is co-morbidity with other health problems, such as mental health, there is service collaboration. Attached is information such as the Scottish Good Practice guideline, the Scottish Good Practice Guideline for patients, NICE guidelines and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Guidelines.



Chair Tricia Marwick
Chief Executive Paul Hawkins
Fife NHS Board is the common name of Fife Health Board

Please find enclosed for your information the following documents:-

- (1) Fife Health and Social Care Partnership – ME/CFS Specialist Services – Referral Guidelines and Care Pathway Process
- (2) NICE Clinical Guideline 53 – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/myalgic Encephalomyelitis (or encephalopathy)
- (3) Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health – Evidence Based Guideline for the Management of CFS/ME
- (4) NHS Scotland – Scottish Good Practice Statement on ME-CFS
- (5) Scottish Good Practice Statement on ME-CFS – Patient Guide: What someone should know if they or their doctor think they might have ME-CFS

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01592 643355 ext 28977 or email fife-uhb.foirequestfife@nhs.net if we can be of further assistance.

If, however, you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request you can ask us to review the handling of your request. Please write to me specifying the reasons why you are seeking a review within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence. I shall arrange for a review to be carried out and a report made to the Chief Executive of NHS Fife who will respond to your request for a review.

You also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner after the immediate response from us or after our response to your request for a review but you have to do so within 6 months of our reply.

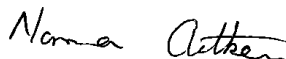
She can be found at:

Rosemary Agnew
Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9DS
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Finally, you should be aware that we operate a disclosure log on the NHS website. This means that all FOI requests made to us are posted on to the web, although the identity of the requester is not made public. Once we have sent you the information, we shall also post this on the website.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely



Norma Aitken
FOI Lead Officer, NHS Fife

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