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8 February 2021

Dear Harriet Clugston,

**RE: Your Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 January 2021 regarding domestic abuse, stalking and harassment under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

You requested the following information:

Could you please tell me:

1. Do you provide access to an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor?

Yes. Southwark Adult Mental Health Directorate have recently recruited an IDAA to work alongside community mental health colleagues. This is a fixed term contract and in one borough at present, as a pilot project.

Our Safeguarding Children and Adult leads within mental health services work closely with local DVA services, as well as LA VAWG to ensure that staff who identify DVA in their clinical work are able to refer to appropriate support which would include to IDAA's if this is something the victim/survivor would like to access..

2. If yes, do you provide access to an IDAA at every hospital site?

Please refer to the response to Q.1 above.

3. Do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse?

Yes. The Trust has a Trust wide Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and the post holder is also the Trust wide DVA lead. The current Named Nurse commenced in role autumn 2018

The Trust wide lead for Safeguarding Adults works alongside the Named Nurse to ensure that DVA is considered across all Trust sites, clinical work activity and that consideration is given across strategic work (for example, as part of wider development

of Trust policies). The current Safeguarding Adult lead commenced in post January 2020.

The Trust also has local Safeguarding leads in each of our 4 adult mental health directorates, Care of Older People, Forensic Services, Addictions services, Perinatal and Psychological Medicine and the Bethlem hospital site, who undertake DVA work. They also participate in local VAWG activity and are representatives at local MARAC meetings.

Similarly, there are Safeguarding leads in each of our 4 borough CAMHS services, for CAMHS inpatient services and for our National and Specialist CAMHS services, who undertake DVA work as part of their routine work, looking at the needs of children within families where there may be DVA, as well as consideration of DVA that may occur in relationships involving young people.

4. If yes, do you employ a domestic abuse specialist nurse at every hospital site?

Please refer to the response to Q.3 above.

5. Do you have a Domestic Abuse policy?

Yes. The Trust has a current DVA policy and this is currently being reviewed and at the second draft stage. Progress on this work has been significantly impeded by the pandemic and attendant service pressures. Following completion of the second draft of the policy, a wider consultation will take place, which will include all of our key local partnerships, VAWG services and MARAC's. The Named Nurse has a close relationship with Safe Lives and will approach them to participate in the consultation process. Additionally, the Named Nurse will approach Standing Together to invite their input.

To complement the DVA Policy, the Named Nurse and Trust Safeguarding Adult lead are proposing the development of a DVA policy for Staff members. It is hoped that work on this policy will commence in March 2021.

Please see attached PDF document titled "Domestic Abuse Policy v.3 October 2016".

6. Do you produce an annual safeguarding report on domestic abuse?

There is no NHS England statutory obligation to provide an annual safeguarding report specifically on domestic abuse (Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk in the NHS: Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework NHSEI 2019). The requirement of a stand-alone DVA annual report is not including in the NHSEI Commissioning guideline.

Domestic Abuse is covered within individual annual reports pertaining to Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults. The Named Nurse and Safeguarding Adult lead work together to ensure that these reports include consistent priorities around DVA work in the Trust for the year ahead. As an example as to our commitment to DVA work, the 2020-21 Annual Reports highlight specific DVA work for 2 out of the 6 priorities identified Trust wide.

7. Do you conduct internal audits to ensure compliance to the domestic abuse policy?

Two audits were undertaken in 2018/19; one looking at electronic documentation and recording and the other, considering staff awareness around DVA.

Due to the pandemic and attendant service pressures, an audit was not undertaken in 2020.

The Named Nurse and Safeguarding Adult lead in the trust will be designing and conducting an audit looking at policy compliance once the new DVA policy is ratified.

9. Have you conducted training for staff on domestic abuse in the last 12 months? If no, in the last 24 months?

DVA training is incorporated into Mandatory Safeguarding children training levels 2 and 3 and safeguarding adult level 2 and 3, as per intercollegiate document 2019, and applicable across all areas of health care delivery. There is no separate intercollegiate document pertaining to DVA training. Thus, standalone DVA training is non-mandatory.

However, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust acknowledges the wide- ranging impact of DVA across our communities, services and affecting all age groups and training for all of our staff is a priority. The issue is of particular significance in relationship to mental health difficulties, and how DVA may impact, or accelerate illness and recovery. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring trauma informed responses to the experiences of our service users.

The Trust provides an e-learning package as part of routine training offer. This is available to all of our staff, and they are strongly urged to attend although it is not mandatory.

Trust staff along with staff at Kings College London (KCL) have developed a specific resource for mental health practitioners with regard to DVA – The LARA manual (Linking Abuse and Recovery through Advocacy for Victims and Perpetrators). This was launched at Royal College of Psychiatrists Inaugural DVA conference in December 2018. This is promoted to our staff and is fully accessible on our intranet. The manual has been promoted nationally by a number of services.

The Trust held a DVA conference in November 2019 – the theme was ‘DVA- Thinking About the Family’. Over 140 staff attended (which was full capacity, and it was oversubscribed) the sessions included 2 presenters who had lived experience, including DHR experience. One presenter from the perspective of a child in a family, and one presented who was a survivor and has gone on to found her own DVA support project. Safe Lives presented a session on MARAC. A seminar focused on Lessons Learned from DHR’s. Of real importance was ensuring our local partnership DVA services were included to ensure staff could network with their local service. Staff counselling services were also available, as staff may have their own lived experience, which could be ‘triggered’. The event was a huge success and other London Mental Health trusts have emulated and gone on to hold their own conferences as a result. It had been hoped to hold another conference in 2020 but due to the pandemic this was not possible. A virtual conference has been proposed for 2021 but this is in the early stages of development.

All of our directorate Safeguarding leads work jointly with partner agencies and so staff are signposted to local DVA training offers from our associated London Boroughs and any NHS England training.

Additionally, local bespoke DVA training has been provided by safeguarding leads to staff as follows:

- Bethlem Mother and Baby Unit – March 2019
- Croydon IAPT – June 2019
- Croydon Adult Home Treatment Team – October 2019
- Lambeth- provided by Lambeth VAWG to all Adult community mental health practitioners in Lambeth Alliance - January 2020
- Wandsworth Consortium Drug and Alcohol Services – February 2020

- Southwark and Lambeth – training delivered to both Perinatal Mental Health Teams as part of a trust QI project – June 2020
- Southwark CAMHS - October 2020
- Lambeth - provided by GAIA domestic violence support service to Adult Mental Health staff in Low Intensity Treatment team Lambeth – November 2020-
- Lambeth - DVA training provided by GAIA domestic violence support service to South West Living Well Centre – November 2020
- Trustwide – Webinar on DVA and Thinking about the Family broadcast via Communications department presented by Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and DVA Lead and Trustwide Lead for Safeguarding Adults – November 2020, as part of National Safeguarding Fortnight.
- Lambeth CAMHS – VAWG training event for all staff – December 2020
- Southwark Adult Mental Health Operational Leads – December 2020.
- Lewisham Adult Community Mental Health Services – February 2021  
Please note that during the pandemic, regular bulletins have been sent to staff across the Trust via communications department and these bulletins highlight the need for staff to consider DVA within their work across services and highlight particular risks related to lockdowns, self-isolating etc.

Further sessions across all our services and boroughs are being planned. For example, a training session for Lewisham CAMHS in March 2021.

9. How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) risk assessments were completed by the trust/health board in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

The Trust does not hold this information. This is because the Trust does not currently have a system to aggregate DASH risk assessment completion.

10. How many domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) referrals were made by the trust/health board to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?

As part of our Safeguarding Adult referrals, which lead to MARAC, please see below table for referrals data:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Referrals</b>
2016	37
2017	34
2018	36
2019	35
2020	62

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The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
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Wilmslow  
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Yours sincerely,

*AdelekeJayeola*

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Corporate Information Governance Officer