

18/10/2021

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

In accordance with S.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that we do hold the information relevant to your request. FOI 862

Response below

You asked:

The Luton and Dunstable and Bedfordshire Hospitals merged on 1st April 2020 to become the Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. BHFT. Considerable work is being completed through our Transformation and Redevelopment teams around the premises, workforce and service needs. This includes review and improvement of policies and process. In the sections below there are some samples of what is in place for the provision of transgender healthcare.

1) Any equality and/or diversity policies you have in place for patients.

- *The Trust uses the policies and guidance in 2 below to give background and to support knowledge and understanding that is applicable to patients as well as to staff*
- *NHS Accessible information Standard*
- *There are medical or clinical standards or protocols for this area which have been led by Professional bodies which have then led to local standards and practices in clinical areas. For instance from 'The Society and College of Radiographers' e.g. for capturing pregnancy risks of imaging re female to male transgender.*

2) Any equality and/or diversity policies you have in place for staff.

The Trust has had a "Supporting Transgender Staff Policy" since 2018 which was part informed from the guidance available from GIRES Gender Identity Research & Education Society and from the Government Equalities Office/Inclusive Employers "The recruitment and retention of transgender staff Guidance for employers".

3) Any guidelines, protocols, policies, or similar relating to care provision for transgender adults.

The Trusts Equality Diversity and Human Rights principles are F.A.I.R Fair Treatment, Access, Inclusion, Respect & Dignity which also work alongside Trust values for the workforce and service.

4) Any guidelines, protocols, policies, or similar relating to care provision for transgender children and adolescents.

We do not hold any guideline protocols or policies

5) Any guidelines, etc. relating to mental capacity and/or informed consent.

Currently a consent policy which identifies mental capacity and informed consent, what is it and how it can be given. It does not refer to gender specific situations but is a generic policy. Under review

6) Any guidelines, etc. relating to shared care agreements and/or working with private services to facilitate treatment, particularly with regards to transgender healthcare.

We do not hold any guideline protocols or policies

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

IG/FOI Coordinator

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to:
dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk