

Our ref: MO'K/jmck/FOI – 506

25th May 2021

By Email: (request-750176-177e23dd@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Gilliland

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information regarding Woodlawn House has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you should write to Dr Catherine Weaver, Head of Information Governance, the FOI lead for the Trust. You have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact Information Governance at the following address:

Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Ferndale
Bannvale Site
10 Moyallen Road
Gilford
BT63 5JX

Tel: 028 37 561458

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

Yours sincerely

(Sent electronically, not signed)

DR MARIA O'KANE
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITY SERVICES

Enc: Response FOI 506

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSE 506

Is Woodlawns still a residential Unit supplying respite to families in the Southern Trust area?

Woodlawn House is a registered nursing home, not a residential unit as referenced in the FOI question, providing care for up to 9 patients with a diagnosis of learning disability. The home remains regulated under the Nursing Home Regulations by RQIA. There has been a temporary variation of contract to enable a service user with a physical disability be supported at Woodlawn House.

Are families still receiving Respite in this Unit upon request?

Woodlawn House aims to deliver short breaks to service users with nursing needs to residents of the Southern Trust following assessment of one's need. Woodlawn House has temporarily ceased short breaks due to an emergency situation. The SHSCT is working to resolve this situation and aims to return to providing bed based short breaks by the end of May 2021. Case managers are offering service user's and carers alternative options to bed based short breaks which includes alternative locations for a bed based short break or Self Directed Support.

Did the Trust consult with carers?

The decision to suspend bed based short breaks in Woodlawn House was an operational decision in response to an emergency situation which placed patient safety at the core of the decision. Operational decisions remain the responsibility of the management team in the Southern Trust. Carers were not consulted prior to the decision being made however the Learning Disability Carers Forum were informed of the decision on 28th April 2021.

When will there be a normal return to Respite services in Woodlawn House and Nightingale Lodge?

Due to the ongoing requirement for enhanced infection prevention and control practices including the continuation of two metre distancing the Trust are unable to advise when Woodlawn House or Nightingale Lodge will return to full capacity.

Are all Service users with a Learning Disability that are using Respite Units vaccinated?

The SHSCT does not require service users availing of a short break to be vaccinated as this would be discriminatory to those service users who for specific reasons cannot avail of a vaccine.

All service users who are availing of a short bed based break will have a covid test prior to admission to the unit. The service user must have a negative test result before the short break can proceed. Following a covid test the service user is required to isolate at home for 48 hours prior to availing of the short break.