

Our ref: BMCN/kh/FOI 375

8th February 2021

By Email: request-721290-26d66885@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Jones

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information regarding substance misuse treatment 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 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:

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

Tel: 028 37561458

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barney McNeany', written in a cursive style.

BARNEY MCNEANY
DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITY

Enc

This request relates to the provision of female specific, free to use substance misuse treatment within Southern Health and Social Care Trust's local authority area. Please see the below definitions to help inform Southern Health and Social Care Trust's response:

- A free to use substance misuse service is a service that provides free treatment, support and/or advice to people affected by substance misuse.
- A female specific, free to use substance misuse service only provides treatment, support and/or advice to people who are female.
- A female specific space/programme within a broader free to use substance misuse service is an intervention/pathway that only people who are female can access. For example - a women only support group.

With the above in mind, please can Southern Health and Social Care Trust respond to the following questions in keeping with freedom of information legislation:

1. What free to use substance misuse services are available to people (both men and women) in Southern Health and Social Care Trust's local authority area? Please list all the services.

The SHSCT Community Addictions Service supports individuals, men and women, aged 18 and over who are experiencing issues with harmful misuse of substances or substance dependency, and with an expressed desire to moderate or cease their substance intake. Referral is via General Practitioner and is free of cost.

Within the Northern Ireland Alcohol and Drug Services Tiered approach to service provision the SHSCT Community Addictions Service delivers a Tier 3 service. It provides community-based specialised alcohol and drug comprehensive assessment and co-ordinated care planned treatment.

The SHSCT Community Addictions Services provides psychological and medical based interventions through several programmes including:

- Community Addiction Team Keyworker Support – individual one-to-one and group interventions
- Opiate Substitution Service – for service users who had an opioid addiction
- Dual Diagnosis Service – for service users who have dual diagnosis problems both substance misuse and mental health issues
- Child and Family Liaison Intervention Service - for service users who are parents and require additional support from the Child and Family Liaison Service due to the impact of their substance use on their children
- Family Support – support for families/carers of service users with substance misuse issues
- Peer Support - offered by a practitioner who has life experience of addiction, to support service users alongside their keyworker

- Support Group – fortnightly support group for service users
- FEAR Group – ‘Face Everything And Recover’, an educational 10 week group programme that works with service users on specific weekly topics.

This is delivered in locality areas to enable easy access for service users.

Within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust's local authority area Tier 2 services provide alcohol and/or drug-related information and advice, triage assessment, referral to structured alcohol and/or drug treatment, brief psychosocial interventions, harm reduction interventions (including needle exchange) and aftercare. These services are delivered by open access facilities and outreach teams and voluntary sector supports.

2. Are any of the services listed in question 1 female specific?

The Community Addiction Service does not offer a female specific service. Service users engaged with the Child and Family Liaison Intervention Service are predominantly female. However, it is not exclusive to females, as males who are fathers can also be referred to and be provided with support from this service.

3. Do any of the services listed in question 1 provide female specific spaces/programmes within a broader service? If yes please provide details of the female specific spaces/programmes offered.

The Child and Family Liaison Intervention Service offers a seven-week ‘MOMS’ Group Programme. This is aimed at supporting mothers, and expectant mothers, who misuse substances to have increased insight on the Hidden Harm - the harm caused to children behind closed doors in the family unit, and impact of their substance use on self and children. This group meets in a local setting to allow for easy access to the group. Mothers are referred into the group by their Community Addiction Team Keyworker.

The Child and Family Liaison Service work closely with parents to ensure they are safe and their children are safe in the family home. It works with families to provide education and advice regarding substance misuse and the impact on the children and close relationships. It supports parents to ensure they have a healthy lifestyle and healthy relationships with their children and families. The families are usually already known to family and child care social service teams. The role of the practitioner within this service is to advocate on the parent’s behalf. They will also work to ensure that the voice of the parent is heard right from the outset of the assessment process and throughout. They work with the parent to address their substance misuse, while supporting them to make significant changes to their lifestyle, to keep their children safe, and to keep themselves safe.