

Gareth Davies  
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17 August 2018

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[www.thanetccg.nhs.uk](http://www.thanetccg.nhs.uk)

**Our Ref: FOI.18.THA106**

Dear Mr Davies

**RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 27 July 2018 by NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

**A) Please list the wheelchair services provided by the CCG, including:**

**i) The provider –**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG's wheelchair service contract is with Millbrook Healthcare

**ii) The geographical area covered –**

I can confirm this would be the Kent and Medway CCGs Boundaries

**iii) Brief description of the provision covered –**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG's provision covered is wheelchair and repair Provision

**iv) The need level met (i.e. low, end of life, hospital discharge, etc)**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG's need level is as follows:

Grade	Description of User	Equipment Needs	Funding Responsibility
1 (CAT4)	PART TIME USER <b>SHORT TERM</b> – Temporary requirement less than 6 months). Normally independently mobile. Immobile due to accident of operation (may include terminal care)	Pushed or self-propelling standard. Special chair may be required e.g. recliner for full leg plaster or hip spica	For hospital discharge = Acute service.  Self-care (self-funded, 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector etc.).
2 (CAT3)	PART TIME USER <b>LONG TERM</b> – Ability to walk short distances. Requires wheelchair on <b>regular basis (minimum 3 days per week) for outdoor use</b> or to enhance quality of life for user/carer	Pushed standard or lighter-weight Self-propelling standard Buggies for patient's	If less than 3 days Client will be advised to access third sector services or private purchase.

3 (CAT2)	<b>PART TIME USER LONG TERM</b> – Variable indoor walking ability due to <b>fluctuating condition</b> . High degree of independent life-style but requires wheelchair to maintain level of independence and quality of life	Self-propelling standard or lighter-weight	NHS
4 (CAT1c)	<b>FULL TIME USER LOW ACTIVITY – Limited or lack of ability to self-propel.</b> Dependent for many daily living needs	Pushed or self-propelling standard or buggy. Specialist chassis for custom-made seat	NHS
5 (CAT1b)	<b>FULL TIME USER ACTIVE –</b> Unable to self-propel. <b>Independent mobility with powered wheelchair.</b> Degree of independence in daily living activities	EPIC & EPIOC depending on availability/environment + motivation	NHS
6 (CAT1a)	<b>FULL TIME USER ACTIVE – Independent mobility and lifestyle</b> Appropriate equipment reduces dependence on others and improves quality of life	Self-propelling standard or active	NHS

**B) For each instance where the answer to 'A i' is anything other than the CCG itself:**

**i) The date when the related contract began –**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG's contact began on: 1 April 2017

**ii) The annual cost of the contract to the CCG –**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG does not hold this information.

**iii) The annual cost of the service at the last point it was provided directly by the CCG**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG does not hold this information.

**iv) The date when the current contract will expire**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG's contract will expire on: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**C) For each instance where the answer to 'A i' is the CCG**

**i) The annual cost to the CCG of the service for each of the following financial years: 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG does not hold this information.

**D) The following information about wheelchair service use**

**i) The current total longest open episode of care for (a) adults and (b) children, in weeks**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG does not hold live patient-specific episode of care information, you may wish to redirect this part of the request to the provider of the service.

**ii) The average waiting time in weeks for the following financial years: 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 (up until the date on which this request is received)**

I can confirm NHS Thanet CCG does not hold this information.

**iii) The total annual spend on wheelchair services for the following financial years 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19**

I can confirm NHS Thanet hold the following information:

CCG	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Thanet	£555,412	£561,522	£489,864	£489,864

**iv) The total number of complaints relating to wheelchair services received for the following financial years 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 (and the outcome of complaints if possible)**

NHS Thanet CCG does hold this information. The CCG considers that this information is exempt under *Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40(2) (personal information)* as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of Data Protection legislation. Although I cannot confirm the exact figure I can confirm that the number in each of these categories is less than five.

The *Freedom of Information Act 2000* introduces a broader concept of risk of personal identifiable information because its test for deciding whether personal data can be disclosed is whether disclosure to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles. This means that public authorities have to assess whether releasing apparently anonymised data to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles.

This is intended to ensure that public authorities take into account the additional information that a member of the public might have (information on the Web or in news reports, public libraries, court records etc.) that could allow data to be combined to produce information that relates to and identifies a particular individual - and that is therefore personal data.

Low statistical values increase the likelihood of seemingly anonymised information being combined with other information to identify an individual.

We hope that this has dealt with your request for information however, should you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to request that we conduct an internal review of the way we have handled your request. If you would like us to conduct such a review please contact us within two months of this letter:

Email [NELCSU.foi@nhs.net](mailto:NELCSU.foi@nhs.net) or

**FOI-Internal Review Request  
NEL CSU  
Kent House - 4th Floor  
81 Station Road  
Ashford  
TN23 1PP**

Your request for an internal review will then be processed in accordance with our Freedom of Information Policy.

If you are still dissatisfied following the internal review, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response, which will protect your anonymity, will be posted on the NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group website.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team  
NEL CSU**

This Freedom of Information request has been processed by NEL CSU on behalf of

**NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group  
Thanet District Council  
Cecil St  
Margate  
Kent  
CT9 1XZ**

NEL CSU is NEL Commissioning Support Unit and is hosted by NHS England. NEL CSU provides a number of administrative functions including managing Freedom of Information Requests.