Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-213

Date: 17th August 2021

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 13/07/2102 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding of vulnerable people with disabilities in emergency settings.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1   In the Emergency Department (ED) is there a separate waiting area for vulnerable adults with learning difficulties?

A1   At UHNM there is no specific designated waiting areas for patients with Learning Disabilities at either Royal Stoke or County hospital emergency departments. But at both sites once the patient has been triaged and a Learning Disability has been identified both departments have access to side rooms or relative rooms which is quieter and away from the main waiting area.

Q2   Are responsible adults allowed to accompany vulnerable adults with learning difficulties when they are seen by clinical staff in ED?

A2   Yes- although through COVID this has been assessed on an individual dependent on risk at the time

Q3   Are carers welcome to provide care if needed?

A3   Yes

Q4   Does your Trust have policies in place to assess capacity to consent to investigations and treatment for adults with learning disabilities? If so, could you supply me with a copy of these policies?

A4   See attached Policy C43- Consent to treatment incorporating Mental Capacity Act policy

Q5   Do you have policies relating to the administration of treatment/pain relief when an adult with learning disability is unable to consent? If so, please could I request a copy of these policies?

A5   Yes - see attached Policy MM03 - Storage, Prescription, Supply and Administration for medicines. Appendix K refers to Covert Administration in Adults

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.
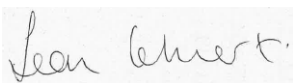
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager