

Ref FOI17 041
Date 16 February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Please find below/attached the Isle of Wight NHS Trust's response to your request.

I have developed a keen interest in the provision of mental health training given to ambulance staff.

I would be very grateful if you could provide me with some information on what training your service provides.

What is the content of the initial mental health training you provide your staff with? For example; classroom led course, teaching from a mental health professional, experience shadowing mental health staff.

Response: Course content for initial mental health training awareness is dictated by training providers at that point in time, which is predominantly and currently university led. All employed ambulance staff are required to undertake mandatory mental capacity act training on an e-learning platform as part of initial training.

Do staff at all levels receive the same initial mental health training?

Response: Not all skill levels would have received the same initial mental health training. It is mainly aimed at health and care professions council (HCPC) registered paramedics.

What is the length of the initial mental health training you provide your staff with? I.e. number of hours or days

Response: All paramedics trained under the auspices of the institute of health and care development (IHCD) would have received historical initial classroom based mental health

awareness training as part of the overall training syllabus. The amount of time and depth covered on this subject would be dictated by individual training departments within regional ambulance training colleges or in-house approaches. Mental health training awareness through higher educational routes, i.e University, will again be delivered through regional set syllabuses.

What ongoing mental health training do you provide the staff who are employed with you with?

Response: The joint royal colleges' ambulance liaison committee (JRCALC) guidelines, used by ambulance services, cover mental disorders, ranging from common drugs used in mental health, capacity and consent to treatment. These guidelines are periodically updated to reflect current research and evidence relating to ambulance service pre-hospital care. The JRCALC 2016 guidelines have a whole new section for mental disorders and approaches to mental health. HCPC registered ambulance staff will undergo familiarisation and an assessment process to cover these updates. In 2014 an expression of interest invite was forwarded to all ambulance staff, across all sections of the workforce to participate in the Serenity project, in conjunction with Hampshire and Isle of Wight police. This involved training on Section 136 and the Serenity Project itself. Ten members of staff took part in this.

Are you able to provide me with any statistics on the range of jobs that crews attend? For example; mental health related, social, trauma

Response: The Isle of Wight NHS Trust has no information available that can be broken down specifically for mental health.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust came into existence on 1 April 2012 and does not hold information prior to this date. If you require information prior to this date, please contact the Department of Health.

Please note that this response does not constitute consent for direct marketing.

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust serves a resident population of 140,000 with a substantial influx of tourists during the summer months. The Trust provides acute, ambulance, community, maternity, mental health services on the Isle of Wight. As the only fully integrated service provider in England with this unique range of services comparisons with other service providers are not always straightforward.

A log of this request will be held on a database by the Trust. All hard copy correspondence relating to this request will be held for one year from the date of this letter, before being confidentially destroyed. A copy of this response will be published on the Trust website.

If you are unhappy about the response you have received, you should write and request the Trust to undertake an internal review of your application. A senior member of staff, not previously involved with your request for information, will undertake this review. If you remain

dissatisfied with the response received you may complain to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information Team