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Our ref: 3214

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Freedom of information request

I am writing in response to your request for information which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your questions and our responses are shown below:

I am conducting an investigation into domestic abuse and am looking at the provision of domestic abuse services, training and support within NHS trusts and boards.

1. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for staff affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details. There is not a dedicated policy for domestic abuse as it falls within the safeguarding policy, but it is discussed during MaST and support is offered to staff. They are signposted to the Safeguarding Team should they wish to seek advice and support regarding personal experience of domestic abuse.
2. Do you have a dedicated policy with a structure of signposting support for patients affected by domestic abuse? If so, please give details. There is not a dedicated policy for domestic abuse as it falls within the safeguarding policy. Clear instructions are in place within the Safeguarding Policy for staff when domestic abuse is disclosed by a patient. Further work is currently in progress and, the Trust is working with a survivor of domestic abuse to develop this.
3. Do you have a domestic abuse service established within your organisation? No – Link Nurse in place in ED. Referrals are made to outside agencies – ESDAS (Surrey) & Worth (West Sussex)
4. If so, state when it was established and give year-on-year figures for referrals/the number of people who use the service.

Referrals made to ESDAS (Surrey) & Worth (West Sussex)

2013 – 29

2014 – 38

5. Are staff inducted in the organisation's policy so that they are fully informed of its content and the support available to them as well as patients? The Adult Safeguarding Training session on induction and annual updates include this information.
6. How many staff have received training in recognising and supporting victims of domestic abuse in the past year? – 1916 members of staff have completed the Safeguarding Adults training via eLearning/MASTs programme for a rolling year between December 2014 to November 2015.
7. When was domestic abuse training last reviewed in your organisation? Safeguarding Training session was last updated in September 2015 which covers domestic abuse.
8. What does the training cover? Different types of abuse - domestic abuse added to the Care Act – trafficking / modern slavery / how to ask sensitive questions / what to do if someone discloses they are experiencing domestic abuse or any other type of abuse / consider the history of events – does the injury add up to the story? / frequent attenders to ED / help available