

FOI REF: 22/237a

Eastbourne District General Hospital
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15th July 2022

Tel: 0300 131 4500
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I am writing to request some information about Learning Disability nurses.

- 1. How many Learning Disability nurses have been employed by your trust over the last five years (please supply this information annually, from 2017 to 2022)?**

Currently the Trust has 2 Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurses. One is tri-funded between East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT), Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The other has been employed in the last year and is funded by the CCG. The Trust's first Learning Disability Liaison Nurse was employed in the same tri-funded way from April 2012.

The CCG also fund four further posts that link to primary care but do not work directly for the Trust.

- 2. Regarding the Learning Disability nurse, or nurses, currently employed by your trust, in which hospital(s) and/or other settings are they based? If the nurse(s) work across multiple settings, please include all of them.**

The Learning Disability Liaison Nurses both the tri-funded post and CCG work across all settings, Conquest Hospital, Eastbourne District General Hospital (DGH) and Hailsham Health Centre.

- 3. Could you share the hours worked by the Learning Disability nurse, or nurses, currently employed? For example, do they cover 9am-5pm or is there 24 hour provision?**

The service is 9am - 5pm.

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4. Could you share the band of the Learning Disability nurse, or nurses, currently employed by your trust?

The Learning Disability Liaison posts are Band 7.

5. Do you employ any other healthcare professionals with a learning disability speciality?

There are several healthcare professionals within the Trust who have a special interest in Learning Disabilities.

- 2 anaesthetists at Eastbourne DGH and 1 at Conquest Hospital have learning disabilities in their work plans and who co-ordinate planned surgical admissions for patients with learning disabilities.
- Each hospital has a multidisciplinary team who support these anaesthetists and include nurses and Operating Department Practitioners. These are not learning disability nurses but have a special interest.
- Several departments within the Trust have learning disability champions.
- The Special Care Dental Service specialise in dental treatment for children and adults with additional needs.
- There is a Transition Nurse Specialist in Paediatric Neuro-disability.

Further to our response of 22nd May, we subsequently received the following request from yourself and our reply is detailed below:

Please could you clarify two things.

For question 1, I asked for the number of Learning Disability nurses employed by your trust over the last five years, to be supplied annually. How many learning disability nurses were working for your trust in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?

2017 - 1 LD nurse

2018 - 1 LD Nurse

2019 - 1 LD nurse

2020 - 1 LD nurse

2021 - 1 LD nurse until July when the second LD nurse came in to post.

2022 - 2 LD Nurses.

For question 3, is this Monday-Friday? or on weekends too?

Monday to Friday.

Also, please can you be specific about where each of the LD nurses are based? The FOI reply stated that 'they work across 'across all settings, Conquest Hospital, Eastbourne District General Hospital (DGH) and Hailsham Health Centre.'. I understand they work across a few places, but is there a primary location each of them are based at?

Our main office space is shared with the Safeguarding Team at DGH but we can also use the Safeguarding Offices at Conquest and Hailsham Health Centre. We also work from home at times too.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
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