

FOI REF: 26/362

29th May 2026

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Eastbourne
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Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the structure and governance of specialist maternity continuity of care services within your Trust.

Please could you provide responses to the following questions:

- 1. Does your Trust have a dedicated high-risk continuity of care team (or caseload midwifery team) for women and birthing people experiencing mental health conditions and/or safeguarding concerns (e.g. domestic violence, substance or alcohol misuse)?**

Yes.

- 2. If yes, does this continuity/caseload team have a designated team leader or maternity practice leader at Band 7 or above who is solely responsible for this team (i.e. not managing additional clinical or operational teams), for example a mental health specialist midwife or equivalent?**

Yes.

- 3. If no dedicated team leader exists, please state who holds operational and clinical management responsibility for the team (e.g. community midwifery manager, consultant midwife, safeguarding midwife lead, etc.).**

Not applicable.

- 4. Where no dedicated team leader is in place, how does the Trust manage:**
 - o Clinical risk oversight**
 - o Staff appraisal and professional development**
 - o Supervision and support for specialist midwives working in this role**

Not applicable.

5. **Is this service funded through Birthrate Plus staffing recommendations, or does it require additional or separate funding (e.g. Integrated Care System funding, borough-level funding, specialist commissioning, or other arrangements)?**

Yes, funded through Birthrate Plus.

6. **What is the current caseload ratio for midwives within this team (e.g. 1:30, 1:48, etc.)?**

1:28.

7. **Does this continuity of care team provide intrapartum (labour and birth) care as part of their caseload model?**

Yes.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm