

17th June 2026

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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:

- 1. Does your maternity service routinely collect and record data relating to social risk, however this may be termed locally (e.g. vulnerability, complex social factors, social needs)?**

Yes.

- 2. If yes to Q1: approximately how many women using your maternity services were identified as having at least one social risk factor in the financial year 2024/25, where such data are routinely recorded? If an exact figure is not readily available, an estimate or the most recent available figure would be helpful.**

496.

- 3. Does your maternity service currently use the MatDAT (Maternity Disadvantage Assessment Tool), or any other standardised tool, to assess social risk in pregnancy/postnatally? (yes/no; if yes, please specify)**

No.

- 4. At which points during maternity care are social risk assessments routinely completed or reviewed? (e.g. booking appointment, 28 weeks, admission for birth, postnatal care)**

A risk assessment is completed at the maternity booking appointment when screening questions are asked regarding

- domestic abuse.
- children in the home and/or outside of the home for both parents.
- child social care involvement past and present for children. Do the parents have history of childhood ACEs and child social care in their childhood.
- relationship issues.

- any involvement with the police/probation.
- any household members registered sex offenders.
- any household member affected by abuse or exploitation.
- any risks to staff safety.
- housing problems and home conditions, financial difficulties.

Based on the information above, the midwife will decide if a cause for concern social report is required.

The community midwife is responsible for updating the social report as pregnancy progresses with information from wellbeing checks, lifestyle questions and domestic abuse screening questions. Outside information from third party agencies such as police SIGNS, MARAC referrals and child social care information requests will trigger a review of the social risk.

Maternity safeguarding receives a list of all cause for concern reports generated each week. Maternity safeguarding reviews the report and rag rate it. The report is reviewed by the safeguarding team, and the children are checked on the social care and education case management system to see if they are open to Child Social Care (past and present)

Routine Enquiry about domestic abuse Badgernet prompts:

- booking, 28 and 34 weeks to complete a routine enquiry.
- Routine enquiry outstanding. A reminder will show to complete a routine enquiry if the last enquiry contained any "unable to ask" answers.
- Postnatal routine enquiry. Following birth, if there has not been a routine enquiry completed or a routine enquiry has been started but the "current domestic abuse" field has not been completed then a reminder will be displayed.

Lifestyle enquiry

- asked at booking
- from 35 weeks, Badgernet will prompt every contact until a lifestyle prompt is asked.

5. Which Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system is primarily used in your maternity service to document social risk? (e.g. Badgernet, K2, EPIC)

Badgernet.

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