

Information Governance Department
East Wing
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13 November 2014

Reference: 2014-115

Dear 

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act 2000

Following your request for information we received on the 9 October 2014, we are providing you with access to the recorded information held by Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust in answer to your enquiry.

You requested the below information and responses from the Acute, Recovery and Rehabilitation, Services for Ageing Mental Health, Substance Misuse Services and Community Mental Health Divisions within the Trust are set out below:

- (1) How do your community mental health teams (including crisis resolution teams and all others) react when a patient receiving their services in the community has been reported missing to the police?**

Crisis, Resolution and Accident and Emergency Liaison Teams will ask for police assistance in locating a service user by requesting a welfare check. The responsibility has been placed on the clinical teams to follow up this request with further contact with the police to find out if they have actioned the request. Teams understand that they must provide any relevant information to the police about risk, appearance, next of kin, and usual whereabouts of the missing patient.

- (2) Under what circumstances, if any, would your community based mental health teams discharge a patient who was still missing?**

This would be based on an assessment of clinical need and risk, but on occasions patients are discharged when they go missing after all avenues to contact them have been exhausted.

- (3) How do your community mental health teams react when a patient receiving their support in the community is found or returns home after being missing?**

Chair: Leisha Fullick
Chief Executive: Wendy Wallace

Your partner in
care & improvement 

This would entirely depend on the circumstances and the reaction would be determined by the situation.

In general we would expect a review of the person's mental state to be carried out when any team has contact again with the service user. This would incorporate a review of the risk to self and others as well as a consideration of the need for future care from mental health service. If further secondary mental health care is required then consideration should be given to whether this should be inpatient or in the community.

The service user, relevant community teams, GP and carers/family would be involved in any discussion and planning.

(4) Does your trust have written guidance (such as policies, procedures or guidance) about how community based mental health teams should proceed when a patient in the community goes missing or returns after being missing? If there is such guidance is it possible to send us a copy of it?

The crisis teams have a local policy about how to respond if someone has not attended an appointment or cannot be contacted. This draft policy is attached. Please note that this policy only reflects the practice of the three crisis resolution teams in the Trust and not any other Trust services. The policy is still in draft form because it has not yet been signed off by the Trust's Quality Committee.

The Trust has an Absent Without Official Leave policy which is currently under review. Please see attached.

Please accept my apology on behalf of the Trust for the delay in responding to your request for information.

I do hope you are satisfied with the way in which your response was handled, if not you may request an internal review at the above email address within 28 days of this letter. When contacting the Trust please use the above reference that is unique to your request.

If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner' Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF and on the Information Centre's website. www.ico.gov.uk/

Yours sincerely


Interim Information Governance Officer