

Our Ref: ID 2024

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request - Commissioning of specialist palliative care services

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 8th December 2021.

You Asked for:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act to request information about the commissioning of specialist palliative care services by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

In order to assist you to meet this request I have provided the following definitions of the terms used in my request, below:

Palliative care is the care and support given to people with life-limiting conditions. It focuses on managing pain and other symptoms over the whole of the time a person lives with their condition and aims to give the best quality of life possible. It may be provided by specialist or non-specialist clinicians. It includes practical and emotional support people and those close to them need in order to spend the time they have left in the way they choose support and care, such as that provided by hospital palliative care teams. It may be provided by **Specialist palliative care** encompasses hospice care as well as a range of other specialist advice, physicians in palliative medicine or other suitably trained practitioners, such as clinical nurse specialists in palliative care.

My questions:

1. What specialist palliative care services are commissioned by the CCG for the financial year 2021-2022?
2. How many specialist palliative care professionals are funded/commissioned by the CCG for the financial year 2021-2022?
 - a. Consultants in Palliative Medicine
 - b. GPs with a specialism in palliative care
 - c. Specialist Nurses employed as a clinical nurse specialist or a consultant nurse in palliative care
 - d. Allied health professionals
3. What is the CCG's annual budget dedicated to specialist palliative care services commissioned for the current financial year, 2021-2022?

4. How many specialist palliative care beds are commissioned by the CCG for the financial year 2021-2022?
 - a. In hospitals
 - b. In hospices
 - c. In nursing homes
 - d. In another facility
5. During the financial year 2021-2022, how many visits have been made by specialist palliative care professionals to patients who died at home in the CCG?
6. Does the CCG commission seven-day specialist palliative care services? If yes, please specify their hours of operations and the specific services available.

Our Response:

1. Wirral Specialist Palliative Care Community Service and Wirral University Teaching Hospital's (WUTH) Supportive and Palliative Care Services are commissioned by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
2. An overall service is commissioned rather than number of staff.
There is one GP employed by NHS Wirral CCG as Clinical Lead for Palliative Care.
3. The 2021/2022 Annual budget for Specialist Palliative Care and End of Life is £2.1million, however, this excludes acute general palliative medicine and hospice spend.
4. Hospital services are commissioned rather than a specific number of beds. St John's Hospice provide up to 16 beds, dependent upon patient needs and Covid requirements.
5. Unfortunately, we do not have this information. Please can I suggest that you contact Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust directly? I have included their details below, should you wish to do so.
WCHC - wcnt.foi@nhs.net
6. Yes, a seven day service is provided from 9am to 5pm.

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

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