

20230208 FOI ref 469-2223

FOI request - maternity care for survivors of sexual abuse and/or sexual violence

I am undertaking a FOI request across all UK NHS Hospital Trust/ Health Boards, with the aim of creating a picture of the maternity service provision for survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse.

I would be very grateful if you could complete this survey on behalf of your NHS organisation. Please include information about community services, in addition to acute services.

Some of the information may need to be collected from specific midwives or obstetricians within your organisation.

I also include a few questions about staff training and resources in relation to your whole organisation so that a broad comparison between maternity and other departments within your organisation can be made.

I am aware that the topic of sexual violence is a sensitive one, and that some of these questions may be challenging or upsetting for some people. If you would like to speak to someone about any of the issues in this survey, you can call ----- in confidence on -----

Thank you

Maternity staff training and support

1. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all midwives

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

2. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all nurses who provide care during early pregnancy [including termination of pregnancy]

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

3. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all nurses (if any) who are employed within maternity to provide care during pregnancy [during antenatal and postnatal periods]

	Yes / No/ NA
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No
No nurses are employed in this role	NA

4. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all anaesthetists who work within maternity

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

5. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all obstetricians and gynaecologists

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

6. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all Lactation Consultants / Infant Feeding Specialists

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

7. Please indicate if your Trust / Health Board provides the following training to all support staff working within maternity [HCAs / MSWs]

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

8. Please indicate if your Trust / Health Board provides the following training to all sonographers

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

9. Does your Trust /Health Board have a SARC referral centre on site? [please circle]

Yes

No [please go to q. 11]

No the Safeguarding Lead Midwife has advised that there is a designated SARC centre off site of the main building

10. Do you provide specific training in relation to SARC referrals to the relevant members of the maternity team? [please circle]

Yes

No

No

11. Does your Health Board / Trust have any specific maternity related resources that staff can use to support them / guide them in providing care to survivors who have disclosed? [please circle]

Yes

No [please go to q.13]

No

12. Please provide as much detail as you are able to about the resources [then go to q.14]

.....we do not have any specific resources in relation to survivors of maternity services. I am unable to comment on the rest of the trust

...Obstetric persons receive care from maternity services from 16 weeks gestation, care prior to the this gestation is provided by gynaecology services. At this trust there are no designated gynaecology ward areas. Inpatient early pregnancy services are provided by an early pregnancy Assessment unit (outpatient only) Gynaecology inpatient services are delivered under within the surgical department of this hospital. Therefore it is difficult to identify specific areas in which staff receive this training

13. Are there any plans in place to create / obtain such maternity related resources? If yes, please state in as much detail as you are able to

.....there are to our knowledge no current plans in place to obtain maternity related resources

14. Do you provide any specific support to maternity staff members who themselves are survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse? [please circle]

Yes

No [please go to q.16]

No

15. Please describe the support in as much detail as you are able [then go to q.17]

.....We would not be able to obtain information specifically re staff members. In the event of disclosure staff members would be supported on an individual basis By line Managers. Staff could be provided with options of referral to staff counselling, occupational health services. I have discussed the this query with the lead Midwife for Safeguarding for maternity services who has also advised that she could refer staff members to the Sexual Assault and Rape Counselling service (SARC). Staff could also be offered a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

16. Are there any plans in place to create / obtain such maternity related resources? If yes, please state in as much detail as you are able to

.....None to our knowledge

Specialist maternity roles

17. Does your Trust/Health Board have any members of staff within your maternity department who provide specialist services / guidance to colleagues in relation to care for survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse? [please circle]

Yes

No [please go to q.19]

No

18. Please state which members of the maternity team provide these services and what further training they receive in order to undertake this role. Please state if no further training is undertaken [please then go to q. 20]

19. Please describe how members of the maternity team are supported to ensure that survivors of sexual violence and /or sexual abuse receive the maternity care that they require

The midwives can discuss concerns with a safeguarding midwife who can advise on referral to external and national agencies. E.g. Support for victims of sexual violence and abuse - GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-abuse> and arrange for lateral checks etc. , they can also seek support form professional midwifery advocates who can support them as practitioners

Clinical care provision within maternity

20. Are women who disclose domestic violence or abuse routinely asked if they have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse? [please circle]

Yes No

That would be dependent on the practitioner to whom the woman has disclosed the information. There is no specific guidance or education for them to do so. Any pregnant person disclosing domestic violence would be referred to the lead midwife for safeguarding.

21. Does your Health Board / Trust provide any maternity specific specialist clinical or support services for survivors? [Examples could include information leaflets, specialist clinics, care pathways, peer support groups, infant feeding support, flagging system on clinical notes] [please circle]

Yes No [please go to q.25]

No

22. Please provide as much detail as you are able to about these services

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.....

23. Do you collect demographic information about who accesses these services? [please circle]

Yes No [please go to q.25]

Not within maternity services.

24. Please provide as much demographic information as you are able [then go to q.26]

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25. Are there any plans in place to develop any specialist services? If so, please provide as much detail as you are able

..... UHNM have a corporate safeguarding team to include a Lead for vulnerable patients, adult and named nurses for child safeguarding, named midwife for safeguarding, lead nurse for mental health, Learning disabilities, dementia and autism . The team signpost patients and staff to specialist services who can support victims of sexual assault, SAVANNA support victims. New Era specialist domestic abuse service also support victims of domestic abuse. Social Care also support adults with care and support needs alongside the Police.

There are plans to increase the size of the corporate safeguarding team in the financial year 23/24. Plans to include a domestic abuse nurse will formulate part of the business plan.

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Organisation details

26. [Organisation wide] Does your Trust/Health Board have any members of staff across your organisation that provides specialist services / guidance to colleagues in relation to care for survivors of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse?

Yes No [please go to q.28]
 No

There is a corporate safeguarding team who act in providing support and advice to staff on where to signpost patients and families to for further community support form specialist services in the community.

27. Please state that provides these services and what training they receive. Please state if they do not receive any further training

.....There is no specific training within maternity services (including the early pregnancy assessment unit _

There is a safeguarding lead Midwife within the trust , however I am not able to comment upon what training is delivered by the wider trust

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28. [Organisation wide] Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all clinical staff

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No

29. [Organisation wide] Does your Health Board / Trust have any generic or other speciality specific [such as ophthalmology] resources that staff across your organisation can use to support them / guide them in providing care to survivors who have disclosed? [please circle]

Yes No [please go to q.31]
 No

30. Please provide as much detail as you are able to about the resources [then please go to q.32]

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31. Are there any plans in place to create / obtain such resources? If yes, please state in as much detail as you are able to

.....We have a domestic abuse policy C37 which lists various external agencies and charities who support victims of domestic abuse , so staff would signpost and the respective agency would support and have their own resource

/materials.....

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32. Please state the name of the NHS organisation completing this survey

University Hospital of North Midlands

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Thank you very much for completing this FOI request

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