Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.18738
Date Received: 04 September 2018

*Note to Applicant: As of 1 April 2017, North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT).

Information Requested:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that a differently structured request has been sent to CCGs on this subject; early responses from CCGs have referred me to Trusts, including certain mental health trusts. Therefore please do not refer me to CCGs unless for specific questions where only the CCG holds the requested information.

1. Is the Trust a provider of NHS Wheelchair Services?

Yes

If the answer to question 1 is "No", the Trust need not respond to the remainder of this request. If the answer to question 1 is "Yes", please respond to question 2.

For the remaining questions of this request, if the Trust provides NHS Wheelchair Services under different contracts, please list the requested information for each contract.

2. The name of the CCGs for which the Trust provides NHS Wheelchair Services; when it started providing this service; and when its current contract(s) ends

NHS Southend CCG and NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG, contract start date is 1.04.17/end date 31.03.19

West Essex CCG, contract start date 1.04.17/end date 31.03.19

3. The current eligibility criteria for receiving NHS-funded wheelchairs via the NHS Wheelchair Services provided by the Trust

**NHS Southend CCG and NHS Castle Point and Rochford CCG**

The Southend Wheelchair service will provide equipment to meet mobility needs. These include individual assessment, provision, maintenance, re-assessment and re-provision as necessary when the following general criteria is met.

- Permanent resident of Southend or Castle Point Boroughs.
- Permanent and substantial disability that affects mobility.
• The user needs the wheelchair for a minimum of 6 months.
• The user will be using the wheelchair for a minimum of 4 times weekly. (not specifically to meet work or sporting requirements).
• The user agrees to abide by the conditions of loan.
• The user does not exceed the weight limits stated by the manufacturers’ specifications and agree to inform WCS of any weight changes.

**West Essex CCG**

• Registered with a West Essex GP
• Referred by a Qualified HCP
• Long term mobility needs of more than six months
• Frequent and regular user, evidence of minimum use of 5 times a week.
• Unable to walk safely, without risk to health, more than 50metres approximately
• Safe environment for use
• Carer available and in good health if required to push the wheelchair.

Additional criteria apply for provision in care homes and for powered wheelchairs

4. A list of all changes to the eligibility criteria for receiving NHS-funded wheelchairs via the NHS Wheelchair Services provided by the Trust, if those changes were implemented after April 1st 2015; please state not just the new criteria in each case, but also the old criteria that was altered by the change (e.g. 'inability to walk 20m unaided' replacing 'inability to walk 40m unaided')

None

5. For each change listed in response to question 4, please provide details of any public consultation that was carried out on the change; whether any measures to publicise the consultation were undertaken beyond posting it online; and what responses were received to any such consultation

Not applicable

6. A list of any changes to the eligibility criteria for receiving NHS-funded wheelchairs via the NHS Wheelchair Services provided by the Trust that are currently being considered, proposed or consulted on.

None