Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.18.762
Date Received: 18 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:

1. What is your Trust’s policy regarding smoking on hospital grounds? Please specify. For example:
   
   a. Is smoking banned throughout the site?
      NHS premises have to be smoke free by law since April 2018 and this applies to car parks
   
   b. Is smoking banned in the car park?
      Yes, there is signage in place to that effect
   
   c. Is smoking banned in private vehicles while on site?
      As our premises are smoke free we would respectfully request that smoking does not take place in private cars, but our policy does not ban this
   
   d. Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?
      No
   
   e. Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?
      No
   
   f. Are there designated smoking areas (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?
      No

2. On what date did the Trust adopt its current policy on smoking?
   1 April 2018

3. Does the Trust have any plans to change its smoking policy? If so, please specify what those changes will be.
   The Smoking Policy will be reviewed but will remain in line with legal framework. We cannot predict the changes.

   For example, do you intend to:
   
   a. Remove existing smoking shelters and extend non-smoking areas
      Smoking shelters may be used for vaping in some areas
   
   b. Permit designated smoking areas or install designated smoking shelters
      No as the premises must remain smokefree
4. If the answer to Q3 is ‘YES’ please specify the date on which the Trust plans to implement the changes.
   Policy review is scheduled for September 2019

5. What is the Trust’s policy regarding vaping in (a) hospital buildings including wards and (b) hospital grounds?
   Vaping is not permitted in wards or buildings however vaping is permitted in outside designated areas

6. Does the Trust have any plans to change its vaping policy? Please specify how it will change and when.
   Policy scheduled for review in September 2019

7. How are the Trust’s smoking policies enforced? For example: signage, public address systems, use of CCTV cameras/wardens to monitor the site etc.
   The Trusts Smokefree Procedure states the following:

9.0  NON-COMPLIANCE

9.1  Staff Breaches:
   a. All Trust staff are expected to promote a smokefree environment and healthy living.

   b. Staff should avoid condoning or advocating smoking.

   c. Staff are obliged to support the implementation of the smokefree policy.

   d. Managers have a duty to ensure that this policy is enforced within their area of management responsibility and to report incidents using the Datix system.

   e. The Trust expects staff to act and to be seen as acting as role models to patients for smoking reduction/cessation.

   f. If any staff member breaches the policy then in the first instance line managers should discuss the issue with them and ensure they fully understand the smokefree policy.

   g. If staff continue to breach the policy then action through the disciplinary process may be appropriate. A failure to comply with this policy will be treated as misconduct and as such may lead to formal action in accordance with the Trust’s Disciplinary (Conduct) Policy.

   h. All contracts with internal and/or external contractors will refer to strict smokefree agreements. The manager responsible for the employment of the contractor will be responsible for ensuring compliance.

9.2  Visitors Breaches:
   a. Visitors to the Trust will be made aware of the smokefree policy through signs, posters, leaflets as well as conversations with staff.

   b. Carers will be provided with a list of the contraband items in the hospital which includes tobacco, cigarettes, lighters and matches.

   c. Any visitor/carer who is found to be supplying a patient in hospital with contraband items will be reminded about the policy and asked to
support the patient’s treatment plan. The rationale for the policy will be explained and visitors/carers will be offered support to learn more about the harmful effects of smoking. If appropriate they will be directed towards their local stop smoking service.

d. It is recommended that where staff choose to approach a patient or visitor to inform them of the Trust Smokefree policy, this approach is made only once. The information provided should be limited and along the lines of; ‘May I make you aware that this is a smokefree Trust within the hospital, buildings and grounds’.

e. A zero tolerance approach will be applied to any individual who becomes abusive when reminded of the policy. Should the person become aggressive then the member of staff is to walk away from the situation and seek support from their line-manager. Datix must be completed as per Trust policy on reporting incidents.

9.3 Patient Breaches:

a. Prior to planned hospital admissions patients will be advised that smoking is not permitted in the hospital or grounds and they will be offered support to temporarily abstain or quit. This will include nicotine replacement therapy and behavioural support. They will be asked not to bring tobacco, cigarettes, lighters or matches with them to hospital.

b. For unplanned admissions patients will not be permitted to keep tobacco, cigarettes / e-cigarettes, lighters or matches on their person. If carers or family members accompanied the patient to hospital, then they will be asked to take the prohibited items home. If the patients are unaccompanied when they arrive at hospital, staff will store their contraband items and they will be returned at the point of discharge.

c. Should the patient become aggressive when the smokefree policy is being implemented then the member of staff should summon assistance and the aggressive incident managed according to that person’s care plan. Restrained should only take place if the patient pose a risk of fire or their presentation escalates to the extent of potential harm to others or themselves. Datix must be completed as per Trust policy on reporting incidents.

d. Where there is no immediate risk the staff should discuss the breach with his/her colleagues and agree the most appropriate time and place to meet with the patient to review the care plan. Patients who are struggling to comply with the smokefree policy should have a review of their nicotine replacement therapy, and consideration given to increasing the amount of behavioural support that has been provided.

e. It should be noted that there are no exceptions to this policy in respect of patients, there are to be no designated areas within buildings where the use of cigarettes is allowed (this will include 136 suites and hospital grounds).

8. How many recorded complaints has the Trust received from members of the public (including patients) about patients, visitors or staff smoking on hospital grounds since 1st January 2018?