Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.20.1578
Date Received: 6th July 2020

Information Requested:

The following Freedom of Information questions seek to provide an overview of CS (Clinical Supervision) arrangements for MHN’s across England:

1. What is the full name of your Trust?
   Essex Partnership University Foundation NHS Trust

2. How many mental health nurses are employed in your Trust?
   a. Head count?
      912
   b. Whole Time Equivalent?
      862.60

3. Is Clinical Supervision provided to mental health nurses employed in your Trust?
   Yes/No
   Yes

   If no:
   a. Please provide the reason[s] why not
      N/A
   b. Does your Trust plan to introduce Clinical Supervision in future? Yes / No / Maybe
      N/A

   If yes:

4. Is there an accountable officer at Trust Board level responsible for Clinical Supervision arrangements? Yes / No
   The Executive Director of People and Culture is indicated as the Policy Lead
   a. If yes, what are their full contact details?
      Sean Leahy (Executive Director of People and Culture)
      sean.leahy1@nhs.net
      0300 123 0808

5. Is Clinical Supervision a mandatory requirement of your Trust, or is it voluntary?
   All clinical staff must attend supervision every 8 weeks as a minimum standard. New starters must receive supervision every 2 weeks during their probationary period. In addition to that some staff working in particular clinical areas may seek supervision at more regular intervals. Specialist services staff must receive supervision monthly in line with national standards.
a. If voluntary, what percentage of the number of employed MHNs attend Clinical Supervision sessions? [% of head count] N/A

6. How often are MHNs expected to usually receive Clinical Supervision? [in weeks] Once within an 8 week period as a minimum

7. How long is each Clinical Supervision session usually expected to last? [in minutes] There is no specified time for a supervision session this may vary depending on the needs of the individual at the time

8. Are the Supervisors in your Trust specifically trained to provide Clinical Supervision to MHNs? If yes; how and where does this happen? The training delivered is not specific to clinical supervision. In previous years the Trust has commissioned clinical supervision training from ARU. The Trust has had a small number of requests this year so are likely to commission one delivery.

9. Does your Trust evaluate the Clinical Supervision MHNs receive? Yes / No Reports on compliance with attendance at supervision are reported to various Trust committees as requested. Managers/Service Directors will be able to review individual staff data via central recording system. An audit of the Supervision and Appraisal Policy was scheduled for earlier this year but was postponed due to the Covid-19 emergency. The Trust is currently rescheduling all audits but no dates have been agreed. If yes:
   a. what aspects of CS are evaluated/measured? N/A
   b. what evaluation methods are used? N/A
   c. how often do CS evaluations take place? N/A
   d. Is the latest CS evaluation report publicly available? If yes, please attach a PDF copy [and/or provide the relevant link on the Trust website] N/A

10. Does your Trust have a publicly available Clinical Supervision policy? If yes please attach a PDF copy [and/or provide the relevant link on the Trust website] Yes the Trust has a Supervision and Appraisal Policy and Procedure. However the Trust believes that the Policy you have requested is available on its public website and is therefore unable to provide you with this information direct as the Freedom of Information Act prohibits the re-release of information that is already published within the public domain. The Trust is therefore applying Section 21 Exemption (Information accessible to applicant by other means).
However in an effort to be helpful we can provide you with the link on where to locate the Policy you have requested:

https://eput.nhs.uk/publication-category/s/

Applied Exemption:

Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority’s publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link https://eput.nhs.uk