

Information Governance

7 January 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26333

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Provision of Counselling and Psychological
Services**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 5 December 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Smith
Information Governance Assistant

We would like to understand the different funding streams and mechanisms through which community or voluntary organisations are contracted to provide counselling and / or other psychological therapies. To that end please provide

Q1. A list of contracts held by your agency with community or voluntary organisations for counselling / psychological therapy services.

A1. The Trust commissions the following community and voluntary counselling / psychological therapy services for patients. Access to these services is through the Trust's Wellbeing Hub Service:

- Ballynahinch Counselling
- Mindwise
- New Colin Counselling Project
- New Life
- Praxis

The Trust also provides funding for a self-referral counselling service through the New Colin Counselling Project, formerly known as Colin Community Counselling.

The Trust also has a contract with Inspire Workplaces for counselling services for all Trust employees.

Q2. Information on what organisational directorates/programmes these contracts sit within and what population groups are eligible to access these services.

A2. The Wellbeing Hub contracts sit within the Adult Mental Health Directorate of the Trust. The Wellbeing Hub is a primary care based service that aims to promote and support emotional wellbeing within the Lisburn locality of the Trust.

The Wellbeing Hub will be expanding into the Down locality of the Trust in January 2019. It can be accessed by any adult over the age of 18 years of age experiencing common mental health problems that are suitable for a referral to a Step 2 talking therapy as indicated by: NICE Guideline 123.

The self-referral counselling service, operated by the New Colin Counselling Project, is open to any adult over 18 years of age living within the Lisburn locality of the Trust area who has identified themselves in need of counselling support.

The contract with Inspire Workplaces sits within Human Resources and is provided for all staff.

Q3. Your agency's projected budget for these services for 2018-2019?

A3. The projected budget allocation for the Wellbeing Hub is £282,262.00 as of 31st October 2018.

For Inspire Workplaces, the projected budget for 2018/19 is likely to remain as £45,000.

Q4. Your agency's total budget for this for 2017-2018?

A4. The budget for the Wellbeing Hub 2017-2018 was £282,262.00.

The Trust total budget for Inspire Workplaces services for 2017 -2018 was £45,000.

Q5. Your agency's total budget for this for 2016-2017?

A5. The budget for the Wellbeing Hub 2016-2017 was £282,262.00.

The Trust total budget for Inspire Workplaces services for 2016 -2017 was £45,000.