

09 February 2021

Our Ref: RFI 37430

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Provision of Female Specific, Free to Use,
Substance Misuse Treatment**

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 22 January 2021.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services and 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

**Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant**

This request relates to the provision of female specific, free to use substance misuse treatment within South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's local authority area. Please see the below definitions to help inform South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's response:

- ***A free to use substance misuse service is a service that provides free treatment, support and/or advice to people affected by substance misuse.***
- ***A female specific, free to use substance misuse service only provides treatment, support and/or advice to people who are female.***
- ***A female specific space/programme within a broader free to use substance misuse service is an intervention/pathway that only people who are female can access. For example - a women only support group.***

With the above in mind, please can South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust respond to the following questions in keeping with freedom of information legislation:

Q1. What free to use substance misuse services are available to people (both men and women) in South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's local authority area? Please list all the services.

- A1. The South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust provide the following addiction for all service users regardless of gender:
- Community Addiction Treatment Services within three locality areas
 - Shimna House; Sub-Regional Inpatient Addiction Treatment Unit
 - Substance Misuse Liaison Team

Non-statutory addiction service providers:

- Dunlewey Substance Advice Service
- Simon Community Outreach Services
- Ascertain
- Daisy
- The Link
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Gamblers Anonymous (Through Dunlewey Substance Advice Service)

Q2. Are any of the services listed in question 1 female specific?

- A2. The services listed in the response to Question 1 above are not female specific. However, all services will offer the availability of female only practitioners where this is requested or it is clinically appropriate to do so.

**Q3. Do any of the services listed in question 1 provide female specific spaces/programmes within a broader service?
If yes please provide details of the female specific spaces/programmes offered.**

A3. Yes: The Community Addiction Teams (CAT) provide women only support groups within all three locality areas. These groups are essentially peer-led with additional supports from the CAT team members where requested. The non-statutory services identified above at Question 1 do not provide 'female only' specific services but will make female practitioners available on request or where the need is identified.