

Information Governance

4 November 2021

Our Ref: RFI 40620

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Learning Disability Nurses**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 25 August 2021. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Thank you for your patience.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & Corporate Affairs and Adult Services & Prison Healthcare Directorates 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

**Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Assistant**

Q1. How many learning disability nurses are working in your Trust with children with learning disabilities?

A1. The Trust currently has 1.0 x Band 7, 2.45 x Band 6 and 2.73 x Band 5 Nurses working with children with learning disabilities.

Q2. Can you please provide the role descriptions, associated numbers of LD nurses and specific environments in which they are working? (schools, home, GPs, acute hospitals, assessment & treatment etc)

A2. Please see Attachment 1 - Band 5 Children's Learning Disability Community Nurse.
Please see Attachment 2 - Band 6 Children's Learning Disability Community Nurse.
Please see Attachment 3 - Band 7 Children's Learning Disability Community Nurse

The above Job roles cover the following Services:

- Provide person centred nursing to ensure continuity of care within agreed standards to families in the community.
- Assess, plan, implement and evaluate patient care.
- Monitor and report on patients/client progress and maintain contemporaneous records.
- Make decisions based on professional knowledge and experience.
- Maintain professional standards of practice and contribute to continuous quality improvement.
- Adhere to HSCB and NMC guidelines for safe handling, administration, storage and custody of medicinal products.
- Promote health and wellbeing.
- Ensure the provision of an integrated quality service by maintaining effective communication with the multi-disciplinary team and community services.
- Maintain good communication with patients/clients and relatives/carers ensuring that their individual needs are met and report issues to the line manager as required.

Q3. Do you have any specialist LD nurses for example in autism, complex physical health needs, etc?

A3. No, the Trust does not have any specialist Learning Disability (LD) Nurses in either autism or complex physical health needs; these are covered by the Children's Community Nurse's (CCN).

Q4. How many learning disability nurses are working in your Trust in Adult LD Services?

A4. The Trust currently has 31 LD Nurses working in the Trust area within Adult Disability Services.

There are 3 vacant Band 5 LD Nurse posts for Day Care and 1 vacant Health Facilitator post.

Q5. Can you please provide the role descriptions, associated numbers of LD nurses and specific environments in which they are working? (management, day centres, community/family home, care management, statutory residential settings (including supported living), GPs, acute hospitals, assessment & treatment etc)

A5. Please see Attachment 4 – Band 5 Community LD Nurses

Please see Attachment 5 – Band 7 Community LD Nurses

Please see Attachment 6 – Band 7 Epilepsy Specialist Nurses

Please see Attachment 7 – Band 7 Health Facilitator

Please see Attachment 8 – Band 8A Senior Practitioner

The above Job roles cover the following Services:

- Community/Family home
- Day Care
- Statutory and Independent sector Residential (Including Supported Living)
- Thompson House Hospital
- Within Prison Healthcare

The following listed are associated numbers of LD Nurses and specific environments in which they are currently working:

- Lead Nurse Learning Disability – 1 Band 8a – Lisburn, Down and North Down and Ards Sectors

Lisburn Sector: Thompson House Hospital:

- Thompson House Hospital – 11 Band 5 and 4 Band 6
- LD Nurses Community Team - 1 Band 7 and 2 Band 5,
- (Base for) Epilepsy Nurse – 1 Band 7
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (Speech and Language) -1 Band 7

- Intensive Support Senior Practitioner (LD Nurse) – 1 Band 7

Bayview Bangor:

- LD Nurses Community Teams – 1 Band 7 and 3 Band
- Health Facilitator – 1 Band 7

Balloo Training and Resource Centre – Bangor:

- Day Care – 1 Band 5

Down Hospital and Down Resource Centre (DRC):

- Down Hospital – 1 Band 5
- LD Community Team (DRC) – 2 Band 5

Q6. Do you have a breakdown of your learning disability nurses within the following categories:

- **Registered nurse**
- **Clinical Nurse specialist**
- **As a registered advanced nurse practitioner**

A6. Please see Attachment 9 - Learning Disability Nurses as at 31 August 2021.

Q7. How many learning disability nurses are needed in your Assessment & Treatment Units that are presently being covered by Mental Health and/or agency staff?

A7. There are no learning disability Nurses needed in the Assessment & Treatment Units, therefore there are none being covered by Mental Health and/or agency staff.

Q8. *Where do you see gaps in your present learning disability service where LD nurses are needed?*

A8. There are currently 3 Band 5 vacant Day Care LD Nurses posts and 1 Health Facilitator post.
There has been need for additional resource that has occurred due to Covid-19 pressures and these include the following areas:

- Covid-19 Swabbing/testing
- Covid-19 Vaccination – Booster clinics (Residential, Day Care and Supported Living)
- Increase in placement breakdowns
- Physical health problems – Frail/elderly care, Mental health crisis and behaviours which challenge
- Increase in the need for health promotion/early intervention work
- Carer/Service User pressures regarding care in the community
- Staffing pressure due to staff sickness/self-isolation across Services

Q9. *What are the specialist services that are needed and what is the magnitude of need for these services?*

A9. The Specialist Services that are required in the Trust and the magnitude of the need for these Services are as follows:

Health Facilitator

To work in partnership with Primary care services and facilities as required, ensuring completion of health screening assessment.

There is a current gap in Services due to one vacant post.

Assessment and Treatment Centre

Resource is required for admission of service users, who have a learning disability, who require assessment and treatment under the Mental Health (NI) Order. Also for assessment, care and treatment to support assessed need and mitigate risk of said admission.

Q10. *What input do LD nurses have in personal assessments and care plans for service users?*

A10. LD Nurses complete individual Nursing Assessments and Care Plans implementation and evaluation of same for service users. This also informs social work, care management assessment, support planning and provision of social care based on individual assessed need. (See also response to Q11).

Q11. *What is the referral process for families to access a LD nurse for their learning disabled person?*

A11. The referral for a nursing assessment can be made to LD Nurse Services via the following:

- Self-Referral
- Referral by a family member
- Social Worker
- Consultant Psychiatrist
- Psychology
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Other involved Agenices/professionals