

23 June 2023

Our Ref: RFI 51491

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Carers Assessments**

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 06 June 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care and Older People 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust hold and maintain a register of carers in its area?

A1. Yes, the Trust holds and maintains a register of carers in its area.

Q2. If yes to 1, how many carers have been identified in the local authority area at the time of receipt of this FOI?

A2. To date, the Trust has 2,389 carers on the Trust Register. Recently, work was carried out to update consent for the Trust to hold carer's details, therefore the Register is up-to-date and accurate as of January 2023.

Q3. Does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust commission an external organisation(s) to be responsible for and conduct Carers' Assessments on its behalf?

A3. No, the Trust is responsible for and conducts Carers' Assessments.

Q4. Does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust – or the commissioned organisation responsible for Carers' Assessments – have a formal fast-track process in place for the delivery of Carers' Assessments for carers of people with severe, progressive conditions?

A4. Yes, the Trust has a fast-track process in place.

Q5. Following initial Carers' Assessments, does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust – or the commissioned organisation responsible for Carers' Assessments – conduct routine reassessments for carers of people with severe, progressive conditions?

A5. Yes, the Trust carries out annual reviews. However, a review will be carried sooner if the person's condition has deteriorated or the situation of the service user or carer has changed significantly.

Q6. Does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust – or the commissioned organisation responsible for Carers' Assessments – use a standardised form for undertaking Carers' Assessments?

A6. Yes, the Trust uses The Carer Conversion Wheel as the standard form within Adult Services. Within Children's Services, the Trust uses the Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment form, specifically the section titled Carer Capacity to Meet the Child or Young Person's Needs.

Q7. Does the Local Authority/Health and Social Care Trust have a Single Point of Access for information and guidance on Carers' Assessments?

A7. The Trust use The Carer Support Service which has information that outlines what a Carer Conversation is and can refer the carer to the relevant team to progress. The Carer Support Service would also include information on Carer Assessments in newsletters and when hosting stands at community events.

There is also Carers NI literature that is used to provide carers with information about Carer Assessments.

Q8. What is the cost of conducting one single Carers' Assessment?

A8. The cost of Carer Assessments are a delegated statutory function for the Trust and these are carried out as part of the key worker's role.

Q9. What is the average (mean) waiting time between request for assessment and completion of assessment for all Carers' Assessments in:

- a) The year April 2018 to March 2019
- b) The year April 2019 to March 2020
- c) The year April 2020 to March 2021
- d) The year April 2021 to March 2022
- e) The year April 2022 to March 2023

A9. The Trust does not collate this information and is unable to provide an answer to this question.

Q10. Does the Local Authority allocate a specific budget for Carers' Assessment?

A10. No, there is not a specific budget allocated for Carers' Assessments.

Q11. If yes to 10, what was the Local Authority's/Health and Social Care Trust's annual budget for Carers' Assessments in:

- a) The year April 2018 to March 2019
- b) The year April 2019 to March 2020
- c) The year April 2020 to March 2021
- d) The year April 2021 to March 2022
- e) The year April 2022 to March 2023

A11. N/A

Q12. If yes to 10, what proportion, as a percentage, of the budget allocation for Carers' Assessments was spent in:

- a) The year April 2018 to March 2019**
- b) The year April 2019 to March 2020**
- c) The year April 2020 to March 2021**
- d) The year April 2021 to March 2022**
- e) The year April 2022 to March 2023**

A12. N/A