

Reference:	FOI.13298.23
Subject:	Maternity care for survivors of sexual abuse/violence
Date of Request:	3 December 2023

Your request and our response

I would be very grateful if you could complete this survey on behalf of your NHS organisation. Please include information about community maternity services, in addition to acute services.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information requested, below and overleaf.

1. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all Health Visitors

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	Yes

However, the UHB's Health Visitors (HV) are Specialist Practitioners in Public Health; they have an extensive understanding of the impact of trauma on people's wellbeing, resilience and coping mechanisms. HV also have multiple skills gained through training, such as The Solihull Approach, which takes a trauma informed approach to working with families to facilitate containment where families and individuals may be very reactive as a response to their own trauma. HV also have a good understanding of the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACE), which informs a trauma informed approach.

The UHB's HV undertake mandatory training in Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). HV also undertake Level 3 Safeguarding for Children and Adults which must be renewed every three (3) years. This suite of training covers topics including sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and child abuse.

2. Please indicate if your Trust /Health Board provides the following training to all physiotherapists who provide care within the maternity services

	Yes / No
Mandatory training about providing trauma informed care	No
Mandatory training about the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse	Yes

However, for trauma informed care, physiotherapists working with maternity services will have an awareness and have varying levels of training in this area, managed through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) processes.

The UHB's Physiotherapists undertake mandatory training in Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

3. Are women and birthing people routinely asked, or offered the opportunity to share, if they have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse? [please circle]

Yes

No [please move to Q.4]

4. If yes, please provide detail about this process [e.g. at what point(s) in their maternity care does this happen; who is the person who makes this enquiry; is this required by any policies etc?]

Women are routinely asked the Routine Enquiry (RE1) during their pregnancy and are asked on each and every contact during a women's antenatal period of care, as per the Midwifery prompt in the All Wales Handheld records. Furthermore, women are also asked the RE1 questions during any hospital admissions and during their postnatal period of care. Women are not directly asked regarding sexual violence or abuse. However, the RE1 question and questioning regarding mental wellbeing often results in women talking about their experiences.

5. Please state the name of the NHS organisation completing this survey

Hywel Dda University Local Health Board (UHB).