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| Reference: | FOI.12890.23 |
| Subject: | Mental Health (MH) care |
| Date of Request: | 16 October 2023 |

Requested:

Freedom of Information request – Levels of mental health service provision during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please see attached a spreadsheet, for you to complete with the information that you hold. We would like to request the following information in relation to the above:

Mental health service contacts

1) Contacts by consultation medium for adults:

Please provide the total number of contacts you have had with adults accessing help for their mental health, in the community and in A &E, broken down by the consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called “contacts by medium for adults”

2) Contacts by consultation medium for children (under 18):

Please provide the total number of contacts you have had with children accessing help for their mental health in the community and in A&E broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called “contacts by medium for children”.

3) IAPT contacts by consultation medium for adults:

Please provide the number of contacts you have had with adults accessing Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called “IAPT by medium for adults”.

4) IAPT contacts by consultation medium for children (under 18):

Please provide the number of contacts you have had with children (aged under 18) accessing Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services broken down by consultation medium. Please provide a monthly breakdown between November 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called “IAPT by medium for children”.

5) Depot Injections given between Jan 2020 and June 2022:

Please provide the number of depot injections given to patients broken down by location. Please provide a monthly breakdown between March 2020 and June 2022. Kindly complete the spreadsheet attached, on the tab called “Depot injections given”.

6) Alternative arrangements:

- a) If a patient could not access a remote appointment, what was the Board's offer to access care?
- b) If home visits or depot clinic were withdrawn for people needing depot injections, what were the alternative arrangements?

7) Management of Covid in Psychiatric Wards between March 2020 and June 2022:

Did you shut any services in whole or in part or stop taking patients into a service or on a waiting list during lockdown. If yes, could you explain the reason that decision was taken.

8) Visits to wards:

- a) Did you change your policy to restrict visits from friends and family to patients on the wards during this time (Between March 2020 and June 2022)?
- b) Did any policies or rules for visits vary for different age groups and groups of patients?
- c) If visits were restricted, did you put on additional methods for patients to keep in touch with friends and family such as extra phones for the wards or setting up video calls?
- d) If yes, what date(s) did you provide extra facilities?

9) Access to outdoors:

- a) Did you have any policies on access to outdoors/ fresh air for patients?
- b) Did these policies change during lock down, and if so please specify dates that any fresh air policies changed.

10) S17 Leave:

Did you have any updated policies and procedures on s17 leave during this time? For example, was s17 leave routinely cancelled?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 1 and 2, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), Community Team Learning Disabilities (CTLD) and Accident and Emergency (A&E) patient records, as the number of contacts that do not breach the four (4) hour target is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, for question 5, contraceptives are prescribed by various settings across the UHB and not all information is recorded centrally. Therefore, in order to provide you with the information

requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of MH patient records across all of its healthcare settings, to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and therefore, provides the accessible information it holds, within the attached spreadsheet, as requested, at Attachment 1.

In relation to question 4, where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) / UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.