

Our Ref: NG/RM/25100
Date: 2nd April 2025

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 14th March 2025. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

I am writing to request the attached information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about psychological support for parents who have experienced pregnancy or baby loss in NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB.

This FOI was originally sent to the ICB; however, they were unable to answer all questions on the services provided and suggested redirecting the request to yourselves.

Please see Appendix 1 attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance

Name: **North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust**

Questions

1. Does your ICB commission a maternal Mental Health Service? **Yes**
2. If yes to Question 1, does this service include access to specialist psychological support (1:1 therapies), for people with the following experiences:

Experience	Both parents	Mother/ birthing person only
Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy and molar pregnancy	No	Yes
Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomaly (ToPFA)	No	Yes
Stillbirth	No	Yes
Neonatal Death	No	Yes
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)	No	No

Additional Information: We offer 1:1 mental health assessment to partners. If there is a need for psychological therapy we would usually signpost/ refer the partner to another relevant service.

3. If yes to Question 1, what is the current composition of the clinical team:

Role	NHS Agenda for Change Banding	WTE
Consultant Clinical Psychologist 8c	8c	0.5
Clinical/ Counselling Psychologist 8b	8b	0.5
Project Manager	N/A	N/A
Clinical/ Counselling Psychologist	8a	1
Art Therapist	N/A	N/A
Specialist Mental Health Practitioner	N/A	N/A
Mental Health Nurse	N/A	N/A
Specialist Midwife	7	1
Peer Support Worker	3	1
Assistant Psychologist	4	0.5
Project Officer	N/A	N/A
Administrator	N/A	N/A

4. If yes to Question 1, how long after the experience of pregnancy and baby loss are bereaved parents able to access the service?
 - **Up to one Year**
5. If yes to Question 1, what was the average length of time bereaved parents waited to be seen by the service, following referral, in 2024 for:?
 - a. **Assessment (referral to assessment)– 15 days**
 - b. **Therapy (referral to treatment)– 28 Days**

(Please note these are the average waits for the whole Maternal Mental Health service, we do not collect data for each pathway separately).

6. If yes to Question 1, how long are parents able to access therapies from the maternal mental health service?
 - **Indefinitely – for as long as therapy is needed.**
7. Do you commission any other specialist psychological therapy service, separately from Maternal Mental Health Services, for bereaved parents who have had the following experiences?

Experience	Both parents	Mother only	Father or partner only
Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy and molar pregnancy	No	No	No
Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomaly (ToPFA)	No	No	No
Stillbirth	No	No	No
Neonatal Death	No	No	No
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)	No	No	No

8. If yes, what service do you commission? **N/A**
9. Do you hold any more information on psychological support for parents who have experienced pregnancy or baby loss that may be useful in helping us to understand the services they can access in your area? (Free text)

For psychological therapy patients might access Talking Therapies including Dove bereavement counselling <https://staffsandstoketalkingtherapies.nhs.uk/> . There are other third sector organisations, but they do not offer psychological therapy.