

Our Ref: NG/RM/26154
Date: 19th June 2026

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 7th June 2026. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

This request forms part of my post graduate dissertation in Child Law with Keele University. The research examines the role of health services in addressing long term outcomes for individuals with care experience, with a particular focus on how organisations/services identify, record, understand and respond to this population.

The purpose of this request is to understand current practice across health organisations within the Integrated Care System, to identify strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement in data collection, service responsiveness, and equity of access for care experienced individuals.

For the purposes of this request, "care experience" refers to individuals who are, or have been, looked after by a local authority (including care leavers). Therefore, the request is inclusive of both child and adult services within your organisation.

Please provide information for the most recent period available, ideally the last 3 years.

Freedom of Information Questions:

Identification and awareness	Response
Are you able to identify whether individuals with care experience access your services?	Yes. Please note that the national data item used to collect this information has a limited set of response options, as outlined below: Yes – the patient is a Looked After child.

	• No – the patient is not a Looked After Child. • Not known – it is not known whether the patient is a Looked After Child.
Do you routinely ask service users whether they have care experience?	Yes If yes, please indicate at what point this information is collected (e.g. referral, assessment, registration). Referral and Assessment. whether disclosure is optional or required. Optional.
Coding and Data Recording:	Response
Is care experience recorded or coded within your clinical or administrative systems? Yes If care experience is recorded: ➤ what coding system or data field is used? ➤ when was this implemented? If care experience is coded, can this data be extracted and analysed?	System used- Looked After Child Indicator – NHS Data Dictionary data item. Date implemented- The implementation of Looked After Children (LAC) values aligns with national standards. There are no specific dates to supply. Yes
Analysis of outcomes and service use.	Response
If data regarding care experience is available, are you able to analyse or compare outcomes for individuals with care experience against those without care experience, for example: ➤ access to services ➤ waiting times ➤ Did Not Attend (DNA) rates ➤ crisis contacts or emergency presentations	Yes If yes, what outcomes are analysed? The Trust has a specific service for Looked After Children where access to services, waiting times and DNA rates are analysed.

➤ delivery of psychological or therapeutic interventions	
Formal reporting and assurance	Response
Do you produce any internal reports, audits, dashboards, or evaluations relating specifically to care-experienced individuals?	No If yes, please provide: ➤ the title or description of the report(s). N/A ➤ frequency of reporting. N/A ➤ audience (e.g. Board, Quality Committee, Safeguarding Committee). N/A
Organisational awareness and recognition	Response
Does your organisation formally recognise that care experience may: ➤ influence health outcomes? ➤ create additional barriers to accessing health services?	Yes If yes in what format is this addressed: ➤ Strategies ➤ Training ➤ Equality Impact Assessments
Targeted or adjusted provision	Response
Do you offer any reasonable adjustments or targeted support for individuals with care experience?	Yes, this is part of our care planning process. If yes, please outline the adjustments or approaches used, for example: ➤ Trauma-informed practice ➤ Extended or flexible appointment times ➤ Continuity of clinician ➤ Adjustments related to placement changes or housing instability ➤ Dedicated pathways or specialist teams

This request is being made to understand more about the Equality Act 2010, particularly duties relating to advancing equality of opportunity and reducing disadvantage, and proposals within

the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, and wider policy discussions regarding the recognition and support of care experienced individuals.

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