

*Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs' Headquarters*

30 March 2021

First Floor  
 Staffordshire Place 2  
 Stafford  
 ST16 2LP

Dear Mr Steer

**Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Ref no: FOI-1583- Cannock Chase CCG,  
 FOI-1583- East Staffordshire CCG,  
 FOI-1583-North Staffordshire CCG,  
 FOI-1583-South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG,  
 FOI-1583-Stafford and Surrounds CCG  
 FOI-1583-Stoke-on-Trent CCG**

Thank you for your request dated 2 March 2021.

We can confirm that the CCGs do hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

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| Q1 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children's palliative care service specification? (Yes/No). If so, please attach a copy to your response to this request.</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes, the current children's community nursing service has a dedicated end of life palliative care service provided by Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT). The service specification is currently under review to create and equitable offer pan Staffordshire.</b></p> <p><b>In addition children's palliative care provision is commissioned via grant agreements with local hospices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Donna Louise Children's Hospice (commissioned by NHS North Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG, NHS Cannock Chase CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, NHS South East Staffordshire &amp; Seisdon Peninsula CCG)</b></li> <li><b>Acorns Children's Hospice (commissioned by East Staffordshire CCG and South East Staffordshire &amp; Seisdon Peninsula CCG).</b></li> </ul> |
| Q2 | <p>Your Question:</p>  |

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|    | Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their parents or carers should have opportunities to be involved in developing an advance care plan? (Yes/No)   |
|    | <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes- all localities as part of the children's community nursing service</b></p>   |
| Q3 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should have a named medical specialist who leads and coordinates their care? (Yes/No)</p>  |
|    | <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes- all localities as part of the children's community nursing service</b></p>   |
| Q4 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their parents or carers should be given information about emotional and psychological support, including how to access it? (Yes/No)</p>  |
|    | <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The South West Staffordshire population have access to either Acorns or Donna Louise hospice's offer (detailed below) if their child or young person is receiving care from them.</b></p> <p><b>Yes for East Staffordshire and South East Staffordshire population have access to a dedicated team that offers psychological, emotional and practical support at Acorn's Children Hospice.</b></p> <p><b>Yes for North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent</b></p> <p><b>In addition Donna Louise Hospice provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• Counselling and emotional support, including specialist play, music and art interventions. Social care and support via the in hospice social worker</b></li> <li><b>• Care co-ordination and navigation via the dedicated care co-ordination service</b></li> </ul> <p><b>As part of the service specification review, we are aiming to achieve equity with this pan Staffordshire offer.</b></p> |
| Q5 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should be cared</p>  |
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|    | <p>for by a multidisciplinary team that includes members of the specialist paediatric palliative care team? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>Yes-all localities</b></p> <p><b>Donna Louise specification states:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling and emotional support, including specialist play, music and art interventions. Social care and support via the in hospice social worker</li> <li>• Care co-ordination and navigation via the dedicated care co-ordination service</li> <li>• End of life care and support either at the hospice or at home (in partnership with local children's community nursing teams).</li> <li>• Post bereavement care in the dedicated "Garden Suite"</li> <li>• Symptom management via the children's palliative care consultant, 24/7 telephone support and advice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Acorns Hospice specification states:</b><br/> <b>Acorns must not operate in isolation and will work with partners who will include: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric consultants</li> <li>• GPs</li> <li>• Allied health professionals</li> <li>• Hospital clinicians and staff</li> <li>• Social care</li> <li>• Mental health services</li> <li>• Representatives of religious groups</li> <li>• Education services</li> <li>• Community nursing teams and palliative care nurses</li> <li>• Safeguarding – local and city-wide teams / arrangements</li> <li>• Other third sector and voluntary organisations</li> </ul> |
| Q6 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that parents or carers of infants, children and young people approaching the end of life should be offered support for grief and loss when their child is nearing the end of their life and after their death? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The South West Staffordshire population have access to either Acorns or Donna Louise hospice's offer (detailed below) if their child or young person is receiving care from them.</b></p> <p><b>Yes for East Staffordshire and South East Staffordshire population have access to Acorn's Children Hospice bespoke pre and post bereavement counselling and support service to both parents/carers and for the wider family members, siblings and Grandparents.</b></p>  |

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|    | <p><b>Yes for North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.</b></p> <p><b>Donna Louise Hospice provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Counselling and emotional support, including specialist play, music and art interventions. Social care and support via the in hospice social worker</b></li> <li>• <b>Post bereavement care in the dedicated “Garden Suite”</b></li> </ul>   |
| Q7 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children’s palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people approaching the end of life and being cared for at home should have 24-hour access to both children's nursing care and advice from a consultant in paediatric palliative care? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent localities have access to a dedicated 24hr on call palliative on call palliative paediatrician.</b></p> <p><b>South West and East Staffordshire have access to consultant paediatrician for symptom management medication change`s only.</b></p>  |
| Q8 | <p>Your Question:</p> <p>Do you have a children’s palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their families should have access regular short breaks for respite? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><b>The South West Staffordshire population have access to either Acorns or Donna Louise hospice`s offer (detailed below) if their child or young person is receiving care from them.</b></p> <p><b>Yes for East Staffordshire and South East Staffordshire population have access to short breaks via Acorn’s Children’s Hospice they are offered to all children meeting Acorns criteria. The maximum number of short breaks provided for is either the number agreed in the child’s holistic needs assessment or up to a maximum of 16 short breaks in any calendar year.</b></p> <p><b>Yes for North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent provided by Donna Louise and the children’s community nursing service.</b></p> <p><b>As part of the service specification review, we are aiming to achieve equity with this pan Staffordshire offer.</b></p> |

## **Right of Appeal**

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued. **To request an internal review**

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at [MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net](mailto:MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net) or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Sally Young**

**Director of Corporate Services, Governance and Communications**

NHS Cannock Chase CCG  
NHS East Staffordshire CCG  
NHS North Staffordshire CCG  
NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG  
NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG  
NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG