

15 May 2023

Use of dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes

Response from Mental Health Services:

- 1. Does the trust use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?**

Belfast Trust Clare Ward is a 16 bed Mental Health ward which provides high intensity rehabilitation. The ward has been using Pet Therapy for the Mental Health patients since May 2022.

- 2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)**

The dog is brought in through ADNI (Assisted Dogs Northern Ireland)

- 3. Please could you specify how many dogs have been engaged for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by purpose. (e.g. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance)**

The Pet Therapy project started in May 2022. We have one dog that attends the ward for 1 hour each week.

- 4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.**

Golden Retriever is the breed of the one dog that visits Clare Ward.

- 5. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc.) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?**

As above, the project started in May 22. We have had one dog with one trainer.

- 6. What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?**

15 May 2023

The Trust does not have a budget for Pet Therapy. An application was made to an external funding stream to pay for the Pet Therapy.

£4000 was allocated for the financial year 2022/23

Response from Intellectual Disability Services:

- 1. Does the trust use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?**

Yes within in Muckamore Abbey hospital as part of day care

- 2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)**

The use of animals and therapy Dogs is contracted in via assistance dogs trust and Laurel View charity

- 3. Please could you specify how many dogs have been engaged for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by purpose. (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance)**

Two (2) dogs for general regulation and coregualtion of emotional state with individuals with learning disability and/or Autism

- 4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.**

Labrador

- 5. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?**

Not known to Belfast Trust

- 6. What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?**

The budget is on a contracted sessional basis that is approximately £7000 per year.