

5 October 2021

Concerns about provision of service for disabled persons

BETWEEN 2019-TO DATE

- 1. A copy of all details; documents; minutes; records; reports and emails etc between the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Education Authority relating to the provision of speech and language therapy to children. This is to include any complaints; concerns or issues raised by the Education Authority with reference to failings in providing speech and language therapy in schools.**

We have undertaken a search of emails and files for all correspondence and meeting notes from 2019 between Belfast Trust and the Education Authority (including meetings chaired by the PHA with all Trusts and the EA) relating to provision of Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech & Language Therapy within schools and these are attached.

We have redacted the names/identifiers of those staff within the Public Health Authority and Education Authority as they are not employees of the Belfast Trust and also some staff within Belfast Trust in accordance with FOI Act Section 40 Personal Information.

We can confirm that the Trust has not received any correspondence detailing complaints; concerns or issues raised by the Education Authority with reference to failings in providing Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy during this period.

- 2. A copy of all details; documents; minutes; records; reports and emails etc between the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Education Authority relating to the provision of occupational therapy to children. This is to include any complaints; concerns or issues raised by the Education Authority with reference to failings in providing speech and language therapy in schools.**

As above.

- 3. A copy of all details; documents; minutes; records; reports and emails etc between the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Education Authority relating to the provision of physiotherapy to children. This is to include any complaints; concerns or issues raised by the Education Authority with reference to failings in providing speech and language therapy in schools.**

As above.

- 4. A copy of all details; documents; minutes; records; reports and emails etc relating to ongoing concerns in providing for the needs of disabled persons**

5 October 2021

under either the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 or the Children (NI) Order 1995 relating to the following:

a. Domiciliary care and carers availability

Attached Physical Disability Carers' Return Quarter ending June 2019 to June 2021.

Attached Physical Disability monthly domiciliary return dashboard 2019 – current.

We are not able to provide case specific information under FOI as this is personal information and exempt under Section 40(2). A trawl of individual case files and records during that period to aggregate information would take in excess of 18 hours and be above the appropriate limit set out in FOI Act Section 12.

b. Day care/centre provision and facilities/premises for disabled persons

Attached Adult Short Breaks Hours Delivered and Number of Adult Carers.

c. Lack of Trust appointed carers to fulfil caring roles for disabled persons

We are not able to provide case specific information under FOI as this is personal information and exempt under Section 40(2). A trawl of individual case files and records during that period to aggregate information would take in excess of 18 hours and be above the appropriate limit set out in FOI Act Section 12.

d. Respite resources and respite facilities

Please see attached response to an MLA (our ref. 22760), response to an FOI (our ref. 20585) and response to an Assembly Question (our ref. 24795)

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving further information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12.

5. A copy of all details; documents; minutes; records; reports and emails etc relating to concerns raised by organisations to the Trust in respect of ongoing failures to meet the identified needs of disabled children/adults in Northern Ireland

Less than five formal complaints about failure to meet the needs of disabled children were received and responded to during the period 2019 to date, as case

5 October 2021

specific information cannot be disclosed under FOI we have no other information to provide.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving further information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12.