

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000481
Date 30 September 2016

Mental Health Services

Request:

We are contacting all Directors of Public Health under the Freedom of Information Act to formally request information as to what interventions or services meeting this remit already exist. Examples might include:

- Welfare / debt / money management / housing / legal advice in a mental health setting (inpatient, community or at point of referral)
- Education to service users about managing finances, particularly if it addresses the emotional and behavioural aspects of this (for example through a recovery college)
- Screening and support to access advice available elsewhere
- Integrated care pathways for mental health and financial / welfare support
- Support into employment, such as individualised placement support
- Measures to support mental health staff to make referrals for financial advice (eg a central database of advice agencies, a prompting or screening process, training on welfare advice)
- Helplines that can give financial advice alongside mental health support
- Social prescribing (for example to adult learning)
- Peer support projects for people with both financial and mental health problems

As regards Wolverhampton Council, please could you inform us of:

1. Whether you consider financial difficulties as part of your local health needs assessment?
[Health needs would usually be assessed by clinical providers however they work closely with the council's in house Welfare Rights service. From a mental health perspective local clinical teams are alive to the fact that assessing and improving a patient's financial circumstances is a building block to building a therapeutic relationship. As such the majority of the work coming in to our Welfare Rights service from mental health comes from frontline health professionals.](#)
2. Whether your mental health service users (for both primary and secondary care) are routinely asked about their financial circumstances or difficulties?
[See above.](#)
3. Whether you commission or run, either solely or in partnership with another agency (such as NHS bodies), any specialist services like those listed above for people who have both financial difficulties and mental health problems?

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

The council has an in house Welfare Rights Service with a dedicated mental health worker and commissions debt advice via Citizens' Advice.

4. How many people using your primary and secondary mental health services are referred to or provided with a specialist service that addresses financial needs?

2016-17: There were 107 people referred to the Welfare Rights MH Teams (Under 18 and Over 18) 2015-16: There were 184 people referred to the Welfare Rights MH Teams (Under 18 and Over 18)