

**Ref No. SG8145**

**Date: 29 May 2019**

**REQUEST:** I have the following questions about the support offered to homeless patients who attend your organisation.

- 1) How many attendances to your organisation were coded as NFA (no fixed address) per year in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018?
- 2) Does your organisation have (a) a documented pathway for supporting homeless patients; or (b) a housing officer (or similar); or (c) a supply of clean clothes to offer homeless people? If yes to (a), (b), or (c) please provide details.
- 3) How many patient referrals to a local housing authority under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has your organisation made since 1 October 2018?
- 4) What is your organisation doing, or planning to do, to support homeless patients or to comply with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017?

**OUR RESPONSE:**

1. 2015 – 227  
2016 – 305  
2017 – 598  
2018 – 753

This data is available through the national mental health benchmarking data. Please note that the data quality prior to 2018 is poor. This lead to an under reporting of NFA's.

2. (A) We have a dedicated Homeless Mental Health team which works closely with the homeless sector in Leicester as part of a recognised “one stop shop” model. All their clinical work is undertaken in homeless settings, such as hostels. The team is commissioned to work with people who are homeless and ensure people who have a serious mental health illness are accessed into secondary psychiatric services.

(B) The inpatient component of our Trust pays for a small housing enablement team (employed by the local authority) to work with inpatients who have found themselves homeless. The aim of this team is to assist these patients to find and access community accommodation.

(C) Homeless people in the community can access clean clothing at YASC drop in centre. The Trust provides clean clothes for people who are inpatients via the involvement centre where all patients can go to get a supply of clean clothes.

3. Unfortunately, we do not hold the information you require. As a Mental Health and Community Health Services NHS Trust the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 places no legal requirement on our organisation to make referrals to a local housing authority. However, as good practice, staff are advised to refer patients to housing options if it is identified the patient is experiencing difficulties such as managing rent or maintaining their tenancy. Unfortunately, we do not centrally record this information and are, therefore, unable to provide you with numbers.

4. As previously mentioned in 2B, we commission Blaby District Council to provide us with a housing enablement team to work with patients on the inpatient wards that have housing difficulties. We rely on the housing experts in this team to provide the housing support for homeless patients and ensure they have an appropriate exit plan once they leave hospital.