

Our Ref: AKB/PW/FOI-09-122

30th September 2022

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-09-122

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 23rd September 2022. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below attached:

I am a scholar looking to write a paper on expanding the use of palliative care to individuals who are not at end of life stage in their illness, or do not have a disease that will end in a terminal stage.

Would you be able to advise me as to whether this is something that the Integrated Care Service currently offers, or is looking at and what the criteria are for being able to receive palliative care today?

Following diagnosis, made by a clinician, a patient is allocated to the most appropriate pathway for the individual based on the care and needs of the patients and their conditions.

The definition of palliative and end of life care is defined by NHS England website as:

'Palliative care is defined by the World Health Organisation as an approach that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families who are facing problems associated with life-limiting illness, usually progressive. It prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual.'

In England, the term 'end of life care' refers to the last year of life'.

It would therefore not be appropriate to place an individual on this pathway if they did not require palliative or end of life services (as defined above) as it would not meet the needs of their illness. The ICS commissions a number of services below where professionals could obtain advice to support a patient's treatment if required.

The ICS commission the Palliative Care Coordination Centre to ensure patients (18+) receive appropriate support from hospices, acute hospitals and community teams. Services are also commissioned from local hospices and the voluntary sector to provide support for patients who require support for palliative care and end of life.

A Specialist Hospital Palliative Care Team is commissioned at University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust and provides expertise and experience in supporting people to live as well as possible during their illness ensuring their comfort and dignity are maintained as they come to the end of their lives. This service covers both the Stoke and Stafford sites.

Children's palliative care is about caring for CYP with either a life-limiting or life-threatening conditions promoting the best possible quality of life and care for every child and their family. Giving families real choice has been key to this approach: a choice of place of care; a choice of place of death; and a choice of emotional and bereavement support.

- Life limiting, they can live for years into adulthood and die at any point.
- Life threatening is usually the last few days, weeks of life.

All services develop individual care plans to meet the needs of the person.

End of Life is one of the priority areas for the ICS to improve children, younger people and adult pathways and has a Stakeholder group that has started to meet bi-monthly to take this work forward.

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 an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

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 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.



**Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent**
Integrated Care Board

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Deputy Director of Corporate Governance,
Compliance & Data Protection/Data Protection