

Ref: FOI/00494/CMICB
18 August 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Pregnancy and Miscarriage Services**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

- 1a) How many early pregnancy units do you have within your health board?**
- 1b) Please can you provide the opening times of those early pregnancy units?**
- 2a) Do you have any dedicated recurrent pregnancy-loss clinics or recurrent miscarriage clinics within your health board?**
- 2b) If so, please can you give the number of clinics you have?**
- 3) Do you have any dedicated pregnancy-loss clinics or miscarriage clinics (i.e. for non recurring losses) within your health board? If so, please can you give the number of clinics you have?**
- 4) How many recurrent miscarriages would an individual need to experience before being entitled to an investigation into the causes?**
- 5) What mental health support do you offer for people affected by miscarriage?**

Our Response:

Please find listed below the requested information held regarding pregnancy and miscarriage services in each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

1a - b) Two, one provided by East Cheshire NHS Trust (open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 12.30pm) and the other provided by Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm).

2a - b) East Cheshire NHS Trust provide a consultant led clinic for subsequent pregnancies following a pregnancy loss beyond 24 weeks, which operates once per week. There is currently no clinic specifically for recurrent miscarriages.

3) No.

4) Three consecutive miscarriages (in line with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Guidelines).

5) The service provided by East Cheshire NHS Trust directs patients to access support from the Miscarriage Association, SANDs and Tommy's, as well as advice to access their GP. The service provided by Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust works in collaboration with CRADLE, Local Motherwell/Cherry Blossom, as well as a bereavement midwife and specialist Post-Natal Mental Health Team.

Halton/Warrington

1a – b) Two, one provided by (open Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5.00pm) and the other provided by St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm).

2a – b) Both Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust both provided clinics for recurrent miscarriages via their gynaecology departments.

3) No.

4) Information not held. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (via WHH.FOI@nhs.net) and St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (via foirequests@sthk.nhs.uk).

5) Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust provide psychological therapy and support for anyone who has experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Knowsley

1 - 4) Information not held. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and also Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as the commissioned providers of maternity services for Knowsley. Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: foirequests@sthk.nhs.uk. Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: FOI@lwh.nhs.uk.

5) Information detailed on Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust website via: <https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/liverpool/maternal-mental-health-service>

Liverpool

1a) One, provided by Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

1b) Information not held*.

2a) Yes.

2b) Information not held*.

3a - b) No dedicated clinics for non-recurring loss.

4) Information detailed on Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust website via: <https://liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/our-services/gynaecology/our-clinics/recurrent-miscarriage-clinic/>

5) Information detailed on Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust website via: <https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/liverpool/maternal-mental-health-service>

*You may wish to redirect your request for this information to Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: FOI@lwh.nhs.uk

Sefton

1a) One, provided by Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

1b) Midwife/Nurse led unit with direct access to consultant support open Monday to Friday (8.30am to 4.30pm). Any patients requiring emergency care can attend the Gynae Assessment Bay (GAB), with the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) scan diary being kept by the GAB out of hours in order that they can access can slots as required.

2a) Yes.

2b) One.

3a - b) No dedicated clinics for non-recurring loss. However, all patients are offered recurrent miscarriage investigations after two miscarriages (not consecutive).

4) Two, although they do not have to be consecutive.

5) All patients diagnosed with miscarriage via EPAU are debriefed at the point of diagnosis. Supportive literature regarding miscarriage and pregnancy loss is provided. Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust provide contact details and literature for the Miscarriage Association / Cradle and Lighthouse.

St Helens

1 - 5) Information not held. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to Mersey & West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, as the commissioned provider of maternity services for St Helens and who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: foirequests@sthk.nhs.uk

Wirral

1a - b) One, provided by Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (open Monday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) as well as a gynecology assessment unit open 24/7 for patients who present with problems in early pregnancy outside of opening hours.

2 - 3) Yes, Fertility Specialist Nurse offers a clinic for patients who have suffered a miscarriage as well as a pregnancy loss telephone clinic for patients who have experienced pregnancy loss, both clinics operate once per week.

4) Three recurrent miscarriages.

5) Wirral Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust offer a wide range of pregnancy loss support. Additionally, patients are also signposted to charities which the services work closely with such as; Cradle, Elsie's Moon and the Miscarriage Association.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.