

Our Ref: ID 1997

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
Marriss House  
Hamilton Street  
Birkenhead  
Wirral  
CH41 5AL  
Tel: 0151 651 0011

**Re: Freedom of Information Request - Accommodation and facilities for mental health patients in cases of special urgency**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**You Asked for:**

This is a Freedom of Information request concerning the provision of accommodation and facilities for mental health patients in cases of special urgency:

1. Please could you provide a list of the hospitals specified under the Section 140 (Mental Health Act 1983) arrangements in your area, and how many beds are available?
2. Please can you tell me what arrangements are in place for the reception of patients in cases of special urgency?
3. Can you provide information about, or a copy of, the local joint policy between the local authorities, services, and NHS commissioners for Section 140 of the Mental Health Act?
4. Who are the Senior Leads for each party in this joint policy?

**Our Response:**

Under s.140 of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 (2007), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have a duty to notify Local Social Services Authorities (LSSA's) in their areas of arrangements which are in force for the reception of patients in case of special urgency or the provision of appropriate accommodation or facilities specifically designed under the age of 18. Please see the attached document for the s140 Protocol that was approved all Cheshire and Merseyside CCG's at their Joint Committee on the 28th September 2021.

The protocol has been developed across a number of organisations in Cheshire and Merseyside including the two mental health provider trusts, CCG's, nine local authorities and two police services. It is a great example of collaborative working.

The protocol covers the whole of Cheshire and Merseyside and, whilst it relates to all service user groups, the main body of the document covers adults with functional mental illness. Appendices cover the specialist arrangements for people with organic presentations and adults with a learning disability. The document does include children and young people as being in the category of special urgency once assessed positively for admission under the Act but there is

still outstanding work required on the specific commissioning arrangements as a further appendix. This work is in progress.

The protocol will be reviewed again when the governance arrangements for the Integrated Care System (ICS) are established, but will transfer from CCG's to the Integrated Care Board as of 1st April 2021.

We are unable to provide a response to question 1 regarding the number of beds available as the beds are jointly commissioned with other CCG's within the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) and as such, there is not a specific number of beds permanently available to Wirral patients. This is also reflective of the current level of demand nationally on mental health inpatient beds.

We hope this information is useful, however, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team, (contact details at the top of this letter).

## **Re- Use of Information**

Most of the information that we provide in response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group. The copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner.

For information where the copyright is owned by Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group please e-mail [foirequests.nhswirralccg@nhs.net](mailto:foirequests.nhswirralccg@nhs.net) to request a reuse licence.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the copyright owner to obtain their permission.