

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-052023-00078

Date: 20/06/2023

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

Infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding.

Response

Please find attached answers to the five requests made for information.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**

00078

Please see response below to this FOI.

Request 1

Please confirm or deny if The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has a specific policy on provision of support for all forms of infant feeding, specifically breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding.

We are a Baby Friendly accredited hospital and support families with their choice of feeding whether this is breastfeeding, formula feeding or mixed feeding. Our infant feeding policy provides further detail on this. The policy has recently been reviewed and is currently going through Trust processes so is not yet available.

If confirm, please provide a copy of this policy. – see response above

Request 2

Please confirm or deny if The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust holds information on the number of infants breastfed, formula fed, and combination fed.

We collect first feed data and report this data monthly. This identifies if the first feed is breast or formula.

If confirm, please release this data.

This table shows percentages of babies first feed for the last 2 quarters.

| | Q3 22/23 (01 Oct to 31 Dec) | Q4 22/23 (01 Jan to 31 Mar) |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Breast | 58.01% | 52.75% |
| Formula | 41.88% | 45.63% |

Request 3

Please confirm or deny if The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust provides information on all forms of infant feeding (including breastfeeding, formula feeding, and combination feeding) at the 28-week antenatal appointment as outlined in the NICE guideline NG201, post-birth before the family has been discharged and at any other times.

Antenatally, a midwife has a conversation on individual basis offering the parent the opportunity to discuss comforting and caring for their baby. This covers building a relationship with baby, responsive feeding and the importance of close and loving relationships for baby's development. We also discuss with the parent their thoughts about feeding their baby. This is documented on the electronic record system in the planning for parenthood document. This conversation takes place between 28-36 weeks.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Connecting with your baby <input type="checkbox"/> Talking to your baby <input type="checkbox"/> Noticing/responding to baby's movements <input type="checkbox"/> How this can help your baby's brain development | Your wishes, intentions or preferences | Leaflets given <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Greeting your baby for the first time <input type="checkbox"/> Skin to skin contact <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping baby close <input type="checkbox"/> Recognising feeding cues | Your wishes, intentions or preferences | Leaflets given <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Responding to your baby's needs <input type="checkbox"/> Importance of comfort and love to help baby's brain develop <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive feeding | Your wishes, intentions or preferences | Leaflets given <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Feeding your baby <input type="checkbox"/> Value of breastfeeding as protection, comfort and food <input type="checkbox"/> Getting off to a good start <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding how a baby breastfeeds <input type="checkbox"/> Where to get help including local support groups | Your wishes, intentions or preferences | Leaflets given <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

Postnatally before discharge home the midwife or maternity support worker will have a conversation about feeding baby and will complete a breastfeeding assessment or formula feeding checklist or both depending how they are feeding. The infant feeding team will support as required. We have an antenatal and postnatal padlets relating to infant feeding and relationship building.



bit.ly/DudleyANinfo

Scan this QR code for more information:



Click this link for more information:

bit.ly/dudleypn

If confirm, please provide a copy of the information on infant feeding that is provided and confirm how as well as when it is delivered.

Request 4

Please confirm or deny if The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust requires mothers to sign a consent form before any information or advice is given on formula feeding OR before an infant receives formula milk in the hospital instead of or alongside breastmilk.

We do not ask the mother to sign a consent form before formula is given. We do have a conversation and offer to support with feeding. This is all detailed in our infant feeding policy.

If confirm, please publish a copy of the associated policy and corresponding form. - N/A

Request 5

Please confirm or deny if The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust holds information on the number of infants admitted with malnutrition every year, over the last 5 years.

If confirm, please release this data and please publish The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust policy for addressing infant malnutrition. - **No incidents found**