

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-052025-0001608

Date: 23.5.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please see response below

1. The number of referrals made by your NHS Trust to other authorities - such as the police or social services - when there was a suspicion that a child is a victim of exploitation (sexual, criminal, gang-based grooming) for the years 2010 (or earliest available year of data) - 2024 inclusive.

Below are all the figures for referrals submitted for exploitation (potential signs of exploitation) since recording of categories commenced.

Sub Category by Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
SC) Physical (peer on peer abuse)					44	119	133	107	116	44	563
(SC) Safeguarding Children - (Exploitation) Criminal					3	4	2	4	9	4	26
(SC) Safeguarding Children - (Exploitation) Sexual					8	8	3	2	4		25
(SC) Substance or alcohol abuse				12	98	98	104	83	84	31	510

2. The number of risks assessments conducted on children where there was concern that the had been the victim of child sexual exploitation (using the same timeframe as above).

This data is not recorded separately so we are unable to run a report for this information,

3. Details of your NHS Trusts' CSE safeguarding arrangements, including work in multi-agency partnerships.

The Trust safeguarding children policy states;

"5.15.1 Child Exploitation

All professionals across the healthcare system can play their part in helping to end Child Exploitation (CE) by identifying the signs and indicators of harm and having the knowledge to provide advice to

children/young people and alert the appropriate agencies if they have concerns. Child exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to control, coerce, manipulate or deceive a young person under 18 years old into sexual, criminal or financial activity in person or online. Children and young people who are at risk or experiencing exploitation can present anywhere within the hospital or community services, although the Emergency Department is the most likely place a child/young person who is being exploited will present for treatment. However, it is rare a child/young person will report they are being exploited. It is more likely the child will present with mental health issues, overdose, suicidal ideations, self-harm, drug or alcohol intoxication, a victim of assault, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancies or miscarriage. Whenever a child/young person presents with one or more of these conditions it should be considered that the child/young person is at risk of being exploited, especially if they are a frequent attender. In cases of child exploitation, the child/young person may be accompanied by their abuser. It is always important to try to speak to the child/young person alone and establish if they feel safe. Where there are concerns that a child/young person may be being exploited a referral should be made to Children's Social Care and an exploitation screening tool should be completed alongside the referral."

Multi-agency working

- Submit safeguarding referrals (and screening tools) to CSC for children and young people who present with exploitation concerns
- Submit research regarding health information and relevant attendances to MACE meetings and weekly child exploitation panel meetings for children in Dudley.
- Attend monthly child exploitation operational group for Dudley
- Attend the child exploitation sub-group for Dudley
- Share ED attendances for children and young people at risk of exploitation with school nursing services
- St Giles Trust referral for support for children with exploitation
- Attendance at strategy meetings for children inpatient with exploitation concerns.

4. The number of staff employed by your NHS Trust who have received training on CSE.

- 1330 staff have completed Level 1 Safeguarding in E-Learning for Health (elfh) training which contains information re exploitation.
- 3578 staff have completed Level 2 Safeguarding Children training - both elfh and the face to face sessions cover child sexual exploitation
- 478 staff have completed Level 3 Safeguarding Children training - elfh covers child sexual exploitation and MS teams now covers child exploitation as a session (since May 2025) and child sexual abuse.

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
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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

FOI/REF FOI-

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