

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

Ref: FOI-042026-0002402

Date: 02.10.2026

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

Request

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking information about urgent and emergency services provided by your organisation for young people following self-harm.

Please could you provide the following information?

A list of all services/pilots/programmes provided by your organisation that offer support, assessment or intervention to young people (aged 25 years or under) within 24 hours of a self-harm episode (defined according to NICE 2022: intentional self-poisoning or injury, irrespective of the apparent purpose).

1. For each service identified, please provide (where available):
 - a. Service name
 - b. Brief description of the service (e.g., aim and objectives)
 - c. Eligibility criteria (including age)
 - d. Access routes (e.g., telephone, walk-in service, referral from A&E/GP)
 - e. Service setting (e.g., online, community-based, hospital-based)
 - f. Availability (days and hours of operation)
 - g. Geographic area covered

I am specifically interested in services that respond within 24 hours of a self-harm episode, instead of longer-term or routine care (eligible services may include crisis teams, liaison psychiatry services, safe havens, crisis cafes, helplines and other urgent mental health support services). For the avoidance of doubt, I am looking for any services for individuals aged 25 years or under, including both specialist children/young people's services and services primarily designed for adults that may also be accessed by this age group.

Response

The services that we have available in The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGFT) are Mental Health Liaison Service (MHLS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Both are provided by Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHFT) via contractual agreement:

- Mental Health Liaison Service (MHLS) - 18 plus. 24-hour service. Available to people presenting in ED and patients who are inpatients at RHH.
- CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - for children under 18 years of age. Available to people presenting in ED and patients who are inpatients at RHH.
- Both services are face-to-face.
- The service is primarily an assessment service, particularly when patients are in ED. They assess mental health needs and risks and support a discharge pathway from ED into further services, whether this be other mental health services, GP or voluntary sector. This is the same service for patients who are inpatients. However, the response time is slower than ED - they have up to 24 hours to see the patient post referral when an inpatient.
- Both services have to provide a rapid turnaround. MHLS have to provide a review to decide on the type of assessment needed and arrange appropriate resources for the assessment during the initial hour. A full biopsychosocial assessment should take place within 4 hours.
- CAMHS are available to provide assessments in ED 8am-8pm 7 days per week. Should a child require assessment in ED outside of CAMHS services, if under 17, they will be admitted to the children's ward where they will be assessed the following day by CAMHS. CAMHS patients receive a biopsychosocial assessment.
- MHLS are located within a BCHFT building, but on the same site as Russells Hall Hospital to ensure a rapid response (other assessments allowing).
- CAMHS are located off-site.
- Access to both services requires consent by the patient. For under 16's, they would be subject to Gillick competency in relation to this.
- For DGFT, the services provided are from the Dudley BCHFT locality.

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
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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
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