



**Staffordshire and  
Stoke-on-Trent**  
Integrated Care Board

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/11/624

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI-11-624**

**Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website.

Please see our responses in blue below:

**The questions below which we would like you to answer are designed to help me understand how you commission children's palliative care for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in your ICB footprint. In order to help you meet my request, I provide definitions to the terms I use in my questions below:**

**My questions**

- 1. Do you have a children's palliative care service specification? (Yes/No). If so, please attach a copy to your response to this request.**

Please be advised that Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to your request as the Palliative Care Service Specification is not currently contracted. From September 2023 we have aligned all three legacy locality specifications into one specification which is due to be contracted into the main Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust 2024/2025 contract. Therefore, this document has yet to be finalised.

A Public Interest Test has been applied which is attached herewith. Also details of Section 22 can be found below:

**Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Information intended for future publication:**

1. *Information is exempt information if:*
  - a) *the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
  - b) *the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
  - c) *it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).*

*Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test when applying any qualified exemption. This means that after it has been decided that the exemption is engaged, the public interest in releasing the information must be considered. If the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it then the exemption does not apply and it must be released. In the FOIA there is a presumption that information should be released unless there are compelling reasons to withhold it. We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information requested ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.*

2. **Has your ICB completed an Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care self-assessment? (Yes/No). If yes, please attach your completed self-assessment to your response to this FOI request.**

Please refer to question 2 above.

3. **Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their parents or carers should have opportunities to be involved in developing an advance care plan? (Yes/No)**

Yes

4. **Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should have a named medical specialist who leads and coordinates their care? (Yes/No)**

Yes

5. **Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition, their parents or carers and their siblings should be given information about emotional and psychological support, including how to access it? (Yes/No)**

Yes

6. Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition should be cared for by a multidisciplinary team that includes members of the specialist paediatric palliative care team? (Yes/No)

Yes

7. Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that siblings and parents or carers of infants, children and young people approaching the end of life should be offered support for grief and loss when their child is nearing the end of their life and after their death? (Yes/No)

Yes

8. Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people approaching the end of life and being cared for at home should have 24-hour access to both children's nursing care and advice from a consultant in paediatric palliative care? (Yes/No)

Yes

9. Do you have a children's palliative care service specification which states that infants, children and young people with a life-limiting condition and their families should have access regular short breaks for respite? (Yes/No)

Yes but limited due to certain localities within the ICB geography.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

### **To request an internal review**

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at [StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk](mailto:StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk) or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Paul Winter**  
**Associate Director of Corporate Governance**