

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0424/778

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

11th April 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-0424-778

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 2nd April 2024. 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:

I would like to request the following information under the 2000 Freedom of Information Act.

Concerning Social Prescribing Link Workers (SPLWs), or other workers who undertake the role of a SPLW with different role titles, please could you tell me:

- 1. How many SPLWs are employed by Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in your Integrated Care System (ICS)? Please give the number of heads and WTE if possible.**

The Primary Care Network Workforce (NWRS) published data for SPLW for February 2024 shows 55.58 WTE (42 headcount*)

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/primary-care-network-workforce/29-february-2024>

** - Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components, due in part to individuals working across multiple roles and areas. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the NHSE NWRS Full-time equivalent (FTE) and Headcount Figures section under Data Coverage and Completeness in the publication's Data Quality section.*

- 2. Does each PCN in your ICS employ a SPLW?**

Yes.

3. Do any PCNs share a SPLW (or employ the same SPLW as another PCN)?

Information not held by the ICB.

4. Are there any SPLWs in your ICS who are employed by organisations other than PCNs?

Yes.

If so, do you know how many and who employs them?

Data from NWRS shows SPLOWs contracted by other organisations other than PCNs: Full Time Equivalent (FTE) 19.45 (same source as question one above).

Details of employing organisations is not held by the ICB.

5. Please tell me how many patients/clients were referred to (a) PCN-employed SPLWs and (b) other SPLWs based in your ICS during the financial year 2022-2023 or calendar year 2023, whichever is easier?

The Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Indicator for 'Number of patients referred to social prescribing' for 2022/23 at March 2023 was 16,606. Published data is not split by whether SPWLs are (a) PCN employed or (b) non-PCN employed.

[Network Contract DES \(MI\) - 2022/23 - NHS England Digital](#)

6. Which body is responsible for monitoring the activities of SPLWs (e.g., ICB, PCN)?

PCN.

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 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 ICB can be contacted at:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance