

Luton & Dunstable University Hospital
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Lewsey Road
Luton
LU4 0DZ

Bedford Hospital
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Kempston Road
Bedford
MK42 9DJ

24/02/2021

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.

In accordance with S.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that we do hold the information relevant to your request. FOI 177

1) What support do you offer for the family members of patients being treated for cancer within your NHS Trust? (Support can include anything that would contribute to the emotional well-being of an individual, such as support groups, counselling or advice).

We offer level 2 psychological support within the unit and then referrals to our Macmillan Psychology Team where appropriate. We have a support group within the unit for anyone to attend, patients or family members. We hold a selection of booklets within the information office. We refer to community support such as Carers in Bedfordshire and other agencies. Once we are able to we will be running 'Take Control' courses for carers.

2) Does your NHS Trust provide any tailored support specifically for young people (under 25s) who have family members being treated for cancer?

The above would apply to adults (over 18s) however children would be referred to a specialist agency such as Chums.

3) If so, please could you provide details.

See Above

4) Are services actively offered to patients' family members, or do they have to approach the Trust themselves to request support?

Actively offered – patient is made aware along with any family members who attend their initial appointments. Details are also in our Pre Treatment booklet which is given to every patient on diagnosis or soon after.

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to:

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Or by emailing bhn-tr.foibedfordshirehospitals@nhs.net. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

IG/FOI Coordinator

Bedford Hospital, Kempston, Bedford
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