

Kate Hogarth
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Date 23/08/2019
Our Ref: RD/am FOI Ref 6800
Direct Line 01463 717123
Email High-UHB.FOIRRequestsHighland@nhs.net

Dear Ms Hogarth,

**Freedom of Information Act Request Ref 6800
Adult Social Care**

With reference to your request for information dated July 29th 2019 regarding the above, please find below your questions and our responses:-

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 Part 6, 35 placed a duty on each local authority in Scotland to prepare and publish a short breaks service statement. The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (Short Breaks Services Statements) Regulations 2018, Section 3 (1) & (2) required that Short Break Services Statements were to be made available by 31 December 2018.

In line with these requirements we request of a copy of the Short Break Services Statement for Highland, including a link to where this is made publicly available.

The Highland Carers Improvement Group (CIG) is a group comprising carers' representatives, carers' representative organisations, third-sector service providers, Organisations for People with Disabilities, charities and statutory services (officers of NHS Highland and The Highland Council) etc. It is co-chaired by a carers' representative and an officer of NHS Highland.

The CIG is an important "improvement group" within the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership: it takes on a role in monitoring progress against the Carers Act implementation plan and it reports to the Highland Health and Social Care Committee.

On Monday 19 March 2019 the CIG met to consider, among other things, a Draft Short Break Statement provided by NHS Highland outlining proposed information to be made available in respect of Short Breaks to Adults in Highland. The note of the meeting set out: that a key statutory partner was required to provide a link to discuss the group's needs and to help finalise the statement [in respect of Young Carers]; that the group itself would provide feedback on the draft statement; that an "executive summary" (which was produced by NHS Highland on 21 May 2019 and shared with partners) would be translated into an "easy read" version by one of the partners on the group; and that the "easy read" – once produced – would form the basis of an engagement exercise by our key carers' representative organisation of carers.

At the last CIG meeting, on 21 May 2019, it was noted that the required link had yet to be identified and that, separately, the production of the "easy read" had not, as yet, materialised. However, since then, a link to the Highland Council has been identified; and



Headquarters: Assynt House, Beechwood Park, INVERNESS IV2 3BW

Interim Chair: Professor Boyd Robertson
Chief Executive: Iain Stewart

the post of a Carers Services Development Officer - hosted by NHS Highland – has been agreed which should have the capacity, when filled, to ensure quicker progress in this area.

A copy of the Draft Short Breaks Statement and its “executive summary” are attached.

I hope this information is helpful. If you are unhappy with my response, I am very happy to discuss this with you further. Alternatively you have the right to ask for an internal review by making a formal request in writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, NHS Highland, Assynt House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, IV2 3BW or via email at High-UHB.FOIRRequestsHighland@nhs.net. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within forty working days of receiving this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied following the investigation of your review, then you have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of the date of receiving the review response. Contact details are as follows:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610
Fax: 01334 464611
e-mail: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Yours sincerely

Anna McInally
Freedom of Information Administrator

On behalf of

Ruth Daly
Board Secretary