

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-026

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

7 May 2024

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 11 April 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

The questions below which I would like you to answer are designed to help me understand:

- how much money your integrated care board (ICB) spent on hospice services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in 2023/24
- how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in your ICB footprint accessed hospice care during 2023/24
- how much money your integrated care board (ICB) plans to spend on hospice services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions during 2024/25, excluding the £25 million Children's Hospice Grant funding that NHS England has asked every ICB to distribute.

In order to help you meet my request, I provide definitions to the terms I use in my questions below:

Life-limiting and life-threatening conditions

“Life-limiting conditions are those for which there is no reasonable hope of cure and from which children will die. Some of these conditions cause slow deterioration over time rendering the child increasingly dependent on parents and carers.

Life-threatening conditions are those for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail, such as cancer.

Children and young people

Babies, children and young people aged 0-25.

My questions

1. Please set out how much money your integrated care board spent on hospice care for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions between 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per children's hospice organisation.
2. Please set out the arrangement through which this money was paid in 2023/24 – was this by standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or by other means.
3. Please set out how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions who live in your integrated care board footprint accessed hospice care between 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per hospice organisation.
4. Please set out how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions who live in your integrated care board footprint could benefit from children's hospice care.
5. Please set out how much money your integrated care board plans to spend on hospice care for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions between 6 April 2024 and 5 April 2025, excluding any money that is set to be paid as part of the NHS England Children's Hospice Grant. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per hospice organisation.
6. Please set out the arrangement through which this money will be paid in 2024/25 – by standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or by other means.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Tees Valley places

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

The ICB places above contract hospices as overall indicative block values which is not split between adults and children. However, we have determined the records are held by the individual hospices listed below.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the websites for those hospices to make your request.

Alice House Hospice www.alicehousehospice.co.uk
Butterwick Hospice www.butterwick.org.uk
Hartlepool and District Hospice www.alicehousehospice.co.uk
Marie Curie Cancer Care www.mariecurie.org.uk
St Cuthberts Hospice www.stcuthbertshospice.com
St Oswalds Hospice www.stoswaldsuk.org
St Teresa's Hospice www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk
Teesside Hospice www.teessidehospice.org
UH Hartlepool Hospice www.alicehousehospice.co.uk
Willowburn Hospice www.willowburnhospice.org.uk
Zoe's Place – Baby Hospice www.zoes-place.org.uk

Northumberland place

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested for Northumberland ICB place.

Northumberland place contract our hospices with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (FT) and only have an overall indicative block value for all hospices which is not split between adults and children.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought. However, we have determined the records are held by Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the FOI email address for Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT is foi@northumbria.nhs.uk

Sunderland place

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested for Sunderland ICB place.

Sunderland place is an associate to other place contracts so do not commission any of these services, therefore this is a nil response.

North Cumbria place

1. £120,172.00
2. Grant agreement
3. The ICB does not receive monitoring data.
4. All children who meet the criteria in North Cumbria would be able to benefit.
5. £120,893.00
6. Grant Agreement

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log.

Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer