

Freedom of Information request 400-20

Request

NHS Scotland will be aware that complex family breakdowns can lead to children being separated from one of their parents, whilst that separated parent still has obligations and a duty of care to their child under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

NHS Scotland could imagine a situation where a non-primary caregiving parent is separated by their child by a process of hearsay evidence being accumulated by a local authority social work department system. Such population of social work systems could have occurred through the actions of an Inter-Agency Discussion (a so called IRD) which is a non-statutory (REFERENCE THE FOISA FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT) meeting between Police Scotland, the local authority Social Work Department and potentially other agencies. Social work systems could also be populated with false information coming from the Police Scotland interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) and other voluntary organisations.

A non-primary caregiving parent may have significant and severe child protection concerns pertaining to their child and the actions and conduct of the now primary care giving parent.

NHS Scotland could imagine that the non-primary caregiving parent could have significant evidence associated with sexual impropriety of the now primary care giving parent during the course of their employment.

Earlier issues with a child reported on social work systems may suggest that a child was being coercively controlled by the now caregiving parent and there may be concerns around sexual abuse, due to allegations of the child acting out sexual conduct on another child, which was investigated by the police and although no disclosure was made, the investigating officer was convinced beyond doubt that the child had experienced sexual abuse from the now primary caregiving parent.

The non-primary caregiving parent may believe that aspects of coercion mechanisms described in the Biderman Chart are being employed and that their child is manifesting "acting out" behaviours as a reaction to the conduct of the primary care giving parent, and elements of Stockholm Syndrome have been witnessed and there is corroboration of such, and the abuse may still be being perpetuated.

Under FOISA 2002 please provide me with the information contained in your records as follows:

What is the formal process whereby a non-primary caregiving parents enacts their obligations under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to make a referral to the Child & Adolescent Mental Service of NHS Scotland For their child/children, whilst the background given above explains that multi agency gate keeping is in place by the use of inaccurate, false and libelous data iVPD/VPD based on malicious falsehoods and hearsay without any evidence, which is in free flow transmission through every agency, and the urgency of the situation being the paramount wellbeing of the child is not being given any cognisance nor is the evidential reports by the now non care giving parent, who is in effect 'STATE alienated' by the Scottish Government and her funded partner agencies including Third Sector Organisations and NGO's?

Response

The Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) does not accept direct referrals from families/carers but referrals from a professional group such as GP's and School Nurses. There is an expectation that a child would have been assessed by a professional to rule out any underlying issues in the first instance. In the event of a parent/carer with concerns of their child's wellbeing who is not open to the service CAMHS would advise them to consult with the child's GP and in the event of any risk of harm to telephone Child Protection.

Under Section 15 of the FOI(S)A 2002 Duty to provide advice and assistance if you think your child is being harmed or is at risk of harm, it's important that you report this. To do this you can contact the Children and Families Duty Social work team on 01896 662787 (during office hours) or Emergency Duty Team 01896 752111 (out of office hours). If you are concerned your child is in immediate danger, phone the police without delay.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **400-20** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.