

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 02 September 2022.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

1) Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?

Yes (we have 2 dog handlers on our books who visited the children's wards prior to Covid) unfortunately whilst they are due to return the ward is not ready for them as yet.

2) If your Trust has used such services, how have they been provided to the Trust i.e. Voluntary or funded by the Trust and has this remained the same or changed between voluntary and funded?

Through our Voluntary Services team, we use volunteers who can provide their registration details from Pets as Therapy or Canine Concern

3) What do you estimate the cost to be to the Trust of using animal assisted therapy by year for the last 5 years (if applicable?)

n/a

4) Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?

Voluntary Services Manager organises in conjunction with Ward Managers

5) What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?

Volunteer Policy and the Pets as Therapy guidelines

6) What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?

We will only take on therapy animals (dogs to date) who are registered with either Canine Concern or Pets As Therapy. As with all volunteers, after interview, we conduct right to work in UK checks, request references, complete DBS checks and the volunteer must complete mandatory training prior to their first volunteering shift. We ensure that any wards/departments who want a therapy animal has read and understood their responsibilities from the Pets as Therapy guidelines.

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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