FOI Request Response information

FOI request reference:	2016/051
Date request received:	01/03/2016
Date request responded to:	08/03/2016
Category:	Policies
Tags:	Community, nurses, nursing, staffing, lone working, lone worker, personal alarms

Request Detail:

Info re: Community Nursing and safety

1) How many community nurses do you employ? (By community nurse I mean: district nurses; health visitors; mental health nurses; community specialist nurse practitioners and any others who work with patients in community settings, including patients' homes – please use your own organisation's way of categorising and capturing that data to find the answer).

2) Do you supply your community nurses with personal alarms or other type of lone worker protection device?

    (i)   if yes, please specify which kind of devices (ie; personal alarm)?
    (ii)   if yes, please specify since which date you have supplied these devices?
    (iii)   if no, please specify if you have ever supplied community nurses with this kind of device and when you stopped supplying them?

3) What safety plans do you have in place for lone workers? Please share any safety plan and lone working policy.

Response Detail:

The Trust response to your recent FOI request is as follows:

1) **How many community nurses do you employ**

As at 7th March, the ESR system has 1423 community nurses recorded.

2) **Do you supply your community nurses with personal alarms or other type of lone worker protection device?**

Personal Alarms are issued to Community Nurses based on a risk assessment which considers a range of control measures to maintain their safety (of which alarms are one option). Where they are deemed necessary, they are issued with a device and trained on its use.

(i) **if yes, please specify which kind of devices (ie; personal alarm)?** The Trust use monitored lone worker devices (currently issued and monitored by Reliance) where this is suitable.
We also have some 'screech' alarms which can be issued, but are not linked to any monitoring station. Mobile phones are also provided to some staff.

(ii) **if yes, please specify since which date you have supplied these devices?** The Trust began using the devices during the national initiative, therefore, circa 6 years.

(iii) if no, please specify if you have ever supplied community nurses with this kind of device and when you stopped supplying them?

3) **What safety plans do you have in place for lone workers? Please share any safety plan and lone working policy.**
The overarching Trust Lone Worker Policy is attached, but local procedures are in place for each team based on what is appropriate for their service/staff and operational breakdown.

Please click on the paperclip symbol, on the left hand toolbar, to see additional attachments.