

FOI – 2060

18th January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

*emotional wellbeing trigger warning

Do you provide mandatory training about: trauma informed care to all Health Visitors

Yes, all HV receive a Trauma informed care overview as part of their training. They all complete Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Trauma Awareness training.

The causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse to all Health Visitors

All HV complete two days training on domestic abuse which covers all types of violence in intimate relationships. They attend a one day update every three years following the initial training. In addition, they can access training delivered by the Social Services Training Unit who regularly deliver training on all types of domestic abuse.

Trauma informed care to all physiotherapists within maternity care the causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse to all physiotherapists within maternity care

Acute physiotherapists do not routinely review women while in the acute setting (either antenatally or postnatally). When a woman does require input as priority in an acute setting, this is provided by physiotherapists who are not specialised in maternity care. These staff would not have any specific training on trauma informed care or to identify / manage causes and consequences of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

Are women and birthing people routinely asked, or offered the opportunity to share, if they have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse? If yes, please provide detail about this process

Health visitors will routinely ask all women new to their care if they have ever experienced domestic abuse. In addition, all mothers are asked this routine inquiry at

least twice following the birth of their baby.

As part of domestic violence training all midwives are educated in relation to signs and probing questions for all types of domestic abuse which includes sexual abuse.

At the antenatal booking women are asked if they are or have been subjected to domestic abuse. This question is not solely in relation to sexual violence or abuse but all types of abuse and the midwife will then provide opportunity to share and if answer to any aspect of abuse the midwife will provide an opportunity for the woman to be contacted by the DAS worker for support.

Women are asked at this booking appointment if they have had female genital mutilation.

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net