



# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters

Chief Nurse

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary

Wigan Lane

Wigan

WN1 2NN

T: 01942 773291

E: [kevin.parker-evans@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.parker-evans@wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2025/10746

Date Received: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Response Due: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**I wish to make a freedom of information request and would be grateful if you could provide the following information:**

- 1. The number of referrals made by your NHS Trust to other authorities - such as the police or social services - when there was a suspicion that a child is a victim of exploitation (sexual, criminal, gang-based grooming) for the years 2010 (or earliest available year of data) - 2024 inclusive.**

The process in Wigan is that all concerns of Child Exploitation are referred by WWL staff to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (CFPH). Here referrals of a child exploitation nature are screened by health, social care, police and other professionals with any children deemed at risk of or experiencing child exploitation, being further reviewed by the Wigan Complex Safeguarding Team (known as REACH), who are a specialist multi-agency team.

Any data regarding numbers of referrals would need to be requested from the Local Authority as the central receiving hub as this information is not held centrally by the Trust, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Therefore, please redirect your question to Wigan Council at [foirequest@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:foirequest@wigan.gov.uk).

**2. The number of risks assessments conducted on children where there was concern that they had been the victim of child sexual exploitation (using the same timeframe as above).**

The details of risk assessment numbers are held by the local authority as the central hub point of contact. Risk assessments come in a number of forms and there is a multi-agency approach to this via a variety of processes.

Therefore, please redirect your question to Wigan Council at [foirequest@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:foirequest@wigan.gov.uk).

**3. Details of your NHS Trusts' CSE safeguarding arrangements, including work in multi-agency partnerships.**

WWL hosts a specific Complex Safeguarding Nurse post who sits within the Complex Safeguarding Team, a multi-agency team based at Wigan Police Station. Additionally, WWL hosts x3 Nurses who sit within the CFPH supporting the front door multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns, including of those around all forms of exploitation. Complex safeguarding nurse caseload holds children open to the Complex Safeguarding Team providing health assessments, risk assessments and ongoing care to support health needs whilst additionally supporting school nurses and children in care nurses in WWL, who have a responsibility for providing care to children and young people where there are CS/CCE concerns but may not be open to the Wigan Complex Safeguarding Team.

**4. The number of staff employed by your NHS Trust who have received training on CSE.**

All staff are allocated training as per job role/professional qualification with varying levels of input specific to CSE. All Safeguarding Training (levels 1-4) will reference and provide increasing levels of CSE awareness, education and competence. Currently, WWL has 6,732 staff members who are compliant with mandatory safeguarding children training, and a further 270 staff who have received training previously but require updates. Of this cohort, 614 staff are trained at Level 3, which includes more specific training around CSE and a further 53 staff have accesses enhanced "Think Family" training, which provides a more detailed overview of CE. Additionally, cohorts of staff in target areas such as school nursing, have received additional training to Level 3 Safeguarding Children, and a number of staff can independently access specific Child Exploitation Training provided by Wigan Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Trust does not hold these figures.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMJ, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111