

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8806

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to autism and learning difficulties.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.

- 1. What percentage of NHS staff in your trust have received training on how with patients with autism and learning difficulties present in hospital?*
- 2. How long is the waiting list for training NHS staff in your trust on how patients with autism and learning difficulties present in hospital? Please give in days, weeks or months*
- 3. How often is training for NHS staff in your trust provided in how autistic and people with learning difficulties present in hospital?*
- 4. Do you have any plans in place to train all NHS staff in your trust within the next 12 months? (in relation to how autistic and people with learning difficulties present in hospital)*

Trust response:

1. The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a statutory requirement that regulated service providers must ensure their staff receive learning disability and autism training appropriate to their role. As a result, we offer a number of courses which support our staff on caring for patients with learning disabilities and autism.

In line with Health Education England guidance we launched the Oliver McGowan Training on Learning Disabilities and Autism as mandatory training for our all staff in August 2023, and to date 75% of our staff have successfully completed this training.

In addition to this we also offer five other optional courses which whilst focussed on other topics, also include content on learning disabilities and

autism. These have been completed by 215 members of current substantive staff as follows:

Disability Confidence	49
Learning Disability Awareness Study Day	62
Learning Disability Key Points Training	55
Level 3 Learning Disability Training	52
Autism Awareness Training	4

2. There is no waiting list for this training, it is accessible via eLearning and available 24/7 to all staff members.

3. In line with Health Education England guidance, the Oliver McGowan programme will be repeated every 3 years, and will continue to be available to all staff at any time.

4. The Oliver McGowan training on Learning Disabilities and Autism launched in August 2023 at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust and is a mandatory programme for all staff. To date, 75% of staff have completed the training with the aim of reaching full compliance within 12 months.