

Date: 28/05/2024
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 8756

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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – RESPITE CARE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to respite care within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- I would like to know what the eligibility criteria is for Sunndach Respite Unit is in detail. Specifically where mobility is concerned.

Answer:

Sunndach is a respite facility providing respite care and some residential care to children with severe and complex disabilities. It is based in Livingston and caters for primarily children from West Lothian, but also some children from Edinburgh. There is a comparable unit based in Edinburgh, Calareidh, which utilises identical eligibility criteria. Both units are managed by NHS Lothian and are not part of West Lothian's Health and Social Care Partnership.

Criteria for acceptance to Sunndach (and Calareidh) is based on a comprehensive assessment of a number of factors relating to the child's abilities.

Namely,

1. Breathing
2. Eating and Drinking
3. Mobility
4. Continence and Elimination
5. Skin and Tissue viability
6. Communication
7. Symptom Management
8. Psychological and Emotional
9. Seizures
10. Challenging Behaviours

Each factor is assessed on a scale from Normal to High Needs/Severe Disability.

I have enclosed the eligibility table used which outlines level of need required in each assessment item in order to meet the eligibility criteria of the unit. (Purple boxes = meets eligibility, white boxes = does not meet eligibility criteria)

Specifically in relation to mobility, only those children with High or severe needs in relation to mobility meet the criteria for the unit. Please also see below the mobility descriptors for each level of need.

This is also the case for most of the assessment areas, with the exception of 'Challenging Behaviours' and 'Psychological and Emotional' in which only Low-level needs can be accommodated within the unit.

In the event a child is deemed not to meet the unit's criteria, families are signposted to alternative services where appropriate.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.