

FOI 0234 2024 Response

Dear Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust,

I note the following article, dated 7 Aug 2023, on your website 'BSMHFT nurses part of team offering free liver checks'

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bsmhft.nhs.uk%2Fabout-us%2Fnews%2Fbsmhft-nurses-part-of-team-offering-free-liver-checks%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cbsmhft.foioffice%40nhs.net%7C7fd91f643c8943cb0bc408dcc90687a6%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638606277087880912%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IrlNjabQVSJA1xC5KdtmAeAkuh5nfstWJgc%2BOIOdElk%3D&reserved=0>

Which includes the sentence:

"Using a Fibro scanner, the nurses looked for 10-30 minutes per person to find any traces of fatty liver or liver scarring, something that can be an indication of alcohol misuse."

I should be grateful for the following information:

NOTES

If there is a full statistical breakdown held that answers my request 2, then I should be grateful for it, but I do not expect anybody to spend hours digging through files. It may be that the Senior Health and Wellbeing Nurse mentioned in the article is able to give some reasonable approximations (of the information held).

1. Summary details of any similar exercises by BSMHFT to that described in the article.

Solihull Integrated Addiction Services (SIAS) employ a systemic approach in creating access for individuals to health and wellbeing service, by working collaboratively with other services across Birmingham and Solihull.

As part of this approach, SIAS continue to work alongside colleagues from University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) who offer fibroscan screenings, which are undertaken by attending UHB Clinical Nurses Specialists, in the mobile clinical space called the 'Liver-Bus'.

SIAS have hosted the 'Liver-Bus' at the Newington Centre on 29/07/24, 29/08/24 and is due to attend again on 26/09/24.

This service increases access for individuals and SIAS's Service Users to screenings and supports informed decision making around their wellbeing and lifestyle.

In July 2024, 37 individuals were screened which resulted in SIAS receiving self-referrals for individuals seeking support around alcohol. In addition to this, 3 individuals were referred to Hepatology for physical health interventions by the attending Clinical Nurse Specialists, following receipt of results.

2. Numbers of how many of the "scanned 404 residents" mentioned in the article were referred to which hospitals, on the basis of the 'Fibro scanner' results.

40 people (10%) who were scanned had abnormal readings and were referred for further investigation at New Cross Hospital.

Please note that there is no further breakdown of the 10% in statistical data.

3. Numbers of residents given a diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver purely on the basis of a Fibro Scan.

The service does not diagnose cirrhosis, but identifies those who may have readings that would recommend seeking support from Hepatology specialist liver services in acute settings.

Those identified were signposted to New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

4. A copy of the protocol, or training materials, or whatever that informed the nurses referred to in your article of the limitations of Fibro scanners such as the machine's margin of error and that results can be affected by how long before the scan the resident had eaten.

The Recovery Near You Nurses who did the fibroscanning were all trained by the Specialist Hepatitis C Nurse Lead from (and in partnership with) New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

This Lead and their Team do all the current planned fibroscans as part of the NHS Liver Team in Wolverhampton, and our Nurses were trained to that standard.

The Trust therefore recommend attaining the noted Protocols from New Cross Hospital.