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20th July 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:
Neurodivergent Intrapartum Care (Maternity Services)

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. Policies and Procedures – Does your trust have any formal policies, pathways, or standard operating procedures that reference the care of neurodivergent patients during labour and birth? If so, please provide copies or links.	No The Trust does not have a stand-alone guideline but neurodivergence is referred to in the 'Facilitating Choice Guideline'. Please see accompanying document FOI 1397 Facilitating Choice Guideline			
2. Guidelines or Protocols for Staff – Does your trust provide any guidance or protocols for staff relating to communication approaches, sensory adjustments, reasonable adjustments, or other supportive care for neurodivergent patients during the intrapartum period? If so, please provide copies or links.	Guidance is provided as stated in Q1. In addition, the Professional Midwifery Advocate team runs a Birth Options service and will often receive referrals for women and birthing people who require a personalised birth plan relating to adjustments, sensory needs, communication approaches. This personalised plan, which includes guidance for staff, are added to the patient's Alerts to immediately draw attention to this plan ensuring any staff who provide care are aware as soon as possible.			

3. Resources, Tools, or Training Materials – Does your trust use any resources, tools, or training materials (e.g. visual aids, communication tools, sensory supports, or staff training resources) to support neurodivergent patients during labour and birth? If so, please provide copies, links, or a brief description.	Yes, we often share resources provided by Neurodivergent Birth as these usually are really well received by both women and staff. Staff have also had training from LD nurses and Oliver McGowen training has also featured on mandatory training within the last 3 years to support staff to care for ND patients, overlapping with a trauma-informed approach. In the last 3 years, the PMAs ran a session on PROMPT around preventable birth trauma, which discussed different responses to trauma including trauma response with people who identify as neurodivergent. The PMA is currently working on a project in collaboration with a group of women & birthing people with ADHD and/or autism to co-produce a Neurodivergent Birthing Passport which will clearly and sensitively list the following: • Communication approach/needs • Adjustments eg: having info in printed form in addition to digital, quiet space away from bright lights and busy waiting rooms, ability to bring in own fan/cooling aids etc.			
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	• Responses and Regulation (an idea of what techniques or stims the birthing person may use and who will support this eg birth partner when/if things have started to go off-plan or the person is becoming overwhelmed) • Recovery (what the person thinks they may need to aid recovery, coping with long waits for discharge home, busy wards etc)			
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4

Home, Community, Hospital.

Patient Experience Team
01623 672222
sfn-tr.pet@nhs.net



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a smoke-free site

Trust Chair Graham Ward
Chief Executive Jon Melbourne

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.