

21 August 2014

Dear

## **Freedom of Information Act Request**

### **Original Request:**

In this request, the term 'powered wheelchair' is used to refer to EPICs (electrically powered indoor powered wheelchairs) and EPIOCs (electrically powered indoor/outdoor powered wheelchairs).

#### **1. Criteria for deciding suitability for a powered wheelchair**

Please supply copies of any documentation that sets out the criteria used to determine whether a person is suitable/eligible to receive a powered wheelchair, or funding towards a powered wheelchair, from Wirral Community NHS Trust – including clinical guidance.

#### **2. Data on powered wheelchair supply**

Please supply the data listed below for the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14:

- 2.1 Number of people who were registered with a wheelchair service provided by Wirral Community NHS Trust in each year.
- 2.2 Number of people in each year who had a powered wheelchair which was entirely or partly funded by Wirral Community NHS Trust.
- 2.3 Of the people above (2.2), the number who:
  - a. had their powered wheelchair entirely funded by Wirral Community NHS Trust
  - b. had their powered wheelchair partly funded by Wirral Community NHS Trust.
- 2.4 Specify whether Wirral Community NHS Trust has, in the time period specified above, jointly funded a powered wheelchair with any of the following:
  - a. Education authorities (y/n)
  - b. Access to Work (y/n)
  - c. Charities (y/n)
- 2.5 Amount spent by all Wirral Community NHS Trust per year on funding for the supply of powered wheelchairs.
- 2.6 Number of refurbished powered wheelchairs issued to people per year by all wheelchair services provided by Wirral Community NHS Trust.

#### **3. Use of third parties for powered wheelchair supply and servicing**

- 3.1 Does Wirral Community NHS Trust use any third party contractors (eg equipment supply company or CIC) to supply wheelchairs? If so which?
- 3.2 Does Wirral Community NHS Trust use any third party contractors (eg equipment supply company or CIC) to service wheelchairs? If so which?

### **Our Response:**

In response to your FOI request, detailed below is the information requested from Wirral Community NHS Trust:

1. The criteria to determine whether a person is suitable/eligible to receive a powered wheelchair is as follows:

### **Criteria for the supply of an electrically powered indoor chair. E.P.I.C.**

1. The user is unable to walk\* or self propel\* within their own home environment or it would be detrimental to their medical condition to do so within their own home.
2. The user would gain a measure of independence from the provision of such a chair.
3. The user is mentally and physically capable of safely operating the powered wheelchair and they/their carers are capable of maintaining it.
4. The user's home\* environment must be suitable to allow the safe use of the powered chair.

### **Criteria for the supply of an electrically powered indoor/outdoor chair. E.P.I.O.C.**

1. The criteria for the E.P.I.C. are met. (home must be wheelchair accessible i.e. level access/ramped – indoor to outdoor)
  2. The user must have no difficulties with visual cognitive, visiospatial or other higher cortical functions or medical conditions, which would make them a danger to themselves, pedestrians or other road users while using the wheelchair.
  3. The user must comply with the DVLC requirements for motor vehicle drivers in connection with an epileptic condition or other causes of loss of consciousness.
  4. The user must be able to demonstrate that the E.P.I.O.C. will significantly improve his/her quality of life/independence greater than that supplied by the E.P.I.C.
2. The number of people registered with a wheelchair for the financial years 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 are as follows:
- 2.1 2011-2012 = 66  
2012-2013 = 88  
2013-2014 = 73
  - 2.2 As above.
  - 2.3 a. As above  
b. None
  - 2.4 a, b and c – Wirral Community NHS Trust has never jointly funded a powered wheelchair.
  - 2.5 The amount spent on funding for the supply of powered wheelchairs for the financial years 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 are as follows:  
  
2011-2012 = £92,400  
2012-2013 = £123,200  
2013-2014 = £109,500
  - 2.6 The number of refurbished powered wheelchairs issued for the financial years 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 are as follows:  
  
2011-2012 = 37  
2012-2013 = 51  
2013-2014 = 32
3. 3.1 Wirral Community NHS Trust use Ross Care Authorised Repairer as a third party contractor to supply wheelchairs.
- 3.2 Wirral Community NHS Trust use Ross Care Authorised Repairer to service wheelchairs.