

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB\_138\_18**

### **You asked:**

Over the last five years:

**1. How many Individual Patient Funding Referral (IPFR) forms on behalf of Deaf people/people with hearing loss for mental health related treatments (e.g. psychological therapy, specialist psychiatric assessment/treatment), have been made in to your health board?**

Please note that referral to a specialist deaf mental health provider is not considered an IPFR. An IPFR application is reserved for an intervention that is new/novel/experimental and is not routinely commissioned by the health board. Referrals to deaf mental health services does not fall within this category. Instead, such requests are considered via the 'prior approval' process.

In the last five years, Cwm Taf University health board has received \*less than 5 requests to refer patients with hearing loss to specialist mental health services to an external provider.

Please note that the health board is only responsible for commissioning non-specialist services. Deaf patients who require access to tier 4 inpatient mental health services falls within the commissioning responsibility of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee.

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/home>

**2. How many of the above were for (a) National Deaf Mental Health services in England and (b) other specialist services, such as SignHealth, Deaf4Deaf?**

\*Less than 5 were for: BSL interpreter, Sign Health and the National Deaf mental health service.

**3. How many of the above were approved?**

Of the requests received, one was approved. The remaining requests were redirected in to local services for an initial clinical assessment undertaken via a translator in order to determine clinical need.

From a commissioning perspective, the health board will commission the services from an external provider when it is deemed clinically appropriate in line with local clinical pathways. Only when it is clinically appropriate will the local team submit a 'prior approval' request to refer the patient to an external provider of deaf services.

**4. Please do also tell us if you can, where there are positive examples of Deaf people being supported well in MH settings/ by local services (in both community and inpatient settings)**

We have personal listening devices - sonidos and portable loops throughout mental health wards and departments and loops fitted in our new wellbeing centre. We provide BSL interpreters as required. One of our sensory loss champions is developing picture cards. We also delivered an educating patients programme in a deaf friendly format and this was attended by one of our Mental Health patients. We have developed deaf friendly MH awareness and depression busting which is being delivered to hard of hearing groups.

We have also provided extensive training which has been well attended by mental health staff and have developed resources for use with deaf people/people with hearing loss.

The Health Board has been shortlisted for an Excellence in Healthcare National Award for the second time for the above mentioned work, the annual awards are run by Action on Hearing Loss Cymru.

\* Please note exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved. Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles set out in Schedules 2 and 3 of the Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and does not require the Health Board to consider the public interest test.