

West Sussex County Council – Written Questions

Replies to questions submitted under Standing Order 2.40 as part of the preparation for the County Council meeting on 14 October 2022

1. Written question from **Cllr Lord** for reply by **the Cabinet Member for Adults Services**

Question

In light of the recent developments in the case of Tony Hickmott in neighbouring Brighton & Hove, can the Cabinet Member for Adults Services confirm:

- (a) The number of West Sussex residents with learning disabilities and autism detained under Part 2 of the Mental Health Act (1983) during each year from 2015 to 2022.
- (b) Of those currently detained, the number of people detained and the number designated 'fit for discharge' by length of detention as follows:
- (i) Over 6 months
 - (ii) Over 1 year
 - (iii) Over 5 years

The average time and longest time between a resident being considered 'fit for discharge' and moving back into a community setting since 2015, and comment on any trends over this time period.

Answer

The Transforming Care (Learning Disability and Autism) programme established following the Winterbourne View abuse scandal in 2012 maintains a register of learning disability and autism inpatients detained under the Mental Health Act in Sussex. The Learning Disability and Autism (LDA) team currently sits within the Sussex NHS Integrated Commissioning Board and have provided the data on learning disability and autism inpatients detained under the Mental Health Act since 2017 (see below).

Table 1: West Sussex LDA inpatients - No of inpatients as at 31 March

Responsible commissioner	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Clinical Commissioning Group (commissioned through S75 arrangements)	17	13	11	9	6	7
Specialised Commissioning (commissioned nationally)	17	13	15	15	13	10
Total	34	26	26	24	19	17

Their records indicate that there are 12 adults with a learning disability or autism currently detained, of these five are 'fit for discharge' and the length of their detention is as follows:

Over 6 months 1 x CCG (to be discharged 17 October)

Over 1 year – 1 x CCG

Over 5 years - 3 x Specialised Commissioning (1 is due for March 2023)

The LDA team are unable to report (due to this data not being available prior to 2017) on the average time and longest time between a resident being considered 'fit for discharge' and moving back into a community setting since 2015.