



Title of Paper: <u>Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report 2024/25</u>		
For Decision Requires majority decision prior to implementation or action.	For Discussion Requires consideration and debate.	For Noting Contains information Members should be made aware.

1.0 Background

The Trust is required to produce an Annual Monitoring Return to ensure compliance with the Rural Needs Act 2016. From 1 June 2018, the 2016 Act placed a legal duty on the Trust to ensure due regard is paid to the consideration of the social and economic needs of service users in rural areas.

This is particularly important when developing, adopting, implementing and revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and implementing public services. The Trust’s information for 2024/25 has been requested by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DEARA) by the end of June 2025.

2.0 Key Issues

Prepared by the Equality Team, the documents attached include the Rural Needs Screening Templates completed by Trust Leads for 2024/25 where an impact on rural needs has been identified.

The Executive Management Team reviewed and endorsed the Return as tabled at its meeting on 17 June 2025.

It is recommended Members approve the 2024/25 Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return for submission to DEARA.

3.0 Resources Implications (inc Organisational, Financial, Human Resources)

N/A

4.0 Impact on Safety, Quality and Experience (SQE)

N/A

5.0 Key Risks and Proposals to Mitigate

N/A

Lead Director: Claire Smyth, Director of People & Organisational Development

Date: 18 June 2025