South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening Template

Completed Screening Templates are public documents and will be posted on the Trust's website

See Guidance Notes for further background information on the relevant legislation and for help in answering the questions on this template (follow the links).

(1) Information about the Policy/Proposal

(1.1)	Name of the policy/proposal Management of a Patient being Absent without Leave Absconding) from General Hospital Environment

(1.2)	Is this a new, existing or revised policy/proposal? Revised

(1.3)	What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)? The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust), has a duty to ensure the safety and welfare of service users under their care. Appropriate assessment, therapeutic interventions, observation and supervision is paramount to this care. Despite these interventions, service users do sometimes go absent from inpatient settings without the agreement or knowledge of staff. A voluntary patient may lawfully leave hospital anytime he or she wishes, though it would be desirable that they discuss this with staff in the first instance. Concern would be expressed however if the patient lacked mental capacity or the patient represented a significant risk of harm to himself or others

(1.4) Are there any Section 75 categories (see list in 3.1) which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy/proposal?

Not aware of any.

(1.5) Who owns and who implements the policy/proposal - where does it originate, for example DHSSPS, HSCB?

South Eastern Trust

(1.6) Are there any factors that could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/proposal/decision? (Financial, legislative or other constraints?)

No

(1.7) Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy/proposal/decision could impact upon? (staff, service users, other public sector organisations, , trade unions, professional bodies, independent sector, voluntary and community groups etc)

Staff, service users, patients, relatives and carers.Those over the age of 16 years .

Woman and Child Health Directorate refer also to Infant / Child Abduction WACH Neonatal POL (01) The Trust has adopted the regional guidance: Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Missing Children Protocol (HSCB & PSNI June 2015) Joint protocol for missing children.Where children go missing in their own home/and when they go missing whilst in the care of HSC Trusts.

(1.8) Other policies with a bearing on this policy/proposal **(**for example regional policies) - what are they and who owns them?

SET Discharge Policy

Chain of Command Policy (Escalating Concerns)

Woman and Child Health Directorate : Infant / Child Abduction WACH Neonatal POL (01)

(2) Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Details of evidence/information
Trust wide consultation

(3) Needs, experiences and priorities

(3.1) Taking into account the information above what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the Section 75 categories and for both service users and staff.

Category	**Needs, experiences and priorities**	
	Service users	***Staff***
Gender	NA	NA
Age	Over 16	NA
Religion	NA	NA
Political Opinion	NA	NA
Marital Status	NA	NA
Dependent Status	NA	NA
Disability	NA	NA
Ethnicity	NA	NA
Sexual	NA	NA

Orientation		

(3.2) Provide details of how you have involved stakeholders, views of colleagues, service users and staff etc when screening this policy/proposal.

Trust wide consultation

(4) Screening Questions

You now have to assess whether the impact of the policy/proposal is major, minor or none. You will need to make an informed judgement based on the information you have gathered.

(4.1) What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?			
Section 75 category	***Details of policy/proposal impact***		***Level of impact? Minor/major/none***
	Services Users	***Staff***	
Gender			None
Age			16
Religion			None
Political Opinion			None
Marital Status			None
Dependent Status			None
Disability			None
Ethnicity			None
Sexual Orientation			None

(4.2) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?	
Section 75 category	***Please provide details***
Gender	NA

Age	Over 16
Religion	NA
Political Opinion	NA
Marital Status	NA
Dependent Status	NA
Disability	NA
Ethnicity	NA
Sexual Orientation	NA

(4.3) *To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none*		
Good relations category	***Details of policy/proposal impact***	***Level of impact Minor/major/none***
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

(4.4) Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?	
Good relations category	***Please provide details***
Religious belief	NA
Political opinion	NA
Racial group	NA

(5) Consideration of Disability Duties

(5.1) How does the policy/proposal encourage disabled people to participate in public life and promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
NA

(6) Consideration of Human Rights

(6.1) Does the policy/proposal affect anyone's Human Rights?
Complete for each of the articles

Article	Positive impact	Negative impact = human right interfered with or restricted	Neutral impact
Article 2 – Right to life			X

Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment			X
Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour			X
Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person			X
Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time			X
Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law			X
Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence.			X
Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion			X
Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression			X
Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association			X
Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family			X
Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights			X
1st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property			X
1st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education			X

Please note: If you have identified potential negative impact in relation to any of the Articles in the table above, speak to your line manager and/or Equality Unit. It may also be necessary to seek legal advice.

(6.2) Please outline any actions you will take to promote awareness of human rights and evidence that human rights have been taken into consideration in decision making processes.

NA

(7) Screening Decision

(7.1) Given the answers in Section 4, how would you categorise the impacts of this policy/proposal?

Major impact	
Minor impact	

No impact	X

(7.2) Do you consider the policy/proposal needs to be subjected to ongoing screening

Yes	
No	X

(7.3) Do you think the policy/proposal should be subject to and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

Yes	
No	X

(7.4) Please give reasons for your decision and detail any mitigation considered.

The policy focuses on safer patient care

(8) Monitoring

Please detail how you will monitor the effect of the policy/proposal for equality of opportunity and good relations, disability duties and human rights?

Monitor Datix forms.

Approved Lead Officer: Elizabeth Campbell

Position: Nurse Governance lead

Date: 14/01/2026

Policy/proposal screened by:

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Please forward completed schedule to:

Susan Thompson
Equality Manager
Lough House, Ards Hospital
Newtownards
BT23 4AS
Telephone: 028 9151 2177
Textphone: 028 9151 0137
e: susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net

Kathey Neill
Equality Officer
Lough House, Ards Hospital
Newtownards
BT23 4AS
Telephone: 028 9151 2122
Textphone: 028 9151 0137
e: kathey.neill@setrust.hscni.net