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

Policy for the Safe and Effective Use of Ligature Cutters including Guidance for Assessing and Managing Ligature Points.

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

(1.3) What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)?

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for staff in the event of a Ligature incident, including the guidance on the safe use of ligature cutters/rescue equipment. The Trust recognises the multiple factors involved regarding the risks of ligatures and strangulation, this policy is intended to provide a level of guidance and direction in identifying, assessing and managing the potential risks of ligatures.

The Trust recognises the challenges staff are faced with regarding Ligature related incidents and acknowledges the need for staff to receive adequate and appropriate training to enable them to carry out the duties of their post.

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

No Specific Section 75 categories

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

South Eastern H&SC 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?)

This would be applicable to those staff not aware of the Policy or able to access relevant training and supports

(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)

Has the potential to impact on all staff if relevant to their areas of practice.

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

Not Applicable

(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
This policy is designed to protect, as far as possible, the needs of all patients/clients/service users and staff. Estates and Facilities Alert, issued by NI Advers Incident Centre September 2018 (EFA-2018-005) Coroners Regulation 28 Report – re: the confusion over how ligature points be assessed and their removal prioritised. Care Quality Commission (CQC) revised inspectors report - (EFA-2018-005) Ligature Risk Assessment has been adapted from the Manchester Ligature Audit Tool Importance of Post-Incident Support following events

(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	Policy is applicable to males and females	N/A
Age	Irrespective of age	N/A

Religion	N/A	N/A
Political Opinion	N/A	N/A
Marital Status	N/A	N/A
Dependent Status	N/A	N/A
Disability	N/A	N/A
Ethnicity	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A

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

The policy was issued for consultavtion to the Trust Consultation list

(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			None
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	N/A
Age	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Opinion	N/A
Marital Status	N/A
Dependent Status	N/A
Disability	N/A
Ethnicity	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A

(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	N/A
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A

(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?
N/A

(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. Staff attend Equality Human Rights and Diversity training as part of the Trust wide Training Strategy

(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.

This is a revised policy as detailed in 1.2.

There continues to be an identified need regarding the ongoing management of ligatures, ligature points, and subsequent training in the use of ligature cutters/rescue equipment. This policy addresses some of the potential needs, risks and issues faced by staff when dealing with incidents and events involving ligatures, strangulation or hanging, whether intentional or unintentional.

The policy should have a positive impact on the potential risks associated with ligatures, both in developing staff's knowledge and skills in the management of potential ligature risks, but also in building staff confidence in using the rescue equipment and potentially reducing the number of attempted and completed suicides within the Trust area as a result of ligature/strangulation and hanging incidents.

(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?

This policy will be monitored via compliance and incidents (Datix), including training and audit.

Approved Lead Officer:	Barry Magee
Position:	Service Lead – Positive Practices & Safe intervetions Service (Ligature Rescue lead)
Date:	19.08.2025
Policy/proposal screened by:	

Please forward completed schedule to:

Susan Thompson
Equality Manager
t: 07525 898850
e: susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net