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 Verification of Life Extinct Policy

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

(1.3) What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)? This policy is to provide medical and appropriately trained nursing staff guidance on a consistent and standardised approach to the verification of life extinct.

(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

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

None

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

Care of the Deceased Adult Patient and their Family (Formerly known as Last Offices) Policy for SET Hospitals

SET Policy on The Management of Bereavement

(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
• Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, A code of practice for the diagnosis and confirmation of death. London: Academy of Medical Royal Colleges 2008. https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Code_Practice_Confirmation_Diagnosis_Death_1008.pdf • Guidance surrounding Death | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) https://www.health- ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/guidance- surrounding-death • DoH Guidelines for Verifying Life Extinct 2019 accessed at: https://www.health- ni.gov.uk/publications/guidelines-verifying-life-extinct • Circular by the Department of Health on 4th October 2022 providing guidance on the revised arrangements for the certification and registration of deaths and stillbirths and the cremation process doh-add-hss-md-46-2022.pdf (health-ni.gov.uk) • Circular was issued by the Department of Health on 23rd March 2023 providing guidance on the revised arrangements for the cremation doh-hss-md-13-2023.pdf (health- ni.gov.uk)Public Health Agency Verification of Life Extinct: Draft Policy and FAQ document on VLE by nursing working in community settings, 29th April 2020 https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2020-04/Verification%20of%20Life%20Extinct%20%28VLE%29.pdf • DHSSPS Circular: Guidance on Death, Stillbirth and Cremation following the Court of Appeal Decision on the Death of a Fetus in Utero. December 2014 • 'Guidance on Death, Stillbirth & Cremation Certification' DHSSPS Ref 20/2008 • Section 7 of the Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959 • NMC The Code (2018): Professional standards of practice and behavior for nurses, midwives and nursing associates • Guidance for staff responsible for care after death (last offices) (NHS National End of Life Care Program 2011) https://www.england.nhs.uk/improvement-hub/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2017/10/Guidance-for-Staff-Responsible-for-Care-after-Death.pdf • 6th Edition of Care After Death: Registered Nurse Verification of Expected Adult Death (RNVoEAD) guidance, April 2024 RNVoED 6th edition June 2024_0.pdf (hospiceuk-files-prod.s3.eu- west-2.amazonaws.com • SEHSCT Policies (the current version is always available in the Policy Library on

Intranet):

- SEHSCT Policy and Procedures for the Reporting and Management of Adverse Incidents.
- SEHSCT Procedure for Referring a Patient/Client's Death to the Coroner (Adult Hospital Death Only)
- Mortality and Morbidity Regional Process Guidance https://www.health- ni.gov.uk/publications/regional-mm-review-training-material
  SEHSCT Coroner's Cases – Securing and Preserving Evidence.
- SEHSCT ICDs, Modification of shock therapies in Implantable Cardiac Defibrillation (ICD) during end of life care.
- SEHSCT Information Governance Management Framework
- SEHSCT Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) – Clinicians' Guide to Good Practice in Completion.
- SEHSCT Resuscitation Policy, (Includes Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary)

(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	N/A	N/A
Age	N/A	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.

Trust Policy consultation has taken place. Amendments made as appropriate (see comments proforma).

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

(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	No
Political opinion	No
Racial group	No

(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?
The policy promotes equality throughout all of the section 75 categories as it aims to achieve a consistent approach to the Verification of Life Extinct and the recording of same.

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

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.

(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 promotes equality throughout all of the section 75 categories as it aims to achieve a consistent approach to the Verification of Life Extinct and the recording of same.

(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?

Approved Lead Officer:	Donna Louise Laird
Position:	Trust Bereavement Coordinator
Date:	31 January 2025
Policy/proposal screened by:	Donna Louise Laird

Please forward completed schedule to:

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