

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

Absent without Leave (absconding) from a general hospital ward

(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 outlines the action to be taken by staff in the event of a patient going missing from a general hospital environment without prior agreement, or failing to return at the agreed time

(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 Health and Social Care 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)

- **Trust staff**
- **Relatives and Carers**
- **GPs**
- **PSNI**
- **Service Users**
- **NIAS**

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

regional guidance: Safeguarding Children Missing from Home and Foster Care (Sept 2008) - adopted by the SET

- MH/PW/P15 Promoting Quality Care: Good Practice Guidance on the Assessment and Management of Risk.
- MH/PW/P04 Observation Policy/Procedure
- MH/PW/F01 Admission/Discharge Policy and Care Pathway
- MH/PW/P05 Procedure Regarding Patients/Service Users who Lose Contact with Mental Health Services.
- Gain PSNI Guidelines on the use of the Mental Health Order (Northern Ireland) 1986
- Guidelines on the Use of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

(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.

| <i>Details of evidence/information</i> |
|---|
| <p>This is a revised policy which was developed through input of a working group. It also considered the South Eastern Trust, Mental Health Services: Policy and Procedure Regarding a Patient (Voluntary/Detained) being Absent Without Leave (Prior Agreement). The policy considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience and knowledge of relevant staff; • information from previous consultations; • internal and external audits, monitoring systems; • complaints; grievances |

(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 | None | None |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------|
| Age | None – specific guidance to be followed for safeguarding children | None |
| Religion | None | None |
| Political Opinion | None | None |
| Marital Status | None | None |
| Dependent Status | None | None |
| Disability | None | None |
| Ethnicity | None | None |
| Sexual Orientation | None | None |

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

We have an agreed process for consultation which involves a wide range of professionals and disciplines.

The Trust continues to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure equality of opportunity and good relations.

(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 | |
| Age | |
| Religion | |
| Political Opinion | |
| Marital Status | |
| Dependent Status | |
| Disability | |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| | |
| Ethnicity | The Trust has noted that the majority of patients have been identified as White. Any patient who does not speak English as a first language will be provided with access to an interpreter either by telephone or face to face |
| Sexual Orientation | |

(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 | The Trust has noted the religious make up of patients and will endeavour to record religious affiliation, provide Chaplaincy services and support and work with the local community to promote good relations |
| Political opinion | The Trust will continue to note postcodes and Council voting patterns and work with local community groups and relevant stakeholders |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Racial group | No direct information has been gathered with population trends of 10% being assumed |
|--------------|---|

(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?

Does not impact

(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 | yes | | |
| Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment | Yes | | |
| Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour | | | Yes |
| Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person | Yes | | |
| Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time | | | Yes |
| Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law | | | Yes |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-----|
| Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence. | | | Yes |
| Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion | | | Yes |
| Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression | | | Yes |
| Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association | | | Yes |
| Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family | | | Yes |
| Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights | | | Yes |
| 1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property | | | Yes |
| 1 st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education | | | Yes |

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.

| |
|---|
| <p>(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.</p> <p>None identified</p> |
|---|

(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 | √ |

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

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | |
| No | √ |

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

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | |
| No | √ |

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

(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?

- Staff will be made formally aware of this Procedure through line management structures.
- Trust will continue to offer training and awareness raising for Human Rights
- Trust will work closely with voluntary and community groups



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust

Approved Lead Officer: Linda Kelly
Position: AD: Safe and Effective Care
Date: 31st March 2015
Policy/proposal screened by: Linda Kelly

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

Suzanne McCartney

Equality Manager
Lagan Valley Hospital
Lisburn
BT28 1JP
Telephone: 028 9266 5141 ext 2604
Textphone: 028 9263 3522
e: suzanne.mccartney@setrust.hscni.net