



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

Breaking Bad News Policy

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

Revised policy

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

A consistent approach to the breaking and recording of significant consultations

(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?

DHSSPSNI Breaking Bad News Regional Guidelines 2003

(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

Buckman, R (1996a) 'How to Break Bad News, A Guide for Health Care Professionals' The John Hopkins University.

Buckman, R (1996b) Talk to patients about cancer- no excuse for not doing it now. *BMJ* 313.699-700.

Fallowfield, L.J., & Jenkins, V.A., (2004) Communicating sad, bad, and difficult news in medicine. *The Lancet* 2004 (363); p. 312 – 319.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence (2004) 'Improving Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults with Cancer.' NICE.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. (2009). NI Health and Social Care Services – Strategy for Bereavement Care, DHSSPSNI, Belfast. Available at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nihsc-strategy-for-bereavement-care-june-2009.pdf>

Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (2003). *Breaking Bad News Regional Guidelines*. Belfast: DHSSPSNI. Available at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/breaking_bad_news.pdf

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. (2010) *Living Matters Dying Matters: A Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for Adults in Northern Ireland*. Belfast: DHSSPSNI. Available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/8555_palliative_final.pdf

(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	
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	

(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?

<i>Section 75 category</i>	<i>Please provide details</i>
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 sharing of bad news and the

recording of same on a Significant Consultation Sheet.

(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			y

enjoyment of the convention rights			
1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property			y
1 st 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.

This policy is underpinned by the values of autonomy, self-determination, empowerment, dignity, respect and compassion. The implementation of this policy and related Significant Consultation Sheet (Appendix 1) is a major step towards recording the key elements of important discussions between patients and clinicians and outlining future care plans.

(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.

(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?

N/A

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 Position: Trust Bereavement Coordinator
 Date: 25 March 2015
 Policy/proposal screened by: Paul McCloskey

Please forward completed schedule to:

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