

# SCREENING TEMPLATE

For further information on screening, please refer to the 'Guidance Notes', which are also available in hard copy from your organisation's equality contact.

## (1) INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLICY/DECISION

**Guidelines for the management of patients who attend the Trust's healthcare settings accompanied by assistance dogs**

### 1.2 Description of policy/decision

- **what is it trying to achieve? (aims/objectives)**
- **how will this be achieved? (key elements)**
- **what are the key constraints? (e.g. financial, legislative)**
- To provide healthcare workers involved in the management of patients/relatives/carers who attend healthcare facilities with assistance dogs with the necessary principles to carry out a risk assessment. Thus adequate provision can be put in place as necessary to manage each situation from a person centred approach and without bias or prejudice.
- This will be achieved by ensuring that as far as a reasonably practical all staff involved in the process follow the guidelines so that all actions can be taken as necessary to accommodate the patient/client and their animal.

### 1.3 Main stakeholders affected

**(e.g. staff, actual or potential service users, other public sector organisations, voluntary and community groups, trade unions/professional organisations or private sector organisations)**

Patients/visitors/carers/relative/residents and Healthcare workers,

### 1.4 Other policies/decisions with a bearing on this policy/decision

- **what are they?**
- **who owns them?**

NI regional IPC Manual

Disability Discrimination Act NI Guidelines on adjustments for owners of assistance dogs in healthcare settings

## (2) SCREENING THE POLICY/DECISION

2.1 In terms of groupings under Section 75, what is the make up of those affected by the policy/decision ?

<b>Group</b>	<b><i>Please provide details</i></b>
Gender	All patient groups
Age	All those who are permitted to have assistance dogs
Religion	None
Political Opinion	N/A
Marital Status	N/A
Dependent Status	None
Disability	Those who require assistance animals to carry out activities of daily living
Ethnicity	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A

**2.2 Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Yes/No/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Please provide details</b>
Gender	No	
Age	No	
Religion	No	
Political Opinion	No	
Marital Status	No	
Dependent Status	No	
Disability	Yes	Those patients (regardless of gender, age, religion, political opinion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, martial or dependent status) who attend or reside in healthcare settings and require their assistance dog attend/reside with them. There are currently just over 100 Guide dogs supporting blind people in Northern Ireland and a small number of assistance dogs affiliated to charities supporting those with disability or medical conditions
Ethnicity	No	

Sexual Orientation	No	

**2.3 Is there any indication or evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the policy/decision?**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Yes/No/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Please provide details</b>
Gender	No	
Age	No	
Religion	No	
Political Opinion	No	
Marital Status	No	
Dependent Status	No	
Disability	Yes	It is important that the guidelines are implemented in order that an unbiased risk assessment can be carried out so that reasonable adjustments can be made to enable the assistance dog and owners attend/visit healthcare premises, or that they are advised adequately as to why this cannot be permitted in specific settings.
Ethnicity	No	

Sexual Orientation	No	
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**2.4 Is it likely that the policy/decision will meet those needs?**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Yes/No/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Please briefly give details</b>
	Yes	Following implementation of the guidelines the Trust will ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to prevent bias and ensure essential adjustments are made to accommodate the patient/relative/carer or resident taking into account the needs of other users of the service.
<i>N.B. continue as appropriate</i>		

**2.5 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy/decision or working with others in government or in the larger community? Yes**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
NI Assistance Dogs Assistance Dogs NI Hearing Dogs Guide dogs NI	Comments were sought from voluntary organisations listed to the left in order to review the content of this guideline and amendments made accordingly. The guideline was sent for Trust-wide consultation and amendments made accordingly.
<i>N.B. continue as appropriate</i>	





**2.6 What changes to the policy/decision – if any – or what additional measures would you suggest to ensure that it promotes good relations?**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
Religion	None
Political Opinion	None
Ethnicity	None

**2.7 Have previous consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems that are specific to them? Also, please detail information used to answer any of the questions above (e.g. statistics; research reports; views of colleagues, service users, or other stakeholders).**

No

**2.8 Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy/decision on any of the groups under Section 75? Monitor as required.**

Review specific situations/experiences from those who use our healthcare facilities when assistance dogs are in attendance, or have/have not been sufficiently accommodated and share the lessons learned

**(3) SHOULD THE POLICY/DECISION BE SUBJECT TO EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT?**

Equality impact assessment procedures are confined to those policies/decisions considered likely to have significant/major implications for equality of opportunity.

**If your screening has indicated that a policy/decision is likely to have an adverse differential impact, how would you categorise it?  
Please tick.**

Significant/major impact	X
Low impact	

**Do you consider that this policy/decision needs to be subjected to a full equality impact assessment?**

Yes	
No	X

Not certain if a full impact assessment is required

Please give reasons for your decision.

The Guideline is there to assist staff to carry out a risk assessment in their particular clinical setting in order to make reasonable adjustments for patients and their assistance animal to attend/visit our healthcare settings without causing anxiety or problems for other patients/users of the services. Advice was sought from the relevant charitable organisations in order to revise the guidelines.

The Trust has already worked with a patient(s) to ensure that adjustment was made to accommodate an assistance animal when they attended for treatment and the lessons learned helped to shape/revise these guidelines.



**(4) DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

**4.1 Does the policy/decision in any way discourage disabled people from participating in public life or does it fail to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?**

No

**4.2 Is there an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people or encourage their participation in public life by making changes to the policy/decision or introducing additional measures?**

No implementation of the guidelines should heighten awareness and consider the needs of all users of the service including those who attend Trust premises with assistance animals

**4.3 Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy/decision with reference to the disability duties? This does not affect disability.**

Review specific situations/experiences from those who use our healthcare facilities and assistance dogs are in attendance, or have/have not been sufficiently accommodated and share the lessons learned

## (5) CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### 5.1 Does the policy/decision affect anyone's Human Rights? [PLEASE COMPLETE THE TABLE BELOW]

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

1 <sup>st</sup> protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property			X
1 <sup>st</sup> protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education			X

*If the effect you have identified is positive or neutral please move on to **Question 5.3.***

**5.2 If you have identified a likely negative impact who is affected and how?**

*At this stage we would recommend that you consult with your line manager to determine whether to seek legal advice and to refer to Human Rights Guidance to consider:*

- *whether there is a law which allows you to interfere with or restrict rights*
- *whether this interference or restriction is necessary and proportionate*
- *what action would be required to reduce the level of interference or restriction in order to comply with the Human Rights Act (1998).*

**5.3 Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy/decision.**

Disseminate the Guideline across the Trust and implement

Policy/Decision Screened by:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that having completed the screening, you will need to ensure that a consultation on the outcome of screening is undertaken, in line with Equality Commission guidance.**