



A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

(Revised) April 2018

Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1) (a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority: **Southern Health and Social Care Trust**

Reporting Period: April 20 **24** to March 20 **25**

The Trust is committed to its reporting and monitoring obligations in accordance with Rural Needs Act (NI) (2016). The Trust has carried out the following activity to comply with and mainstream the duties.

- The Trust's Senior Management Team has been briefed to ensure ownership of these duties at strategic level. The definition of "rural" (the default definition for the public sector has been adopted) and was agreed by the Trust.
- The Directorate of Human Resources and Organisational Development is responsible for central co-ordination of the monitoring report on behalf of the Trust.
- HSC Trusts have worked collaboratively to ensure the rural needs assessment template is user-friendly and relevant to HSC business. The key components of the template issued by DAERA have been used in compliance with the legislative obligations.
- Advice and guidance is provided on the Trust's SharePoint site to raise awareness and support staff when completing rural needs assessments.
- To ensure effective mainstreaming the Trust's mandatory policy development process includes a section on requirements relating to the Rural Needs Act.

- This Annual Monitoring report on rural needs will be shared with Senior Management and Trust Board alongside the annual S75 equality report. Monitoring information in this report will be included in the Trust's Annual Report.

The Trust is committed to promoting and upholding its duties in relation to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 and will have due regard to rural needs in the development of all our policy and public service delivery decisions. The Trust is mindful that the level of 'regard' due will depend on the circumstances and, in particular, on the relevance of rural needs to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact for people in rural needs, the greater the regard required by the duty. In the table below, the Trust has provided detail on those policies which were considered as having a bearing on rural needs and therefore subject to a rural needs assessment. In preparing this monitoring template the Trust considered policies in respect of the social and economic needs of persons in rural areas.

In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlinks to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies:

[**Policy screening outcome reports | Southern Health & Social Care Trust \(hscni.net\)**](#)

The following table includes information on policies where a Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been completed.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
New proposal for the centralisation of the Pre-operative assessment (POA) Service	Health and Social Care	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out, the Trust has considered the impact and rural needs in line with the proposal. The demand for pre-op services and staffing continues to rise, necessitating room for growth and expansion. This can be achieved via centralisation in a non-acute setting. The identified area includes adjoining space providing ample room for growth.

Contract with Goal Line Youth Trust for the provision of a short breaks' youth club service	Health and Social Care	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out, the Trust continues to consider the needs of people living in rural areas and to implement mitigating measures where possible. Service users in rural areas will be able to avail of the service to the same degree as service users in urban areas.
Contract with Bolster Afterschool Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities and Their Siblings through the provision of an "After the Bell" short Breaks Service.	Health and Social Care	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out, the Trust continues to consider the needs of people living in rural areas and to implement mitigating measures where possible. Service users in rural areas will be able to avail of the service to the same degree as service users in urban areas.
Standard Operating Procedure for vaccination of non-GP registered infants and children within the SHSCT Public Health Nursing Service	Health and Social Care	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out, the Trust continues to consider the needs of people living in rural areas and to implement mitigating measures where possible. flexible scheduling with appointment venues and times to accommodate rural families, and reducing travel burdens (financial, waiting for public transport).
Change of provider for Early Year's Organisation Supported Daycare and Community Pathway services, namely to Sticky Finger's Imaginarium.	Health and Social Care	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out, the Trust continues to consider the needs of people living in rural areas and to implement mitigating measures where possible. Children/young people in rural areas will be able to avail of the service to the same degree as those in urban areas.

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.