

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 25 to March 20 26**

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.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016[1].	*The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to[2].*	*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 service[3].*
Provision of advocacy support service to Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People.	Health and Social Care	In summary, due regard to rural needs was given through evidence gathering, stakeholder engagement, consideration of equitable access to services, flexible service delivery arrangements, and ongoing monitoring to ensure children and young people in rural areas can benefit from the advocacy support service on an equal basis with those in urban areas.
The Southern Health and Social Care Trust ADHD Post Diagnostic Intervention Service for Children and Young People.	Health and Social Care	A rural needs impact assessment has been carried out, The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has had due regard to rural needs in the design and delivery of the ADHD Post Diagnostic Intervention Service for Children and Young People by considering accessibility and service delivery arrangements for

		people living in rural areas. The service has been designed to be available to all eligible children, young people, parents and carers across the Trust area, including those residing in rural communities.
The Southern Health and Social Care Trust Advocacy Service for adults with a learning disability and young people aged 16+ transitioning to adult learning disability services or adults with a physical and / or sensory disability and young people aged 16+ transitioning to physical and or sensory disability adult services *(Procurement Model TBC: The advocacy service will be delivered either via one contract for both service user groups or two separate contracts for each service user group).*	Health and Social Care	The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has had due regard to rural needs by ensuring that the Advocacy Service is accessible to people living in both rural and urban areas. The service will be delivered flexibly through telephone, virtual and face-to-face methods, depending on individual needs and preferences. In exceptional circumstances, home visits may also be provided. The service is designed on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that individual advocacy needs are considered regardless of location.
Revision of Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management Policy	Health and Social Care	A rural needs impact assessment has been carried out and due regard to rural needs has been demonstrated by ensuring that the policy is implemented consistently across all geographical areas, providing equal access to pressure ulcer prevention and management services for people living in rural and urban communities.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust Trauma Informed Intervention Service for Children or Young People.	Health and Social Care	The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has had due regard to rural needs by ensuring that the Trauma Informed Intervention Service for Children or Young People is accessible to children, young people and families in both rural and urban areas. The service can be delivered either face-to-face or virtually, depending on service user preference, helping to reduce barriers for those living in rural locations. Where face-to-face support is required, providers must offer suitable, DDA-compliant venues across the Trust area that are centrally located and accessible by public transport. This ensures that rural residents have equitable access to therapeutic support and that the same service is available regardless of location.

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.