

# Rural Needs Impact Assessment



Southern Health  
and Social Care Trust

## Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

### 1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

The procurement of a design and delivery contract for a support service for adult carers residing within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) area

### 1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? (Underline or Circle) Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle) What is official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service (if any)?

The design and delivery of a support service for adult carers residing within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) area.

The Trust is seeking tenders for the design and delivery of a support service for adult carers residing within the Trust area, to ensure they have opportunity to access services that will support them with their caring role and to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

Whilst it is the intention of the Trust to award a new contract to a Provider for the delivery of services from 1 July 2021, given the current COVID-19 pandemic and the potential need to re-prioritise work activity, an extension may be required to the existing contract arrangement until procurement activity is complete.

**1C. Give details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:**

The Southern Trust recognises the essential and valuable role that carers play in the delivery of safe and effective care to the person cared for and as such is committed to ensuring that carers are supported in their caring role. The support service for adult carers residing within the Trust area aims to ensure they have opportunity to access services that will support them with their caring role and to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

This service will be designed to support the delivery of the Trust Carers' Action Plan, which has been developed in line with the following:

- DHSSPS – Caring for Carers – Recognising, Valuing and Supporting the Caring Role (January 2006) (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/caring-for-carers.pdf>)
- Standards for 'Adult Social Care - Carer Support Services' (June 2008) (Appendix 2)
- Health and Wellbeing 2026 - Delivering Together (May 2017) (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/health-and-wellbeing-2026-delivering-together.pdf>)

Source: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/rural-statistics>

As per the 2011 Census, the Trust had a population of 358,034 of which 147,289 (41%) people lived in a rural area. There were 46 rural Super Output Areas (SOA's) within the Trust. Five of which have a population of less than 3,000: CARRIGATUKE – 2440; GILFORD - 2552; KEADY – 1795; KILLYLEA – 2474; QUILLY – 2432.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (2017) findings illustrate that 3 of the rural areas served by the Trust are ranked amongst the top 100 most deprived SOAs: CROSSMAGLEN (57), FORKHILL (100) and SILVER BRIDGE (94).

Two domains identified as sub sets relevant to rural needs impact assessment screening were health deprivation and disability and access to services:

- In relation to health deprivation and disability, none of the rural areas served by the Trust were ranked amongst the top 100; BESSBROOK was ranked the highest at 128.

In relation to Access to Services, there are 24 rural areas served by the Trust that rank amongst the top 100 most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs): BALLYWARD being the 4th highest ranking and CARRIGATUKE ranking 100th.

Additionally we are mindful of the service provision aspect of this classification and the 20 and 30 minute drive time boundaries. When considered in relation to the Southern Trust area, it is clear that significant areas of the South Armagh and Mourne area as well as Clogher Valley need particular consideration in relation to access to services.

## Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes  No  If response is NO Go To Section 2E.

No adverse impact has been identified for people living in rural areas requiring these services.

2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently?

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	Community Safety or Rural Crime	Agriculture-Environment	
Education or Training in Rural Areas	Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	Other, please state below;	
Rural Development	Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas		
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas	Rural Business, Tourism or Housing		

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The service will continue to be available to carers in both rural and urban areas across each of the Trust geographical areas.

- ARMAGH / DUNGANNON
- CRAIGAVON / BANBRIDGE
- NEWRY / MOURNE

- Take into account the rural nature of each geographical area (e.g. The NEWRY and MOURNE area is primarily rural in nature and there is a heavy dependence on road transport).

- Ensure equity of access to services for those living in both rural and urban locations, depending on identified carer need in both urban and rural areas. Actions taken by the provider to encourage new carer referrals will be evidenced at quarterly review meetings.

The service specification has specific consideration to flexible means for providing and accessing services, both face to face and remotely. This approach factors in the practical restrictions that exist for all carers in travelling to access service, as well as the specific challenges of those in rural areas.

The carer support service will seek to connect carers to local activities and supports, helping to provide or develop these where they don't currently exist. The small, local nature of these activities helps to counter some of the barriers of being in areas of low population density.

The Provider must be able to deliver services from a range of appropriate non-Trust facilities. These facilities must be suitability accessible

venues/accommodation in each of the Trust areas, which will ensure equality of access, be in line with Service user choice of location, at neutral venues and will comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA).

Support services and advice will be delivered by phone, post, email and online. This again increases accessibility for those in rural areas who may be further away from services and activities, but buffers against those who experience poor connectivity. It is expected that this will have a positive impact on addressing rural need.

**If you completed 2E above GO TO Section 6**

**SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

**3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in Rural Areas**

Public Service? Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D

**3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs?**

Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods.

Please provide details:

3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?

3D Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

**SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified?  
Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?

5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

**Section 6: Documentation:**

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.  
I confirm that the RNA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: Margaret Devlin-Hania

Job Title/Directorate Head of Community Development and User Involvement, Promoting Wellbeing Division

Signature: *M D Hania*

Approved by: *T Janet McLenville* Date: 24/03/2021

Job Title/Directorate *Assistant Director Corporate Planning*

Signature: *Janet McLenville* Date: 25/03/21