Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you

Screening Outcome Report

1st October to 31st December 2021

Introduction

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Trust, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the Trust must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Trust's Equality Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the Trust gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to subject new policies to further equality impact assessment.

Screening Methodology

For new or revised policies the Trust will consider:-

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?
- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?
- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
- Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

In keeping with the commitments in its Equality Scheme the Trust has applied the above screening criteria to new policies and proposals. The screening process is used to identify which policies are likely to have an

impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations. Screening assesses the likely impact of the policy as major, minor or none.

If it is decided that a policy/proposal is likely to have major issues relating to equality, it is then necessary to consider carrying out a more detailed exercise called an equality impact assessment (EQIA).

This screening report outlines the screening outcomes for the quarter 1st October to 31st December 2021.

Communication and Engagement

In order to carry out our functions there is a need to continue to effectively engage and work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including Trust staff, Trade Unions, service users, carers, commissioners, primary care, public representatives and independent providers.

The Trust is committed to promoting personal and public involvement in all its activities. The development of new policies and proposals will be supported by effective engagement processes to ensure that staff, service users and all interested parties are fully involved. Planning for, and delivering safe, clinically effective and cost effective services requires close collaboration at many levels.

If you have any queries about this document, or its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in minority languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:

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Outcome of Screening

The screening outcomes are outlined below. Four possible outcomes are recorded:

1. The policy has been **'screened in' for equality impact assessment**;

2. The policy has been '**screened out' <u>with</u> mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted;**

3. The policy has been **'screened out' <u>without</u> mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.**

4. The policy will be **subjected to ongoing screening.** For more detailed strategies or policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages, screening should be considered at various times during implementation.

Description of Policy or Proposal	Screening Outcome	Reason for Reaching Screening Outcome
Food Allergens Management Policy The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for relevant staff on the management of food related allergens to ensure the provision of safe food and beverages for service users (Children and Adults), staff and visitors. The aim is to reduce the risk of a service user, staff or visitor experiencing an adverse reaction from a known food allergen found in food or beverages. This policy will also set out the training required by staff to help manage allergens.	Screened out	No equality implications identified. The aim of the policy is to reduce the risk of a service user, staff or visitor experiencing an adverse reaction from a known food allergen found in food or beverages.
The Management of Nurse Led Clinics for Patients with Renal Stone Disease The purpose of this policy is to	Screened out	This policy will have a positive impact upon all service users referred. It will allow a more timely review of patients presenting with stone disease.

Description of Policy or Proposal	Screening Outcome	Reason for Reaching Screening Outcome
set a minimum standard for a Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) to provide a clinical service for urology stone patients. The establishment and continuance of a nurse-led stone service aims to improve cost effectiveness and efficiency as it will gradually reduce the time spent by senior clinicians on following up on all stones patients as is currently. This creates more efficiency within the service as senior clinicians can focus their time more on dealing with complex stone patients. Through implementation of this policy the Trust aims to ensure: • Robust governance arrangements are available to support the ongoing development, maintenance and review of Urology CNS led services at directorate and service level. • Patient experience will be improved through reduction of delays in the assessment and treatment process thus managing capacity and demand more effectively. • Excellence in care is promoted and delivered using evidence based guidance to underpin practice. • Stones assessment and review follows agreed protocols which can promote audit and benchmarking assessments.		As this service is delivered by a Urology CNS, service users may experience a reduction in waiting times for appointments as Consultant time will be released to review more complex cases.