

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:

Reporting Period: April 20 to March 20

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 and for the majority, no rural needs were identified. 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> |
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| Change of function for Carrickore from short breaks provision to long term residential care for children and young people with a disability. | Health and Social Care | A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out No adverse impact has been identified for children and young people living in rural areas. Carrickore is a Trust wide facility. It was initially intended for short breaks but as it is now being deemed as a longer term facility; alternative arrangements have been put in place to accommodate short breaks throughout the Trust via increased places within current facilities and an increase in number of foster care places. Where transport to these facilities creates a barrier the Trust will meet the need. |
| The design and delivery of a social inclusion support programme for adults with acquired brain injury and carers of individuals with a 'Moderate' – 'Severe' brain injury across the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area. | Health and Social Care | A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out The service has ensured that there are a range of ways for service users to access the supports offered including virtual and face-to-face given that rural areas may not have access to public transport as regularly as urban areas. In addition, the service will provide an equitable amount of time in each Trust locality (i.e. Armagh and Dungannon, Craigavon and Banbridge and Newry and Mourne). |

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| <p>The procurement of an additional day care service for adults with learning disability in the SHSCT Newry catchment area.</p> | <p>Health and Social Care</p> | <p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out</p> <p>No adverse impact has been identified for people living in rural areas requiring these services as transport provision for each service user from their home address will be included in the delivery of service procured.</p> |
| <p>Trust Service Delivery Plan including Resilience Plan to address Winter Pressures and any subsequent waves of Covid-19 Pandemic October 2021 – March 2022</p> | <p>Health and Social Care</p> | <p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out</p> <p>This will continue to impact on people living in both rural and urban areas.</p> |

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.