

Trust Public Board Meeting, 31 March 2011

Eliminating Mixed-Sex Accommodation – Declaration

Presented by: Natalie Forrest, Director of Nursing

1. Purpose

1.1 The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 requires all providers of NHS funded care to confirm whether they are compliant with the national definition *‘to eliminate mixed sex accommodation except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects their patient choice’*. Those organisations that either do not make a declaration or declare they are not compliant will face penalties.

2. Background

2.1 Trust Boards must make declarations no later than 1 April 2011 and must ensure that they are clearly visible on their website. A page has been established on the Trust's intranet and the compliance statement will be posted once approved by the Board.

2.2 The Trust has assessed the provision of same-sex accommodation within the organisation and the declaration reflects all areas of the same-sex accommodation policy, not just sleeping accommodation.

3. Process

3.1 The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 requires PCTs to report to the SHA, those organisations whose compliance status has changed from the previous year. The Trust is committed to an audit data quality to support the declaration and to publish the results. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that all episodes of

unjustified mixing are captured and reported, and that mixing is only classified as “justified” if it is genuinely in the patient’s overall best interests.

3.2 It is and always has been acknowledged that there will be clinically based exceptional circumstances where patient of the opposite sex will share facilities, (e.g. where patients require critical or highly specialised care and on occasions where patients actually want to share). The Trust’s priority will always be to admit patients and treat them promptly – they will not be turned away simply because the ‘right bed’ is not available immediately.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Board are asked to support the declaration of full compliance as detailed at Appendix A

Natalie Forrest
Director of Nursing