

## Delivering Same Sex Accommodation Declaration of compliance

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust is pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation, except when it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice.

We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted to our hospitals will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same-sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area.

Patients will **never** be expected to share a bedroom with members of the opposite sex.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it. We will also set up an audit mechanism to make sure that we do not misclassify any of our reports. We will publish the results of that audit at [www.tevv.nhs.uk](http://www.tevv.nhs.uk)

## What does this mean for patients?

Patients admitted to Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust can expect to find the following

### **Same sex accommodation means:**

- *The **room where your bed is** will only be for patients of the same sex as you*
- *Your **toilet and bathroom** will usually be en-suite but will always be just for your gender, and will be close to your bed area*

*It is possible in some of our wards that there will be both male and female patients on the ward, but men and women do not share sleeping areas. This information will be made clear to you on admission to the area. You may have to cross a ward corridor to reach your bathroom, but you will not have to walk through opposite sex sleeping areas.*

*When you physically require assistance with bathing you will always be accompanied by a member of staff to a clearly marked assisted bathroom that may be “unisex”, that is can be used by both men and women, but a member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time as you.*

*You may share some communal space, such as sitting rooms or dining rooms, and it is very likely that you will see both male and female patients and staff as you move around the hospital.*

*It is likely that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will be present in the ward where you are staying and may on occasions come into your bed area to help and assist you. It is expected that they will knock and wait before entering your room, except in circumstances where there is concern for your safety.*

***The NHS will not turn patients away just because a “right sex” bed is not immediately available.***

## What are our plans for the future?

The physical environment within Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust actively supports the delivery of same sex accommodation with the opening of Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough and Lanchester Road Hospital in 2010 and the further developments at Cross Lane Hospital in Scarborough now underway to modernise the site.

Cross Lane Hospital has long been the hub for mental health services in the local area, providing adult and older people’s services to the communities in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. The trust plans to build a specialist care assessment and treatment unit for older people to replace the outdated buildings on the site. This new, modern and spacious accommodation will allow staff to provide more individualised care for older people with different needs such as Alzheimers disease or depression.

The purpose built unit will provide assessment and treatment beds for older people's services along with spaces for 'partial hospitalisation'. All rooms will be single rooms and have en-suite facilities.

The existing adult inpatient services on the same site will also be undergoing a major refurbishment to further improve the ward environment and provide single rooms with en-suite facilities.

Within adult learning disability services work is underway to build a new inpatient unit for adults with learning disabilities at Bankfields Court in Middlesbrough. The changes will improve inpatient facilities on the existing site and enable us to provide more flexible and responsive services. All bedrooms will be single rooms with en-suite facilities.

Many of the wards within the trust are now same sex wards which will only care for men or women. In some services there will continue to be wards which care for both males and females, but bedrooms will be always be same sex and good physical separation of male and female bedroom areas will be planned.

To complement the building programmes, the trust will provide a private and dignified care experience, within an environment that can deliver same sex accommodation. Training programmes to promote privacy and dignity in care have been delivered across all clinical services to ensure staff are aware of the need to provide same sex accommodation and ensuring the care they give is centred on the individual's needs, maintaining their privacy and dignity at all times. A privacy and dignity e-learning package is also available for staff.

The trust has a privacy and dignity policy which recognises the fundamental importance of maintaining the dignity and privacy of all our service users wherever care is delivered to them. This policy sets out the expectations of the trust in maintaining privacy and dignity and provides a framework on which staff, service users their relatives and carers can determine our performance.

Leaflets for staff, service users and their families have been produced about same sex accommodation, what this means and what they can expect. Ongoing plans are in place to ensure the developments are embedded in the trust and monitored regularly.

### **How will we measure success?**

The trust will continue to seek feedback from those who use our services through a range of systems including monitoring of complaints and patient advice and liaison (PALS) issues. Patient experience measures will form a core part of the trust's Quality Account and mechanisms are in place to ensure that the Board of Directors receive regular reports on patient experiences.

Same sex accommodation standards will be built into the existing Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) assessment processes, which includes both clinical, estates and service user representatives and the results will be published on the trust website.

### **What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?**

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact Corinne Aspel, Lead Senior Nurse Patient Experience **Tel: 0191 333 3566** or **07747 008593**.