

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of Compliance Sheffield Children's NHS FT

Sheffield Children's NHS FT same sex accommodation approach

Sheffield Children's NHS FT 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.

On our Becton site we have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted to our hospital will have single room accommodation with en suite bathroom facilities.

On our Ryegate House site all rooms except one are single occupancy with en suite facilities. Our two bedded area is single sex with adjacent toilet and bathroom facilities.

On our SCH acute site sharing bays with members of the opposite sex will only happen when clinically necessary, for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in PICU, or when patients actively choose to share. We provide separate toilet and bathroom facilities although it may be in the patient's best interest at times to provide access to disabled facilities. In order to improve this we have invested over £40m to address the standard of our accommodation and from March 2017 our new build will offer single room accommodation to 70% of patients, with six single sex bays also having access to an integral bathroom.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it.

What does this mean for patients?

For babies, children and young people, clinical need, infectious status, age and stage of development may take precedence over gender considerations, e.g. neonatal intensive care or paediatric intensive care.

There is evidence that many children find great comfort from sharing with others of their own age e.g. in Childhood Cancer Wards and often this outweighs their concerns about mixed sex accommodation.

Decisions on accommodation of a child should be based on individual clinical, psychological and social needs. This approach should be conveyed to the child (where they are old enough to understand), and their carers in any information given to them on admission. If a child does not feel that the accommodation offered provides sufficiently for their privacy and dignity, we will try to provide an acceptable alternative. The initial concern and our response to it will be documented.

Unfortunately, there is no national requirement to extend single sex considerations to parent accommodation. Many of our parents choose to sleep by their child's bedside, sometimes in shifts and consequently bays cannot be segregated by gender of the parent. We feel that this is an equally important consideration and have already extended parent hotel accommodation to help alleviate this.

How will we measure success?

The Trust will audit the above standards on a quarterly basis.

We will monitor any complaints or Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) issues made in relation to privacy and dignity to identify any areas of concern.

We will discuss the results with our Governors and publish them in our annual Quality Report.

If our care should fall short of the agreed standard, we will report it to our commissioners as a breach of our standards.

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

Please discuss with your ward manager in the first instance and if you wish to raise an issue please contact the PALS service on:

Direct telephone numbers: 0114 271 7594

Via Hospital main number: 0114 271 7000

PALS email: Julie.Mather@sch.nhs.uk