

Rural Needs Impact Assessment

Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

Temporary redirection of Children aged under 14 from the Mater Hospital Emergency Department to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children's (RBHSC) Paediatric Emergency Department.

In November 2015 it became clinically necessary for Belfast Trust to put in place a temporary divert of children under 14 years of age, from the Mater Emergency Department to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

This was because of concerns raised by all the Emergency Department Consultants in relation to the potential safety of paediatric patients attending the Mater.

**1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? (Underline or Circle)
Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle)**

What is official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service (if any)? Temporary redirection of Children aged under 14 from the Mater Hospital Emergency Department to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children's (RBHSC) Paediatric Emergency Department.

1C. Give details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

Due to safety concerns, the divert was put in place in November 2015 and remains in place.

1D. What definition of 'rural' is the Trust using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

Rural can be classified by those settlements with populations of less than 5,000 together with the open countryside.

Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas? Yes

(If response is NO Go To Section 2E)

2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

In November 2015 the position was that no children under 14 ought to attend the Mater; that any child requiring an ambulance should go straight to the Children's Hospital; that no child with life threatening injuries, or other injuries which could escalate or head injuries ought to attend. Patients under 14 who walked into the Accident and Emergency Department at the Mater Hospital and required urgent treatment were triaged and provided with first aid before being redirected to the RBHSC. Patients redirected to the RBHSC are cared for in a dedicated paediatric 24/7 Children's Emergency Department.

Regarding rural impact – parents / carers will need to take child to Royal ED rather than Mater ED which is a difference of 1.6 – 2miles.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently? NA

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas		Community Safety or Rural Crime		Agriculture-Environment	
Education or Training in Rural Areas		Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	✓	Other, please state below;	
Rural Development		Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas			
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas		Rural Business, Tourism or Housing			

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

If you completed 2E above GO TO Section 6

SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service? NO (if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D)

3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs?

3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?

3D Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

The Trust attempted to establish a joint rota between the Mater and RVH Emergency Department services but this was problematic as the consultants at the Mater ED did not have paediatric experience.

The Trust is still actively trying to recruit suitable consultants who can provide both adult and children emergency department care , but is aware that the Mater Hospital Emergency Department does not have a paediatric ward or environment and therefore this strategy has been developed to ensure safe care for paediatric patients attending the Mater ED. This is regionally policy to include better outcomes for people in rural and urban areas of NI.

SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas? NA

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified?

No (if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C)

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?

5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

REFER TO 3D

Section 6: Documentation:

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



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Approved by:			
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Signature:		Date:	