

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:

Visitors Policy for the Royal Belfast Hospital For Sick Children (RBHSC):

The staff of the RBHSC aim to provide a family-centred service in which parents are encouraged to participate in their child's care. Although the policy is essentially that of 'Open Visiting' for parents, a comprehensive visiting policy is necessary to promote the implementation of effective infection prevention and control measures and to promote the health, safety and privacy of children and young people in our care.

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)? Visitors Policy for the Royal Belfast Hospital For Sick Children

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

Purpose of policy is: To clarify appropriate visiting arrangements and to ensure these are implemented.

Objectives:

- To clarify the visiting arrangements for staff which can then be communicated to parents and visitors.
- To highlight the infection prevention and control measures which will assist in the reduction of hospital acquired infections and which must then be explained to parents and visitors.
- To ensure that a quiet restful environment is maintained for children who are ill or who are recovering from surgery or investigations.
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained during ward rounds.
- To maintain health and safety standards by limiting the number of visitors due to limited space on the wards.

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?

- One main aim of policy is to facilitate appropriate visitation and to provide a quiet, restful, healing environment for our patients. Therefore the visiting arrangements will be within a certain time and will be clarified for staff which can then be communicated to patients and visitors.

- People in rural areas will need to take this into consideration when planning on visiting a patient in RBHSC.

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?

They will need to leave earlier to get to hospital for visiting times and take into consideration time to get car parking space, traffic congestion within the city, & plan with the ward about overnight arrangements (if parent/carer of child).

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? Yes (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?

Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods.

Please provide details:

The following groups were involved in the review of this policy

- RBHSC Operational Group
- RBHSC Ward Sisters
- Child Health Governance Committee
- Infection Prevention and Control Nursing Team

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

Need to potentially add extra time to journey to hospital giving visiting time protocol.

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

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?

See 3c

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?

A policy of open visiting for parents is practised as an essential component of family-centred care. In order to facilitate the objectives highlighted above, the following arrangements are in place:

- Only two visitors are permitted at a child's bedside at any one time. This arrangement may be reassessed by the Nurse-in-Charge of the ward according to the needs of the child and family. Any decisions made must be discussed with the child's parents.
- After 8pm, only parents are permitted to visit. Due to lack of space, only one parent (or a nominated adult relative) should stay overnight with the child.
- Parents and visitors are not permitted to sit or lie on a child's bed.
- Facilities for staying overnight are very limited however these will be allocated as fairly as possible by ward nursing staff.
- A two hour ward rest period may be operated on a daily basis to promote a quiet environment; to aid recovery from illness, investigations or treatment; and to encourage parents to take a break from caring for their child.
- There will be times when further visiting restrictions will be implemented throughout the hospital due to outbreaks of infectious illness. These restrictions must be explained to parents and visitors. Staff must ensure consistency of information for visitors regarding these restrictions.
- Visiting arrangements for an individual patient may be reassessed according to the child's clinical condition and the needs of the family.

Breastfeeding support

- Within our policy of family-centred care, every effort will be made to support a breastfeeding mother in the maintenance of breastfeeding. If the child who is breastfeeding is a sibling of the patient, the mother must be advised that for infection control purposes, it is not permitted that the sibling stays in hospital with the mother.

- Where a breastfeeding mother wishes to stay with the child in hospital, she will be facilitated to express her breast milk for the breastfeeding sibling who is being cared for at home. Where this is not an option, the circumstances will be considered on an individual basis while remaining cognisant of any risks.

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.



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Deirdre Donaghy		
Job Title/Directorate	Planning & Equality		
Signature:	D.DONAGHY	Date:	31.10.19

Approved by:			
Job Title/Directorate			
Signature:		Date:	