Belfast Health and Social Care Trust caring supporting improving together	**Paper Ref. Num.** 2026.09.24_TBP_AgendaItem7.2_P247A-2026AnnualEqualityReport ***Note:- To be completed by HQ meeting organiser***

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v050526)

Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters)
Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission of NI

Purpose of paper	For Approval	
If other purpose please specify	Please enter text here	
Meeting TB Public		
If other meeting please specify	Please enter text here	
Rationale for confidential consideration (if applicable)		
Presenter	**Alastair Campbell**	Enter Other Presenter Name Here
Date of meeting 24th September 2026		

Background (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Please enter text here

Date considered at Exec Team (If Applicable)	8th September 2026

Options for consideration (Maximum of 1500 characters)

This is the 19th Annual Progress Report prepared by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) for submission to the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland (ECNI). It will be submitted to ECNI subject to Exec Team and Trust Board approval.

The report highlights compliance with the Trust's Equality Scheme including details on Screening and Equality Impact Assessments, Consultation, Training, Information Provision, Access, Monitoring and Complaints. As with previous years, Belfast Trust has gone over and beyond compliance and takes a proactive approach to promotion of equality and good relations, human rights and our disability duties.

Part A of the report illustrates how the Trust has complied with its statutory responsibilities under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (S75 duties) and has three sections:

Section 1 highlights the range of corporate work undertaken to promote Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations.
Section 2 is based on progress to date about compliance with our Equality Scheme
Section 3 outlines the work that will be taken forward regarding compliance with the Scheme in the next reporting period

Part B of the report illustrates how the Trust has complied with its statutory responsibilities under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Order 1995 (as amended) (Disability Duties). Appendix 1 of the report provides a full progress update on our Equality Action Plan for 2025/26 and for ease of reference details achievements on both a regional and local level. Appendix 2 of the report provides an update on our Disability Action Plan 2025/26 and details achievements on both a regional and local level. *Please note that due to staffing shortages in the Planning and Equality team and other significant competing programmes of work, this year's progress report did not follow the anticipated path as outlined in the new Integrated Governance and Assurance Framework. In future years, work will commence at a much earlier juncture in the year to ensure the progress report is tabled at the Involvement Assurance Group, the Care Quality Steering Group and the Patient Safety and Quality Committee before being tabled at Trust Board for approval*
Recommendations (Maximum of 1500 Characters) Trust Board are asked to approve this annual progress report for onward submission to the Equality Commission for NI.

Proposed Onward Consideration	Choose an item.
If other	

Note:-
Any papers accompanying this template should not exceed 10 pages in length.
Please ensure when submitting papers that

1. ***Orientation of paper is set so that the content of the paper can be read***
2. ***Embedded documents should be [provided a separate attachments***
3. ***Append any papers to this coversheet starting on the next page***

Insert/Copy/Paste any additional information from this point