

26 March 2025

## **Service Users being accommodated in Unsuitable Settings**

**In the last five years across all relevant sites on the Trust, how many people are being accommodated in unsuitable settings - for example, people well below the age to be admitted to an older people's home residing in one, the longest a person has resided in such accommodation, the shortest and the median time spent.**

### Adult Community, Older Peoples Services & Allied Health Professions:

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) regulations would not allow people to be admitted to an 'unsuitable setting'.

Many care homes are registered for multiple categories of care.

As part of the pre-admission assessment, the Registered Manager is responsible for ensuring that the care needs/ diagnosis of the person being accepted for admission can be met within the category of care for which the home is registered.

On occasions, placements may be made that require a Variation of Care Category application. This happens if the Manager accepts a person for admission with care needs or with a diagnosis for which the care home is not registered to provide care. The Registered Manager decides if the home will accept this person and, in line with the regulations, they must submit a Variation of Category application to RQIA. To obtain information concerning these applications would require a manual trawl of records.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

### Adult Mental Health Services:

Nil response

**26 March 2025**

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Number of children and young people who were delayed discharge from the Regional Inpatient Unit (Beechcroft) in last five years: <5

**Use of <5 (less than five):** We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Intellectual Disability

All facilities internally and commissioned are subject to RQIA regulation and review.

There are no 'unsuitable' placements within Belfast Trust Supported Living and Residential facilities.

There are however delayed discharges:

<5 placements in Northern Ireland within commissioned services, i.e.:

- <5 delayed discharges from hospital setting in UK
- <5 service users currently within a Residential setting and requiring a Nursing Home placement.

There is focused professional oversight of these situations and RQIA are engaged.

There are 15 patients within Muckamore Abbey Hospital who are currently delayed discharges and are being resettled.

There are <5 delayed discharges within Iveagh. All relevant parties are engaged and working towards a resolution.

There have been a number of temporary bespoke placements (approximately 8), which have been managed by the Community Learning Disability Teams in response to either placement breakdown or safeguarding.

All of the above relate to under 5 years. There is no available documentation for review over 5 years

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**26 March 2025**

As per above, there are a very small number of placements which are unsuitable because they involve delayed discharge. Those in regulated facilities and hospital settings are the subject of professional focus and interventions, which will progress suitable outcomes. There is no adverse impact on the service user.

Additionally any unsuitable placements that have occurred consequential to placement breakdown or safeguarding have been very short term and have met the service users' needs effectively.