

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:

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust recognises that visiting time is an important part of the patient's day and our hospitals welcome visiting. The policy for In-patient Hospital Visiting has been developed with the aim to balance the therapeutic effect of patients spending time with relatives, carers and friends with the patients' need for rest and the need for clinical staff to manage the ward, reduce the potential spread of infection and provide efficient care in a safe and secure environment.

**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

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

Purpose of policy is:

- To facilitate appropriate visitation and to provide a quiet, restful, healing environment for our patients.
- To allow patients enough time to recuperate in privacy, have their meals free from interruption and to allow doctors, nurses and allied health professionals time to provide care and treatment for patients.
- To ensure confidentiality of ward rounds.
- To facilitate environment cleaning and to prevent the spread of transmissible infection.

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 within the in-patient setting in Belfast Trust.

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 etc to ensure they get to hospital ward in time to get most out of the visiting period.

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

- Central Nursing team
- Intensive Care Staff
- Care of the Elderly staff
- Catering
- RBHSC
- Infection Control
- Adult Social and Primary care
- Patients / Carers

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?

Visiting times will be clearly indicated at the entrance to the wards and any ward specific information will be supplied to patients and carers/relatives both verbally and in writing. In accordance with a patient's wishes, defined family should be able to remain with their loved one at any time, as part of the patient-centered plan of care. The care team, the patient and the family will agree on how family presence can be facilitated. This depends on the physical space, safety considerations and the patient's needs.

On admission, patients and visitors should be informed of the visiting times in the ward or clinical area. If there is restricted visiting they should be advised of the reasons for restricting visiting to these times, and that they should refrain from visiting outside of these hours. Visitors who do present outside of these hours should only be permitted to visit a patient at the discretion of the nurse in charge. This should be in exceptional circumstances only.

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:	