

Eliminating Mixed Sex Accommodation Compliance Statement

Background

Bedfordshire Community Health Services is committed to the delivery of the Privacy & Dignity agenda and will ensure compliance with eliminating mixed sex accommodation as part of this agenda. Sustained compliance will be monitored and will include the reporting of mixed sex occurrences.

Patients and the public want their privacy and dignity respected whilst in hospital. Single-sex accommodation is a visible affirmation of the NHS's commitment to the subject. No ward or department is exempt from the need to protect patients' privacy and dignity.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12 requires all providers of NHS funded care to confirm whether they are compliant with the national definition '*to eliminate mixed sex accommodation except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects their patient choice*'. Those organisations that either do not make a declaration or declare they are not compliant will face penalties.

Scope

Bedfordshire Community Health Services can confirm that their Community Hospitals are compliant with the single sex accommodation agenda and this includes:-

- Biggleswade Community Hospital
- Archer Unit, Bedford

Assurance

Both units have completed an action plan to ensure estates work; policies and training have been undertaken. Both units also have privacy and dignity champions and contacts for these staff are displayed within the units.

Ongoing monitoring of compliance will be undertaken by each unit and reported to BCHS committee and any breaches will be reported and full root cause analysis undertaken.



Richard Winter
Chief Operating Officer
17th March 2011