

ITEM: 10/048
Doc: 13

MEETING: Trust Board
 23rd March 2011

TITLE: Delivering same sex accommodation

SUMMARY:

The Department of Health (DH) have issued updated guidance on delivering same sex accommodation (DSSA). As in 2010/11 a self declaration of compliance by NHS providers is expected. Breaches are termed as mixed-sex 'occurrences' – i.e., occasions when men and women have to share the same sleeping or sanitary accommodation – *“Mixed-sex occurrences should always be considered as exceptions rather than the norm and staff must always be able to provide clinical justification for any mixed-sex occurrences”*. The DH have left the local NHS to make final decisions about what constitutes clinical justification of mixed-sex accommodation for an individual patient and have provided guidance to assist with such local determination.

Declaration should be published on the Trust's website by 31 March. Failure to either declare compliance or achievement of non-compliance will result in financial penalties being enforced through the trust's contract with its commissioners. The 2011 contract states there will penalties of £250 for each breach.

Providers will declare compliance based on the outcome of a self assessment and must have this approved by their commissioners as part of the 2011/12 contracting round. Commissioners have visited the hospital and are satisfied that it has taken every step to provide single sex accommodation. The Trust will discuss all breaches with commissioners to review practice and validate the breach. Where a breach is confirmed penalties will be applied.

Next steps:

Once approved the declaration of compliance will be published on the trust's website

ACTION. To discuss and approve the declaration

REPORT FROM: Fiona Smith, Director of Planning & Performance

SPONSORED BY: Siobhan Harrington, Acting CEO

Compliance with statute, directions, policy, guidance

Lead: All directors

Department of Health guidance on elimination of mixed sex accommodation.

Compliance with Healthcare Commission Core/Developmental Standards

Lead: Director of Nursing & Clinical Development

Reference:

C13a Fourth domain: patient focus.