

Declaration of compliance with eliminating Mixed Sex Accommodation, 2017/18

Since the introduction of the Eliminating Mixed Sex Accommodation declaration exercise in April 2011¹, Trust Boards have been required to make an annual declaration of compliance for delivering single sex accommodation (DSSA), and to publish this on their website.

The Trust Board of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust duly approved the following declaration of compliance at its meeting on 29th March 2017:

Declaration of compliance

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust is pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate Mixed-Sex Accommodation except when it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice. We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted to our hospitals will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same-sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area.

Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen when clinically necessary (for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in Intensive Care (ICU), Coronary Care (CCU), or the Acute Stroke Unit, or when patients actively choose to share (for instance Chemotherapy Day Unit).

All in-patient care at Tunbridge Wells Hospital is provided in single rooms including Intensive Care, Coronary Care and Acute Stroke. All rooms (except Intensive Care) have en-suite toilet and shower facilities.

The Acute Medical Unit (AMU) at Tunbridge Wells Hospital provides in-patient care in 4 bedded bays. These bays are single sex, and have appropriate gender-specific toilets and washing facilities adjacent to them.

Patients admitted to the Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) at Tunbridge Wells Hospital will be cared for in single occupancy cubicles. Provision is made to access appropriate gender specific toilet and washing facilities.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it through our governance structures to the Trust Board. We have an audit mechanism in place to make sure that we do not misclassify any of our reports.

¹ Gateway reference: 15552 (see www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/215773/dh_124233.pdf)