

Age Appropriate Accommodation Equality Impact Assessment Jeremy Beake December 2012

In April 2012 we conducted our first Equality Impact Assessment of the **Age Appropriate Accommodation**. The objective of this policy is to ensure MKCHS meets the regulations and guidance contained in the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010.

Further aims of this policy are:

- To support the development of the workforce in taking account of the safeguarding needs of children and their parents as set out in the aforementioned documents.
- To embed multi agency guidance on assessment of risks to children into practices when or where employees are best placed to do so.

To develop MKCHS's contribution to multi agency working and assessment of the needs of children for practitioners working with adults who are parents or guardians and who are suffering mental illness or learning disability.

Under equality legislation, MKCHS has a legal duty to pay 'due regard' to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- foster good relations between different groups.

The duty to pay 'due regard' is required to be demonstrated in the decision making and the implementation process. Assessing assumptions and issues raised by the proposed scheme is the means by which we show 'due regard'.

1. People affected

The main people affected are young people who are 16 and over. The Policy excludes those under 16 and will only include those 16 and over when particular criteria are met.

2. The Main Issues

How is the dignity and respect of Children and Young People safeguarded?

Young people will be only admitted to appropriate accommodation that meets their needs. Young people will be accommodated in single rooms and will receive level 1 or 2 observations.

How are other Human Rights of Children and Young People safeguarded?

The young person should make use of the family visiting facilities to ensure contact with the family (where appropriate) or significant others (friends and carers) however, such visits should only take place in the best interest of the young person or child.

Young people will be afforded the same options to collaborate in their treatment and care planning as adult patients.

Young people who have the capacity to make such decisions, can either consent to, or refuse, admission to hospital for treatment for mental disorder. Their decision cannot be overridden by a person with parental responsibility.

Young people who are able to make such decisions may be admitted to hospital for treatment for mental disorder, if the young person consents to the admission and there is no reason to believe that it would be unwise to rely on the young person's consent.

The ward environment must be considered to be suitable; the young person must be protected from disturbed and/or dangerous situations and should not be placed on a ward that is considered unsuitable. This decision should be made in conjunction with Senior Practitioner or Modern Matron.

Will the policy eliminate, or safeguard against, discrimination and harassment?

Young people will not be admitted to areas where any persons known to have offended against a young person are accommodated.

Young people will be safeguarded from any forms of harassment.

How does the policy promote equality of opportunity?

By having a flexible approach to accommodation and treatment this policy ensures that young people can access treatment and supports them in receiving that treatment.

The policy will also take into account multiple needs and specifically highlights situations where the young person is a child of a person with a mental or learning impairment.

Recommendation:

This assessment recommendation is to continue with the policy having made some minor adjustments. The policy is positive about advancing equality of opportunity to young people aged 16 and above.