

Declaration of compliance

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been eliminated in all our in-patient facilities.

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our organisation, with the majority of our facilities having single bedroom accommodation. Service Users who are admitted to any of 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 by exception based on clinical need (for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in our Learning Disabilities Respite Service for people with Complex Multiple Impairment)

The assessment of compliance has been based on the principles agreed by the Department of Health and includes the actions taken to achieve compliance, the assurance systems in place to monitor compliance, the management of breaches and the communications to patients and the public about privacy and dignity.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust can expect to find the following:

Same sex-accommodation means:

- The **room where your bed is** will only have patients of the same sex as you
- Your **toilet and bathroom** will be just for your gender, and will be close to your bed area

It is possible that there will be both men and women patients on the ward, but they will not share your sleeping area. You may have to cross a ward corridor to reach your bathroom, but you will not have to walk through opposite-sex areas.

You may share some communal space, such as day rooms or dining rooms, and it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients as you move around the hospital. There are however women only day areas available in all facilities where women are accommodated.

It is probable that visitors of the opposite gender will come into the room where your bed is, and this may include patients visiting each other.

It is almost certain that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will come into your bed area.

If you need help to use the toilet or take a bath (e.g. you need a hoist or special bath) then you may be taken to a “unisex” bathroom used by both men and women, but a member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.

The NHS will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available

What are our plans for the future?

Although we are proud to have achieved 100% compliance with delivering single sex accommodation, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust remains fully committed to providing the best possible facilities for our service users. Any future service review and development will include single sex provision and privacy and dignity at its centre. The privacy and dignity of our service users remains at the core of our commitment to patients and within all clinical governance groups.

How will we measure success?

Success in this area will continue to be measured by the CQC inpatient survey, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust local patient satisfaction surveys, exception reporting to our commissioners, Clinical Governance groups and Board Reports.

What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?

We want to know about your experiences. If you have any comments or concerns please contact our Patient Advice Liaison Service on our freephone number: 0800 0525 790 (there is an answer phone for out of hours), email: pals@leedspft.nhs.uk or write to:

The PALS Office, The Becklin Centre, Alma Street, Leeds LS9 7BE