

Declaration of compliance

Eliminating Mixed-Sex Accommodation

Southend University Hospital is committed to ensuring that patients have the best possible experience while in hospital. We recognise all patients have the right to privacy and to be treated with compassion, dignity and respect throughout their stay.

Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation 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 our Coronary Care Unit, our Critical Care Unit, our Acute Respiratory Care Unit and our Acute Stroke Unit), or when patients actively choose to share.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it. We will also set up an audit mechanism to make sure that we do not misclassify any of our reports. We will publish the results of that audit on a monthly basis.

What can you expect during your hospital stay:

- That you will be addressed politely and respectfully and will be called by your preferred name
- That you will be cared for in the most appropriate place according to your clinical need
- That, except in times of clinical need, you will be cared for in a same sex area or ward
- That you will only share toilet and bathroom facilities with patients of the same sex
- That you may ask to be cared for by a nurse of the same sex and that every effort will be made to meet your request



Jacqueline Totterdell, Chief Executive