

Eliminating Mixed Sex Accommodation- Declaration of compliance

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust is committed to providing every patient with accommodation that safeguards their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

Eliminating mixed sex accommodation in in-patient services 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 and clearly signed
- **Female only lounges** are provided
- **Other day / communal areas** are used by patients of either sex.

Oxleas 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. Some of our wards are single sex but where this is not the case patients will never be asked to share a bedroom with a member of the opposite sex, and sleeping accommodation is in separate areas.

93% of our in-patients bedrooms are single occupancy. Patients who are admitted to any of our inpatient units are therefore most likely to have a single room, but if sharing would be with people of the same sex. Many bedrooms have en-suite facilities, but where this is not the case same sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to the bed area.

Patients who need help to use the toilet or bath (eg a hoist or special bath) may need to use a unisex bathroom. Staff will assist if required.

You are likely to see visitors of both sex in the communal areas of the ward.

If you would prefer your primary nurse to be of a particular gender you can express a preference and we will endeavour to accommodate this.

In our rehabilitation facilities service users will have single bedrooms, either with en-suites or with sufficient toilet and bathroom facilities, well located to maintain the privacy and dignity of occupants.

Our plans for the future.

We have assessed all our wards and established they are compliant with Department of Health standards. Over the past year we made a number of improvements to the facilities available to patients, enhancing sanitary facilities to increase the numbers available and improve their proximity to bedroom areas. We will continue this work in a small number of areas this year.

We will review compliance through regular service visits. If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it

What do I do if I am concerned about mixed sex accommodation?

We want to know about your experiences. If you have any comments or concerns please contact the Modern Matron for your ward, who will have introduced themselves to you on admission.