

Relationships at Work Policy

This policy provides information, advice and guidance to managers and workers regarding acceptable professional boundaries between individual workers and patients/service users as well as relationships between individuals who work together.

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Policy on a page

Please note that this is designed to act as a quick reference guide only and is not intended to replace the need to read the full policy. Please include details using the headings below:

Summary and aim

The Relationships at Work Policy and Procedure applies to all staff (temporary or permanent) including medical and dental employed by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (hereafter referred to as LPT), students, contractors and agency staff and is available to all staff to support them in ensuring that acceptable professional boundaries between individual staff and services users as well as relationships with individuals who work together are maintained.

Target audience

The policy is for all staff.

Training

There is no training requirement identified within this policy.

Key requirements

Risk assessment at appendix 2 for when a relationship at work is declared.

1.0 Introduction

This policy provides information, advice, and guidance to managers and staff regarding acceptable professional and personal boundaries between individual staff and patients/service users as well as relationships between individuals who work together.

It is acknowledged that relationships of a non-professional nature may develop or exist between people who work together.

LPT values and relies on professional integrity of objective relationships between staff. To ensure that LPT's business is conducted in a professional manner it is necessary to recognise personal relationships between staff which overlap with professional ones.

It is also recognised that staff must establish a rapport with patients/service users, their relatives and carers; they are also responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate boundaries between themselves and those who use our services. It is essential that all interactions between patients/service users and staff are viewed and maintained in terms of a professional relationship.

All staff should act in accordance with our Trust leadership behaviours for all and be able to evidence adherence in situations that involve relationships at work. A fundamental approach to developing our Leadership behaviours for all is our ability to both give and receive feedback in a positive and insightful way. The feedback method is based on defining; Context, Understanding, Behaviour and Effect (CUBE).

2.0 Purpose

This policy provides clear guidance to staff and managers of their responsibilities to ensure that issues arising from or involving close relationships are dealt with promptly, sensitively and effectively. Specifically, this Policy aims:

- To protect staff against potential claims of favouritism, bias or prejudice where one has a supervisory or managerial responsibility for the other.
- To avoid situations where there is potential for conflict of interest.
- To ensure that situations do not develop where other staff feel unable to speak openly and honestly or feel that a relationship is having an adverse impact on their own employment.
- To avoid the potential for abuse of patients/service users.
- To avoid the potential for fraudulent activity.
- To facilitate and encourage the development of an organisational culture where staff feel confident to voluntarily declare personal relationships.

2.1 It is recognised that close personal relationships can be sometimes formed at work and there is a possibility within LPT for related persons or individuals with a close personal relationship to be employed within the same team, establishment or work area.

2.2 Whilst respecting the right of staff to privacy and family life, LPT has a legitimate right to protect the interest of the organisation, patients/service users and other staff and to take action when close personal relationships either have the potential to have a negative (or reputation) impact upon services.

- 2.3 This Policy's aim is therefore to minimise the risk of problems arising, to provide staff and managers with clear guidance as to their responsibilities and to ensure that issues arising from or involving close personal relationships are dealt with promptly, sensitively and effectively.
- 2.4 To ensure that all staff feel confident of fair and consistent treatment without the concern that a close personal relationship, including if they are part of such a relationship, will adversely influence their or other staff members' treatment at work or wider working relationships.
- 2.5 To ensure that all staff are clear as to the standards of behaviour that are expected of them in their dealings with patients/service users and the professional boundaries that must be respected in that relationship.

3.0 Principles

- 3.1 Although the existence of a close personal relationship does not constitute a bar to employment or promotion, staff are required to declare to their line manager any relationship that may give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest, trust, or breaches of confidentiality. Where the relationship is with their line manager, this must be declared to the next in line manager.
- 3.2 Staff may normally continue to work together in the same team or department for so long as they both maintain the highest standards of behaviour and conduct in not allowing that relationship to adversely affect the functioning of the team, the treatment of other staff or the provision of services. It is expected that staff will behave responsibly and not put themselves in a position where their close personal relationships may adversely impact on their employment with the Trust and the services it provides.
- 3.3 People who use our services are at the centre of everything we do. Whilst it is recognised that staff must establish a rapport with people who use our services, their relatives and carers they are also responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate boundaries between themselves and those who use our services. It is essential that all interactions between people who use our services and staff are viewed and maintained in terms of a professional relationship.

4.0 Recruitment

- 4.1 LPT's Recruitment & Selection Policy is designed to ensure objectivity and equality of opportunity throughout the recruitment and selection process and has been developed to safeguard these principles and participants in the process, where the relationship between applicant and recruitment/selection decision makers may present a risk of conflict of interest (e.g. where applicants are close friends or relatives of the recruiting manager or panel members).
- 4.2 All applicants for positions within the Trust must declare on their application form, if they are related to a director, or have a relationship with a director or staff member of the appointing organisation, stating the relationship.

- 4.3 Where a relationship between applicant and recruitment/selection decision makers may present a risk of conflict of interest (e.g. where applicants are close friends or relatives of the recruiting manager or panel members), a panel member must notify the recruiting manager. Where a recruiting manager identifies such a risk, they must notify their immediate line manager.
- 4.4 In cases where a potential conflict of interest has been declared, a risk assessment must be undertaken to determine if there is a conflict of interest. If a conflict is identified that panel member will not participate in the selection process any further. If no conflict is identified, normal process will continue. The risk assessment is available at appendix 2.
- 4.5 Advice may be sought from the Human Resources team where further clarification is required.
- 4.6 All decisions related to the declaration of potential conflict and risk assessment are correctly recorded and returned to Human Resources.
- 4.7 Once appointed if a staff member is found to have failed to declare a known relationship on their application form with a staff member who was involved in the recruitment process or with whom they now have a line management or subordinate working relationship this will be investigated under Trust's disciplinary procedures and may lead to disciplinary action.
- 4.8 If an individual is appointed to a position where they will either generate or authorise the ordering of goods or services, including the payment of invoices, or expenses of another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship this must be brought to the attention of their line manager immediately to enable alternative authorising arrangements to be made.
- 4.9 Agency/Bank staff should be asked to declare if they have a close personal relationship with any staff member of LPT in the department/service in which it is intended to place them before they commence duties.
- 4.10 Where an applicant if appointed would work in the same team with another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship the implications of this should be considered and discussed as part of the selection process. This is to ensure that, assuming they are otherwise the most suitable candidate for the post, their appointment would also be appropriate taking into account operational issues such as shift/working patterns and requirements for annual leave. There is no guarantee of matching annual leave or working patterns. Any decision not to appoint must be based on service needs and documented accordingly.

5.0 Relationships in the workplace

- 5.1 Staff are expected to behave in a professional manner respecting all LPT's policies and confidentiality requirements regarding information one staff member may have access to but not the other. Any adverse impact on their own work, the team's work or the functioning of the team is not acceptable, such as:
- Neglecting work

- Communicating confidential, sensitive or inappropriate information to each other
- Behaving in a way that may cause difficulty or embarrassment to others, for example arguing in the workplace or open displays of affection
- Not communicating with each other because of a disagreement or the breakdown of the relationship
- Inflexibility in working arrangements, this may be of particular importance within small teams where cover is already difficult.

It is not the relationship itself, which is not acceptable, which is why all staff are expected to always behave in a professional manner.

Where There is No Line Management Relationship

- 5.2 Where staff have identified to their line manager the existence of a relationship, discussion will take place as to the possible risks to themselves and the team. Consideration will be given to working patterns and practices that would protect those staff from unfounded accusations of impropriety by colleagues, for example not rostering both to the same shifts on a ward.
- 5.3 Staff in a close personal relationship may feel uncomfortable remaining working together in the same team in this situation they will be supported in looking for an alternative role.

6.0 Where a Line Management Relationship Exists

- 6.1 Where an existing/new staff member is knowingly appointed to a position in which they will be line managed by another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship then arrangements must be made for them to report to another manager for supervision. Any timesheets, expenses claims, and annual leave requests must be verified and authorised by another manager. They are not permitted to countersign any official documentation for each other, e.g. patient/drug records.
- 6.2 The line manager will not be involved in any formal procedures, including appraisals, if they have a personal relationship with the individual concerned.
- 6.3 Where a relationship develops between two staff who are also in a line management relationship it is the responsibility of the manager to disclose this to their line manager, who will then discuss with both staff alternative arrangements for supervision, authorisation of leave, appraisals, expenses claims and what, if any, information will be communicated to other colleagues.
- 6.4 Where a relationship develops between two staff members who are in a line management relationship they may decide not to continue working in the same service, in this situation they will be supported in looking for an alternative role.
- 6.5 Equally, where it is not possible to implement the provisions detailed at 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, consideration will be given to redeploying one of the staff. In this circumstance, HR advice and support must be sought.
- 6.6 Both staff will be consulted to identify who will be re-deployed if only one party is to be moved. In most cases their wishes will be honoured but consideration will be

given to the knowledge, skills and experience of both staff, also the impact upon their careers and therefore the relative ease with which each might be redeployed.

- 6.7 If agreement cannot be reached between both staff as to which will be redeployed, for example where a relationship has broken down, then LPT will make that decision based on the best interests of the service, patient care and relative impact upon each staff member.

7.0 Forming of Relationships at Work

- 7.1 Friendships naturally are formed in the workplace. Staff are expected to exercise judgement in determining whether a friendship has developed to such an extent that it can be described as a close personal relationship. Where two staff within a team form a personal relationship, it is their responsibility to consider whether this places them at risk of being compromised and they are encouraged to inform their immediate line manager in confidence of the existence of the relationship. Factors they should consider include:
- Whether they are at risk of having or being perceived as having conflict of interest
 - Whether they could be perceived as having or be accused of bias, favouritism or prejudice
 - Whether they are at risk of accusations of fraud or financial irregularities.
- 7.2 They may not under any circumstances countersign any official documentation for each other e.g. patient/drug records. If the situation will arise where countersigning will be necessary, the relationship must be declared.
- 7.3 If a friend or member of staff's family, or other close personal relation, are admitted to your service for treatment and care please inform your line manager as there is a conflict of interest. Staff will be supported to work in an alternative setting whilst the family member or friend is treated.

8.0 Job Evaluation/Promotion/Pay

- 8.1 Staff must not be involved in the authorisation or evaluation of any job description for another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship and are expected to declare any such interest immediately if they are approached to participate in the job evaluation process. They will not be involved in any decisions relating the promotion or pay of another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship. Failure to declare an interest may result in action under LPT disciplinary procedures.

9.0 Disciplinary Issues

- 9.1 Staff must not be involved in any investigation, hearing or other decisions involving another staff member with whom they have a close personal relationship. This conflict of interest should be declared as soon as the staff member is approached to participate in proceedings. Failure to do so may result in action under LPT's disciplinary procedures.

- 9.2 In situations when one staff member in a relationship is subject to investigation under LPT's procedures such as disciplinary, consideration will be given to the temporary redeployment of the other staff member in the relationship whilst the investigation takes place. This is both to ensure that a thorough and fair investigation is possible and to protect that staff member from false accusations that they might be impeding the investigation. This would only occur following consultation and agreement, or where there is a clear documented risk to the investigation or staff member that cannot be managed by other means.
- 9.3 Where a member of staff in a relationship with another staff member is involved in a workplace investigation (e.g. disciplinary, dispute resolution), the staff member may discuss the case with their partner if they wish to. There is an expectation that the terms of confidentiality outlined as part of the investigation would then extend to the staff member not directly involved in the investigation. If guidance or support is required by either staff member, they should contact their line manager, or the named manager identified to provide support during the process.
- 9.4 Where issues arise that involve one staff member in a relationship any discussions will remain confidential to that staff member.
- 9.5 The above principles would also apply to any other type of investigation including serious incident investigations.

10.0 Managing Situations when a Personal Relationship Adversely Affects the Workplace

- 10.1 In most cases where a personal relationship causes issues in the workplace these will initially be addressed and resolved informally. Issues arising will be dealt with promptly and sensitively by the relevant manager and not allowed to continue unchecked. Where action is necessary consideration will be given to re-arrangement of the work or working patterns if this is a viable first option.
- 10.2 Where a close personal relationship has been identified as adversely affecting the workplace, normally as the result of complaint, specific documented incidents or outcomes of formal investigation such as under the Disciplinary Procedure, an option for resolution may include the re-deployment of one or both staff depending on the extent to which the functioning of the team has been affected.
- 10.3 Both staff will be consulted to identify who will be re-deployed if only one party is to be moved. In most cases their wishes will be honoured but consideration will be given to the knowledge, skills and experience of both staff, also the impact upon their careers and therefore the relative ease with which each might be redeployed.
- 10.4 Where agreement cannot be reached on which employee should be redeployed, as well as considering the impact on service need and patient care, the manager will undertake and document an objective assessment of the relative impact on each affected employee. The assessment will consider, as a minimum: (a) financial impact; (b) travel and location changes; (c) alignment of skills, qualifications and experience; (d) contractual changes; (e) impact on professional registration and career development; (f) relevant personal circumstances, including equality and reasonable adjustment considerations; and (g) the suitability of the alternative role.

The rationale for the decision will be recorded and retained to demonstrate fairness, consistency and transparency.

- 10.5 Where investigation has clearly identified a particular loss of trust from the team in one staff member then LPT will act in accordance with that finding and assist in redeploying that staff member in the interests of the team.

11.0 Relationships with Patients/Service Users/Relatives

- 11.1 The Trust has a duty of care to all patients/service users. Staff must not engage in personal relationships with patients/service users that they have met as a result of their employment.

If a care worker enters into a sexual relationship with a person with a mental disorder this may be deemed to be an offence under section 38 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

- 11.2 It is the responsibility of the staff member to maintain each relationship within its own appropriate boundary. Staff may experience vulnerable patients disclosing intimate or personal matters, which allow potential for these discussions to be misinterpreted. Staff are reminded to conduct themselves appropriately.

- 11.3 Staff will not enter into a platonic, romantic or sexual relationship with a patient. Staff will not:

- Give or accept social invitations
- Accept gifts outside of the parameters detailed within the Code of Conduct Policy.
- Ask for or accept a date to meet with a patient, client or service user to engage in a personal social activity.
- Visit a patient, client or service users home unannounced and without an appointment or if visiting their home is not part of the treatment plan or service normally provided without prior consultation with the staff manager. If an unannounced visit is clinically necessary this should be documented.
- Engage in unnecessary communication, including asking questions of a personal nature that are not necessary for the service or care being provided.
- Become 'friends' on social media.
- Develop inappropriate relationships with family members of a person using Trust services visited during escorted leave or assessments made at home.
- Provide their personal contact details including mobile phone number.

These examples are for guidance only and are not intended to be exhaustive.

- 11.4 If a staff member becomes subject to inappropriate comments or behaviours from a patient/service user, they must inform their line manager immediately.
- 11.5 In a large organisation, it is recognised that some staff may have pre-existing personal relationships with individuals who may at some point become patients/service users, for example relatives, friendships etc. If this occurs, the staff member must inform their line manager immediately of this relationship.

- 11.6 If someone that a staff member knows becomes a patient/service user, it is the staff member's responsibility to inform their line manager of this relationship. At this time, consideration will be given as to whether there are any potential boundary conflicts.
- 11.7 Each case will be assessed individually and appropriate action will be taken. This action may include the patient being treated by another clinician, the placement of staff member in an alternative ward/area for the duration of the patient's treatment etc. Please be aware this is not an exhaustive list and action appropriate to the situation will be taken.
- 11.8 The staff member must not access any patient records of those they share a close relationship with without approval from their line manager. This will be considered a non-authorised access to records and may result in action taken in line with the Trust's Disciplinary Policy.
- 11.9 If a staff member becomes concerned that a personal relationship is developing between a colleague and a patient/service user, they have a responsibility to inform their line manager or more senior manager.
- 11.10 Where a staff member is not comfortable with these options, they may consider raising their concerns with the Human Resources Department or with a Freedom to Speak Up Guardian.

12.0 Relationships with Contractors

- 12.1 As required by the Declaration of Interest and Standards of Business Conduct Policy no special favour should be shown in the tendering process to business run by or employing, friends, partners or relatives. If a staff member is asked to participate in the tendering process, for example by providing expert advice, they will declare any such relationships.

13.0 Preferential and inconsistent treatment in the workplace

- 13.1 Favouritism or conflict of interest may occur, or be perceived to have occurred, when a manager is involved in a process with someone with whom they are in an intimate relationship with. Examples are when:
- Managers decide which team member to promote.
 - Managers decide which contracts to renew.
 - Managers complete performance reviews.
 - Managers discipline the individual
 - Managers are part of a recruitment team.
- 13.2 To avoid such incidents or suspicions of favouritism and conflict of interest, staff will adopt anti-nepotism guidelines:
- Staff who are related must not be involved in a supervisory/reporting relationship with one another.
 - Staff cannot be transferred, promoted, or hired inside a reporting relationship with a relative.

- Staff cannot be part of a recruitment team, when a relative is being considered for the position.

- 13.3 Staff will be expected to report or declare any relationship with a relative to HR as soon as they are aware, if they find themselves in a reporting line relationship with that relative or in a recruitment team that considers that relative for employment (noting that the shortlisting process is anonymous, this may be partway through the recruitment). Failure to declare the relationship in this context, could also result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
- 13.4 When one person in the relationship reports to the other, the lines of accountability and responsibility becomes tricky. This includes close personal relationships or familial relationships. Consider an alternative line manager or transferring one of the staff to a suitable alternative role, following the principles of section 6.

14.0 Personal relationship breakdowns

- 14.1 If the personal relationship breaks down, all involved staff will ensure that no acts that could be interpreted as arguments or disagreements occur at work. Such staff are encouraged to discuss the situation with their line manager/s.
- 14.2 The staff will ensure that their personal relationship breakdown does not bring the reputation of the Trust into disrepute. An example of a breach of this would be if a staff member deliberately damaged a former partner's property, even outside of working hours. Any other behaviour that could, or did lead to a prosecution by the police would fall into this category.
- 14.3 Staff are reminded that if they are suffering from emotional stress from a personal relationship breakdown (regardless of whether it was a personal relationship at work) they may access the Trust Occupational Health / counselling services for support.
- 14.4 Any concerns around domestic violence or abuse should be managed under the Domestic Violence Support for Managers guidelines available on Staffnet.

15.0 Confidentiality

- 15.1 Wherever possible confidentiality regarding the existence of a close personal relationship will not be disclosed, however if this proves necessary then no disclosure will be made without consultation with the line manager and the staff concerned. If alternate working practices or patterns are necessary then it may be necessary to inform other members of the team regarding these arrangements and the reasons for them.
- 15.2 Information disclosed under this policy relating to personal relationships will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Trust's Data Protection and Records Management policies. The Trust will only collect and process such information where it is necessary to identify, manage, and mitigate actual or potential conflicts of interest, ensure fair employment practices, and comply with its legal obligations.

Relationship declarations may constitute personal data and, in some circumstances, special category personal data. Access to this information will be restricted to those who require it for legitimate business purposes. Information will be recorded securely, stored confidentially within relevant HR or management systems, and retained only for as long as necessary in accordance with the Trust's Information Lifecycle and Records Management Policy and retention schedules. Individuals' information rights will be respected in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

The lawful basis for processing personal data under this policy is Article 6(1)(c) UK GDPR (compliance with a legal obligation) and/or Article 6(1)(e) UK GDPR (performance of a task carried out in the public interest). Where special category personal data is processed, the Trust will rely on the relevant conditions set out in Article 9 UK GDPR and Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

16.0 Raising Concerns

- 16.1 Any staff member who feels that a close personal relationship is adversely affecting their employment, the functioning of the team or the provision of services is encouraged to share their concerns at the earliest opportunity with their line manager or more senior manager if they prefer, where a staff member is not comfortable with either of these options they may consider raising their concerns under LPT's Raising Concerns at Work (Whistleblowing) Policy and Procedure. This also applies to staff in a close personal relationship who feel they are being disadvantaged because of the relationship.

17.0 Breaches of policy

- 17.1 Alleged breaches of this policy will be investigated under the Trust Disciplinary Policy. Dependent on the circumstances, this may result in a referral to the relevant professional registration body, and/or referral for investigation under safeguarding procedures.

18.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 18.1 The Trust Board has a legal responsibility for Trust policies and for ensuring that they are carried out effectively.
- 18.2 Managers will be responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with this policy and procedures contained within it.
Are responsible for promoting a culture of openness and transparency regarding personal relationships at work.
- 18.3 Staff will be individually responsible for ensuring that any personal relationship at work does not interfere with their duties and responsibilities and does not give rise to a conflict of interest, abuse of power or more or less favourable treatment.
Are asked to work positively with the Trust to accommodate any reasonable changes to their work arrangements that are required in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest through personal relationships at work.
- 18.4 The Human Resources Department is responsible for:

- Providing support and guidance to staff and managers on the implementation and application of this policy.
- Working with managers to identify appropriate mechanisms and interventions needed to satisfactorily resolve matters of this kind.
- Promoting good working relationships through local initiatives.
- Supporting the monitoring of the application of this policy and to update it as required.

19.0 Dissemination and Implementation

The policy is approved by the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust Workforce Development Group and is accepted as a Trust wide policy. This policy will be disseminated immediately throughout the Trust following ratification.

The dissemination and implementation process is:

- Line-Managers will convey the contents of this policy to their staff
- Staff will be made aware of this policy using existing staff newsletters and team briefings
- The policy will be published and made available on Staffnet.

20.0 Links to Standards/Performance Indicators

TARGET/STANDARDS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Care Quality Commission registration standards (outcome 14) <i>Supporting Staff</i> (21) of the Health & Social Care Act (2008) (Regulated Activities Regulations 2010 CQC essential standards)	That the trust maintains compliance with CQC registration standards, this policy supports outcome standards 14

Appendix One: Definitions

Terminology: Descriptor

Close Personal Relationship	For the purposes of this policy a close personal relationship can be defined as a family, sexual or romantic relationship and includes: • Spouses or partners • Parents, including in-laws and step-parents • Children, including in-laws and step-children • Siblings • Grandparents and grandchildren • Aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins • Separated or divorced people • Other personal and stable relationships, both same sex and heterosexual • Any personal relationship whether long or short-term.
Due Regard	Having due regard for advancing equality involves: • Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics. • Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people. • Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
Anti-nepotism	Measures that prevent unfair advantages being given to family members or close associates in the workplace.

Appendix Two

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

To be used to risk assess when a personal relationship exists or develops with another staff member or patient with whom they have contact, protecting the interests of all who may be affected.

Names of staff member or patient involved:	
Staff member job title (if applicable):	
Department:	
Manager's name:	
Manager's job title:	
Date of risk assessment:	
Give a brief explanation of the relationship: 	

Please note that the information obtained from this risk assessment will remain confidential. If some of the details do need to be shared, you will be notified beforehand.

Area of Risk	YES/NO	If a risk is identified give details of actions to be put into place; or existing control measures:
Have any concerns been raised by other staff or patients? If yes, what impact is this having? Is the staff member aware of this?		
Is there a supervisory or managerial responsibility for either individual?		

Appendix Three: Governance

Version control and summary of changes

Version number	Date	Description of key change
1	March 2016	This policy provides information advice and guidance to managers and staff regarding acceptable professional and personal boundaries between individual staff and patients/service users as well as relationships between individuals who work together.
2	October 2018	Formatting. Privacy Impact Assessment included as Appendix 3 Paragraph 17 Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness – measurable added Paragraph 4.11 changed to Managers should not provide official organisational references in any instance. All official organisational references must be provided by the Employee Services team. Para 11.2 changed to ask or accept a date to meet with a patient, client or service user to engage in personal social activity Para 7.3 If a friend or member of staff's family are admitted to your service for treatment and care please inform your line manager as there is a conflict of interest. Staff will be supported to work in an alternative setting whilst the family member or friend is treated. Risk Assessment Form included as Appendix 4
3	December 2022	Addition of section 13 – preferential and inconsistent treatment in the workplace Addition of section 14 – personal relationship breakdown Addition of section 17 – breaches of policy Section 11 amended to add reference to social media and clarification of responsibilities
4	April 2026	Reviewed for clarity. No significant changes made.

Responsibilities

Responsibility	Title
Executive Lead	Group Chief People Officer
Policy Author	Senior HR Business Partner
Advisors	
Policy Expert Group	

Governance

Governance Level	Name
Level 1 Assurance Oversight	Joint People and Culture Committee
Level 2 Delivery Group for policy approval and compliance monitoring	Workforce Development Group
Consultation	Trust Policy Experts
	Staffside
	All LPT Staff Bands 7 and above
	Staff support groups

Compliance Measures

KPI (only need 1-2 KPIs per policy)	Where will this be reported and how often
Number of cases managed under the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure in relation to inappropriate relationships / professional boundaries	Employee Relations Report Workforce Development Group Bi-monthly

Training Requirements

There is no training requirement identified within this policy.

References

This policy was drafted with reference to the following:

- Leicestershire Partnership Trust Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Leicestershire Partnership Freedom to Speak Up: Speak up, Listen up, Follow up Policy
- Leicestershire Partnership Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Leicestershire Partnership Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Leicestershire Partnership Management of Stress at Work Policy.
- NHS Employers Standards
- Professional Bodies Code of Conduct
- Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers in England
- AMICA
- Code of Business Conduct for Trust Staff
- Promoting Equality and Human Rights in the NHS, A Guide for Non-Executive Directors of NHS Boards (2005), Department of Health
- Equality analysis and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities Vol.2 of 5 Equality Act 2010 guidance for English public bodies (and non-devolved bodies in Scotland and Wales), Equality and Human Rights Commission.