

## Quality and Safety Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Same Sex Accommodation Annual report including annual declaration of compliance.

### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Quality and Safety Committee and Trust Board with a summary of the Trust position for the financial year 2025/2026 regarding compliance with NHS England (NHSE) requirements to eliminate Mixed Sex Accommodation (MSA) breaches within all inpatient areas and compliance with national 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance (NHS, 2019).

The report sets out definitions for reporting a breach in line with national reporting requirements and is split into two sections:

- 1) Breaches to mixed sex accommodation regulations
- 2) Privacy and dignity incidents linked to mixed sex accommodation.

The Trust has an annual requirement to declare and publish compliance with delivering same sex accommodation; this is included as appendix 1 to this report.

### Analysis of the issue

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe and effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Trusts are expected to have a zero-tolerance approach to mixed-sex accommodation, except where it is in the overall best interest of all patients affected.

#### 1) Breaches to mixed sex accommodation regulations

A mixed-sex accommodation breach occurs at the point a patient is admitted to mixed-sex accommodation outside the guidance:

- Patients should not normally have to share sleeping accommodation with members of a different sex.
- Patients should not have to share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of a different sex.
- Patients should not have to walk through an area occupied by patients of a different sex to reach toilets or bathrooms; this excludes corridors.
- Women-only day rooms should be provided in mental health inpatient units.



There are times when the need to urgently admit and treat a patient can override the need for complete segregation of sexes with some clinical circumstances where mixing can be justified. These are few, and confined to patients who need highly specialised care, such as that delivered in critical care units or joint admission of couples or a family group. An unjustified breach is where mixing occurs that cannot be clinically justified.

In 2025/2026 there was:

- One justified mixed sex accommodation breach reported in line with national guidance.

## Justified Breach

A justified breach of mixed-sex accommodation occurs when the guidance is/cannot be followed, but it is clinically necessary or in the patient's best interest, and not merely for convenience or organisational reasons. The need to urgently admit and treat a patient can override the need for same sex accommodation.

In October 2025, there was one reported **justified** breach for mixed sex accommodation within Community Health Services (CHS). This involved a married couple on a ward where the wife was in the last days of life and it was in the couples' best interests; they were nursed together in a bay. No other patients were impacted.

This justified breach was in line with the national guidance and definition below.

*The joint admission of couples or family groups may be a justifiable breach if it is in the overall best interest of the patient and the patients have expressed a preference for sharing and this consent is recorded.*

## 2) Privacy and dignity incidents linked to mixed sex accommodation.

Patients may on occasions be admitted into single, en-suite bedrooms in zones occupied by individuals of a different sex when no bedroom is immediately available in the appropriate area. This will only be facilitated following discussion with the patient and with safeguards in place, including 1:1 nursing care whilst a more appropriate bed is found.

These incidents are reported internally as privacy and dignity incidents with detail included and reported as part of the monthly Mixed Sex Accommodation breach report to the Quality Forum.



For 2025/26 inclusive there were 89 Privacy and dignity incidents linked to mixed sex accommodation as follows:

Month	Privacy and dignity incidents linked to mixed sex accommodation.
April 2025	7
May 2025	14
June 2025	4
July 2025	8
August 2025	34
September 2025	11
October 2025	3
November 2025	2
December 2025	0
January 2026	7
February 2026	0
March 2026	1

### Proposal

Quality and Safety Committee and Trust Board are asked to:

- be assured that internal processes are in place to monitor and report MSA breaches.
- approve the declaration of commitment to deliver single sex accommodation.

### Decision required – Please indicate:

Briefing – no decision required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion – no decision required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision required – detail below	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Appendix 1

### Declaration of Compliance – May 2026

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation as it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable. The only exception to this is when it is in the patients overall best interests or reflects their personal choice.

#### Why is same sex accommodation important?

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe and effective and respects their privacy and dignity. We are committed to ensuring that patients' privacy and dignity is maintained at Leicestershire Partnership Trust. The Trust continues to report all incidents in line with NHS England 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance. The guidance states patients must not:

- Share sleeping accommodation with members of a different sex.
- Share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of a different sex.
- Walk through an area occupied by patients of a different sex to reach toilets or bathrooms; this excludes corridors.
- In addition, women-only day rooms should be provided in mental health inpatient Units

#### Reporting

Compliance of same sex accommodation is monitored and reported internally to the Trust Quality Forum and externally by our commissioners.

In 2025/2026 there were:

One justified mixed sex accommodation breach, a married couple were supported to be nursed together in a bay, on a ward.

We will continue to monitor our progress against information that is made available following CQC inspections and staff and patient feedback.



We want to know about your experiences. Please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on [lpt.pals@nhs.net](mailto:lpt.pals@nhs.net) or Telephone on 0116 295 0830.

### Governance table

For Board and Board Committees:	Quality and Safety Committee 19.05.2026	
Paper sponsored by:	Linda Chibuzor, Group Chief Nurse & Executive Director of Nursing, AHPs and Quality	
Paper authored by:	Jane Martin Assistant Director Nursing & Quality	
Date submitted:		
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust's governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):		
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e., assured/ partially assured / not assured:		
State whether this is a 'one off' report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	Annual	
LPT strategic alignment:	T - Technology	
	H – Healthy Communities	
	R - Responsive	x
	I – Including Everyone	
	V – Valuing our People	
	E – Efficient & Effective	x
CRR/BAF considerations ( <i>list risk number and title of risk</i> ):		
Is the decision required consistent with LPT's risk appetite:	Yes	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	Nil	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	It does not	
Equality considerations:	Transgender and gender variant children and young people	

