Screening on Temporary Closure of Emergency Department at Belfast City Hospital

Belfast Trust announced on Wednesday 7\textsuperscript{th} September that the Emergency Department at Belfast City Hospital would be closed on a temporary basis and Emergency Care Services will be consolidated at the Royal and Mater hospitals. This proposal is in response to acute shortage of staff and the potential for serious implications regarding the safety of patients. Belfast Trust is bound by Health and Safety legislation and has a duty of care to its service users to swiftly address public health matters of this nature. Notwithstanding this, the Trust is committed to its statutory responsibilities under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and has screened the proposed temporary closure accordingly– this means that the Trust has considered the impact of the proposal of the temporary closure firstly on equality of opportunity for people from within and across the 9 Section 75 categories:

- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Marital Status
- Religious Belief
- Political Opinion
- Ethnic Origin
- Those with and without caring responsibilities
- Those with and without a disability
And secondly, on the promotion of good relations amongst people of different:

- religious belief,
- ethnic origin
- political opinion.

This proposal was screened out with mitigation. Belfast Trust has committed to monitor the impact of the temporary closure on an ongoing basis to ensure that the impact is not more significant than initially anticipated.

Please see completed screening template based on proposed temporary closure of Emergency Department on 1st November 2011. Should you have any comments, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to address them with supporting evidence to:

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You can source Belfast Trust’s Revised Equality Scheme at

www.belfasttrust.hscni.net