

Equality Action Plan 2018 - 2023



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Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the pre-consultation event in January 2017 and to all who helped shape our draft plan. The Trusts also wish to thank all those who provided considered responses during the public consultation phase. Your valuable contributions have helped to shape the final plan and we welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with the Section 75 to implement the measures in our plan.

Alternative Formats

This document is available in alternative formats including:

Large font Audiocassette Braille Computer Disc Main minority ethnic languages DAISY Easy-read Electronic version.

English: This document can be made available in minority ethnic languages, on request, to meet the needs of those not fluent in English. Please see contact details of the Equality Units on page 16.

Polish: Aby wyjść naprzeciw potrzebom osób, które nie mówią biegle po angielsku, ten Plan Działania może być udostępniony w językach mniejszości etnicznych na życzenie.

Lithuanian: Šis veiksmų Planas pareikalavus gali būti pateiktas tautiniu mažumu kalbomis, kad atitiktų sklandžiai nemokančių anglų kalbos poreikius.

Portuguese: O Plano de Ação está disponível, à pedido, em outras línguas, para atender às necessidades das pessoas que não são fluentes na língua Inglesa.

Tetum: Aksaun Planu ida né, se bele fo ou halo iha liafuan etnika minoria sira nian, nebe bele husu, para bele ajuda ba ema sira nebe la hatene koalia lian Inglés.

Latvian: Šis darbības plāns var būt pieejams mazākumtautību valodās pēc pieprasījuma, lai palīdzētu tiem, kam ir nepietiekamas angļu valodas zināšanas.

Russian: Сейчас план проводимой работы может быть доступен так же на языках этнических меньшинств, по просьбе тех, кто не владеет свободно английским языком.

Czech: 'Aby byly uspokojeny potřeby těch, kteří nemluví plynule anglicky, je možné tento návrh Akčního plánu na požádání poskytnout v jazycích etnických menšin.'

Slovak: Tento Akčný Plán môže byť na požiadanie dostupný v jazykoch národnostných menšín z dôvodu zabezpečenia potrieb tých, ktorí nie sú spôsobilí mu porozumieť v angličtine.

Welcome to our new Equality Action Plan. This Plan sets out the actions the five Health and Social Care Trusts and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service will take forward collaboratively over the next five years. The Plan includes actions aimed at:

- Ensuring the effective discharge of our S75 equality duties
- Promoting equality in our services
- Supporting our Staff

The principles of *fairness, respect, dignity, equality and autonomy* will inform our work.

Actions and priorities in this Plan have been informed by our audit of inequalities. We have consulted widely with an extensive range of stakeholders to inform the content of the Plan and to identify our key priorities. Many of the actions in the Plan are not resource dependent and are intended to make sure that the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are mainstreamed in existing programmes of work. For further information please see the list of contacts in each organisation on page 19.

2. Working in partnership

In October 2016, the then Health Minister, launched a 10-year vision to transform the current health and social care system. This report sets out the need for change and made a commitment to work in partnership with service users and carers to realise that change. Building on the good practice that already exists across health and social care we will adopt creative and innovative ways to maximise involvement in the challenging times ahead. We will continue to

work with individuals, representative groups and our trade unions to make sure that our actions make a real difference both for our service users and for our staff.

In the spirit of true partnership working, we will create a Joint Consultative Forum so that we, as HSC Trusts, continue to work closely with the Equality Commission for NI, the Community Relations Council and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in taking forward this Plan.

3. Review of our first Plans and achievements to date

As we are at the end of the three years implementation of our first equality plans, we have carried out a review to consider what actions to include in our new plans. In carrying out the review, we considered what actions had already been delivered and if intended outcomes had been achieved. We also looked at a range of new research and the issues that have been raised with us during consultations and engagements carried out over the last three years.

Substantial progress has been made since the Trusts published their first Plans on 1 May 2014. Please see below a summary of some of the key achievements.

- Establishment of an award winning service for the provision of face to face interpreting for those who do not speak English as a first language in order to ensure equality of access to service provision
- Establishment of a collaborative contract across government departments for the provision of interpreting, translation and transcription services
- Production of regional guidance on 'Making Communication Accessible for All'
- Production of a regional Training manual for Health and Social Care Staff 'Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights – A Training Manual for Staff'
- Launch of a regional E-Learning programme to raise awareness of Equality, Human Rights, Good Relation and S75 equality duties— entitled 'Making a Difference'.

For more details of what we have done so far, please refer to our respective Annual Progress Reports, which are available online and in alternative formats on request.

www.belfasttrust.hscni.net www.nias.hscni.net www.northerntrust.hscni.net www.setrust.hscni.net www.southerntrust.hscni.net www.westerntrust.hscni.net

4. How we developed our Plan

We wanted to engage with a wide range of key stakeholders on the development of our new Plan. A regional stakeholder event was held on Thursday 19th January 2017 providing the opportunity to engage with a wide range of service users, carers, voluntary and community groups and trade union representatives. We came to the event with a "blank canvas" and to ensure that our Plan was developed in partnership with a wide range of participants. For more details on this pre-engagement event, please go to <u>https://view.pagetiger.com/Outcome-Report</u>

In addition to the pre-engagement event, we formally consulted collaboratively on our plans from 7th August to 7th November 2017. A Consultation Outcome Report details the consultation process and the feedback received and can be found Trust websites or by contacting your local Equality Unit, see page 19 for contact details.

All the feedback we have received through engagement and consultation has shaped this Equality Action Plan. We would like to thank everyone who took the time help us with this valuable work. We are committed to supporting the sustained engagement of Section 75 groups and individuals in taking forward this Plan.

5. What is in our Equality Action Plan

The following tables outline our actions for the next five years. This Plan is designed to be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances and needs. While the majority of our actions are identified as beginning in year one and two it is important to note that realising the actions may take the full lifetime of the Plan. We will over the course of the next year further work on performance measures and associated indicators as work plan progresses. Our Plan will be reviewed on an on-going basis and when the Equality Commission publishes their statement on key inequalities in health. We will report annually via our S75 Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission for NI which is submitted at the end of August each year and available on all of our websites or by contacting the Equality Units.

Section 1 – Ensuring the effective discharge of our S75 equality duties

Feedback from consultees has indicated that implementation of our Equality Schemes tends to be process-driven. We recognise the value of having a legislative framework that promotes equality of opportunity and good relations however we want to ensure that the focus is on outcomes for people within the nine Section 75 equality categories and making a positive difference for them. The following actions are therefore aimed at ensuring the effective discharge of our S75 equality duties.

Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
We will develop a Screening and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Tool Kit to guide staff through the process.	 A regional toolkit will be available for policy and decision makers. More robust and regionally consistent screening/EQIAs. 	Year 1
We will review our staff training to ensure best practice in screening and EQIAs.	 Up to date training programme for all policy makers across health and social care will be made available to ensure best practice. Skilled staff, policy leads and decision makers. Consistent and effective approach in the training programme across all Trusts. (targets to be set) Effective compliance with the S75 Equality Duties. 	Year 2
We will develop good practice guidance on effective engagement, consultation, co-design and co- production to include best use of a range of methods including social media and Citizen's Space.	 Consistent approach used across health and social care and guidance on effective engagement in place for health and social care staff that links with Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) best practice. Citizens/people closer to decision making and offering innovative ways of engagement and involvement More effective and timely engagement with stakeholders and more involvement in addressing key inequalities. 	Year 1
We will set up a Regional Consultative Forum to work in partnership with the Equality	 Two meetings annually between health and social care sector and the respective Commissions. Better communication and collaboration between 	Year 1

Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
Commission, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Community Relations Commission	 Equality Commission, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Community Relations Commission Better partnership working to optimise outcomes for S75 groups. 	
We will develop and implement a communication strategy to ensure that stakeholders are aware of Trust Equality Units, their functions and how they can be engaged on equality and human rights issues.	 Strategy in place to improve communication. Raised awareness among Section 75 groups of Trust Equality Units and how they can be involved in and influence Trust equality agenda. 	Year 2
We will develop a checklist to make sure Equality, Disability and Human Rights are at the heart of procurement.	 Checklist developed and adhered to by staff with responsibility for buying goods and services. Raised awareness among staff of equality and human rights obligations in procurement process. S75 and human rights issues identified at an early stage of procurement process. 	Year 1
We will work with the Department of Health and other relevant stakeholders to make sure we are prepared for the introduction of Age Discrimination Regulations.	 One Regional event to raise awareness of potential implications of the new legislation on health and social care provision. Better understanding amongst staff on the implications of the legislation. 	Year 2

Section 2 – Promoting equality in our services

While consultees were positive about all the work that has been done to date to promote equality of opportunity they provided many suggestions on how to improve equality of access to health and social care services. We know that the people who use our services come from many different cultures, communities, and backgrounds and being responsive to the diverse range of needs is a responsibility we take very seriously. The following actions have been developed in response to what we have heard and are aimed at providing welcoming, person-centred and accessible services for everyone.

Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
We will review our equality training programme in collaboration with service users, carers and their advocates.	 Consistent staff training and awareness raising, co-produced and delivered, where appropriate, across health and social care. Raised awareness among staff of the best way to promote equality of opportunity for services users. Each Trust to identify a process to monitor e-learning. 	Year 2
We will work with staff and service users to review how information is produced in alternative formats.	 Library of information in alternative formats available for health and social care staff and available on websites for service users and carers. Staff have better access to alternative format resources. Service users and carers have better access to accessible information. 	Year 5
We will work with service users,	User friendly HSC websites containing up to date	Year 2

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Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
carers and representative organisations to ensure Trust Websites are accessible, user friendly and easy to navigate.	 information. Better communication with service users, carers and the public on access to our websites information. 	
We will engage with the Regional HSC Interpreting Service to establish a process that ensures access to interpreting support when HSC practitioners refer into the voluntary sector for services.	 Clear, consistent process established. Improved access to interpreting support when referred to voluntary or community sector service. 	Year 1
We will work with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to develop a training programme on a human rights approach to dealing with complaints – building on work done by the Ombudman's office.	 Training on a human rights based approach to complaints management delivered to all staff who deal with complaints. Complaints resolution process that embeds human rights values and principles. Improved satisfaction with health and social care complaints management process. 	Year 3
We will work in partnership with LGBT representative organisations to develop guidance for health and social care staff to ensure LGBT service users have access to services.	 Consistent up to date staff guidance developed in partnership with LGBT organisations. Enhanced awareness of access barriers for LGBT service users and carers. Improved satisfaction with health and social care services for LGBT service users and carers. 	Year 2
We will work in partnership with Black and Minority Ethnic Groups	 Staff guidance co-produced with BME communities and representative organisations. 	Year 2

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Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
and groups representing older people to develop guidance for health and social care staff on meeting the needs of older people in Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and ensure access to services.	 Raised profile of needs of BME older people. Increased awareness among staff of the needs of BME older people. Improved access to services for BME older people. 	
We will work in partnership with older people's groups, including the Pensioner's Parliament, to develop guidance for HSC staff on meeting the needs of older people.	 Staff guidance co-produced with groups representing older people. Raised profile of needs of older people in the delivery of services. Increased awareness among staff of the needs of older people. Improved communication and access to services for older people. 	Year 2
We will work to progress our Good Relations responsibilities and ensure all Trusts have a Good Relations Strategy in place.	 Clear and workable framework developed in all Trusts. Improved good relations among staff and service users. Improved communication and engagement with key stakeholders. An environment where staff feel comfortable at work and service users and carers feel welcome when using health and social care services. 	Year 5
We will co-design a staff information booklet in partnership with representatives from the Traveller	 Staff information booklet on traveller history and culture available for all staff working across health and social care. 	Year 1

Actions	Performance Measures	Timescale
Community aimed at raising staff awareness and understanding of Traveller History and Cultural.	 Increased staff awareness and understanding of traveller culture Provision of culturally sensitive services that take account of Traveller needs 	
We will hold an annual event to showcase best practice in equality and diversity within the health and social care.	 An Annual Equality and Diversity event delivered Health and social care viewed as a sector that promotes equality and diversity Improved awareness of equality and diversity best practice models and shared across health and social care and beyond. 	Year 1 and annually
We will work collaboratively with the Department of Health to assess the potential impact of Brexit for the Health and Social Care	 Scoping Exercise to be completed by HSC Trusts in collaboration with the Department of Health Issues identified and possible solutions to ensure business continuity 	Years 1-2

Section 3 – Supporting our staff

We recognise that our staff are our most valuable resource and that they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and can expect to experience equality of opportunity and good relations in the workplace. Similarly every member of Trust staff shares a responsibility to promote equality of opportunity and good relations with their co-workers, service users and carers. The following actions will help to promote equality of opportunity for our staff and support them to understand their responsibilities in valuing differences and advancing equality of opportunity to ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Action	Measures	Timescale
We will work with regional recruitment colleagues and Shared Services to ensure equality is promoted within recruitment and selection policy and procedures.	 Promotion of best practice across health and social care. Policy and procedures that reflect the needs of both external and internal applicants and the needs of people with communication support needs. Consistent approach to the management of recruitment. 	Year 1
We will simplify our Recruitment and Selection Process through development of an easy-to-follow information leaflet.	 Easy to follow information leaflet available for people applying to work in health and social care to include overview of process, tips for successful application form, interview preparation and a section on frequently asked questions. Raised awareness of process among applicants. Improved access for hard to reach groups and those unfamiliar with the health and social care recruitment and selection process. 	Year 1

Action	Measures	Timescale
We will work with regional colleagues and representative organisations to support the development of a Regional Gender Identity and Expression Policy	 Policy in place that promotes an inclusive workplace for Transgender and Non-Binary people. Transgender and Non-Binary people feel comfortable to express their gender identity and can fulfil their full potential and fully contribute to the workplace. Promotion of best practice across the all health and social care organisations. Raised awareness among staff that discrimination against transgender and non-binary people is not acceptable. 	Year 1
We will work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to extend the remit of our Employability Schemes to enhance employment opportunities for marginalised S75 groups.	 Scope in year 1 opportunities and availability for our employability schemes. Employability scheme available to other marginalised S75 groups. Improved employment opportunities for marginalised S75 groups. Access to employment is improved for marginalised S75 groups. 	Year 1 scope Years 2-5
We will work with relevant organisations and Trade Unions to develop best practice in supporting our staff who are victims of Domestic Violence/Abuse	 Best practice model established in each Trust with support mechanisms for staff experiencing Domestic Violence/Abuse. Improved support for staff who are victims of Domestic Violence/Abuse. Raised awareness among staff of the best way to support colleagues who are victims of Domestic Violence/Abuse. 	Year 3

Action	Measures	Timescale
We will make sure that our staff who are carers are supported in the workplace so that they can continue with their caring role.	 Consistent regional approach established to support carers in our workforce. Improved support for staff who are carers. Raised awareness among staff of the best way to support staff who are carers. To pilot digital resources for carers and 'jointly app' carers app in Northern Trust area with learning disseminated regionally Year 3 	Year 1 – Pilot in NHSCT Year 3 - Roll out regionally across HSC Trusts
We will review our harmonious working environment advice in light of any new findings and recommendations from the work conducted by the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Traditions	 Consistent regional approach to ensuring all health and social care environments are welcoming to everyone. 	Year 2
We will launch our new E-Learning Module and Equality and Diversity Staff Training Manual	 20 minute E-Learning Training Programme for staff and managers and Equality and Diversity Staff Training Manual launched and available for all health and social care staff. Marketing strategy to increase uptake of training across all Trusts. Improved access to equality and diversity training for those with access to computers. Improved access to training for staff who do not have access to a computed through provision of the Staff Training Manual. 	Year 1 and over the life span of the Plan

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Action	Measures	Timescale
	 Improved uptake of equality training, each Trust to set targets. 	
We will ensure compliance with any new legislation governing gender pay reporting and address any inequalities identified.	 Pay structure that ensures fairness and equity in pay and reward arrangements in line with any new legislation. 	Year 1
We will improve awareness of options for flexible working arrangements.	 Accessible, easy to follow information available to all staff on flexible working arrangements. Improved awareness of and access to flexible working options for staff with caring responsibilities and for those with disabilities. Promotion of diversity in the workplace. Improved health and wellbeing of staff. 	Year 1
We will revise Equality, Human Rights and Disability guidelines for our Non-Executive Trust Board members	 Up to date guidelines in place for Non-Executive Directors Increased awareness among Non-Executive Directors of statutory compliance and responsibilities. 	Year 1 and ongoing

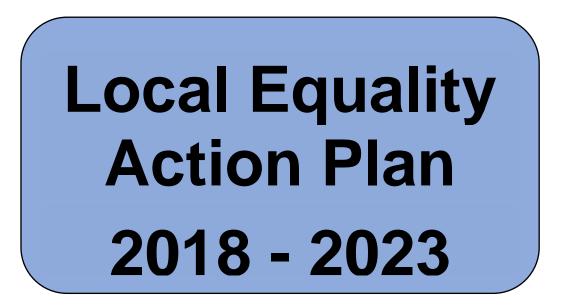
Who's who

Equality Teams in your area : Contact Details

Orla Barron	Belfast HSC Trust
Equality Lead	Tel: 028 9504 6567
	Mobile / Text 0782 514 6432
	Email: orla.barron@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Alison Irwin	Northern HSC Trust
Head of Equality	Tel: 028 276 61377
	Mobile / Text: 0782 566 7154
	E-mail: equality.unit@northerntrust.hscni.net
Lynda Gordon	Southern HSC Trust
Head of Equality	Tel: 028 3756 4151
	Email: lynda.gordon@southerntrust.hscni.net
Sucan Thompson	Courth Footown LICC Truck
Susan Thompson	South Eastern HSC Trust
Equality Lead	Tel: 028 9151 2177
	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137
	Tel: 028 9151 2177
	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137
Equality Lead	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137 Email: <u>Susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net</u>
Equality Lead Siobhan O'Donnell	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137 Email: <u>Susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net</u> Western HSC Trust
Equality Lead Siobhan O'Donnell Equality & Involvement Lead Michelle Lemon	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137 Email: <u>Susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net</u> Western HSC Trust Tel: 028 8283 5278
Equality Lead Siobhan O'Donnell Equality & Involvement Lead Michelle Lemon Assistant Director: Equality, PPI & Patient	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137 Email: <u>Susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net</u> Western HSC Trust Tel: 028 8283 5278 Email: <u>Equality.Admin@westerntrust.hscni.net</u> . Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Tel: 028 9040 0999
Equality Lead Siobhan O'Donnell Equality & Involvement Lead Michelle Lemon	Tel: 028 9151 2177 Text phone: 028 91510137 Email: <u>Susan.thompson@setrust.hscni.net</u> Western HSC Trust Tel: 028 8283 5278 Email: <u>Equality.Admin@westerntrust.hscni.net</u> . Northern Ireland Ambulance Service



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Welcome and context

Welcome to the local Equality Action Plan for 2018-2023 for Belfast Trust. This local plan highlights the actions that we plan to take to address Section 75 inequalities - over and beyond those which are detailed in the regional HSC Equality Action Plan and our Disability Action Plan.

The overall purpose of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is to improve health and well-being and to reduce health inequalities. We already have our Equality Scheme which clearly sets out what we do in our daily work to comply with our Section 75 dual responsibilities to promote equality of opportunity and to promote good relations. In accordance with the Equality Commission Northern Ireland's guidance, we have developed this action plan to go further than compliance to promote equality of opportunity and good relations and have sought to prioritise the local actions, which ought to have most impact on those inequalities that still exist and therein make a real positive difference to the lives or experiences of our service users, carers and staff. The actions have largely been informed by our audit of inequalities, our own local knowledge and our engagement to date with stakeholders. We recognise that our action plan is over a 5 year period and should be flexible, adaptable and responsive to changing circumstances and needs. We will commit to review it on an ongoing basis and amend or add to it as necessary.

We have engaged and consulted with our stakeholders – service users, staff, carers, community and voluntary sector and Trade Unions to make sure that they are content with the priorities identified in this action plan and as a result have amended the plan accordingly. We value everyone's contributions and thoughts and our experience to date has proved that these plans are much richer and meaningful- when people are engaged and involved in their development and delivery of the actions.

This plan was issued for consultation from June – September 2017 for a period of 14 weeks to maximise opportunities for participation. We produced an outcome report based on the findings of our consultation and this along with the finalised plans has been tabled at our Trust Board for approval on 1st March 2018.

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will work with Belfast Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership in regard to the development of an app to provide information, advice and guidance on domestic and sexual violence and sources of support	A new app to help those experiencing domestic abuse to get advice and support in a safe and timely fashion New technology to facilitate enhanced	Year 1
We will develop a communications strategy to best promote awareness amongst staff and managers of domestic abuse support service in the workplace the	multi-disciplinary working to tackle domestic violence and support victims and their families	Year 1-2
	Enhanced knowledge of support mechanisms available in the workplace to help people who are experiencing domestic abuse	
	Increased confidence and volume of staff accessing the support	
We will continue to work with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in the development of a human rights based approach	Increased application of human rights at the core of decision making and service provision	Year 2

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will consult and implement Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future 2 strategy (the Trust's Good Relations strategy)	Second generation Good Relations strategy for Belfast Trust Initiatives to promote good relations for people of different racial groups, religious beliefs and political opinions	Year 1 for consultation Ongoing for year 1-5
We will undertake training in Appreciative Inquiry and undertake pilots in various programmes of care, to ensure that we work in partnership with service users, their carers and families to co-design, service models and better pathways	Co-design of service improvements Enhanced transparency and confidence in the Trust Experience of service users, carers and staff influencing how services are provided	Year 1-5
We will proactively and overtly promote our corporate commitment to equality and diversity through roadshows and resources to support LGBT, Carers, Anti-racism and anti-sectarianism and the other Section 75 protected groups	Public expression of corporate commitment to equality and diversity	Ongoing
We will continue to contribute to the development and implementation of the Trust Carer's strategy	Outreach to carers of all ages Developing Carer Support Pathways Development of Carer support plans Enhanced communication and involvement with carers	Year 1 and ongoing

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will work in partnership with Trade Unions to raise awareness of human trafficking so that staff will be familiar with potential indicators and know how best to respond	Increased awareness of human trafficking Potential for more victims to be identified and supported	Year 2
We will continue to support the Trust in promoting equality of opportunity and good relations as it seeks reaccreditation as an Investors in People organisation	Good practice in people management Confident, motivated and committed staff Maximising levels of equality amongst our staff and in turn for our service users	Preparation Year 1 onwards Reaccreditation 2019-2020
We will use new technology such as Citizen Space to engage with stakeholders	Effective online consultation Engagement with a wider audience	Year 1 and onwards

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will develop a business case to support the rollout of Read and Write software	Ability to produce alternative formats e.g. MP3s Ease of online access for staff who are not proficient in English, or have sensory	Year 1
We will ensure new projects such as the New Children's Hospital have equality and diversity considerations to the fore	support needs or dyslexia Facilities and services which incorporate best practice in terms of Section 75 groups More responsive, inclusive and accessible services	Ongoing
We will co-design and deliver new Embracing Diversity training to include good relations, migrant awareness and cultural competence elements	Enhanced awareness amongst staff of good relations and diversity Responsive and culturally competent service provision	Year 2

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will assess our readiness as an Employer to cater for an older workforce and take forward key findings	Focus groups facilitated across organisation and feedback used to inform action plan Implementation and monitoring of readiness checklist	Over lifetime of plan
We will take forward a Gender Project and action plan	Ensure gender equality in recruitment, training, promotion. Develop a gender action plan following a workplace audit and benchmarking exercise Implement a Gender Identity and Expression Policy	Over lifetime of plan
We will progress our Affirmative Action Plan	Ensure our work places provide for fair participation and promotes good and harmonious environments for all staff. Work with stakeholders to redress under- representations identified through the Fair Employment Article 55 Review process.	Over lifetime of plan

Actions	Measures	Timeframe
We will continue to support our staff who have caring responsibilities	Promote and monitor uptake of range of initiatives including flexible working, summer scheme provision, childcare vouchers.	Annually
We will continue to implement our Health and Wellbeing at Work Strategy and Action Plan	Accessible information available for HSC staff on flexible working arrangements Promotion of the B Well online and app resource for staff Uptake of B-Well initiatives	Over lifetime of plan
We will develop an Action Plan in response to the staff survey to promote equality/work life balance/ and address fully any potential instances of harassment	Implementation and monitoring of staff survey action plan Conduct further staff survey in 2019	Over lifetime of plan
We will continue to support our staff through the provision and facilitation of Equality Networks and Support Services	Promote support networks for staff including the Bullying and Harassment Support Service.	Over lifetime of plan

Belfast Trust Equality Team: Contact Details

Orla Barron	Tel: 028 9504 6567
Equality Lead	Mobile / Text : 0782 514 6432
	Email: orla.barron@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Estella Dorrian	Tel : 028 95 043 298
Equality Manager	Email : <u>estella.dorrian@belfasttrust.hscni.net</u>
Lesley Jamieson	Tel : 028 95 048 734
Secretary	Email : lesley.jamieson@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Veronica McEneaney	Tel : 028 95 046 636
Equality Manager	Email : veronica.mceneaney@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Martin McGrath	Tel : 028 95 048 353
Employment Equality Officer	Email : martin.mcgrath@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Louise Neeson	Tel : 028 95 046 519
Equality Manager	Email : louise.neeson@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Michelle Morris	Tel : 028 9063 5678
HR Manager	Email : michelle.morris@belfasttrust.hscni.net
Workforce Employment Equality	
Samantha Whann	Tel: 028 90 635 678
Senior HR Manager	Email : <u>samantha.whann@belfasttrust.hscni.net</u>
Workforce Governance,	
Employment Equality,	
Attendance Management &	
Improving Working Lives	