


Alt Ward Introduction

- Alt Ward is a seventeen bed mixed acute ward at Clock View Hospital . It is one of eight acute wards within Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust' Local Division .
- The ward is designed to have six females and eleven males although this can be fluid dependent on the ratio of bed requests
- As a mixed sex ward, Alt was chosen to be the pilot ward for the sexual safety project within local division

How did we do it

- Established a project team
- Ward Charter
- Data Collection
- Safety Cross/DATIX

Feeling safe from sexual harm means feeling free from being made to feel uncomfortable, frightened, or intimidated in a sexual way by service users or staff. Your answers to these questions are anonymous.

 **IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY**
Sexual Safety Collaborative

Please tick: Service user Staff

In the past two weeks, have you felt safe from sexual harm on the ward?
Yes / No
Please circle your answer

If you did not feel safe from sexual harm at any point, would you feel able to speak to someone about it?
Yes / No
Please circle your answer

If you would like to speak with someone independent about your sexual safety on the ward, please see the contact details on the ward sexual safety charter.

Ward Change Ideas

- Sexual safety leaflet
- Discussing QI in community meetings as a standing agenda item
- Sexual safety now an agenda item in named nurse sessions
- Sexual Safety Board
- Personal alarms

Leaflet

Reporting an Incident

- Inform staff if you witness any incidents of a sexually inappropriate nature
- Staff are available to support you if experiences or witness anything that makes you feel uncomfortable
- There is a reporting system in place that allows you to record incidents. We hand cards out twice a month but you can request one if needed

Tips on Staying Safe and looking after yourself

- Treat everyone with respect and dignity
- Acknowledge cultural differences
- Ask questions about sexual safety
- Be aware of your own feelings and behaviour
- Respect yourself and others
- We encourage a cultural of being open and honest so please speak up

Impact

- Behaviour can be embarrassing, distressing and dangerous.
- Trigger strong feelings of fear, anxiety and trauma
- Sexually inappropriate behaviour can make people feel unsafe, uncomfortable and impacts on recovery

Your rights to being Sexual Safe

- We are happy to support your wishes around gender specific wards
- There are expected standards of behaviour to ensure that all keep others safe
- There is always support available if needed

What is a Sexual Safety Safe Environment?

- Ait Ward is a safe environment because we have gender specific areas; for example female only lounges, single sex bedrooms with ensuite
- Ait ward have regular community meetings where sexual safety is discussed
- Ait Ward has a sexual safety board and we actively encourage reporting of incidents. Ait Ward has an anonymous reporting system for both staff and service user to raise any concerns around sexual safety

What are Sexual Boundaries?

- Please be respectful of others feeling, staff and other service users
- What is acceptable to you is not acceptable to someone else so please respect other peoples wishes
- Please be respectful of gender specific areas
- Damages self-esteem and other relationships
- Damages trust between individuals

What are the Consequences?

- Enduring harm
- Damages self-esteem and other relationships
- Damage trust between individuals
- Possible sexual transmitted infections and pregnancy
- The emotional and psychological impact can be significant

Sexually disinhibited behaviour

- Inability to restrain from sexual impulses and involves inappropriate sexualised language
- Increased sexual thoughts, removing clothing and indiscriminate sexual activity

How do you look after your own Sexual Safety?

- Take responsibility for yourself
- Keep personal information safe
- Speak up; report any incidents or concerns
- Keep completing the sexual safety cards

Ait Ward

SEXUAL SAFETY FOR SERVICE USERS, CARERS AND STAFF

Sexual Safety Advocates for Ait Ward

- Sep Hunt
- Karen Cubbin
- Emma Owens
- Rachel Wareing

Service Users can also contact:

- PALS and or Complaints Department - 0151 471 2377 or 0800 328 2941
- These are the sexual safety advocates but you can report any concerns to anyone

Board



Divisional Changes

- Sexual Safety is now an agenda item on the local division safety huddle; the safety huddle is a weekly forum provides a continual and clear line of sight of the quality of the care provided (from ward to board) with the aim of reviewing and triangulating information on a weekly basis, highlighting areas of potential risk early, implementing supportive action to enhance safety and quality and prevent/reduce untoward events occurring. It will also identify learning themes and trends to support effective risk management.

Changes to DATIX Coding

- Sexual Safety Recording on DATIX
- Sexual incidents has been added to the incident coding section to the DATIX for all 14 wards across the division
- Categories include; sexual assault patient on patient, patient on staff or other, staff or other on patient, report sexual abuse prior to MCT care and sexually inappropriate behaviour
- Sub categories have been divided into A-D dependent on the severity of the incident; serious sexual assault (A), safeguarding threat of sexual abuse, report of sexual abuse and alleged serious sexual assault (B), alleged sexual assault (C) and sexually disinhibited behaviour (D).

Type ?

Choose the type of incident from the list

Inappropriate Behaviour

Slip Trip or Fall by Service User

Accident or Injury to Service User

Accident or Injury to Staff or Other

Self Harm

Sexual Incidents

Missing Patient

Safeguarding Incident

Breach in Security

Service Provision

Category

Sub category

Does this incident involve a Secondary Type/Issue?

Near miss?

Additional Information

Is there another healthcare provider

Smoking Issues

Type ?

Choose the type of incident from the list

9SEXSA

Category

Sub category

Does this incident involve a Secondary Type/Issue?

Near miss?

Report sexual abuse prior to MCT care

Sexual Assault by Patient on Patient

Sexual Assault by Patient on Staff or Other

Sexual Assault by Staff or Other on Patient

Sexually Inappropriate Behaviour

Interventions

Physical Intervention used?

Type ?

Choose the type of incident from the list

9SEXSA

Category

Sub category

Does this incident involve a Secondary Type/Issue?

Near miss?

PSSEXA

B-Safeguarding Threat of Sexual Abuse

A-Serious Sexual Assault

B-Alleged Serious Sexual Assault

C-Sexual Assault

D-Sexually Disinhibited Behaviour

Interventions

Physical Intervention used?

Staff guidance in categorising DATIX

Incident Type	Slight (D)	Minor (D)	Moderate (C)	Major (B)	Catastrophic (A)
<p>Sexual Safety When considering the impact of a sexual safety incident weight should be given to the vulnerability of the victim and impact on them. Bare in mind that different individuals approach the same type of incident may be scored differently depending on the vulnerability and impact on the individual</p>	<p>Sexual safety incidents where the victim was not greatly distressed or significantly vulnerable. These could include unintentional nakedness or verbal abuse</p>	<p>Sexual safety incidents where the victim was distressed and or was vulnerable. These could include failure to respect sexual boundaries, such as demeaning or inappropriate comments or questions. Consider the capacity of both parties and the level of distress caused</p>	<p>Sexual safety incidents where the victim was distressed and or was vulnerable. This could include sexual harassment or assault. The vulnerability of the victim and the level of distress caused are critical to how high this is graded where this</p>	<p>Sexual safety incident causing great distress and or the abuse of a vulnerable person. These could include sexual assault.</p>	<p>Allegation of rape Incident involves a police investigation</p>

The Impact

- In the three months prior to the start of the sexual safety project there were 15 recorded sexual safety incidents.
- In the last three months of this year there have been 54, showing a significant increase since the change in coding
- We predicted an increase before the change was implemented therefore the executives were made aware of this

Challenges

- Long pause in the project (7 x months)
- Change of ward function
- Sickness/pandemic
- Staff turnover/role changes
- Measuring the impact

Where are we up to

- Collaborative ends September 2021
- Change of focus from the story of the project rather than measurement and data
- Poster/storyboard/written piece