

ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

ANTECEDENTS AND WARNING SIGNS

Certain features may serve as warning signs to indicate that a service user may be escalating towards physically violent behaviour. The list is not intended to be exhaustive and these warning signs should be considered on an individual behaviour.

Antecedents and Warnings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tense and angry facial expressions.• Increased or prolonged restlessness, body tension pacing.• General over-arousal of the body systems, (increased breathing and heart rate, muscle twitching, dilating pupils).• Increased volume of speech, erratic movements.• Prolonged eye contact.• Discontentment, refusal to communicate, withdrawal, fear, irritation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unclear thought processes, poor concentration.• Delusions or hallucinations with violent content.• Verbal threats or gestures.• Replicating or behaviour similar to that which preceded earlier disturbed / violent episodes.• Reporting anger or violent feelings.• Blocking escape routes.