

**ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

**RISK ASSESSMENT FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN A PATIENT HAS SPECIFIC NEEDS**

When physical interventions are considered as part of risk management plans then further assessment and risk management needs to be considered when the patient/resident has particular needs. These include:-

- (i) Children and adolescents
- (ii) People with learning disabilities

Consider factors surrounding confused and impaired consciousness and communication strategies with the service user.

- (iii) Pregnant women

Promote liaison with appropriate pregnancy support services identifying general good practice guidance and key concerns in the management of pregnancy and acutely disturbed behaviour. Acutely disturbed behaviour equals behaviour demonstrating a high risk of imminent harm towards the unborn baby and the mother.

- (iv) The elderly

Consider factors such as frailty and physical health and confused mental states and ability to respond to instruction.

- (v) People with a physical disability, including Risk of HIV or other infectious Diseases

Here consideration would need to be made in relation to how the service user can be safely restrained. This may require that the service user has a modified / tailored made restraint procedure prepared for them.

- (vi) People with diverse backgrounds that may need an interpreter.

Consideration of the extra time required for effective communication is essential.

Where a service user with particular needs has been identified it may be necessary to consider the support of other specialist services. For instance

- Infection Control
- Health and Safety
- PMVA Lead
- Manual Handling Co-ordinator / Ergonomist
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- Specialist Professional such as Midwife
- Pharmacy

Where additional considerations to manage the individual needs of a service user has been made then this should be recorded. The record should show the risk assessment and the specific care plan that has taken place in relation to the particular individual need.